

WHAT'S NEXT?



SAVE THE DATE:

Spring Celebration:

April 8—9, 2011

Evangelical Covenant Church, Lafayette, IN

Speaker—Ruth Hill

Look for more information soon!

How Can I Help Others?

Become a Friend of Women Ministries

Go to [http://](http://www.covchurch.org/women/departamental-ministries/become-a-friend)

www.covchurch.org/women/departamental-ministries/become-a-friend

Invite a Ministry Coach to Your Church

To find out what they are and how they can help, go to <http://www.covchurch.org/women/ministries/wm-leaders/ministry-coaches>

Help Break the Chains of Domestic Violence

- Order an AVA brochure for the women at your church—[http://](http://www.covenantbookstore.com/avadonation.html)

www.covenantbookstore.com/avadonation.html

Order Item# WMC0009—\$25.00

Support “Educate the Girls”

The address for sending donations is [http://](http://www.covchurch.org/women/departamental-ministries/annual-project/educate-the-girls)
www.covchurch.org/women/departamental-ministries/annual-project/educate-the-girls

Talk to Us!

Let's be in touch, share ideas & ministry successes and challenges! You may now email us!

wmccares10@gmail.com

WANTED: COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

We are looking for someone who has a passion for Women Ministries and has ministry gifts that would strengthen our team to become our Leadership Team Communications Chair. Please send us an email at: wmccares10@gmail.com. We welcome your suggestions or your participation!

-- Ann Richards
WMCC President



Central



Connections

WMCC News

A Newsletter for Central Conference Women

Fall 2010

From the Desk of the President:

Triennial year is always an exciting time as women from across the denomination and around the world gather uniting their hearts in their love of Christ. From Central Conference alone, there were over 220 women in attendance and it was exciting for us to meet each other in the halls and rooms of the Omni Shoreham Hotel and extend a greeting of love, like members of a family would when out of town. We were charmed by our Thai guest, Kul, who shared her faith and the way the Abundant Life Center, developed by missionary Karen Groot, is impacting the communities of the women who work there.

Since we last met for the Fall Fellowship much has happened among women of the Central Conference. In April, 140 women met at First Covenant Church in Rockford for our first Spring Celebration, where Rachel Mohn both inspired us and brought us laughter. Led by a dynamic worship team, we celebrated many special ministries among women of the Conference. We passed new by-laws, denoting new ministry areas of Compassion, Mercy & Justice; Global; Growth; and Communications. For the first time we have a WMCC Historian. (See her article elsewhere in this newsletter.) We have also invited the women of the three churches in the St. Louis, MO, area to join us in retreat planning and leadership for the first time.

Each of these events, updates and changes help to strengthen the Conference and build a greater connection among our churches. As we visit various churches in our 5-state area, please let us know how we can best serve you & the women of your local church.

Please do check the calendar and consider joining us for our next event, The Spring Celebration mini-retreat, April 8-9, 2011, in Lafayette, Indiana. Check our website from time-to-time for updates and information. I pray God's blessings on you and the women in your church family.

-- Ann Richards - President of WMCC

Looking for Some History



Do you have boxes and boxes of minutes, programs, photos, and everything else sitting at church or in someone's basement? Don't know what to do about it all or have anyone willing to go through it?

I have been recently elected as Historian for the WMCC and my job is to archive historical documents from our conference. I did this with my church's (Milwaukee, WI) Women Ministries files about five years ago, going through old minutes, “Sweetheart Dinner” menus, mission project notes, and everything else from the 1950s and on. It's amazing to see the legacy and blessing the work of women can do, not to mention the different hairstyles and clothing!

So, I am putting out a call to all the churches in the Central Conference for ANYTHING! I plan on organizing any material in key areas such as Missions, social, administrative, and so forth, so we have a historical picture of WMCC at our fingertips, and to display at events such as retreats.

You need to understand that what you send will become part of our permanent collection. Also, as not everything is historically relevant, I will weed out what isn't necessary and put it in the recycle bin. For any photos, please identify people, dates, events and places if you can.

Even though I am a lifelong Covenanter, and convinced it's not Six Degrees of Separation but Three in the Covenant, I will probably not know names. Please let me know if there is any women in your materials who were truly inspirational or instrumental in the life of your church.

Now that you know particulars, please contact me! I will be at the Fall Fellowship retreat the first weekend, for sure. My email is j92160@aol.com and my phone number is (414) 861-5601 if you have any questions, or -- better still -- if you have something for me!

-- Jenny Christensen
WMCC Historian



HISTORY CORNER: Do You Remember the Dolls?

In the early 1980s the “Women of the Covenant” dolls made their way around the Central Conference. Does anyone know where the dolls are, what their history was and/or who made them? Do you have any photos of the dolls? Were they specifically something for the Central Conference Covenant Women?

I am seeking answers to these questions. If you can shed some light on the dolls' story, let me know! You can reach me at j92160@aol.com or (414) 861-5601.

-- Jenny Christensen
WMCC Historian





Don't Forget Your Special Interest Missionaries (SIMs)

Just a note to let you know of a change--normally, just after a Triennial, we would get a new list of names of SIMs to support for the next three years. This time, we will not get a new list until the beginning of 2011.

Until then, please continue to support and pray for the SIM assigned to your district. Some of the assigned SIMs have left the mission field in the past few years, and one of our SIMs has passed away. On the side of this page is an updated list of SIMs and their supporting districts.

See the Covenant Missionary Prayer Calendar for further information on active SIMs or find their addresses in the Central Conference Information/Resource Directory in your Fall Fellowship materials.

We continue to accept donations to support our SIMs year round.

-- Judy Duvall

WMCC SIM Coordinator



A Successful "Raise the Flag"

We were blessed this year to sponsor a Thai woman for Triennial XIII. For the first time in her life, Nukulthong Dapphimsri (Kul) got on an airplane and came to the U. S. Accompanied by missionary Karen Groot, Kul participated in several aspects of Triennial, including carrying the Thai flag in the parade of nations, sharing her story at the Central Conference brunch and participating in the International Service.

The week after Triennial, Kul and Karen traveled to Central Conference churches who hosted them, presenting programs at Edgebrook (Chicago), First Covenant (South Bend), First Covenant (Rockford) and Faith (Wheaton) and Glen Ellyn (Glen Ellyn).

During their visits to the churches, they shared their story and that of the Abundant Life Center (ALC) in Bangkok. They sang a few Thai songs, taught a Thai dance, led a string tying ceremony and presented communion using sticky rice and rose hip tea. They even cooked a Thai meal for their each of their host groups.

It was a whirlwind two weeks, but throughout, Kul kept her quiet, humble demeanor. We laughed, sang, prayed, ate and visited with many women around the Conference. Thank you for opening your homes, driving, providing food, organizing and for making this a wonderful experience for Kul.

We pray that Kul can go back to Thailand and share her story with others, deepening her faith and the faith of others. Continue to pray for her and the people of Thailand. God has blessed us greatly!

-- Judy Duvall

Raise the Flag Coordinator - WMCC

HALL OF JUSTICE MAKES AN IMPACT

From "Bread for the World" to "Starfish Project", organizations are making a difference in our World, fighting injustice with God's hope and love. At Triennial XIII, the Hall of Justice, a banquet room sized exhibit, was visited by over 600 women. It wasn't a fun exhibit, but was instead meant to bring women face to face with injustice and then show them that through God there is hope to overcome evil.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING: SAMPLE OF SLAVE GIRL'S BEDROOM

The Hall of Justice exhibitors used props and other visuals to show injustices experienced everyday--mostly behind closed doors. Portrayed were hunger, racism, domestic violence, refugee persecution, human trafficking, religious persecution and criminal "justice" system injustices.

HUNGER: EXAMPLE OF AFRICAN DINNER IN SMALL POOR VILLAGE



After winding their way through the seven exhibits, women then had an opportunity to speak with representatives from different organizations whose workers help people overcome injustices. Just some of the organizations included International Justice Mission and Starfish Project, rescuing girls and women from human trafficking, World Relief and Bread for the World, feeding and equipping people throughout the World to feed themselves and their communities, Sisters in Service, reaching out to women who have experienced religious persecution, AVA ("Advocacy for Victims of Abuse"), educating our church pastors and congregations about how to break the chains of domestic violence. Some women even experienced healing--one woman went through AVA's "clothesline exhibit" twice, the first time crying for long afterward, the second to confirm that she had experienced healing in her life by confronting this shadow from her past and allowing God's peace and comfort to make a difference in her life.

-- Cynthia Petersen
Newsletter Editor

Educate the Girls

Culture and poverty work against the development of women in Congo. Culture limits women's roles in society while poverty forces parents to choose who they can educate--girls are last in line. However, under the dedicated leadership of Rev. Lily Yakote, our donations have enabled 500 young women to graduate from high school in Congo, funded numerous village seminars on the value of girls, identified over 200 candidates for the future educational center for adult women and more! (See complete article at: <http://www.covchurch.org/women/departamental-ministries/annual-project/educate-the-girls>)

Did you know ... ?

The SIMs assigned to our Conference Districts are...

Chicago North:

Barbara Johnson

(retired - birthday Sept 15)

Lakeshore: Alene Anderson

(retired - birthday Aug 12)

Fox Valley: Janet Ziegelbaur

(active - birthday Nov 3)

Indiana: Anna Kim

(active - birthday Feb 5)

Northern Illinois: Judy Dolan

(active - birthday January 30)

Badger: Margaret Nelson

(retired - birthday Nov 27)

Western Illinois (WILD):

Janet Thornbloom

(retired - birthday Feb 15)

Western Suburban:

June Metcalf

(retired - birthday June 10)



THINK ABOUT IT...

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) says:

"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." In this passage, Paul does not stop after the first phrase or even after the second phrase, but we often hear it quoted that way.



Yes, it confirms that God is our Creator, and yes, it says we were created to do good works, but notice that the works we were created to do have already been prepared for us--God has specific works for us to accomplish. One of our life purposes: we are to do the works God has for us to do. Think about it.

--Cynthia Petersen
Newsletter Editor