



Vision & Views

***Southeast Iowa District, United Methodist
Women Newsletter, February, 2014***

Greetings to all SE District United Methodist Women!

We are called by God to be in mission for women, children and youth – the most vulnerable of our society. We were organized for Mission in 1869 by our foremothers, who saw this need, and we must continue the mission. Did you know that the number of people enslaved today globally is 27 million? The Civil War in the 1860's has not ended human bondage, and United Methodist Women want to help. We're working to bring attention to Human Trafficking in the media and in our legislatures.

Our United Methodist Women Special Emphasis Topics for 2013-2016 are the following: Human Trafficking, Climate Change (Environment), Domestic Violence and Immigration. Try to plan programs in your local groups that include education or projects related to these topics.

I hope many of you are registered to attend the 2014 Assembly in Louisville, KY, April 25-27. If you're not, it's not too late. Go to "Assembly2014.org" and click on "Register online for Assembly 2014 Now!" You will be educated, blessed, uplifted and empowered. Hope to see many of you there!

Please be sure to provide email addresses of your local members to our District Secretary, Deanna McLearn. We would really like to reduce postage costs by emailing our Vision and Views to all who have email. Maybe we'll get this accomplished this year!

Blessings to you all,

Mary Taeger

Mary Taeger
President
13803 Beaverdale Road
West Burlington, IA 52655
mktaeger@gotsky.com
319-392-4725, cell 319-572-0115

Good winter day to all of you! As I was thinking about what to share with you, I looked at the Bible verse for February - James 1:2-4. It concerns knowing "the testing of your faith produces endurance." I suggest that you also read verses 5-8.

We have these "jobs" in United Methodist Women that we have said we will do. Have you ever wondered how you were going to get them done? How you would have the time? The energy? The interest? The motivation? Maybe we should not question, but say, "I think I can, I think I can...I know I can...I DID IT!!" AND pray with confidence that we will have the time, energy, interest and motivation.

This all comes to mind as I finish up the 2014 list of officers. I do see the light at the end of the tunnel.

I am one who wants to go to ALL the grandchildren's activities. However, I had this United Methodist Women's job with the list of officers to complete. Here comes the snow - not going to travel to that ballgame or that soccer game or that next ballgame. God took care of me.

I hope all you secretaries have a good start to your year. Rely on your faith to get you through the challenges.

STRONG SUGGESTION: Make a list of all your members including name, **address with 9 digit zip**, phone # and email address. Pass it around at meetings to have everyone check their information. Correct it as necessary. When that list of 2015 officers with all this information is due, you will have what you need at your fingertips. AND

make sure I receive any corrections as the year goes along.

Very sincerely to all of you,

Deanna McLearn

Deanna McLearn
SE District Secretary
2777 252nd Ave. #7
Montrose IA 52639-9544
319-463-9215
deelar@mchsi.com

Hello to Vice Presidents! I am getting program books & we United Methodist Women are truly a group of a "community of women...who develop a creative and supportive fellowship."

Keep up the good work. I hope all of you are working with your Mission Coordinators, especially the Educational and Interpretation Coordinator and President. Your president has the Mission Today checklist. The list is used to help with programming.

I heard Cardinals this morning. Spring is coming.

Catherine Litwinow

Catherine Litwinow
Vice President
2585 Hunter Rd
Bettendorf, IA 52722-6238
563-332-8588
litwinow62@msn.com

United Methodist Women Treasurers of the Southeast District

I am pleased to have this opportunity to serve as the new Southeast District Treasurer. It is with great humility that I try

to fill Ritzanna's shoes. I ask, most of all, for your patience as I work to carry on in her footsteps. This is truly a learning experience, but one I look forward to, even though I am somewhat nervous. As a very "new kid on the block," I don't have a lot of business for this first newsletter, so instead I will share just a bit of personal information.

My husband, Duayne, and I live on a farm southeast of Wayland. In fact, we live about 250 yards from our little country church – Finley Chapel. I teach high school English in Washington and have been there for 30 years. My husband farms part-time and works fulltime as Director of Grounds and Maintenance at the United Presbyterian Home in Washington. We often ride to work together which is truly a blessing for me during bad weather.

As I write this, I am cozy and warm watching the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics. Needless to say, this has been a long, cold winter and I, like many, am yearning for warmer days. Yet today as I looked out my classroom window, the sunlight sparkled like diamonds on the snow, and it reminded me how not too long ago, I yearned for just a "bit" of snow for Christmas. Well, a month and a half later I am ready to call it quits – done, no more, please!

How often does that happen, I wonder? We finally get what we asked for, yet we still aren't quite satisfied. Sometimes, I wonder how God puts up with us. I am glad he sends subtle messages like the "diamonds" in the snow to remind me who is in charge and to be thankful I can see and enjoy those tiny sparkles of light.

While I have asked myself several times since committing to becoming the SE District Treasurer why I ever thought I should take

on this job, I think it hit me today. Sometimes, it just takes "diamonds in the snow" to realize that we all have treasures to share. Hopefully, with your patience, assistance, and most of all, your prayers, those treasures will help me develop into an efficient SE District treasurer!

Cindy Seberg

Cindy Seberg
SE District Treasurer
1510 150th Street
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641-9270
Home (319) 256-8461 Cell (319) 750-2081
cseberg50@gmail.com

Greetings Everyone!

Happy 2014 to all! May this year be days of peace and joy and growth in knowledge, service, friendships, and love as you continue in your walk with Christ.

What has kept you warm and busy these cold days, I wonder – writing, cooking, handwork, reading, or just plain work? Among other pursuits I have kept busy writing to some of the missionaries serving the Church as listed in the United Methodist Women *Prayer Calendar*. I have also read some of the interesting books from the Reading Program including the text book for one of the new studies for 2014's **Mission u** that is now available through Mission Resources. That book is entitled, *The Church and People with Disabilities*, by Peggy Johnson, bishop of the Philadelphia Area of the UMC. Bishop Johnson was born with a handicap herself and ministered to, among, and with the disabled prior becoming bishop. She wrote the book as a resource for issues the Church faces as it ministers to and with the disabled and calls

the local church to identify ways it can become more inclusive to all peoples while she presents numerous examples and helpful suggestions for ministry with people with varying handicaps. The text for the new Spiritual Growth study, *"How Is It With Your Soul?"* should be available later this spring. The Social Issues Study of *The Roma of Eastern Europe* will be repeated this year.

In talking with the Dean of 2014's **Mission u** I learned that the "round up" of the presenters of the studies is nearly done. The completed line-up promises to be a very good crew of enthusiastic, spirit-filled and studied people. Hearing some of the crew's names excited me so much I can hardly wait to register this spring. Reserve your spot as soon as you can so you won't miss it either. Sessions are July 13-16 or October 17-19. More information later.

Looking forward to seeing you again April 5th at DAY APART in Columbus Junction. Remember to mark your calendar on November 8th for MISSION DAY at Prairie View.

In closing, I pray that along with me you will be able to stay as young as you can for as long as you can by being as active in body, mind and spirit as you can despite any handicaps you face in health, weather, finances, etc. GOD BLESS EACH ONE OF YOU, ALWAYS.

Carol Jean Nelson

Carol Jean Nelson
District Coord. Of Mission Ed. & Interp.
715 Cleveland Ave., #7
Keokuk, IA 52632-2642
(319) 524-3125

SOCIAL ACTION

I am amazed at the things I am learning about immigration laws, go green, domestic abuse, human trafficking, and now a new item 12 to 14 year olds able to have a gun permit. I have to be very honest with all of you, I am in a learning process, what this office does and how to find the information to help me do my work well. Mary and Rita have both recently sent me two articles with a lot of information about two of the subjects that we as women and United Methodist Women should be concerned with.

One is from the Iowa Conference site, entitled "Legislation Action Alert." The article concerns 12-year-olds being trained to use a pistol. When you have time, please read this. By the time you read it, the time frame to contact your representative may have run out, but it still is a wealth of information about this issue. If you are so inclined, please contact one of the representatives who is listed, by phone or email, and let them know how you feel about this particular issue.

Another article I was sent was concerned human trafficking. If you are not aware of what this is, this article will explain how rampant it is and who we can contact to voice our opinions or make suggestions. There are, as I have recently found, a lot of sites on this. As of January 27th, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center had reached their 100,000 call. This, believe it or not, is kind of a good thing. It means that the instances are being reported, and something is able to be done about it. I know this is not the type of reading you would sit down to relax with but something I think we should all be educated about and how each one of us can help.

I will look forward to any of your opinions or suggestions. I am new to this office and have a lot to learn. I know there are women out there who could be a great help to me in doing my job correctly.

Susan Tennant

Susan Tennant
Social Action
307 9th Street
West Point IA 52626-9784
319-837-6985
ba10it@iowatelcom.net

SNOW! SNOW! SNOW!! We didn't have great amounts of moisture this last summer, but he is sending moisture our way now. I know we need some for the spring, I just hope we don't have flooding in areas. Stay warm and be careful if you must get out on the ice or snow.

JUST A REMINDER: Presidents and/or Membership Chair, remember to complete your membership form for 2013 which was in the President's packet. It was given to you at the District meeting on Sept. 14, 2013, at the Washington United Methodist Church. If you were not there, hopefully someone picked it up for you or you received it in the mail. The form is on pink paper. It is very easy and all that is needed is the number of new members and the number deceased, moved, or dropped from your membership for a final total. The form was to be sent to me by **January 30, 2014**. Thanks in advance for getting your total membership number to me. Now, as of February 1, 2014, I have heard from approximately half of the district UMW units who have reported their membership for 2013 year. I hope there are more in the mail, as I know many units don't meet in January, so they maybe have forgotten about the form. I would like to get

100% of the units reporting their membership this year.

SO, if you have not given me your 2013 final total membership ASAP, please e-mail me the information or give me a call. I do have an answering machine.

Looking ahead to our March 8 district UMW Executive meeting at Cedar Valley, (More information will be coming by e-mail or by mail about this meeting, as I will not be at the February 8 meeting.) I would like our shepherdesses to attend this meeting. Actually, it would be great if the shepherdesses could attend as many as possible of the district meetings to keep up with what is happening in our district and conference. Hope to see you all soon.

Thought for the year: Life is filled with opportunities – and obstacles that can prevent you from grabbing hold of them. The secret to making the most of your life lies in making the most of your time with friends, families and God.

Blessings,

Joan Salts

Joan Salts
Membership
2223 185th Street
Fairfield, IA 52556-8701
641-472-5651
jjsalts@iowatelecom.net

Special Assembly Offering

Just a reminder to check and see if each local organization has sent in their offering for Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, on April 25-26, 2014. A check will be taken forward from each Conference during this event. This year the offering will go towards

MATERNAL HEALTH PROJECTS. We are thankful, as mothers, when our daughters have good health care while they are pregnant. This is not true for many. Let us give GENEROUSLY.

Offerings should be sent through your district treasurer. Thank you.

Ritzanna Seaton

Ritzanna Seaton
Iowa Conference United Methodist Women
Treasurer
1670 – 220th Street
Batavia IA 52533-7531
641-693-4145
rdseaton37@gmail.com

Southeast District UMW Calendar of Events

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| March 7 | World Day of Prayer |
| March 8 | International Bell Ringing for Women's Rights
District Executive Day Apart, Cedar Valley |
| March 29 | Welcome the Stranger, Storm Lake UMC, Storm Lake |
| April 5 | Snow Date for Welcome the Stranger
Southeast Executive Day Apart, Columbus Junction |
| April 15 | Deadline for Vision & Views Articles to Communication Coordinator
- Kathy Hartsell |
| April 24-27 | United Methodist Women Assembly, Louisville, KY |
| May 10 | District Executive Board Meeting, Trenton |



Southeast District United Methodist Women Day Apart

**Columbus Junction United Methodist Church
Saturday, April 5th**

*Guest Speaker: Peg Egbert
former director of
Mobile United Methodist Missionaries (MUMMS)*

9:00 a.m. Coffee & Registration

9:30 – 2:30 Music, Communion and Program

One Hour for Lunch and Program Resources

Lunch is \$8 at Registration

Reservations are due by Monday, March 31, 2014 to:

Call the church secretary (319) 728-2669,

Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to noon or

Kathleen Sands at (319) 727-3233

Columbus Junction United Methodist Church, 517 – 2nd Street

Directions: Highway 92 goes east and west through town. At the flashing light on Highway 92, (2nd Street) turn south. Continue south on 2nd Street up a very steep hill. The church is at the top of the hill.