



# Blue River Ripple



- One Day Mission u Study—March 15 in Beatrice NE Deadline for registering March 5 (flyer in front of newsletter)
- Spring Event—April 5 Waverly NE Deadline for registering March 26 for a "count " for planning (flyer in front of newsletter)
- No articles from the President or Vice President available.

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## EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

New Year's Greeting to all the UMW organization E&I Mission coordinator or Presidents.

Mission Giving: Your organization's Pledge to Mission is very important because it helps us plan the year ahead. Included with our pledges are the money from the Cor-sages we purchase, the Dedicated Light and Special Mission Recognitions, Mission cards and Gifts in Memory. Also the World Thank Offering goes to Missions. These are very important because they support the lives and work of many missionaries at home and around the world. UMW supported mission

intern David Hosey tells us that "Mission is presence, relationship, witness and sharing.

Mission is refusing to turn away when the tears of God are being shed over the violence and injustice and suffering of God's wayward creation."

It is very important that we help support our local missions through contributions of money and in-kind gifts to Epworth Village ([www.epworthvillage.org](http://www.epworthvillage.org)) and United Methodist Ministries ([www.bigmuddyumc.org](http://www.bigmuddyumc.org)).

Also purchasing items through Equal Exchange Fairly Traded helps to

create stronger local communities, a more just food system and a healthier planet.

Education: The Response magazine and the reading program lets you know what is going on with the organization and around the world. Keep informed. This way you can better learn how your mission dollars are at work.

Agnes Morehead

Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

402-742-9568

amorris4@neb.rr.com

## From the Secretary Pen

I've been watching as my daughter's family has experienced a major change: the addition of a new baby. Mama and Daddy are figuring out new routines while functioning on little sleep, two-year old big sister is learning what it means

to no longer be an only child, and even the pets seem a little bewildered by this tiny new presence in the house.

Undoubtedly there will be members of your United Methodist Women

local organizations who will experience life changes during the coming months, some happy, some sad, some planned, and some unexpected. There may be instances when these changes will mean someone needs to step down



## Experiencing Changes

from a UMW office or, conversely, that she will find herself now able to step up to assume a new responsibility. If your local organization has officer changes during the year, the secretary should let me know so I can update records and notify the other district officers. If you have email access, the most reliable way to contact me is at

[igetman@windstream.net](mailto:igetman@windstream.net).  
(Mentioning UMW in the

subject line makes it less likely that it will get lost in all my other emails.)

Joyce Gettman  
Secretary  
402-782-8235

[igetman@windstream.net](mailto:igetman@windstream.net)



## Encourage Your Church to Read

Greetings from Beatrice! I want to say warm greetings but it's cold out- side. Days like this I am truly thankful for a warm home.

This time let's start something that most likely hasn't been done before.

First allow me to make a suggestion to try to in-

terest more persons to read in your church. Yes, church is correct. This Reading Program can include others beside UMW members. So here's the idea:

Make a note with the name of some books or location of books etc. (Whatever you wish). You could use a recipe card or card stock and

attach a teabag, (to promote Equal Exchange), "Now's a good time to read; brew a cup of tea and curl up with a book you."

Now it's your turn; send me an E-mail and let us know what you do to promote reading in your church.

[ellieq2@yahoo.com](mailto:ellieq2@yahoo.com) I will make an effort to

## Send Your Ideas

send you some ideas that others have shared.

Also listen to what persons say about the books and send those to me as well. Let's not do a book review but just a line or two about what someone learned or thought interesting. Again E-mail. I will try to reply so you know

that it was received in hopes you will do the same.

Here's what I heard at our meeting: Judy told us there are new books on the shelf and gave us a title: An Invisible Thread by Laura Schroff ; a story of an 11 year old panhandler in New York City and the lady he

stops on the street asking for money for food. It takes place over many years and many "firsts" that she treats him to in his life. Things that he would never be able to see or do without her. Judy says, "Everyone should read this book even if they are not taking part in the Reading



## One Day Mission u Study In Beatrice

Program.”

In March Beatrice is hosting a One Day Mission u Study: (See flyer in this Ripple). The two books listed are also on the Reading Program. (Great way to add to the list you’ve read and learn more.) Also read more about The Roma in Response, May, 2013 and July/August 2013, and New World Outlook, May/June 2013. Hope to see many of you there.

Many of you are more

acquainted with the Reading Program than I, but doing a little research I wish to be sure you all have the Reading Program

Flyer available from UMW Mission Resources. Go to:

[www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org) and you may order them (free); also there is a “eBooks” choice on the side for books available to be loaded on a kindle plus more information.

Looking forward to a

great year of reading and learning more about the Reading Program. Remember your lists of books read are due in June.



## Contact Me

Feel free to call or e-mail me at the following;

Ellie Quiring  
Secretary of Program Resources  
608 South 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Beatrice, NE. 68310  
402-223-1477

[ellieq2@yahoo.com](mailto:ellieq2@yahoo.com)

One Day Mission u studies are :  
The Call: Living Sacramentally Walking Justly - lead by Rev. Stephen Griffiths and The People of Roma lead by Rev. Lyn Seiser.

## Learning About Bills

It’s January and I’m suffering from the winter doldrums! The hectic (though wonderful) holiday season is over, it’s cold and windy outside, and all I want to do is wrap up in the wonderful flannel blanket my daughter-in-law made for me and read or watch television. Yet

this should be the time of year for reflection on what we can do, especially as United Methodist Women, to stand up and speak out for women, children, and youth.

One thing we can do is learn about bills being

introduced in the Nebraska legislature since it is now in session. You can keep informed about proposed legislation through newspapers and news programs, United Methodist Women, United Methodist organizations, and nonprofit organizations.





## Use a Handwritten Note

Another source of information on proposed legislation is [www.nebraskalegislature.org](http://www.nebraskalegislature.org). This website provides the names and addresses of state senators, bills that have been proposed and their status, the name of the senator who proposed the bill, etc.

lature at the Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day. Plan to attend in 2015. It is always on the second Saturday in February, and is a great source of information on working for justice issues.

if she felt the legislation affected justice issues. Contacting our state senators is something we all can do whether by a handwritten note, e-mail, or phone call. Sally preferred to use a handwritten note, because she said it seemed to make more of an impact on the senator. I was always amazed at the number of replies she received, but I think senators like to hear what their constituents

We can also learn about issues that are currently before or may come before the Nebraska legis-

Sally Basham, a member of my United Methodist Women unit who is now deceased, always kept up with proposed legislation and contacted a number of state senators

## STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT!



think about a proposed bill.

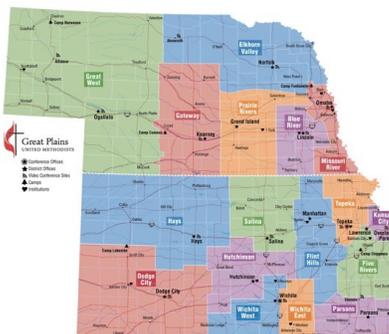
negatively affects women, children, and youth, and we have not spoken out, we have to wonder if we could have made a difference.

Donna Dornbusch  
Mission Coordinator for Social Action  
402-483-6312  
[ad24734@windstream.net](mailto:ad24734@windstream.net)

If we, as United Methodist Women, don't stand up and speak out for justice issues, who will. If legislation passes because we as United Methodist Women have spoken out, it is an accomplishment. But if legislation passes that

STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT!!

## Now the Great Plains Conference



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hope Christmas was meaningful for you this year.

exciting time for all the UMW members to work together as a contributing body.

the local organizations, particularly the new 2014 Remittance Form (which will hopefully be easier to use than the old form.). This packet was sent out in November so I am hoping that the local treasurers have received these forms. If you have not, please contact me as soon as

As of January 1, 2014, the Nebraska Annual Conference has joined with the two Kansas Conferences to form the Great Plains Annual Conference. New leadership for this association has been formed and it is an

Even though there may be a few changes on the district level, the procedures for the local organizations will virtually stay the same. A packet of forms and information have been sent out to

## Deadline of April 15, 2014

possible and I will send you the packet of information.

Within this packet of forms, the form for the 2015 Pledge to Mission needs to be filled out for your local organization. Yes, this is for **2015**. I know this seems a little early but this calculation for the Blue River District need to be submitted to the Annual Conference by May, 2014. Therefore, please send back this form no later than

April 15, 2014 to me. If you have any questions, please call me at 402-310-6627 or email me at [cgewiss@gmail.com](mailto:cgewiss@gmail.com).

On a personal note, you might wonder about a different last name for me so I am very happy to say that I was married in September last year. Some of the communications might not have the new name listed. I still live in Elmwood, have the same phone number (402-310-6627) and the

same email address ([cgewiss@gmail.com](mailto:cgewiss@gmail.com)). Please continue to mail your checks and remittance forms to 308 298<sup>th</sup> Street, Elmwood, NE 68349.

God's Blessing to you,  
Carol Wilhelm  
Blue River District  
Treasurer  
402-310-6627  
[cgewiss@gmail.com](mailto:cgewiss@gmail.com)



## UMCOR Kits Being Collected at the Great Plains Annual Conference

UMCOR Kits will be collected at the Great Plains Annual Conference, June 10-11 in Lincoln, NE. Items received will be sent to the closest depot which is Midwest Mission Distribution Center at Chatham, IL.

The truck will be located

at the Great Plains Lincoln Office, 3333 Landmark Circle. Your registration information will give you details about how to locate this office and hours when your gifts will be received. Hosts at the office will be available to assist with donations on June 10 and June 11, 2014.

Now is a great time to organize your UMW, youth groups, local congregation, etc. in gathering or preparing donations to load into the truck. The best way for you to know how to assemble kits would be to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center website at



## Treadle Sewing Machines Wanted

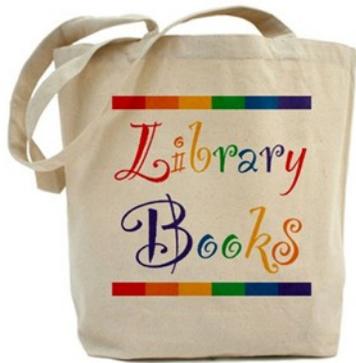
[www.midwestmissiondc.org](http://www.midwestmissiondc.org) and click on Projects or Kits.

Several items currently are greatly needed. Including: treadle sewing machines (MMDC has a repair shop to work on the machines as needed), cloth diapers (a

patterns is available on the MMDC website), receiving blankets and hand towels. Any of the kits listed on the website will be received and welcomed. If you have questions about MMDC, current needs and ways to motivate participation in this

mission giving, please contact Mary Ann Bede at [stringbedes@windstream.net](mailto:stringbedes@windstream.net) or [402-421-8264](tel:402-421-8264).





## The Great Plains Conference UMW Library Invites You to Be A Reading Program Participant

What a great, inexpensive way to participate in the United Methodist Women's Reading Program. The Great Plains Conference UMW Library is housed at Christ United Methodist Church. Christ UMC is located at 4530 "A" Street, Lincoln, NE 68510. You may access the library resources in person or through the mail. Let's get reading! Mary Ann Bede is the Conference Librarian. Mary Ann is avail-

able to assist your local organization in selecting and checking out books from the UMW Reading Program. Whether it be one book, four books or ten books, the Conference Librarian can help you get started in utilizing this amazing Great Plains UMW resource. Procedures for checking out and mailing books can be requested by emailing Mary Ann at [stringbedes@windstream.net](mailto:stringbedes@windstream.net) OR by phone:

402-421-8264.

The library is open the first three Thursday mornings of each month from 9-11 a.m. OR by calling (402-421-8264) for an appointment. To visit the library, park on the north side of Christ UMC and check in at the office for directions to the library. The library is elevator accessible. Together we will be educated and entertained with thought-filled books!

## Become an Epworth Partner Today

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14*

Epworth Partners is your opportunity to develop a **personal relationship** with Epworth Village and ensure the future of this important

ministry of **hope & healing**

An Epworth Partner prayerfully commits to

- pray regularly for Epworth Village
- stay informed about Epworth Village

- consider a regular monthly gift to Epworth Village

**Epworth Village exists to provide family-centered treatment and bring wholeness to youth and families**

# Epworth Partners



## Helping Families for 120 years

**in a compassionate and caring manner. The work of Epworth Village is an active and living part of bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ! It is a healing ministry that touches the lives of children, youth, and**

**families who have a need to experience the healing, caring love of Christ**

*For more information or to schedule a speaker at your church, please contact*

**Epworth Partner Coordinator  
Harrietta Reynolds  
308-940-0147  
[hrepartner@ymail.com](mailto:hrepartner@ymail.com)**

## Keeping connected

Keeping connected is what makes the United Methodist Women so unique. We are 1million strong and growing. We are connected in our local churches and brought together by our districts. We have enlarged our conference to the Great Plains, joining the Jurisdiction and keep connecting until we reach Globally!

A lot of changes are in our future and we need

to be patience as the transition takes place. Finding the answers sometimes means doing some research that can take sometime with everyone's busy schedule.

I have been asked about the new website for our conference and do have a little information for you. If you go to [www.greatplainsumc.org](http://www.greatplainsumc.org) you will be at the new Great Plains UMC website. On the right side of

the page you will see where you can click on the link to United Methodist Women, and then on the Blue River District.

Keeping informed is so very important in this transition time and that is where my job comes in. I will try and keep you informed by the newsletter but also by email. Please add [umwblueripple@gmail.com](mailto:umwblueripple@gmail.com)

## Add [umwblueripple@gmail.com](mailto:umwblueripple@gmail.com) To Your Contacts

to your contacts to ensure that the Blue River Ripple News Flash reaches your inbox.

I know that everyone doesn't have email so please try to share all of the News Flashes your received with everyone.

It is really important that

you also keep me informed of address, email, and even phone numbers that change. The biggest expense to mail out the newsletter isn't the postage but the cost of printing it and then the cost of the returned newsletter because someone has moved.

If you send an email that I don't respond to with in a few days please give me a call on my cell phone and leave a message if I don't answer. 402-223-9203

I will try and send out all the book reviews, special events at your church, bazaars, joys and

## Keeping in Touch

concerns you would like advertised.

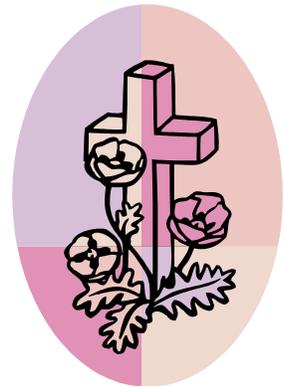
If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email only just send me an email. Also if you know of someone who would like to receive the let me know also.

The next newsletter will be sent out in May. If there is something special or suggestions you have, you can call, mail, or email me.

I'm here to help you keep informed, keep in touch.

Denise Larsen  
Communications Coordinator

902 S 25th St  
Beatrice NE 68310  
402-223-9203  
[umwblueripple@gmail.com](mailto:umwblueripple@gmail.com)



In Memory of Nancy Miller, Blue River District Committee on Nominations passed away December 14, 2013



## Blue River District UMW

Denise Larsen  
902 S 25th ST  
Beatrice NE 68310

Phone 402-223-9203

E-mail: [umwblueripple@gmail.com](mailto:umwblueripple@gmail.com)

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*Our Journey to  
Wholeness*

[www.greatplainsumc.org/umw](http://www.greatplainsumc.org/umw)



Do you know of someone or maybe it might be you who would like to be on the District Team as Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture and Outreach? Contact Carol King if you are interested.

## Do You Have Fresh Ideas and Want To Make a Difference

A New Year fills us with excitement, opportunities, and energy to go forth into our Blue River District and be part of this strong group of faith-filled women. We look forward to working with you this year to ensure our Executive Board continues to be the panel of spiritual, dedicated women needed to accomplish our mission work into the future. With this being our first full year being a district in the Great Plains conference, it is an exciting time to serve and be a part of the Blue River District governing board.

As you consider the women in your local

church and community, look around for those that are eager to serve, who have fresh ideas and want to make a difference, and the contact the Nominations Committee members with suggestions. In 2014, we will need to fill the following positions for 2015.

- Vice President
- Social Action
- Education and Interpretation

Committee on Nominations

- Two Members

A file is being created to have all of the data on our officers in one place.

Please send us the elected offices you have served in, the year your term will expire if you are a current officer, and how many years you have served the District total. You can contact committee members: Bev Gish, Lavina Schwaninger, Pat Grimes, Rayma Delaney or you may reach me at

[ckking.775@gmail.com](mailto:ckking.775@gmail.com)

Thank you for your assistance in this important task. I look forward to meeting more of you at our upcoming UMW events this year!

Carol King

Nominations Chair

402-435-7050