

# SOJOURNER

Chicago Northwestern District United Methodist Women

December 2007

Volume I, Issue 3

## From the Pen of the President



“Let me give of myself, dear Lord, always ready to sacrifice, willing to share what I hold dear, never deterred by the price.” Hess

In September our Annual Meeting was quite a success. Much thanks to the Vice President, Vivian Matthews, for all of her long suffering hard work and dedication. Thanks be to God over eighty persons attended the event. Please encourage others to attend district meetings. Word of mouth can provide an increase in numbers. Thanks to everyone who did attend meetings throughout the year.

The new year is fast approaching, let's strive to focus on the tasks the Lord has set before each of us.

Welcome to all new officers (local, district and conference) and to persons who have move to another position within these areas. “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

To those persons who have completed their term in office, go with God and gratitude from the Mission Team for your work was needed and you provided. Remember when we follow Jesus all of life changes direction. “When we're involved in serving and meeting other's needs, we're imitating Jesus in thoughts, words, and deeds.” Fitzhugh

To each of you I pray that you will have joyful, peaceful and fun filled holidays. May the good Lord take a liking to you during the spirit of the season and always.

“Happiness is not a destination but a day-to-day journey.”

Peace be with you.  
Martha Carter



*And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.*

The Book of Luke

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### Dates to Remember

#### January 18-20

Christian Mission  
Camp Reynoldswood

#### February 2

President's Breakfast

**February 15**—Deadline  
for March Sojourner

#### March 28-30

Jurisdiction Meeting  
Bloomington, MN

#### April 19

Spring Meeting

#### May 15

June Sojourner Deadline

#### June 14 & Dec. 13

Mission Team Mtg.

#### July 17-20

School of Christian  
Mission

#### September 27

Fall Meeting





### Spanish Language Coordinator—Helen Rosales

The Spanish Language Coordinator is a Conference position. The purpose is to encourage participation of Spanish speaking women in United Methodist Women. The Coordinator must be bilingual to participate in UMW team meetings in English and communicate in Spanish with Hispanic Women. The Coordinator is also a member of the Scholl of Christian Mission Committee.

An important responsibility is to meet with women in Spanish speaking churches who have no

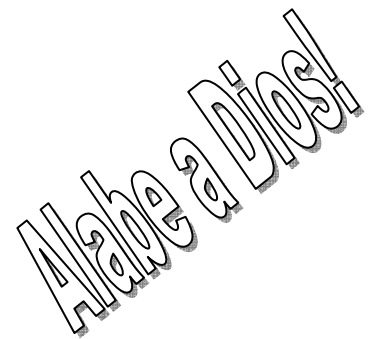
organized UMW unit. The coordinator should arrange to meet with the women to explain the PURPOSE of UMW and how it supports mission and to encourage their participation. If the women choose to have a unit, the Coordinator contacts the district or Conference Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach. Together, they arrange to have an organizational meeting where a Certificate of Organization is presented.

The Coordinator explains how

there are resources such as the Program Book available in Spanish to use at meetings. The coordinator sometimes visits the units to give information and to encourage participation.

Every June the Coordinator attends a regional School of Christian Mission. For the first time last June, the Korean, Spanish and other Language Coordinators met together.

See [www.umwomenchicago.org](http://www.umwomenchicago.org) for Helen's recount of her Ubuntu Journey to Uruguay.



### Spiritual Growth— Madalyn Johnson

December, 2007 is my last year on the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women Mission team; I will complete my term as the Spiritual Growth Coordinator. I enjoyed the challenges of creating worship services for Conference mission team meetings and school of mission.

I would like to give thanks to the District Spiritual Growth Coordinators, District Presidents, and all of the mission team members for your help in working with me during our School of Missions. I say to all of you Joy and praise to God for everything that I have done and everyone I have met. I will not live my life in regret, but will live my life without fear and look to the future as I pray to Jesus to come into my heart to lead me to be in his presence, to re-energize my soul, and to restore my sense of purpose.

As I journey to my new location I will remember all of you with loving thoughts and smiles

Goodbyes are not forever,  
Goodbyes are not the end,  
They simply mean I'll miss you,  
Until we meet again!

(Author unknown)

To the Chicago Northwestern District, I have enjoyed representing you as a Conference mission team member.

Madalyn Johnson  
NIC UMW Spiritual Growth Coordinator

#### Say A Little Prayer

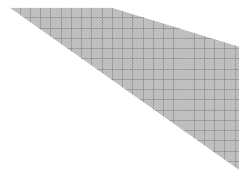
I lift these hands, dear God, to You,  
in praise and thanks for all you do.  
You light the path through all my  
days and bless me with your loving  
ways.

I lift these hands dear God, to You,  
in troubled hours when joys are  
few.  
You bear me up on eagles' wings  
and see me through each test life  
brings.

I lift these hands, dear God, to You,  
please grant me wisdom, patience,  
too.

Then fill my heart with love and  
caring, precious gifts you've made  
for sharing.

poet - Emily Matthews





**Education & Interpretation Coordinator—Valeria Williams**

*“Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.”*

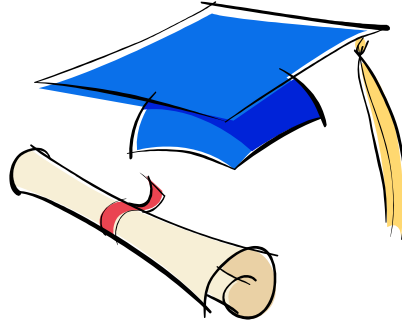
*Acts 9:36*

I am encouraging each unit to send your Mission Today Goals Sheets to me by December 31. The goal sheet is available on line at our website: <http://www.umwomenchicago.org/forms>.

I expect to get a goal sheet from each unit. The goals are easily attainable. The sheet is self-explanatory. If you need any more information, don't hesitate to call me; I am available at all times.

I want to thank each unit for making Layette Kits for UMCOR. We did a tremendous job.

Congratulations to Franklin Park United Methodist Women. The Reading Program Group read a total of 44 books for 2006. If any unit wants to start a Reading Program get in touch with District Secretary of Program Resources or me.



**Second Mile Mission Giving**

1. The District would like each unit to participate.

Mission Minute: It costs the district about \$34.02 per minute to run any given mission at any given time. The district will attempt to raise as much money as we can from free will donations to sponsor our mission projects.

2. Mission Pennies. Unites save your pennies! All pennies the Units collect are to be turned in to district Treasurer, Faye Bennett/ (Checks, please!) They will then be sent to Conference treasurer Betty Erickson. This money will be given to Mission Giving as a love gift.

Did you miss the Summer School of Christian Mission? Don't Fret. You can go to the Winter School of Christian Mission. It will be held the weekend of January 18-20, 2008 at Camp

Reynoldswood in Dixon, IL. The studies are:

- Music and Mission
- Globalization Part 2
- Israel and Palestine

Get information for your unit or district president.

God bless each and every one of you.

Valeria Williams

**Vice-President Vivian Matthews**

Where did all the time go? I don't know, but it has been a great journey. One of excitement, growth, learning, sharing and commitment. Just think, we all went "green" at the Annual Fall meeting. What a beautiful sight to look out and see so many shades of green. Well, this is my last article to you, but I will be around serving as the Nominations chair. The Chicago Northwestern District needs you to be action in mission. Join a letter writing campaign, conserve water, us chlorine free paper products, mentor or tutor a child, volunteer in your local school or community organization. Help make a difference in your community.

Think programming! If you need ideas, check out the new program book, Response magazine, and also the UMW-Women's Division web page. Lots of information that can be used in your local unit. Also don't forget to contact your

district officers and invite them to do a program for you.

Special thanks to Glenview UMW for all the support and help they provided for the Fall Annual Meeting. Perfect hosts for a perfect day.

Thanks again for all of the great memories. If you need me, just let me know.

Vivian Matthews

*But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zachariah: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.*

The Book of Luke





**Secretary—Marta Rodriguez**

Hello CNW District!

It has been a pleasure serving you as District Secretary for the last 4 years. It has been a challenge, but a great way to learn how our District mission team works. I encourage anyone with interest on serving beyond your local unit to consider working on the District Mission team. I will continue forward, with God’s help, serving as your District Vice-President for the coming two years. If any unit is willing to host or help out with District meetings, please let me know. It is always nice to be invited to new churches and experience new settings.

My last task as District Secretary is to provide updated local unit officer information to be included in the Conference directory. Please remember, Presidents, to turn in your Officer Update form to me as soon as possible. If there are any questions, please contact me at 773-936-3692 or email me at [msiaba@comcast.net](mailto:msiaba@comcast.net).

Once again, thank you for the past 4 years and I look forward to our District growing bigger and stronger in 2008 and beyond.

Marta Rodriguez

Save the Date!

**School of Christian Mission**

January 18-20  
Camp  
Reynoldswood

**Treasurer—Fay Bennett**

November 2007

Greetings,

The year 2007 is quickly coming to a close and I thank you for your support in all you do.

Without your dedication, time and efforts the United Methodist Women wouldn’t be where we are today so a big **Thank You**.

I am very concerned however because as you will see from my letter we are way behind with our pledge given the fact that we are almost near the end of November. Please do not wait any longer and send in your pledges as soon as possible. I need to send all final monies for the year to our conference treasurer by December 20<sup>th</sup> therefore I need to get yours by **December 15<sup>th</sup>**.

As of October 31, 2007 I have only received \$31,772.15 of the pledge. That means we are only at about 48.88% of our promise that we would help in Mission Giving and Mission Giving Plus (formerly know as Undesignated and Designated Giving). I will be sending you an account in a separate letter as to where your unit stands. Therefore, please get your pledges in and don’t forget you can do an extra mile giving by saving up your coins and turning them in. However send a check please not the coins.

**Please remember that Special Recognition Pins prices have changed. A basic pin is \$40.00 and a sapphire pin is \$60.00.**

Enclosed are copies of the remittance forms and your pledge form for 2008 if you have not yet sent yours in.

I hope to see you all at our Officer’s Training on February 2, 2008. Whether you are continuing in office or you are beginning your first year as treasurer I would love to see you at the training.

Please feel free to call, write or email me if you have any questions. If you are calling please call after 9:00 p.m as I get home late most nights.

Hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season and may God’s richest blessings and peace be with all of you.

Yours in Christ

Fay N. Bennett  
CNWD  
Treasurer

2008 Pledge Form available online at [www.umwomenchicago.org](http://www.umwomenchicago.org)

For with God, nothing is impossible.  
The Book of Luke





**Communications—Beverly Bochenek**

It has been my pleasure and my honor to serve as your communications coordinator and as I enter the second year of my term, I am excited by the renewal and commitment a new year brings and the determination I have to assist you and your units to communicate with each other and the communities you serve in the honor of God.

**The Website is up and running!**

www.umwomenchicago.org is active. Go there for forms, additional stories, links to unit pages or churches, and archived online additions to *Sojourner*. It is a growing and fluid site so check back often for more information and as a resource to fulfill your goals. If there is something you need to see on the

website, please send me your suggestions as well as any feedback. This is YOUR website. It exists to help you serve your God and your unit.

**Deadlines for the 2008 newsletters are as follows:**

- February 15** for March publication
- May 15** for June publication
- August 15** for September publication
- November 15** for December publication.

You may submit articles via email to [beverly@beverlybochenek.com](mailto:beverly@beverlybochenek.com) or [beverly-umw@earthlink.net](mailto:beverly-umw@earthlink.net).

*Think Green!* Water isn't the only resource we need to think about saving. With less and less green space available for human

enjoyment, we need to conserve our trees and foliage. Getting your newsletter via email or by downloading it on the web saves trees, water, as well as time and money and lessens the release of processing pollutants. It also makes the information more readily available to unit members because they can access it 24/7. In the coming year, I will be making an, albeit, gentle push for us to go digital as much as we can as soon as we can.

May God grant you all peace, love, understanding and wisdom. May all who look upon you see the light of the Creator within you and may we all be filled with the splendor of his unending grace.

My best to you,  
Beverly

**Membership, Nurture & Outreach – Lydia Grant**

Our District M-N-O committee would like to update our membership roll from each unit or local church that has a UMW organization. I know that a few churches merged their UMW organizations and we want your membership roll too. The election of officers is generally at the end of the year. So if you have new officers, please, include that too.

Your local UMW is a vital and essential part of your UM church and it has an important role in solidifying families and members of your church. On a higher level, our M-N-O committee recognize all local UMW as a connected support system going through our district. By getting all these membership lists, we will have a more organized and effective system and a better scope of each unit. It will give us an idea how we are growing in numbers and in spirituality.

There is a form for updating your membership list. The local president or secretary can call me or email me so that I can send the form. May I request that you return the completed form by the end of January 2008. Lydia Grant email: [jamesgrant2006@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jamesgrant2006@sbcglobal.net). Telephone number: 847-583-8345. Address: 7646 Maple Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053

Our District Committee chairperson on M-N-O is Janice Gintzler who expressed her willingness to come to your local UMW meetings if you need her help in matters under this committee. Please, let her know. Her email is [janicegintzler@aol.com](mailto:janicegintzler@aol.com) and her telephone number is 708-371-7248.

Let's pray for one another that we may grow deeper in our faith.

Lydia Grant

Excerpt from the UMW website:

**Division Joins Call to Dismiss Torture-based Charges**  
by *Yvette Moore*

The Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries joined Nobel Peace Prize laureates, human rights advocates and other religious leaders in an international call against torture-based testimonies, and the re-arrest of eight former Black Panthers on charges related to the 1971 death of a San Francisco police officer in a press conference in New York City, Nov. 30. "We are here because the Women's Division, the United Methodist Church, the World Council of Churches have taken a very clear stance against torture," Women's Division executive Lois Dauway said during the press conference, referencing the organizations she represented at the event. "Torture is a crime. We have a biblical mandate to stand against it. This evil must end."

For the rest of this story and for other UMW news visit:  
<http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/umw>

**On the UMW Website**



**Social Action**—Aida Linzaga, 2007 & Nancy Grim-Hunter; PhD, 2008

Recently, all mission team member representatives in the Northern Illinois Conference met to facilitate the transfer of ideas between the current mission leadership team and those who will take their positions in 2008. (We thank you, Aida, for your service in 2007.) At this meeting, we learned that the role of the Mission Coordinator for Social Action is to “coordinate the conference program of study and action relating to current local, national, international and global social issues” (UMW Program, 2008, p. 32).

In order to fulfill this mission, we would like each unit to review the action plans for your district in the following areas:

**Global/International**

- o HIV/AIDS
- o Charter for Social Justice

**National**

- o Immigration
- o Health

**Local**

- o Water
- o Environment
- o Voter Registration Drives

**Action Alerts**

**Update and Action on No Child Left Behind Act Reauthorization**

The U.S. Congress is preparing to debate the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the federal law that governs the operation of our public school system. Now is a good time to contact your Congressional representatives about this important law.

Ask Congress to:

- Fully fund the law;
- Set ambitious, yet reachable, goals;
- Reduce reliance on standardized testing;
- End labeling children, blaming teachers and bringing stigmas to schools; and

Take steps to develop

More information about these issues can be found by joining in the online community of faith and fellowship for United Methodist Women [http://umwonline.com]. Furthermore, Dr. Nancy Grim Hunter plans to develop a resource list of local speakers who can address these areas. Please send ideas, names, and contact information [ngrimh1@earthlink.net]. If you need a speaker, Nancy will help to identify a resource for you.

As you plan your 2008 schedule of mission-driven activities, we ask you to prayerfully consider the “biblical and theological basis for social action” (UMW Program, 2008, p. 20). May the Lord continue to lead you to make conscious faith-based social

action choices.

“The woman's mission is not to enhance the masculine spirit, but to express the feminine; hers is not to preserve a man-made world, but to create a human world by the infusion of the feminine element into all of its activities.”

Margaret Thatcher

programs that will improve the capacity of every school to serve children.

**A U.S. Department of Peace** Congress established a U.S. Institute of Peace in 1981 to pursue peace-building initiatives and to promote conflict management and education, but the Institute lacks the visibility and authority of a cabinet level department. Advocates of the new legislative proposal note that without a platform within



And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

The Book of Luke

the structure of a national government, peace will not be given a policymaking priority.

- o Visit The Peace Alliance website: [www.thepeacealliance.org](http://www.thepeacealliance.org) or call them at 202-296-1187 to see if your representative has signed on the support HR 808. if they are a co=sponsor, thank them and urge them to ask their colleagues in Congress to get on board as well.
- o Organize with others in your community to pass a city council resolution endorsing the creation of a Department of Peace. For more information on passing a city council resolution, contact The Peace Alliance.
- o Plan a peace day in 2008 (Sept. 21 is the United Nations International Day of Peace) and raise awareness of the ideals of peace among all peoples. Visit [www.internationaldayofpeace.org/ngo.htm](http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/ngo.htm) for more information.



**LOGO for SCM 2008 Theme: Living the Sacred**

**Spiritual Growth Study: I Believe in Jesus, Geographical Study: Israel and Palestine; Social Issue Study: Giving Our Hearts Away; Native American Survival**

*God saw everything that he had made; and indeed, it was very good* concludes the unfolding story of God’s creation of the earth all its living creatures as revealed in Genesis, Chapter 1.

How are we as God’s people to understand the story in the midst of human acts of racism, violence, and earthly destruction? Native American traditions teach us that creation includes all that comes from God and all that comes from the heart and mind of god is sacred. Native traditions call on its people to value life as god values life. To be a created people is to be relationally connected to all people everywhere, as well as to all God has created. To believe in Jesus is to love as God loved and live as Christ lived, valuing all creation. To believe in Jesus is welcoming all. To believe in Jesus is to follow the sacred commandment to love as God loved. To believe in Jesus is to embrace the sacredness of life.

While God has given humanity the gift of life and relationship, too often we have created barriers between people and lands. We have acted in ways that violate the sacredness of life and do not make for peace.

As followers of Christ, as Christians in community, let us deepen our understanding of what it means to live in sacred harmony. Then, let us walk together in ways that to peace and reconciliation. “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it” - Psalm 24

**Detail descriptions/objectives available on request.**

- o The logo design is to illustrate the artist’s conception of the theme and include all three studies.
- o The logo must be submitted on 8<sup>1/2</sup> x 11” white paper, copy ready
- o All logos are to be submitted in black and white, and if possible, color
- o A brief statement, 50 words or less, explaining the drawing must accompany submitted art. Back of form may be used to write the statement.
- o Copyright authorization must be completed on form below.

The form must be completed by the artist and submitted with the logo design. Designs and forms are to be sent to the Conference Representative to the Regional School Planning Team by **February 3, 2008**.

Name of Artist(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to use artwork is given with the signature of the artist below:

Artist signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Return form to: Marcone Kleckler  
1530 Michael Dr.  
Pecatonica, IL 61063

Chicago Northwestern District  
United Methodist Women

*Sojourner* is by the  
Northwestern District United  
Methodist Women.



Submissions may be made to:  
3410 N Pacific Ave Chicago, IL  
60634 or to  
beverly-umw@earthlink.net

**Return Service Requested**

**We're On the web**  
**[www.umwomenchicago.org](http://www.umwomenchicago.org)**

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## **The Purpose of United Methodist Women**

### **United Methodist Women**

The organized unit of 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.

### **Women's Division**

The Women's Division shall be actively engaged in fulfilling the mission of Christ and the Church and shall interpret the purpose of United Methodist Women. With continuing awareness of the concerns and responsibilities of the Church in today's world, the Women's Division shall be an advocate for the oppressed and dispossessed with special attention to the needs of women and children; shall work to build a supportive community among women; and shall engage in activities that foster growth in the Christian faith, mission education, and Christian social involvement.