

CROSS TIES

Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women

September 7, 2015

Volume 1, Issue 1

LINDA'S LETTERS



September Letter from Linda

Greetings in the
name of Christ!

Fall is not too far away. Hopefully that means cooler weather and perhaps some rain will be coming soon. I know many of you have been involved this summer in Mission u, mission projects and mission trips. I am so proud of the varied and creative ways each local group of United Methodist Women ministers to others bringing joy where there is sadness and sunshine where there is darkness. God bless each of you for what you do in the name of Christ.

September begins with a bang! Some of you resume meeting again after a summer break. You're working on getting officers for the local groups and the district organizations. Your September District Annual Meeting is just around the corner as is the celebration of United Methodist Women's Sunday. The Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women's Annual Autumn Gathering will be October 3rd at Austin Ave UMC in Waco. I hope to see you there. Barbara Greene has planned a wonderful and informative day for us. A Silent Auction for missions is part of the day. Please bring an item or two. UMW resources will be available too.

The Conference Officer Leadership Development Event for all outgoing and incoming District Officers is Friday evening, October 2, beginning at 5:30pm with dinner at Austin Avenue UMC in Waco. Sue Sidney from the Rio Texas Conference and a member of the South Central Jurisdiction team will have a presentation. Then individual leadership development classes will follow. These officers will be trained to lead the District Leadership Development Events for Local UMW Officers to be held later in the fall.

The last Central Texas Conference event is December 8 - the United Community Centers ACT III party for the teens of UCC. If you're in or near the Fort Worth area, please plan on making cookies for the cookie walk – the last activity of the evening when the teens get to walk down a long row of tables filled with delicious homemade cookies and select their favorites to bag and take home. Be sure to invite the local ladies to help with the cookie baking.

Start saving now for the South Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial meeting in Oklahoma City, OK April 15 – 17, 2016. Much planning has gone into this event. They have secured inspirational speakers, entertainers, musicians, and workshop leaders. You won't want to miss it!

Hoping to see you soon.

Ready. Set. Go!

Linda Hutchings
CTC UMW President

Mission u Survey

This Survey is Online

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015-Mission-u>

Mission u question about surveys

Do you prefer filling out survey's:

- Completely Online
- On paper

If you prefer to fill out surveys on paper, how do you prefer to return a completed survey?

- Mailing the survey in using the post office.
- Filling the answers from paper onto an online survey.
- Scan the completed paper and email the attachment to someone.

Please send completed survey to:

Jennifer Higgins
551 Cooper Lane
Joshua, TX 76058
k4j@sbcglobal.net

Mission u attendance

Did you attend 2015 Mission u?

- Yes
- No

Why or why not?

Mission u Class Format

Have you attended a Mission u course with classes divided over two days?

(Half the class on day #1, and the other half of the class on day #2.)

- Yes
- No

Do you like the "classes divided over two days" format?

(Half the class on day #1, and the other half of the class on day #2.)

- Yes
- No

Have you attended a Mission u course when the entire course is completed in one day?

- Yes
- No

Do you like the "all on one day" format?

- Yes
- No

Please rank the following course formats:

1 2 3 Classes divided over two days

1 2 3 Classes all on one day

1 2 3 Some classes "all on one day" and others "divided over two days"

Questions about time:

Do you prefer courses offered:

- On a weekday
- On a weekend
- No preference

Mission u Survey

Questions about time:

What kind of class activities do you like?

What kind of free time activities do you like?

Questions about location:

If you could pick any **three** locations for Mission u courses, where would you pick?

Location #1: _____

Location #2: _____

Location #3: _____

Please list any travel issues you've ever experienced.

What are some solutions for these travel issues?

Mission u question about surveys

Was this survey:

- Too long
- Too short
- Just right

What's one good question not asked on this survey?

What's another good question not asked on this survey?

Do you have any Mission u related questions you'd like answered?

Do you have any other comments about this survey or about Mission u?

Mission u - Better Communication: To keep our records up to date, please enter your contact information.

Name _____ Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number () _____

Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women

43rd Annual Autumn Gathering

Saturday, October 3, 2015

Registration 9:00, Gathering 9:45, Meeting 10:00, Dismissal 2:30

Austin Avenue United Methodist Church

1300 Austin Ave. Waco TX, 76701, 254-754-4685

HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY



SPEAKERS

Morning Program: Tim Brown, President, Methodist Children's Home
Janna Elliott, United Community Center Board Chair

Afternoon Program: Barbara Hickerson, Missionary

Registration Deadline: September 26, 2015

Name: _____ District: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Special dietary needs: _____

Childcare provided @ 9:00. Please list children attending. Bring a sack lunch for each child.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Register online at: <http://www.ctcumc.org>

Register using email: Send reservation information above to ljefferson1920@hotmail.com

Register using mail: Send this reservation form and a check for \$15.00 (made out to CTC/UMW)

LeOneita Jefferson
717 Ellington Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76112

Questions: LeOneita Jefferson — (817) 457-0305

Spiritual Growth Retreat

Mark your calendars for March 11 and 12th for the 2016 United Methodist Church Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women **Spiritual Growth Retreat**.

Come enjoy the beauty and peace of *Camp Arrowhead* on the Brazos River near Cleburne. (5236 North FM 199, Cleburne, TX 76033 <http://www.arrowheadcamp.org>)



We are very pleased to welcome our speaker Rev. Marilyn Jones

Rev. Marilyn Jones is one of the pastors of Meadowbrook United Methodist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Marilyn is a native of Kentucky (Go Wildcats!). She graduated from Asbury University in 2003 with a B.A. in Church Ministry. She and her husband, Rev. Clint Jones (FUMC, Hurst), moved to Texas to attend Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and decided to stay. She graduated from Perkins with a Masters of Divinity degree in 2014. She also received a certificate in pastoral care in her studies at Perkins. Marilyn has had the great pleasure of serving Meadowbrook UMC as children and youth minister, associate pastor, and pastor since 2010.

Marilyn is an avid college basketball fan. For her quiet time, she loves to crochet and pray. She and her husband Clint have been married since 2006 and they love to travel together. Nothing beats a good road trip! Her favorite spot is anywhere in Appalachia, the place she calls home.

Marilyn's life and call to ministry is summed up in one verse: "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come." (Psalm 71:18, NIV)

Our theme will be "Replanted, A Truly Happy Person" from Psalm 1

The retreat will include supper on Friday, March 11th and breakfast and lunch on Saturday, March 12th.

A Prayer

Lord, here we are, your daughters and sons. Thank You for Your mercy and grace, forgiveness and guidance. Lead us into closer relationship with You. You give us unmerited favor and many opportunities to learn and grow in fellowship with one another. Lead us in Your will as we participate in the experiences You provide for us. Thank you for encouraging us when we are weak and sick, stressed and grieved. Wrap us in Your arms. Remind us daily of Your unconditional love through Christ. Help us to honor You. Be glorified in our lives. Thank you that in Christ we are a forgiven people, adopted into Your family, chosen to be Your hands and feet and mouth on earth. Anoint us, Lord God, with Your Holy Spirit for the tasks You entrust to us. Thank you because You are faithful. Help us to place unbreakable confidence in Your character and unconditional love. In Jesus Name, Amen. (Beth Dorcas, CTC UMW Spiritual Growth Advocate)

Central Texas Conference UMW Leadership Team 2016

PRESIDENT

10913 Deer Creek Drive
Burlison, TX 76028

Linda Hutchings

817-293-3393

billyhutchings@sbcglobal.net

VICE PRESIDENT

713 Parkview Dr.
Burlison, TX 76028

Becky Brown

817-948-3097

rubymontana53@gmail.com

SECRETARY

400 Old Brandon Rd. #1301
Hillsboro, TX 76645

Cathy Williams

254-337-0602

cpwill400@yahoo.com

TREASURER

5421 Appalachian Way
Fort Worth, TX 76123

Betty Foster

817-294-4192 / 817-846-4341 (c)

brdfoster@sbcglobal.net

MISSION COORDINATORS

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE OUTREACH

708 Shoal Ridge North
Lorena, TX 76655

Marsha Pennington

254-857-3363

geegeemarsha@gmail.com

SOCIAL ACTION

2811 Chisolm Trail
Salado, TX 76571

Darlene Alfred

254-624-4685

dralfred@earthlink.net

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

P.O. Box 87
Red Oak, TX 75154

Lynne Grandstaff

972-617-3515 / 214-738-7301 (cell)

hulyn.herself@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

900 Country Club Lane
Fort Worth, TX 76112

Beth Dorcas

817-446-4431/817-228/8577 (cell)

elizabeto@grupoj.org

COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

551 Cooper Ln.
Joshua, TX 75058

Jennifer Higgins

817-690-2720

k4j@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

5618 Wilshire
Waco, TX 76710

Corliss McBride

254-7776-4499

corlissm@msn.com

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

3008 Pecan Valley Drive
Temple, TX 76502

Marilyn Allison

254-742-1600 / 254-541-2386 (cell)

mwallison@hotmail.com

Central Texas Conference UMW Leadership Team 2016

CON MEMBERS

Class of 2016

2131 Woodland
Stephenville, TX 76401

Cynthia Rives
254-968-5785/ 254-592-1510 (cell)
cynrives@yahoo.com

Class of 2016

10101 Rodeo Dr.
Woodway, TX 76712

Peggy Pritchett
254-644-6764/254-761-5710
p.j.pritchett123@gmail.com

Class of 2017

2908 Hunting Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76119-4704

Annie Dobbins
817-534-6474
annie.dobbins.ad@gmail.com

Class of 2017

4332 Birchman Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Nancy Dobbs
817-738-9750
dobbsn@charter.net

Class of 2018

2501 Massey Ln.
Robinson, TX 76655

Donna Hughlett
254-717-0583
dmhughlett@gmail.com

Class of 2018

2509 East Lake Shore Dr. Apt. 601
Waco, TX 76705

Rosalyn Crowder
254-412-1138

Class of 2019

1905 Brook Lane
Brownwood, TX 76801

Aneta Ratliff
325-646-7362/ 325-642-3276
raratliff@verizon.net

Class of 2019

7405 Alverstone Drive
Fort Worth, Texas, 77120

Cynthia Crawford
817- 716-8845
cflintr@gmail.com

Education and Interpretation

Where has the summer gone? By now you have all completed your reports for Mission Today, Reading Program and such. I am grateful that I am being kept busy compiling your reports and making certificates that will be recognizing your work at the annual meeting in Waco this October.

Wow! I have been reading your Mission Today reports. I know there are local organizations that did not report because they did not feel they had met the requirements for the size of their membership. I wanted to share some of the projects and ministries that were reported.

Support was given to National and International Mission Institutions, Mission projects and missionaries of The United Methodist Church. Thirty-three organizations reported sending money and/or kits to UMCOR. Thirty-five reported they participated in the Conference "Pocket Change" Project as well as sending uniforms, supplies, camperships, Thanksgiving baskets and volunteer hours at United Community Centers in Ft Worth TX. Campbell's labels and Box Tops were sent to local schools, McCurdy, Red Bird, Henry Fork Service Center and Lydia Patterson. You have sent support to the Methodist homes, Aldersgate, Church Growth Shares and the newly developed United Methodist Women's Legacy Fund.

Other well-known ministries such as Ronald McDonald House (can tab collections), Salvation Army, Heifer International, Widow's Mite, Dress A Girl, Christian Women's Job Corp, St Joseph Indian School, Habitat for Humanity and Kids Against Hunger were highlighted projects supported.

Children, youth and families benefited from food pantries, clothes closets, after school projects, school supplies drives, and Back Pack and Snack Sack projects throughout the conference. Schools, teachers and school nurses were recognized with prayer and appreciation.

Through prayer shawls & quilts, meals for ill and bereaved families, fellowship dinners, participation and organization of church sponsored activities, and leadership to provide better hospitality to people with different abilities were also mentioned in your reports. Caps and blankets were made and/or collected and given to hospitals (for premature babies) and homeless shelters.

Volunteering and ministries in hospitals, women's shelters, homeless shelters, prisons, colleges, local schools and Child Protection Services have made a difference in lives in our communities.

All this is on top of all that you have done to further the operations and ministries of United Methodist Women through your Five-Star giving – Pledges, Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory Cards, World Thank Offerings and Special Mission Recognition.

We thank you and pray that you will be blessed as you have blessed others in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Christie Roberts

CTC Treasurers

Thanks for all your hard work this year. We have a great year going! Let's keep up the good work to finish a great year. You can do Individual Five Star Giving at any time. Your \$60 donation all goes to mission. Check with your District Treasurer if you need more information. Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory cards are always available through your Local and District Treasurers. See you at Annual Meeting. — Betty Foster

Insights from a Seasoned UMW Novice

Earlier this month I had the privilege, honor and the extreme pleasure of attending the 2015 UMW National Seminar in Chicago. In comparison to many that I met that have been involved with the UMW literally "all of their lives" I am a novice, however, in contrast I met many that felt my years were extensive and they were the novice. That was my first eye opening impression of the seminar.....the number of young women present as participants from local, district and conference areas as well as the UMW National staff to include two from the CTC UMW.

As we gathered the first evening we were formally introduced to our theme, Interrupting Indifference - Jesus, Justice and Joy by our guest speaker, Dr. Mai-Anh Le Tran of Eden Theological Seminary. Dr. Tran challenged us daily to go beyond 'thinking out side the box' but to think as if there were no box using local, global, traditional and contemporary viewpoints to push us to truly see our mindset through the lens of our religious teaching and training.

As the days progressed we discussed, dissected and deliberated on the four (4) social action focus points for the next quadrennium: Climate Justice, Economic Injustice, Maternal and Child Health and Mass Incarceration. Each day we participated in group conversations, workshops and worship that enlightened many, empowered some, educated others and angered a few. Admittedly as I heard the information shared by Tanya O. Williams on Anti-Opression, later watched the video presented during the Maternal and Child Health segment followed up by the presentation by Dr. Richard David like many I wanted...no I needed to "do" something. At this point my mind was on the 'action' piece in the term social action. This I believe was the driving force behind many, myself included, who to show their support for Dr. David and his mission to save the pediatric unit at Cook County Hospital, a local hospital serving the low income community, went to the hospital with some even attending and speaking at the board meeting to show our solidarity. It was my first official protest for my beliefs as a woman....a UMW.

The town hall style meeting on Mass Incarceration was full of diverse insight from four (4) phenomenal women each with a different approach and viewpoint accompanied with an overwhelming passion all from different ethnic groups, age groups and backgrounds. The passion and determination displayed by all panelists brought all in attendance to an awareness level I'm sure they did not expect or know how to deal with.

The women then split up the next day in separate groups attending various events / locations to put a hands on touch for the various focus points that we had been discussing the past few days. As we assembled at the Hartzell Memorial United Methodist Church that afternoon in support of the issues facing the community and the focus of a local group, the Community Renewal Society, with other members of the other churches and organization (lay and clergy) I could feel the power of community through peaceful action and prayer. This for me was one of the most powerful, if not the most powerful time of our gathering.

As the seminar unfolded we discussed what we, as United Methodist Women, can do to assist each other and how as a group we can continue to pursue the goals and mission of the UMW. It is an experience I will use daily in my efforts to "Interrupt Indifference" !

In Jesus' Joy,

Darlene R. Alfred
Social Action Coordinator
Central Texas Conference
United Methodist Women

Proposed 2016 CTC UMW Calendar

January 9	CTC UMW Leadership Team meeting – Crowley
January 24 – 26	UMW Legislative Event – Austin, TX
February 20	Sing-a-Rainbow – First UMC Alvarado
March 5	Mission u Planning Team – First UMC Crowley
March 11-12	CTC UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat – Camp Arrowhead
April 2	CTC UMW Leadership Team meeting – Bethlehem Center
April 15 – 17	South Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial meeting, Oklahoma City, OK
April 30	Young Women’s / Teen Event – First UMC Red Oak
May 21	UMW Workday at United Community Centers – Location TBA
June 5 – 8	Central Texas UMC Annual Conference – Waco Convention Center
June TBA	CTC UMW Luncheon at Annual Conference – Waco Convention Center
June 25	Mission u Planning Team – First UMC Stephenville
July 16	CTC UMW Committees & Leadership Team – First UMC Stephenville
TBA	Mission u
August 27	Mission u Planning Team – First UMC Hillsboro
September 25	UMW Sunday (or on any alternate date)
September 30	CTC UMW Leadership Development, First UMC Brownwood
October 1	CTC UMW Annual Autumn Gathering, First UMC Brownwood
December 6	CTC UMW Christmas Party for UCC ACT III Youth – Location TBA