

# THE SIGNAL

FALL 2011

A Newsletter published twice yearly featuring news and items of interest from the Five Rivers District of the United Methodist Women

*The Signal is printed and distributed at the expense of Five Rivers Dist. UMW and mailed to the elected leaders of the District, Local Unit leaders, Kansas East Conference leaders, Historian, Five Rivers District Superintendent and local pastors.*

This edition of the SIGNAL is coming out a bit early. We are in the process of making some changes in our lives. My husband and I have put our house on the market and by the time this reaches you we may have it sold. We will be traveling in our RV for a while. It has been an honor to serve you as the Communications Coordinator for the past two years. Thank you all for your dedication to the United Methodist Women and all that it stands for. May God bless you all.

## INFORMATION FROM OUR ELECTED LEADERS

### PRESIDENTS NOTES

As I watch the lake water so calm in the early morning I know with the activity and the weather of the day it will become choppy then again in the evening and at nightfall it will calm. This is a cycle of change and change can be as rough as the water.

During our Presidents meeting in Garnett I heard it said "We have always done it this way". How many times have we said this famous saying. We do need to see what changes we can make in order to increase our membership and include the younger generation.

Our purpose is to know God and have a supportive fellowship so we can be a mission for women, children and youth.

The district team is willing to help all units big and small in whatever way we can. Let us help you CALL- EMAIL WRITE any of us. We can not help if we do not know your needs.

I hope I saw several of you in Baldwin at Cooperative School of Christian

Mission and then will see you again at Mound City for Fall Meeting on September 24 or in Prairie Village at Asbury on September 10 for Annual Celebration.

As the sun sets over the lake and we celebrate our freedom. Please pray for each other and those less fortunate. The water will calm and get choppy again but with the Lords help we can increase our membership and do his work.

Carol Milroy, President  
785-242-3114/ [Milroy@kansas.net](mailto:Milroy@kansas.net)

### VICE PRESIDENTS NOTES

Hooray, it's summertime! Hot weather, sweet corn, firecrackers, parades and farmers markets are all part of the season. It will soon be time to think about the Fall Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September at the Mound City Church.

Mound City is a beautiful small town that reminds me of a New England village. In the fall, the rolling hills around Mound City are covered with bright trees in fall colors. The white church is close to the town square with the historic courthouse. In October, Mound

City is host to the Sugar Valley Arts and Crafts Festival which covers the entire fairgrounds. You may have even attended that. I spent many an October Saturday in years past just walking and looking and of course buying.

Since September 24<sup>th</sup> is still a few months away, please mark your calendar so you don't miss it. Didn't we enjoy Garnett! What a nice church and group of ladies. I thank them for everything.

Our plan in the future is to showcase the host church at the Spring and Fall Meetings. We need to know our Five River Sister Churches. Please plan to attend a Saturday Morning twice a year for wonderful fellowship.

I would like to have any UMW in the Five Rivers District that wants to host a meeting, please contact me. We want to spread this around over the District, so please let me know if you are interested. It's always good to get out of your own backyard once in a while. And it's always nice to have company.

Barbara Wood, Vice President  
620-223-4633/ [bwood@cpol.net](mailto:bwood@cpol.net)

***Editors note. See the back of the newsletter for registration form for Fall District meeting.***

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**September 10:**UMW KEC Annual Meeting, Asbury UMC

**September 24:** Five Rivers Fall Meeting, Mound City UMC (**Registration form in back of Newsletter**)

**Sept 24:** 2012 Pledge to Mission Form due at Fall Meeting @ Mound City.

**October 10:** Leadership Form due from Unit Treasures.

**October 22:** Fall Retreat in Manhattan. (**Registration Form in back of Newsletter.**)

**Nov 5:** Five Rivers Executive meeting at Clearfield UMC

**DECEMBER 1:** All Unit Reports due.

#### **SECRETARY NOTES** **NOTE TO ALL SECRETARES**

**As soon as you have election of Officers, please send NAMES, ADDRESSES, PHONE, & E-MAILS To:**

**JUDY LOVE.**

**502 N. Poplar, Ottawa KS. 66067-3032**  
**[dodgeramin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dodgeramin@sbcglobal.net)**

Carolyn Elder, Secretary  
[celder@allegiance.tv](mailto:celder@allegiance.tv)

#### **TREASURERS NOTES**

Our Treasurer Margie Davis reports that our total Five Rivers District proposed budget for 2012 is \$5160.00.

In this tight economy there are many places our money needs to go, but let's remember that if we don't meet our pledge people go without vital services.

Margie Davis Treasurer  
913-893-6260/ [kansasmargie@yahoo.com](mailto:kansasmargie@yahoo.com)

#### **SPIRITUAL GROWTH NOTES**

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH from Bonita Kitts**  
**The Penny Challenge:** Last year \$1,525 was collected by KECUMW. Let's top that! Encourage everyone at your church to donate their pennies to Missions. Spiritual Growth Coordinators, be in charge of getting these pennies (or a check) to the Kansas East UMW Annual Celebration on September 10, 2011 at Asbury UMC in Prairie Village KS.

**Cooperative School of Mission Spiritual Growth:** *Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Reconciliation.*

Whether you attend CSOM or not, the study manual could be a benefit to your own personal spiritual growth. Encourage your local UMW units to budget in several registration fees for 2012 so more women will have the opportunity to share the Mission School experience. Put it on your UMW bucket list.

Spiritual Thoughts: Beautiful Gardens Don't Just Happen

Growing spiritually doesn't just happen. If we want to grow spiritually, we must do our part, put some effort into it by reading and hearing His Word, allowing it to produce spiritual growth in us.

We pray, we study, we can fast, and we must serve Him.

God needs us to be **perennial** Christians – the kind who weather the storm, stand the test, grow deeper roots into His Word, and produce strong results. Let your roots grow into the One who is our Rock and Redeemer. Latch onto His abundant supply of grace, mercy, and love. Produce lasting fruit.

“I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He trims clean so that it will be even more fruitful.(John 15:1-2)

Here's my **ABC's of Spiritual Gardening**:

- A. *Always prepare your soil, read the bible...the bible is our instruction book...it is the living word and God speaks to us through the Scripture.*
- B. *Be a nurturer to your own garden regularly. Listen to the spoken word, open your heart to the conviction of the Holy Spirit and then obey.*
- C. *Commune with the master Gardener in prayer. If you don't know how to pray about, read the scriptures out loud...most of it is prayer. Read the hymn book, pray the hymn book.*

A favorite generational hymn of my family:  
*There's a sacred and hallowed retreat...  
Where my soul finds a fellowship sweet,  
Where the Lord of my life I may meet... In the garden of my heart.  
In the cool of the day He walks with me...  
In the rose bordered way He talks with me;  
In love's holy union, and sacred communion...  
In the garden of my heart.*

Acknowledge the fact that you have a garden growing.....commit to making it a glorious one.

*Proverbs 3:6 – In all your ways Acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.*

Bonita Kitts. Spiritual Growth.  
785-242-5675/ [rodnbo73@yahoo.com](mailto:rodnbo73@yahoo.com)

## SOCIAL ACTION NOTES

UMW social action emphasis is on domestic violence, immigration and human trafficking. Each of these is local, national and international issue. Yes, they seem overwhelming to us on a personal level. But each of you as a UMW member can impact these issues. Keep yourself informed in each of these areas. There are various websites that provide up to date and accurate information.

The UMW website, the UMC website, Kansas East Conference website are websites that provide valuable information and activities that are occurring in our local area. Another excellent source is the Kansas East Conference Communiqué that has an e-letter that you can sign up to receive weekly via your e-mail. Keep informed of the current bills before the state and national legislature. Don't hesitate to communicate with your state and national representatives and senators on proposed legislature on these topics.

The UMW reading program has excellent books on each of the topics. Many of these books are written based on personal experiences. Reading someone's personal account makes it more meaningful to us as individuals.

Become familiar with the topics of domestic violence, immigration and human trafficking. Research your local community or county programs to determine if there is an agency that your local UMW group can support. At each UMW unit meeting present a highlight on these topics.

Joan Toot Social Action  
785-840-4960/ [tootie2@centurylink.net](mailto:tootie2@centurylink.net)

## EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION NOTES

### MISSION IMPOSSIBLE!

You may think this is an odd title for a mission communications but it was on my heart to speak to you about the endless mission experiences you will encounter in your life. My husband and I went to conference this year and every minute we

were there a new mission possibility was promoted. Many of us have said we are “too old” for field mission like work trips, camps, study leaders, giving a mission study or sometimes just preparing a lesson for your group. Cheer up you are never “too old” to pray for these missions, help them financially or do a project that benefits your community. My Grandfather used to say mission begins at home. MISSION is not IMPOSSIBLE! Now just a few resources will help you see all the mission possibilities near and far. Our two women’s magazines, “Response” and “New World Outlook” are great resources for programming, praying and doing. Being a Five Star Unit can help further mission both locally and globally. Give a special recognition pin to someone doing mission work in your church or community. Our KEC website ([www.kansaseast.org](http://www.kansaseast.org)) is another valuable asset in checking out what’s happening throughout our conference. Our own United Methodist women also have their own site ([www.kecumw.org](http://www.kecumw.org)). Check us out on the web. We are including the two forms you need to send to me if you are a Mission Today Unit or if you complete a Mission Study. Remember all forms for this year are due December 1st. Prayer should have been at the top of my list but I want to end with this thought. “That nothing is impossible with God.” Make God first in your life and all else will follow. Have a great mission filled year. God Bless,

Sandra Upshaw Ed & Interpretation  
620-365-2488/ [supshaw220@yahoo.com](mailto:supshaw220@yahoo.com)

### **MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH**

Please contact Barbara should you have any questions. Please make plans to attend Fall District Meeting and bring a friend.

Barbara Duncan M,N,O  
913-710-5982/ [barbarasoldit@hotmail.com](mailto:barbarasoldit@hotmail.com)

### **PROGRAM RESOURCES NOTES**

The dog days of summer have always found me doing one of my favorite activities. Reading books! Preferably in the hammock or swing on my front porch.

Books became close friends of mine all through my grade school years. My father was a college professor and every summer we would move to another city and state so that he could do research or teach. My mother would immediately enroll us four children in swimming lessons and find the library. Every week I would check out the maximum books allowed for a kid my age and read, read, read! It was hard to make friends for just a couple of months, so books became my best friends during these times.

The love of reading has never left me and that is why I have been the Program Resource Secretary for my UMW and the Five Rivers District. What an enjoyable job when you get to spend time with books!

This year there has been a new category added to our reading program; Leadership Development. What an important and enriching addition this is. Although a new category has been added, nothing has changed with the reading program plans for 2011. You now have five categories from which to choose books instead of four.

Did you know that if you chose to enroll in Plan 1, which means reading one book every three months! Doesn't that sound easy? Even for those of us that have hectic and busy lives (which includes most of us these days). But wait! What if you choose to read a Bonus Book? Bonus Books count as either two books in the same category or as one book in

each of two categories! How cool is that? So you could actually end up reading just three books for Plan 1, if one of the books is a Bonus Book! You can see where I'm going with this. . . no more excuses about no time to read!

There is still a lot of summer left where it's too hot to do anything but READ!

Happy Reading,  
Rebecca Dick Program Resources  
785-594-7497

#### **COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR.**

I will make this short since we have a lot to put in this newsletter. I have enjoyed serving as Communications Coordinator. Thank you for the honor of serving you.  
Gloria Sturm, Communications Coord.  
785-883-2701/ [lgsturm@embarqmail.com](mailto:lgsturm@embarqmail.com)

#### **NOMINATIONS NOTES.**

The nominations team is working very hard to complete a slate of officers for 2012. Please prayerfully review this list. We still need 2 names for the nominations committee – just waiting for someone to take a position and start a new adventure in their life! This is a great way to meet new friends throughout 5 Rivers District. Please give me a call if you know of someone interested in being on our 5 Rivers team for 2012.  
Kathy Hill, Chair Nominations 913-882-9667  
[kshill65@yahoo.com](mailto:kshill65@yahoo.com)

#### **Proposed Officers for 2012**

**President** – Carol Milroy, P O Box 336,  
Baldwin KS 66006-0336  
785-242-3114 [Milroy@kansas.net](mailto:Milroy@kansas.net)  
**Vice-President** – Barbara Wood, 932 S  
Horton, Ft Scott, KS 66071-8732  
620-223-4633 [bwood@cpol.net](mailto:bwood@cpol.net)  
**Secretary** – Carolyn Elder, 1203 Diamond  
Head, Ottawa, KS 66067-1690

785-893-6260 [celder@allegiance.tv](mailto:celder@allegiance.tv)  
**Treasurer** – Margie Davis, P O Box 451,  
Edgerton, KS 66021-0451  
913-893-6260 [KansasMargie@yahoo.com](mailto:KansasMargie@yahoo.com)  
**Mission Coordinators:**  
**Spiritual Growth** – Bonita Kitts, 13  
Wheatland Dr., Ottawa, KS 66067-2625  
785-242-5675 [rodnbo73@yahoo.com](mailto:rodnbo73@yahoo.com)  
**Social Action** – Joan Toot, 1862 N 150 Rd,  
Baldwin, KS 66006-7120  
785-840-4960 [tootie2@centurylink.net](mailto:tootie2@centurylink.net)  
**Education & Interpretation** – Sandra  
Upshaw, 220 W Garfield, Iola, KS 66749-  
1708  
620-365-2488 [supshaw220@yahoo.com](mailto:supshaw220@yahoo.com)  
**Membership/Nature/Outreach** – Barbara  
Duncan, 18497 Trego Rd, LaCygne, KS  
66040-8109  
913-710-5982 [barbarasoldit@hotmail.com](mailto:barbarasoldit@hotmail.com)  
**Program Resources** – Lorene Stockard,  
1066 Missouri Rd, Princeton KS 66078-  
9133  
785-937-2130 [Loreneh@embarqmail.com](mailto:Loreneh@embarqmail.com)  
and  
Sheryl Reiter, 404 E. Central, Box 261,  
Richmond KS 66080-0261  
785-835-6204  
**Communications Coordinator** - Judy Love,  
502 N. Poplar, Ottawa, KS 66067-3032  
785-242-8802 [dodgeramin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dodgeramin@sbcglobal.net)  
**Nominations Chair** – Pam Ferguson, 3116  
W 29<sup>th</sup> St, Lawrence, KS 66047-3907  
785-749-3190 [pnrferg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pnrferg@sbcglobal.net) Class  
of 2013  
**Nominations Committee** – Carol Shobe,  
21050 S. Gardner Rd, Gardner, KS 66030-  
9516  
013-884-6501 [rcshobe@embarqmail.com](mailto:rcshobe@embarqmail.com)  
**Nominations Committee** – Connie  
Chapman, 1808 25<sup>th</sup> Rd NE, Waverly, KS  
66871  
785-733-2404 [clchap@centurylink.net](mailto:clchap@centurylink.net)  
Class of 2014

**WE HAVE OPENINGS FOR TWO  
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**FIVE RIVERS FALL DISTRICT MEETING 2011**  
**Program: Helen Barnes on Honduras**  
**September 24, 2011**  
**Mound City United Methodist Church**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> & Main Mound City Kansas**

**Registration 8:30 to 9:00am**  
**Meeting 9:00 to Noon.**

**REGISTRATION IS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 19**

**UNIT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NUMBER ATTENDING:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE & E-MAIL**

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pastors name if attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Non Refundable registration @ \$5 per person \_\_\_\_\_=\$\_\_\_\_\_**

**PLEASE DESIGNATE ONE MEMBER TO PICK UP PROGRAMS FOR ALL**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone/e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SEND FORM AND FEES TO:**  
**MARGIE DAVIS: 38430 W 191<sup>ST</sup> St. Edgerton KS. 66021-9308**

-----TEAR ALONG THIS LINE -----

**Driving Directions to Mound City UMC. 3<sup>rd</sup> & Main Mound City Kansas.**  
**Going south on US 69 exit right onto E. 850<sup>th</sup> Rd./KS-52. If you reach 69S you have gone about 0.1 mi too far. Your destination is just past Main Street. If you reach fourth you have gone too far.**

**SPACE FORBIDS ME TO INCLUDE THE CRITERIA FOR A MISSION TODAY UNIT .**  
**I AM SORRY FOR THIS BECAUSE THIS HELPS US GAUGE HOW OUR MISSION**  
**PROGRAMS ARE GOING. IF YOU NEED THIS FORM CONTACT YOUR LOCAL**  
**UNIT EDUCATION and INTERPRETATION PERSON OR SAUNDRA UPSHAW**  
**PLEASE NOTE ON THE BACK THE MISSION STUDY REPORT FORM.**

**REGISTRATION FORM FOR KEC SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT**  
**OCTOBER 22 2011 STOP THE VIOLENCE**

**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.**

**Manhattan First UMC 9am-2pm. Lunch Provided. Cost \$10 prior to Oct 1.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home Church** \_\_\_\_\_  
**District:** \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

*If childcare is needed please list names and ages of children. Catered lunch avail at \$7 per child, or provide a sack lunch.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Check and Registration sent to: AVALYN REISSIG, 1035 GARNETT. O.P. KS 66214**

**CONFERENCE NOTES**

**GREETINGS UMW SISTERS!**

As your elected Conference Vice President, I had the opportunity to attend the Wet Gulf Regional School of Mission training in Abilene, Texas. There were over 3 hundred UMW officers and instructors in attendance. We were greeted at the opening plenary with these words: "Hearts Warmed, heads Informed." This quote has stayed with me since then, and as we approach the scheduled date for UMW Annual Celebration, it takes on more meaning. Therefore, I wish to extend a heartfelt invitation for you and others in the District to attend this wonderful event. The Conference planning team and I have been at work formulating all facets of the event. It will be exciting and hopefully a memorable experience for everyone. So, my dear UMW sisters, mark your calendar for September 10<sup>th</sup>, at Asbury UMC in Prairie Village KS. You can look forward to: Informative Action Series, Beautiful Worship with Della Lamb Choir singing, Displays-Displays-& more Displays, Election of 2012 Conference leaders, Important District Officer's Training, Plus

Surprises (wonder what that will be?) The theme for the celebration is:

**CONNECTING MEMBERS for a FAITHFUL FUTURE.**

Look for the Registration Forms plus other information in the August **BRIDGE**.

I will look forward to seeing you there!

Blessings

Jackie Helms

KEC, Vice President.

**MISSION STUDY REPORT FORM**

**2011**

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**  
Kansas East Conference

Local Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
District \_\_\_\_\_

**Goals for Excellence in Study;**

The Use of current approved mission study course and text. A capable, responsible committee, which makes detailed, plans. A leader who is prepared and who can give capable group leadership. A minimum of 4 hours for the study group. Preparation for sessions, reading text and other assignments. Class member participation, panels, discussion, drama, and audio-visuals. Action growing out of study.

**STUDY GIVEN (circle one) 2009: Food and Faith Grace..Reconciliation, Sudan, Giving our Hearts Away: Native American Survival. 2010: Johns Letters, Sudan, Joy to the World:Mission in the Age.... 2011: Haiti, Joy to the World: Mission in the Age...**

**Dates Given:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number from Unit attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Hours of Study:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of Sessions** \_\_\_\_\_

**Texts Used:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader/Guest Speaker names:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Audio Visual Used:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Did a Committee Plan the Study:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Who Held Study: (circle one)**

**Local Unit, Sub-Group, Church Membership, Two or More Churches, District.**

**Describe Action coming from Study:** \_\_\_\_\_