

CROSSTIES

Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women

January 2011

From Our President: Cynthia Rives

Happy New Year 2012 Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women! It's going to be an exciting year! Please make every effort possible to participate in the local, district, conference, and jurisdictional United Methodist Women events planned for this year. You will be a blessing and will be blessed!

Our **CTC UMW Charter for Racial Justice Event (Sing a Rainbow) is February 18**. We will be at Woodway UMC in Waco. Our theme is **Journey to Justice** and we will be focusing on the issues of maternal health care, domestic violence, and the Dream Act and how they are impacted by racism. Julie Warren will lead us in the discussion of maternal health. Julie developed the birthing kit now used by United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and each of us will be making a kit as a part of the day. We will also learn about how we can make a difference for good in the effort to end domestic violence, and also learn more about the Dream Act. If you have never been to Sing a Rainbow, please come. If you've been there every year, please come. It is always a special time

of learning and growing and the feast at lunch is awesome! The registration information is in this edition of Crossties.

We also have the registration information for the **CTC UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat on March 23-24 at Glen Lake Camp**. It should be a beautiful and cool time to be at Glen Lake Camp. We won't be having School of Christian Mission there this summer, so this is your one opportunity to do Glen Lake with UMW in 2012. Send in your registration as soon as possible!

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Rigby will be our leader and you don't want to miss her! Trust me! The theme is "Being Alive in a Crazy, Busy World". I got to hear her speak at last year's Legislative Event and I was sure we needed her to come lead us for our retreat.

Here's just a little of her biography:

Dr. Rigby is a graduate of Brown University and Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1998 Professor Rigby received the PhD in systematic theology from Princeton Theological Seminary where

she was awarded a doctoral fellowship and the Wildrich Award for Excellence in Homiletics.

In an article in the Dallas Morning News, Rigby was cited as one of the great theologians of our time. In his article, William McKenzie wrote about twelve contemporary theologians who can "span the gap between church and society. Attention to theology, politics and sociology allows these thinkers to shape the world, not just follow in its

wake." Rigby's special area of interest is setting Reformed theologies in conversation with theologies of liberation, particularly feminist theologies.

Dr. Rigby is actively engaged with congregations, teaching adult education classes and leading church conferences.



Does this sound familiar? Abilene, Abilene, Pettiest Town..... I've been singing that song to you for years and we are finally just a few months away from the South Central Jurisdiction Quad-

rennial Meeting- **Women Responding to God's Love & Grace** to be held in Abilene, Texas. If you haven't put June 22-24, 2012 on your calendar yet, please do so right now! I have a block of rooms at the MCM Elegante Suites. Let me know if you'd like one or more saved for you and your group.

Touching

As I write this, it is mid-December and I'm remembering the United Community Center ACT III (teen) Christmas Party. It was a very special blessing. We had around 25 teens from the three centers and about 15 United Methodist Women (including a big group from Acton UMC). We started out with a pizza and wings supper and then Leslie Garcia, UMW member from Ridglea UMC, led us in Fruit Basket Turnover. Do you remember that circle game? We were assigned a fruit name (I was an orange) and if your fruit was called you have to change chairs. We had about 40 people in the circle. What fun! It was great to see everyone laughing together! And of course there were the times when we bumped in to each other or two people went for the same chair and one of them ended up sitting on in the other's lap. We connected as friends in a very holy-touch.

That game made me think about a story I wrote about an encounter I had with racism when I was twenty. I want to share it with you now.

Battle Scarred

It was the old parsonage, white clapboard, probably built in the '20's. Since it was right next to the church, it was the perfect place for the adult Sunday school classroom

when the new brick parsonage was built catty-corner to the sanctuary.

My class met in the living room. Donated couches, and grey folding chairs created a circle within the space. It was musty and stark and didn't feel like a home anymore.

That summer Sunday morning I came by myself to join the fellowship. My new husband was off attending a Nation Guard drill. I came to church to fight my battles.

Closer in age to the teenagers down in the church basement, but feeling like a real adult, I sat comfortably among my classmates, most of whom were probably twenty years older than me. The lesson was about love. The message seemed simple enough to me, love one another. I decided to share a troubling scene I had witnessed at a choral clinic the January. In a huge auditorium filled with high school singers, the conductor instructed the choir members to turn to their left and massage the shoulders of the person in front of them. Sitting near the back unobserved I noticed that one girl on the last row hadn't raised her arms to massage her fellow singer. Standing next to her stood an African American boy. She was white with long blonde hair. A surge of pain went through me as I realized she was refusing to touch him because he was black. I thought, "How sad and cruel!" I was sure she didn't give the massage because of his color.

I don't know if I was right about that conclusion, but that is what I passionately shared with my fel-

low Christians. Then I asked, "How could she do that?"

After I spoke the room was uncomfortably silent. Finally one man tried gently to explain why the girl might have been just too uncomfortable to participate.

Then suddenly, another man from across the room lashed out, "I'd die before I'd let my daughter touch any black man!"

Incredulous, I responded, "but I thought Jesus taught us to love everyone."

His eyes flashed as he said, "You don't have to touch someone to love them."

I grew up a giant step that day. My battle was fought close to the heart.

In my family we use that phrase "You don't have to touch someone to love them." as a synonym for racism. It is part of my family's heart story and I've tried to share with others that to share Christ's love we do need to be willing to touch "the other". That's why those 15 United Methodist Women coming to the Poly Community Center and playing that game were showing their love to those youth and each other.

This year I hope you will think about reaching out to "the other" with a holy-touch.

See you at our Charter for Racial Justice Event on February 18th.

Treasurer's report:

Christie Roberts and Debra Patton.

At this time I cannot tell you that we have met our 2011 pledge to missions - we have not gotten all of the reports. However, I can report that your conference team has made every effort to use your gifts wisely and that many good things have and will be done with those gifts.

With the downsizing of the district teams, there is a good chance that our 2012 pledge should be met. We have not met our pledge in the past three years. But, we are always optimistic that we can achieve it. Our 2012 pledge is \$190,000. The ways to meet District pledges are through your gifts to the five channels - pledges, gifts in memory, gifts to mission, world thank offerings and special mission recog-

nitions. Going beyond that to help the conference meet our pledge, we ask for your participation in the Burning of the Candle program, offerings and the silent auctions at conference meetings.

The Goals Committee has asked, among other things, that each unit to increase special mission recognition gifts to two per year.

A Burning of the Candle minute is down to \$29.07 per minute. Perhaps each unit would consider two minutes or rounding up to a higher gift of \$30 or \$40.

I would like to recognize every woman who participates in all six channels of giving in a special way this year. We are working on a report and a gift to

recognize that achievement. Be watching for this new opportunity to give.

Meeting our pledge is not just about meeting a financial goal but about keeping a promise to those who are counting on us to help them get through hard times. United Methodist Women are not band-aid people. We are about helping others open up to receive the love and salvation of our Savior.

Thank you for all your hard work and support this year. It has been a pleasure for me and Debra Patton to serve you as you serve others. May your cup overflow with the blessings of Christ in 2012.

From Edna Davis, Director

Exciting things are in the future of United Methodist Women. We are not forgetting our roots or our purpose; and we will continue to serve women, children and youth. With the proposed changes awaiting General Conference approval, we will become a stronger organization in our witness. We will be known as United Methodist Women from the local unit to the national organization.

The Spring 2012 Board of Directors Meeting will be in Plano in March. This is earlier than usual because of General Con-

ference. Many of the delegates are also staff and board members of Women's Division. The jurisdiction meetings (South Central will be in Abilene) will be electing the directors for the next four years. This is a very important event and it will be in connection to Regional School of Missions.

It has truly been an honor to represent Central Texas Conference on the Board of Directors. This has been a challenging and well as growing experience for me. I sincerely hope that I have represented you

well. As my time is fast coming to a close, I approach it with mixed emotions. I am tired and will be happy for it to end. At the same time, it will be sad because of all the many friends I have made during this time and the opportunities and privileges that I would not have had otherwise.

Blessings,
Edna

**THE CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE UNITED
METHODIST WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT**

March 23-24, 2012

Glen Lake Camp and Conference Center
1102 NE Barnard St., P.O.Box 928, Glen Rose, TX 76043
Phone (254) 897-2247 * Fax 866-563-7138 * www.glenlake.org

GUEST SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Rigby

“Being Alive in a Crazy, Busy World”

Music Team: Myrtis Parker and Mary Rarden

Registration begins at 4:30 pm on Friday

The special retreat including meals and lodging for early birds is only:

\$100.00 per person for hotel-style with 3 meals (all linens are furnished. First registered-first reserved)
(Still Water, Paluxy, Marriage Ministry Center)

\$65.00 per person in cabin-style with 3 meals (bring sheets, blanket, pillow, towels, personal items)
(all cabins)

\$65.00 per person in Health Center with 3 meals (private rooms – shared bath - bring bedding, towels,
personal items)

\$40.00 per COMMUTER with Friday evening meal and Saturday lunch

\$30.00 per person for Saturday only with one meal

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR PREFERENCE – AND NOTE YOUR SECOND CHOICE

NOTE: We've planned excellent programs, good music, great food, fitness & exercise, inspiring devotions & Bible study, time to make new friends, resource materials and a silent auction for mission giving. Possible activities as time allows include fishing, canoeing, horseshoes and a walk to the cross. **First-timers may apply for scholarships.** Application forms are on the UMW website, page 49 in the conference resource book, or from district presidents.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE **March 1, 2012*****AFTER THAT DATE A \$10.00 FEE WILL BE ADDED

Please mail with check for appropriate amount to registrar: **Marzie Barte**, P.O.Box 664,

Burleson, TX 76097 * 817-295-3968 cell: 817-999-2144* nolenew@sbcglobal.net

Name & Address _____

Phone & Email _____

Local Church & District _____

Roommate Preference(s) _____

Disability/Dietary needs _____

Journey to Justice

Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women

Charter for Racial Justice Event “Sing a Rainbow”

February 18, 2012 @ Woodway UMC

(21000 Woodway Drive, Waco, TX 76712)

9:00- check-in/coffee/snacks, 10:00 program, & 2:00 dismissal

Everyone is encouraged to bring guests of all ages and gender.

Guest speaker- Julie Warren

Julie is Chair of Mission Ministry at Bethia United Methodist Church Winterpock, Chesterfield, VA, leader of many leading international Medical Mission teams and programs to Africa and Mexico, and former Central Texas Conference Volunteers in Mission Coordinator.

Lunch: Everyone is asked to bring Food for the Journey

[\(Please bring a delicious dish that's easy to transport\)](#)

We will be learning about 3 problems: maternal health care, domestic violence, and immigration and their connection to racism. We will learn more about Healthy Families Healthy Planet; each make a birthing kit (please bring \$7.00 to cover the cost),

and write a letter to encourage funding for women's health issues.

We'll also learn more about how we can advocate for those suffering from domestic violence and learn what we can do to help; and learn more about the Dream Act.

DIRECTIONS TO WOODWAY UMC:

From: I-35 North or South

- Take exit #330 State Hwy 6 (if you are coming from the north, there is an earlier exit for Hwy 6 – DO NOT TAKE IT)
- Go north on Hwy 6 towards Meridian. Travel 1.5 miles to the 3rd exit – US Hwy 84/Waco Dr./Franklin Ave.
- Turn left under the overpass to get on US Hwy 84 W towards Woodway and McGregor. **Travel 4.5 miles and exit at the Frontage Rd. exit. (You will see the church on your left). Circle back under the overpass and stay on the access road to the church.

From: Hwy 6 North

- Take US Hwy 84/Waco Dr./Franklin Ave. exit.
- Turn right to get on US Hwy 84 W. Follow directions above from ** on.

From: US Hwy 84 W heading east into Waco

Exit Bush Dr.

Child Care will be provided. Please register so that we have the appropriate number of staff for the day.

Any Questions contact Cynthia Rives at 254-968-5785 or 254-592-1510

Charter for Racial Justice
Sing A Rainbow Registration Form
Registration Deadline – Monday, February 13, 2012
Any questions contact Cynthia Rives at 254-592-1510

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____

Phone _____

District _____

Church _____

Address _____

Email _____

City _____ Zip _____

Childcare Needed: Yes No

Please register for child care by February 13, 2012

Please bring sack lunch for each child, provide name of child, age and whether male or female:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

MAIL to: United Methodist Women – Theresa Robinson
2129 Briardale Rd.
Fort Worth, 76119.

E-MAIL: theresaburnham@myway.com

PHONE: 817-536-5537

You may scan your form or send your complete information by email. Please don't send registration as an attachment. Please copy it into the email.

If mailed please make a copy for your records.

Sing A Rainbow is on Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 10 am until 2pm.

Check-in time begins at 9:00 am.

Please remember a dish for lunch and \$7.00 for the birthing kit.

**Central Texas Conference
United Methodist Women**



[http://
www.ctcumw.org/](http://www.ctcumw.org/)

In This Issue

<i>From the President</i>	1
<i>Treasurers' Report</i>	3
<i>From Edna Davis</i>	3
<i>Registration form Spiritual Growth Retreat</i>	4
<i>Registration—Journey to Justice</i>	5
<i>Registration—Sing-A-Rainbow</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7

**Central Texas Conference
United Methodist Women
Dates to Remember**

**February 18- Charter for Racial Justice
Event- Sing a Rainbow- Woodway
UMC, Waco**

**March 23-24- Spiritual Growth Retreat
“Being Alive in a Crazy, Busy World”
Glen Lake Camp**

**June 5- UMW Annual Luncheon
Waco Convention Center**

June 22-24- Jurisdiction Meeting- Abilene, TX

The Crossties will be sent to email to all who have an email address on file with the district and conference communications chairpersons or the conference president. We will mail a copy to those who do not have email addresses. When you receive your copy, please pass it on to others in your United Methodist Women group.

Gloria Rodriguez has been in the process of creating a website for the Central Texas United Methodist Women and has it up and running. Check out this link:

<http://www.ctcumw.org>

We are hoping to also have a Face Book page in the near future. If you or someone you know is interesting in setting up and maintaining our page please contact Martha Dodson, 817-694-0508 or marthakddsn@gmail.com.