

Prairie Rivers Journal

May 2017

Message from the District Co-President

We are a community of Women

Gathered from East and West, South and North

We are a community of Women

Suffering for Christ and rising with Christ. We are a community of women who are inheritors of our foremothers' vision and dreams.

The first **Great Plains Conference Retreat** was held April 28-30 at Camp Comeca. Fifty some ladies from Nebraska and Kansas attended.....a wonderful time to bond with our UMW sisters in Kansas. Plans are being made to have a second and a third retreat in the future.

The time was spent on studying three women in the Bible – Tamar (read Genesis 38), Rahab (read Joshua 2: 1-24), and Ruth (read the book of Ruth). After reading each one of these scriptures the **FAMA (Facts, Association, Meaning, and Action)** methodology was used for discussion time. This can be used in your Bible Study groups or Circles.

F -- What do you see?

What do you see in this story?

What do you think is happening?

A -- How do you feel/ associate?

How do you think the persons in the story are feeling?

Have you ever felt like one of them or some of them?

M -- What does it mean to me?

What are the key concepts in the story?

What are the struggles or challenges?

What is the root cause of the struggle or challenge?

A -- What can I/ We do?

Where is God in the story?

What are some of the moments in your life when you felt called by God?

This '**BIBLE WOMEN PROGRAM**' is being used around the world to prepare women to lead a Christian life and to guide other women.

Due to the unfavorable weather, we were not able to explore the campus. But, after visiting with the new director, there was a feeling of **Renewal** and commitment to the future of Comeca. Those of us in attendance felt the connection to our time at Camp Comeca many years ago!!

Roberta Cool bcool@hamilton.net 402-631-7154

Please copy and share this newsletter with the ladies in your local unit and the ladies in your church. Also, pass the word and a copy of the registration form for Mission u in Kearney. Registration forms for Salina and Topeka can be found at greatplainsumc.org/umw .

Message from the District Co-Vice President

"Sharing Joy Through Missions" has been our Prairie Rivers District theme this year. From its beginning, United Methodist Women has focused on ministries with women, children, and youth. At our recent District Spring Meeting we became more aware and learned about the plight of women subjected to human trafficking from Melissa Kometscher, a specialist from The Salvation Army's Fight to End Trafficking. A few of the key points she made were: **Human Trafficking Happens Here!** Most victims will not be able to identify that they are even being trafficked. We need to be alert and when we suspect something, report it. Get more information at NoTrafficking.org

At our 2017 District Fall Meeting, we are planning to continue our interest in serving others by meeting at the **Columbus First United Methodist Outreach Center**, an outreach ministry of Columbus First United Methodist Church. We will explore outreach missions. And as a part of our program we will be learning more about the mentally ill. Come be a part of a great day of learning how to serve the marginalized.

Jesus said, **"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."** Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

Jackie Pope

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Message from the District Treasurer

Calendar year 2017 is rolling right along. A special Thank You to all of you Local Unit Treasurers who have been so faithful in sending remittances. During the first quarter I received nearly \$19,000 in Mission Giving which was forwarded to the conference office. Great Job!

If your local unit ordered corsages or cards, and have not received them, please let me know and I will get them right out to you. Currently I have a good supply of corsages on hand.

The 2013-16 UMW Handbook lists five channels of Mission Giving on pages 70-71. Previously, I was not familiar with #4. Gift in Memory. In April I received a few stubs from these cards and wasn't sure what to do with them.

The Handbook reads: "A gift (minimum of \$5) is made in memory of a member of the group or a friend. Gift acknowledgment cards are available free (except for postage) in packages of 10 from United Methodist Women Mission Resources and can be ordered at any time and kept on hand for future need. When a Gift in Memory is made, the donor gives her gift amount to the local or district group's treasurer along with the tear-off portion of the card and sends the card to the family of the deceased."

I just checked my box and discovered that I have over 100 of these cards in stock. I would be glad to send you one or more, at your request, along with any other items you order. Or, please ask for them at the Fall District Meeting.

Linda Cox, 654 N Central Ave., Superior, NE 68978 phone: 402-200-1035;

e-mail: coxcpa@superiorinet.net

Message from the District Journey in Growth Coordinator

You know my mission is to increase our membership by addressing all women of our local and global happenings. Aside from inviting those women to our events, I had mentioned we show ourselves doing our activities in a joyous and successful manner.

Our youth at Columbus First do service projects to raise money for mission trip and they post a sign who they are. They made three kinds of pie one Saturday, all 172 of them. We went from church one Sunday to do community projects, like litter pick-up, painting, made gifts for shut-ins and etc.

I have said these women need not be an United Methodist women nor from in town.

Shalom, **Mae Water** rmwate@frontier.com 402-563-3944

Message from the District Journey in Faith Coordinator

First of all, thank you to the Units who sent in the names of their departed United Methodist Women. I would suggest that Unit Presidents appoint someone to keep a running list of the women in your Unit who pass away during the year and ask that person to be responsible for sending me that information by the January 15, 2018 deadline.

Hebrews 11:1 says: ***Now FAITH is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. FAITH is extremely important. It is by FAITH that we are saved. It is by FAITH that we enter into communication with God (prayer).***

How do we increase, or "build" our FAITH? Praying specific prayers and watching how God answers them can be an extraordinary means of growing our FAITH. Try it, you'll like it!

Sharon Berry -- jberry@neb.rr.com 402-366-8394

Message from the District Journey in Action Coordinator

Greetings: I want to tell you what a learning experience I had at the 2017 Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day on Feb. 11, 2017. How many of you went? I hope a lot of you. If not your unit should send you to the one in 2018. It is part of our job to be informed and to tell the others what we have learned. I chose Mental Health and Immigration and Human Trafficking. I saw in the papers and news media that Nebraska has a lot of human trafficking going on now here! Be alert and when you suspect something, report it. Some key things to look for are those who are wandering around, disoriented, do not have access to their personal identification, and they may have an older person with them.. Most victims will not identify they are being trafficked. For more info visit

NOTrafficking.org

At the Spring District meeting in Hastings, if you were there you might have heard me say this, but just in case you were not there what I said is that I Challenge all Journey in Action persons in our District to send me a report of at least one or two things that they are doing for Social Action in their UMW unit either by email or by telephone. I think you should all toot your horns for the work that you are doing for women and children everywhere. Ramona Ellison of Rising City UMW reported by email to me that they sent 30 hand sewn school bags to UMCOR, money and in kind gifts to Epworth, Christmas plates to shut ins, and are using Response for Climate Justice and Immigration. Hooray for your unit!! Ramona, thank you.

Remember: When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them. When you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

Keep up the good work!!

Donna Arndt ra41902@windstream.net 402-751-2614

Calander of Events

Mission u in Salina July 16-20 Register by July 1

In Kearney July 28-30 Register by July 1

In Topeka August 18-19 Register by Aug 1

Conference Annual Fall Meeting September 29-30 at York UMC

District Fall Meeting October 14 at Columbus UMC

National Assembly May 18-20, 2018 in Columbus, Ohio Early registration by Nov 30, 2017

Message from the District Journey in Giving Coordinator

Romans 1:11-12 *I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong-that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.*

Mission u is just around the corner and I want to urge all to attend. There are several options and days so I hope one will fit your schedule. The Spiritual Growth study this year is: **A covenantal Community**. The Geographic study is: **The Missionary Conferences**. These two studies will be held at all three sites. The Issue study is: **Climate Justice** will only be held at the Salina site. Mission u at Kansas Wesleyan, Salina is a study for adults, children and youth, July 16-21. Mission u at the Holiday Inn in Kearney is an adult only studies , July 28-30. Mission u at Topeka, Kansas will be adult only studies, August 18-19. These studies will open your eyes and give you a new insight on some situations you never considered.

For costs and registrations forms, go to greatplainsumc.org/umw . The weekend in Kearney is full of new and exciting information and much networking with fellow UMW women. Please consider coming. No one has left there not feeling blessed in some way that I know of. To get the most from your studies, you will want to get and read the resource books before attending. It will help you get the most out of your time in class. The books can be ordered from the resource center.

If you have any questions, please contact me.....

Mary Bilsend hyannis1@kdsi.net 308-583-2373 (you can leave a message)

Message from the District Chairman of Nominations

Have you heard the call to join the awesome Prairie Rivers Team?

Looking ahead, the Nominations Committee is asking for nominations for the office of Secretary, the office of Communication Coordinator and the Committee on Nominations. These nominees will be presented for voting and installation during the Fall meeting to fill the slate of officers for the year 2018.

Briefly, duties of the Secretary are to take minutes at all meetings, prepare an attendance report at the Spring and Fall Meetings and prepare the Yearly District Directory.

Duties of Communication Coordinator are to prepare the newsletter. Each person on the district team is responsible for writing an article for the newsletter. The Coordinator then compiles these writings into a newsletter, along with calendar of events and registration information of meetings. Newsletters are scheduled for February, May and August.

The Committee on Nominations will have room for one to two additional members.

This group recruits nominees to join the Prairie Rivers team, maintains a term and tenure ledger, creates articles for each newsletter.

Consider taking a Leap of Faith and join the team!

Current Committee on Nominations members:

Chair: Reva Hendrickson	revajeane@charter.net	308-381-3722
Debbie Albers	planetdebi@yahoo.com	402-621-0267
Kathy Ring	kathyring3@gmail.com	402-613-3008

Thank you

Have a great summer! See you at Mission u! See you at the Fall District Meeting!

