

THE CHALLENGER

THE CHALLENGER, JANUARY 2011

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT, KANSAS EAST CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Challenger is published by the United Methodist Women, Kansas City District, Kansas East Conference. At District expense it is printed and mailed to the elected leaders of Kansas East Conference, of all five Districts in the Conference, and of each local unit in the District. The editor is Rindy Richerson, 13735 W. 82nd Street Lenexa, KS 66215 e-mail: rindy1@everestkc.net

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**
MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU
WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE...

ROMANS 15:13 NIV

Welcoming our new Kansas City District President

...born a Methodist, gonna die a Methodist and in between I am a United Methodist woman! And a proud one I am!! The United Methodist Women's organization is so important to so many people all over the world, and we should all be proud to be a part of it. I want to grow personally this year by **reading** more books from our UMW reading program, **praying** more, **singing** about God's love, **seeking** to know and do God's will for my life and **speaking** about God's love and grace. I encourage you to join me on your own incredible journey.

President, Emily Weems

Children of Liberia

The Women of Grace United Methodist Church (*United Methodist Women*) are sponsoring a workshop on Children of God—Loving Liberia on Saturday, January 22, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to noon. This is for women, men, and teens 16 and over. Children's programming and/or child care will be provided. We will be learning about the *child soldiers*, how the United Methodist Church and its missions are helping rehabilitate them and how we can help to bring peace to the area through education.

There is no charge for the event, but donations for the computers and programs for the school will be accepted. jwstevens@kc.rr.com 829-4859

PURPOSE

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 creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

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THE CHALLENGER IS GOING GREEN

In an attempt to save on printing costs, bulk mailing and paper consumption, the CHALLENGER will be distributed in a little different manner beginning with the next issue, May of 2011. All unit officers that have e-mails will be sent copies via the internet, presidents of each unit will be receiving a hard

copy for herself and one for each circle in her unit. She will be asked to distribute those copies in order that all circles might be made aware of K. C. District events and promotions. The executive board will reevaluate this practice at the end of the year.

<p>District Sister and Prayer Partners 2011</p> <p>Each district sister/prayer partner is encouraged to contact her units and offer support and caring</p>	<p>Each unit is encourage to invite their partner to events or meetings that might interest them or that they could offer some assistance in presenting.</p>
<p>President Emily Weems</p>	<p>Living Water, Olathe Iglesia Centro de Garcia, San Marcos</p>
<p>Vice President Jan Harper</p>	<p>Tonganoxie, Olathe Grace</p>
<p>Secretary Kathy Fowler</p>	<p>Roeland Park, Valley View</p>
<p>Treasurer Jackie Lee</p>	<p>Leavenworth Trinity, Leavenworth First, Leavenworth Southern Heights</p>
<p>Spiritual Growth Pat Parr</p>	<p>Leawood, Olathe Aldersgate</p>
<p>Social Action Gloria Inbody</p>	<p>St. Mark's, KC Bristol Hill, OP Central Korean</p>
<p>Education and Interpretation Donna Stockton</p>	<p>Basehor, Jarbolo</p>
<p>Membership Nurture and Outreach Pat Matthews</p>	<p>Bonner Springs, Easton, Crossroads, Fairmount</p>
<p>Secretary of Program Resources Jill Morizzo</p>	<p>KC Grinter Chapel, Church of the Resurrection</p>
<p>Communications Coordinator Rindy Richerson</p>	<p>Shawnee, Stilwell</p>
<p>Chair Nominations Marilyn Hoover</p>	<p>KC Wesley, Gardner First Light</p>
<p>Nominations Pam Peterson</p>	<p>PV Asbury, Lenexa</p>
<p>Nominations Janis Kirkeby</p>	<p>Fairway Old Mission, Heritage</p>
<p>Nominations Marian Montec</p>	<p>DeSoto, Monticello,</p>
<p>Nominations Elaine Ward</p>	<p>KC Mason Memorial, KC Wyandotte, KC University</p>

Remember the Five Channels

of Designated Giving

Education and Interpretation charge is to educate UMW members in the various ways to give money to Mission Giving. Remember they are:

Pledge, Special Mission Recognition Pins, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering.

Also all units should have a pledge service in January. See the program book to guide your group. All members should have a Thank offering box or jar label to use all year.

This is my last article for the CHALLENGER having served the KC District four years as Treasurer and one year as Coordinator of Education and Interpretation. Next year I will begin my duties as Conference Treasurer, but I will still be around for the KC District meetings. I have enjoyed working with all of the lovely ladies in this district.

Avalyn Reissig
retiring E & I Coordinator



I am so excited and thankful to God for blessing the efforts of all the units in the KC District this past year. Our 2010 pledge to mission was \$87,000.00. At the time of this report (December 5th), I have received and submitted to the conference \$79,678.94 in pledge monies. This represents 91.5% of our goal.

Now, it would be way too easy to get discouraged and “whine” about falling short about \$7,321.06, but what United Methodist Woman takes the easy way out? I choose to stand up and shout, **“Way to go Kansas City District.** We paid over 91% of our annual pledge!!” As a point of interest, the breakdown for the five areas of giving was: Pledge to Mission-\$71,002.93; Special Mission Recognition-\$1,980.00; Gift to Mission-\$1,417.00; Gift in Memory-\$1,100.00; World Thank offering-\$4179.01.

Several units have reported to me that they still have money to submit. So I have a positive feeling that by the end of December we could be pleasantly surprised at how close we get to that 100% status. I will be sending report to you all in January.

Our KC District voted to leave our pledge for 2011 at 87,000.00. So, let’s keep going strong, each giving a little bit more, and not only reach our goal for 2011 but strive to go over the top! WE CAN DO IT! I KNOW WE CAN!

By committing our gifts to ministries, we can make a world of difference to women, youth and children who receive our support. A statement from our Financial Handbook reminds us that, “in sharing God’s grace, both giving and receiving are equally important, and both the giver and receiver are equally blessed.”

This part year has been a learning experience for me every step of the way! But I have sincerely enjoyed it and look forward to another great year. A quick reminder to all UMW unit treasurers: If you have not yet sent your unit’s 2011 Pledge to Mission to me, please do so at your earliest convenience. Don’t hesitate to contact me for any reason, anytime, any way...email: Jackie-lee@att.net or phone: 816-810-1430 or mail: KC District Treasurer, Jackie Lee, PO Box 60, Basehor, KS 66007.

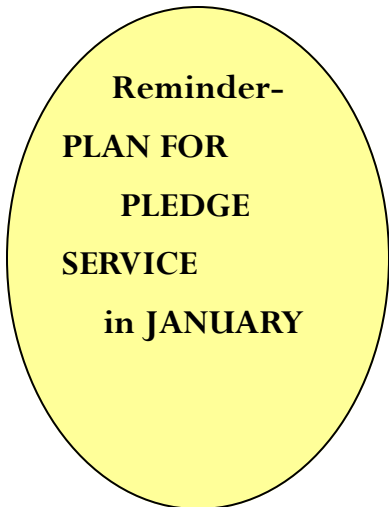
God blesses us in many ways every day. It is up to us to notice!

Daily Blessings and

Happy New Year

Jackie Lee

Kansas City District Treasurer



Perspective, Patience
and a Request

from Membership, Nurture and Outreach

Patience

One of the highlights of my week is our Monday night Lectionary Scripture Study. Patience was one of the topics based on James 5:7-10. It was suggested that patience is not simply endurance but a way of believing that God is making something new. This idea really spoke to me as I am in need of perspective and patience.

As I write this I am preparing to begin 4 sessions of chemo. My breast cancer was diagnosed in October after my annual mammogram raised questions. I had a bilateral mastectomy in late October and am recovering well from that. Chemo and hormone therapy are next on my agenda. By the time you read this I will have had at least one session of chemo and this is where the perspective and patience part come in.

Perspective

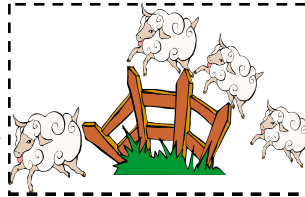
I had hoped to avoid chemo but gained perspective when tests indicated that chemo would be helpful for me even though my cancer was caught early and no lymph nodes were involved. I must be patient and recognize that it is all for the best. I do thank God for medical advances that point the way to achieve the best possible outcome.

I am blessed with love, support and care from too many people to name and ask that you also keep me in prayer as I proceed – hopefully with perspective and patience.

Request

And now my request:

It's time to count our members!



Please help me out by completing the United Methodist Women 2010 Unit Membership Report.

A copy was included in the Officer Update packet sent to all units or delivered by one of your own officers. If this form can not be located, please contact our communications' coordinator, Rindy Richerson, and she will send you another copy to the appropriate person.

Your information is very important.

Thanks and I hope your Christmas was wonderful and that you have a very Happy New Year.

Return forms to:

Pat Matthews

17629 166th Street

Bonner Springs, KS

66012

Questions?? Email Pat at

johnpatmatthews@aol.com

Or call

913-724-1454

Deadline: January 15

**UNITED
METHODIST
SEMINAR**

MAY 2-4, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPONSERED BY THE
GLOBAL BOARD OF
CHURCH AND SOCIETY &
WOMEN'S DIVISION OF
GBGM AND THE KEC
UMW

Crossing the Borders
of
Injustice
Immigration

OPEN TO ALL ADULTS-NOT
JUST WOMEN

This is an interactive educational seminar for anyone that wants to learn about this complex social issue from a faith perspective.

The seminar will include meetings with human rights advocates, theological reflections and visits from Representatives and Senators. From Washington, D.C.

Jeanette Grenz will be happy to answer any of your questions about air travel, hotel accommodations, seminar schedules and costs.

jgrenz@sbcglobal.net

913-239-0679

Deadline for registration is

Social Action**by Gloria Inbody**

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he make his sun rise on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect(merciful), therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

NRSV Matthew 5: 43-48

Be merciful, that is what Social Action is all about. As children of God we want persons to be treated fairly; we want the poor to have clothing and food to eat; we want the abused to be safe from the abuser; we want to visit the prisoner and give him hope; we want children to have good health care; we want to protect our environment; we want to stop human trafficking; the list goes on and on. Some of these concerns may be addressed at the next LEAF, Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith. Registration Forms can be found in this issue on page 8 . This is always an informative event. Many state representatives are invited to have informal conversation with us during lunch. There will be interesting workshops offered to update us on concerns in Kansas. Encourage the women in your unit and your clergy to attend this instructive day.

We are called to action.

Read: *Why Should I Get Involved in Social Issues?* By Esther Madiz She points out that we have to have realistic goals. Maybe our skill is to educate others about an issue. Perhaps we are good letter writers and should contact our elected officials. Some women take part in rallies and marches or boycott certain products; others serve in food kitchens or provide transportation for home-bound individuals. Choose your social issue and get involved, be active. Remember, prayer is one way we all can participate. Prayer can change our life and others.

In the next issue of The CHALLENGER, I will list some of the wonderful things our KC District units are doing. I am always amazed at the variety of services in which the United Methodist Women take part.

I pray the year 2011 will be a year of love, happiness and peace for all.

In His Service,

Gloria Inbody

KC District Social Action Coordinator

Have any "down time" after the holidays?

Down time can be spare time on your hands to read, relax, etc. or "down" time can be when nothing seems to feel right in your life. How do you cope? At any age, it is a tough task to learn.

Aster, as her mother named her for a "common insignificant little flower that's not very pretty-some consider a weed" is the main character in the book on our UMW reading list, Just Another Girl by Melody Carson . It's a youth book about a teenage girl stuck between a confident outgoing older sister and a disabled younger sister. Give it a try. Jill Morizzo, SPR coordinator

GOOD BYE, PRESIDENT HUNT**HELLO to NEW DUTIES**

Yesterday was a cloudy, cold day and I took my laptop to the living room to sit in front of the fireplace and work, but writing this article was not to be part of that work. I simply do not feel inspired by cloudy, cold weather. So it is nice that today is sunny, albeit colder. I can sit in my study and look at the world around me. Some neighbors are getting new siding and another a new roof. The trees are bare and some of the grass has turned brown. There are no more roses blooming at my window and this morning I see no birds or small critters around. Winter, while still a few days away on the calendar, has truly set in.

By the time you receive this Advent will be passed and we'll be into the Christmastide. All the presents will be open and all the Christmas pageants and cantatas will be past. We'll be looking at what the new year brings. For the women of Kansas City District United Methodist Women it will be new leadership in your units and in your District, including a new President. For me, it will be a new task as Assistant Dean at the Kansas East Conference United Methodist Women Cooperative School of Christian Missions. Quite a mouth full, yes?

As I take on these new tasks I ask for your prayers for a successful school this year. To help answer my prayers, I hope to see many of you at the school. As your new leaders (and returning ones) take up the tasks of providing programming and nurture for your units and individuals, keep them in your prayers and take part in the offerings they bring you.

Christmas is the new beginning. New Years' Day is for making new resolutions. Make one of those resolutions to find something new about United Methodist Women.

Barbara Hunt, retiring KC District President

Call For PROGRAM IDEAS

From Jan Harper, Vice-President

Thanks to all of the local unit vice-presidents who were able to attend the officers training in November at St. Mark's UMC. We had some good conversation and idea sharing! Out of the sharing, we discussed the value of having some type of resource list for program ideas that could be used at the local level for programs.



SO, THIS IS A CALL FOR PROGRAM IDEAS.

If you could send your program ideas to me, along with contact information, and cost

(or note if they prefer donation), I will put together a list of program ideas to have available at the spring meeting. The idea would be to have an updated list available at each district meeting. PLEASE HAVE IDEAS TO ME BY MARCH 1, 2011 so that I can put the list together for the APRIL 2nd SPRING MEETING of the Kansas City District.

Something to think about, especially for the smaller churches, is the possibility of getting together with other churches in your general area for a program meeting. Perhaps after we have some ideas for interesting activities, this will help units to organize some great meetings in order to inspire us to invite more people to join in our UMW fellowship.

We are grateful to all who will return their ideas to me by March 1.

Jan Harper

Vice-President

jharper@sunflower.com

785-865-4028

.....
P.S. I, as the communications coordinator, would like to feature outstanding events or programs sponsored by your units in our upcoming CHALLENGER issues. Kudos to those who generate interest thru educational, informative and spiritual programming Rindy Richerson rindy1@everestkc.net

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT SPRING CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars for April 2, 2011 and join with other women across the Kansas City area for our spring district celebration. We will have an interesting and informative program on the Rose Brooks Center, a comprehensive domestic violence agency that provides a continuum of care for women and children. This important issue is something we all need to be informed about, as there are many women and children affected by domestic violence. Learn what you can do if you, or someone you know may be in this situation.

What: Kansas City Spring District Celebration

When: April 2, 2011 from 9:00 am –noon

**Where: Monticello UMC
23860 W. 75th Street**

Shawnee Mission, KS 66227

Cost: Return registration

sheet with fee of \$5.00 ⇒

Ingathering items of women's underwear and socks---all items donated to

Rose Brooks Center

**We look forward to seeing you on
April 2!**

**Jan Harper
Vice President**

*Sincere Thanks to
Shawnee United Methodist Church
hosting on UMW Fall meeting.*

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Spring Celebration-April 2, 2011



Finding Peace

9:00 am - noon

Monticello United Methodist Church
23860 W. 75th St., Shawnee Mission, KS 66227

PROGRAM: THE ROSE BROOKS CENTER STORY

Rose Brooks Center is a comprehensive domestic violence agency that provides a full continuum of care to thousands of women and children in the Kansas City area. Come and learn about breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

INGATHERING: Women's socks and underwear
(all items donated to Rose Brooks Center)

**Please return to: Jackie Lee, Treasurer, KC District UMW
PO Box 60, Basehor, KS 66007**

Name _____

Address _____

Church _____ First time attending district meeting _____

Enclosed is my check for \$5.00 made out to Kansas City District UMW

Joy To the World - not just a lively carol of the Christmas Season.

Dana Robert writes of the life force of our faith-MISSIONS. How has our faith been translated into action throughout the ages. How must it be implemented in the future?

Inspirational stories are recorded in many parts of the world showing the power of the United Methodist Women. Come be touched by their stories and inspired to create your own.

This Mission Study, JOY to the WORLD, will be hosted by the Church of the Resurrection on February 26th. Two St. Paul's School of Theology professors will be our presenters: F. Douglas Powe, Jr. is the Associate Professor of Evangelism and Rena Yocom is the Missiologist-in-Residence. Registration will be at 8:30 AM and the session will be 9:00-2:00 with a 45 minute lunch break. The cost will be \$10.00 which includes a box lunch.

Most Christians around the world are women. Are we spreading the Good News?

Religions by global adherents, 1910 and 2010

	1910		2010	
	Adherents	%	Adherents	%
Christians	612,028,000	34.8	2,292,454,000	33.2
Muslims	220,895,000	12.6	1,549,444,000	22.4
Hindus	223,419,000	12.7	948,507,000	13.7
Agnostics	3,367,000	0.2	639,852,000	9.3
Buddhists	138,025,000	7.8	468,736,000	6.8
Chinese folk	392,423,000	22.3	458,316,000	6.6
Ethnoreligionists	135,181,000	7.7	261,429,000	3.8
Atheists	243,000	0.0	138,532,000	2.0
New Religionists	6,865,000	0.4	64,443,000	0.9
Sikhs	3,232,000	0.2	24,591,000	0.4
Jews	13,193,000	0.7	14,641,000	0.2
Spiritists	324,000	0.0	13,978,000	0.2
Daoists	437,000	0.0	9,017,000	0.1
Baha'is	225,000	0.0	7,447,000	0.1
Confucianists	760,000	0.0	6,461,000	0.1
Jains	1,446,000	0.1	5,749,000	0.1
Shintoists	7,613,000	0.4	2,782,000	0.0
Zoroastrians	119,000	0.0	181,000	0.0
Total population	1,759,797,000	100.0	6,906,560,000	100.0

*Rate = average annual growth rate, per cent per year, between dates specified

It is beneficial to have obtained the study manual for the class before the event. You can order them through the website www.missionresourcecenter.org or call 1-800-305-9857

REGISTRATION FORM for MISSION STUDY

JOY TO THE WORLD FEBRUARY 26, 2011 DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 12, 2011

Church of the Resurrection 13720 Roe Ave. Leawood, KS 66224 | (913) 897-0120

East Building- Enter from Roe.

NAME _____

ADDRESS/CITY, STATE _____

PHONE/E-MAIL _____

Home Church _____ First time attendee _____

Received fee (\$10) _____ includes box lunch

Greetings from **JACKIE HELMS**

KANSAS EAST CONFERENCE VP

Dear UMW sisters,

I have accepted the office of KEC Vice-President and am eagerly planning the conference programs as well as visiting all five districts in the Kansas East conference. Have you ever given thought to the officer training that is given on every level of United Methodist Women? It is remarkable! I have had the privilege to learn from the leadership at the local, district and, now, conference levels. What a blessing. While serving in other large organizations for women, I have grown to appreciate our training programs. UMW leaders are respected and sought after because of their abilities and knowledge. Therefore, I am PROUD to be a United Methodist Woman in more ways than one, and I know you are also. If you need a program or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me either by phone or email.

[\(913\)829-2724](tel:9138292724) or jackiejhelms@gmail.com

GREAT GIFT IDEAS!

Subscriptions to official magazines of UMW and the United Methodist Church

The *Response* magazine is published by the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church. It is the official magazine of United Methodist Women. Its goals are to educate for mission, to interpret the Purpose of United Methodist Women and to strengthen the organization.

New World Outlook is the Mission magazine for the United Methodist Church, as it connects local churches to the mission work of the General Board of Global Ministries. The magazine suggests avenues for becoming involved in outreach, support, and even hands-on help. Get in touch with your mission roots. Visit *New World Outlook* online. To order *Response Magazine* and/or *New World Outlook*, call 1-877-881-2385, or [order online](#).

JOY IN GIVING AND SERVING

BY Pat Parr, KC District Spiritual Growth

"Here I am Lord, send me."

Is this your phrase and statement of your wishes? Might you be like me and too scared and comfortable in my new found life of health to say that I might be willing to go on an extended mission trip?

As a young girl I wanted with all my heart to be a missionary, but not now at the middle-end of my life. So what about you? Does the Lord call you to go to a foreign country to work with children or adults who have so little? Could you go on a short trip here in the USA? That might be safer and fit in with your current lifestyle. Would you rather give of your finances through "One Great Hour of Sharing" via the United Methodist Church? Thus you can give and support hundreds of Global Missions within and without the USA. This allows you to help alleviate human suffering whether caused by war, conflict, or natural disaster with open minds and hearts to all people.

I have several friends who through UMCOR have given of their time and money for personal mission trips. They have each come home with only the clothes on their backs, leaving all their worldly goods with the people they want to help. All seem to me to have changed and have a different look in their eyes, as well as in their demeanor. Could the Lord have caused this? I believe so. He does affect each of us differently when we truly accept him as our Lord and Savior and do his work in this world. So think about what role in global missions could be right for you. Wherever you choose to be, think about it prayerfully and thoughtfully so that you can always be a child of God who gives others hope through your deeds or your contributions. All will joyfully be accepted by your Lord.

Get away, Rejuvenate...

Plan your new year to include attending the Cooperative School of Christian Mission July, 2011, Baker University

2011 KANSAS CITY DISTRICT OFFICERS FOR THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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Treasurer:	Jackie Lee	913-724-1355	jackie-lee@att.net
	Pat Parr, Spiritual Growth	913-766-0901	pparr70@gmail.com
Social Action:	Gloria Inbody	913-642-5431	dinbody@kc.rr.com
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Ed & Interp:	Donna A. Stockton	913-417-7210	francisstockton@hotmail.com
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CON:	Marilyn Hoover(2011)	913-287-9389	mhoover2@kc.rr.com
<u>Nominating Committee</u>			
	Marian Montee (2013)	913-422-6651	
	Elaine Ward (2013)	913-342-2164	rdhed27@yahoo
	Janis Kirkebye (2014)	913-897-7716	janiskirkebye@gmail.com
	Pam Peterson (2014)	913-381-2607	crock@everestkc.net

*God Bless These Women As They Lead Us
through the Coming Year!*

THE CHALLENGER

*Kansas City District, Kansas East Conference
United Methodist Women*

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Lenexa, KS 66215*

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SHAWNEE MISSION, KS

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April 2, 2011

KC District Spring
Celebration

Monticello United Methodist
Church

CURRENT RESIDENT or

Calendar 2011

Read inside for times and specifics

January 22	<u>Children of God in Liberia Grace UMC</u>
February 8	L.E.A.F.- <u>POVERTY in the HEARTLAND</u>
February 26	Mission Study, <u>JOY to the WORLD</u>
April 2	KC District Spring Celebration
May 2-4	<u>Crossing the Border of Injustice Immigration</u>