

Food as Radical Hospitality

United Methodist Women of the Susquehanna Conference Answering the Bishop's Call of Practicing Radical Hospitality with Food

by Tara Barnes,
with the Rev. Mark Terwilliger

In June 2010, Bishop Jane Allen Middleton of the newly formed Susquehanna Conference in Pennsylvania called church members to participate in a yearlong project of practicing radical hospitality with food. A task force was created to communicate and implement this ministry. United Methodist Women members at Beach Lake United Methodist Church in Beach Lake, Pa., answered this call.

Beach Lake United Methodist Women members realize that food as radical hospitality goes beyond just giving food—it means sharing food. It means considering those who grow, harvest, and distribute food. It means taking into account the land that produces our food and those who will inhabit the land generations from now.

The Reverend Mark Terwilliger, pastor at Beach Lake United Methodist, explains our calling as Christians to use food as radical hospitality:

“Biblical examples of food as radical hospitality are numerous. Abraham and Sarah fed the visitors bearing



Beach Lake Community Garden

news that Sarah would give birth to a son. Deuteronomy contains gleaning laws that make provision for the hungry and the sojourner. Jesus showed hospitality by turning water into wine—and his disciples then put their faith in him! He fostered hospitality by

engaging his disciples in feeding the five thousand. Jesus extended the hospitality of Passover by instituting the Lord's Supper. At the Lord's Table we recognize one another as companions—literally those with whom we share bread.”

Denise Daub, a member of Beach Lake's Friday Friends group—a recently chartered United Methodist Women group for younger women in the Scranton District—initiated the preparation of holiday gift baskets containing fair trade food products and literature. The baskets are filled with tea, coffee and chocolate from United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) partner Equal Exchange, a worker-owned co-op in West Bridgewater, Mass., that produces fairly traded and organic tea, coffee, chocolate and snacks from national and international farmers. Beach Lake United Methodist Women members have also served fair trade coffee at local music festivals and at their annual conference, providing fair trade options where there were none before.

Ms. Daub and fellow Friday Friends members Allison Francesco and Kelly Hiller join fellow church members in tending an organic community garden on church grounds. Ms. Hiller was among the group who started the garden. With the help of Friday Friends, the church's United Methodist Women

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Repairers of the Breach: The Gift of Water

by Beth Brown

The United Nations declared the years 2005-2015 as the “Water for Life Decade” with the hope that major progress would be made across the globe to secure safe water for millions of God's children. Thirteen United Methodist Women members in Medina, Tenn., have moved us closer to this worthy international goal. Never underestimate the commitment and determination of United Methodist women who are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

On September 25, 2010, the Memphis Conference United Methodist Women gathered in Dresden, Tenn., for our annual conference meeting on a gorgeous autumn day that ended on a sacred note of celebration.

To conclude the day's session, the Rev. Michael Blake and I presented an overview of the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission trip we had taken to Sudan in April. In response to our presentation,

Repairers continued on page 6

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Come, Ye Thankful People, Come!

by Harriett Jane Olson

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home.

I'm one of those people who says, “This is my favorite season,” every time the weather changes. That being said, at the moment I'm amazed by the beautiful colors and smells of fall. The tree outside my apartment window has been an absolutely brilliant display of all possible shades of orange this year. As I walked down the street one night recently I almost stopped short as the smell of leaves brought back memories seemingly incongruous with my current urban environment. I recently drove through fields in western Illinois and got to see the harvested fields. My stomach rumbled as I passed

signs of harvest dinners in Southwest Texas, and I got to see some of the rolling countryside of South Georgia en route to that annual meeting.

Sometimes creation just reaches out and demands your attention, doesn't it?

Isn't that also what the earth does now on a regular basis? I think the U.S. government and our national policy debate has gotten distracted by arguments about climate science. Enormous floods, growing desert regions and rise of water temperatures all speak to us. So do the smaller, more local changes we see.

If you grew up in Ashland, Ky., 50 or 60 years ago like a friend of mine did, you would know that sheets hung on the line to dry would become gray due industrial emissions. Clean air regulation and investing in filters and other technology has made a big difference to health and quality of life in Ashland, just like it has all over the country.

On my drive in western Illinois I saw row after row of wind turbine. Hooray for the private and public investments that will bring benefits to these farmers and to all of us in years to come.

The Women's Division's Board of Directors ap-

proved just over a million dollars of Call to Prayer and Self-Denial grants at the fall board meeting. Thank you, United Methodist Women! The committee recommendations gave special attention to requests that would “green” the places at which we help support the work of mission. New energy-efficient windows, boilers and other improvements will not only reduce the “carbon footprint” of the institutions, but they will also result in cost savings in reduced energy consumption for years to come.

Investing in our world and advocating for its good care is directly connected to our love for God the Creator. We are able to carry out this work because of your faithfulness, United Methodist Women. We always thank God for you!



Harriett Jane Olson is deputy general secretary of the Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.

God's Call: Report of President Inelda González to the Women's Division at the Annual Fall Board Meeting

by Inelda Gonzalez

We, United Methodist Women, are different than other groups, clubs or fellowships. What makes us different? We are organized for mission. Although we are individually diverse, we make mission possible when we come together with a shared mission focus. We are women of faith who discern God's will for our lives and the world while at the same time try to deepen our understanding of God. Yes, we have been led to faith by those who have come before us. They followed the way of the divine human being who calls us all into his fellowship.

The women who came before us, serving the church at home and in other countries, were at the forefront of movements for change. When the women from the different traditions organized for mission about the same time in history, women at that time were legally classified as "nonpersons." There was little service to women because of prejudice

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exclusion.**

and limitations of cultural attitudes both in the church and in the society.

This only created a stirring to proclaim the gospel in its many forms.

When Jesus declared that deeds done to "the least" of us are done to him was truly taken seriously. Women responded to the needs of people, to those who were hungry, lonely, ill—those with no voice.

Today, we seem to live in a world full of barriers and forms of exclusion. We find signs posted everywhere that keep people out: "Private," "No Trespassing," "No Entry," "Members Only." We congratulate ourselves that we are accepted where others are not. People are excluded because of their skin color, their gender, their age, their language and even how they are dressed.

Who is my neighbor? Our country is rich in its diversity. People have come from all over the world, bringing their own cultures, languages, beliefs and talents. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. asked in his last book, "Where do we go from here—chaos or community?" That question and answer are more relevant today than ever before.

From the very beginnings of the women's missionary movement through the present day, we have been empowered to be in mission in new and innovative ways. We are energized, encouraged and challenged to create partnerships

with women different from ourselves by embracing the concepts of inclusivity and acceptance. We are putting our faith into action as a part of our Christian responsibility by engaging in study and reflection, spiritual grounding, participating in Ubuntu or hands-on projects, studying emerging issues and so many others. Women have given generously and with much sacrifice in responding to the needs of other women.

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Our inheritance from our foremothers includes many behaviors besides the ones aforementioned. At the time when America was growing by leaps and bounds, workers were few. The opportunities for a variety of available jobs were answered by immigrants from a variety of countries. One American Christian woman, Alma Mathews, was concerned with shiploads from other countries that included young women—single young women—she met as passengers arriving on the shores of New York City. She was known to provide rooms at "Alma Mathews House" for a small monthly fee to the young women who paid once they were employed. This service Alma Mathews provided was one of many that helped the immigrants at that time. Eventually, most young women who stayed in the United States became naturalized citizens. By the way, Alma Mathews House in New York City is owned and still used by United Methodist Women.

Today, immigration is not the same as what Alma Mathews confronted. The world has become smaller with all the advances and inventions that have come to be. The variety of job opportunities have diminished in many, many parts of the world. The world has become very complex and greatly populated in many countries throughout the world. The United States of America has become the coveted land of opportunity for persons who enter this country legally or illegally. Let me repeat that. The United States of America has become the coveted land of opportunity. This is not an issue that just emerged. Many factors have contributed to the broken immigration system. Years of trying to correct or repair the immigration system has been for naught. Policies related to the immigration system have created a



Inelda González, president of the Women's Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, shares her faith story at Assembly.

variety of other problems that have yet to be resolved. One such problem is that families have been separated whether the children are U.S.-born or not. Parents are sent to detention centers and children are resettled in foster care, but only in designated houses. Every designated house will only house either same-age boys or

ing times for separated families to be reunited, protect both U.S.-born and immigrant workers, provide a pathway by which undocumented immigrants could earn their legal status and eventual citizenship, admit refugees as lawful permanent residents, improve immigration detention conditions, and increase the quality of border enforcement by working with local border communities.

Church World Service's work for immigration reform is informed by the daily experiences of local congregations of its 36 member denominations and communities and of its 34 refugee resettlement affiliate offices in 21 states.

A recent report by the Center for American Progress shows that providing a pathway to legal status for undocumented immigrants and reforming the visa system would increase the gross domestic product by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years, including increases in tax revenue, investment, wage growth and job creation. Erol Kekic is the Director of the CWS Immigration and Refugee Program.

Ladies, let us not be complacent! Let us be proactive. Who is my neighbor? Who will advocate for the voiceless? Our foremothers emphasized the contributions and support of all women to the total mission work. In the earliest organization, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, each member was asked to give "two cents a week and a prayer." What is your response? How will you respond? Thanks be to God.

\$1.5 trillion

**Estimated increase of
gross domestic product
over 10 years by
providing a pathway to
legal status for
undocumented immigrants
and reforming
the visa system.**

report by the Center for American Progress

same-age girls who, of course, the government has approved.

On October 1, 2010, the global humanitarian agency Church World Service applauded Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) for their introduction of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2010. The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2010 would reduce wait-

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Editors: Praveena Balasundaram, PBalasundaram@unitedmethodistwomen.org, and Tara Barnes, TBarnes@unitedmethodistwomen.org / Designer: Kevin Sinho Kang, sinho.kang@hotmail.com.

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Very Much In Control

A Presentation on Domestic Violence at Fall Board of Directors' Meeting

by Tara Barnes

The Rev. Dr. Aleese Moore-Orbih, director of training and consulting for Faith-Trust Institute, led directors, staff and guests in a domestic violence awareness education session at Women's Division fall board of directors meeting. Her purpose was to help attendees make connections between religious teachings and the perpetuation of domestic violence. Ms. Moore-Orbih vocalized the reality that the church isn't always a supportive place to turn for victims of domestic abuse. In her session she provided a few ways United Methodist Women members can help change this.

Domestic Violence Is About Control, Not Lack of It

Understanding domestic violence means understanding the abuser's motivation for the abuse, Ms. Moore-Orbih explained. "It is not about genetics, illness, drugs, alcohol, anger, stress, or behavior of victim; domestic violence is a learned behavior." Domestic violence isn't about losing control. "Abusers are very much in control," she said. "You wouldn't know an abuser to look at him. He looks like Mr. Perfect—calm, cool and collected." If we want to end domestic violence the question we should be asking is not "Why doesn't she leave?" it's "Why does he beat her?"

Why Women Stay

Women stay in abusive relationships for many valid reasons, Ms. Moore-Orbih said. Societal pressures, religious val-

ues, family encouragement, economics, children, emotional investment, isolation and danger are some of those reasons.

Religious women from many traditions feel pressured to get married. They are taught that Christ's relationship with the church is a metaphor for marriage. They feel pressured to have a perfect, Christ-like marriage, so they make concessions along the way. Because domestic violence is about control, the man will be in charge of all finances, granting his partner no access to family funds, even if she makes her own money. Ms. Moore-Orbih asked

attendees, "With no access to money, where will she go and how will she get there? Who will pay for day care, a place to live, health care?" If the couple has children, the abuser will use the children as a pawn to control his partner.

"Her fears about leaving are real," Ms. Moore-Orbih said. She has probably been told by her abuser that if she leaves he'll kill her. "The majority of women who are killed by their abusers are killed after they leave him," Ms. Moore-Orbih explained.

The domestic violence survivor has an emotional investment in her partner. If she's religious she may believe that if she prays, tithes, attends church, and does all of the right things her partner will change. If she leaves, "she would lose every dream that she tied into that relationship," Ms. Moore-Orbih said.

Barriers to Help

Many women who seek help are not heard, believed or supported. "She is not seen as a whole woman," Ms. Moore-Orbih said. "She is broken by the abuser, broken by the church, broken by the shelter." She faces disrespect from social services and law enforcement, mistreatment by medical professionals and lack of welcome at shelters.

"It is not about genetics, illness, drugs, alcohol, anger, stress, or behavior of victim; domestic violence is a learned behavior."

Those in a helping position must understand the survivor. "Hear her whole story," Ms. Moore-Orbih stated. "Understand her and her abuser by learning about their environment and culture."

One in three women experience domestic violence. "If you haven't heard it, it's because she doesn't feel safe to tell it," Ms. Moore-Orbih said.

How to Help

Helpers must be aware of personal biases and not make assumptions. Ms. Moore-Orbih directed attendees to ask: What are my biases? What do I really think? What comes to my mind when I hear "victim"? "Everybody sitting here has some prejudice. You can't get rid of it if you don't acknowledge that you have it."

United Methodist Women members have the capacity to help domestic violence survivors become whole again.

Survivors ask themselves: Why doesn't God hear my prayers? Do I have to forgive? Will God hate me if the marriage ends? Am I being punished for my sins? Is my faith too weak? On top of everything else, she is struggling with her faith.

"Women are lost because these questions aren't answered," Ms. Moore-Orbih said. Members of United Methodist Women can provide support, encouragement, comfort, prayer and resources. Ms. Moore-Orbih suggested that United Methodist Women members can have resources posted for help and talk about domestic violence. "Silence is all the abuser asks from us."

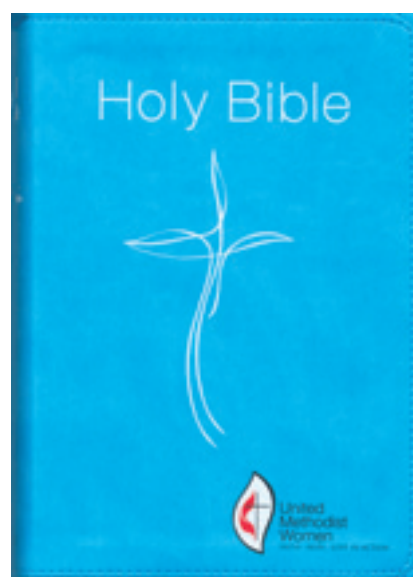
Survivors and batterers are in all congregations. Congregations can offer spiritual guidance, financial support, help with children and other resources that domestic violence programs may not be able to provide.

Christians have a calling to help and work toward justice. "Domestic violence is a social justice issue and requires all of us," Ms. Moore-Orbih said. "It is important for lay leaders and clergy to understand domestic violence. Clergy need to be trained. Clergy need to use the pulpit for this cause." The Church needs to say to the survivor, "You don't have to hold the sanctity of your marriage over the sanctity of your life."

For more information on what you can do to help end domestic violence and help survivors of domestic violence, visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/act/domestic-violence.

Tara Barnes is co-editor of *United Methodist Women News*.

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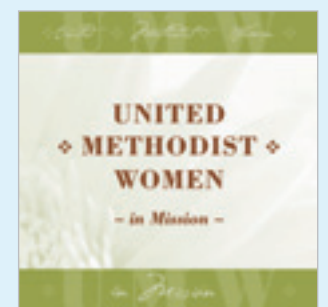
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Two Churches Come Together to Reflect Community's Diversity

by Carrie Madren

Where urban Washington, D.C., has sprawled out to meet rural southern Maryland, Waldorf, Md., has grown more racially and culturally diverse over the past decades. Five different churches served the Waldorf community, a duplication that just didn't seem efficient.

So two churches—Covenant Point, a primarily African-American church, and Lakeside, a predominantly Anglo-American church—got to know each other. The two churches have shared an Ash Wednesday service for more than six years, and Covenant Point has helped with a day of meals for Lakeside's Camp Love, a mission camp for people working on community homes. This year, they decided to officially join together to create the Covenant Point-Lakeside Cooperative Parish.

Pastors of the two churches considered how coming together could create a model for the community that was multiracial and multicultural, says the Rev. Tony Love, now lead pastor of the Covenant Point-Lakeside Cooperative Parish. After considering the strengths of the two churches—with plenty of prayer and discernment—church leaders decided to move forward. Now, after months of transitioning, Covenant Point's congregation has moved into Lakeside's existing church building, and the two congregations share one Sunday morning worship service as well as a combined choir.

"We believe that the church should be at least as diverse as our workplaces and neighborhoods, and that this collaboration helps our ministry as a whole look more like the Kingdom of God," says Associate Pastor Rev. Amanda Sayers.



Merging Ministries

Cooperative parishes such as this are nothing new for United Methodist churches, but typically, one larger church unites with a smaller, struggling church. This marriage, however, is unique: both churches are about the same size, and both are young churches. It's a union that makes sense in Waldorf.

Neither Lakeside nor Covenant Point had an active United Methodist Women's unit, but women have found other ways to be in fellowship and service.

Three years ago, Cheryl Ryan, a member of Lakeside United Methodist Church, kicked off a women's program called Sister to Sister that meets every other month on a Saturday morning for fellowship, a speaker's message and discussion about an issue or a spiritual topic. "I felt like the women of our church were not really connected; we saw each other Sunday morning but I didn't feel like there was a lot of bonding," remembers Ms. Ryan, who recently led a program that focused on the spiritual condition of our hearts, in which she offered her own reflection, read related Scriptures and passed on information from the American Heart Association about signs of a heart attack.



The next Sister to Sister gathering—the first since the cooperative parish joined under one roof—will be a festive Christmas brunch. "I'm hopeful that we'll start to see a blend of both groups of women coming out to see what it's all about," says Ms. Ryan, who hopes a bigger group will help the gathering become a monthly affair.

Covenant Point Church member Diane Stewart explains that the church has a women's ministry called Circle of Hearts, which "is a group of women who gather once a month to discuss Scriptures and how God's Word applies to women." The church's five communion stewards are also all women. "That's a tradition for our church," Ms. Stewart says.

Over time the lady stewards took on an outreach ministry at the four-day Charles County Fair, where they rented a booth to hand out flyers about the church as well as witness and share God's love. "You have conversations with people, find out some of the things that they're going through and let them know that they're not alone," Ms. Stewart says. The outreach has brought in visitors and members to the church, Ms. Stewart says. This year, the cooperative parish ran the booth as a joint venture, with

women from both churches advertising the new parish to the community.

The diversity of the parish has been an asset, Ms. Stewart continues, because everyone has something different to add, various gifts and talents that can work. This fall, the parish has started small groups, including a disciple class and blended other ministries. "You're getting to know different people and during prayer time you're getting to know people on a more personal level," Ms. Ryan says.

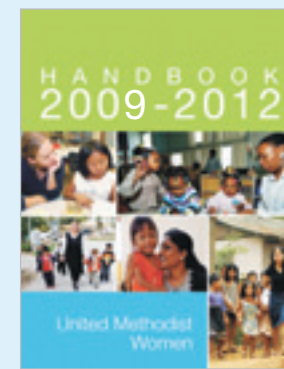
On the first day of August, the parish traded a traditional indoor sanctuary for a picnic pavilion. The Praise in the Park celebration has been an eight-year tradition of Covenant Point Church, so this year, they shared that tradition with their new cooperative parish partner. The picnic felt much like a large family reunion as the two parish congregations bonded.

Joining together as a cooperative parish seems to have reenergized the church, said Cindy Yeager of Lakeside at the picnic worship service. "When we come together," she explains, "we can accomplish more."

Carrie Madren is an award-winning freelance journalist based in Maryland.

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Faith, Hope and Love in Action

School of Christian Mission provides space for forming, transforming spiritual life

By Doni and Fred Martin

Participants in this year's annual Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission (ACSCM) were challenged to let love be the main focus of mission to others as they gathered on the campus of Hendrix College, July 29-August 1, 2010.

LaDonna Busby, a member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Batesville, served as dean and led the planning team and staff during the four-day event.

"Our theme, 'Faith, Hope and Love in Action,' challenged us to use every opportunity to share a faith that trusts in the promise of Jesus Christ, who brings light and life to all," she said. "Each day we learned more about how we could express our theology of mission through prayers, study and songs."

Registrar Beth Cobb reported 282 people of all ages enrolled for the event, which was sponsored by the Arkansas Conference Board of Global Ministries, Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women and the Arkansas United Methodist Foundation.

As participants arrived Thursday morning, many brought supplies from local United Methodist Women units around the state for assembling health kits. The kits help the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provide aid during emergencies in Arkansas and other areas. The offering taken at the event was given to United Methodist Women Mission Giving and UMCOR.

From Iowa to Washington, D.C.: My Faith in Action

By Judy Kading

When you think of going to Washington, D.C., from Iowa, I'll bet your first image is of visiting very large buildings and museums, eating different kinds of food and riding the subway. I enjoyed those activities during my five weeks there this summer, but I also put "love in action" as Iowa United Methodist Women's social action mission coordinator volunteering at the United Methodist Building. The United Methodist Building houses the General Board of Church and Society, the Washington Office of Public Policy for United Methodist Women, an office of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and various other faith-based groups. I was right across the street from the Supreme Court, with the Capitol building a three-minute walk away. The House and Senate office buildings are a few minutes on foot. This was just ideal for work on two United Methodist Women's issues that are important to me: immigration reform and ending human trafficking. These are issues that we are focusing on at the district and conference level for Iowa United Methodist Women.



Photo by Fred Martin

(Left) Zenobia Harris and Ida Williams stand behind the worship center in Staples Auditorium to lead a plenary session on Sudan.



Photo by Fred Martin

(Right) Morning praise begins the day for attendees of Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission. Here, they stand and sing near the flowerbed of Veasey Hall, Hendrix College.

Studies included "For the Love of God: The Epistles of John" and "Joy to the World! Mission in the Age of Global Christianity." Leaders offered "The Beauty and Courage of Sudan" as the repeat study from the previous year.

Worship and plenary sessions held in Staples Auditorium intertwined the three studies, highlighting the biblical basis for each study and giving examples of ways participants can use the information from the studies in daily life.

Morning praise leaders Brenda Norwood, the Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow and Brittany Henson directed the early morning worship sessions as large groups gathered for a time of singing,

praise, devotion and prayer to begin each day's activities. Children and youth followed age-appropriate learning tracks that shared the same theme as the larger event. Florine Johnson served as assistant dean for children and youth.

Mission projects for one group of teens included carrying luggage for attendees and using tip monies for expenses and donations to the anti-malaria effort Nothing But Nets. They also created prayer bracelets that they shared with persons from other parts of the state whom they had never met, and they prepared hand-tied blankets for burn victims at Arkansas Children's

Hospital. Saturday Night Social featured performances by participants in the children's and youth programs.

Studies planned for 2011 include "Forgiveness and Reconciliation" and a special focus on Haiti. "Joy To The World! Mission In The Age of Global Christianity" will be repeated. These studies are determined three years in advance. Next summer's ACSCM is tentatively scheduled for late July; dates will be announced in early 2011.

Doni and Fred Martin of Corning, Ark., are longtime participants in ACSCM and served as registrars for five years. Doni has served in multiple leadership roles for the school and will serve as dean of the 2011 ACSCM.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the enforcement arm of federal immigration regulations, shows that 79 percent of immigrants deported through Secure Communities had no prior arrests or misdemeanors on their record. The stated objective of this program as mandated by Congress was to deport only the most serious criminal aliens, not to stop immigrants for something as innocuous as a malfunctioning taillight and thus identify them for deportation.

Another priority I had was to contact my congressional delegation about human trafficking legislation pending in Congress. The Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act (TDVSA) was passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee during the week of August 9th. Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa sits on this committee. I visited his aide Nick Podsiadly to request that Grassley sign on as a sponsor of the bill, and I was disappointed when told that he probably would not. I also visited aides of my Iowa Congressmen Boswell, King, Latham, Loeb sack and Braley to share information from United Methodist Women Action Alerts and request

that they all sponsor this legislation in the House of Representatives, where it is known as H.R. 5575: Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act of 2010. Representative Tom Latham has since signed on as a co-sponsor. I have made follow-up calls and have e-mailed my United Methodist Women conference officers and presidents urging them to make contact as well. The bill currently sits in committee. United Methodist Women members should contact their congresspersons and talk about human trafficking.

Volunteering time in Washington, D.C., was a great way to learn and to find information to take back to the United Methodist Women officers, to the School of Christian Mission and Mission Education Event, and to my local unit. I was reminded of how many people are never heard in the halls of power unless we speak up for them. Truly, social action is an important part of the overall program of the United Methodist Women, just one more way that we put faith, hope and love in action.

Judy Kading is the Social Action Mission Coordinator for the Iowa Conference

If you like *United Methodist Women News*, check out [website: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

FROM PAGE ONE

Repairers of the Breach: The Gift of Water

Continued from page 1

Adele Davenport, President of the Medina United Methodist Women, stood up among those gathered and addressed me, saying,

"At our United Methodist Women meeting last October you told us about your Ubuntu trip to Mozambique [a previous trip to Africa I had taken], including the difficulty the women there face daily in getting water for their families. You were also at our August 2009 meeting to help us reorganize as a United Methodist Women unit. This inspired the 13 members of the United Methodist Women of Medina First United Methodist Church to raise \$10,000 for a water well in Mozambique, Africa, and we have given the money in your honor. Truly, we feel that God has been at work in leading us to accomplish our \$10,000 goal in less than a year. Beth, we praise God and thank you!"

I wept with joy and thanksgiving! Thirteen United Methodist Women became repairers of the breach of injustice in our world. They responded to God's call with the gift of clean water for the people of Mozambique. Isaiah 58 admonishes us to "loose the bonds of injustice" and to "let the oppressed go free." Social justice is a key element of Christian discipleship, and it is an historical mantra of United Methodist Women. A spark was set aglow in the minds and hearts of 13 women who embraced the challenge to improve the quality of life for women in Mozambique. Their church fundraisers



Beth Brown in Mozambique

soon turned into an entire community effort to raise \$10,000. The winds of the Holy Spirit breathed new life and new hope into a new unit of United Methodist Women as they reached their lofty goal for their first mission project.

Providing life-giving water for Africa has become a passionate mission for me now. After leading the Dyersburg District mission study on Sudan in February, our district decided to challenge every church within the district to contribute to a \$10,000 goal to dig a well in Sudan. This October, the Rev. Steve Cavitt, our district superintendent, called me to share the good news

that we had reached our goal. I am currently in communication with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the General Board of Global Ministries to bring to fruition this project in Southern Sudan.

Digging a community well in African villages saves thousands of Africans from deadly diseases and transforms the lives of the women who live there. It is the daily burden of women to walk barefoot across the red dirt for many miles each day to retrieve water for their family's bathing, cooking and cleaning. They desperately need clean, accessible water. The image of women

hauling water on their heads with babies strapped to their chests haunts me daily. The amount of water you and I use in one commode flush is what an African woman will haul in one long journey from a well or stream.

"The amount of water you and I use in one commode flush is what an African woman will haul in one long journey from a well or stream."

My intention is to return to Sudan with a Volunteers in Mission team from the Memphis Conference in 2011. The people across the continent of Africa need our daily prayers and our gifts of compassion.

Lying awake in the early morning darkness on a cot under a mosquito net deep in the heart of Africa, I was praying. In the distance God answered my prayer in the voice of an African man chanting prayers in his native Swahili. I felt perfect peace in the embrace of God in a foreign land and heard the call once again to go forth and bear witness to Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Beth Brown is a United Methodist Women member in the Memphis Conference. She served as Memphis Conference United Methodist Women President from 2005-2008.

Resources

2011 A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial: Give the Gift of Love



Packet

Trilingual materials (English/Korean/ Spanish) include prayer cards, a poster, an introductory letter, offering envelopes and an order form. Offerings fund programs related to and supported by United Methodist Women/Women's Division GBGM. \$2.00

Prayer Card

Two-sided 5" X 7" card in Spanish/English one side and Korean/English one side. Enhances Bible study or worship. \$0.25

Poster

One-sided 11"X 17" eye-catching tool helps to promote events in your area. \$1.00

Offering Envelope

Free for shipping and handling

World Thank Offering Label

Trilingual label approximately 3" X 4" with crack-and-peel adhesive may be affixed to a container for collection of World Thank Offerings—spontaneous gifts of gratitude for life's joys and God's abundance! Free for shipping and handling

Place your order with Mission Resource Center by fax: 214-630-0079, mail: 1221 Profit Drive, Dallas, TX 75247-3919, or online: www.missionresourcecenter.org.

visit the United Methodist Women Social Network

umwonline.net

Earth Day Celebration at Brooks-Howell

by LeGrand Smith

Founded in 1970 and observed on April 22 in over 175 countries, Earth Day is a celebration of the environment and world environmental issues. This year, residents of the Brooks-Howell Home, a United Methodist Women-supported retirement community for deaconesses and missionaries located in Asheville, N.C., decided to host activities in support of Earth Day.

During the past two years, the Brooks-Howell "Green Team," a group of residents led by June Fischer, has been working to build awareness of green issues, such as ways to save energy, improve recycling and make better use of the chemical materials used in cleaning and gardening. This year, the Green Team decided to focus its energy on making home's garden more eco-friendly by planting trees and shrubs that would not only enhance the beauty of

their surroundings but also benefit their feathered, furry and buzzy friends.

After enlisting the support of the facility's chief gardener David Williams, the group decided to plant trees on Earth Day. Ruth Clark, along with other residents, led the fundraising efforts, and once the Brooks-Howell Home board witnessed the commitment and enthusiasm of the residents they voted and decided to add to the fund.

On the morning of April 22, a large group of residents, ambulatory as well as wheelchair limited, met outside the Cummings Health Unit and planted their very first Earth Day tree, an apple sprout named in honor of Williams to commemorate his April wedding. After the tree was planted, the group moved to the chapel where the congregation participated in "Body Recall," a rhythm dance, and sang hymns that celebrated the beauty of the world and the creativity of our Maker.

Established in 1957, Brooks-Howell Home is the residence of former Evangelical United Brethren and World Division or Home Division missionaries and deaconesses. The United Methodist Women, who owns the property, subsidizes the cost of running the facility.

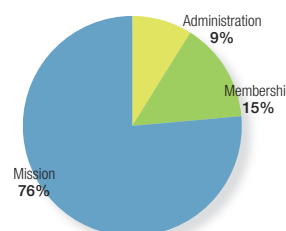
LeGrand Smith is a resident at Brooks-Howell.



Left to right: Beverly Reddick, Tracey Owens (social services staff), June Fischer, LeGrand Smith.

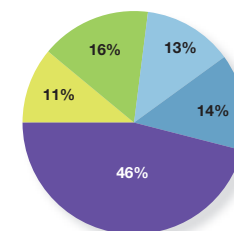
UMW 2010 Budget

2010 Proposed Operating Budget \$17,313,151



Administration \$1,532,046
Mission \$13,231,923
Membership \$2,549,182

United Methodist Women Mission Budget 2010 \$13,231,923



Leadership for Mission
Mission Education and Spiritual Growth
Mission Projects
Mission Support
Advocacy with Women, Children and Youth

FROM PAGE ONE

Food as Radical Hospitality

"One of the things we grow best in Wayne County is rocks. We had to have 3 rock picking parties before we were ready to plant."



Photo by Karen Hoffmann



Photo by Don Turman



Photo by Karen Hoffmann



Photo by Don Turman

(from left) United Methodist Women member Kelly Hiller, Marguerite Hinamon, Denise Daub and Kelly Hiller tend Community Garden

Continued from page 1

unit, and other sustainability-minded church members, the Beach Lake Community Garden has been in operation for four years, providing produce to local food pantries and churches as well to a local drug rehabilitation center.

United Methodist Women members Betty Dennis and Beth Troop garden

at home and contribute to the local outreach. Ms. Troop is co-president of Friday Friends and the church's chair of global mission. She was inspired to become more involved in mission because of her Ubuntu trip to Mozambique in the summer of 2009.

This past September Friday Friends

started a free lunch they call the Open Hearts Cafe. It is open to all and takes place every third Saturday at the church from noon until 1 p.m. Friday Friends also participates in "upcycling" food and coffee wrappers with TerraCycle (www.terracycle.net), a company that receives shipped trash and turns it into

usable products.

With the help and support of their pastor and church community, the United Methodist Women of Beach Lake United Methodist Church practice radical food hospitality, bringing the community together at the table and making sure all are invited to the table.

The Rev. Mark Terwilliger is pastor at Beach Lake United Methodist Church in Beach Lake, Pa., and serves on the Susquehanna Conference Food as Radical Hospitality Outreach Task Force.

Tara Barnes is co-editor of United Methodist Women News.

In Economic Downturn, National Mission Institutions a Place to Turn for Help and to Help

by Tiffany Stanley

For six years, Ruth Reyes worked at a discount retail store in the border town of Brownsville, Texas, eventually becoming an assistant manager. Then suddenly in August, she lost her job.

"A lot of us were let go," she said. "Companies are not willing to give hours, and pay cuts are everywhere."

Her story could speak for so many. Since the so-called Great Recession began making headlines in late 2007, there has been no shortage of stories about Americans losing jobs, losing homes and losing hope for a better outcome. More than half of adults in the United States have felt the downturn at work, either in layoffs, pay cuts, or reduced hours. The number of homeowners grappling with foreclosures still has not begun to diminish: news outlets are reporting that one million Americans are on track to lose their homes this year alone.

To keep her own housing, Ms. Reyes sought rental assistance at the Good Neighbor Settlement House, a community center and National Mission Institution of the United Methodist Women in Brownsville. The support was invaluable for the single mother of two, who had a series of setbacks this year. While struggling with her own health she has also been caring for her 20-year-old daughter with rheumatoid arthritis, even opting to buy her cheaper medications across the border in Mexico. Her unemployment only compounded the struggles she already faced.

"I've never been in this situation, but I'm a survivor," Reyes said. "I'm not willing to give up."

Compounded Problems: The Current Economy Leaves Few Choices for Many

Good Neighbor Settlement House is just one of over one hundred National Mission Institutions, which are supported by United Methodist Women Mission Giving and which exist as centers of refuge in times of crisis. But what happens when personal calamities include a national economic crisis?

"One of the effects of the recession is that folks who are already at a disadvantage have a tougher time," said the Rev. Diane Moseley, who for more than 30 years has led the Killingsworth Home, a residential community for women and a National Mission Institution in Columbia, S.C.

Killingsworth residents are women in transition, many of whom have criminal records or a history of addiction. Yet the program aims to get their participants into fruitful jobs—a tough order in this economy, especially in South Carolina, which has the sixth highest unemployment rate in the country according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

As Ms. Moseley said of her residents, "They are competing for jobs with people laid off ... who have 10 years of experience and college degrees. [They're] competing with these people for a job at Sonic."

With few options and steep competition, the women are taking less desirable jobs. Ms. Moseley said residents are struggling to find full-time work with benefits, and on-the-job treatment has been difficult.

In July, Sandra Adams moved to Killingsworth after completing a five-year prison term, and she found part-time work through a temporary labor agency.

Waking at 3:30 a.m. to wait in line, on good days she would be offered work on an assembly line at a local food processing plant, putting cheese on frozen potato skins. According to Ms. Moseley, two women from Killingsworth had not been able to take the freezing temperatures of the warehouse, but Ms. Adams said she persevered: "The faster you work, the warmer you are."

In September, the processing plant offered Ms. Adams a full-time position with benefits, and she said she couldn't be happier. "For me to turn my life around and for somebody to give me a chance, that means the world to me," Ms. Adams said. "I will forever be grateful to Killingsworth and my boss for not looking at the person I used to be but looking at the person I have become."

But others have not been so fortunate or optimistic. Former resident Yvonne Kelly got a food preparation job at a local restaurant. Then this past spring she went to work for her regularly scheduled shift, only to find the doors locked. The restaurant had closed for business, without any warning to the staff. "I didn't know what to do," she said. "I just stood there for about 10 minutes. I started sweating, having an anxiety attack. It had to sink in." Ms. Kelly, along with several other employees, never received her final paycheck.

Abuses like this are not uncommon in hard economic times. Kim Bobo, executive director of Interfaith Worker Justice in Chicago, has noticed wage reductions at some companies, not out of necessity but out of opportunity. With so many workers vying for jobs, employers may be tempted to offer lower wages—or withhold payments entirely. "It's having a direct

effect in terms of employers being emboldened not to pay people and people being more fearful than ever of speaking up," Ms. Bobo said. "Part of the reason why this is such a threat is that workers are terrified to lose their job because they won't be able to get another."

Communities of Hope: Organizations Struggle to Keep Up with the Need

The mission partners of the United Methodist Women have long found a way to provide for those in need, but the current economy means the volume of those needs has become even greater while the funding has remained static or decreased.

"If there is a food chain of giving, we are seeing a decline," said Ms. Moseley. She understands that some donors must decide between paying their tithes and paying their mortgage, even if it means mission institutions suffer. "There's less giving people can do because there's less to give, not because they don't want to," she added.

Cheryl Pugh has seen the struggles of such nonprofits as both an employee and as a recipient of services. Even with a graduate degree in clinical psychology, she has been laid off three times in the past three years, and she is still struggling to find long-term employment.

"Despite having a doctorate degree and thinking I am economically viable, I am still affected," she said. Ms. Pugh specializes in counseling at social service organizations, which have been hit hard by layoffs and cuts in government funding.

When Ms. Pugh faced financial troubles, she turned to the Marcy-Newberry Association, Inc., a multisite National Mission Institution based in Chicago.

She found affordable child care for her two children in the organization's school-age program, and the staff even gave her a part-time job. While she looked for full-time work, she assisted with their Alvin D. Sims Scholarship program, which provides tuition assistance for elementary students attending private schools.

Ms. Pugh is thankful for their support, especially at a time when she knows they are feeling the economic downturn, just like other nonprofits where she has worked.

"I would just have to say that Marcy-Newberry, despite their own economic, financial challenges, that they are there for their community," she said. "They are the backbone. Whatever support they can find, they find a way."

A Call for Action

United Methodist Women are called to find whatever support they can, whenever and wherever they can. Despite the far reach of the economic downturn, individuals and groups across the greater United Methodist Church are heeding the Social Principles, which dictate that "as a church, we are called to support the poor and challenge the rich," even when the challenges faced are felt across income brackets. Last spring, the United Methodist Council of Bishops voted to take a pay cut, and congregants around the country are still giving of their time and their paychecks. Some churches are hosting their own support groups for job seekers, and the unemployed are even filling their time by volunteering at organizations like National Mission Institutions. Together, United Methodists are finding creative ways to cope financially and emotionally and to foster resilience in their communities.

To find out more about the organizations here or other National Mission Institutes, visit http://gbgm-umc.org/who_we_are/cim/NMIs.cfm.

A former young adult missionary, Tiffany Stanley is a writer in Washington, D.C.



West Jefferson United Methodist Women present a check for \$11,000 to the the Ashe County Free Medical Clinic

West Jefferson United Methodist Women Present Check to Free Clinic

by Ron Fitzwater

The hardworking ladies of the West Jefferson United Methodist Church in West Jefferson, N.C., were all smiles as they presented a check for \$11,000 to the board of directors of the Ashe County Free Medical Clinic (ACFMC).

The money was raised at the group's Festival of Tables held at the church on Sept. 11 that featured a lunch buffet on tables specially decorated by community artisans. The annual event raises money for the clinic, which is an extension of the church's community ministry.

Harold Parks, Chairman of the ACFMC board, said that the donation was a wel-

come thing in today's economy:

The United Methodist women have done this for the clinic two years in a row and this check here is about \$3,000 more than last year's, and we are so very pleased that the ladies have done this for us. There are a lot of organizations they could choose to benefit and we are just pleased that we are the ones chosen.

The money will go into the clinic's general budget and be used for medical supplies the clinic uses to treat Ashe County citizens, and Mr. Parks wants everyone who participated in the fundraiser to know that "every dollar will go directly to patient care."

The ACFMC (www.acfmc.org) provides services not offered by the county health department for qualified persons between the ages of 19 and 64. The clinic has been operating since 2006 and provides a vast array of services to residents. Patients at the clinic can receive referrals to outside physicians who provide them care at greatly reduced rates or at times at no charge at all. They can get prescription medications at cost through local pharmacies and have lab work done through a local hospital.

Ron Fitzwater is a writer for the *Mountain Times* in West Jefferson, N.C. This article appeared in the October 22 edition of the *Mountain Times* (www.mountaintimes.com)

Worship Storytellers

by Ellen Wagester

Recently, members of the United Methodist Women's unit of the Davison United Methodist Church in Davison, Mich., created a worship service to enlighten the congregation on the importance of their work in missions. Mission Giving blesses women around the world, and a face was given to 11 such women through storytelling. Using **response** magazine as a source of inspiration, the participants dressed in the traditional and cultural garb of the women they represented and presented her story. In addition, other members of the congregation wore nametags of women from the Congo, Serbia, Honduras, Bolivia, Cambodia, Kenya, Sudan, India and Palestine who were featured in

response to take on the identity of these women.

The Davison United Methodist Women has a budget of \$11,000, and the women who participate take very seriously the work God has called them to do. This yearly worship service gives the unit the opportunity to remind the church family that Mission Giving makes a difference in the lives of women and children around the world and encourages all United Methodist Women members to become active in the organization so that they too can follow God's call to care for and feed God's sheep.

Ellen Wagester is the president of the Davison United Methodist Women, Davison United Methodist Church, Detroit Conference.



Davison United Methodist Women members dressed in traditional clothing of women around the world to teach about the importance of Mission Giving

United Methodist Women Website



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