My name is Marchelle “Micki” Phelps. I have one son, Jason Phelps; he is 29 years old. I am employed by Blue Care Network. I’ve worked for Blue Cross and Blue Shield/Blue Care Network of Michigan and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois since 1975, with a brief 8-month detour with Wisconsin Physician Service.

I have been a member of United Methodist Women since 1990 in the Charity subgroup of Conant Avenue in Detroit. It has been an honor to be a member of United Methodist Women, not only for the betterment of women, children and youth, but also for my own betterment. The organization has brought me closer to Jesus Christ, taught me the meaning of commitment and allowed me to develop many leadership skills.

I have served as treasurer and interim treasurer for the Detroit Conference, Detroit East and Renaissance Districts, Regional School, and Mission u; as Detroit Conference mission coordinator for education and interpretation; and, Mission u business manager. I have also assisted with the secretary for program resources position for the Detroit Renaissance District. Now you have given me the opportunity to serve as conference president. This will be a challenge, but with God as my guide and support from others in the Conference, I will work hard towards the goal of God’s mission work.

This organization has allowed me to put love into action and to know God through mission and prayer events, Annual Conference sessions, spiritual life retreats, and other faith-based activities. I have met lots of people and made many new friends. I have felt a strong connection with other members of United Methodist Women whose sole “Purpose” is to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ. As president, I will further demonstrate the love of Christ within our conference, in the U.S. and across the globe. My goal is to share the good news of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through mission work as part of the team effort of United Methodist Women.

I thank God for allowing me to be a special part of United Methodist Women.

Marchelle (Micki) Phelps
marchellephelps@att.net 313-618-5361

Introducing Our New Vice President

The New Year is approaching fast. Hopefully, you are excited as I am to begin a New Year of Mission Work. I will start a new journey in 2015 as Detroit Conference United Methodist Women’s Vice President. I ask for your prayers and your help to share our story of how transformative, the journey as United Methodist Women has been for us. We want to make a difference as those who came before us. Those who led the fight for Civil Rights, women’s suffrage, and environmental concerns. Today we are still working for these issues in addition to Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, Health Care, Peace and Justice.

We must tell our story and share the purpose.
We need each other.

Patricia A. Bostic
pbostic02@att.net 248-543-0743
**Last Words from the Past President:**

**Anticipating Change - Celebrating Experience - Moving On**

As I re-read Harriett Olson’s Responsively Yours article in the November 2014 *response* magazine, “Change Brings Disruptions - and New Possibilities,” I couldn’t help remembering the first time I was introduced to Beloit College’s Mindset lists. That was back in 1999; the youngsters starting college that fall were born in 1980 and would graduate in 2002. The Mindset list was initially created as a reminder to faculty to be wary of dated references, and it has become a catalog of the rapidly changing perception of each new generation as they make an important transition.

At the time I was still working in a university library and managing to stay relatively current with computers and technology, and a few of the items on the 1999 Mindset list brought me up short:

“They have never owned a record player.”

“The compact disc was introduced when they were one year old.”

This year’s Mindset list, prepared to reflect on students born in 1996 who will graduate in 2018, had a few more shockers:

“’Press pound’ on the phone is now translated as ‘hit hashtag.’”

“Celebrity ‘selfies’ are far cooler than autographs.”

A few years ago, a young adult speaker brought in to help our West Vienna unit of United Methodist Women develop programs of interest to youth and young adults had some disturbing news for us. According to research, she said, things were now changing so fast that by the time a student completes four years of college, what was learned at the beginning of those four years is already obsolete. I wish I had that reference today; I’m beginning to believe it.

I’m not sorry to have experienced so many changes in my lifetime; I still anticipate them and celebrate the possibilities they bring, possibilities for building new relationships that will help us live out our discipleship in this rapidly changing world. But it’s time for me to move on - leaving the challenges and opportunities of the future to those who follow, with a couple of reminders from Albert Einstein:

*We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them, nor can we continue doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.*

Kay Mowery
President, 2013-2014

---

**The Legacy of United Methodist Women:**

**Cherishing the Past, Building for the Future**

The telephone rang just as I was getting home from work. Mabel Thomas was calling from Metropolitan’s United Methodist Women. “I know you work and have two small children, but if you will join us to work at the rummage sale, we’ll provide free babysitting for you.” I couldn’t believe it; the ladies of the church would actually hire a baby sitter for me. What a gift. They did and I did.

That was the first of many rummage sales I worked, long past the time I needed babysitting. I loved the fellowship with the women and enjoyed meeting people during the sales. I also appreciated the fact that the proceeds were used to support global missions and meet local needs. Mrs. Thomas and I remained friends until her death. Our relationship wasn’t developed over bible study or discipleship training; it was forged over sorting women’s coats, skirts and blouses. Mabel was kind, caring, and talkative; she loved being a member of United Methodist Women and was eager to share her passion with other women. She saw that if working women were to be a part of the unit, she would have to reach out to them.

Reaching out is also the story of my relationship with Beverly Sprau. Beverly realized that day meetings would not work for women with weekday jobs and formed a Saturday group. She also invited the women from the daytime meetings into the Saturday group. It grew from a circle to be the active “unit.” These women make up my United Methodist Women’s legacy. Who made up yours? Please share your stories with me and the other members of our Legacy Fund Committee.

Jeanette Harris
248-569-1683   jharris48@yahoo.com

---

**New Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator**

I have been blessed to spend the past four years as president of the Crossroads District United Methodist Women and have enjoyed serving on the Conference Leadership Team. Now I feel so honored to serve as Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Conference, following my friend Patricia Bostic, who has already taught me so much.

I am discovering there is a lot to learn in this new position and I’m excited about it. I invite you to join me in this journey of Spiritual Growth; we can learn and grow together and keep faith, hope and love in action for the United Methodist Women Detroit Conference.

Michele Weston
mweston38@att.net
810-694-6266
Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation

Don’t Be Boring!

I just love to read! I’ve participated in the United Methodist Women’s Reading Program for several years, the last three at the Plan IV level. I’m also in a local book club; I’ve read my Bible through this year; and, I read many additional books and articles, plus several email newsletters.

My favorite newsletters are “Leading Ideas from The Lewis Center for Church Leadership and Ministry Matters,” also United Methodist related. Some of those articles “strike home” with me and I simply have to share them. These include two from the issue of November 25, 2014. In “Play it safe or take risks?” John Flowers writes “Churches that play it safe are boring. Churches that take risks are faithful to the gospel….We can no longer play it safe and be faithful to the gospel.” If you substitute United Methodist Women for the word churches, you have my idea. We are called to take risks! Have a coat, sock or underwear drive and engage in conversation with the recipients. Learn a bit about them and let them learn a bit about you. Take a kind act one step further and make it real, both for you and others; then your ministry is with, not for. Get out of your comfort zone and into the frying pan of mission! Don’t be boring!

In “Think like a Wesleyan,” William Willimon writes “Never did Jesus say, ‘Think about me!’ He said, ‘Follow me!’” Wow, what a simple, but profound observation. Willimon encourages warm hearts, active hands, obedience and action. That lifestyle is definitely not boring.

If you attended the Annual Celebration this year, you met some of our “hands and feet.” You heard more about Imagine No Malaria from Dr. Molly Turner; and you met some of our lively Michigan missionaries: Chelsea Spyres, new US2 at N.O.A.H. in Detroit; Mary Gladstone-Highland, Community Outreach Director at Clarkston UMC; and, Randy Hildebrant, new Church and Community Worker at God’s Country Cooperative Parish in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. All were just about the exact opposite of boring! When we give through one of our Five Channels of Mission Giving, we support them, their missions, and many others throughout the world. We become the hands and feet of Jesus – locally, nationally, and internationally. And that’s not boring!

Julia Hulka
jahulka49@gmail.com - 989-348-1992

Introducing Our New Conference Secretary, Kay Korns

Greetings to all! I look forward to being an officer (secretary) for United Methodist Women Detroit Conference. I am a member of Faith UMC in Trenton, where I have been secretary, vice president and president of our local UMW unit. In the Detroit West and Detroit Renaissance Districts I served as secretary and communications coordinator.

I moved to Michigan in 1968 to become a physical education teacher at Trenton High School. Previously I taught for three years in Illinois and for six in Iowa. I have been active in sports all my life, coached high school girls basketball and volleyball teams for eight years and have been a registered sports official in the Detroit Metropolitan area since 1978.

I also enjoy Detroit Symphony Orchestra concerts and theater productions at The Hilberry Theatre and in Stratford and Niagara-on-the Lake in Canada.

I was raised on a farm near a very small town (population of 100) in Iowa. My parents were both leaders in various organizations. I considered them to be people of service, and in their footsteps I too served in leadership positions in college and during my teaching career. I have had more time to give to others because I have not been married and have no children.

As an officer of the United Methodist Women Detroit Conference and member of the Executive Committee, I hope members and officers will contact me with concerns, problems, questions or ideas. We serve more effectively if we communicate and get feedback. Even criticism can be received if offered after praise, compliments and with suggestions for how to improve.

Thankful for blessings and the love of God,

Kathryn (Kay) Korns
k.korns@gmail.com home 734-671-0005 cell 734-775-2385
Social Action Update

At Mission u last summer, I was excited to have many new people sign up to receive Social Action updates through our site on umwonline.net. I have updated that site and it is ready now for me to send out the email invites. I have many new links posted on a variety of subjects. Please check it out. You will need to register with the online community to participate. The site is dedicated to the Detroit Conference, so is called the UMW Detroit Conference Social Action group. If you would like to join in, email me for an invite. I hope we can get some sharing going on this safe site; it is protected, with no spam; the information you post will not go anywhere else. There is also a Nationally monitored UMW Social Action group, but it has not been used very much.

I was privileged to give a Social Action update during Mission u’s 2-day event last summer. It was great to hear what is happening in our Conference and I hope to hear more from local units as well as churches without units about their Social Action projects. My church, Plymouth First, has no unit, but we are involved with Women At Risk (WAR) International; we had two events last fall and will have two for our youth and young adults in the spring.

Our three mission emphases for 2014 have been Poverty, Bullying, and Violence Near and Far. I spoke on Poverty at the Ann Arbor District Annual Celebration in October. For 2015 we are not asked to declare specific emphases for the Conference, but rather to share what each group has been doing. You are free to work on any subject that fits your area; but I need to hear from you!

Keep Making Peace #13, our Area-wide Social Action event, is April 10 & 11, 2015, at University UMC in East Lansing. It begins with a light dinner on Friday at 6:00 pm and ends about 3:30 pm Saturday. A block of rooms is available at the Breslin Center, but you need to make your own reservation. Three forms of Violence will be covered: Gun Violence, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking.

The Conference UMW is supporting me to attend the Ecumenical Advocacy event April 17-20, 2015. The website is advocacydays.org; a wealth of information is there. This event has been an eye opener for me in many Social Action areas; I have learned how much I count as an individual. At the end, attendees have a chance to visit their Senators and Representatives to discuss issues. I encourage anyone with a heart for this work to consider attending; your district or unit may be able to help with funding.

Working for God together, 
Joy Coyle
brcoyle@aol.com 248-486-6686

New Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach

Mitsy Mentzer
mmentzer@mentz.com 517-263-7496

I recently completed four years as Ann Arbor District President and now assist the new president. I remain involved with the district by mailing the newsletters and working on the bylaws committee. I served as president of the Adrian First unit for four years following many years of service in various positions on the board.

I have always been attracted to the organization because it encourages women to grow in faith with others as they look beyond themselves toward neighbors, both locally and globally. It expresses the true meaning of the word JOY, Jesus, Others, and then Yourself. It is an organization which encourages continuous learning whether through pertinent topics covered at the Mission u, annual celebrations or the Assembly. I wish to invite other women into the circle of the United Methodist Women.

Working with others and assisting those in need is part of my being. I am a nurse-educator by training and presently I read and grade grants from groups applying for federal money. My expertise is in childcare and Head Start.

I look forward to this new endeavor which I have accepted and to meeting new people whom I will call friends.

From the Webmaster:
Looking for Links to Local Units

www.detroitconferenceumw.org is the address for the Detroit Conference United Methodist Women website. One of the links from the home page is “Local Links and Information.” When you click on it and go to that page, scroll down to the bottom and you will find “Detroit Conference Local Units with Webpages”. Have a look at some of them and see what other local units are doing. If the link does not work, please let me know. We'd like to add more local unit links. If you have a page on your church's website, let me know the web address and I will add it.

Diana Miller
diana@ddmiller.net 989-426-2644
Hidden Names of the Bible
A Puzzle for You

In these remarks are hidden the names of 24 books of the Bible. Yes, there are some that are easy to spot; others are harder to judge. So we admit, it usually results in lamentations when we can’t find them. It is a lulu, kept me looking so hard for the facts that I missed the revelation. I was in a jam especially since not all the names are capitalized and spaces separate some of the letters.

The truth will come to numbers of you; to others, it will be a real job; to all it will be a most fantastic search. One book is emphasized boldly to help you get the idea. We offer some other hints, It helps you if are in a humming mood.

One lady said she brews coffee while she puzzles over it; another tries to hose a part of her lawn. (She may try to josh u a little too.)

My friend Joe looks for a hero—man’s best friend, but he has a pet ermine, not a dog. He also keeps alms under a door mat. The weird ideas some have.)

If you find all 24 in an hour, you’re a real pro. Verbs are not as helpful as nouns. Begin by reviewing the books of the Bible.

(Compliments of the Communications Coordinator)

New Chair of Nominations Asks
“Who Are We?”

A member of United Methodist Women is a woman whose feet are firmly rooted in the local unit of her church with her wings spread out in the global arena. She is a witness to the story of stories, that the church has its origin in God’s mission in Christ. It is an awe-inspiring story of commitment and conviction. It is also a story of love and involvement, a story of sacrifice and death. It is a story the women at the empty tomb of Christ carried into the world.

“It is the stories our foremothers lived out in their homes, implanted in our land, and carried across the seas and continents. Organizationally, the United Methodist Women live out this grand story of love and salvation by empowering women, youth and children.”

I was inspired when I read this two years ago during training as a new member of Nominations for the Detroit Conference. I have now begun two years as the Chairperson of the Committee, and with the guidance of God I hope to serve as he would want me to serve. I am excited to have this opportunity and hope I can be a support to all of you. If you have a question regarding nominations, please let me know. If I don’t have the answer, I will work on your behalf to get it.

A little about me: I live in Ida in Southeast Michigan. I am married to David and have three wonderful children and five grandchildren. I am companion to our two four legged friends named Missy and Joey.

I’ve been an active member of the local unit of United Methodist Women at Erie United Methodist Church for 35 years. Like many of you, I have served in many roles, including president. I was also on the Ann Arbor District Mission Team, six years on Nominations and four years as Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth. I am a Certified Lay Servant/Speaker and just retired from Arbor Hospice after 18 wonderful years as Volunteer Coordinator. Have a wonderful New Year and God’s Blessings to you!

Sherry Wagenknecht
wagen88@hotmail.com 734-69-2578

Using Your Greatest Gifts
Past Chair, Nominations

Thank you, United Methodist Women of the Detroit Conference, for listening and knowing God's call. You are using your gifts in these special ministries that benefit women, children and youth.

The gift of yourself is discussed in one of the Reading Program books, The End of Your Life Book Club, by Mary Anne Schwalbe, which includes this quotation: “The greatest gift you can give someone is your undivided attention.”

My friend David Smith says “Gifts come to us in many packages. They might be light, warmth, laughter, sometimes colors, or scents of the moment. But, the first gift is, “The Gift of BEING AWARE.” Be Aware, your Nominating Committee is always listening for you to say, “I am ready to do a United Methodist Women District or Conference job.” My phone number and e-mail address are at the end of this article. Please contact me.

We look forward to working with Sherry Wagenknecht as our new Nominations Chairperson. Isaiah 41:10 says “I am with you always, I will help you....”

Laragene Triplett
jltriplet@gmail.com 810-659-2081
As another year ends and a new one begins, we once again look towards the budget and plans we have in place for 2015. How close did we come as UMW Detroit Conference towards meeting our budget in 2014? We won’t be sure until the last remittance is in from the Districts and as I write this article we are still in December. Each year it seems to get harder, and we look for ways to continue the important work of United Methodist Women around the world and at home.

The 5-Star Woman (or Person) Program began in 1999. This year we gave out 15 year pins to honor those United Methodist Women who have faithfully participated all those years. It was equally a joy to award the 5 and 10 year pins. We are hoping to give more each year as you continue participating. If you didn't receive one we hope you got to see one in person; if not they are pictured below. Of course we also awarded the plain gold star to the years in between.

If you start to budget the first of the year it will cost you a minimum total of $60.00 which is $6.00 a month for 10 months and brings you to Annual Meetings. This will give you ample time to decide who you will honor for the Special Mission Recognition pin you order. It is a real joy to honor someone for their faithful work in mission. It makes me think of the popular act of kindness “Pay it Forward.”

Please give much thought to participating in this program which will surely help us make our pledge in 2015. Use the Prayer Calendar and pray each day for a mission focus and mission workers on their birthdays. Sending them a birthday greeting will let them know we support them in their work. Don’t forget to read response. “He who gives to the poor will lack nothing,” (Proverbs 28:27, NIV).

Have a blessed 2015 and I enjoy helping you in any way I can.

Janet Muntz, Treasurer
stitchinjan@airadvantage.net 989 872-2346
Detroit Renaissance President Celebrates Full Slate for 2015

The Detroit Renaissance District of United Methodist Women has been without a full contingent of officers for the 2014 year, but thank God at last we have a full slate to take us into 2015. Not having a Program Resources person is one thing that put us a bit behind in our reading; the joy is we are back on track. After having a great annual celebration, we are ready to step into the vision that our speaker Diana Miller described. Her message was great, informative, inspiring and quite visible. All who were lucky enough to hear her were inspired.

Our present and new officers were in Owosso for Officer Training and Leadership Development. and the Annual Celebration. Bishop Deb presented an inspiring message and we were so grateful to have her. We look forward to 2015 and all the challenges it will present as we continue our work in mission, living our purpose. We are willing to serve without expectation of reward. We never boast or think of ourselves so highly because we serve.

Matthew 20:26-27 tells us that the measure of greatness is not position, power or prestige; it is service. And so we serve.

Alice Tucker
fayerich@comcast.net 248-357-5816
Blue Water District Report

Welcome to a new year! In Blue Water District we are gearing up for a wonderful year. We have scheduled motivating speakers (Living Truth 2 at our Spiritual Growth Retreat and Rev. Linda Fuller from Caseville as Prayer Breakfast speaker at Cass City); inspirational mission team meetings held at a variety of churches; and shepherd meetings with our various units designed to assist in any way possible. We have also realigned our shepherd churches to make it more convenient to host cluster meetings with units close to each other. We also look forward to a great year of mission work accomplished and documented.

We have been working on District Team job descriptions and are anxious to pass them out at our next meeting. Our goal is to have descriptions and timelines by month to show what is expected of each person who takes on a position, and we are almost there! Our great Nominations Committee members have taken this on and done an outstanding job!

We had the pleasure of welcoming Rev. Cathy Rafferty, Chelsea Retirement Communities chaplain, as our District Annual Meeting speaker, and we learned many things about the United Methodist Retirement Communities Foundation. Our ladies were very pleased with the work of the UMRCF, and we plan to attend the Chelsea Retirement Communities tea as a day away in July.

Last but certainly not least, I had the opportunity, as a new District President, to attend Leadership Development Days in St. Louis, Missouri, in November. What a joy! I was able to fellowship with ladies in leadership from all over the United States and formed some contacts that I know will be useful to me over the next three years as president. The National Office did a wonderful job arranging for everything for us, from the hotel where the meetings were held to the programs and workshops designed especially for leaders.

I especially enjoyed the Biblical Explorations, short stories based on the book *Miriam, Mary & Me* by Lois Miriam Wilson. I will be using some of these as food for thought at both local and district meetings.

In closing, the words below from John Wesley have been on my mind lately. I believe they speak directly to anyone involved in United Methodist Women, and I hope you agree!

“Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.”

Kathy Freeland, President
ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net 989-843-4147

Ann Arbor District Report

Happy New Year from the Ann Arbor District!
Can you believe that we are already in the year 2015? It seems like such a short time ago we were all preparing for unknown computer and other dire consequences of turning the calendar page into 2000. Fourteen years have flown by!!

The District Mission Team last met on November 15 and covered a lot of business in wrapping up the year as well as making plans for this New Year. We reviewed the evaluations from our Annual Meeting and will be using this information as we plan for next year’s meeting. Thanks to everyone who turned in an evaluation - we learned much about what we can improve on to better meet the expectations of the attendees.

As a Christmas gift alternative, we all gave a donation toward our Pledge to Mission. Our schedule of Mission Team meetings for 2015 is in place; the first meeting will be on Saturday, January 10, weather permitting.

Plans are well in place for our District Spring Spiritual Growth Retreat April 17-18 at Judson Collins Camp. The retreat leader will be Dev Mantel. We all look forward to this retreat and the revitalization it brings to each of us.

Will the New Year be happy and bright for all of you? No matter what it brings, we all have the assurance that God is with us, guiding us as long as we are willing to listen to His voice and follow Him.

May it be so.

Vicky Engelbert, President
greemabert5@att.net 734-483-4660
Marquette District Report

The Marquette District had a successful Celebration on October 7, 2014, at the Gladstone UMC. We were very pleased to have Conference President Kay Mowery in attendance. Our Keynote speaker was Tim Bennett, Executive Director of Bay Cliff Health Camp which serves children with Disabilities.

A laptop with QuickBooks has been purchased for the Treasurer so that it can be passed to all succeeding treasurers with reports intact eliminating duplication of effort. It has also been decided to send our District newsletter via email with hard copies to those without Internet.

Social Action and Education and Interpretation are working together. Fifty dresses have gone to Haiti and more are being readied to send to Honduras in March.

Our Spiritual Growth Retreat will be May 1-2, 2015, with the program "The Other 12 Disciples."

All our Offices have been filled and we are looking forward to a great year.

Bobbie Clift, President
blclift@charter.net  906-361-2234

New Saginaw Bay District President

As a life-long United Methodist, I am passionate about John Wesley’s stance that there is no personal holiness without social holiness. As a young, idealistic college student in the 1970s, I was active at the Wesley Foundation at Central Michigan University, where I discovered the US-2 Program. After earning my degree, I applied to the program and ended up serving on the staff at Wesley. I worked with two directors over my two years, helping establish chapters of Bread for the World and Amnesty International.

A few decades later, when I became involved with United Methodist Women. I jumped in with the same passion. Over the past decade, I have served as District Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation and for Social Action. Now, after only one year as Vice President, I’m stepping out in faith as President for the Saginaw Bay District. Last year, I also joined the ranks of past Deans of Mission u. It was an extraordinary privilege to have been invited to write the study leader’s guide for Haiti: Challenges and Hope, which resulted in my leading the study in Texas, Pennsylvania, and Florida. I look forward to continuing work with United Methodist Women on the conference level.

I am challenging the women of our district to put out the welcome mat, as our program book suggests. Are there women (especially younger women) in our congregations who share our passion? Are there women in our communities who share our vision for women, children and youth? Have we reached out to neighboring churchwomen? Have we invited the women of our cluster units to programs? Do we have opportunities to establish relationships with women throughout and beyond our own district?

Let’s keep widening the circle! Every time I have said, “Yes!” to United Methodist Women, I have received a blessing.

This is an amazing organization!

Rene Johnson
renejohnson@charter.net  989-631-2378

Detroit Annual Conference News
(In Case You Haven’t Heard)

Rev. Duane Miller is Interim District Superintendent for Blue Water District, effective 12/1/14, when Rev. Joanne Bartelt went on medical leave. Rev. Miller is also the new cabinet liaison to United Methodist Women.

Rev. Melanie Carey will become Clergy Assistant to Bishop Deborah Kiesey July 1, 2015.

Rev. Dr. Charles S.G. Boayue, Jr. will become District Superintendent for the Detroit Renaissance District July 1, 2015, replacing Rev. Carey.

Full detail of The Journal of the 2014 Detroit Annual Conference is now online at:
http://detroitconference.org/pages/detail/2171
“Au Revoir” Saginaw Bay Past President - Welcome to Conference Nominations

This year has been busy and enriching to our souls. The Saginaw Bay Spiritual Brunch, Retreat, and Annual Celebration had inspiring speakers and the fellowship was great. If you believe or doubt that, you need to attend next year’s events and see for yourself. Your team has been busy lining up a great program of events to whet and satisfy your mission needs. You will learn and experience where and how your gifts and talents are used here and around the world. Please check out the flyers in the Nautical. Anyone can attend, including those from adjacent districts.

I wish to say “Au revoir,” for this is my last contact with you as president. I have officially turned over the gavel to Rene Johnson, who will serve you as president for 2015. The saying that “time flies” is appropriate, for the first day of my four years as president seems like only yesterday.

You can’t get rid of me, for I have been elected to serve on the Conference Nominations Committee. So, I will be looking for and at you to serve our district and possibly the conference. You can’t play hide and seek. I will search you out until you give of yourself. (smile). All kidding aside, we still need someone to be Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth on the district team.

May God continue to bless each sister and brother in the Saginaw Bay District, for each of you is special in HIS eyes and to each other.

Pat Engelbrecht
patenbrecht@att.net 989-426-4189

From the Communications Coordinator

We share what is happening with United Methodist Women by involving others through our communications. The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women, plus conference and district events and news, are reported in the articles in The Detroit Conference News. We use this publication to share information with a wider community because we are about mission and justice for women, children and youth.

Local units are encouraged to communicate through United Methodist Women bulletin boards, church bulletins and social media. Reach out to the local community with invitations to mission workshops and social action projects. Keep your membership informed on Action Alert issues.

Human Trafficking information came to one local senior organization when a UMW member of that organization attended a district’s mission workshop. The workshop speaker was then invited to speak to the senior group.

Through all these means of communication, Social Action issues are kept in the forefront. We focus on health care, economic and racial justice, public education, child advocacy, immigration, environmental issues, climate change, domestic violence, and human trafficking.

This is our way of working toward solutions to the many challenges facing women, children and youth around the world.

Brenda Street
bstreet9921@sbcglobal.net 248-335-3603

Introducing Legacy Fund Committee Appointee Jeanette Harris

Jeanette Harris is vice president, United Methodist Women Detroit Renaissance District. She has held this position for three years, and is adamant that the best part of the job is taking advice and guidance from President Alice Tucker.

Jeanette has been a member of Metropolitan United Methodist Church for 30 years; she is active in the local unit of United Methodist Women and also several small group ministries of that church: Metro Knitters, Book Club and Mature Single Women. She has served on the Board of Trustees, teaches Sunday School for developmentally disabled adults, volunteers as an adult literacy coach and does any other job at the church when asked.

Retired after 38 years as Community Planning and Development Director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Jeanette is a member of the Detroit No.1 Kiwanis Club and one of the coordinators for the ELIMINATE Project in Michigan, a team helping to raise $110 million to eliminate the maternal neonatal tetanus.

Jeanette has two adult children and loves to read and travel; she spent a week in Cuba in November 2014 and completed a mission trip to Managua, Nicaragua, in June 2014.

248-569-1683 jharris48@yahoo.com
The Detroit Conference News Subscription Form

Renew_______ New_________ Gift __________
Name______________________________________
Address____________________________________
City _______________________________________
State______________ZIP______________________

Only $2.50 per year or 5 subscriptions for $10.00.
Subscribe today. Make check payable to: The Detroit Conference News

Mail to: Kay Fuller
2813 Gratiot Ave.
Port Huron MI 48060

If you prefer to receive the News as a pdf attachment to e-mail, please give us your e-mail address below:

_________________________________________________
United Methodist Women Detroit Conference
2015 Dates to Remember (Tentative)

Saturday, Jan. 17          Finance Committee Conference Call, noon
Friday-Saturday, Jan. 30-31 Leadership Team Retreat (details TBD)
                                         Comfort Inn, 11911 Dixie Highway, Birch Run
Saturday, March 1          Mission u Committee, Flushing UMC, noon
Friday-Saturday, Apr. 10-11 Keep Making Peace Social Action Event
                                         University UMC, East Lansing