

STATE COLLEGE DISTRICT

OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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NEWS & NOTES

March 4, 2010



HOW PASTORS CAN BE SUPPORTIVE

I had the opportunity to meet with leaders of our District's United Methodist Women a few weeks ago. These mission-driven folks are eager to be vitally present in the life of our congregations. My personal opinion is that United Methodist Women have been a "fixture" in our congregations for so long that we pastors take them for granted. They are strong. They know how to handle their own meetings. In the press of other demands, we are happy to let them pursue their goals.

There are some easy ways that we can support the United Methodist Women, one of the largest women's organizations in the world!

- Go to United Methodist Women's meetings. Your presence several times a year indicates support. Pastors (male and female) are automatically members of United Methodist Women.
- Refer to this organization as "United Methodist Women." Many people, even long time church members, do not understand what "UMW" means. Younger people have no clue. In a United Methodist Woman's obituary recently, she was cited as a member of the United Mine Workers.
- Ask United Methodist Women to provide Mission Moments for worship and newsletters.
- Promote United Methodist Women's activities from the pulpit. All women are included.
- If you do not have a United Methodist Women's unit in your church or charge and would like to start one, help is available. Contact the District office.
- United Methodist Women's organizations can be organized in individual churches, among neighboring churches, in clusters. Some meet monthly; others meet quarterly.
- Congregations seeking to develop small groups could check out the United Methodist Women's reading list as a starting place for a meaningful "book group!" You can find the recommended reading list at <http://www.amazon.com/UMW-2010-Reading-List/1m/R10M20677ITXRM>
- Lift up the purpose of the 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.*

Walking with you—

Pam

WHERE THE MONEY GOES....

March 14, 2010—One Great Hour of Sharing A MOMENT FOR MISSION

“Steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in God. Be glad in God, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!”

--Psalm 32:10b-11, An Inclusive-Language Lectionary

Because of a difficult agricultural season combined with hyperinflation, most households in Zimbabwe are eating fewer meals. Ellen, a widow who is raising seven children in the Harare District, sells stones. However, people are not buying, and she struggles to survive. “There is no food in the country and if you are to find it in the shops, it is very expensive. We cannot afford to buy it.”

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is responding to the humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe with a targeted plan that includes providing medical treatment, implementing clean water programs to help prevent cholera, distributing food to the most vulnerable and offering educational incentives to reopen schools.

Working with the Zimbabwe Annual Conference and district superintendents, UMCOR identified more than 30,000 vulnerable families to receive a bag of milled grain. In March 2009, UMCOR distributed 408 metric tons of maize meal in 12 districts.

Christine, a widowed grandmother in the Mutoko Mudzi District, is raising six grandchildren whose parents are dead. When she received the bag of grain for her family, she began singing and dancing and everyone around her joined in the celebration. She said, “We were surviving on vegetables and green maize cobs. Thank you so much.”

When you give to today’s One Great Hour of Sharing offering, you support UMCOR’s vital mission in Zimbabwe and around the world. Thank you!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, times are tough for many of us. We work longer hours, take second jobs, forgo impulse buying and realize last year’s jacket works just fine this year. Help us to see beyond our “tight times” to help your children at home and far away, who struggle to find food, clean water and shelter. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

NEWSLETTER NUGGET

Zimbabwe is experiencing one of the worst economic crises in history. When more than 400 Zimbabwean children in rural areas received school kits from UMCOR to help them prepare for classes, there were shouts of joy. The items in the school kits packed and sent by United Methodists are humble by U.S. standards, yet priceless to the children who receive them.

Eunice, a United Methodist, said, “Thank you so much and God bless you. You have come at the right time when we, the people of Zimbabwe, are suffering.”

The emergency effort involves large shipments of food, medicines, school kits, fuel for hospital generators, rehabilitation of water systems and support for hospital employees.

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you maximize the effectiveness of such distributions. Your gift helps to cover UMCOR’s cost of doing business and allows us to keep our promise that 100 percent of every other contribution you make to a specific UMCOR project will be spent on that project and not on administrative costs.

LEARN MORE ABOUT UNITED METHODIST GIVING AT

www.umciving.org

PRAYER CONCERNS

Grace Beach, widow of Rev. Richard Beach, fell and is now a patient at the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville.

WYOMING CONFERENCE LOCAL PASTOR LICENSING SCHOOL 2010

Underwood Lodge, Sky Lake (Near Windsor, New York)

Sunday April 18 – Friday April 23, 2010 and Sunday, May 2 – Friday May 7, 2010

Registration due by March 29, 2010. Cost: \$1,000

Contact the District Office for a registration form 814-237-4365 or lmohr@cpcumc.org

SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING

Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church for Clergy & Laity

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Trinity UMC, 306 Lombard Avenue, Danville

9:30 am – 2: 30 pm

\$7 per person

Saturday, April 17, 2010

CrossPoint UMC, 430 Colonial Road, Harrisburg

9:30 am – 2: 30 pm

\$7 per person

(Registration forms can be downloaded from the CPC website (www.cpcumc.org) – go to SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING EVENTS at the bottom right)



**Jeremy Goodling
in Concert**

**Sunday, March 28
7:00 p.m.**

Runville U.M. Church

**5:30 p.m. - Soup & Sandwich
Social prior to concert**