



## A Letter From Linda

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Have you ever been told, probably as a child, that busy hands are happy hands? If that's true, many of United Methodist Women's hands must be absolutely giddy with joy. We have many opportunities to serve, to bake, to clean, to care for and to love others with our hands. Many of us stay active at home, at church, at work, volunteering and caring for others. The list is endless. Yes, we wear many hats and yet how fortunate we are to be able to help in all these ways. United Methodist Women's local organizations are blessed with women who exhibit creativity, ingenuity, energy and a loving spirit who truly make a difference in their communities and in the world. God bless you for all your efforts.

I hope that you will take time to gather your United Methodist Women friends early in the morning of October 1<sup>st</sup> and travel to First UMC Brownwood for the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Gathering. The welcoming ladies of First UMC Brownwood and Brownwood District will make it worth your while. We'll have a wonderful time together. An informative and interesting program has been planned with the theme "Stewards of the Earth." So come and enjoy. The district and conference officers will already be there since they are coming Friday evening by 5:30pm for the Leadership Development Event. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Brownwood. Until then, "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his face and grant you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

Linda Hutchings, President

Central Texas Conference

United Methodist Women



### Mission u

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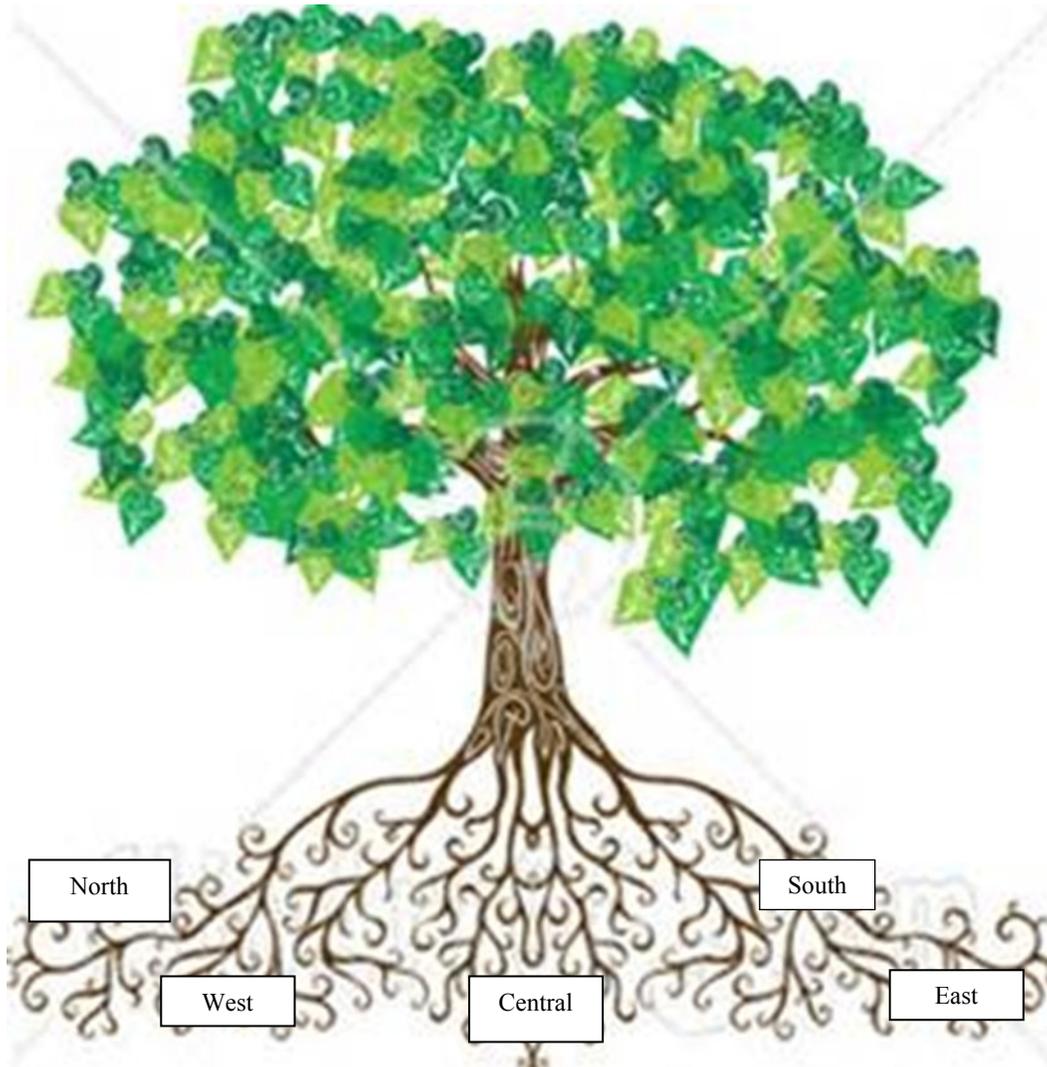
Mission u 2016 was a full weekend learning opportunities, thought provoking classes, and lots of fun. We had 140 adult, youth, and children at Mission u 2016. On Friday night, we participated in many different mission activities. We planned, wrote letters to missionary friends, made beaded crosses, ties quilts, and cut out denim shoe parts for Sole Hope. Saturday and Sunday were spent in one of three classes: Latin America, The Bible and Human Sexuality, or Climate Justice. The facilitators for each of the classes were fantastic. We had worship services each day. Saturday evening, we had a talent show. If you missed it, you missed some amazingly talented people that we have in our conference. The children sang a song and several of the youth sang, danced, or played piano. Darlene Alfred sang her (continued on page 6)

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**Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women  
44<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Gathering  
Saturday, October 1, 2016**

9:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church of Brownwood  
2500 11th St, Brownwood, TX 76801



# **Stewards of the Earth**

**Registration Deadline September 25**

Registration and information online at [www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org)

Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women  
44<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Gathering

Saturday, October 1, 2016

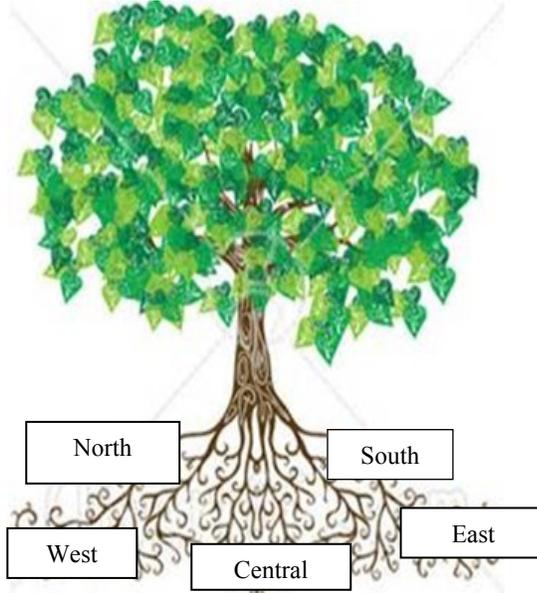
Registration 9:00

Gathering 9:45

Meeting 10:00

First United Methodist Church of Brownwood

2500 11th St, Brownwood, TX 76801



## Stewards of the Earth

**Register Soon!**

**Deadline September 25**

Speakers: Ellen Lipsey, New Mexico Conference

Rev. Sam Brannon, Outreach and Engagement Specialist at Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy

Margaret Fields, Project 44

Denny Mason, Bag Ladies

Name: District

Address:

Email: Telephone

Register online at [www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org), OR send reservation form and a check for \$15.00

(payable to CTC UMW) to Ann Baugh MAIL:108 Ivanhoe Brownwood Texas 76801 OR

EMAIL: [ann\\_baugh@yahoo.com](mailto:ann_baugh@yahoo.com) PHONE: 325-646-5052

Childcare will be provided beginning at 9:00. Please list children attending. Bring a sack lunch for each child.

Name: Age:

Name: Age:

\*\*\* A box lunch will be served. If you are on a special diet we ask you to bring a sack lunch please \*

## From Your Vice President

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Hello Ladies!

I hope you all are having a marvelous summer. I know for myself it has been a busy one. I hope each of you have gotten to enjoy some down time; you know time to sit, relax and enjoy life. Christ pulled away from his disciples and the world for quiet time and we need to do the same once in a while.

I want you to begin to think with me about some of the Autumn events that will be taking place. We know each District will be having their Annual Autumn Gatherings. Take the time to find out when your Annual Autumn District Gathering is and plan on attending.

The Conference Annual Fall Meeting will be held at First UMC Brownwood on October 1. Registration will be from 9 to 9:45 with the gathering at 9:45. Stewards of the Earth will be our theme this year. The Program Committee has been hard at work making this year an exciting event. We have a jammed packed day with lots of good ideas and speakers coming your way to help you become better stewards of the earth. We will have fresh ideas for you to take back and share with your congregation. Linda Beach the West District President and Daisy Huntsinger the UMW President at Brownwood has been hard at work putting together a morning snack and a lunch along with all the other duties it requires to host an Annual Gathering. Thank you to these ladies and all their workers for all the hard work they have and will continue to put in.

This is also a time when we will elect and install our officers for the coming year and recognize the outgoing officers who have diligently worked on the Conference level. We will share in the Burning of the Candle and make our commitment of our District pledges for next year.

I am blessed to be your Vice President and look forward to meeting many of you this year. This has been an exciting and busy first year and I look forward to many more. I am always available to come and meet you locally, to bring greetings from the Conference and to help anyway I can.

God bless and I hope to see many of you in October!

In Christian love

Becky Brown



## Treasure's Notes

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Thank you for all your hard work this year. We have a great year going. I know we can finish strong to make this our best year in a long time. Remember you can do Individual Five Star Giver at any time during the year. Gift to Mission Cards are always available through your Local and District Treasurers. We truly appreciate your contributions to Burning of the Candle.

United Community Centers really appreciate receiving your Pocket Change. Please send your Pocket Change contributions to your District Treasurer. It allows us to keep track of the money we have donated to UCC.



See you at Annual Meeting!

Betty Foster

CTC Treasurer

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## From the South District

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### Mission Projects

I was very sadden when someone from our district thought we were not MISSION oriented. So, I thought about it for a day or two and said to myself, I need to show we are MISSION oriented. I came up with an idea about how I can get the information out there about what our Local UMWs do in MISSION.

I asked each Local UMW President to send me a list of their MISSION work they do during the year and a picture of the work being done if they had one.

I took that information and typed it on square framed paper and placed it on a BIG tri-board and added little pictures from the computer that resembled the MISSION project or added a picture that I received from the Local UMW.

My plan then was to take the completed tri-board to many places for show. My first stop was our District Spiritual Growth Retreat, then it became my "District President's Report" at the CTC UMW Leadership Team Meeting last April (the team liked it and asked me to bring it to their events). I even

took it to AC '16 where my pastor saw it and was very impressed with all the MISSION work that is done in our district by the United Methodist Women.

So my request to you, if you are able, is to do a showing of your MISSION projects by displaying them on a tri-board and let your district and our conference know, we are MISSION oriented.

Blessings and Hugs,  
Sharon Gibson  
South District UMW President

### Social Action

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What A Difference a Year Makes

A year ago this week I was at the 2015 UMW National Seminar in Chicago, Illinois. The theme was Interrupting Indifference: Jesus, Justice and Joy and introduced workshops, plenaries and more on the focus areas for the coming quadrennium; Climate Justice, Maternal and Child Health, Mass Incarceration and Economic Inequality. I left that seminar full of fire and it was the beginning of a year filled with action and advocacy on many levels. I feel like I've been on a fast moving roller coaster and in all honesty ....I wouldn't change a thing. From the Legislative Event, to Sing A Rainbow, the SCJ UMW Quad meeting, AC 2016, GC 2016 and just a few weeks ago, SCJ 2016 the past year has definitely been action packed.

Each position and event brought its own brand of involvement, excitement, enthusiasm and exhaustion. The irony is that I was somehow expected to be the same person, with the same views on everything, however, we all know that is sometimes impossible. You see like each of you I am made up of many people where personal history and experiences shape who we are, our outlook, opinions, beliefs and loyalties and as we age and mature those outlooks can also mature. Based on the hat we are wearing at the time.....woman, mother, grandmother, wife, daughter, sister and friend there has to be a constant ....and that constant for me this year can be summed up by the purpose / focus of the UMW - To be a community of women, to

know God, to develop a creative and supportive fellowship and expand concepts of mission.

This will be my last year as Social Action Coordinator and we go into the next few months I encourage each of you to always know which hat your wearing, ensure the common goal is what's best for all and not just best for you and encourage others by being a positive example. I am excited and grateful to all the UMW I met along the way that made the past year possible for me. Through all the "politics", bickering, deliberations, demonstrations and protests I still feel the same way I did one year ago.....full of fire and ready to go. I'm ready to Interrupt Indifference with Jesus, Justice and Joy!

Darlene R. Alfred  
Social Action Coordinator  
Central Texas Conference

## Spiritual Growth Retreat

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The 2017 Spiritual Growth Retreat is March 3-4, 2017 at *Camp Arrowhead*, where we had the retreat in 2016: 5236 N FM 199, Cleburne, TX 76033, north of highway 67, between Cleburne and Glen Rose.

We are very pleased to have as our spiritual guide/speaker, the Rev. Debra Crumpton, Senior Pastor of St. Andrews UMC of Arlington! We have visited together already.

She is a delightful sister in Christ!

*“Debra came to SAUMC in June 2013 following her service as Senior Pastor at Wellspring UMC in Georgetown, TX. She has a strong background in offering the life-changing love to the community and has also served the Central Texas Conference in various positions.*

*Debra has a Masters of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology at SMU (2000) and also has a Masters in Theological Studies from Brite Divinity School at TCU (1992). In addition to serving at Wellspring, Debra has served St. Stephens UMC here in Arlington, FUMC Burlison and Benbrook UMC.*

*Debra says she received her call to ministry in a dream, ‘as in the days of old.’ She was told she was going to be a preacher when she was 12 years old – in elementary school, which was unusual as growing up in a Baptist family, she had never heard of a woman preacher!*

*Debra worked for many years for the City of Fort Worth prior to answering her call and attending seminary. She enjoys reading, biking, walking and gardening on cool days.”*

Our theme is **Living Water**, based in a variety of Scriptures which we will explore interactively.

Put the dates on your calendar, and pray!

Blessings, Beth Dorcas CTC UMW Spiritual Growth Advocate

## Mission u (continued)

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watermelon song before we all went outside to eat watermelon or play in the pool. On Sunday, we participated in Communion and did the “Happy Dance” around the chapel for Jerri Savuto. Ralph Thompson taught several computer classes. One of them was on how to use your smartphone for more than just texting and making phone calls.

The 2017 Mission u team is already working on Mission u for next year. We ask for your prayers and constructive ideas on how to make next year even better.

Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women

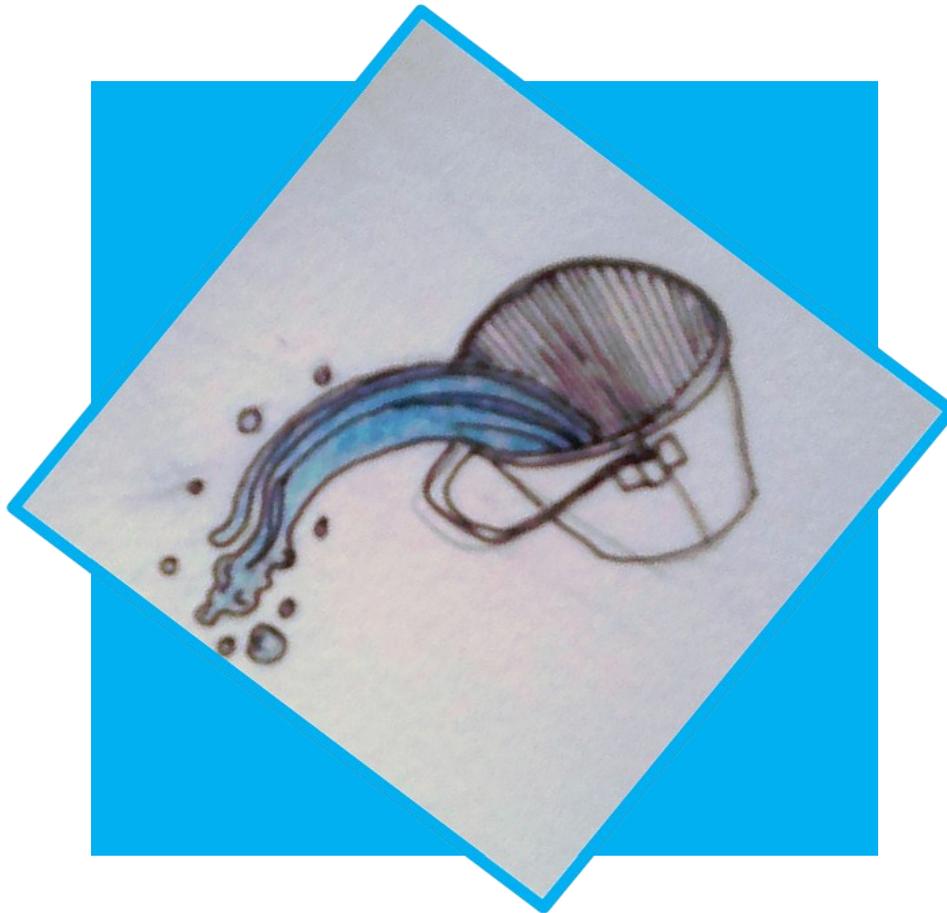
## Spiritual Growth Retreat

March 3 - 4, 2017

Camp Arrowhead

5236 North FM 199, Cleburne, TX 76033

*Retreat is from 4:00 pm Friday to 3:00 pm Saturday.*



## *"Living Water"*

*Speaker: Rev. Debra Crompton*

Cost: \$75 per person for the weekend.

Register online: [www.ctcumw.org](http://www.ctcumw.org) and click on "Event Registration" and for a scholarship click on "Document".

*Picture drawn by one of Beth Dorcas' granddaughters  
Layout by Sharon Gibson*



## Panama

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Thank you for the prayers and gifts for the July, 2016 Panama Medical Mission trip

to El Guabal, Veraguas, Panama through FUMC Hurst.

Your prayers were palpable.

Thank you for the dresses and other supplies many gave, as well as the encouraging notes.

The team provided medical care for about 400 people, the majority of which were children and women.

We all have stories to tell, and praise for God's faithfulness.

It is exhausting, sometimes difficult, and also encouraging.

Please pray about joining a team and coming to Panama. The CTC UMC churches are working with missionaries David and Cindy Ceballos and others in a variety of locations in Panama. The challenge levels vary from city ministries to very rustic missionary adventures. There is a place for you.

We challenge you to pray about it and answer God's call on your life concerning Panama.

If you have gone to Panama with your church, please consider sending news about it to Crossties.

Thank you for praying. Thank you for giving. Thank you for caring.