



KY East District Newsletter

December 2019

2019 FALL CELEBRATION OF MISSIONS What Are We Going to Do? by Sheliah “Sam” Harlan, KY East District UMW Vice President

Relevant. Eye-opening. Interesting. Informative. Organized. Interactive. Applicable. Excellent Hosts. Wonderful lunch. Amazing. Good format. Great layout of recognition tables. Terrific Speaker! Entertaining monologues. That is some of the attendees' feedback on the Fall Celebration of Missions that was held at the Pikeville Methodist Church on September 21. On a scale of 1-5 (5 being the highest), the attendees rated their overall satisfaction with the event a 5!

The biggest change in the event this year was a shorter business meeting and the addition of a workshop on issues affecting women and children in our communities. The workshop was led by Dr. Ruth Shepherd, a board-certified pediatrician and neonatologist who has won numerous awards and who also served as the Director for Maternal and Child Health in the Kentucky Department of Human Health. Dr. Shepherd's presentation and her workshop were phenomenal.

All attendees should have received copies of the workshop findings in the mail. East Kentucky District unit Presidents were also mailed copies of Dr. Shepherd's presentation, the results of the Workshop, and actions that UMW can implement to make a difference in our communities. For those who were unable to attend and have not received the information, please email me at sheliah2@hotmail.com and I will forward it to you.

The Holidays are fast approaching, and I am challenging each unit to pledge **at least** one action in support of women and children they can implement before our next Fall Celebration of Missions in

2020. Please let me know by 15 January what action (more than one is even more exciting!) you are pledging. It can be from the Action List we made in the workshop or one of your own choosing. I would like to get a list in our next newsletter!

Another highlight of the event was Charlotte Smith's monologues of two important women in Methodist Women history: Dr. Clara Swain (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clara_Swain) and Isabella Thoburn (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isabella_Thoburn). Charlotte was raised in Morgantown, Kentucky and is a member of the Broadway United Methodist Church. She has held many offices within the UMW at local, district, and conference levels.

I want to thank all those across the District who made this event a success. A special thank you to the Pikeville United Methodist Church and Methodist Women for all the behind the scenes preparations and special things you did in support of the program. What an excellent job!!! You were so gracious, and your hospitality was very much appreciated.



Celia Fish, Alice Kendrick, and Barb Nicholls at Fall Celebration of Missions at Pikeville UMC

As we move forward, continue to pray for one another and remember we are called to be servants. Our job is to work and give to God the glory and the results!

“WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?”
by Barb Nicholls, KY East District UMW
President

We were so blessed to have Dr. Ruth Shepherd lead an interactive workshop for us at our Fall Celebration of Missions District meeting on September 21 at Pikeville UMC. The purpose was to help us understand the needs of children in our communities as we have chosen Maternal and Child Health as our District Social Action Priority Issue. “What Are We Going to Do?” was the theme of our meeting, and after participating in this workshop we came away with many ideas for our local units to implement in our communities. Following an extensive small group activity of brainstorming and discussing, each group reported its findings to the large group. Dr. Shepherd summarized all of our ideas and conclusions and shared them with us. (Each local unit President received this summary report.)

Here are the ideas:

Substance Abuse – Mothers and Babies:

- Coordinate services community-wide
- Form relationships at church
- Encourage more child participation at church

Substance Abuse – Youth

- UMW teach a “life skills” class
- UMW mentoring (prayer partner) with each child at church
- UMW start a reading program with kids

Early Childhood Trauma

- Make a list of resources available to people
- Work with schools to recognize ACE’s (Adverse Childhood Experiences)
- Develop a Grandparent support group

- “Adopt” a grandchild
- Implement a mentoring program with families
- Arrange for parenting classes

Violence Prevention

- Prayer partner/buddies
- ACE’s (Adverse Childhood Experiences) training
- Resource fair
- Call children by name
- Provide community meals

As your unit considers these ideas, we understand that we can’t do EVERYTHING, but we can each do SOMETHING to help the children in our communities. The needs are immense! As we strive to put FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE into ACTION as United Methodist Women, my prayer is that we will all prayerfully consider how we can be the hands and feet of Jesus as we address this Social Action Priority issue.

**MISSION U AT LINDSEY WILSON
COLLEGE
JULY 9-12, 2020**
by Barb Nicholls, KY East District UMW
President

Please consider attending Mission u in July at Lindsey Wilson College. This four-day retreat fulfills the UMW Purpose... “to know God and 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.” If you attend the whole session (noon on Thursday through noon on Sunday), you will participate in two mission studies. If you can’t attend the whole retreat, you can attend half of it (Saturday/Sunday) and complete one mission study. **Also included on Saturday will be an Officer Training Workshop for all local, district, and conference officers.** This training will give you a chance to learn about your office’s duties and share ideas and concerns

with your office counterparts from other districts across the state.

At Mission u, you will experience worship, study, and fellowship in a beautiful setting with your UMW sisters from across our Conference. It is an experience you will treasure! Please prayerfully consider this invitation. You will be blessed!

ANNUAL MISSION CELEBRATION
by **Peggy Rice**
Kentucky Conference Vice President

The Kentucky Conference of United Methodist Women held its Annual Mission Celebration on Saturday, October 26th at the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Home in the Lexington District. Our theme was "The Legacy Continues". The highlight of the day was Miss Iva History, UMW. It was a reminder of where we've come from and the direction we need to continue! We celebrated Our Legacy of United Methodists Women over the last 150 years. Our offering was split between the Henderson Settlement and Redbird Mission.

If you haven't seen our new Children's Home, I would encourage you to find an opportunity to do so. Rev. Julie Hager Love, the CEO/President, welcomed us and shared about the many programs they operate out of the Children's Home. She shared stories and successes they have had. She also told us of ways we can participate in those programs. She asked us to pray for the Home, the kids and the staff. We donated \$4,340 in Walmart, Amazon, Target and Kroger cards to the Home!

Our speaker this year was Katie Pryor. Katie is a recent graduate from Southern Methodist University – Perkins School of Theology, Master of Divinity with an Urban Ministry Concentration. She serves in the North Texas Conference and is the consultant on Maternal Child Health with United Methodist Women, National. She shared with us statistics on the mortality rate for women during pregnancy or in childbirth. The United States rates highest of all

industrialized nations in maternal mortality. You can find more information on the United Methodist Women's website.

Charlotte Smith, our representative to the Program Advisory Group, revived her alter ego Miss Iva History U.M.W. – "which means Uniquely Marvelous Woman!" She had living snapshots to share with us from her scrapbook. It began in 1869 at the Tremont Street Church in Boston and took us through 150 years. She included information about our legacy here in Kentucky. We have been busy!

In Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 we are reminded that "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor; If either of them falls down, one can help the other up...A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." As United Methodist Women, we have been called into service by our Father. That labor is easier when we work together, and we see mountains move when we include The Lord. I would encourage you to search for your calling; to look for your next mission project; to mentor the young women in your circle of influence.

Remember there is always work to be done and people who need help! The Lord blesses us so we can be a blessing! If not us, then who? The Legacy Continues...

PSALM 95
by **Sue Brunk, Spiritual Growth**

Psalm 95:1-2 Come, let's sing out loud to the LORD! Let's raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation! Let's come before him with thanks! Let's shout songs of joy to him!

I came to work today and was told our internet was down, then District wide, then State-wide. ☺ Pretty good chance my computer in rural Eastern Kentucky will not regain internet today. So began the scramble to gather the hard copy information that I need and usually get with a click. Students still came to me unaware and uncaring that the information highway was not functioning.

How wonderful that the power, the comfort, the guidance and the love from our heavenly Father is NEVER down. When I find myself feeling “a little distant” it is usually because I haven’t stopped long enough to power-up and log into Him.

The crazy rush is already in high gear at my house and probably is at yours too. May I suggest we make it a priority this season to rest in God’s presence. His gift to us – His very own son for our salvation and the way for us to be in relationship with God...we can’t out give God and we should stop trying (that was for me). A few songs of joy and shouts of praise fixes a lot of days.

Wishing you a Happy and Holy Holiday Season.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

KY East District UMW dates to remember:

- District Spiritual Growth Meeting – April 4, 2020 – Wheelwright UMC
- District Fall Celebration of Missions – September 12, 2020 – Greenup UMC

KY Conference UMW dates to remember:

- Child Advocacy Day – January 23, 2020 – Frankfort (Capital)
- Spiritual Growth Retreat – March 13-14, 2020 – Camp Loucon
- United Methodist Women Day of Giving – March 23, 2020
- South Eastern Jurisdiction – April 17-20, 2020 – Mobile, AL
- Mission u – July 9-12, 2020 – Lindsey Wilson College
- 24th Annual Fall Mission Celebration – October 24, 2020 – Northern KY District