

THE CIRCUIT NEWS
SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT UMW
FEBRUARY 2017



President

Isaiah wrote, "I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

Greetings from your president. Welcome to the New Year for UMW. All of us need to see how we can increase our membership. Each unit needs to figure out how to get our younger church members to join their unit. I would be interested in hearing from you and what you are doing. We have lost several units this past year, so let's invite members from those units to join ours and keep our units strong.

Be sure to call your district friend to make arrangements for a visit. A list of friends is included in this newsletter.

A couple of things coming up in the near future: There is a mission study in Creston on March 2; District Day Apart on March 31 in Corydon, and a district mission study in Bloomfield on April 27. You'll find more information about these meetings in this Newsletter. Hope to see you there.

Blessings,

Sandy Oswald 612 Grand Ave. Creston, IA 50801 641-340-0420



Vice-President

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.”

We are beginning another year, and the path ahead is less daunting than last year. I think the board meeting was uplifting and filled with information going forward. I took my concerns to others to move along the path to make this another great year.

God bless,

Anita Martin 611 E. Pleasant St. Knoxville, IA 50138 641-218-4699
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Secretary

2017 is off to a fast start. Thank you South Central District. During the process of updating officer lists, and membership lists and getting pledges gathered, we heard from somebody in every unit this year! Step 1 – YAH!! Step 2 – When the district officers compared notes, we were a bit confused. It didn't match. Did the officers change? Is the unit still active? The church closed? Whether you have 2 active members or 20, we'd like to keep you informed of changes in UMW, current mission studies, and all the many activities going on among our units. YOU are important to us! Communicate – please! If your officers change, if an officer leaves, if you find yourselves struggling to stay active or have something exciting to share, PLEASE let one of us know!!! With your help, we can keep that communication going and provide support where needed. Let's keep the communication lines open in 2017!

Sue Godfrey 2797 Elk St. Osceola, IA 50213 641-342-1289
suegodfrey@hughes.net



Treasurer

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving” (Colossians 3:23-24)

We are all working for and serving the Lord in all our United Methodist Women activities. I want to thank you for all your hard work! I have good news to report! We were under our budget in 2016, and able to send approximately \$3,000 extra towards our pledge to mission! The money goes directly to local, national, and international missions supported by the United Methodist Women.

Now, let's discuss the LEGACY FUND:

The Legacy Fund is a permanent endowment held at the National Office on UMW in New York. Income from the Legacy Fund will ensure the future of the United Methodist Women.

Legacy Fund donors are encouraged to mail their gifts DIRECTLY to the NATIONAL OFFICE. The address is:

Office of the Treasurer
United Methodist Women National Office
475 Riverside Drive, Room 1503
New York, NY 10115

If the gift is given in honor of or in memory of someone, include the name and address of that person as well as the name and mailing address of the donor. Legacy Funds will be continually received through 2019 when the United Methodist Women celebrate our 150th anniversary.

Questions regarding the Legacy Fund should be sent to:

legacyfund@unitedmethodistwomen.org Telephone: 212-870-3741

Emily Haase 221 E. 1st St. Pella, IA 515-208-2364
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“ I have held thee
in the palm of my hand.”
Isaiah 51:16



Social Action

“We know that all things work together for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

As I begin my term as Mission Coordinator for Social Action, I am trying to learn more about the priority justice issues for United Methodist Women for 2016 through 2020. These issues are Climate Justice, Economic Inequality, Criminalization of Communities of Color, and Maternal & Child Health. You can find information about each of these areas at:

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/service-advocacy.

In the last newsletter, Sharon mentioned “RACE: the POWER of an ILLUSION” (Racial Equity Awareness Learning Exchange). This is a one-day educational experience that helps people of various backgrounds to explore intersections of race, equity, and child welfare. So far, there are four Iowa locations: 3/6/17 at St. Paul’s UMC, Cedar Rapids, 3/13/17 at Trinity UMC, Fort Dodge, 4/20/17 at Salem UMC, Council Bluffs, and 5/25/17 at Columbus Junction UMC. I am trying to find out if there are other locations being considered and will share any new information I get. The contact at the conference level is Rita Carter, ritaac@mchsi.com or 515-979-0605. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

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Spiritual Growth

“Then if the people are who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

This scripture was selected by the Iowa Conference United Methodist Women as the Bible verse for January 2017. How apropos this scripture seems as we

begin a new year. The country is confronted with decisions that are guaranteed to be divisive. Immigration, abortion, domestic violence, food insecurity, environmental problems, and economic issues are just a few of the challenges facing our country. What is the answer to this conundrum? Does one political party have the answer? Can the news media find a solution? Are actresses/actors equipped to deal with these difficult topics? There is only one solution to the problem, and we find it in the Scriptures. We need to pray, turn from our wicked ways, and, as a country, turn back to God. "Keep on praying" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

The South Central District Spiritual Retreat will be Friday, March 31, 2017, at Corydon United Methodist Church. Plan to bring a carload and participate in a day of worship, study, and activities. Please see the enclosed flyer.

Penny Warren 407 N. West St. Bloomfield, IA 52537-1171 641-664-3705
pennyrae@netins.net

Education and Interpretation

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

Education and Interpretation Summary for 2016:

We had 10 Units come to Mission Studies. Six Units received Platinum Certificates; three units received Silver Certificates, and eight units received Gold for Iowa Mission Today Certificates.

The next Mission Study will be at Bloomfield on April 27, 2017. Mary Morris will be leading the study on Climate Justice.

See attached flyer.

Rita Freihage P.O. Box 64 Ellston, Iowa 50074-0064
retafae46@gmail.com

Program Resources

What does the Lord require of us but to do justice, to show love, and to walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)

KEEP READING! The United Methodist Women Reading Program encourages each of us to read a VARIETY of serious books: some easy reading; some hard reading; some you will agree with, some you won't agree with. But they will all make you THINK and GROW. Try your local public library. Your library can check out books for you from other libraries. Your UMW unit may own some. The South Central District owns some that can be checked out. Contact me. JUST READ!

Mary Morris 1103 Joshua Ave. Creston, IA 50801 641-782-2715
mjmorrisjm@hotmail.com

Committee on Nominations

“God so loves you and loves the world, that He is sending it the person He created you to be. (Marianne Williamson from the book The Courage to Change)

In November, I attended Leadership Development Days in St. Louis. Sally Vonner from the national office taught the classes on nominations, and I learned so much about the role and responsibilities. I especially enjoyed the fact that so many from the national office lead the classes and workshops. I had the opportunity to meet and talk with Harriet Jane Olsen, our general secretary. Another one of my class teachers was Carol Barton who is executive of Social Action. I also got to know a wonderful young woman from Georgia, Patsy Thomas, who serves on her jurisdiction team. We hope to meet again 2018. I would highly recommend that you attend LDD; it was a wonderful learning experience.

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Membership, Nurture and Outreach

District Friends Visiting List 2017

Ritzanna Seaton 641-693-4145 Agency, Christiansburg, Fremont, Mt. Zion
Penny Warren 641-664-3705 Albia, Drakesville, Ottumwa 1st, Moulton
Lou Ann Willis 641-943-2492 Attica, Olive Chapel, Zion, Pershing, Oskaloosa
Susan Godfrey 641-342-1289 Centerville Faith, Hebron, High Point
Susan Weight 641-202-4408 Diagonal, Earlham, Macksburg, Creston
Rita Freihage 641-772-4257 Beaconsfield, Kellerton, Leon, Tingley
Mary Jo Johnson 641-799-7320 Blakesburg, Bloomfield, Ottumwa Willard
Emily Haase 515-208-2364 Bussey, Chariton, Lovilia, Pella
Sue Claussen 641-446-6627 Corydon, Medora, Ellston, Lamoni
Anita Martin 641-218-4699 Eddyville, Harvey Knoxville, Pleasantville
Cindy Flaherty 641-449-3518 Humeston, Lacona, Milo, New Virginia, St. Charles
Mary Morris 641-782-2715 Lorimor, Mt. Ayr, Murray, Winterset
Sandy Oswald 641-340-0420 Iconium, Unionville, Penn Center
Gracie Fort 515-848-3278 Osceola, Tracy

Please give your District Friend a call and set up a date.

Thank you!

Lou Ann Willis 2323 – 140th Ave Knoxville, IA 50138-8724 (641-943-2492)

louannwillis@yahoo.com

Communications Coordinator

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end. (Lamentations 3:21-22)

I am honored to join the officers of UMW South Central District as the Communications Coordinator. Mary Stocker was in in this position for many years, so I have huge shoes to fill as I learn how to take care of the information needs for the district.

As I prepare this newsletter, I will be trying to use either personal or church e-mail addresses for distribution to all. I have contacted ministers from the churches of officers who do not have a personal e-mail address, and they have generously offered to print out the newsletter for those persons. I am ever hopeful that this will save our district UMW money and time.

Susan Weight 911 James Ridge Creston, IA 50801 641-202-4408
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