

DISTRICT DOINGS



Athens-Elberton District United Methodist Women Summer 2014

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

District United Methodist Women, thank you for your participation in our district project of assisting with school bags for UMCOR, you are always so generous with our mission projects and your pledges to missions.

Our conference is asking units to make service kits for UMCOR, anyone of your choice, and bring the completed kits to annual conference and they will be shipped to UMCOR. These kits are greatly needed, so any amount you can make will be appreciated.

As we wind down our year we still have several events on the calendar that I hope you will plan to attend. United Methodist Women's breakfast at conference June 11, Mission u July 17-19, at Athens 1st UMC, and our district Mini Mission Event on Saturday, September 20 at Winder First, district Annual meeting Sunday, October 19 at St. James UMC; and our district Leadership training will be at Young Harris Memorial UMC, Saturday, November 15. Unit officers please try to make these training meetings, it is important to know the updates on your office.

Unit Presidents, we have two (2) scholarships each for adults and children from the district for the Mission u studies. We are asking the local presidents to submit member names for the

scholarships. Applications need to be completed and sent to Kae Brown, so that she can get the applications in by the June 1st deadline.

This month is when presidents are asked to send in the annual reports for their units, it is so important that these reports be sent in on time. The data is used for our annual report, certificates for the reading program, memorials at Lenten Day Apart, and used for conference reports. Any questions or concerns please contact me.

As president, I would like to visit your unit, as a guest or speaker. If you have a preferred time please let me know.

I leave you with this scripture from 2 Corinthians 9:7

"Each person should do as he has decided in his heart- not out of regret or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver".

Thought for the day:

God has given you countless blessings ... and He wants you to share them.

Esther Porter
District President
[**abp30677@yahoo.com**](mailto:abp30677@yahoo.com)

THE TREASURER'S CENTS...

There were changes announced by the North Georgia United Methodist Women published in the most recent issue of *The Reflector*. Here is a summary of the changes that will affect our giving:

- **Supplemental Giving Special Emphasis (Immediate Change)**
 - > Wesley Community Centers announced that they closed their doors on January 31, 2014. With this announcement, the Supplemental Giving for 2014 has been revised as follows:
 - * Drop Wesley Community Centers as 3rd quarter supplemental giving
 - * Move Clark Atlanta University and Paine College to 3rd quarter supplemental giving
 - * Add a Love Offering as 4th quarter supplemental giving to be divided equally among the four National Mission Institutions remaining in North Georgia (New Bethlehem Community Center, Murphy Harpst, Paine College, and Clark Atlanta University)
- **Rainbow Woman (Being phased out this award year)**
 - > Rainbow Woman will no longer be offered after this award year that ends on July 31, 2014
- **Candleburning (Effective 2015 Award Year that begins August 1, 2014):**
 - > The per minute cost will remain at \$40. Candleburning can be given in any amount; however, the "in Honor" and "in

Memory" list will be limited to one name per each \$10 given. This is a maximum then of four names per minute that will be listed in the Annual Meeting Program Books

- **Baby Certificates (Effective 2015 Award Year that begins August 1, 2014)**
 - > Baby Certificates will increase to \$10 per certificate and ribbon

These changes require changes to the treasurers' forms. I have sent these to Treasurers who have given me their email addresses. If you have not received the revised forms, please contact me at 706-296-3483 or kaebrown4@gmail.com and I will get them to you.

I encourage the Unit Treasurers to pass this information on to their members. If you have any questions about these changes, please contact me.

Upcoming remittance deadlines: Current Quarter /2nd Quarter 2014 due May 31. 3rd Quarter 2014 due July 31. The 3rd quarter remittances must be received by the deadline so that awards can be prepared in time for both the Conference and District Annual Meetings in October.

NEWS FLASH: Our District not only met its pledge for missions in 2013 but we exceeded it. We are indeed MAKING IT HAPPEN!

Blessings,
Kae Brown, District Treasurer
706-296-3483
kaebrown4@gmail.com.



Summer is the time a lot of things wind down. Most units and circles like to take the summer off or for others this is a time for gearing up for the fall and participating in the many activities our District is involved in. Please take note of the many activities our conference and district offer to enhance our spiritual growth opportunities. I hope to see you all at the Conference UMW Breakfast (www.ngumw.org to register) on the 11th of June and at Mission u in July.

Have a wonderful summer and continue to grow in our Lord.

Beth Beeson, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

2014 United Methodist Women District and Conference Calendar
(Athens-Elberton District Events in BOLD)

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| June 10 -12, 2014 | NGC Annual Conference | Classic Center, Athens |
| June 11, 2014 | UMW Breakfast | Classic Center, Athens |
| July 17-19, 2014 | Mission u | Athens First UMC |
| September 20, 2014 | Mini Mission Event | Winder First UMC, Winder |
| October 4, 2014 | UMW Annual Meeting | Bethlehem UMC |
| October 19, 2014 | Annual Meeting | St. James UMC, Athens |
| November 1, 2014 | Leadership Development | Smyrna UMC |
| November 15, 2014 | District Leadership Training | Young Harris UMC, Athens |





The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



....you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 (NIV)

LOCAL UNIT NEWS FROM ACROSS THE DISTRICT...



JONES CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN celebrated United Methodist Women's Day on Sunday, May 4th during the 11 a.m. worship service. Members of the Jones Chapel UMW led in worship with a service of word and music. Guest speaker was renowned Christian author and speaker Cathy Lee Phillips.

THE TUCKSTON UNITED METHODIST WOMEN with hostess Lacey Coffeen are hosting a Premier Jewelry Party at Tuckston UMC to benefit the Mercy Health Center, a Christian health resource center in Athens which serves the physical and spiritual needs of our under-served neighbors in the Athens area. Please come and support this UMW fund-raising event at Tuckston on Saturday, June 21st from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For more information call Anita Dean at [706-850-0113](tel:706-850-0113).

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN A SPECIAL HOLY LAND TOUR OPPORTUNITY



We are going to the Holy Land with educational opportunities in January 2015! Tuckston United Methodist Church members and hostess Anita Dean will be touring the Holy Land with Reverend Diane Shedd and members of the Valdosta First United Methodist Church. Our 10-day trip departs on January 12, 2015. For more info, please contact Anita Dean at: ahhweber@gmail.com or phone Anita at 706-850-0113. **BOOK EARLY FOR AVAILABLE DISCOUNTS!**



READING PROGRAM NEWS!

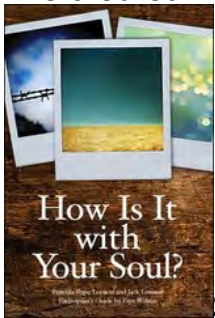
The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work. ***Interested?*** For more information on the **UMW Reading Program** please contact **Anita Dean** at **706-850-0113** or by email at ahhweber@charter.net.

The UMW Reading program for 2013-2014 ends on June 30, 2014. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR BOOK FORMS NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2014 to Anita Dean, 235 Woodgrove Drive, Athens GA 30605 or e-mail at ahhweber@gmail.com.

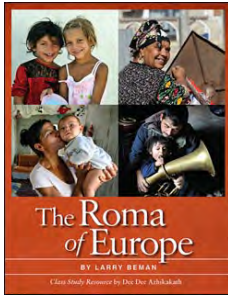
A Message from Lynne Wheeler, Mission Coordinator: Education and Interpretation
*You ARE Invited to Join and Participate in These Upcoming
Mission and Spiritual Growth Opportunities*

The 2014 Conference Mission u will again be in the **Athens-Elberton District, July 18th & 19th at Athens First UMC.** (Please find a registration form in this issue of *District Doings*).
LET'S MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO HAVE THE ATHENS-ELBERTON DISTRICT UMW UNITS WELL-REPRESENTED AT THE 2014 MISSION u!!

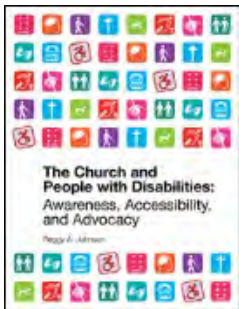
The **District Mini-Mission** event will be **September 20, 2014 at Winder First UMC.**
A special highlight this year will be a Children's Study along with the overview of the adult studies.
The Studies include:



Spiritual Growth: How Is It With Your Soul?



Geographic Study: The Roma of Europe



Social Issue Study: The Church and People with Disabilities: Awareness, Accessibility and Advocacy.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR:
Mission u – July 18-19, 2014 @ Athens First UMC
Mini-Mission Event – September 20, 2014 @ Winter First UMC

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

BE THERE. BE HOPE.



www.umcor.org

2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE Mission Project

UMCOR Kit Collection by United Methodist Women supports the annual conference theme highlighting children, youth and young adults. **United Methodist Women will assemble UMCOR kits in their local circles, units, and districts. They will focus on kits that meet the special needs of these age groups: birthing kits, layette kits, school bags.***



*** FOR INFO & INSTRUCTIONS ON ASSEMBLING KITS GO**

TO: <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies>

The kits must be packed in boxes and labeled as to the type of kits and number included in each box (If your unit can only assembled one kit no problem, any number will be graciously accepted.). If extra supplies are sent, those should also be clearly labeled. Monetary gifts to UMCOR will also be accepted as funds are always needed for shipping and purchasing extra supplies.

Please record the following information on clipboards at the trailer: number and type of kits along with the church name making the contribution.

**PLEASE BRING COMPLETED KITS TO THE CLASSIC CENTER
AND UNLOAD AT THE TRAILER LOCATED IN THE PARKING LOT
BEHIND THE FOUNDRY BUILDING.**

**UMCOR.
Multiplying
Hope.**

2014 DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---|--------------|--|
| President | Esther Porter | 1111 Summit Circle, Watkinsville, GA 30677 | 706-769-0699 | abp30677@yahoo.com |
| Vice President | Dr. Kay Haugen | 131 Ridgewood Lane, Jefferson, GA 30549 | 706-367-9984 | khaugen@windstream.net |
| Secretary | Kim Griffith | 151 Middleton Place, Athens, GA 30606 | 706-202-2189 | kimgriffith@bellsouth.net |
| Treasurer | Kae Brown | 1908 Orchard Circle, Bogart, GA 30622 | 706-296-3483 | Kaebrown4@gmail.net |
| Spiritual Growth | Beth Beeson | 112 Summerplace Drive, Winterville, GA 30683 | 706-899-0055 | bcsastt@aol.com |
| Program Resources | Anita Dean | 235 Woodgrove Drive, Athens, GA 30605 | 706-850-0114 | ahhweber@charter.net |
| Membership, Nurture, & Outreach | Shirley Breedlove | 1865 Nunnally Farm Rd, Monroe, GA 30655 | 770-267-6842 | Breedlove6842@windstream.net |
| Social Action | Lynn Flanagan | 1701 Union Church Rd, Watkinsville, GA 30677 | 706-769-7582 | dl_flanagan@yahoo.com |
| Education & Interpretation | Lynne Wheeler | 2274 Old Kings Bridge Rd, Nicholson, GA 30565 | 706-757-2667 | wheelert@windstream.net |
| Parliamentarian | Marjie Graham | 219 Stonecrest Court, Athens, GA 30605 | 706-549-4610 | marjiegraham@bellsouth.net |
| Communications | Pam Ward | 141 Rabbit Run Road, Nicholson, GA 30565 | 706-757-2531 | pward@uga.edu |
| Historian | Kate Finch | P. O. Box 515, Lexington, GA 30648-0515 | 706-743-3586 | kacefin@aol.com |
| COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS: | | | | |
| Chair | Betty Sartain | 7298 Hwy 29 N, Danielsville, GA 30633 | 706-795-2047 | maxbetsartain2004@yahoo.com |
| Committee Members | Helen Jordan | 1021 Travis Drive, Watkinsville, GA 30677 | 706-769-6951 | hjordan@uga.edu |
| | Gene Lissemore | 175 Wildflower Dr., Social Circle, GA 30025 | 770-464-9385 | g.lissemore@att.net |
| | Sandra Darnell | 1330 Station Dr., Watkinsville, GA 30677 | 706-769-9379 | sandra.darnell@charter.net |
| | Linda McClellan | | | |
| ZONE LEADERS: | | | | |
| Athens Area | Mary Hansford | 1742 McRee Gin Rd, Watkinsville, GA 30677 | 706-769-5396 | mhansfor@bellsouth.net |
| Hart/Elbert | Luann Burgess | 1571 Lightwood Rd, Hartwell, GA 30643 | 706-376-8860 | luburgess2002@yahoo.com |
| Franklin/Madison | Dr. Barbara Spurlock | 22706 Hwy 59, Carnesville, GA 30521 | 706-988-7211 | baspurlock@hotmail.com |
| Walton/Morgan | Kay Hannay | 1190 Good Hope Rd, Monroe, GA 30655 | 770-267-6787 | harley2603@windstream.net |
| Barrow/Oconee | Dot McAlvin | 112 Walnut Ridge Dr., Hoschton, GA 30548 | 706-654-7088 | dotmcalvin@windstream.com |

The *District Doings* newsletter is a publication of the Athens-Elberton District United Methodist Women. Its goal is to keep units at the local/congregation level informed about opportunities for living out our PURPOSE. It is published quarterly and mailed to all unit leaders, unit members and former District Officers per request, district office, and North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women leaders. All articles for publication should be directed to pward@uga.edu or Pam Ward, 141 Rabbit Run Road, Nicholson, GA 30565.



Friday, August 8, 2014

LOCAL UNIT 2014 REPORT FORM

(7-01-13 thru -6-30-14)

Name of **Unit** _____ District _____

Name, Address, & Phone # of President or Contact Person _____

Number of **members** as of 6/30/14 _____ Number of NEW **Subgroups** this year _____

Names of **Deceased Members** not reported on last year's report _____

Names of **Mission Studies** completed following the Goals of Excellence Guidelines _____

Names of **Reading Program** participants completing the following plans:

Plan I

Plan II

Plan III

Plan IV

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

(Continue on back of paper)

Qualifications for **Mission Today** Unit:

If membership is 15 or more:

____ Gold Unit (all items)

____ Silver Unit: 12 items,
incl. 5 asterisks (*)

____ Mission Today: 10 items,
incl. 5 asterisks (*)

If membership is below 15:

____ Gold Unit: 9 items, including 5 asterisks (*)

____ Silver Unit: 6 items, incl. 3 asterisks (*)

____ Mission Today: 5 items, incl 3 asterisks (*)

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO ESTHER PORTER BY JUNE 10, 2014; abp30677@yahoo.com
OR MAIL TO: 1111 Summit Circle, Watkinsville, GA 30677

Mission Today Unit Requirements

Requirements for a unit with a membership of 14 or less:

Mission Today Unit: Complete 5 items, 3 must be asterisk items

Silver Mission Today Unit: Complete 6 items, 3 must be asterisk items

Gold Mission Today Unit: Complete 9 items, 5 must be asterisk items

Requirements for a unit with a membership of 15 or more:

Mission Today Unit: Complete 10 items, 5 must be asterisk items.

Silver Mission Today Unit: Complete 12 items, 5 must be asterisk items.

Gold Mission Today Unit: Complete all 17 items.

___*1. Use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting of the unit to pray for people in mission and for our mission work with women, children and youth.

___*2. The unit will make and meet its pledge to mission.

___*3. The unit will add at least two new members to its roll.

___*4. The unit will have at least two members subscribing to Response magazine.

___*5. The unit will have at least two programs from the program book during the year.

___*6. The unit circle or subgroup will conduct at least one mission study a year.

___*7. The unit will implement the charter for racial justice policies in at least two ways during the year. Some suggested plans of action: Plan a joint unit meeting with a unit of difference racial/ethnic background using programs from the program book. Develop bi-racial/cultural or multi-racial/cultural Koinonia groups. Or Hold a joint Vacation Bible School. Hold pulpit exchanges. Share joint worship services on special occasions. Encourage the church to sponsor a refugee family.

___*8. At least one member of the unit (other than Conference or District officers) will attend the Conference or District Mission Education Event.

___*9. At least two members (other than Conference or District officers) will attend the District or Conference Annual Meeting.

___*10. The unit will have at least one person join the United Methodist Women's Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information.

___*11. Members shall write to five people listed in the prayer calendar at least twice a year.

___12. The unit will participate in the Campaign for Children in two ways. Help sponsor a church or community program related to children and youth needs. Sponsor a children's Sabbath promoted by the Children's Defense Fund. Get involved with children in mentoring, tutoring, and "Big Sisters" programs. Write letters email or call a congregational representative and or others in government regarding children's issues.

___13. The unit will be a 5 Star unit contributing to all 5 channels of undesignated giving.

___14. The unit will contribute to a mission project, such as UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), RRISA (Refugee Resettlement & Immigration Services of Atlanta), or other United Methodist Women National Mission Institutions.

___15. Each unit, circle or subgroup meeting will include a "Response Moment" where an article from the Response magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.

___16. Have at least two people from the unit circle or subgroup complete one of the Reading Program plans and report on one of the books. And encourage all members to complete Plan one.

___17. The unit will have invited a District or Conference officer other than a member of that unit to one or more of the unit meetings during the year.

"Mission u: Learning Together for the Transformation of the World"

Friday and Saturday

July 18 – 19, 2014

Athens First UMC

327 N Lumpkin St, Athens, GA 30601

Optional Event, Thursday night, July 17th (see below)

The "Mission u" (formerly Cooperative Christian Mission Education Event) Event is a 2-day retreat open to ages 6 and up to study current issues impacting our communities and society.

Come and share this time of prayer, study, and fellowship with others from around the conference. This event is especially designed for all United Methodists – men and women - who want to deepen their understanding and passion for missions.

Sponsored By



Studies

Spiritual Growth: How Is It With Your Soul?

Leaders: Rev. Brett DeHart, Mary Anne Brannon, Sara Worden, Marian Kim & Rev. Juan Quintanilla

Geographic Study: The Roma of Europe

Rev. Eric Powell

Social Issue Study: The Church and People With Disabilities: Awareness, Accessibility & Advocacy

Jean Bouts

Youth Study Leader – Allyssa Green Children's Study Leaders –Terry & Sue Raymond

**** NEW ****

**Thursday night, July 17th from 7-9 pm
Fellowship & Fun**

**@ Princeton UMC in Athens
Let us know if you will be there by
marking your registration form.**

What to bring to the Event:

- ✓ **Bible, paper, pens/pencils and Study Book :if not purchased in advance will be available in the book room**
- ✓ **Dress comfortably and bring a sweater for cold classrooms**

"Mission u" July 18-19, 2014- REGISTRATION FORM

Send completed form to Ann Orr, 89 Hickory Cr,
Ringgold, GA 30736 (706-937-3353)
Make checks payable to: Mission u

Name: _____ Male/Female
Address: _____ Adult__ * Youth__ *Child__ (check one)
City, State, Zip _____
Phone: _____ e-mail: _____
Church: _____ District: _____
Emergency Contact Person: _____ and Phone #: _____
Physical/Medical Needs: _____ Allergies: _____
Would you like a vegetarian meal? _____ gluten free? _____

Registration Fees: \$70.00 (Friday only - \$40.00 / Saturday only - \$30.00) Youth/ Children - \$30.00

Your registration fee includes: your classes, lunch and dinner Friday and lunch Saturday.

Register by June 1st and receive your study book FREE.

Register after June 1st and you must purchase your study book at the event or online at

www.missionresourcecenter.org.

****Yes I will be at the Thursday night FELLOWSHIP & FUN at Princeton UMC ****

Online Registration is now available. Go to www.ngumw.org. Sign up is fast and easy.

You decide where to stay!

Holiday Inn, 706-549-4433 - \$89 plus tax, per double room/per day and breakfast for 2 per room

Holiday Inn Express, 706-546-8122, - \$79 plus tax, per double room/per day with hot breakfast

BE sure to use code **Mission u.**

Choose Your Class

___ Spiritual Growth: *How is it with your Soul?* ___ English ___ Korean ___ Hispanic

___ Geographic Study: *The Roma of Europe*

___ Social Issue: *The Church and People with Disabilities*

___ Youth (13-17) age ___ *Disabilities and our Response*

___ Children (6-12) age ___ *Welcoming Persons with Disabilities into our Lives*

Registration Deadline

To receive free Study Book - June 1, 2014

Final Registration Deadline - July 1, 2014

| Friday July 18 th | Tentative Schedule | Saturday July 19 th |
|---|--------------------|---|
| Registration – 8:30 – 10:30 AM | | Saturday Registration 8:00 AM |
| Opening Worship – 10:30 AM | | (Please check out of hotel BEFORE coming to Mission u) |
| Lunch – 12:00 PM | | Devotion – 9 – 9:15 AM |
| Class I – 1:15 – 3:30 PM | | Class III – 9:30 – 11:30 AM |
| Break 3:30 – 4:00 PM | | Lunch – 11:30 AM |
| UMW Update/Global Ministries Opportunities 4 -5:00 PM | | Class IV – 12:30 – 2:15 PM |
| Dinner – 5:00 PM | | Closing Worship/Communion 2:30 – 3:00 PM |
| Class II – 6:30 – 8:30 PM | | |
| Free Time – 8:30 PM till 9:00 PM | | |

PRAYER AND ACTION FOR KIDNAPPED NIGERIAN GIRLS



We are all encouraged—both as individuals and as a community of people who believe in faith, hope and love in action—to join in earnest, bold and persistent prayer and action for the desperate families and the government of Nigeria for the safe return of over 200 kidnapped girls.

United Methodist Women calls on people of all faiths to affirm the worth and equal value as human beings all women and men, girls and boys of Africa and around the world, and we speak out against the abduction, abuse or “sale” of any human for any purpose.

On April 14, 2014, Boko Haram, a Nigerian terrorist group, abducted nearly 300 girls from a rural boarding school in Chibok, in northeastern Nigeria. Some of the kidnapped girls are said to be as young as 12.

The 12-year-old elusive group Boko Haram, which stands for “Western education is a sin,” was founded when a charismatic cleric called for his interpretation of a “pure Islamic state” in Nigeria. In Nigeria, the name Boko Haram evokes fear and images of bloodshed. The group has claimed responsibility for kidnappings, assassinations, bombing bridges and government buildings and attacking schools, villages, churches and mosques.

Since the girls’ abduction, parents have avoided speaking to the media and are accused of not cooperating with the police, but this is out of fear that their daughters may be singled out for reprisals. The government, too, is afraid to release details about the investigation for similar reasons.

In a recently released video, Boko Haram is threatening to sell the girls. The May 12 video seeks to exchange the girls for the release of prisoners.

As United Methodist Women members, we add our voices to the growing number who seek the safe return our girls, and we call on the government of Nigeria to rescue all girls before they are lost or further harmed. Much time has passed since their kidnapping April 14, and efforts to rescue and care for these girls must take place now.

Government should protect and enhance the lives of all its citizens. We call on

Nigeria and all nations to exemplify good governance through the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls and the protection of girls' right to education.

Prayer, which is one of the powerful resources we always have available to us, is a great gift we can give to the kidnapped girls right now. Let us draw on the grace of God for changed hearts and for strength and clarity for government entities able to rescue the girls now and always.

Action Suggestions

- Lift up the girls and their families in prayer. Pray for a change of heart among the terrorists. Pray for the activists working to rescue the girls and bring greater awareness of the wider extent of this situation in Nigeria.
- Support the call by U.N. Women, UNICEF and several UN Special Rapporteurs for swift action by the Nigerian government, including protection of girls' and boys' education in Nigeria. Send letters of concern to U.N. Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women, 405 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017 or e-mail care of: nanette.braun@unwomen.org. Let them know you are a United Methodist Women member and ask the U.N. to keep up concerted action that is responsive to the criminal acts and not supportive of international military interventions.
- Call on the U.S. government to continue to advocate with Nigeria and other nations to protect the human rights of girls without direct or indirect U.S. intervention in Nigeria. Urge the U.S. State Department to monitor the role of U.S. corporations in Nigeria, including Shell Oil, regarding the protection of human rights and national sovereignty. Urge the United States to invest in girls and in sustainable development in Nigeria and throughout Africa through substantive aid for schools, health care and basic infrastructure and by placing human rights over corporate profits and "national interests." Address e-mail and letters to Secretary of State John Kerry, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20520. Telephone: 202-647-4000. Visit www.state.gov/contact to send Secretary Kerry an e-mail. Go to usun.state.gov/about/contact to e-mail U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Powers.
- Learn more about the context of Nigeria (oil, civil war, divide between North and South and between faiths). Learn about the role of Shell Oil in human rights violations in the oil region and the role of Nigerian women in standing up to Shell in 2003.
- Learn about why Boko Haram is gaining momentum in the context of the Nigerian government's failure to address the widespread poverty, corruption, police abuse, and longstanding impunity for a range of crimes, according to Human Rights Watch.