

## Oklahoma Conference United Methodist Women

### Spiritual Growth Retreat

April 4-6, 2014

#### Upcoming Events

- February 10  
Day at the Legislature
- March 4-6  
Mid-Year Executive Team Meeting @Village UMW
- April 4-6  
Spiritual Growth Retreat
- April 25-27  
UMW Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky
- June 21  
Conference UMW Social Justice Event @The Christ Experience (Christ UMC)
- July 18-21  
Mission U @ OCU



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#### Come, Drink from the Well

I hope you are planning on attending the 2014 Spiritual Growth Retreat in the Sequoyah Lodge at Western Hills Resort near Wagoner, Oklahoma. Registration will start at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 4th. We will meet for the first session at 8:00 a.m. which will allow plenty of time for you to settle into your rooms and go for dinner. We will meet after breakfast on Saturday to study together and feel the acceptance of Jesus by Drinking From His Well of love and forgiveness. We will be refreshed by Holy Communion on Sunday morning before we head home around 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Kathy Leithner will be our leader for the weekend. She has served as a pastor in the Oklahoma Conference since 1985

#### Program Resources

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." -----Dr. Seuss*

For over 140 years, members of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations have been involved in missions that includes prayer, study and action. The Reading Program is a study opportunity. The 2014 Reading Program books are now available. The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about

in a variety of settings. She is currently at First United Methodist Church in Cushing. She completed the Two-Year Academy for Spiritual Formation in 1990 and served on the leadership team for two Academies on the west coast, as well as the Five-Day Academies in Oklahoma. She's been active in VIM ministries and many Camps. She loves the outdoors--hiking, gardening, and observing nature. She also is presently serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry and on the Board of Directors for Ring Lake Ranch (a retreat center in Wyoming). She's the proud aunt of 10 nieces and nephews and one great-niece.

She will lead us to the well of renewal, refreshment and reflection which has been provided for us by Jesus. This will be a time when we can re-energize our spirits for the work we are called



Reverend Kathy Leithner

by God to do on behalf of the Kingdom. Come, ready to share in the Living Water of the Well with your Christian Sisters.

Becky Brown,  
Spiritual Growth

#### Ramona Paine

current issues through an annual selection of member reviewed books.

The seven categories to select from: Books for Children, Books for Youth, Large Print, Libros en Espanol (Spanish), Nurture for Community, Social Action, Leadership Development, Spiritual Growth and Education for Mission.

Secretary of Program Resource Chairs for the local and district units goals are to promote the Reading Program.

Mission U studies will be: "The Roma of Europe" (available) and "The Church and People with Disabilities" (the Disability study books for adults, children and youth became available, Dec. 2, 2013.)

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ramona Paine  
Secretary of Program Resources  
580-242-0741  
Rockingchair18@hotmail.com

## President

*Cindy Hull*

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*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.  
Hebrews 12:1 (NRSV)*

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### The Prez says...

Are you thawed out yet?? I hope so. I pray you all are already hitting the ground and “running with perseverance the race that is set before us.” Heb. 12:1 (NRSV) That’s what we have to do to **Make It Happen: Turning Faith, Hope and Love Into Action.**

Check out the new OK Conference UMW website at [okumc.org/umw](http://okumc.org/umw). I’ll be writing a monthly blog and you’ll find information on events and registration forms. The conference team felt that OK Conference UMW would be easier to find if our website was tied to the Oklahoma Conference UChurch website. I’d like to thank Barbara Bessie of Stigler UMW for her work setting up and maintaining our former website. She did a great job!

I’ve learned so much serving on the board of directors for both **Neighborhood Services Organization** and **Cookson Hills Center**. How blessed we are to have these two ministries here in Oklahoma. I continue to

grow in my admiration of and thankfulness for the leadership of Ms. Stacey Ninness and Rev. Meri Whitaker. NSO is breaking ground on the new building this spring, and Cookson Hills is continuing to thrive in their new ministry center. *“Praise God from whom all blessings flow!”*

2014 promises to be an exciting year as we continue to look at the new structure of the United Methodist Women organization. Some of our districts have embraced the opportunity to reorganize their leadership teams and try some new things. The conference leadership team will continue to look at how we can best carry out our PURPOSE and VISION.

I’m anticipating the inspiration that we will receive through the leadership of Rev. Kathy Leithner at our **Spiritual Growth Retreat**, April 4-6. Then, just three weeks later, we’ll have a wonderful time at **Assembly 2014!** Thank you, Jo Ellen Reed, for all your work preparing for our bus trip to Louisville. Anyone who’s been to Assembly knows the high it gives! At the

same time, we must be aware that we can’t stay on the mountain, we have to come down and get to work.

We’re doing something new this year to **turn faith, hope and love into action.** We will have our first **Social Action Event** on June 21 at The Christ Experience (formerly Christ UMC) in Oklahoma City. Janis Rosheuvel from the UMW National Office will be our leader for the day. I pray all of us will take a very serious look at how we as Christian women can advocate for the most vulnerable in our conference and beyond.

Although we are a national organization affecting the work of Jesus Christ in our world, the work starts at the local unit and district levels. We all are the hands and feet of Christ in our churches, our communities, our conference, our country and the world. Let’s make 2014 a memorable year that we **Make It Happen: Turning Faith, Hope and Love Into Action!**

Blessings,  
Cindy Hull

## Secretary

*Coe Ann Patton*



A big THANK YOU for all of you who help me get the 2014 Conference Directory information together. As you receive corrections, please send them on to me so we can keep the Conference Directory current. I will sent the corrections to the District and Conference Leadership team as I receive them.

It is that time of year, we are getting ready for the Spiritual

Retreat at beautiful Sequoyah Lodge. I will be the registrar again and there are a few things I need to share with you. Our cutoff date is March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014, you will need to have your registration to me by that date, there will be **no late registration.** I have to have our count and room assignment to the Lodge on March 15<sup>th</sup>, so get your registration in early.

There will be no snacks furnished this year, so if you

want snacks you will need to bring them with you and keep them in your room.

The registration form is on page 5 of this newsletter. You can also find it on the UMW website. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Spiritual Growth Retreat in April.

Many Blessings,  
Coe Ann Patton

## Vice President

My name is Jacci Freno and I am your newly elected vice-president of the Oklahoma Conference. Two of my favorite scriptures are Psalm 100:1-2 and Luke 10:17. Both scriptures talk about serving with Joy in your heart. I believe if you say "YES" to a task then you should do that task with all the joy your heart can muster. I am shy at first but once I get to know you I can be a very funny lady. I also believe that God led me to United Methodist Women. They have taught me so much over the past 20+ years. I have held offices at the local, district and

conference level. I look forward to planning Annual Meeting for 2014 and all will be excited and joyful to attend.

Our 2014 theme is "Make It Happen, Turning Faith, Hope and Love into Action." Be creative in your program planning with this theme. Make your event exciting and MAKE IT HAPPEN. You might do a hands-on project at your annual meeting or what about local units throwing a party for your young mothers and their children to introduce them to United Methodist Women. The sky is the limit. All you have to

## Jacci Freno

do is Make It Happen!!!

Your Conference Program Committee and Ardmore District Officers have begun making plans for the 41<sup>st</sup> Conference Annual Meeting to be held in the Ardmore District. The host church will be Ada First United Methodist Church. Please put October 3-4, 2014 on your calendar. More information will follow as it becomes available. I look forward to serving with you.

God's blessing  
 Jacci Freno

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*Make a joyful noise  
 to the LORD,  
 all the earth.  
 Worship the LORD  
 with gladness;  
 come into his presence  
 with singing.  
 Psalm 100:1-2*

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## LOOK OUT LOUISVILLE! OKLAHOMA IS HEADED YOUR WAY! ASSEMBLY APRIL 23-25, 2014

A total of 94 women from OK Conference are registered for Assembly. Fifty-seven of us will be traveling together on the Conference bus trip. OIMC has 66 women registered. It looks to me like OK will be well represented at our Assembly. You made it happen!

The bus trip will depart Wednesday, April 23, from Del City, stopping in Tulsa and Miami for more passengers. We'll take a lunch break in Springfield, MO and over night in Fairfield Heights, IL. Then it's on

to Louisville where we'll have a city tour and lunch together. We'll return home April 27 and 28 after Assembly.

You still have time to experience Assembly. Registration is available on line through United Methodist Women's website. The final deadline is April 1, 2014. The registration fee is now \$270.00. There are hotels with blocks of rooms for UMW members listed on the registration page.

It's not too late either to get one

of the beautiful green shirts that Cookson Hills is making for us! If you need to find an OK UMW member at Assembly, just look for our green shirts. The order blank is also in this newsletter.

Assembly is one of the most powerful ways to experience the connective relationship of being United Methodist! You will know the Holy Spirit is beside you as you pray, sing, take communion, and learn with thousands of your sisters in Christ.

See you at Assembly,  
 Jo Ellen Reed



Assembly 2014: Louisville

## Communications

I am so excited to join the Conference team as your communications coordinator. I trust you will all be patient with me as I get myself acclimated.

If you receive this newsletter by email it will be in color while the mailed version will be black and

white. So it is to your advantage to receive the newsletter by email, and also save the cost of mailing. If you know of anyone who would like to receive either, please have them send me their email or address. It will also be available on the Conference UMW website. I will also be editing the email and

## Kelly McKinley

mailing lists, so now is the time to get your information updated. My email is: [ksmckinley13@gmail.com](mailto:ksmckinley13@gmail.com) and my mailing address appears on the back of this newsletter.

Blessings!  
 Kelly

## Membership Nurture and Outreach

**Glenda Gilpin**

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*Spring is one of those times of the year to take a moment to reflect and plant some new seeds so in the Summer and Fall you can reap the harvest.*

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It is the snowy time of the year as I write this, but when you read this it will be the beginning of Spring and about the time for the Lenten season.

I would encourage you all to take some time during the Lenten season to do some self inventory. Spring is one of those times of the year to take a moment to reflect and plant some new seeds so in the Summer and Fall you can reap the harvest.

What I am eluding to here is what are you doing for others: women, youth and children specifically? What is your Unit doing for these populations? Have you pushed yourself to get

to know more about UMW and our National Mission Institutions?.... My vision here is that this is a little seedling poking its first leaves through the crusty soil just waiting for your nurturing.

I would challenge each of us to create something new and exciting for your local Unit to participate in or modify how your meetings look at a local level.... UMW gatherings and events can and should be fun... it is the best way to learn and grow when we are relaxed we can be stimulated. One of the things we might look at is are we as a local Unit meeting and hosting events when the women of our church are available and not working? This is

just one of many questions to think about as you look at your local Units' activities for the year. To aid you in a fresh springtime look... check out the new UMW Membership materials.

We have a new brochure called "We Are UMW" and the "UMW: On a Path for Mission" booklet. Both are available to be purchased through the resource center and can be viewed online at the UMW website.

Oh, how I am so looking forward to the Springtime of activities in our Conference UMW.

Happy planting my sisters,  
Glenda Gilpin



### UPCOMING DEADLINES

**E&I Reports due March 1**

**Register for Spiritual Growth Retreat by March 14**

**Final Chance to Register for Assembly is April 1**

**Balance of Assembly Bus Trip and Registration is due April 1**



## Education and Interpretation

**Joyce Alfred**

The Mission Today report will need to be submitted to your district E & I Coordinator and then the District E & I Coordinators need to submit your report to me by the end of February 2014.

Please include the mission studies your unit or district have done and how many attended.

The reports can be sent to me by mail or by email. One of the goals of the conference team was to have all reports submitted to their district counterparts by February 1 but that has not happened so I am shooting for March 1.

Remember to order the new brightly colored vision ribbons

from me. They are 6 inches long and they come in pink, purple, green, yellow and aqua blue. I also still have mission corsages in all colors and purpose ribbons in all colors.

Grace and Peace!

Joyce Alfred

**Mission Resource Center  
PO Box 742349  
Atlanta, GA 30374-2349  
1-800-305-9857  
[www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org)**



**Social Action**

***Eursey Lenoir***

Must admit the weather has really been a challenge for me lately. Praying for some nice warm weather knowing God knows best. Hope some of you were able to make it to Day at the Legislature.

Cookson Hills was quite a thrill and a success. We did all the usual chores such as making cakes, cookies, pies, jellies and jams. Some worked really hard building fences, putting up Christmas decorations, raking leaves, washing windows, cleaning offices even filing sermons, and chopping wood.

It was fun watching some ladies trying on different kinds of hats that had been donated. That just shows how talented some of

us are entertaining ourselves and others. It is always a thrill to visit Rev. Meri Whitaker's church. We had approximate 160 men, women and youth attend. 160 working 8 hours for a total of 1,280 hours divided by 40 hour week is equal to 32 weeks of employment for one person or \$9,280 dollars.

We did \$1600 in the craft store and \$1700 on the auction

NSO Santa scheduled for Dec 7, 2013 had to be called off because of the weather. It was rescheduled for the following Monday, Tuesday and

Wednesday. I couldn't get a count of how many ladies came on each day. We sorted donations for the Santa Store,

made mixes in jars and wrapped gifts for transitional and permanent housing clients.

Hope to see everyone at Spiritual Growth Retreat on April 4-6 at the Sequoia Lodge in Wagoner.

The Conference UMW Social Justice Event will be at the Christ Experience on June 21. More information to follow. Christ Experience was Christ UMC.

God's Peace  
Eursey Franklin Lenoir



2014 UMW Shirt Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Size    Women's \_\_\_\_\_ S-3XL                      Men's \_\_\_\_\_ S-6XL

Price \$25 each, includes shipping    Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Cookson Hills Center. Give order form and payment to salesperson at event.  
--or--

Mail form and payment to Cookson Hills Center  
Attn: Denise Rowell  
PO Box 130  
Cookson, OK 74427-0130



This is the color of the shirt with the logo on the left side.



**OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
TALENT BANK INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Local Church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Age range: 20's \_\_\_ 30's \_\_\_ 40's \_\_\_ 50's \_\_\_ 60's \_\_\_ 70 & over \_\_\_

Employed: yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Full-time \_\_\_ Part-time \_\_\_ Racial / Ethnic group:

Professional skills, job experience:

Office(s) held in United Methodist Women

Local: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference: \_\_\_\_\_ Jurisdictional: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional experience on local, district, conference or general church level (other than United Methodist Women) or in the community:

Special Talents/Skills:

**Areas of Special Interest or Concern:**

- |                         |                         |                |               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Secretarial             | Recruiting members      | Publicity      | Social issues |
| Communication           | Workshops               | Public policy  | Creativity    |
| Accounting/bookkeeping  | Retreats                | Music          | Children      |
| Organization of details | Nominations             | Administration | Computer      |
| Community building      | Inclusiveness/pluralism |                |               |

Would you be able to use your gifts and talents to uphold United Methodist Women through the PURPOSE of the organization?

Is it possible for you to be away from your home or employment for: Full day **yes/no** Weekend **yes/no**  
extended time **yes/no?**

**Additional Comments:**

Please return to: Donna Roberts  
Conference Chair of Nominations  
4627 S Royal Dublin Lane  
Broken Arrow, Ok 74011-1558  
[dklroberts@cox.net](mailto:dklroberts@cox.net) 918.625.0560

We need you!! Please help us in getting to know you by completing the Talent Form and sending back to us.



## “ Drink from the Well”

Rev. Kathleen Liethner  
 April 4, 5, & 6, 2014  
 Friday, 7 pm – Sunday, noon  
 Sequoyah Lodge  
 Sequoyah State Park  
 Wagoner, Oklahoma  
 HWY. 51 8 Miles East of Wagoner, OK.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Local Church \_\_\_\_\_

Officer: Local \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL NEEDS \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sequoyah Lodge: \$125.00 per person

List Roommates \_\_\_\_\_

**(Send roommate registrations together)**

**Registration cost is for all or part of the weekend.**

2 nights lodging, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday breakfast included in registration.

No meal Friday evening or Sunday at noon.

**There will be no refunds 7 days prior to the Retreat**

Checks payable to **Oklahoma Conference UMW**

Total cost due with registrations.

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER:**

**March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Registrar: Coe Ann Patton, 8536 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Tulsa,  
 OK 74112-4810 [capatton2@cox.net](mailto:capatton2@cox.net)

Bring: **Your own Snacks and Drinks**, note taking supplies, Bible, rainwear or umbrella,  
 Flashlight, camera for the Lodge and Lake it's beautiful!!

**CHECK IN TIME IS 4 PM**

c/o Kelly McKinley  
2801 N Woodward Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

**We're on the Web!**  
**Okumc.org/umw**

## Mission U - "Learning Together for the Transformation of the World"

July 18-20, 2014—Weekend School  
July 21, 2014—One Day Plus Event  
at  
Oklahoma City University

Spiritual Growth Study: How is it With Your Soul?  
Special Interest Study: The Church and  
People With Disabilities  
Geographic Study: The Roma of Europe

- *Special tracks for children and youth.*
- *Continuing education (1 unit) for pastors.*
- *Advanced course credit for Lay Servants (Lay Speakers)*

For more information, contact  
Derrek Belase, Dean (405)372-8001  
derrekbelase@yahoo.com)  
Jo Ellen Reed, Assistant Dean ( 405)455-1913  
joierreed1@cox.net

