



Tel. A. Woman

VOICE OF SOUTH GEORGIA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

President's Message

Called by Name!

Using our 2009 theme "Called By Name" South Georgia United Methodist Women are reaching out in MISSIONS in Local Units, Districts and the South Georgia Conference. We are fulfilling our PURPOSE as we support mission projects and personnel here at home and around the world. We share in the mission work that seeks to fulfill God's directive found in Matthew 25: 35:



Gloria Morgan

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..."

Summer seems to be right around the corner and things are warming up for many great events for United Methodist Women. The South Georgia Conference Executive Committee met in January to make plans for the 2009 events.

The South Georgia Conference United Methodist Women sponsored three mission rallies in February. This one-day event was for Teen and College/University Women. These events were at The Vashti Center in Thomasville, Open Door Community House in Columbus and Pine Forest and Howard Chapel United Methodist Churches in Dublin. These rallies included music, Bible study, hands-on mission, Social Issues and sharing with sisters in Christ. We are reaching out to teens and college/university women in South Georgia to involve them in missions. Plans are being made to hold mission rallies in each district next year.

Using the theme "The Power of Prayer", 299 South Georgia United Methodist Women were inspired by Rev. B. J. Funk, our spiritual leader, at the South Georgia Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat. The retreat was March

27-29th at Epworth By The Sea. Our musicians were Karla Foster and Angie Carr. Our workshops were wonderful and informative. The highlights of the weekend were the Inspiring messages, music, drama presentation and a teen workshop. Laurie Jo Upchurch did a great job coordinating this event. Let me encourage all of you to make plans to attend this spiritual and uplifting retreat next year.

The South Georgia Mission Team was honored to have three Virginia Conference United Methodist Women sisters attend our Spiritual Growth Retreat. Debbie Lewis, Phyllis Putnam, and Nancy Yarborough were our guests for the weekend. We were able to show them our South Georgia hospitality in appreciation for their being our tour guides at Williamsburg during the SEJ Quadrennial Meeting.

Our district mission studies continue to educate our United Methodist Women. These mission studies are held in each district to extend the South Georgia Conference School of Christian Mission to United Methodist Women and others. This year the mission studies are "I Believe In Jesus", "Israel/Palestine" and "Giving Our Hearts Way: Native American Survival".

Our district Day Apart services were held in April to remember those United Methodist Women who have passed away this year. What a wonderful service of remembrance to those women who worked so hard to make us what we are today. Let each of us remember these special ladies and continue working to keep their MISSION alive.

The South Georgia Conference Executive Committee had a Hands-On Mission Event at Wesley Centers, Inc. in Savannah May 14-15th. The District E & I Coordinators were invited to attend. What a wonderful time we had as we worked at this national mission agency. We carried supplies from

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2010 Assembly

The 2010 Assembly will take place in St. Louis, Mo. from April 30-May 2, 2010 with a pre-event Ubuntu day of service taking place on April 29. Online registration for the event begins June 1, 2009.

The Assembly 2010 Vision Statement reads:

As United Methodist Women who are disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to share...

- **Faith:** *Our belief in the possibility of a new heaven and a new earth.*
- **Hope:** *Our expectation of needs met for all.*
- **Love:** *Our sisterhood of grace and our embodiment of justice.*
- **In Action:** *We find fulfillment of Faith. Hope. Love in the name of Jesus Christ.*

The Assembly 2010 Scripture is Colossians 1:3-6, and the Offering Statement is "Putting in to action our faith, hope, and love." The offering given at Assembly 2010 will help fund organizations and projects focused on global health and environmental justice issues that affect women, children and youth nationally and internationally.

Registration for the event will be entirely online for fast, easy response and streamlined registration.

Andris Salter, the Assembly 2010 coordinator, shared why Assembly participation was important to the members of United Methodist Women. "I attended as a junior in high school. I planned years in advance to go again. 2010 could be the best Assembly yet, and I'll be there." Ms. Salter announced.

Plans for Assembly 2010 are well underway, and include events such as a young women's Speech-Off, the Ubuntu Day of Service, an Education Symposium, a Dance Night,, an International Marketplace, book signings, and a possible United Methodist Women Film Festival.

The "early bird" cost of Assembly 2010 is \$215.

Learn more about Assembly 2010 at www.umwmission.org and also at www.umwonline.org.

~ **President's Message**

our districts and worked along side the Wesley staff. Nancy Pye did a great job coordinating this event. Our special thanks to the Trinity Savannah and Garden City United Methodist Women for hosting the executive mission team during this event. Just a reminder that the South Georgia Conference Supplemental Offering for the second quarter is for Wesley Community Centers in Savannah. Please give to this ministry whose mission is to meet the basic needs of children, youth and adults of primarily low-income families, most of them headed by single parents in the Savannah area.

The South Georgia Annual Conference will be June 7-10 at the Civic Center in Columbus, Georgia. The theme will be "Seek Ye First." The nine district presidents will join me as we represent the United Methodist Women of South Georgia at Annual Conference.

Plans are being made for the South Georgia Conference School of Christian Mission at Epworth By The Sea July 16-19th, with Tara Jones as Dean and a Social Issues Workshop is planned for Saturday, August 8th at Pine Forest United Methodist Church coordinated by Cheryl King. Vice President Mary Exley is also making plans for the South Georgia Conference Annual Meeting which will be October 17th at Wynnton United Methodist Church in Columbus. Our theme will be "Called By Name" and our speaker will be Cathy Cox, president of Young Harris College.

South Georgia Conference United Methodist Women will sponsor a Red Bird Mission Trip to Beverly, Kentucky July 25 - August 1st. Reservations for 20 people have been made for this working mission trip. We will be taking items for use at the Red Bird Missionary School. See a list of these items that are to be carried to the School of Christian Mission elsewhere in this issue.

Check for more information about these planned events elsewhere in this issue. Let me encourage you to make plans to attend these educational and informative events.

The South Georgia Conference United Methodist Women has a Conference Website at www.sgaucm.org/umw. You can find conference and district information about meetings, mission studies and copies of event brochures at this website.

South Georgia United Methodist Women are making plans to attend the 18th United Methodist Women's Assembly that will be April 30-May 2, 2010 at the St. Louis

Mission Rally Highlights

This year's Mission Rally at Vashti was a great time. We spent the day touring and learning about the mission that Vashti performs daily. We were blessed to visit and talk with the residents at Vashti. We also had lunch in the dining hall, which was fabulous. Before we began our tour, we had a Mission Moment in the Sanctuary with Courtney Jones. She reminded us what our Purpose is and how we fulfill that purpose through our Missions. She also provided a hands-on activity that allowed us to see just how familiar we are with our Purpose, which is easier to recite than it is to piece together. Our participants got to experience the Purpose as they learned what the mission is all about at Vashti. They got to see firsthand what services are provided for the residents at



Vashti, to see the programs that benefit from our monetary gifts. I do encourage every United Methodist Woman to invite your teen and college age women to the Mission Rally that will be held in your District next year. We have chosen to make this a District event since the Conference is so spread out; and feel this may promote more participation at a local level. Our District MNOs and Presidents will work together to plan a mission project that will promote the Purpose of UMW in each District. Keep a look out for upcoming information concerning these events and make sure we get the word out to all our young women who are interested in seeing what our Purpose is and how we put it into action.

~ **Tammy Hauser**
SGC UMW MNO Coordinator

America Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Early Registration is \$215.00 and after November 30th it will be \$250.00. Save the date and make plans to attend with your South Georgia Sisters. You will be hearing more about this later this year.

Thank you for your continued support of United Methodist Women and Missions. We have been "Called By Name" to bring peace, justice, hope and love into the lives of women, children and youth here at home and around the world. Let us continue to keep God's Mission of Christ alive in our hurting world. May God bless us as we serve Him.

Gloria Morgan, President
South Georgia Conference
United Methodist Women

Mission Giving

Tell the mission story in your local unit, and challenge your members to participate in Mission Giving. Use Response Magazine & other resources to tell the story!

Does your local unit participate in all five channels of Mission Giving? Have you personally given in all five channels? Give generously...Every mission dollar makes a difference!



Our support for mission projects and personnel around the world makes mission possible...sharing the love of Christ, and touching the lives of women, children and youth. We cannot tell that story too often!

South Georgia Conference United Methodist Women *Social Issues Workshop*

SAT., AUGUST 8, 2009 / 10:00AM - 3:00PM

**PINE FOREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Dublin, Georgia**

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. --- Margaret Mead

John Wesley often preached about works of piety and mercy as inseparable. Charity is a gift, but social action helps change systems that keep people oppressed and dispossessed. As United Methodist Women, we believe that these are inseparable.

For over 140 years, children, youth, and family advocacy, racial justice, public policy, and global policy have been the focus of United Methodist Women's advocacy and part of their mission call. Their advocacy helps improve and empower the lives of women, children, and youth, nationally and internationally.

Who can Attend?

The Following may attend at Conference expense:

- Conference Officers
- District Presidents
- District Social Action Coordinators
- Two or three other District Officers
- Others may attend at their own expense

Lunch will be served.

Registration fee of \$15.00 includes lunch.

Registration deadline is Thursday, July 30th, 2009.



Social Issues Workshop Choices

(List 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th choices. Each participant will take two workshops. Workshops will have a limited number so register early.)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ___ Charter for Racial Justice – Social Justice Program | Patt Maxwell – Patsy Thomas |
| ___ Community Food Security | Beth Flesher |
| ___ Environmental Justice | Raymond Joyce |
| ___ Health Care Issues | Susan Moore |
| ___ Internet/Cyber Security | Diane James |
| ___ Military – Serving Our Veterans | Kenneth Hill |
| ___ Public Education | Patricia Edwards |
| ___ Youth Community Issues | Gary Johnson |

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone Number _____

District _____ Church _____

Office _____

Mail to: Patsy Thomas, 1701 37th Street, Apt. 1106 Phenix City, Alabama 36867
Telephone 334 291-9356 – E-mail: Thomas732362@bellsouth.net

Registration Fee of \$15.00 includes Lunch.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2009

Youth Health Form

This form should be completed by parent of each youth attending and mailed with registration to UMW Registrar Diann Beasley. **Please check any of the following that apply to the youth:**

Allergies Seizures Asthma
 Diabetes Hypoglycemia

Other: _____

List any allergies (i.e. poison ivy/oak, bee stings, medication):

Please describe the following:

Special dietary requirements:

Current medication:

Date of last Tetanus shot:

Please enclose a copy of both sides of youth's insurance care and complete the information below:

Policy Holder's Name:

Insurance company:

Policy/Group #:

Physician's Name

Telephone Number

A medical doctor's statement may be needed for special situations. I give my permission for the South Georgia Conference UMW planning team to seek and provide care for this youth in case any need arises.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____

I understand that pictures will be taken throughout the event, and that these pictures may be used in future publicity.

Parent/Guardian Signature

South Georgia Conference School of Christian Mission

“Together at the Table”

July 16 – 19, 2009

Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia

To be completed by all youth attending and mailed with registration to UMW registrar Diann Beasley

Covenant for Youth at Conference Sponsored Events and Meetings

As a participant in the School of Christian Mission, July 16-19, 2009, I take seriously my responsibility and affirm my commitment to remain on the site of the event. I will attend all scheduled activities, sessions, and meals. I will observe curfew by being in my room, being quiet, and not disturbing others. I understand that anything considered illegal for minors (persons under 18) under civil and criminal law applies to this event as well. Therefore, I will obey all laws. I will not use tobacco, illegal substances, or alcohol, nor will I possess any firearms, weapons, or fireworks. I will respect the equipment and property of others and care for the facility which we share. Any damage to the facility will be the sole responsibility of the person(s) who cause the damage and the parent or legal guardian of each person responsible.

I make this covenant with South Georgia Conference School of Christian Mission planning team. I understand that if I break the covenant, and if the brokenness cannot be reconciled, that my parent or legal guardian will be contacted and my participation in the event may be terminated.

Signature of Teen Participant

Date

Printed Name

Age

PARENTAL CONSENT

I give my son/daughter, _____ permission to attend and participate in the School of Christian Mission sponsored by the South Georgia Conference UMW and the Conference Outreach Discipleship Team at Epworth By The Sea, July 16-19, 2009. I am aware of the purpose of this event and understand the scope and nature of the programs and activities in which my daughter/son will participate during the event. I have read the covenant which my daughter/son has signed, and I understand the responsibilities to which she/he has agreed. I will support her/him in fulfilling this covenant.

I designate the South Georgia Conference School of Christian Mission planning team as chaperone for my daughter/son during the School of Christian Mission.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Mother's Name _____

HomePhone _____

CellPhone _____

WorkPhone _____

Father's Name _____

HomePhone _____

CellPhone _____

WorkPhone _____

South Georgia Conference School of Christian Mission

REGISTRATION FORM

ROOM OPTIONS – ROOM RESERVATION DEADLINE:

JUNE 20, 2009 (All room are non-smoking)

(FOR SOUTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION JULY 17 – 20, 2008)

CLIP AND MAIL TO:

EPWORTH BY THE SEA, P.O. BOX 20407, ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA 31522 • (912) 638-8688

Rates per person for THREE nights lodging, nine meals and tax (Circle your choice):

	Pitts/Booth	Robertson Inn	Abbott Turner Lodge
Single	\$275.16	\$309.24	\$336.48
Double	\$183.12	\$207.00	\$234.24
Triple	\$169.47	\$193.25	\$220.62
Quad	\$162.66	\$186.54	\$196.74

Cabin - \$114.06 per **youth** (Bring sheets, blankets, towels and pillow) **Cabins are available for youth only.** Children staying in room: \$47.28 per child, \$111.57 per teen.

Meals available for those not staying overnight - Breakfast \$7.61, Lunch \$10.86, Dinner \$11.96 (child 3-12 yrs. Old-1/2 price)

Please include full payment with registration. Make check payable to Epworth By The Sea.

You may use Visa () Visa # _____ Exp. Date _____

or Master Card () Master Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Nonrefundable, but transferable. Cancellation received prior to **June 20, 2009** will receive full refund. After June 20, and before **July 1** forfeit \$20.00 per person. After **July 13**, forfeit first night charges. (Reservations are transferable.)

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE# _____

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DEPARTURE DATE: _____ EMAIL _____

SPECIAL REQUESTS IF APPLICABLE: _____

ROOMMATES: _____ SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH PERSON

CHECK IN 4 PM / CHECK OUT 11:30 AM / CLIP AND MAIL Top part to Epworth By The Sea

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

For insurance purposes, please complete a form for each person: adult or child

Please Register prior to June 20, 2009

Registration/Insurance Fee: \$25.00 After June 20: \$35.00

Day students must register. Registration does not include meals.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

CLIP AND MAIL TO REGISTRAR: **Diann Beasley**, Registrar 236 McLaws Rd.

Guyton, GA 31312 • Phone: 912-772-3342 Email: debshudais@planters.net

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

District _____ Church _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

Nursery facilities needed? Yes _____ No _____

If "YES," give age of child(ren) _____

(Nursery provided during school sessions)

Planned study and activities for 1st-6th grade. Please list grade of child _____

Register early for the study of your choice. Registrants are randomly placed in classes

CHOICE OF STUDY Check one:

- _____ Sudan
- _____ Native American Survival
- _____ UMVIM Training
- _____ Basic Lay Speaker Training
- _____ Advanced Lay Speaker trng

(All groups participate in the Bible study)

Check if CEU's are desired _____

CHILDREN'S STUDY:

- _____ Rising Grades 1-3
- _____ Rising Grades 4-6

YOUTH STUDY:

- _____ Rising Grades 7-12

Please submit above information for each person.

Theme for 2009
School of Christian Mission

Together at the Table



For generations the table has been an important symbol for the gathered community. It is around the table that food is shared, discussions are held, decisions are made, crafts are created and board games are played.

As Christians, we are reminded of the significance of the table in Jesus' life and ministry. All along his journey, Jesus shared meals in the home of friends. In the temple, he overturned the tables of injustice. On the eve of his death, around the table with his disciples, he broke bread and set forth a means of grace for all who would believe.

Yet, when we gather at the table, there are contradictions. At the table, there is feast and there is famine. At the table, treaties are made and treaties are broken. At the table, hospitality is offered and hospitality is denied. At the table we gather to celebrate and we gather to grieve. At the table there is peace and there is conflict. At the table, there is hope and there is doubt.

Our human frailties and the realities of the world in which we live too often divide and exclude people at our tables. The Christ we follow calls us to a higher standard of living and loving as together we work for peace and justice for all of creation.

As the Psalmist says "Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." (Psalm 90:1-2)

Though we are many, we are bound by a living God who goes before us and embraces all. In the sacred circle of life, enfolding the world and all that dwells therein, all are together at the table of God's love.

Hands on Mission at the Wesley Community Center

What a joy it was to see the happy smiles on the faces of both the children and staff at the Wesley Community Center's Day Care and the Lady Bamford Center when five District Education and Interpretation Coordinators, District Presidents and



Conference Officers worked at the Center on Friday, May 15, 2009. Twenty three United Methodist Women from our South Georgia Conference gathered in Pooler on Thursday, May 14 and traveled to Garden City United Methodist Church for dinner, hosted by their United Methodist Women. Nancy Pye, Conf. Coordinator of Education and Interpretation and Gloria Morgan, Conf. President, welcomed the group then Carol Banks, E & I Coordinator for the Americus District, gave the blessing before the meal. Alice Reynolds, E & I Coordinator for the Dublin District, gave an inspiring devotional that told about finding ways to be in mission in everyday places.

The Reverend Steve Meguiar, Wesley Community Center Board Member, spoke to the group about the wonderful work that is carried on at Wesley and the Lady Bamford Center helping women, children, youth and families. A special guest was Mrs. Norma Curry, who is a tireless advocate for the Center and other Savannah Mission Agencies. They were introduced by Marilyn Page, Savannah District President. Also attending was Diane Wilhelm, Savannah District Vice-President who represented the district at the Hands on Mission Day. Jo Ann Wheeler, E & I Coord. for the Waycross District, closed the meeting with prayer.

On Friday morning, once the rain subsided, the group traveled to the Center where they were welcomed by Director Tammy Mixon. Tammy introduced her staff and their liaison from the General Board of Global Ministry, Hortense Tyrell. We heard a brief history of the center and an overview of the work that is carried out through their programs. The Women's Center provides job training, emergency financial assistance, clothing, food and other services. The acclaimed Children's Center provides childcare for children ages 1-4 along with

support services for the families of children attending. They also operate the Lady Bamford Center for children ages six weeks through four years. All of their children's programs have received national recognition for their excellence. Another program offered is the Youth Arts Camp, a full day summer program for school age children. Conference United Methodist Women worked to re-organize the clothes closet, organize the Campbell's Soup labels, re-organize the children's clothes closet, read to the children and re-organize the library in the Women's Center. The rain prevented outside work sites, but everyone found plenty of work to do inside. Nancy Wilkes used the theme of "hands" in a devotional to inspire the group to be at work in mission. Attendees gave donations of staple food items and baby wipes. The regulations require that workers use seven wipes per diaper change.

At Wesley, it was a wonderful experience to see our mission dollars at work. Our 2nd quarter supplemental giving is designated for the Wesley Community Center and it will share with the other two South Georgia Mission Agencies the 4th quarter supplemental giving. Wesley welcomes groups so feel free to contact someone to schedule a visit or a work day to assist them. Their philosophy is, "A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out" and this approach is changing lives and saving families. Your prayers and your gifts are making a difference in the Savannah area through the Wesley Community Center and The Lady Bamford Center and they are most grateful for your support. After the work day was complete, the group enjoyed lunch prepared by the United Methodist Women of Trinity United Methodist in Savannah.

~ Nancy Pye

Conference Coordinator of Education
and Interpretation

Red Bird Mission

At least twenty South Georgia UMW ladies will be going on a Red Bird Mission trip. We invite all participants at the School of Christian Missions to share in missions by bringing supplies and/or monetary donations to purchase much needed supplies of this mission school in Beverly, Kentucky. These gifts will be delivered by those attending the upcoming mission trip.

Supplies needed are back packs, flash drives, calculators, colored markers, colored pencils, and books for children (infant-4 years of age).

The South Georgia UMW ladies are some of the most generous, caring people in the world. You are not always aware of all the good things you do to help the women, children and youth of South Georgia and around the world. Thank you for always reaching out to others.



News from Women's Division

The South Georgia Conference is most fortunate to have two representatives at Women's Division. Along with all the other items of business that come before Gloria Gilmore and Nancy Bearden Hudson for consideration, they work hard to see that our South Georgia Conference mission agencies are cared for.

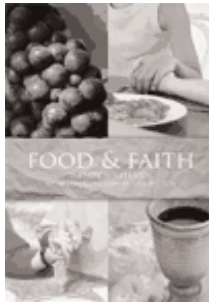
Just within the last month monies were approved for each of our mission agencies. Open Door in Columbus will receive \$25,000 in addition to their budgeted \$16,180. Wesley Community Center in Savannah will receive \$25,000 in addition to their budgeted \$17,948. Vashti in Thomasville will receive its budgeted \$25,000. These grants are part of the Prayer and Self Denial donations.

As you can see we in this conference are receiving a large portion of the money we donate to mission right back here to help our mission agencies.

Adult Studies

Spiritual Growth Study: Food and Faith

This study is about how our faith is nurtured, strengthened, and enhanced, by food and all the ways food touches our lives. It is no accident that our most profound sacrament, Holy Communion, is food.



We will explore how the bread and fruit of the vine illustrates the magnitude of God's love for us on multiple levels, and how God's presence is invoked and the divine and the ordinary connect in a mystery created by Christ and ordained by God. The presence of God in our lives is shared in community when the faithful gather for sustenance in the form of fellowship and food.

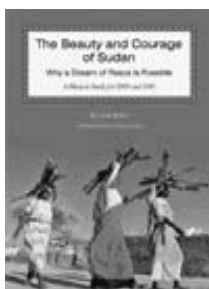
General Issue Study: Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival

The purposes of this study are to learn about the inter-relatedness between the indigenous peoples and their land, to identify selected key issues affecting the Native Americans in the United States and to examine the root causes of these issues, to understand and appreciate the "Give Away" culture of the Native Americans in the areas of spirituality, ecology, language, story-telling, food, and to lead the participants to act as responsible US citizens and Christians in accompaniment and solidarity with Native Americans



Geographic Study: The Beauty and Courage of Sudan

For the past twenty years the country of Sudan has been plagued with severe drought. The shortages of food due to the drought have sometimes reached famine proportions.



The climate change is not just a looming crisis, but a reality on the ground. Then there are the wars of the Sudan: unremitting, for nearly all its history. Explored in this study are an overview of history that began in Bible times; the country's main ethnicities, religions and languages; the possible causes for the wars; and the way Sudanese women are contributing to the peace process and to the culture as a whole.

Local Mission Study Sparks a Mission Trip

On March 3, 2009 the Allentown UMW in the Dublin District held the "Native American Survival" study. They had heard of the great needs on reservations and invited

Amber and Ashley Wolfchief-Hartwell and their father, Kirk Hartwell, to come.



Amber and Ashley are natives of the Cheyenne/Arapaho tribe in Oklahoma but were adopted when they were very small and live in Rentz, Georgia. The girls don't remember much about the Oklahoma Reservation where they were born, but have always wanted to help their native family.

The Agape Stitchers, a mission outreach group from the Allentown UMW, presented the Hartwell family with 200 dresses for girls, 100 short sets, 100 baby blankets and a large assortment heavy duty hand-made book bags filled with school supplies. These donations are to be delivered to Oklahoma in June. Since local people have heard about the planned trip, donations have poured in and now a 53 ft. trailer has been completely filled with 15 washing machines, boxes of clothes and other supplies for the people on the reservation. Local units of United Methodist Women are sending funds to assist with the travel expense to deliver these items.

Jesus said in Matthew 25:40 "When you have done it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me."

~ **Shirley Thigpen**
Dublin District President

South Georgia Conference School of Christian Mission

July 16 – 19, 2009

**Epworth By The Sea
St. Simons Island, GA**



*A Mission Experience
for All Ages!*

Registration: 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Ellie Harvey Room

Opening Session: 6:30 pm
Nalls Auditorium

Adult Studies

Food and Faith

(all adults will participate in this study)
Andris Salter

Choose one of the following:

Sudan

Addie Haynes, Rev. Dr. Kevin Haynes & Rev. Abra Lattany Reed

Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival

B.J. Cutts

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Training

Jamie Gibson

Lay Speakers Training

Basic: Rev. Earl James
Advanced: Rev. Dr. Charles Cravey

Youth Study

(Rising Grades 7 – 12)
Rev. Shannon Clark Patterson

**Youth will participate in a hands-on
mission project**

Children's Study

(Rising Grades 1-6) ~ Allison Eastin
For more information on leaders,
see the link at www.sgaumc.org

Conference Executive Committee

President..... **Gloria Morgan**

Vice President..... **Mary Exley**

Secretary..... **Patsy Thomas**

Treasurer..... **Diann Beasley**

Mission Coordinators

Social Action..... **Cheryl King**

Education and

Interpretation..... **Nancy Pye**

Membership Nurture and

Outreach..... **Tammy Hauser**

Secretary of Program

Resources..... **Thelma Bunch**

Communications

Coordinator..... **Chub Charles**

Nominations Committee

Chairperson..... **Tara Jones**

District UMW Presidents

Americus..... **Agnes McKinney**

Columbus..... **Patt Maxwell**

Dublin..... **Shirley Thigpen**

Macon..... **Violet Graham**

Savannah..... **Marilyn Page**

Statesboro..... **Janice Conley**

Thomasville..... **Diane James**

Valdosta..... **Lyndal Webb**

Waycross..... **Janis Kenney**

A Refreshing Time for the Soul...

Spiritual Growth Retreat

~ Reflections by **Janice Conley from the Statesboro District**

Oh, what a wonderful weekend the Spiritual Growth Retreat was! I was so blessed. Conference President, Gloria Morgan announced that there were 299 registered attendees! What insight the Rev. B.J. Funk gave us in her talks about prayer. My favorite was "Praying from inside a Fish"...Jonah 1:17, 2:1. Friday night's talk about the dark places we have in our lives was particularly meaningful to me. Some of the things that hit home for me...we are not alone when those we love run from God. We are not responsible for their actions. God does not deny the free will of anyone. God takes our messes and mistakes and makes a mercy situation out of them! God can do wonderful things in the darkness and we can see miracles come out of darkness...even if you are swallowed by a big old fish!! Dear Lord, thank you for providing that fish to swallow Jonah, thank you for the smelly place that made him cry out to you, thank you for keeping Jonah safe, and thank you for making that fish burp! Wow, what truth we can claim for our own children. The point of asking (praying) is to get to know Him better. How do we get to "know" God? Get to know His heart on the matter. We can be so difficult; God can be so patient.

It didn't stop there! Praying Before a Battle...2 Chronicles 20:5-12 and Praying Before a Locked Door...Matthew 7:7-8, were our talks for Saturday. Sunday the topic was Praying on the Mountainside ...Matthew 13:23. All of the sermons by B.J. Funk, the music lead by Karla Foster and Angie Carr, the Saturday interest groups, the whole worship experience was wonderful. The First Praise session by Patsy Thomas, UMW Conference Secretary, revealed to us her sweet precious spirit. During the Sunday morning First Praise we had a visit from Susanna Wesley (a.k.a. Laurie Jo Upchurch) at Lovely Lane Chapel. This was quite a treat. If you weren't there, all I can say is YOU MISSED IT! What blessings...sent straight from heaven for all who attended!

I do hope everyone will make plans now to attend next year's Spiritual Growth Retreat planned for March 26-28, 2010. This will be Palm Sunday weekend so just make the plans you need for next year with this in mind. Be in prayer now for next year's event as plans are being made for the program. Laurie Jo Upchurch will be the force behind the program planning. Watch for details to be revealed in the coming months for our next Spiritual Growth Retreat.

Purpose of 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.



Chub Charles

2704 Melrose Drive
Valdosta, GA 31602

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