

Nicolet News

#2

Nicolet District United Methodist Women

April 2009

From the President's Pen.....

I am currently taking a class on "spiritual disciplines." One discipline is "submission/service." There was a wonderful quote that I thought I should share with all of you. **"Live simply so that others may simply live."**

Many of us have been affected by our country's economic problems, but try to think of those in Darfur and other such places in the world. We still have so much in comparison to many others. Please continue to be generous to "the least of these."

In the last newsletter, I had so much to say and in this newsletter I just want to remind you to get your new "Handbook," Prayer Calendar," and "Response Magazine."

We have so many wonderful events that you will read more about: the Nicolet/Winnebago Retreat, the Nicolet Bus Tour to the Hmong House of Good News, and the School of Christian Mission. I hope to see you at these events.

Let Ellen Eastman know about special projects that your units are participating in or special events that you are having or have recently had. Don't forget to invite your sister unit representatives and district officers to attend your local events. You can always phone, write, or email one of us if you have specific questions.

God's Peace,

Ceil Schneider

Social Action.....

Now that the election is over (women cast ballots in record numbers) and President Obama is in power, don't rest on your laurels! We have dreams for America - *yes we have* - and our dreams can come to fruition - *yes they can* - and will have to stand up and let our leaders know that we're going to shout with our heart until everybody hears us - *yes we will*. Now that we got the ball rolling, don't let it stop!

Our Representatives and Senators need to know what we stand for and why we elected them. Let these people know how we feel about the tragedy of our economic fall. Tell them how unfair it is that banks and other financial institutions receive a bailout and assistance while a large number of the population are forced to turn to food pantries.

Read in the newspaper daily as it recounts to us the staggering unemployment rate. Every day a company is closing and people are being deprived of their livelihood. With the loss of a job goes medical insurance; how will these people and their families survive? While waiting for help, the most vulnerable will bear the pain.

Please know your representative and senators' names and where you can contact them. Let them know you're "mad as hell!" Watch for bills that are being presented in Congress and their number and present your voice and how you feel about each one, to those to represent you. If you don't, things will keep progressing and leave you at a standstill.

Again I say to you, don't think you're ignored or that your wants or considerations fell on deaf ears. Not so. Each contact tells your legislator what you want him (or her) to do. This is how they'll fight for you.

Get to know the guy (or gal) and work together. I can't figure out why we're so timid when it comes to doing this. You put him (or her) into this job, now he (or she) needs your help. We can do this.

Yes we can.!

Joan James

Treasurer's Tidbits.....

United Methodist Women are about expanding “concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.” The existence of the help given to these many mission areas depends upon our giving. If we don't maintain our giving, the mission projects won't be able to feed, clothe, shelter, educate, and provide health care for the women, children, and youth in need.

Nicolet District UMW has pledged \$38,000 to the Wisconsin Conference UMW in Mission giving for 2009. With every unit working toward that goal, we *can* reach that goal

As we experience the beauty of the new Spring season, let us be thankful for all the many blessings we have and experience. Maybe our thankfulness can be expressed as we contribute to our World Thank Offering.

As we look at 5-Star giving, some have the concern: “What if no one in our UMW dies during the year? Then we don't have an amount in Gift in Memory.” The card doesn't have to go to a member of your UMW or a member of your church. It can go to the family of anyone you know who has died.

There are many different Gift to Mission cards as well. A baby card can be given to a family every time a child is baptized at your church. A special day card can be given when a student is confirmed or a couple is married. Thank you cards can be given to people who volunteer at church any time. These cards can be purchased at any time from me and I will mail them to you. Better yet, to save postage, pick them up at any district event, such as the upcoming Retreat at Byron Center.

If any of your local treasurers or local units have questions about “things financial,” let me know and I will try to help.

Mary Barrows

1132 Kellogg St., Green Bay WI 54303

920-499-5053 mary.barrows@bcglobal.net

Membership Nurture and Outreach.....

The Nicolet District Membership Report as of December 31, 2008 was submitted to Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women and to Women's Division. We have 33 local units with a total of 872 members.

For 2009 let's:

- 1 - Fulfill the UMW Purpose
- 2 - Strengthen and nurture current members and sister units
- 3 - Reach out - invite, and increase membership of United Methodist Women
- 4 - Encourage everyone to *Go Green* and to join in on local, national, and worldwide missions

Esther Nilsson shares her poem “*The Way:*”

*A loving word, a cheerful smile, a kindly thought or two,
A helpful hand, a ready step, they help, my friend, they do.*

A patient heart, a thoughtful deed, a willingness to cheer.....

An endless day of service, friend, these things make life most dear.

Be kind, do good, Have loving thoughts throughout the livelong days.

Think right, serve God, Be friend to all,

And you have found the way!

Enjoy God's Spring,

Blessings, Bev Van Hemelryk

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Education and Interpretation.....

Dear Sisters in Mission,

'Education and Interpretation'...two important words for a very important job! Your position as Education and Interpretation Coordinator is to make every United Methodist Women member aware of what or efforts should be in the mission program. (No small task!)

The 'Education' part is easy. We are constantly being presented with all kinds of information and we must try to make sure our members are updated on the latest developments in the mission field. "Response" and "New World Outlook" and the United Methodist websites are places to gain information. Read! Read! Be informed and pass it on!

'Interpretation' is more complex. Everyone who receives news items often interprets comments differently. Our job is to listen to various sources of information, and then, in small discussion groups. Make decisions that will be applicable and practical for our local UMW units.

Questions to consider...

- 1) What mission projects need doing in our local church? How can we help?
- 2) How can we give aid to mission efforts in our country? Which of the many projects can we support?
- 3) Families all over the world need help in so many ways. In which areas should we direct our efforts?

If we can answer those questions, we have our mission program for the year. Take one small step at a time and give it our best effort. Every little project helps someone..somewhere and that's what UMW is all about!!

God bless you always...all ways,

Faithfully,

Gladys Krei

Nicolet Annual Celebration/Training Event

September 19, 2009

Two Rivers United Methodist Church

Guest Speaker - Pastor Jorge Mayorga

Program: I Have Called You by Name

Angelica UMC Garden Walk

Angelica United Methodist Women will be hosting Garden Walk for Pulaski's Food Pantry.

Please join us for this wonderful mission project.

Garden Walk - 5 gardens on display

July 25, 2009 9am - 3 pm

Please call Sally Slezewski at 920-822-3527 for information.

This will be a great day of fun for an outreach mission project.

Editor's Note:

If you would like *your* event included in Nicolet News, I will be happy to include it if you send me the information well in advance.

In an effort to save printing and mailing costs, we will send Nicolet News by email to anyone who now receives it by mail *and* to any other member of United Methodist Women who would like to receive it.

If you would like to receive Nicolet News by email, please notify me by emailing me at eae@ezwebtech.com with Nicolet News on the subject line.

Ellen Eastman, Editor

NICOLET/WINNEBAGO UMW RETREAT

This is a retreat open to all ladies of the church, including the young women. Friday night will be an evening of enrichment: singing, games, crafts, a movie and snacks. The games include the video games Dance Dance Revolution and Guitar Hero. Bring a friend or a young woman and learn how to bridge the generation gap through these fun and easy games.

Saturday will be spent with Mary Baker, who will help us learn to find Joy on the Journey in our everyday walk with Jesus. The event will be something no woman of the church will want to miss.
From Mary Baker, Retreat Leader

“I am looking forward to a meaningful retreat and am filled with excitement as I plan handouts, resources and a wide range of activities, both individual and community. I foresee an event where we gather as United Methodists who come expecting to be nourished and nurtured by the Holy Spirit. I also anticipate a time of looking into our lives and seeing how God offers a constant source of looking into our lives and seeing how God offers a constant source of renewal and hope even in the darkest of times. We will explore together the source of JOY at times of celebration and ease, as well as at times of sorrow and pain.”

Friday check-in 4:00 pm. Dinner 5:00 pm. Saturday check-in 8:30 am.

Nicolet District Mission Trip

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

All United Methodist Women and guests are invited to join the Nicolet District Team in traveling to Milwaukee, via deluxe motorcoach, to visit Northcott Neighborhood House, and Hmong House of Good News and Children's Services. These are all organizations sponsored by the Wisconsin Conference UMW.

We are currently looking at having 3 pickup points: Shawano, Green Bay and Manitowoc. We will need a minimum of 40 persons to make this trip a “GO.” Please talk to your unit members and encourage them to visit some of the places where their mission money is designated.

If the bus is filled and we have a substantial number of travelers from the northern part of our district, we will be able to make an additional stop in Oconto Falls.

We will stop for a rest break near Manitowoc enroute to Milwaukee and will again stop there on the way home for a supper break (on your own.)

The cost for the trip which will include transportation and lunch at the Hmong house of Good News is just \$30.00 per person.

All of the places we will be visiting have material needs and we are developing a donation “wish list” which will be sent to you after you have registered along with your time and point of departure.

Send your reservations in early to guarantee your seat. May 15th is the deadline in order to determine whether we have enough interest.

Questions should be directed to Elaine Brill, ebrill1@msn.com or 920-833-6351.

RESERVATION FORM

Checks should be made payable to: Nicolet District UMW. Send with this completed form to:

Mary Barrows, Nicolet District UMW Treasurer

1132 Kellogg St., Green Bay WI 54303

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

LOCAL UMW UNIT _____ PICKUP PREFERENCE _____

Are You longing to go to school?

Heil funds can help you

Funds designated for scholarships from the will of Mabel Heil are invested in the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at Sun Prairie. Through the Heil Scholarship Committee of the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women grants will be given to women who apply for scholarships in order to better prepare themselves for the work world.

Please note these requirements:

Instructions:

1. Be a female member of Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women.
2. Submit a written answer to the question, "In what ways do I consider myself a worthy student?"
3. Send a completed application form to the contact person by May 1 or October 2.
4. Request that a letter of recommendation be sent to the contact person by either the president of the local UMW or by a pastor of the church.
5. Request that a letter of recommendation be sent to the contact person by a church member who is not a member of your household and is not a relative.

A. Any United Methodist woman working to improve her education may apply. (Formerly those working in a Graduate program or Seminary were limited to a one-time grant of \$100.) Graduate students are now allowed to apply for each semester as long as they meet the other requirements.

B. Please have all letters written (preferably typed) on one side of an 8½ x 11 sheet of white paper, using black ink.

C. All applications are photocopied for the committee members.

D. Scholarships are awarded one semester at a time. To be considered again DURING a one-year period, you must send a letter asking to be considered.

E. The following priorities were set up due to increased applications:

Women responsible for others will be favored. Women preparing to returning to the employment field will be favored. Recent high school graduates will receive lowest consideration.

F. The schedule is:

First Semester:

Apply by — May 1
Notified by — June 1
Check given — August 15

Second Semester:

Apply by — October 1
Notified by — November 1
Check given — December 1

G.

Applications and two(2) letters of recommendation MUST be postmarked no later than May 1 and October 1 to be considered.

In the past 25 years, the Mabel Heil Foundation has presented scholarships to 225 women who were working to improve their education. These scholarships totaled \$109,140. All of these scholarships were provided by the Mabel Heil Fund, given to the United Methodist Women through Mabel Heil's will.

We are now able to receive additional monies to add to the Heil Scholarship fund at the foundation. You may contribute to this fund by sending donations through your District Treasurer, who will send them to the foundation.

To request a scholarship form, write to:

Julie Mieke
155 Shato Lane
Monona WI 54716

Nicolet News
Ellen Eastman, Editor
215 N. Lafayette St.
Shawano WI 5166

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PURPOSE

The Purpose of 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 support fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through the global ministries of the church.

2009 Upcoming Events

May 1-2	Nicolet/Winnebago District UMW Retreat, Camp Byron
June 25	Mission Trip to Milwaukee Northcott Neighborhood House, Hmong House of Good News, and Children's Services
July 20-24	School of Christian Mission Drive in Day - July 20 4 Day School - July 21-24
Sept. 19	Nicolet District Celebration/Officer Training, Two Rivers UMC
Oct. 9-10	Wisconsin Conference UMW Gathering - Algoma Blvd UMC Oshkosh