

February 2014
Volume 7, Issue 2

"Think Globally, Act Locally"

WOW!

Witness of Women



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FIRST REPORT FROM JASON ON MARCH 5

-Janet Jennings

Everyone, both men and women, whether a member of GSUMC or a UMW circle or not, is invited to come to the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, March 5** for the United Methodist Women's luncheon.



Jason doing mission work in Belmont County after a flood hit the area.

Jason Frazer will talk about his experience at Camphor Mission in **Liberia**. He will have just returned a few days before. It will be exciting, and this will be your opportunity to hear his impressions while they're still vivid in his mind. We're grateful to Jason for consenting to do this, especially since he'll still be adjusting to the change in time zones.

Come whenever you can, especially if you are squeezing this in on your lunch hour.

The buffet line will be open at 11:30 a.m. for you to fill your plate and enjoy the food and table fellowship. Next we'll have a business meeting, and then Jason will begin at approximately 1:00 p.m..

For lunch you'll be having traditional **corned beef, boiled potatoes, fried cabbage, and corn bread**. Those who can are asked to bring side dishes and desserts to go with this.

We'll try to keep the business meeting short, but it's important that members **discuss and vote on an investment matter** that was tabled at the December meeting.

March 5 is also Ash Wednesday, and the Ash Wednesday service will be in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m..

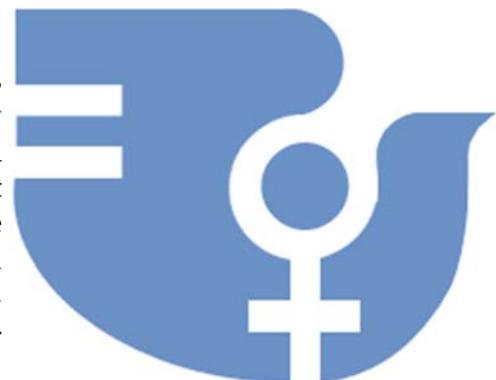
United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

58th Annual United Nations Commission on the Status of Women March 10-24, 2014

The 58th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will take place at the United Nations in New York City from March 10-24, 2014. Thousands of women from across the world will be attending. As usual, United Methodist Women will be an active participant in the annual work of the commission by advocating with member states, networking and building grass-roots coalitions, and organizing parallel events, which will take place at United Methodist Women's Church Center for the United Nations. Please keep them in your prayers.

The priority theme for CSW-58 is "challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls." The review theme is "access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work."

Excerpt from the General Board of Global Ministries United Methodist Women website <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/>



UN Commission on the Status of Women

Women at Risk: Plight of the Rohingya



According to the United Nations, the Rohingya people are currently listed as being among the most persecuted and displaced populations on the planet. The Rohingya, a predominantly Muslim community, exist as an oppressed ethnic minority in Burma, which is dominated by an Indian Buddhist population. It is estimated that over a million Rohingya are caught in a cycle of violence and poverty. The government's refusal to recognize the Rohingya as citizens and give them identification papers makes their community more vulnerable to human trafficking, and over 30,000 Rohingya refugees are now living in aid camps in neighboring Bangladesh. Women and children are especially vulnerable to trafficking and violence.

Excerpt from the UMW webpage: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/>

Theressa Hoover

“larger than life. . .gentle as a dove”

-Linda Bloom

Theressa Hoover was the first and she made sure she was not the last.

The first African-American woman to become a top staff executive for The United Methodist Church was a mentor to many young women, promoted the leadership of laywomen and engineered a secure future for the women’s organization of the denomination during a period of tumultuous change.

Hoover led the Women’s Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, the corporate body of United Methodist Women, for 22 years, from 1968 to 1990.

“She had a presence that could be larger than life, but she also had a presence that could be as soft and gentle as a dove,” said Andris Salter, a UMW executive who witnessed how Hoover ministered to women struggling with issues such as physical and sexual abuse.

Hoover, 88, died December 21 in Fayetteville, Arkansas., the hometown that had proclaimed May 30, 2008, as Theressa Hoover Day. Her funeral took place December 30 at Sequoyah United Methodist Church, where she was a member.

One of five children born to James C. Hoover and Rissie Vaughn, Hoover’s options might have seemed limited in the segregated South, especially after her mother died when she was a small child. But her father, a city hospital orderly, taught her to be fearless and gave her the confidence to do what she needed to do.

A 1946 graduate of Philander Smith College, she helped the Little Rock Methodist Council, a coalition of 19 black and white Methodist congregations, convert a former turkey farm into Camp Aldersgate, dedicated in 1947 as a camp for African-American youth and a racially integrated training center.

Segregation remained firmly entrenched in the Methodist Church when Hoover joined the staff of the Woman’s Division of Christian Service, part of the Board of Missions, in 1948 as a field worker for the denomination’s Central Jurisdiction.

Traveling across the United States in Jim Crow days as an African-American woman meant “she had a job for the Women’s Division that required sacrifices that none of the other women had to think about,” said Peggy Billings, who became “fast friends” with Hoover in the 1960s as they worked together on racial justice issues.

Possessed with an active prayer life and deep grounding in the faith and history of Methodism, Hoover was not afraid to “speak truth to power,” but did so with grace, compassion and respect, women close to her recounted.

“She didn’t suffer fools gladly, but neither did she take herself (too) seriously,” Campbell said.

She made United Methodist Women a strong organization by emphasizing the need to understand its membership, mission and intent and by “training other women to take your place, do the work and share the message when you no longer do it,” said Salter.



Undated photo of Theressa Hoover

(continued on next page)

Theresa Hoover *continued from page 3*

Hoover took young women of all races under her wing, nurturing leadership skills that would have an impact on the denomination for years to come.

Hoover was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in 2000, but a more visible sign of her zeal for mission can be found at the Theresa Hoover United Methodist Church in Little Rock, thought to be one of the denomination's first local churches named for a laywoman.

Hoover "had played a big part" in the life of the Rev. William H. Robinson, Jr., who chartered the congregation in December 1981 and served as its pastor for 32 years.

Over the years, *Theresa Hoover United Methodist Church* has built 70 new homes in the community, supported projects for women, children and youth and started a certified faith-based licensed substance-abuse program.

"I think that she spelled out mission work for this denomination," Robinson said. "She tackled strategic problems in a sensitive way to get it done and she certainly trained and provided leadership and gave inspiration to many minority women, especially, who followed in her footsteps.

"She was just a jewel."

Used with permission from Ms. Bloom

**Bloom is a United Methodist News Service multimedia reporter based in New York.*

To read the complete article, go to <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/>



In recognition of her mentoring prowess, the Women's Division created the annual Theresa Hoover Community Service and Global Citizenship award. In this 1979 photo, Hoover (right) and Mai Gray (center), president of the Women's Division, greeted Xue Zheng, an educator from China. Photo by John Goodwin for the Board of Global Ministries.

Did You Know?

United Methodist members raise up to \$20 million each year for programs and projects related to women, children and youth in the United States and in more than 100 countries around the world.

United Methodist Women and The United Methodist Church's principles and values include:

- Promoting the empowerment of women, children and youth.
 - Promoting anti-racism and multiculturalism.
 - Promoting inclusion and equity.
 - Promoting fair labor practices.
 - Promoting economic and environmental stewardship and sustainability.
-

Blanket and Sheet Drive



A Gay Street UMC Blanket and Sheet Drive is being scheduled for Sunday, February 23 on behalf of HopeNow Furniture Bank where zero inventory and a significant waiting list exists. Please consider donating and clean and gently used (or new) single, full, and queen size sheets and blankets. These items can be dropped off in a box outside the chapel area and in the red parlor. For questions, please see Wayne or Lee Dunlop.

2014 Mission Studies

- **Spiritual growth:** How Is It with Your Soul?
 - **Geographic:** The Roma of Europe
 - **Issue study:** The Church and People with Disabilities
 - **Children and Youth study:** The Church and People with Disabilities
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Gay Street United Methodist Women Newsletter

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"Think Globally, Act Locally"

Witness
Of
Women

Next WOW deadline: March 6

Dates for your 2014 Calendar

Tuesday, February 11: Executive Committee meets with church staff—tentative

Wednesday, February 12: Sarah Circle 12 Noon (no Glora Wysner or Dorcas)

Tuesday, February 25: 10 a.m. Spring Rummage Sale Planning meeting

Wednesday, March 5: 9:30 a.m. Executive Board meeting/General Meeting; 11:30 a.m. Luncheon, meeting and program (also Ash Wednesday)

Thursday, March 6: WOW deadline

Tuesday, March 11: Executive Committee meets with church staff—tentative

Wednesday, March 12: 9:30 a.m. Dorcas, 12 Noon Sarah and 1:30 p.m. Glora Wysner Circles meetings

Monday, March 31: Set-up for rummage sale

Tuesday, April 1: Set-up for rummage sale

Wednesday, April 2: Spring Rummage/Bake Sale

Thursday, April 3: Spring Rummage/Bake Sale

