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# **FLAMING FORTRESS**

**North Central District Newsletter  
January 2014**

## **PURPOSE**

**OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

The logo for the United Methodist Women's Purpose statement. It features a stylized flame in red and yellow, with a white cross superimposed on it. The entire design is enclosed within a purple, teardrop-shaped outline.

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.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR NC DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Advent is here and although I been out of commission for a couple of weeks, I see all the signs that Christmas is near. God gave the ultimate gift to us knowing the terrible things that were going to happen to his son, our gift. I have to admit that Christmas is not my favorite holiday and yet, I so love the meaning of Christmas. Without Christmas, there would be no Easter which is my favorite holiday. I just wish and I am sure many of you do, that the real meaning of Christmas would again be in the forefront instead of shopping and parties.

2013 has been a difficult year for our family as you all know. Our son, Jay, lost his battle with cancer on November 11, 2013. He fought valiantly and depended on his faith to the very end. Our family thanks you for all the Gifts in Memory, cards, emails, letters and memorials. And to all of you who made the trip to Belmond for visitation or the celebration of life service, thank you for making that extra effort. It is overwhelming to realize so many care about our family and what we have had to deal with. Thank you to each and every one of you who have reached out to us in our loss.

December 2, I had my knee replacement surgery. I am glad to have it done but was not really prepared for all that it takes to get back on your feet. Many of you tried to prepare me but I just didn't get it!! I am glad to be home and have my husband and son, Jon, to help plus home health care. Again people have been so gracious with food and cards and visits. I even had three friends who came in and decorated our tree and got all (120-130) nativities up to enjoy when I got home.

Through these two events, I have learned that there is more I should be doing as a Christian sister. I need to be praying more, calling people more, sending more notes and cards. God has let me know in so many ways that we are family through our heavenly Father.

So I wish each of you a very Blessed Christmas. May 2014 be a year full of new adventures and learning experiences for all of us as we learn more and more about God and his heavenly gift to us.

Hugs to you all, Myra Gochenour, District President

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

January 2014

As we start off this new year, our scripture gets right to the point of what we as Christians are compelled to be. ***“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*** That is our constant personal “charge” to be “transformed” by God as we share His love with all we meet, in all we do daily whether in a large group or small, with family/ friends or strangers. So, I also ask you to continually “renew” your minds with Bible study, Sunday worship, Spiritual Growth activities with your local unit coordinator.....plus, don't forget to put our district “Day Apart” April 10, 2014 on your calendar, if it isn't there already. In Christ,  
Linda Stauffer



## DISTRICT SECRETARIES REPORT

Greetings to you in this holiday season. It was good to meet some of you at the district annual meeting in September. For those of you who were not able to attend, your president should have received a packet with some of the handouts we used during the LOTE (local officer training event). If you have not received them, please ask your president, you might find them useful.

As secretaries this is a good time to catch up on filing, purge unneeded papers, etc. If you are retiring from being secretary, please take time to put your files in order prior to turning them over to the new person. You need to keep minutes and anything that is legal or historical – don't clutter your files. If you are a new secretary, hopefully the previous person has passed on the files to you, or will soon – what a great time to familiarize yourself with what is in them. You are the custodian of the written history of your unit. One of the items that every unit should have is a copy of the UMW Handbook for the current quadrennium – they are now available to purchase through Mission Resources or online. If you have not looked it over, I encourage you to do so. If your unit has not yet purchased a copy, encourage them to do so and borrow it to read through.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. The best way is through my email since I will be away from home for extended periods of time this winter and spring. If you have not yet sent in the local officer information form with your officers for 2014 – please do so, and PLEASE include email addresses they have email.

Sharon Boen  
Boen.sharon@gmail.com  
515-450-5576  
503 Carr Dr., Ames 50010

## NEWS from the CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

-Barbara Trulson and Myra Bowman

We would like to introduce ourselves in our first article for the Flaming Fortress. We are both residents of Britt but belong to the Garner United Methodist Church and UMW there.

I, Barb, was born in Britt but moved around a lot because my dad was in the army. I ended up back in Britt, graduated from Britt High School and married my high school sweetheart, Russ. We have two grown children, two grandchildren and two dogs. I am employed at Monson and Sons, Inc. in Britt. I enjoy singing in the church choir and am currently teaching a Disciple 1 class at Garner.

I, Myra, moved to Britt in 1976 when I began teaching elementary music for grades K-6. I met my husband, John, that fall as he was teaching at the other end of the hall. I taught music there for 30 years, retiring in 2006. We have two grown children and now I teach piano lessons in my home. I play organ and piano for our church services and am the accompanist for the church choir.

We hope you will be patient with us as we learn the responsibilities of being your co-vice presidents. We look forward to getting to know you. If you have any questions, or if we goof and need some guidance, please feel free to call us or email us. We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a wonderful new year!

Barbara Trulson  
Phone 641-843-3387  
Email [russbarb1946@msn.com](mailto:russbarb1946@msn.com)

Myra Bowman  
Phone 641-843-4086  
Email [jlbowman51@aol.com](mailto:jlbowman51@aol.com)



## RETIRING DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT

This is the second time I have written an article like this; I am retiring from being your Vice President for the last 4 years. Last time it was when I was retiring from being Secretary for North Central District for 4 years. This was formerly the Fort Dodge District.

I want to Thank the Eagle Grove United Methodist Women for hosting our Annual Meeting in September, we had favorable comments and I thank all of you for attending, it was a wonderful day, music, plays, lunch and the support from friends who came.

We have 2 ladies from Britt who will be starting their term as your V.P. next year; Barbara Trulson and Myra Bowman there address will be in this news letter, please send them one of your program books. The V.P. attending LOTE enjoy looking at them & taking them home for ideas they might use.

I had a request for the address to send the cancelled stamps that we save, the Purpose remains the same bulk resale of used stamps for collectors with proceeds helping provide funds for USA & Global hunger projects – Ship them to: Center for Social Justice, 1233 Park St., Grinnell, IA. 50112 - Thank You.

I have enjoyed working on the North Central team, they are a great group & I will miss them but will see them at the District events.

Again I want to Thank Everyone for attending our District meetings and May God Bless You and Your Local Units working to carry out the purpose of the United Methodist Women.

Marlene Johnson  
218 Wabash Street  
Jolley, IA. 50551

## MISSION TODAY AWARDS 2012-2013

### Large Groups (more than 16 members)

**GOLD:** 12-15 items completed

Corwith UMC

Ogden UMC

Faith UMC Humboldt

Britt UMC

Mason City First UMC

Faith UMC Webster City

Epworth UMC Fort Dodge

Northwood UMC

Lake Mills Asbury UMC

Sheldahl UMC

Lohrville UMC

Faith UMC Gilmore City

Nevada UMB

**SILVER:** 8-11 items completed

Trinity UMC Huxley

Napier UMC

Clarion UMC

Kanawha UMC

Goldfield UMC

Fenton UMC

**PLATINUM:** Completed 16 or more items

Ames First UMC

Colo UMC

Algona First UMC

Boone First UMC

Bethel UMC Manly

Eagle Grove UMC

Fort Dodge Trinity UMC

Mason City Wesley UMC

Radcliff St. John's UMC

### Small Groups (less than 15 members)

**GOLD:** 9-11 items completed

Duncombe UMC

Livermore UMC

Somers UMC

Faith UMC Rutland

**SILVER:** 7-8 items completed

Williams UMC

Otho UMC

Churdan UMC

**PLATINUM:** 12 or more items completed

Pomeroy Wesley UMC

Bolan Trinity UMC

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the groups that completed items on the Mission today report.



**EVERY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S UNIT IS ENCOURAGED TO BE A MISSION TODAY UNIT**

## North Central District Mission Study Opportunities for 2014

March 18, 2014 **Garner**

Snow Date: March 25, 2014

March 20, 2014 **Manson**

Snow Date: March 27, 2014

Come join us for a time of learning and growth. The UMW Purpose reminds us we need to grow in the "Concept of Missions". Two studies will be presented each day ---with one in the morning and another in the afternoon. We will be looking at "The Roma of Eastern Europe" and the Spiritual Growth Study, "The Call: Living Sacramentally; Walking Justly". Please mark these dates on your calendars --and even if you were fortunate enough to attend Mission u and looked at these studies before-- we will have exciting leaders who will give you a different perspective on the materials. Look for further information on these studies in the winter edition of "The Flaming Fortress".



## EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION COORDINATOR

The New Year is here with all its promise! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Now it is time to look forward and see the opportunities of the new year--- opportunities to learn and become more in tune with and aware of the world around us.

"Learning together for transformation of the world" was the theme for Mission u. Mission u was very successful and a great learning experience. The Roma of Europe study was very enlightening, giving me and I'm sure the other women who were there, a glimpse of a world that few of us knew about. The Romani are often mistreated or ignored, poorly understood and living in a world of prejudice and poverty. A morning study of the Roma will be presented on March 18<sup>th</sup> in Garner and March 20<sup>th</sup> in Manson with gifted presenters and a young Romani woman from Cedar Rapids sharing her experience as a member of this ethnic group. Please mark your calendars and join us to further your understanding, if you were fortunate enough to attend mission u, or to begin learning about this group, if you were not able to attend mission u. Also at these events we will have a pastor who will lead us in the study of the Sacraments. The book "The Call: Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly" will be our study guide, if you want to read it before the class, (it is not necessary to read the book) but it can be counted as one of your books for the reading program if you do. The 2014 reading program has some **great** new books--- I would encourage you to add them to your 2014 plans.

Please start working on your Mission today reports so I may have them by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 or before. I would encourage you to have them at each meeting and check items as you complete them. I know that there are a lot of groups out there who aren't getting the credit they deserve for all of their work. The new form if you don't have one will be posted on line at [iaumc.org](http://iaumc.org)-- click on Ministries at the top of the page and then on UMW on the left side of the page. You may also contact me if you need help. 2014 has many opportunities for learning.

**Blessings,**

**Phyllis Warren, 160 180<sup>th</sup> Street, Bradgate, Iowa 50520**

**Telephone 515-375-6738 E-mail: [pjwarren@q.com](mailto:pjwarren@q.com)**



## NOTE from OUR NEW DISTRICT TREASURER

Hi treasurers of the North Central District UMW!

I may have met some of you at the District Annual Meeting in Eagle Grove last September. I am anxious to learn my new position with the district, and if you are a new treasurer, then we will be learning together! As we await the season of the birth of the Christ child, please take time to be thankful for all of our blessings. As we are thankful, we are open to be blessed over and over again. Take this approach with the new year in UMW. Be thankful for every little or big blessing, and see how we can work together to support more missions in 2014 through UMW.

You may contact me by phone: 641-423-2742,  
or by email: [ksautter64@gmail.com](mailto:ksautter64@gmail.com).

My address is: Kathy Sautter  
1041 S. Illinois Ave.  
Mason City, IA 50401

Looking forward to serving the Lord with you.



*Begin the New Year with GOD!*

## NOTE from OUR RETIRING DISTRICT TREASURER

This is my final note. The last 4 years have been a learning experience because I found out there were many things I wasn't aware were a part of this office. You have been supportive as treasurers and I tried to do my best. I'm sure the new treasurer, Cathy Sautter will do a great job. (Her address was in the packet you received at District meeting.)

As of this writing we are still short of pledged goals but it is getting closer every day. There are many orders for Special Membership Pins coming in. Please don't be impatient because when I mail the orders they go to the Conference Treasurer and then she sends them to the Mission Resource Center and it takes a while.

Wishing you a glorious Holiday Season! God Bless you all!!

Jane Coughenour, Retiring District Treasurer



Our new **SOCIAL CONCERNS CHAIR** is **Bonnie Florke**. I tried to reach her by email but she may be gone for the Christmas Holidays! Her contact information is:

**Bonnie Florke**  
728 4th Street  
Colo, Iowa 50056  
Phone 641-377-2329  
email [bflrke@netins.net](mailto:bflrke@netins.net)

We welcome you to our North Central District UMW.

## MESSAGE from our RETIRING NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

The last announcement for me to make as Chair of the Nominating Committee is that Bonnie Florke will be the Social Concerns Chair for the next 2 years. It is exciting to have her back on the district officer team again so watch for social concerns information from her.

Marlene Pieper will be the Nomination Committee Chair now and has a team ready to fill the offices for 2015. It is a great honor to be on the district officer team and a wonderful growing experience. I would encourage you to say "Yes" when you are asked.

Roberta Fullerton  
Retiring Nominating Committee Chair



## MESSAGE from our NEW NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

First of all, I want to send a sincere farewell to Roberta Fullerton. What a great job she did all those years. Now it's my turn and I will be doing my very best to live up to the office of Nominations Chair. Let's keep the United Methodist Women going strong in 2014. Something I just heard recently, ***"Remember, all we have is all we need."***

Blessings,  
Marlene Pieper

## MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE and OUTREACH

During a recent executive meeting, the subject of the shepherdess program was discussed. One of the questions was, "What is a shepherdess?" We finally decided that "District Friend" was probably a better term to use. Each local is assigned a district friend. Your friend is meant to be your connect to the UMW District program. We are glad to answer (or find the answer) to any questions you have. We would love to come and visit you. We could present a program, devotion, or just visit with you. This gives us the opportunity to meet you face to face; answer any questions you may have; share information about UMW activities at the district, state, and national level; and share ideas. Many of you have new district friends this year, so this is a good time to plan to meet them during the year. For many of us visiting local units and making new friends is one of the best parts of being a district officer.

I need to remind you that your 2013 Membership Reports are due to me by January 30, 2014. Thanks to all who have already sent theirs to me. The form was in your president's packet from the District Annual Meeting. If you have misplaced it, please let me know, and I will send you a new copy.

As I recently was reading in Romans 11:11-24 where Paul talks about us being branches grafted onto the tree and how we are then part of that tree (God's family), and it made me think how all of us have been added to the UMW tree, and have become a part of that tree. Verse 18b says "You do not support the root, but the root supports you." Our organization is rooted in Jesus Christ, and we are all there to support each other. Keeping Jesus as the root of our organization is what keeps us healthy and growing.

May God be with you in 2014.

**Jan Carpenter**  
Membership, Nurture and Outreach  
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