



# The Vine

## Spring Meeting•April 14th Journey in Planning•Mary Lou DeLong



Winter is almost over and spring around the corner!

Our Spring District meeting is fast approaching. Make plans to attend, it will be well worth attending.

- The meeting will be in Council Grove.
- April 14, Saturday
- 9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m., meet and greet each other.
- 9:30 a.m. the meeting will begin.
- Registration information is on page 3.

Vera Williams will be leading the study, "Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States."

We will be looking at the three conferences

ence and also the Oklahoma Indian mission-

which are the Alaska Conference, Appalachia and the Red Bird Missionary Conference and also the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conferences. We will travel with Vera to the destinations and learn why they are missionary conferences and what caused them to become conferences.

This meeting is open to all UMW members.

**All UMW officers and members are encouraged to attend. It is an opportunity to learn and share time with members from other churches.**

**Be an encourager! Invite other women to go with you.**

Mary Lou DeLong  
Journey in Planning

Flint Hills District  
United Methodist

March 3, 2018

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## Communications•Anna Scharenberg

Greetings fellow UMW members!

I had an exciting fall compiling the list of officers and leaders of the Flint Hills District. Had no idea of how to approach it but I think I have it quite accurate now. I imagine there

rate now. I imagine there will be a few more corrections!☺

I will have copies of this document for presidents to pick up the April 14th meeting. So, see me at the meeting for your copy.

just email me or send a

If you have corrections just email me or send a note. (1751 Road 175, Emporia, Ks 66801)

Anna Scharenberg  
annascharenberg@gmail.com



# Have Ya'll Been Doin' Your Readin'?

Hello to all! I'm writing this from our RV home as my husband and I are doing some traveling in the southern parts of the country. We're enjoying seeing and doing on what we're calling our 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary trip and being a part of the Ochlockonee Bay United Methodist Church family as we temporarily reside in a RV park in the small community of Panacea south of Tallahassee, FL. It's been grand to celebrate this milestone in our lives and do some leisurely traveling!

However, Anna Scharenberg, our dutiful communications sister sent out a friendly reminder that articles were due for The Vine. So, it's back to reality and back to my title question - Have ya'll been doin' your readin'? I do hope so.

The following poem credited to Dr. Seuss that I displayed on a poster in my Language Arts classroom in my teaching days comes to mind...



**The more you read, the more you know.**

**The more you know, the smarter you grow.**

**The smarter you grow, the stronger your voice when speaking your mind or making your choice.**

The words of that poem lead me to ask if that isn't exactly what we want to be able to do as United Methodist Women in living out our mission statement and promoting our mission focus areas - to grow smarter through our reading and grow more knowledgeable so that we can speak out with stronger voices?

That reminds me of the article in the December 2017 issue of "Response" titled "Using Our Voices" by Cynthia Godsey, language coordinator for the Texas Conference of UMW. She spurs us on with this article heading statement: "Together United Methodist Women can be a chorus of many voices putting faith, hope and love into action." Reading brings us into awareness of many issues that undermine women, children and youth - our mission focus groups. "Stronger voices" also reminds me of the "Speaking Out for Justice" article in the same issue reporting that "United

Methodist Women members ask the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect the vulnerable." "Stronger voices" also brings to mind the article in the January 2018 issue of "Response" titled "Young Women Find Their Voices; United Methodist Women Trains young women in Vietnam to be leaders for peace." This training involved women's leadership workshops and Bible studies. Reading was an integral part of this UMW sponsored empowerment training for young women to use their voices to advocate for peace. The examples of reading enabling stronger voices to speak out on issues go on and on.

On a personal note, if I had not read **Just Mercy** from the UMW 2016 Social Action titles, I would not have readily recognized the book in the Rosa Parks Museum gift store when visiting the museum while in Montgomery, AL. Because of my knowledge of the book through UMW reading, I commented about it to the clerk at the museum store. He also had read the book and made me aware that the Equal Justice Initiative legal offices of author Bryan Stevenson were just three blocks away. I certainly could not pass up the opportunity to visit the EJI offices and possibly be able to personally meet the author. My husband and I made the short walk to the EJI offices, but Mr. Stevenson was out of the offices at that time working on the *From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration* museum EJI is working in partnership on to present the history of racial injustice in America. Knowledge through reading helps connect pieces on life's journey.

**The more you read, the more you know.**

**In this Lenten season, I end with a quote from John Wesley:**

***"It cannot be that the people should grow in grace unless they give themselves to reading. A reading people will always be a knowing people."***

Grow in knowledge and grace. Do your reading.

Judeen Bachura

Secretary of Program Resources

## Journey in Growth •Cathryn Harrison

Thank you to each of you that submitted your membership numbers on line, and sent me a copy. I know it may have seemed a little confusing the first time, but you did very well.

Just a reminder the new web page is:

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2017](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2017)

When I do this, a tutorial pops up for explanation. It is truly very easy to add the data. I will be happy to do it for you if needed.

As we are adding and subtracting from our membership rosters, look back at what keeps a member, what helps a member grow, in her faith and service, and appreciate the hard work of our lost members.

Did you purchase a Dedicated light in recognition of a special person to your unit?

Blessings for 2018, keep warm, I am saying that this date as I am freez-

Have you submitted  
your membership  
numbers?

ing.

In His Service for women, children and persons in need, United Methodist Women.

Happy New Year to you All

Cathryn Harrison

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

## Treasurer News•Lucille Constable

Greetings, Ladies

Writing this shortly after finishing the 2017 year. A reminder that your December remittance needs to be in By mid-Dec. District books have to be closed and submitted to Conference so they can finalize their books.

Looking for anyone who would willing to join the District Team-my term is up this year. So, we need someone to step forward and accept the treasurer's position. I know there are many capable people out there. There are several other positions that need volunteers also!

Join the team!

Yours in Christ, Lucille Constable

### Registration for Spring Meeting•April 14th

The cost is \$8.00

Deadline is: Friday, April 6th

No refunds are given. If you are unable to come you may send someone in your place.

If you are unable to get someone to come remember the cost of the meal goes to help the local UMW in their missions.

Mail Lucille Constable your registration with your check or you may email your registration and bring a check to the meeting.

Email address: [lvcwhitecitygirl@gmail.com](mailto:lvcwhitecitygirl@gmail.com)

Lucille Constable, 2429 12<sup>th</sup> Road, Blue Rapids, KS 66411-8616

Directions to this meeting are on the last page.

# Calendar of Events



**District Officers Team Meeting**  
March 24th, Osage City UMC, 9:00 a.m.  
All district officers are to attend.



**Spring Meeting for all UMW members.**  
April 14th, Council Grove. Meeting starts with a 9:00-9:30, sign in and morning treats. Meeting starts at 9:30 a.m.

(Call your members, encourage all to attend. Many times there are people who would be interested if they are asked. Offer to arrange car pooling, mark your calendars for this day!)



**UMW National Assembly, May 18-20**  
Columbus, OH



**Great Plains United Methodist Church Conference, Wichita, KS**  
June 13-16



**Mission U, Salina, KS**  
July 15-19

July 27-29 **Mission U Weekend Event**  
Kearney, N Holiday Inn

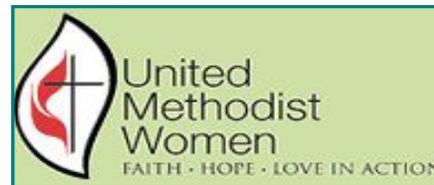


**Mission U in Topeka**  
August 17-18



**Great Plains UMW Annual Meeting**  
Sept. 14-15, Leawood, KS  
Church of the Resurrection

Wouldn't it be great for our District to be well represented at this meeting? Talk to other units-let's have people there!



## The Purpose of United Methodist

The United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

## Building Community

United Methodist Women is a supportive community that builds, expands and strengthens relationships by inviting others to participate in our work and mission, and joining others in participation in their work.

- Visit and establish a relationship with a nearby United Methodist Women's group, or women's groups of other faith expressions.
- Enlist non-members to share experience and expertise in planning and presenting a program or educational opportunity.
- with other groups in your congregation that share common interests, e. g., youth group, United Methodist Men, mission or church and society committees.
- Attend United Methodist Women district and conference events

## Flint Hills District Mission Team 2018

<b>President</b> Linda Combes 1051 23 <sup>rd</sup> Road Lebo, KS 66856-9256 620-256-6255 Cell= <a href="tel:620-364-6647">620-364-6647</a> <a href="mailto:lkombes@gmail.com">lkombes@gmail.com</a> 2019	<b>Journey in Planning</b> MaryLou DeLong 1285 Road 210 Emporia, KS 66801-7938 620-342-7303 <a href="mailto:delong@yahoo.com">delong@yahoo.com</a> 2019	<b>Secretary</b> Anita McDiffett P.O. Box 1 Alta Vista, KS 66834-0001 785-499-2995 <a href="mailto:almgret@ksu.edu">almgret@ksu.edu</a> 2019	<b>Treasurer</b> Lucille Constable 2429 12 <sup>th</sup> Road Blue Rapids, KS 66411-8616 785-363-7581 <a href="mailto:lvwhitecity-girl@gmail.com">lvwhitecity-girl@gmail.com</a> 2018
<b>Mission Coordinators</b>			
Journey in Faith  Debbie Tottman 711 Main Osage City, KS 66523-0280 785-523-3000 Dsritz13hotmail.com 2020	Journey in Action  Sheryl Crooks 37965 D Road Alta Vista, KS 66834-8908 785-499-6877 <a href="mailto:scrooks@gmail.com">scrooks@gmail.com</a> 2020	Journey in Learning  Unfilled as of 1/16/18	Journey in Growth  Cathryn Harrison P.O. Box 2035 Emporia, KS 66801-2035 620-803-2323 <a href="mailto:eyesmile-too@yahoo.com">eyesmile-too@yahoo.com</a> 2019
Program Resources  Judeen Bachura 1031 Helmick Road Council Grove, KS 66846-8837 620-767-5507 judbach52@yahoo.com 2018	Communications  Anna Scharenberg 1751 Road 175 Emporia, KS 66801-8113 620-342-6461 <a href="mailto:annascharenberg@gmail.com">annascharenberg@gmail.com</a> 2020	Journey in Giving  Patricia Logan 3593 Wildcat Madison, KS 66805-8526 620-437-6319 <a href="mailto:pj_66852@yahoo.com">pj_66852@yahoo.com</a> 2021	Nominating-Chair  Kathy Weaver 123 N. High Riley, KS 66531-9707 785-485-2000 <a href="mailto:kweaver@twinvalley.net">kweaver@twinvalley.net</a> 2019
Nominating Fay Allison 337 12 <sup>th</sup> Terrace Oketo, KS 66518-8633 785744-3261 <a href="mailto:fandjallison@yahoo.com">fandjallison@yahoo.com</a> 2019	Nominating Nancy Urbauer 104 N. Maple Frankfort, KS 66427-1436 785-292-4383 <a href="mailto:nurbauer@bluevalley.net">nurbauer@bluevalley.net</a> 2019	District Superintendent Claudia Bakely 104 South 4 <sup>th</sup> St. Manhattan, KS 66502-6173 785-776-7730 FlinthillsDS@greatplainsumc.org	

## Notes from Linda Combes•Flint Hills District President

Greetings to all! I come to you as our New Year starts. Have you made any resolutions? Are they broken yet? It is time for new beginnings, new outlooks, for more new things. I am more than ready for spring. I look forward to Lenten season and a bright outlook of a risen Christ.

As I worked on my letter several times, I remember we are about God's work. We must remember God has chosen us for this work because of our faith. If you think you are unworthy, remember God chose Moses (a murderer) he chose David (an adulterer) and the list goes on and on. He made them worthy and capable. Remember God is here. If you are asked to serve say "Yes"!

*"And we know all things work together for good by those who love God, by those who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28*

We need officers, please say yes when called to serve. I know that you will be glad you did. You have so much to give. The friends you make along the way are so caring.

*"But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead." James 2:20* We work because of our faith. Faith comes first, then works, giving and caring.

I close with a reminder of the Spring Meeting at Council Grove United Methodist Church on April 14. Vera Williams our past President will lead the study on "The Five Conferences of the United Methodist Church."

With Christ's Love. Linda K. Combes, FHD President

## Like us on Facebook

For those of you who are on Facebook the Flint Hills District has a Facebook page. Log into Facebook and search for: Flint Hills District UMW. Since it is a closed group for our purposes you need to click the word "JOIN" under the picture. Then you will be approved and you can post to the site, read things other UMW members post.

Flint Hills  
District  
UMW  
Facebook Info

## Secretary Notes•Anita McDiffett

Happy New Year! I wish you happy and healthy 2018. I can't believe how fast the years go by nowadays!

My church hosted one of the UMW Presidents meetings earlier this year, and though it was a small group, the discussion was informative as well as lively. With all of us facing issues, whatever they be may be, it's great when we can share with others what works for us and hear their stories

and get ideas from others to try.

New friendships are an excellent by-product of being a United Methodist Woman as well as a member of our District UMW team.

Hope to see you in Council Grove for the spring District meeting!

Anita McDiffett

[almgret@ksu.edu](mailto:almgret@ksu.edu)

785-499-2995



# Great Plains President's JoyGram

## Theme 2018: "I Choose HOPE through PRAYER" 1 Thessalonians 5:17

As we begin a New Year and move toward 150 years of Mission Giving for women, children and youth through United Methodist Women; we are provided an appropriate time to imagine how you might offer your growing gifts of the Spirit during times when both people and often-hectic days fill our lives.

We can't give away what we don't possess. As spiritual gifts are born within us, we can bestow blessings on those around us out of the abundant overflow:

*Kindness* - We can shower others with affirmation, encouraging the flickering candle of their best selves to burn more brightly.

*Patience* - We can be more tolerant when things go awry.

*Peace* - We can fill the atmosphere with our own sense of peace, a calm amid the chaos, so that it summons the peace of others.

*Goodness* - We can focus on the positives, rather than the faults, of those around us.

*Generosity* - We can give our full attention to each person, one at a time, not omitting even the most troublesome.

*Self-control* - We can commit ourselves to no outbursts, no irritating reports.

*Joy* - We can be the source of smiles, laughter, and appreciation.

*Love* - We can sift every thought, word, and action through the filter of "Is it loving?"

*Faithfulness* - We can be true to our Christian values of hope and prayer.

## Requirements for 5 Star & 7 Star Giving Units

Pledge to Mission Special Mission Recognition (\$40)  
Gift to Mission Card (\$5 minimum)  
Gift in Memory Card (\$5 minimum)  
World Thank Offering

Pledge to Mission Corsages for Mission (\$5 minimum)  
Dedicated Light (\$45 each)  
Special Mission Recognition (\$40 each)  
Gift to Mission Card (\$5 minimum)  
Gift in Memory Card (\$5 minimum)  
World Thank Offering

## Individuals - "She's a Gem" Recognition is shown in the chart below.

**The 5 National Giving Channels are:** Pledge to Mission Basic Special Mission Recognition - \$40

Gift to Mission Card -\$5 minimum Gift in Memory - \$5 minimum World Thank Offering

**The Great Plains Conference additional Giving Channels** 1) Corsages for Mission - \$1 each 2) Dedicated Light - \$45 3) In Honor or In Memory . The Individual chooses her level of giving, keeps her own record and verifies with her local Treasurer.

Pearl	Ruby	Amethyst	Emerald	Sapphire
Pledge	Pledge	Pledge	Pledge	Pledge
1 SMR	1 SMR	1 SMR	1 SMR & 1 DL	1 SMR & 1 DL
1 GIM	1 GIM & 1 GTM			
World Thank	World Thanks	World Thank	World Thank	World Thank
		5 CM	8 CM	10 CM

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## Flint Hills District United Methodist Women

We are on the web!

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/flintheillsdistrictumw>

Editor: Anna Scharenberg  
annascharenberg@gmail.com

## Flint Hills District UMW



### UMW Biblical Background

Since its founding nearly 150 years ago, the work of each part of the organization is focused on the mission set for us by Jesus Christ, as expressed through the Purpose and lived out through our vision. We follow in the tradition of women like Ruth, who not only spoke words of love to her mother-in-law, Naomi, but acted on them. Ruth was a foreigner who did not know the God her mother-in-law worshiped. However, by staying with Naomi and following God's ways, Ruth provided comfort and hope for a new future. The story of Ruth is the story of faith, hope and love in action—a hallmark of United Methodist Women members. United Methodist Women is organized so that each member may live out her calling and faith story for God's mission. God calls everyday people like us to step out in faith to minister to people in need of God's hope and love in their lives, to walk with them and to be formed ourselves. It could be a mother-in-law, a neighbor or a refugee halfway around the world. The programs of United Methodist Women help accomplish mission and ministry in your personal life, church, community and the world.

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