



# Clarion

..a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ...

**UMW  
Clarion will  
soon have a  
website!  
Read front  
page for  
details...**

**UMWClarion.com?**

**Yes! The Clarion is going online! We hope to have the website up for the next issue of Clarion! It will include (of course!) the newsletter, it will also have a calendar page, contact page (for Conference and District officers), forms pages (download and complete) and resources page.**

**Please let us know if you'd just like to download the newsletter from the website. This time, the newsletter is hardcopy. We're asking those that have internet access to take the Clarion on line. If you'd like to continue to receive the hard copy, please let me know. You can email me at patdunker@bellsouth.net. If you just want to view it online, you do NOT have to contact me. Be sure to let me know what you think.. Input is important!**



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**What's Coming Up?**

- \*Conference Schedule;
- March 7 Lambuth University
  - Christian Mission Education Event Committee 9:30 am
  - Nominations Committee 9:30 am
  - Spiritual Growth Committee 12:00 pm
  - Charter for Racial Justice 1 pm
- \*April 23-April 27 Spring Prayer Retreat at Lakeshore Methodist Assembly.
  - Our speaker will be Rev. Kimi Brown. Read her story on page 3.
- \*May 31 thru June 3 Memphis Annual Conference Jackson, TN
- \*June 11-14 SASCM Regional School Owensboro, KY
- \*July 9 through July 11 CMEE (Christian Mission Education Event)
  - Lambuth University, Jackson, TN
- \*July 25 Conference Finance Committee Milan First UMC 9 am

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Spiritual Growth Retreat  
 "Courageous, Outrageous, Bodacious Women of the Bible!"  
 Given by the Rev. Kimi Brown  
 Thursday and Friday April 23-24 - Saturday and Sunday April 25-26  
 Be sure to register by April 1! No refunds after April 1.

# *The President's Page*

*Mary Mooney*



From the President

***“Mobilizing women for mission and service so that they may more completely live out their baptism and more fully share and experience Christ’s work is important.”***

A new year, a new beginning. While we look forward to the future there is so much to look back on. So much to be thankful for. The United Methodist Women has a rich heritage that needs to be told over and over. We hesitate sharing the story with others because we fear they will think, “Been There, Done That – don’t need to hear this ‘old stuff’ again”. Some may feel that way but others will be happy to hear it all again. Have you ever been reading the Scriptures, which you have read or heard before, and all of a sudden you understand it in a completely different light of understanding? I believe that is the way our story of United Methodist Women is.

In the ‘News United Methodist Women’, an article by our Deputy General Secretary, Harriet Jane Olson wrote, and I quote, “Stop doubting the importance of our story. Let the story be as complicated as it needs to be. The work of United Methodist Women is important work. Mobilizing women for mission and service so that they may more completely live out their baptism and more fully share and experience Christ’s work is important. We need to tell the story for the good of those who would be members and for the good of the broken world that God loves. We need to tell the story for another reason as well: we need to hear it. United Methodist Women members need to be reminded of what moves us to speak out about the causes of poverty or risk providing leadership in some boundary-breaking area. Some of us need to recount our personal stories about how United Methodist Women scooped us up, held us and propelled us to stand as beloved children of God. We need our stories to remember the Holy Spirit is in us, transforming us as we walk in the way that leads to life.”

If we stop telling this story, our story, how will others know about us? I thank all those women who share their story with me and I pray they will continue to tell the stories.

I want to thank everyone for their trust in me to serve as the president of this great conference. I am only one of the team to serve and it takes all of us telling the story. I covet your prayers. Let us strive to be and do what Christ is calling us for. I look forward to seeing all of you this year at all our gatherings. May we make history in serving others in our conference and around the world?

Keep telling the story.  
Mary

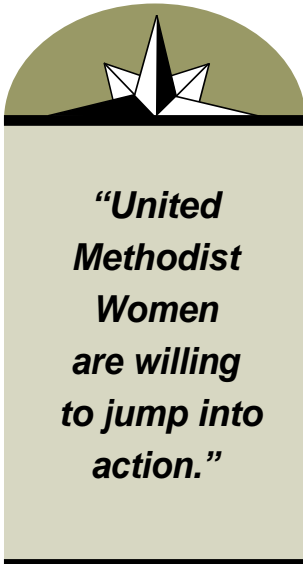
Delores Smith, Your Vice President, sends this note:

Who's at the Table? I hope you are using the 2009 Program Book. Encourage your units to use these programs. They are easy to put together and very informative. They will give you additional resources and broaden your areas of study.

If we are going to truly live up to the purpose of United Methodist Women, we have to stretch our minds and hearts. We have to step out of our comfort zones and walk with Christ.

On the thoughts of broadening our minds, put the dates for Christian Mission Education Event on your calendars now. July 9-11 at Lambuth we will gather to study Food & Faith, Native American Survival (Check out the program book information on Food & Faith and Native American Survival), and Sudan. Your leaders are putting together a very exciting weekend. Come and join us.

We are already making plans for Annual Day/Officers Training. Look for many improvements over last year. It was our first time to combine these two events and I had a lot to learn. We are putting together a day that will be informative and hopefully have some fun and inspiration added in. Mark your calendars for September 19.



A word from Jean Ralston..

Are you as excited as I am about the program book for this year ? Bread for The World is a favorite organization of mine and one that the Women's Division supports. The program (Food Security) is designed to make us aware of world hunger and to spur us to action! Please consider using this program in your District or local

meetings.

I will be happy to present this program or to help in any way. There are social issues all around us. I am so proud that as United Methodist Women we are willing to jump into action in our communities and around the world.

Jean Ralston, Social Action Coordinator

731-424-8004

leoralston@eplus.net

## **Pull Tabs for Cancer Patients!**

I've heard of many uses for these; a nephew uses them to make "chain mail" vestments; they can be redeemed to buy time for dialysis patients. But I'd never heard that they could help children with cancer. The metal from the tabs are used to make needles for the kids to receive their chemo therapy treatments.

The tabs go to the Ronald McDonald House. They sell the metal tabs to the Recycling Center. The money from that goes to help stock the shelves of the Food Pantry at the Ronald McDonald House. The food is then used for the families that are staying there while the children are being treated for various types of cancer. It also helps with the environment!

I spoke with a gentleman at the Ronald McDonald House. They're still accepting these. He said they could be in a plastic bag or in milk cartons. You can drop them off at any time. The address is 525 Alabama Avenue, Memphis, TN 38105. Phone number is 901-529-4055.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT 2009  
"COURAGEOUS, OUTRAGEOUS, BODACIOUS  
WOMEN OF THE BIBLE"  
REV. KIMI BROWN—LEADER  
LAKESHORE ASSEMBLY AND RETREAT CENTER  
Eva, TN



Rev Kimi Brown will be the speaker and leader for our Spiritual Life Retreats this coming April. The dates are 4/23-24 (Thursday and Friday) and 4/25-26 (Saturday and Sunday) and as usual, will be held at Lakeshore Assembly near Eva, TN. See the Registration form for more information about the retreats.

Kimi is from the Nashville area and attends Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Nolensville, TN. She is the youngest of 7 children, single and considers herself a "Sunday Mom" to several children and youth at her home church. She has been a Children's Ministry Coordinator, Choir Director, Sunday School Teacher, Lay Leader, Certified Lay Speaker, and has organized a Praise Dance Ministry in her church. She is a vibrant and energetic woman who enjoys teaching and sharing God's Word.

Her journey with United Methodist Women began by watching her mother and grandmother and their involvement with the UMW. She says she "waited with anticipation for the day when she was "old enough" to join this organization". After discovering there were no age restrictions, she joined, and has been an active member ever since. The number of Local and Conference offices she has held in UMW is too long to list. She has been a Director with the Women's Division and a member of the Jurisdiction Core Planning Group. Her leadership roles include all levels of the denomination. She has served on the General Board of Church and Society and the General Board of Global Ministries and been a delegate to both General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Kimi has been a supply pastor at Caldwell UMC in Petersburg, TN for the past 2 years while completing her Candidacy process to become a part time local pastor. In June of 2008 she was appointed pastor to that congregation. Her full time employment is with American General as a Compliance Analyst and seeks resolutions for consumer complaints. In her spare time she enjoys bowling, movies, travel and crafts.

This year makes her seventeenth consecutive year of leadership with the United Methodist Women. Kimi say that the journey has only just begun; God is not through with her yet! Her philosophy is "you cannot teach what you do not know and you should not preach what you do not show".

*Kimi's  
philosophy :*

*"You cannot  
teach what  
you do not  
know, and  
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what you do  
not show."*

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT 2009

***“COURAGEOUS, OUTRAGEOUS, BODACIOUS  
WOMEN OF THE BIBLE”***

**REV. KIMI BROWN-LEADER  
LAKESHORE ASSEMBLY AND RETREAT CENTER  
Eva, TN**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL ATTEND APRIL 23-24 \_\_\_\_\_ I WILL ATTEND APRIL 25-26 \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Need Cabin for persons with limited mobility \_\_\_\_\_

List any special needs or accommodations that you will need \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please realize that if you request a cabin used for persons with limited mobility (Cabins 1 and 2), you may not get the roommates you requested. Space in Cabins 1 and 2 is limited.*

I am enclosing **(Make checks payable to Memphis Conference UMW)**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00 Full time registration for 1 night's lodging, 3 meals, and materials

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 Commuter registration for 3 meals, use of building, and materials

\_\_\_\_\_ Check if you are attending for the first time.

***REGISTRATION DEADLINE -APRIL 1, 2009***

***THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS AFTER -APRIL 1, 2009***

**Send completed form and check to:**

**Linda Akers, 1001 Ables Road, Cottage Grove, TN. 38224. Phone: 731-782-3656**

E-mail address: [lakers@wk.net](mailto:lakers@wk.net)

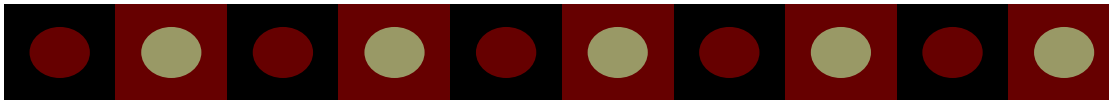
***Retreats begin with check-in at 10:00- 11:00am. The first session begins at 11:00am. Retreats end at noon the following day. Meals included are lunch and dinner on the day one and breakfast on day two.***

**What to bring:** Writing materials, comfortable warm clothing and walking shoes, linens (pillow, blanket or a sleeping bag, sheets for a twin bed), towel, washcloth, personal items and money to purchase items from the canteen, book room, and the offering for the Developmentally Disabled Camp at Lakeshore.

\*\*\*\*\*

Questions: Contact Marilyn Ramsey, 3068 Maple Street, Milan, TN 38358 Phone: 731-414-8461 cell or 731-686-0366 home, E-mail address: [marilynramsey@telephoneswitching.com](mailto:marilynramsey@telephoneswitching.com)

# The Clarion's Activity Page



Support your local United Methodist Women. Take part in events such as the Spiritual Growth Retreat and CMEE. Attend the studies and meetings. It's through these activities that we strengthen our sense of purpose and enrich our story!

## Spiritual Growth Retreat 2009!

**"COURAGEOUS, OUTRAGEOUS, BODACIOUS  
WOMEN OF THE BIBLE"**

REV. KIMI BROWN—LEADER  
LAKESHORE ASSEMBLY AND RETREAT CENTER  
Eva, TN

Thursday & Friday, April 23-24  
Saturday & Sunday, April 25-26

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CMEE! July 9-11, 2009

Make plans to attend the annual CMEE. This year the studies (and instructors) will be:

Food and Faith—

Mary Lou Wurth, Sandra Burnett  
and Rev. Birgitte T. French

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Sudan

Beth Brown, Rev. Roger Hobson

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Giving Our Hearts Away—  
(Native American Survival)

Rev. T.J. Wesley

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Youth Study—Food, Faith and Me

Byran Bliss

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Children's Study—Piecing Together Peace for Sudan

Sandra Mauney

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# Odds and Ends..

Participation in the Legislative Event this March was cancelled this year due to many difficulties. Social Action Coordinator Jean Ralston said her team would meet and possibly plan a Memphis Conference Legislative Day later in 2009. Watch the website for further developments.

Is your unit using the Prayer Calendar? Seeing the missions and missionaries we're praying for is also an excellent way to see how we're spreading the word of God to those in need. And don't forget to send out cards and notes to our people working all over the world. Let them know they're not forgotten!

Don't forget to watch for the website! Your Clarion will be found at [umwclarion.com](http://umwclarion.com). It will be work in progress. We'll start with the newsletter, contacts (Conference Officers, and District Officers), calendar of events and forms pages.

The forms will remain on the site. You'll find forms for Spiritual Growth Retreat, Christian Mission Education Event (CMEE), and

Feminine Fall Fling. The forms will be updated and changed as needed.

Please be sure to let me know if you'd like to continue receiving the Clarion on hardcopy.

They will only be sent to those requesting it.

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Pat Dunker—Communications Coordinator  
Sandra Mauney—Secretary  
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St. Paul United Methodist Church  
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