



Blue River Ripple

It's Election Time

We have a brand new year to celebrate our faith and friendships as United Methodist Women. I hope each of you will prayerfully consider your time and talents in serving on the BRD Executive Board in 2016. Our Nominations Committee members will be looking for you at District Events to tell you about the joys and the concerns in serving. The joys are many. At present, the greatest concern is finding women who are able to replace the dedicated women who have been strong activists on the Executive Board.

We are very grateful to the many wonderful women who have filled different positions over the years. We are in awe of their faith, commitment, and generosity to UMW. We agree that they deserve a rest, and we want to assist in passing the mantle along to others in the District. We need all of us working together in following our purpose.

The following offices will be filled this year and begin their service in 2016:

President, Secretary,

Communication Coordinator, Nominations Committee Chair, Committee on Nominations members (two).



Its Election time.

Attend UMW Sponsored Events

Please spend time in prayer as you discern accepting a position on the District Board.

I encourage you to attend UMW sponsored events. You will enjoy the fellowship, worship, educational opportunities, and meeting new women

from across the District. You will go home from these events feeling inspired and strengthened by the love and support shared by everyone. We are one in Christ's love.

Carol King

402-435-7050
Nominations Chair
clking.775@gmail.com

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Addition Pages

- Copy of the Ballot
- Information on UMCOR Health Kits
- 201 Local Membership Census Form
- Unit Report of Deceased members Form
- Fall Meeting Registration form
- Annual UMW Flier and Registration Form

Journey In Action

Starting January 1, I took over as the Blue River District Journey in Action Leader.

A few updates about the conference and national....

The Great Plains UMW Annual Conference (October 16-17, 2015) project for the fall meeting will be health kits. With the recent earthquakes, floods and natural disasters I think this is a good choice. Instructions on how to put them together are included with this newsletter. (Or find them at



Need for the Health Kits.

<http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Relief-Supply->

[Kits/Health](#)). Help us spread the word.

The 2015 Journey in Action Team Leader for the Great Plains Conference is Jalynn

Nolte(metourdirector@yahoo.com).

The current United Methodist Advocacy Issues are Human Trafficking, Global Migration, Domestic Violence, Climate Change, Gender Justice, Racial Justice, Economic Justice, Health Care and Food Justice. You can find more on these topics on the United

What Are Those Websites?

Methodist Women Website <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do/service-and-advocacy> with an emphasis on Women and Children's Health which can be found at this same website under Health Care. Workshop resources can also be found at <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/action-resources> for Waking in Oak Creek, The Corn Field and The Restaurant.

If you are looking for some local projects to get your UMW involved with.....

If you are looking for some local projects to get your UMW involved with....

Epworth Village has seen many changes this last year. And they are still in need of United Methodist

Women's help. You can find their needs list and ways to make a difference on their website at

How Many Labels?

<http://www.epworthvillage.org/support.php>. Did you know they have a goal of getting a new 2015 model van through Campbell's labels? They have 293,806 labels and they need 1,600,000 labels. Clip and send them your Campbell's soup labels.

The Epworth Village Wings newsletter can be found at <http://>

www.epworthvillage.org/documents/EpworthWings0315.pdf

A local project that I plan to help with again this next year is Project Homeless Connect Lincoln that will be held October 29, 2015 at

Pinnacle Bank Arena.

This one day event allows individuals and families who are home-

less a day to receive onsite immediate services. The project I am helping with is serving meals. One way to help with this day is help provide homemade cookies or

I Can Connect YOU!

bars. A second way to help is to help serve food. If you have any interest in providing help, let me know and I will get you connected.

Stacey Brandenburgh

Journey in Action

brandenburghs@yahoo.com

402-560-0529



**One way to
serve!**

List for 2016 Reading Program Coming

Have you had a chance to read this summer? Sometimes rainy days are good but also may be a good time to sleep. We've had plenty rain, but some of you have really gotten soaked.

I called the Resource Center about a week ago and they said that they are working on the list for the 2016 Reading Program and will try and work with us to get the books for

the 29th of August for our District Meeting.

It is helpful if you let me know how many Program Books and Prayer Calendars you need for your unit. This gives me an idea how many to order. Please send me your list as soon as possible. I will need to order the end of July but can add on to the order until August 8.

This way I try to set yours

**Order your
Program Books
and Prayer
Calendars from
me by the end of
July**

List of Readers Due January 2016

aside so you can pay and pick up easily. (No credit cards) However, be sure to stop by the Reading Room and pick them up on the 29th.

Just a reminder that you need not send in the list of your readers until January 2016. You may include books read from June of 2014 until December 31, 2015. The names

will be in the Blue River Spring Retreat Program in April 2016.

Certificates will be included in the packets.

Contact info: ellieq2@yahoo.com
or phone 402-223-1477 or
Ellie Quiring
608 South 25th St.
Beatrice, NE. 68310



**Keep reading through
December!**

The Ability to Connect

One of the most precious aspects of involvement in UMW is the ability to be connected in mission with so many wonderful women from around our district. Staying connected with each other is easier when we share contact information every year. That is why, with your help, we produce an annual directory of local officers that is distributed to our local units and our district and conference officers.

There is a major change happening in the timing of those directories

that you need to be aware of. In the past, we've pushed you to get your officer information for the next year to the district secretary in September. It allowed us to distribute directories at our district annual meeting and to meet the October deadline for turning information over to the conference, but it wasn't



Needing to stay connected

convenient for anyone, especially those local organizations that don't hold elections until later in the fall. Because the Great Plains Conference has changed its schedule, you now have until December 1 to get your information to me and directories will be distributed at the Spring Event rather than the fall annual meeting.

Information Need for the Directories

Another change is that we are not sending out a directory form for you to complete. Simply send me the following information:

- Your local church name
- Your UMW meeting day and time
- How many members you have
- And, for each of your 2016

If possible send in an Excel spreadsheet.
<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/files/umw/greatplainsumwdirectoryinformation.xlsx>

officers and your pastor(s)

- Name
- Office(s) held
- Mailing address, including ZIP+4

- Phone number(s)
- Email, if available

If you are comfortable using an Excel spreadsheet, that is the

December 1, 2015 Deadline

best way to send the information to me. It reduces the chances for mistakes as I'm compiling the information from all the local organizations. The conference has one available to download at <http://www.greatplainsumc.org/files/umw/greatplainsumwdirectoryinformation.xlsx> that you could fill in and

email to me. Or, you could create your own spreadsheet that has a column for each piece of required information.

For those of you who are not comfortable using Excel, you may simply type the information in an email message or you may type or legibly write the information on a piece of paper and mail it to me.

So, again, please send your local organization's 2016 information by December 1, 2015 to

Joyce Gettman

brd.umw.secretary@gmail.com

18800 Midway Rd

Walton, NE 68461-9632

Membership Reports Due

My name is Jan Hauser, I'm from Raymond. I took over January 1st as the Blue River District Journey in Growth in Action leader.

don't receive them by July 1st, I will be calling the presidents of each unit, so I can complete this report.

WHO is OUT!

If you are looking for a local project for your UMW to get involved in:

The Closet at New Hope/Diaper Depot is asking for UMW to partner with them to help low income families provide diapers for their children in the area. Havelock Church has provided this service for over 10 years.

A few up dates for the district:

Hopefully everyone had noticed in the last Rip-ple I'm in need of membership reports for 2014. I have received 32 reports, we have 46 units in the district. If I

Smartphone	Case separation
HTC One (M8)	75 pounds
Apple iPhone 6	70 pounds
Apple iPhone 6 Plus	90 pounds
LG G3	130 pounds
Apple iPhone 5	130 pounds
Samsung Galaxy Note 3	160 pounds

Membership reports are due!

Mission u study at Waverly UMC on The Church and the People with Disabilities was very informative. If you can attend this Mission u it would be very helpful to you and your church. You will find out WHO is IN and

Looking for a Program...

Please contact Becky at 402-601-7848, or Jan Hauser at [402-450-8207](tel:402-450-8207), to partner or to ask questions. We will be waiting to hear from you. If you need a speaker for your UMW unit, please let us know.

Jan Hauser
Journey in Growth
janmhauser@gmail.com
402-450-8207



Fall Meeting August 29

As Vice President of the Blue River District of the United Methodist Women, part of my duties is to Chair the Annual Fall Event. I would like to *Invite and Encourage* each of you to come spend August 29, 2015 with us. Our speaker Anne Gahn is truly a delight and you won't want to miss her message to us. Please find the Registration Form and

Anne's bio in this newsletter for the Annual Fall Event again scheduled for August 29, 2015 at First United Methodist Church, Lincoln NE. Don't miss the deadline for registering. Looking forward to spending the day with you all.

Susan Harris
Vice President Blue River District



Register for August 29

December 10, 2015 Deadline for 2015 Pledge

In the first six months of 2015, the Blue River District has submitted 66% of our District Pledge for 2015. Please continue the timely contributions for the next six months and we should meet our pledge for this year. **Just remember that the last deadline for submitted your 2015 pledge is December 10, 2015.** Your unit's pledge for 2015 must be paid on or before the deadline in order to qualify for the 5 and 7 Star Award in 2016. Any other monies that

you want to be included in the 2015 calendar year must also be received on or before the December 10th deadline. Remember that the time frame for the 5 and 7 Star Awards in 2015 runs from January 1, 2015 through December 10, 2015. The dedicated light will burn for the honorees at the District's Spring Event in 2016. Rec-



**5 and 7 Star Awards
Run 1/1/15-
12/31/15**

ognition of the 5-7 Star Awards earned in 2016 and Special Mission Recognition pins during 2016 will also be listed for the Spring Event.

The District Annual Meeting will be held on August 29, 2015 at Lincoln-First United Methodist Church.

Corsage for Missions and Gift to Mission Cards will be available for sale at our District Annual Meeting. If you have a large order,

Special Recognition Will Be Honoree at the Spring Event in 2016

please call or email in advance so I can have your order ready for you. Hope to see you at our Annual Meeting on August 29th.

Any questions? Please call or email me.

Carol Wilhelm – Blue River District Treasurer

**Large orders for Corsage for Missions and Gift to Mission Cards
Please Call a head**

P. O. Box 247
Elmwood, NE 68349
402-310-6627 (cell)
cgewiss@gmail.com

I Have Thought Often of Noah and the Ark

Genesis 6:14—"Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.

The past few weeks I have thought often about Noah and the Ark.

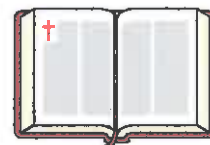
There is a small slew that I cross every morning on my way to work.

Most days I can hardly see any water at all when I look down the

sides as I cross the small bridge.

However I have now seen this small slew grow to a quick flowing body of water with actual white caps.

We have all heard the story of Noah and the Ark. As we try to image those people and all those animals on the Ark we have to ask ourselves - is this a myth? As we



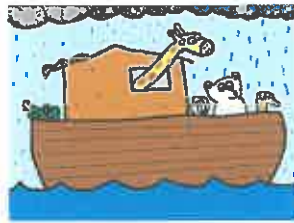
We know Bible Stories are true.

know with a good many stories in

No Matter The Weather God Will Be Watching Over Us!

it may be hard to believe on the surface. But we know the stories in the bible are true. We believe them because we believe the most important story in the bible – the story of the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The rains will soon end. The complaints about how hot and dry it is will start being



Noah's Ark

heard. However no matter the weather we know God will be watching over us. The idea of a global flood seems almost too big to believe: water covering the entire earth, all those animals on a single boat, and just one family saved. But out of this story come our lives today and our journey as we continue spreading and hearing the

stories from the bible. One way we can continue to hear these stories is by attending the Blue River District Annual Meeting in August and hearing Anne Gahn share her stories. See you there!

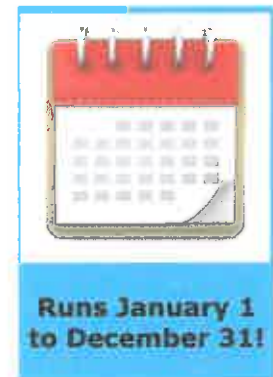
Vicki Leech
President

Great Plains Conference UMW Calendar

The Great Plains Conference UMW calendar now runs January 1 – December 31. In our attempt to have the report of deceased members coincide with the new calendar, at this time, we are only asking for a six-month report. In January of 2016, we will ask that you submit names of our UMW sisters who passed between January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015. At the 5-2-15 board meeting, the Blue River

UMW Board decided that future memorial tributes will occur during the Spring Events, rather than during the Fall Meetings.

Lynette Broderick
Journey In Faith



Communications

This is my last news letter to the District. I am thankful to everyone that helped me get this newsletter out. It didn't always make it on time, but it was done with the best intentions. Please keep the new Communications person informed of address and email changes. It makes this job a lot easier if those changes are kept current. It has

been a wonderful journey that I will always remember, but I will enjoy just being part of the Spring Event and Fall Meeting. Hope to see everyone in August.

Best Wishes
Denise Larsen
Communications Coordinator



Last news letter from me!
Thank you for the memories

**Blue River District UMW
2016 Leadership Nominations**

President:	Ann Cervený	St. Paul - Lincoln
Secretary:	Mary Starr	St. Paul - Lincoln
Nominations Chair:	Marletta Stark	Crete Grace
Communication Coordinator:	Sandy Blankenship	Waverly
Program Resources:	Ellie Quiring	Beatrice Centenary
	Journey in Learning Team Leader	
Mission Coordinators Spiritual Growth:	Lynette Broderick	Seward
	Journey in Faith Team Leader	
Education and Interpretation:	Joyce Gettman	First - Lincoln
	Journey in Giving Team Leader	
Committee on Nominations:	Judy Butler (2018)	St. Marks - Lincoln
Previously Elected Leadership		
Vice President	Susan Harris	Trinity - Lincoln
Treasurer	Carol Wilhelm	Elmwood
Mission Coordinators Membership Nurture & Outreach:	Jan Hauser	Raymond
	Journey in Growth Team Leader	
Social Action:	Stacey Brandenburgh	Raymond
	Journey in Action Team Leader	
Committee on Nominations:	Pat Grimes (2016)	Milford
	Carol King (2016)	First - Lincoln
	Rayma Delaney (2017)	First - Lincoln
	Sarah Shively (2018)	Seward



Health Kit

Value: \$12.00

1 hand towel

15" x 25" to 17"x 27"

kitchen, cleaning and microfiber towels not acceptable

1 washcloth

1 comb

comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6"

no pocket combs or picks, please

rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable with a minimum of 6" of teeth

1 metal nail file or clipper

no emery boards, please

1 bath-size soap

3 oz. and larger sizes only

no Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content

do not remove from original packaging

1 toothbrush

adult size only

do not remove from original packaging

6 adhesive bandages

¾" to 1" size

common household Band-Aids

1 plastic bag

one-gallon size sealable bags only

\$1 to purchase toothpaste

Assembly directions

Set the \$1 for toothpaste aside to be included in a separate envelope. Lay out the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the hand towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag.

Important notes

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used.
- Please remove all packaging.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items – nothing more.
- DO NOT include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.
- **UMCOR is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent. Do not put single dollar bills in each kit. Collect all monies for toothpaste and shipping, place it in a separate envelope and send along with the kit donations.**

Packing kits

Box weight: Each packed box cannot exceed 66 pounds.

Shipping kits

1. Complete two packing lists – one for your records and one to put on the shipping box.
2. Paste the shipping label / packing list on the outside of each box you send. The shipping list helps the depot to quickly process kits.
3. **Processing & shipping costs:** Please enclose an envelope containing at least \$1 for each kit you send. This donation enables kits to be sent to areas in need. For Cleaning Buckets: \$1.50.

Last updated 01-30-2015

2014 Local Membership Census Form

Instructions

Fill in your information and insert numbers into the corresponding column.

Local Unit Name _____	Unit President _____
District Name _____	Address _____
Conference Name _____	City _____
Reported by _____	State/zip _____
Phone _____	Phone _____
Email _____	Email _____

Number of members as of Jan 1, 2014

New members added _____

lost by death or other reasons _____

Total members Dec 31, 2014 _____

Unit type

Are you a: Local, Cluster/Charge, District or Online Unit _____

Send copies by May 1st 2015 to:

District Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach

Jan Hauser

11505 N 14th Street

Raymond, NE 68428

(402) 450-8207

Unit Report of Deceased Members

July 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014*

* The Great Plains Conference UMW calendar now runs January 1 – December 31. In our attempt to have the report of deceased members coincide with the new calendar, at this time, we are only asking for a six-month report. In January of 2016, we will ask that you submit names of our UMW sisters who passed between January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015. At the 5-2-15 board meeting, the Blue River UMW Board decided that future memorial tributes will occur during the Spring Events, rather than during the Fall Meetings.

By August 10, 2015, please submit the following information by mail **OR** e-mail to

Mail: Lynette Broderick 2229 Alvo Road Seward, NE 68434

E-Mail: Lynette.Broderick@connectseward.org

Phone: 402-643-4658 (home); 402-641-8177 (cell)

Submission is the responsibility of the local mission coordinator for spiritual growth or by the unit president.

Local UMW Unit _____

Person submitting information with contact information:

Name _____ Phone(s) _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

_____ Our Unit had no deaths between July 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015.

<i>Deceased member(s)</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>
---------------------------	----------------------

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Thank you so much. Please direct questions or concerns to Lynette Broderick.



United Methodist Women (UMW) – Blue River District (BRD)
2015 Annual Meeting – Saturday, August 29, 2015
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (check-in begins @ 8:30)
First United Methodist – Lincoln



Purpose

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.

RESERVE your place by August 15!
 pre-registration is required for lunch

Gather at historic First Church on August 29 to share the company of United Methodist Women from across the Blue River District. It will be a day filled with UMW traditions and new adventures! Guest Speaker Anne Gahn will share her personal journey in faith. Register today!

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Anne Gahn has a passion for connecting people through their stories, the study of the Scriptures, and engagement in spiritual practices in order to help them articulate their passions and serve others. She teaches, listens and leads in a way that honors each person's individuality and experiences and seeks to connect people with a wholeness that can only be found in relationship to God. Anne has served in children and youth ministry, as Christian Education director for all ages, and plans to pursue certification as a spiritual director following the completion of her Masters of Divinity degree from Saint Paul School of Theology. She is a member of Trinity UMC Lincoln and is a certified candidate for ministry on the elder track in The United Methodist Church. She currently resides in Lincoln with her husband Doug who is a United Methodist Pastor and youngest daughter Emmaly who will be a senior at Lincoln East this year. Anne also has two adult daughters with families; Allison and Bryce live in Omaha, NE while Melissa, Dane and their two-year old Jamisen live in Arapahoe, Nebraska.




Anne Gahn

First UMC • 2723 N 50th Street • Lincoln, Nebraska
 50th & St. Paul Ave. • across the street from Nebraska Wesleyan University (NWU)
Parking: south (marked NWU lot), church lot north, and street parking. Carpool is encouraged!
 Enter building on the east side; take elevator to lower level. Questions? (402) 450-3104

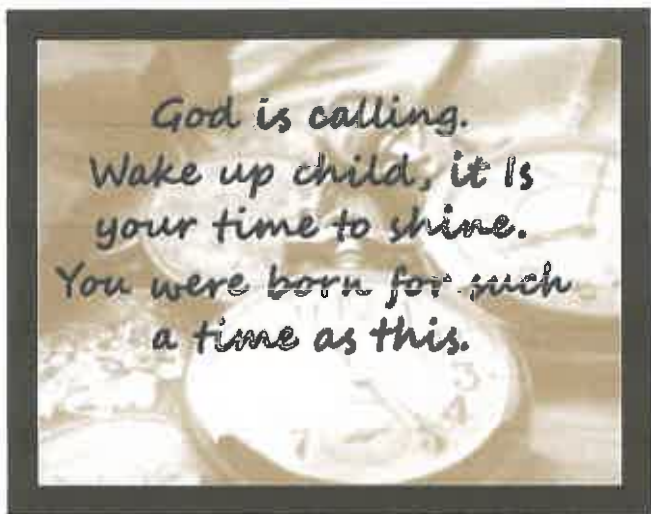
----- ✕ **REGISTRATION** ✕ -----

Tell us about yourself. Please print clearly.
 (your name & church will be on printed name tag)

name _____
 address _____
 email _____ phone # _____
 church _____

 need an accommodation? please specify _____
 special diet? vegetarian other/specify _____

\$10.00 payment due August 15th by check payable to: **BRD UMW**
 Submit registration form with check to: **Rayna Delaney, 2333 N 74th Street, Lincoln NE 68507-2903**
 Questions? ddelaney@neb.rr.com (402) 464-0325



2015 GREAT PLAINS UMW ANNUAL MEETING AND CELEBRATION

October 16-17, 2015 Saint Mark UMC
Wichita, KS

ACTIVITIES

Featuring Keynote Speaker: Josephine Deere,
Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

Breakout Sessions on social justice issues,
spiritual growth and mission ministry
opportunities

District Officer Training to learn more about
what leadership in UMW means

Networking and Idea Exchange with fellow Great
Plains United Methodist Women

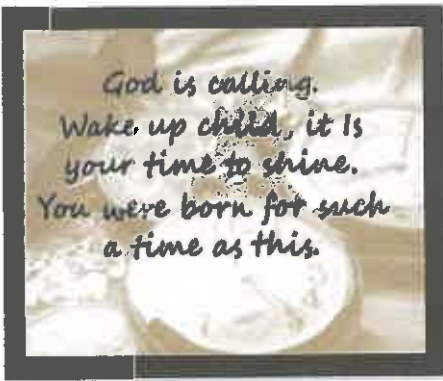
In-Kind and In-Gathering collection of UMCOR
Health Kits and items for EC Tyree Clinic (a
ministry of Saint Mark UMC)

Experience Worship in a heartwarming manner

MORE INFORMATION ON REGISTERING AND HOTELS

Visit the 2015 UMW Annual Meeting and
Celebration page on the Great Plains UMW
website at www.greatplainsumc.org/umw

Questions? Contact: Diane Thompson at
rdthompson1942@sbcglobal.net or
316.772.5240



**2015 Great Plains UMW
Annual Meeting
Registration
October 16-17, 2015
Saint Mark UMC, Wichita, KS**

Deadline to Register September 30, 2015

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

District _____ Local Church _____

UMW District Office (if applicable) _____

UMW Conference Office (if applicable) _____

Special Dietary Needs _____

Registration Choices

_____ Full Registration (\$30) — includes Friday dinner, Saturday light continental breakfast, Saturday box lunch

_____ Registration for Conference and District Officers (\$0) — this registration is covered by Great Plains UMW and includes all meals.

_____ Build Your Own Registration (\$6 registration fee)— this option is for you to create your own registration and choose the meals you are able to attend.)

_____ Friday Dinner (\$12) _____ Saturday Breakfast (\$3) _____ Saturday Box Lunch (\$8)

_____ Child Care is Needed _____ Ages of Children _____
Optional Meals will be provided during child care for a cost of \$5 per meal

_____ Friday Dinner (\$5) _____ Saturday Lunch (\$5)

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Mail Registration To: Ethel Counts, c/o Saint Mark UMC, 1525 N. Lorraine, Wichita, KS 67214