



Blue Ridge District Newsletter United Methodist Women

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Blue Ridge District United Methodist Women's 2014 Prayer Breakfast

Moving on Toward Perfection

**Saturday, March 22th, 2014
First United Methodist Church Rutherfordton**

8:15 a.m. First Registration

9:00 a.m. Second Registration

(Registration time for each Unit included in information mailed to Presidents)

8:15-10:00 a.m. Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Worship. Guest Speaker: Sandy Hieronymus

**Cost is \$8.00 per person
(Please try to carpool. Use your church vans!)**

LOVE OFFERING: Undesignated in Honor of Blue Ridge District United Methodist Women Units

HANDS-ON PROJECT: Health Kits-The list of Health Kit contents and assembly is on page 9.

Directions to First UMC Rutherfordton, 264 North Main St, Rutherfordton: From I-240, merge into I-40 East. Take exit 85, US-221 exit toward Marion/Rutherfordton. Turn right onto US-221 S for about 20 miles. 264 N. Main Street is on your left. From Marion, just take US-221 S to church on left. From I-26E, take US 74E to US-221N and church is on your left. 828-287-3704.

If two members of your unit attend, your unit meets criteria #19 of Mission Today Unit!!!

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828-433-7796; email : dorismorrison@att.net

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The Blue Ridge District Newsletter is published quarterly. Send any information you would like to have included to the Editor below. (Acceptance of articles will depend on space and available interest to the entire District.)

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2014 NURTURING PARTNERS (SHEPHERDESSES)

Your Nurturing Partner is a personalized connection between your district leaders and your unit. Please call your Nurturing Partner during the year if you have any questions or needs. She will be notifying you to remind you about special events throughout the year. Your Nurturing Partner would like to come visit your unit and would appreciate an invitation. Our goal is to visit every unit throughout the district during the year.

PLEASE ASK YOUR NURTURING PARTNER TO VISIT YOUR UNIT!

<p><u>Ann Aldridge</u> 828-433-0988 Thermal City Pinnacle St. Timothy</p>	<p><u>Sue Glover</u> 828-674-7661 Nebo Old Fort Caroleen Lebanon</p>	<p><u>Dixie Liggett</u> 828-684-1831 Forest City St. Mark's East Asheville</p>
<p><u>Karen Anderson</u> 828-628-9385 Oak Hill Trinity-Asheville Saluda Glennwood</p>	<p><u>Gwen Harris</u> 828-682-4589 Spruce Pine Bald Creek Higgins Memorial Mars Hill</p>	<p><u>Kathy Morgan</u> 828-667-0170 Black Mountain Groce Swannanoa Skyland</p>
<p><u>Barbara Blevins</u> 678-234-2615 Bethel Montmorenci Biltmore</p>	<p><u>Judy Hawkins</u> 828-443-4564 Mt. Hebron-Centennial Snow Hill-Morganton Gilboa</p>	<p><u>Doris Morrison</u> 828-433-7796 Pleasant Hill Addie's Chapel West Marion Clinchfield</p>
<p><u>Carol Bryson</u> 828-683-4141 Avery's Creek Reeves Chapel Edneyville</p>	<p><u>Beverly Hill</u> 828-669-9309 Asbury Memorial Upward East Marion</p>	<p><u>Tracey Owens</u> 828-633-2322 Abernethy Snow Hill-Candler Tryon Sardis</p>
<p><u>Barbara Campbell</u> 828-225-0414 Pleasant Hill-Candler Brevard</p>	<p><u>Dorothy Johnson</u> 828-738-8148 Well Springs Concord Gilkey First Marion</p>	<p><u>Jo Pyatt</u> 828-652-2530 Piney Mountain Oak Grove Rutherfordton First Kistler's Chapel</p>
<p><u>Maureen Carr</u> 828-277-7065 Windom Hope Dix Creek</p>	<p><u>Kathy Kennedy</u> 828-683-4678 Weaverville Acton Oakley</p>	<p><u>Jackie Rio</u> 828-669-2885 Emma Spindale Balfour</p>
<p><u>Lucy Earls</u> 828-453-8566 Mundy's Chapel Salem-Bostic Trinity Providence-Forest City Tanner's Grove</p>	<p><u>Betty Letzig</u> 828-255-0414 Hendersonville First Fletcher Mills River Columbus</p>	<p><u>Peggy Sanders</u> 828-606-7947 Central Fairview Sharon Moore's Grove Grace</p>
	<p><u>Joanie Strohm</u> 828-649-1156 Elkwood and Salem St. Paul's and Ebenezer</p>	

A Message from Your President



New calendars excite me! They mean a new year, new plans, new ideas, new places to go and people to meet. When I start filling in my calendar with appointments, events, and reminders, I must remember that my planning should always include service to others. We as United Methodist Women have a Purpose that should be on our minds as we go about the business of our day.

These words sum up the way we should all strive to feel about giving of our time, talents, prayers, and treasure.

How To Give

Give as you would if an Angel
Awaited your gift at the door;
Give as you would if tomorrow
Found you where waiting is o'er;
Give as you would to the Master
If you met His searching look;
Give as you would of your substance,
If HIS hand your offering took.
(Author Unknown)

Your district officers look forward to visiting your units. We are eager to get to know each of you and the projects you are planning that better the lives of women, children, and youth. If you would like us to share a program, we would be most happy to do that. We will bring information about district and conference events. Our past district presidents, Jo Pyatt and Maureen Carr, and our conference advisor, Ann Aldridge have graciously consented to be on our visiting team. Contact your nurturing partner and set up a date for a visit!

We are on the move this year as indicated in the themes of the district events:

- Prayer Breakfast--"Moving on Toward Perfection"
- Mission Study--"Moving on Through Understanding"
- Annual Meeting--"Moving on in Celebration"
- Leadership Training—"Moving on to Lead"

Come along and enjoy the journey as we work to fulfill the Purpose of United Methodist Women. May the joy, peace, and love of our Lord flow through your lives.

Joanie Strohm, *Blue Ridge District President*

Vice-President



A new year, a new start! Whether you are returning in your role as vice president or new to the office it is a chance for us all to plan out the year before us. As part of your duties, you should be active in the planning of the programming throughout the year. In doing so, please note the district events and their dates that have been scheduled so that your unit may participate. I hope you will attend and encourage attendance. Remember your unit gets credit in the Mission Today criteria for your attendance.

And are you scheduling meetings and programs at times that all women may participate? Often it seems easier to plan for those who you know will be in attendance. But who might be out there that doesn't have the opportunity to attend your regularly scheduled meetings? I urge you to look around at women in your church who do not participate in UMW events. Ask them what deters them. You may find it is a matter of scheduling- or perhaps perception as to what happens at a UMW event.

You see, I was one of those women. Thirty years ago I was invited numerous times to UMW meetings. They were always on a Tuesday morning at 10 am. Finally, someone asked why I didn't come. Frustrated and harried as a young single mother of two who worked a full time job, I blurted out- "If you really wanted to help me be able to attend, you would have a night meeting, feed and watch my children so I can pay attention, and tell me what in the world UMW does besides clean the kitchen!" The person I was talking to seemed flustered and had no answer. But the next week at 6am, when I was leaving for work, an elderly woman called my home to tell me not to fix dinner that night. She said it would be delivered. When I arrived home, there were 3 older women from my church with a pot of soup, hot cornbread and treats for my children. They sat a minute (while one of them played on the porch with the girls) and listened to my answers when they asked what night of the week I could come, did I have friends to come, and what did I want to know. A few weeks later UMW hosted an event for the younger women, complete with child care, dinner and a very informative program which enlightened me to the world of UMW---- and here I have been ever since!

This year I encourage you to look around, to listen, and to work to provide meaningful programming at a convenient time. This may mean doing things a little differently but that is how UMW got it start- doing it a little differently to meet the needs of all women.

If you need help or want to discuss ideas for programming please feel free to contact me @

Beverly Hill, *Blue Ridge District Vice President*

Secretary



I am honored to be joining the Blue Ridge District Executive Committee as secretary, and look forward to making new friends and building relationships with members across the district. As a UMW member for the past 10 years, I continue to be amazed at all the meaningful and life-changing work this wonderful organization accomplishes. Through our far-reaching projects, as well as those close to home, UMW is making a difference to women, children and youth in need. In addition, we can benefit from significant opportunities for personal spiritual growth through UMW. This is a great organization! I know I have big shoes to fill as secretary Jo Pyatt rotates out of this position, and I welcome suggestions and ideas for fulfilling the duties of this office. I hope to meet many of you at the district Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 22.

Karen Anderson, *Blue Ridge District Secretary*

Treasurer



Happy 2014 to all treasurers out there. I am looking forward to working with you this year as we report the mission dollars collected by our Units and District. This will be my first year as Blue Ridge District Treasurer. Many of you have years of experience which will be of benefit to all of us.

If you have not already done so, make sure to send your Unit Pledge to Mission for 2014 to me as soon as possible. The first criteria for a Mission Today Unit is to make a pledge and to meet that pledge. You can mail your information to me or send an email if it is more convenient. I look forward to hearing from all our Blue Ridge Units.

Also please make sure we have the names and contact information for your Unit President and Unit Treasurer. This is vital to assure you receive communication about District events and are kept up to date about news from the District.

I look forward to meeting you at our District events as well as communicating with you by email or on the phone.

Carol Bryson , *Blue Ridge District Treasurer*

Spiritual Growth

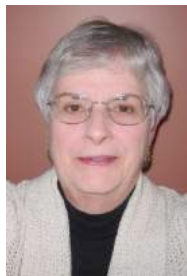


Hello, my name is Tracey Owens and I am the new Blue Ridge District UMW Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator. I am very honored to be serving in this capacity and look forward to meeting and getting to know many of you in the future. The first big event for our district UMW is the annual Prayer Breakfast. Our theme is "Moving on Toward Perfection". It will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at Rutherfordton First UMC. The front page of this newsletter is dedicated to details concerning this event. A delicious breakfast will be served to us. The cost is \$8 per person and one check from each unit should be made out to Rutherfordton First United Methodist Women.

Our speaker will be Sandy Hieronymus, WNCC UMW Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator. A Memorial Service will also be part of the worship where we remember UMW members who have passed away in 2013. If someone in your unit has passed away, there is a place on the registration form to put their name. Your unit president will receive a letter and registration form describing the event. Once again this year, there will be an early registration time (8:15 am) and a late one (9:00 am). The time for your unit to arrive will be on the registration form. Please return the registration to me by March 12th at 24 Acton Woods Road, Candler, NC 28715. Remember to bring health kits for the hands-on project. This event meets Criteria #18 to become a Mission Today unit. Try to car-pool or provide your church bus/van for transportation. I look forward to seeing YOU on March 22nd!!

Tracey Owens, Blue Ridge District Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

Education and Interpretation



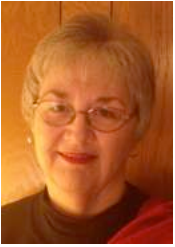
Exciting things are happening all over the Blue Ridge District! Abernethy and Snow Hill UMW's help with B..E.A.R (Baby Equipment and Resource) Closets. Oak Grove UMW hosted an international tea to learn about other cultures. Spruce Pine UMW bakes and sells pie-sized Valentine cookies and fist-sized Easter eggs to support their ministries.

Mission Today criteria encourage these kinds of mission and education activities. Education opportunities include the prayer calendar, response magazine, the reading program, district social events, and mission studies. Mission opportunities include encouraging missionaries with cards and letters, providing financial aid to missions nationally and internationally, implementing the Charter for Racial Justice and the Social Principles of the UMC, supporting local mission projects, participating in Conference Hands on Mission Projects, and supporting legislation that achieves UMW goals. During 2014, your executive committee encourages more units to achieve Mission Today status.

Mark May 17, 2014, on your calendars: Janice Lentz, Appalachian District Secretary of Program Resources, will lead our district mission study on the Roma of Europe at Groce UMC in Asheville, NC. More information will be available as the date approaches.

Gwen Harris, Blue Ridge District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

Social Action



I am excited to be serving for the second year as your District Mission Coordinator for Social Action this year. I look forward to meeting you at our district and conference events.

Our **Social Action Priorities** for 2014 are:

Priority #1 To continue education and advocacy about Human Trafficking

Priority #2 To continue education and advocacy about Domestic Violence

Hopefully, your unit was a *Justice Today* Unit in 2013. As you plan for 2014, be sure to review actions your unit needs to complete in order to be a *Justice Today* Unit. Check out the resource room at district and conference events for all the great resources we have available. Study and implement the *Charter for Racial Justice*. Look for books in our *Reading Program* to help educate yourself about immigration, human trafficking, racism, domestic violence, and other issues affecting women and children. Please call on me and our other district officers for any help you may need.

Social Action is putting our faith to work. As we embrace the theme of *Moving On* this year, let us all live out our PURPOSE as United Methodist Women and be the hands and feet of Christ.

Lucy Earls, Blue Ridge District Mission Coordinator for Social Action

Membership, Nurture, Outreach

I am looking forward to serving s Membership, Nurture, and Outreach for 2014-2015. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this position. Our goal for 2014 is to increase membership. Invite a friend or neighbor to UMW meetings. To be a member of UMW, you do not have to be a member of your church or a member of the United Methodist Church. Remember membership begins with me. Looking forward to seeing you at the Prayer Breakfast March 22nd at First Rutherfordton UMC.

Kathy Morgan, Blue Ridge District Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture, and Outreach

Program Resources



Happy New Year everyone! Let's make a resolution to read read read this year! It is so important for us to educate ourselves on the issues about which United Methodists are passionate. We have some great books this year and I know you will enjoy reading while you are learning. I look forward to seeing everyone at the District Prayer Breakfast March 22nd at the First United Methodist Church in Rutherfordton.

Link to UMW Reading Program: <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/umw/programs/readingprogram/>

Kathy Kennedy, Blue Ridge District Secretary of Program Resources

Historian

I look forward to being you Historian for the Blue Ridge District for the upcoming year. If you have any pictures or any "history" that you would like to contribute, please email them to me. I especially need pictures of members. Blessings to all.

Judy Hawkins, Blue Ridge District Historian

Communications Coordinator



The district newsletter is a great place to get information about District and Conference events to pass on to your UMW units at your church. The District will email or mail (if you have do not have a email address) this newsletter to the members of your executive committee. (We prefer to email it to save the cost of mailing.) *But* I need your name, mailing address and email address to add to the District database. Please email it to me as soon as possible if you have not already turned it in.

Also remember this newsletter is posted on the Conference website and may be downloaded from there. Go to <http://www.wnccumw.org> > District Information (left column) > Blue Ridge

2014 Deadlines for information for the District Newsletter are:

- March 15, 2014 (Newsletter for April)
- June 15, 2014 (Newsletter for July)
- Sept. 15, 2014 (Newsletter for October)

The UMW is an incredible organization. Make sure your church knows about the great things your local UMW unit is doing to help women, children, and youth in your area, in the U.S. and around the world. Be sure to get your UMW information in your church bulletins or local church newsletters.

One last thing, please take pictures of your local UMW events and email them to me with information about the event. Hopefully we can have another slide show at our annual meeting highlighting what other UMW units are doing. Please don't hesitate to call or email me for questions.

Peggy Sanders, Blue Ridge District Communications Coordinator

Parliamentarian



Conducting the Business of United Methodist Women

Have you ever felt frustrated while sitting in a meeting of UM Women when the "business" took so long that there was little or no time for "learning and growing?" It does happen – but it doesn't have to be that way.

Local units don't require a "parliament- tarian" but it is a good stewardship of time to do business "decently and in order." That allows for everyone to be heard, to make decisions without confusion; and provides for flexibility and a fair hearing for everyone.

Reports are made, a motion is made, someone seconds the motion, it is discussed and a vote is taken.

The four basic principles to be followed are:

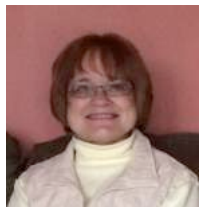
- 1) Courtesy and justice for all.
- 2) Consider one thing at a time.
- 3) The minority must be heard.
- 4) The majority must prevail.

The "*Principles of Holy Conferencing*" included elsewhere in the Newsletter provide a spiritual undergirding for the conducting of our business. These were shared with us by our president, Joanie Strohm in our last Executive Committee.

Don't expect to hear from me in every issue of the Newsletter, but as we begin the New Year, hopefully, these suggestions will enable every unit to be effective stewards of time and talents as we carry forth the tasks entrusted to us.

Betty J. Letzig, Parliamentarian

Committee on Nominations



I am excited to begin a new year with the Blue Ridge District UMW Executive Committee. This year I am serving as chair of the nominating committee. Our representation can only be as broad as recommendations and willingness to serve by you. Please contact me with any questions about our selection process. I appreciate your support. I can be contacted at jackierio@bellsouth or 669-2885. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jackie Rio, Blue Ridge District Nomination Committee Chair

Special Mission Recognition Gifts offer a meaningful way to honor members who have dedicated so much time and effort to service. It can be any amount. (It does not always have to include a pin.) Please don't forget to recognize your special members.

Prayer Breakfast Hands-on Project: Health Kit

Place the following NEW items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

In a separate envelope, please include a check payable to UMCOR Sager Brown for at least \$2.00 per kit to help with the costs of buying one tube of toothpaste, and the costs of processing and shipping the kits around the world. Please do not put the money envelope in your UMCOR Health Kit bag.

If you are bringing multiple kits, it is fine to just write one check in an amount sufficient to cover all of your kits. If your whole unit is collecting the kits, it will be okay to collect the money and put it all in one envelope to be turned in when you drop off your kits at the School of Christian Mission. (NOTE: UMCOR is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before it is sent.)

If at all possible, please pack your kits in a box that can be handled easily by our women and write the total number of kits on the side of the box. (Paper case boxes are a nice size.) We are trying to make it as easy as possible to collect, count and transport our Health Kits.

Assembly Directions of Health Kit

- All items included in kits must be NEW items.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items – nothing more.
- Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.
- Please do NOT include any religious, political or patriotic notes or emblems in any kit.

Thank you for your generous support of our hands-on mission opportunity!

Principles of Holy Conferencing

Bishop Sally Dyck, now of the Chicago Area, published a white paper on behalf of The United Methodist Church entitled "[Eight Principles of Holy Conferencing: A Study Guide for Churches and Groups.](#)" Here they are with accompanying Scripture verses.

1. Every person is a child of God.

"If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both." (1 John 4:20-21, *The Message*)

2. Listen before speaking.

"Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with." (Romans 14:1, *The Message*)

3. Strive to understand from another's point of view.

"He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross." (Philemon 2:8, NRSV)

4. Strive to reflect accurately the views of others.

"I tell you, on the day of judgment you will have to give an account for every careless word you utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:36-37, NRSV).

5. Disagree without being disagreeable.

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:1-2a, NRSV)

6. Speak about issues; do not defame people.

"The simple moral fact is that words kill." (Matthew 5:22, *The Message*)

7. Pray, in silence or aloud, before decisions.

"Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." (Luke 6:28, NIV)

8. Let prayer interrupt your busy-ness.

"Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17, NASB)

The Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women 2014

Spiritual Growth Retreat

Lake Junaluska • June 13-14



With Rev. Tiffany Thomas of South Tryon
Community Church, Charlotte

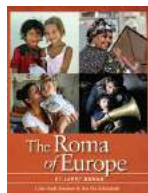
Special Music By:

James Jones and Patrick Scott of Myers Park UMC, Charlotte
Lake Junaluska Singers

Details on pages 18 and 19

Mission u

Pfeiffer University • July 17-20



Spiritual Growth Study: "How Is It With Your Soul?"

Social Issue: "The Church & People with Disabilities"

Geographical Study: "The Roma"



Annual Meeting

Lake Junaluska • September 5 -7

For more information on these great opportunities visit:

www.wnccumw.org



United
Methodist
Women

**Blue Ridge District
United Methodist Women**
2014 Scholarship Application Form

One scholarship to the Mission u! (formerly School of Christian Mission) and one scholarship to the Conference Annual Meeting will be given this year. Each unit is encouraged to submit a name(s) of someone who will be a first-time attendee. Young women ages 15-20 are also eligible. **Please complete this form and return to the District President by the following deadlines:**

School of Missions: April 25, 2013 Annual Meeting: July 6, 2013

Name: _____ Church: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Adult or Youth? _____

Please check if you would like to apply for either or both of these scholarships:

_____ Mission u! (formerly School of Christian Mission) (July 18-21)

_____ WNCC – UMW Annual Meeting (Sept. 6-8)

Short Biographical Sketch (Just a paragraph or two about yourself.)

Why do you wish to attend the Mission u! (formerly School of Christian Mission) or Conference Annual Meeting?

Applicant's Signature _____

Recommendation of the UMW President of your local unit:

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: District President - Joanie Strohm, 111 Collins Road, Marshall, NC 28753

Making Our **PURPOSE**
Come Alive
Through **Mission Today!!!**

Our **PURPOSE** is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

To Know God.....

- Use the [Prayer Calendar](#) at all unit meetings to pray for those in mission. Assign the prayer calendar ahead so persons will be ready to read. Use the [Prayer Calendar](#) every day for personal Bible Study. It has Bible passages for daily reading. You can use the Bible passages as a part of your devotions at your unit meetings.
- Encourage the ladies in your unit to attend the Conference [School of Christian Mission](#). There is always a Bible Study as part of the school. Ask someone who has never attended to go with you and mentor them. Help those you may not be able to afford the cost to attend. Offer scholarships especially to first timers.
- Encourage the ladies to attend the **Conference & District [Spiritual Growth Retreats and Opportunities](#)**. This is a time for spiritual growth for all those who attend.
- Have a [mission study](#) using the spiritual growth studies used at the [School of Christian Mission](#). Invite other area churches to participate. Contact your district or conference Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation to learn what studies may be used.
- Encourage your members to [subscribe](#) to [Response Magazine](#). Have the unit itself to have a subscription to [Response Magazine](#) and make it available for members to use. There is a Bible Study in each issue. Share these studies at circle meetings.
- Use programs from the [Program Book](#). Use as much of the program as you want to. You can adapt the program to fit your needs. There are programs for spiritual growth, mission education and on giving.

To Experience Freedom As Whole Persons Through Jesus Christ.....

- Implement the [Charter for Racial Justice](#) in one way during the year. View the videos on the [Charter for Racial Justice](#). Use the [resources available from the Women's Division](#), including a 187 page handbook: **Resources for Racial Justice: Tools for UMW Leaders**. Find books on the [Reading Program](#) that deal with racism and get your members to read and share the stories. Involve other churches with different cultures in your mission studies and other events your local unit may have.
- Encourage your ladies to attend the **Conference & District [Annual Meeting](#)**. Volunteer your church to host a district event and get the other area churches to help. Ask others to attend with you. Offer scholarships to first timers attending from your unit. Let them ask a friend to attend with them and give a scholarship to them also.
- [Subscribe](#) to [Response Magazine](#). This is our magazine. It helps us to learn who we are as United Methodist Women.

To Develop A Creative Supportive Fellowship.....

- Share the joys of membership with the other women in your church. Each one invite one. Be intentional about [inviting others to join](#).
- Have your **Social Action Coordinator** or someone else in your unit to join the [United Methodist Women's Action Network](#) to receive and respond to legislative information during the year. Learning

about the issues facing women and children help us to learn the areas we need to be involved in. [Download Action Network Registration Form \(WORD\)](#) [Download Action Network Registration Form \(PDF\)](#)
Or, join the email version...the Electronic Action Network....by sending an email request to:
umwanet@gbgm-umc.org

- Invite your district officers to come and give a program to your unit. This is part of the **LUV (Local Unit Visitation) Program**.
- Help sponsor a [Children's Sabbath](#) in your local church. Have children involved in the service and be sure to highlight the issues and needs that children are facing today.

To Expand Concepts Of Mission Through Participation In The Global Ministries Of The Church.....

- The Conference [School of Christian Mission](#) is a great way to learn about mission opportunities all over the world. There is always a **Geographical Study and a General Issue Study**.
- Help the unit to make a **Pledge To Mission** and to meet it. This is one channel of the five channels of [Undesignated Mission Giving](#).
- Help unit to contribute to all [Five Channels of Mission Giving](#). Have your unit honor some with a **Special Mission Recognition pin** each year. Honor and remember someone by sending a [Gift To Mission card](#) and a **Gift In Memory card** during the year. Also, help your unit be involved in the **World Thank Offering**. Remember [Mission Giving helps make mission possible around the world](#).
- Use a **Response Moment** at all unit meetings to help tell the mission story. Use the articles that are followed by the Mission Giving symbol to help members know where Mission Giving is helping.
- Use the [Reading Program](#) to learn about all aspects of the mission. There are books on spiritual growth, mission education, social action and membership in the United Methodist Women. Have the unit to purchase one book from each category and share the books with members in the unit.

**When you live out the purpose of the
United Methodist Women, you are
helping your unit to become a
MISSION TODAY UNIT!!!**



Mission Resources All Local Units Need:

- **Prayer Calendar** - *New Calendar Printed Each Year!*
- **Program Book** - *New Program Book Printed Each Year!*
- **Children's Sabbath** - *New Handbook Printed Each Year!*
- Material Resources for Mission Catalog
- **Response** Magazine
- **New World Outlook** Magazine
- **Charter for Racial Justice Policies**
- Membership Joys & Responsibilities

You can order all of these mission resources (except for the magazine subscriptions) from the [Mission Resource Center](#).



Mission Today

United Methodist Women

Western North Carolina Conference

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Become a Mission Today Unit!!

The purpose of promoting a Mission Today Unit is to:

Energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action. Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so the United Methodist Women understand where their money goes. Encourage the use of mission resources through United Methodist Women. Expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.

What is a Unit?

A unit is any organized group of United Methodist Women within a church or district. Some units are composed of several circles, which periodically get together for a unit meeting.

How Do We Become a Mission Today Unit?

In order to be recognized as a Mission Today Unit, UMW groups must complete a minimum of twelve of the following criteria, including six of those marked with an asterisk (*). **#1 of the Criteria is not optional. You must complete this one to become a Mission Today Unit!** Activities conducted between January 1-December 31, 2013, will be recognized at annual meetings in 2013. This is an ongoing program, so strive to become a Mission Today Unit!

CRITERIA:

- *1. **The Unit will make and meet its Pledge to Mission. (Must be completed.)**
- *2. Use the *Prayer Calendar* at each general meeting of the unit to pray for persons in mission and our mission work with women, children and youth. A new *Prayer Calendar* is printed each year and may be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.
- *3. The unit will use at least two programs from the *Program Book* during the year. A new *Program Book* is printed every year and may be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.
- *4. The unit or circle will conduct or participate in at least one mission study each year. Contact your district or conference Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation to learn what the studies are for each year. (If members of your unit, other than a conference or district officer, attend the conference School of Christian Mission or your District Mission Study and your unit takes an action growing out of the study, Gift to Mission, ministry related to the study, etc., your unit will meet this criteria.)
- *5. The unit will have at least two members subscribing to response (1 member subscribing with units less than 15 members). Order from Magazines With A Mission, \$24.00 for a year's subscription. New World Outlook is also available from Magazines With A Mission, \$24.00 for a year's subscription.
- *6. The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice in at least two ways during the year. Possibilities are:
 - a. Have members read and discuss books and articles about other races and cultures;
 - b. Sponsor an interethnic event between two or more units;
 - c. Recruit women of color to be members and officers of the unit;
 - d. View the DVD on the Charter, "In Search of Racial Justice". Your District President has a copy for use;
 - e. Use the new "Resources for Racial Justice: Tools for UMW Leaders" handbook. (Available on our conference website on the "Downloads Available" page, and on the "Mission Today" page.)
 - f. Write to elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, low-income programs, civil rights, etc.

- *7. Become a member of the Western North Carolina UMW Charter Club. See link to info on Charter Club at our conference website.
- *8. The unit will add at least two new members (one member for units with less than 15 members) to its roll.
- *9. The unit will have one program from the *Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2013-2016*.
- 10. At least one member of the unit (other than a conference or a district officer) will attend the School of Christian Mission and report back to the unit on classes and events they experienced.
- 11. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members), other than a conference or district officer, will attend the district or conference annual meeting and report back to the unit about the event and what they experienced.
- 12. The unit will have at least one person joining the United Methodist Women's Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information at least three (3) times a year. (To join, contact Women's Division Washington Office, 100 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20002. (Attach to Mission Today report what you responded to and what action was taken.)
- 13. Members will correspond with five persons listed in the *Prayer Calendar* at least once a year.
- 14. The unit will co-sponsor, with the local church, a Children's Sabbath. (This is a worship service highlighting the needs of children.) The Women's Division and the Council of Bishops support this effort. Children's Sabbath materials are on our website.
- 15. The unit will contribute to all Five Channels of Mission Giving.
- 16. Each unit or circle meeting will include a "response Moment" where an item from *response* magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.
- 17. The unit will sponsor one teen member (ages 12 to 17) and/or one young woman member (ages 18 to 39) to at least one conference event during the year.
- 18. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members), other than a conference or district officer, will attend a district Prayer Breakfast, district Day Apart, or conference Spiritual Growth Retreat.
- 19. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members), other than a district or conference officer, will complete Plan 1 of the Reading Program and give a report to the unit on one of the books read.
- 20. The unit will invite a district or conference officer, other than a member of the unit, to one of the unit meetings during the year and/or for their United Methodist Women's Sunday.
- 21. The unit will add one new teen (ages 12 to 17) and/or one young woman (ages 18 to 39) circle during the year, or one new teen member (ages 12 to 17) or one new young woman member (ages 18 to 39) during the year.
- 22. Each unit will be responsible for supporting at least one local mission project and participate in one Conference Hands on Mission Project during the year. The local project should be listed on your Mission Today report.

Be a Mission Today Unit!

Resource Information:

Mission Resource Center: Toll Free 1-800-305-9857 Website: www.missionresourcecenter.org
 United Methodist Women Mission Resource Center • 1221 Profit Drive • Dallas, TX 75247

Magazine Circulation (For *Response* & *New World Outlook*): Toll Free 1-877-881-2385 • FAX: 1-845-267-3478
 Magazines with a Mission • PO Box 395 • Congers, NY 10920-0395

Conference Website: www.wnccumw.org



Blue Ridge District Goals, 2014



1. **Visit 75% of all Units.** There are 76 Units in the Blue Ridge District. "Nurturing Partners" (formerly called Shepherdesses) will be visiting or calling as many local units as possible for information sharing and fellowship. You may even invite her to present a program. Watch for a call from your Nurturing Partner!
2. **Contact all churches/pastors without a Unit to get a contact person.** There are 134 churches in the Blue Ridge District, but only 76 Units. The District president is working with the District Superintendent to develop a plan to secure these names.
3. **Have 60% of the Units contribute to all five Channels of Giving.**

The five Channels are the foundation for the worldwide ministries with women, children and youth. They are: 1) Pledge to Mission, 2) World Thank Offering, 3) Mission Recognitions, 4) Gifts to Mission and 5) Gifts in Memory. It takes 46 Units to achieve this goal? Will your Unit be one of them?

4. **Have each member of the (76) local units increase her Pledge to Mission by \$1.45 in recognition of the 145th anniversary of *United Methodist Women*.**
What an easy way to celebrate!

United Methodist Women Five Channels of Undesignated Mission Giving

- **PLEDGE TO MISSION** - Pledge to Mission giving is the foundation for mission work through United Methodist Women. An individual Pledge to Mission is the amount each member decides is her share of the local unit's total budget.
- **SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION** - A Special Mission Recognition is an undesignated gift for mission work that honors the recipient. Special Mission Recognitions may be given by any individual, or circle, or unit, in honor of any person, female or male. It is not necessary that the recipient be a member of United Methodist Women. There are several categories of Special Mission Recognitions, each representing a different amount of money for mission. The basic \$40 Special Mission Recognition is a small gold oval lapel pin with a cross and a white certificate. The other categories are \$60 (set with small sapphire), \$100 (pearl), \$200 (emerald), \$500 (ruby), \$1,000 (diamond), and \$2,000 (double diamond).
- **GIFT TO MISSION** - A Gift to Mission is a way to honor someone with an undesignated gift in her or his name of at least \$5.00. There are eight different Gift to Mission cards: Thank You, Congratulations, Thinking of You, A Special Day, A Baby, Happy Birthday, Peace, and In the Service of Christ. And, there are five special Christmas card designs. Each card has a message indicating that a gift to mission through United Methodist Women has been made in the recipient's honor.
- **GIFT IN MEMORY** - A Gift in Memory honors the memory of a much-loved family member or friend by making possible additional mission work in the United States and around the world. Gift in Memory cards represent a gift of a minimum of \$5.00. The cards can be obtained for free, so that they are readily available when needed. The person making the gift sends the card to the family of the deceased person, and then sends their gift money to the local UMW treasurer along with the tear-off stub indicating the name of the deceased person.
- **WORLD THANK OFFERING** - The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. Individuals or families collect such gifts in special boxes or labeled containers. Gifts are usually brought together in the unit once a year.

Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

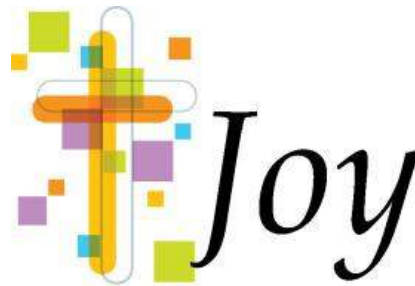
Western North Carolina Conference

- What:** 2014 Spiritual Growth Retreat
When: June 13-14, 2014
Opening Session 6:45pm Friday / Ends Noon Saturday
Where: Lake Junaluska, Stuart Auditorium
Theme: Joy
Leader: Rev. Tiffany Thomas



Tiffany Thomas was born in 1986 in Columbus, Ohio, and she answered the call to ministry at the age of 15. In 2008, she graduated from Spellman College, 6th in her class, earning a BA in Political Science. Tiffany earned her Masters of Divinity from Duke Divinity School in 2011. Upon graduating Duke University, she accepted an offer to work as an associate minister at Christ United Methodist Church, in New York, New York. Since 2012, she has been serving as Local Pastor at **South Tryon**

Community Church, Charlotte, NC. She molds her life around her strong belief that we are all called to be agents of social and spiritual change.



Complete information
about the retreat is
available on our website:
www.wnccumw.org

Mark your calendar!
Register ONLINE!
Join us at the lake!

Retreat Registration: (Begins February 1, 2014)

- On-site registration at the retreat - \$20.00 per person
- **Get a DISCOUNT! Register early and ONLINE!**
Online advance registration, February 1, 2014 through May 31, 2014 is only \$11.00 per person! Use the online registration link on our website at www.wnccumw.org.
- **Advance registration fees are transferable, but non-refundable.**
So, if someone registers for the retreat, and is unable to attend, their registration fee is not refundable, but it is ok for someone else to attend in their place.
- **Register yourself AND others!** Our online registration offers the opportunity for you to register up to 35 guests at the same time that you do your own retreat registration. Help other members of your local unit to register online — especially those who may not use a computer!
- **DO NOT** mail Spiritual Growth Retreat registration fee money to Lake Junaluska. Contact us if you have a question about registration.

Contact Persons:

Retreat Information

Sandy Hieronymus,
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual
Growth, sandyh46@aol.com
704-545-6910

Questions about Online Payments

Martha Phillips,
Conference Treasurer
mcwphillips@gmail.com
828.765.7009

Questions about Online Registration

Lynne Gilbert
Webmaster
lgilbert.umw@gmail.com
336-207-3479



Lake Junaluska
 Conference & Retreat
 Center, P. O. Box 67
 Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

Reservations Phone #:

1-800-222-4930 (Toll Free)
 1-828-452-2881

**Lake Junaluska
 Reservations:**

**Housing Reservations
 Open February 1, 2014**

To book Lake Junaluska
 lodging for the
 Spiritual Growth Retreat:

- Call the Lake Junaluska reservations department at 1-800-222-4930. Then select 1 for the Reservations Department, and the next available agent will be glad to assist you. The Lake Junaluska reservations team is on duty from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
- Reservations can also be made online at: <https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1004766&hotelID=77715>



United Methodist Women
 Western North Carolina Conference

Visit our Website:

www.wnccumw.org

Visit us on



www.facebook.com/wnccumw

2014 Spiritual Growth Retreat

June 13-14, 2014 - Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

Lake Junaluska Accommodations & Rates

Terrace Hotel or Lambuth Inn

(Private baths, heat, air conditioning, phone, elevator)

Rates are per person, per day, room & meals.

	Room	Meals*	Total
Single	\$106	\$30	\$136
Double	\$60	\$30	\$90
Triple	\$41	\$30	\$71
Quad	\$33	\$30	\$63

*Lake Junaluska operates The Terrace and Lambuth on an American Plan, and meals are required with the room.

Lakeside Lodge

(Private baths, heat, air

conditioning, TV, phone, no elevator)

Rates are per person, per day, no meals.

Single	\$78
Double	\$45
Triple	\$34
Quad	\$29

Junaluska Apartments

Rates are per person, per day, no meals.

Single	\$73	Quad	\$27
Double	\$41	Quintuplet	\$25
Triple	\$30	Sextuplet	\$25

Apartments are furnished with linens and blankets. Type A, C, & D have kitchens with small refrigerators, counter top burner, microwave, and limited equipment and dishes.

Lake Junaluska Lodging Information:

Event lodging reservation deposit – Due 60 or more days prior to the event – Deposit amount is equal to the first nights lodging and is due at the time of reservation. Any rooms not reserved with a Lodging Reservations Deposit will be released into general availability 60 days prior to an event. Individual lodging reservations deposit refund policy: 30 days or more before an event receive a full refund minus a \$15 processing fee. 29 days or less before an event will not receive a refund. **Check in at all facilities is 3:00pm; check out is 11:00am.**

Meal Information:

The room rate that shows on your confirmation letter is the room rate only, meals are an additional cost. Meals are optional for all facilities other than the Terrace Hotel or the Lambuth Inn. Guests staying in optional meal facilities may purchase a 3 meal package at the same cost of \$30.00 per person for each 3 consecutive meals, or individual meals can be purchased: \$9.00 for breakfast, \$11.00 for lunch and \$13.00 for dinner. Children 6 through 11 years of age receive meals at half price, 5 years of age and under eat free. **Meal package of \$30.00 per person, per day will automatically be added for each person staying in the Terrace Hotel or the Lambuth Inn.**

Blue Ridge District United Methodist Women
%CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
27 CHURCH STREET
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801-1218

Mark Your Calendar for 2014:

Blue Ridge District UMW Events

- March 2 **Church Women United World Day of Prayer;** Brooks-Howell
- March 22 **District Prayer Breakfast,** First United Methodist, Rutherfordton,
Moving on Toward Perfection
- May 17 **District Mission Study,** Groce UMC *Moving on Through Understanding*
- August 23 **District Annual Meeting,** Location: TBD, *Moving on in Celebration*
- Nov. 2 **Blue Ridge District Leadership Training,** Location: TBD, *Moving on to Lead*



Western North Carolina Conference UMW Events

- June 13-14 **Spiritual Growth Retreat,** Lake Junaluska;
- June 19-22 **Annual Conference,** Lake Junaluska
- July 17-20 **Mission u!** (previously School of Christian Mission), Pfeiffer University, Misenheimer, NC
- Sept. 5-7 **Conference Annual Meeting,** Lake Junaluska



For More Information:

Visit our Web Site: www.wnccumw.org

Join our Conference UMW Email List

Read the **Conference Gram** and your District Newsletter

Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wnccumw

Visit us on YouTube! www.youtube.com/user/wnccumw