



Sangamon River District

HI LITES

February 2017 Volume XXV I I Issue 1



President – Carol Sims
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Dear Friends,

This newsletter is loaded! Loaded with possibilities and opportunities, and sent with love, joy, respect, and gratitude for all you are doing! Read it with a calendar handy. Let the opportunity seeds germinate into commitment and action.

Someone recently looked over all the giving opportunities at their church and exclaimed, “I can’t give to everything, and I can’t attend every activity!” No, you can’t. It’s a smorgasbord of opportunities from which you can choose. But choose. Take advantage of some wonderful programs being offered. Of special note:

March 25 Spring Gathering in Elwin,
April 7-8 Festival of the Quilts at Cunningham,
May 3 Spiritual Growth at Illiopolis (5:30-7:30 dinner included!),
Mission U August 4-9. Your choice of weekend or weekday sessions,
September 20 Fall Gathering in Springfield, and the
Conference Fall Event on October 7 at Springfield First.

A LOT in our own backyard this year!! Spread the word!

But what if I can’t get everyone to go? There are fewer of us. I’m getting older. The young people always help, but they won’t join. And so it goes.... You know, one of the hardest lessons to learn growing up is that others don’t always behave and respond as you would have them to. You really have no control over someone else. If you insist on trying, you’re going to potentially become a cruel master of manipulation and guilt and develop health issues of your own including ulcers and high blood pressure. Hardly the fruits of the Spirit!

What about you? What are you going to do for you? Your growth? Your spirit? God loves you. **Let Him speak to you, and then He can speak through you.** God bless you in your choices.

Grace and peace, Carol

Remember: A goal without a plan is just a wish.



Vice President – Marnita Wade
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Hello and greetings to all. My name is Marnita Wade and I will be serving as your Vice President in the Sangamon River District. My home, work and church are in Springfield however I have lived all over the U.S. My husband, Jim and I have 5 grown children and 13 grandchildren. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone better this next year.

As I write this our weather seems to be a bit fickle. Sixty degrees today, snow tomorrow. Mother Nature is teasing us. The only sure sign of spring coming at this point is our Sangamon River District Spring Meeting is scheduled for Saturday March 25, 2017. We will be gathering at Elwin United Methodist Church, Elwin, Illinois.

You are encouraged to come and enjoy the fellowship and breakfast from 9:00 am to 9:30 am. Our program will start at 9:30 am featuring Steve & Cecilia Granadosin who will be speaking on their missions to the Philippines. We will also hear brief updates from Representatives from Cunningham Children's Home and Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House. Remember to bring your Hope gifts for both programs.

We have several other opportunities this spring at various locations. Take a car full of ladies to Cunningham's Quilt Festival April 7 & 8. Take a tour, browse the crafts, get bite to eat and hear the amazing things that go on at Cunningham Children's Home.

On May 3, 2017 there is a Personal Growth Meeting in Illiopolis. We will meet at 5:30 and share a meal and information. We plan to be done by 8:00 pm. Officers of local units are encouraged to attend for updates and fellowship. So mark your calendar now.

So in closing I hope to see a lot of you the next few months and look forward to the colors of Spring. Wishing you a Happy Easter and Mother's Day.

.....*Marnita*

Cunningham Children's Wish List: Home-Box tops, Ladies Anklet socks and Fast food Gift cards (Wendy's, Arby's, Dairy Queen, Amazon, Wal-Mart)

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House Wish List: Shampoo, Conditioner and Body wash.



Secretary – Barbara Norem
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Thank you to the many units who sent their 2017 officers to me in a timely manner. It makes my job so much easier. I hope that all information was entered correctly, but if there are changes or mistakes, please let me know.
.....*Barbara*



Chairperson of Nominations–Leanne Roseberry
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Ladies, we are still looking to fill the following offices: Spiritual Growth, Communications, and Membership Nurture and Outreach. Each position’s term is 4 years, and each Coordinator will write an article for the Hi-Lites newsletter.

Membership Nurture and Outreach: keep track of the membership reports; encourage membership growth

Communications: gather articles sent from other officers, then create and mail out the newsletter; keep an updated mailing list

Spiritual Growth: plan the memorial service for the ladies who have passed away; encourage us to grow spiritually; give a devotion at the Spring and Fall gatherings

Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of the District Executive Team. Together we can do great things when we put our faith, hope and love into action!*Leanne*



Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood Reps.
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Jeanne` Sims 217-498-7187 pjsims@comcast.net

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House is making a lot of adjustments, new programs, new alignments as they adjust to new leadership. All is going well.

The old building built by Women’s Division in 1940 has been refurbished and given new life. It looks a lot better as well as functioning much better than it has in years. They are grateful for this improvement.

The pantry project really was helpful this year. They look forward to a large garden this summer so fresh vegetables are supplied. Any gardeners want to go help? In the meantime they would appreciate “can stuff” being brought from all the districts. For OUR special asking for the district, they suggest: shampoo, deodorant (women’s and men’s) and body wash.

We look forward to March 25 for a personal report from LBDNH. In the meantime, think about, pray for, and share the needs in East St. Louis.They welcome volunteers, visits, and your love. Let them know if you or your group can come and when.

Thanks for all you have done, and all you will continue to do on behalf of our brothers and sisters of Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House.*Linda & Jeanne`*



Program Resources – Ruth Johnston
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I'm your new Program Resources person. I look forward to meeting you at the spring meeting in Elwin.

.....Ruth



Membership Nurture & Outreach

Thanks to all for help with the recent count.

Some of the things to remember when counting: count each woman who has expressed a desire to belong and participate; count each only once regardless of the number of subgroups and circles to which she belongs; appointed pastor(s) are counted as members of UMW but if serves more than 1 church, she or he only counted one time by 1 unit; the wife of the pastor is not automatically a UMW unless expresses an interest then counted as 1 time also; if member moves away and joins another UMW the membership is transferred; but if new church does not have UMW she may remain on the membership roll of her previous unit; deceased members removed from rolls but no woman removed from membership roll unless requests; all new members placed on rolls not on list from previous year. Maintain rolls updated so you can do reporting for the calendar year.

Tools and Tips:

1. Include time and space for women to share their concerns and experiences with one another at gatherings of UMW.
2. Stay in touch with members whose interest or attendance is irregular by mail, email or phone; alert absentees to what is happening in the unit.
3. Support women who are recuperating from a long illness, loss of a loved one, or going through a divorce as they re-enter the group.
4. Make personal visits with a listening ear and a caring heart to members who no longer attend meetings.
5. There are many ways to express your affection. Be sensitive to individual situations. Support people in both their joy and pain.
6. Sometimes we put up physical, attitudinal or behavioral barriers that exclude others. We may notice an attitudinal barrier when there is no interest in different cultures or when the needs of certain members such as mothers with young children, are disregarded.
7. Also, consider whether a woman who always leads singing might want a different challenge, like leading a study group or organizing a workshop on legislative affairs. New opportunities summon us to seek out and learn new skills. This creates and builds self-esteem.
8. Be attentive to others' hidden potential as well as their demonstrated abilities. Members of UMW have a right to expect something from the organization and carry a responsibility to it.



CUNNINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOME REPS.

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Cinda Pringle 217-468-2265

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Hello to all you faithful UMW supporters. We would first like to give a big Thank You for all the support, gifts, and prayers to our kids. We are excited about the progress to the new school hoping to break ground this summer as fundraising continue over half way there so all contributions and contacts greatly appreciated. Last years Festival of Quilts raised \$66,000 for the kids and hoping to put a 7 as the first number this year which is Friday April 7 and Saturday April 8, 9am to 5pm each day. Tickets still \$5.00 per person but maybe your unit can consider becoming a Friend of the festival for \$100 which also gives you 2 tickets for the show. The festival can't be a success without all of the support, goods, and volunteers. Flyers and donations forms available now, so please consider attending the Festival, providing a baked treat for bake sale (no nut containing products); quilts or items for the Gift shop or Quilt Boutique, or serving as volunteer. There is a "Mission Day with Cunningham on March 11 from 10am to 3pm set up for middle or high school youth group or confirmation classes to offer a firsthand look at the mission and exemplary programs offered at Cunningham.

Our Sangamon River District Spring Meeting Love gifts for Cunningham are Women's ankle socks; Box Top for Education, Walmart, Target & Meijer Gift cards; McDonald's, Jimmy John's & Steak'n Shake Gift Cards. For our Spring Meeting on March 25th at Elwin, we will have the Spirited Servant award recognition for 2016; they are still accepting unit forms if not sent in yet. So far we have Argenta UMW, Beason UMW, Cisco UMW, Clinton UMW, Decatur First UMW, Decatur Grace UMW, Decatur Wesley UMW, Edinburg UMW, Elkhart UMW, Forsyth UMW, Illiopolis UMW, Lincoln First UMW, Lincoln First UMW Ruth Circle, Long Creek UMW, Pana UMW, Williamsville UMW.

We love going and sharing the stories of our kids. So if you need a program, please contact the district reps or people at Cunningham to come.

..... *In the service of Christ, Helen and Cinda*

"Of all your worries, great or small, the worst of them never happened at all."

...copied

COMING SOON

MISSION U 2017! AUGUST 4-6 (weekend) or AUGUST 6-9 (weekday)

Spiritual Growth Study for everyone: **Living as a Covenant Community**

This study examines major covenants throughout the Bible and what they reveal about God's character and eternal love for us. It will enhance your understanding of how God works with us, in us, and through us.

Then your choice:

Geographic Study: The Missionary Conferences

The aim of the study is to give an overview of the three missionary conferences in The United Methodist Church, the contexts out of which they grew and their current engagements: The Alaska United Methodist Conference, Red Bird Missionary Conference, and the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference are a hybrid of home and international missionary work.

What does the future look like for these conferences? Broad-ranging conversations are taking place around this question. The General Board of Global Ministries and the missionary conferences are exploring best operational and structural options for maximizing mission and ministry going forward in these unique locations. These dialogues, different in each case, have begun and will take place across the 2017– 2020 quadrennium. The objective is mutuality in mission partnership and collaboration, which provides the heartbeat of all productive mission within the United Methodist connection.

OR

Issue Study: Climate Justice

This study invites you to understand climate justice, which means setting right our relationships with each other and the earth. Climate injustice is the result of climate change. The study will challenge you to see what needs to happen for climate justice to become a reality in the world today. The church needs to more powerfully model a way of doing it differently. This will entail not just focusing on the environment, but also asking hard questions regarding financial profit, a growing economy, our independent way of thinking and our understanding of efficiency.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO JOIN US AT THE NORTHFIELD CONFERENCE CENTER IN SPRINGFIELD. YOU WILL BE ENLIGHTENED AND ENRICHED BY OUR TIME OF STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER!!

First timers: scholarships are available!!

SHEPHERDESS ASSIGNMENTS 2017

*For information and making connections in keeping with our purpose as
United Methodist Women*

Joanne Randolph
Lincoln
Clinton

Helen Kershaw
Monticello
Cisco
Decatur Garver Brick

Carol Sims
Chatham
Riverton
Spfld. Laurel
Spfld. Cotton Hill

Lena Banks
Pana
Blue Mound
Moweaqua

Elaine Knight
Elkhart
Cantrall
Beason

Jeanne' Sims
Divernon
Spfld. Douglas

Virginia McQuiston
Cerro Gordo/Hammond/LaPlace
Macon
Decatur Wesley

Gloria Jones
Assumption
Fairview
Stonington

Barbara Norem
Forsyth
Niantic
Argenta

Linda Schneider
Athens
Mason City
San Jose
Hartsburg

Marnita Wade
Rochester
Springfield Kumler

Ruth Johnston
New Salem
Island Grove
Pawnee

Cinda Pringle
Decatur Grace
Illiopolis
Decatur First

Joan Lawrence
Edinburg
Elwin
Long Creek

Pat Howard
Decatur Christ
Mt. Auburn
Williamsville

Leanne Roseberry
Petersburg
Springfield First
Springfield Grace

(The following is a compiled report of what our units reported doing this past year.)

WITHIN THE SANGAMON RIVER DISTRICT

UMW: FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE IN ACTION!!!

Fundraising

Cookie Walk

Spring Fling

Rummage sales (no set pricing; donations only, which really attracts those who need it the most)

Traveling Basket (works well for a small unit, or a circle)

We have an envelope with everyone's name listed. An explanation and directions are inside.

The first person puts in the basket a baked good, book, craft, or gift, and passes it on to the next person on the list. That person takes the item and puts a donation in the envelope for it, puts their own item in the basket, and passes it on. The last person brings it back to the first and the donation goes to our treasurer. It's fun and it works for us.

Book Sale

Various dinners/lunches

Jewelry Sale

Outreach Ministries

Back-to-School Blessing Day, for families receiving school supplies, including breakfast and lunch.

(This would be a GREAT "first day of school" or registration day event!)

Another unit reported a "**Back to School Social**" with a cook-out, school supplies, & fellowship.

Backpack Buddies. Provides weekend food for elementary children. (using a grant as well as local funds)

Angels for Cunningham Children's Home

Soldier boxes.

Quilting for Cunningham

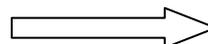
Making lap robes/afghans for local nursing home

Co-op with another local church to provide a meal for the low-income, 3 times a yr.

High Five Jesus is Alive. A five week program for youth during Lent with lessons, dinner, crafts, and worship.
(one day each week)

Twice Giving/Economy Shops

Prison Visitation/Bible Study



(continued)

(The following is a compiled report of what our units reported doing this past year.)

Financial and Gift Support

LBDNH

CCH

Sojourn House

Inner City Mission

Kumler Neighborhood House

Chaddock

Heifer Project

Operation Christmas Child

Good Samaritan

Local families in need; grocery gift cards

Friend-in-Deed

Red Bird Mission

Baby Fold

Sunset Home

Minnie O'Berne Crisis Nursery

Asbury Children's Hour

Liberian student scholarships

Friends in Action---they build ramps for the disabled

Holiday book drive

Salvation Army

Dove (organization for prevention/protection from domestic violence)

New Life Pregnancy

Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Oasis Day Center

Local Church Support

Funeral Dinners

Wednesday night connection dinners

Multiple shut-in gifts & visitation throughout the year; Love Baskets

Thanksgiving dinner for the youth group/high school

Support our kids going to church camp; Easter egg hunt; backpacks, etc.

See the above "High Five, Jesus is Alive" program

VBS

Building funds; parsonage improvements, etc.

Ruth Johnston, Dist. UMW Newsletter
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