

# The Arbor Vine

Ann Arbor District of The United Methodist Church  
Rev. Mark E. Spaw, District Superintendent

January 2015

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***Mark your Calendars!***

Leadership Training Day

**“CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE FOR HOPE”**

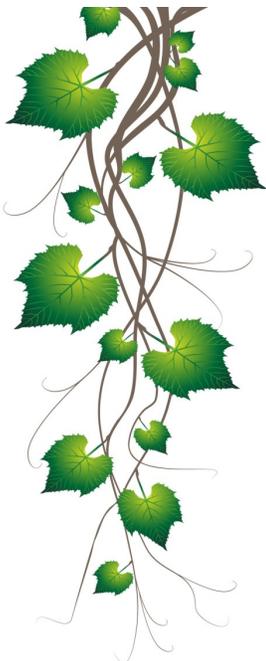
Saturday morning, February 28

Saline UMC

This day is the most popular event in the district,  
full of workshops and speakers and new ideas

All clergy are expected to participate





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## DISTRICT NOTICES

### PIANIST NEEDED

London United Methodist Church currently needs a permanent pianist for Sunday morning worship. They are looking for someone with a little experience playing in church, and some knowledge of liturgy is preferred.

If interested, please contact Pastor Chris Butson at [christopherbutson@live.com](mailto:christopherbutson@live.com).

### CLERGY SPOUSE RETREAT

March 13, 14, & 15 at the Lake Huron Retreat Center. There will be talks, workshops, and team activities on the topic "Serving as a (W)Holy Well Encourager." The leader is Laurie DelPino. For more info call the Conference at 800-334-0544.

### MISSION TRIP INFORMATION NEEDED

Rev. Tom Anderson is the VIM Coordinator for the Conference. He would like to collect information about mission trips taken by local churches, whether in-state, out-of-state, or overseas. If you would be willing to fill out a short form on your mission work, please contact him at [anderson810@gmail.com](mailto:anderson810@gmail.com).

### STANDARD IRS MILEAGE RATES STARTING JANUARY 1, 2015

**57.5 CENTS PER MILE FOR BUSINESS MILES**

**23 CENTS PER MILE FOR VOLUNTEERS**

### *Joining the Journey with the Bishop*

After a long period of listening and discernment, Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey has invited United Methodists in Michigan to join her on a journey. She asked members of the Detroit and West Michigan conferences to discern a new path for ministry in the state posing the question, "What new thing is God calling us to do in Michigan?"

All are invited to 5 listening sessions with the Bishop to discuss the following questions:

*What are the compelling reasons for creating a totally new conference in Michigan?*

*What are the compelling opportunities?*

*What may be gained?*

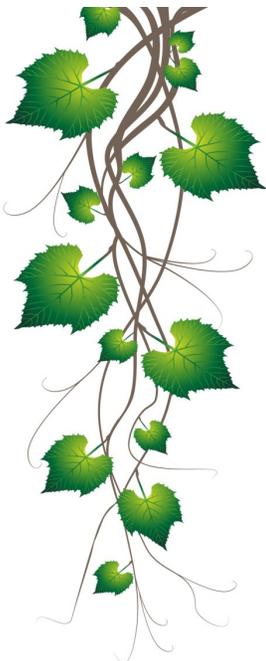
*What concerns need to be considered?*

*What are some anticipated outcomes?*

*How will we listen for the anticipated losses?*

*How will we use the years ahead to dream and vision?*

The meeting to be held in the Ann Arbor District will be on February 3, 2015, Tuesday, at Northville UMC, 6:30 until 8:00 pm.



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# Spaw's Paws

Some thoughts from your D.S., Rev. Mark E. Spaw

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## "BEACONS OF HOPE"

Hope. This subject is very timely, isn't it? After all we're still very early into the New Year; all the wonderful possibilities of 2015 are stretched out before us. From the Christian point of view 2015 is a new opportunity to see the kingdom of God come to pass in our own individual lives, and to help bring it to pass in our world. We hope?

Mere hoping without any work or effort toward one's goal is merely dreaming. Hope that is based on grace, faith and encouragement from God is real hope. It's not positive thinking or good karma. It is acting out our lives based on the knowledge of God almighty who sent His only Son to be our Savior. This reality is as true in this New Year as it has been for all of the new years of the past. Is this New Year how will we respond?

Do you remember how the shepherds responded to the birth announcement and the worship of the angels? An experience of God's grace is never an end in itself. If it is authentically from God, it will always push us outside of ourselves and point to others. The lowly shepherds become this new King's first ambassadors. The shepherds then return to their flock's worshiping and praising God. The action of the shepherds is significant. They receive the Good News about Jesus, and they are transformed from lowly shepherds to heralds of Christ and ambassadors of God's Good News.

This is a call to us who know and believe the Good News of Jesus birth. We who have experienced outpourings of Grace must become witnesses to the world of this fact.

A core value of our Christianity is Hope. Too often we make hope a mere insider value. In other words, Christians have hope because we put our trust in God. This is certainly true but is not radical enough. Hope is also to serve as a value offered to "outsiders". Christians are to be known to the world not simply as person's witness of Jesus birth—that a community, desperate for hope both then and now, suffering from war, hunger, hatred, evil, and injustice, becomes the source of HOPE for the world.

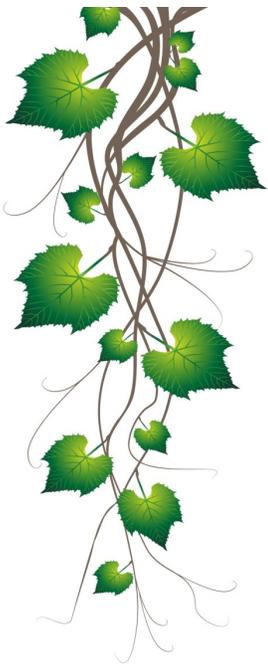
In this New Year, think about your circle of family, friends and acquaintances. Who among them is desperate for hope? My hope for you, in 2015 and beyond, is that your Christmas experience will call you to be a beacon of hope for others!

Hopefilled in 2015,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The signature is stylized and appears to be written in a cursive or semi-cursive font.

Rev. Mark E. Spaw, D.S.

P.S. Hope to be greeting you at our Ann Arbor Leadership Training Day on Saturday February 28, 2015 at Saline UMC. Every church should plan now to attend. Every Pastor Participation!



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## ***Spread the Word -***

*Marriage Encounter wants people to know.*

TO CHURCH SECRETARY: Please publish the following announcement in your January Church bulletins and Church Newsletter:

TO MARRIED COUPLES: You have heard of World Wide Marriage Encounter. Now you can experience this world famous weekend that can impact your marriage relationship for a lifetime. Sign up for this Valentine weekend, Feb. 13-14-15, 2015, at the 4-star Hilton Garden Inn in Plymouth, Michigan. Application: \$200. Contact Dean and Kathy Thompson, 734-260-3728. or [thomkd@comcast.net](mailto:thomkd@comcast.net), or on-line <http://www.encounter.org/> Deadline is January 20.

## ***Imagine No Malaria***

A message from Molly Turner, Field Coordinator for INM

The Michigan Episcopal Area has committed to raising \$1.5 million for Imagine No Malaria by December 2014. Thank you all for the work that each church is doing as we join in the common effort to eradicate this killer disease. Our Bishop Deb Kiesey has a special message on MINoMalaria.org. Save lives, give to Advance #3021190. We realize that a few churches have made pledges to be completed by Easter of 2015, however, please send all 2014 Imagine No Malaria Funds collected by the end of 2014 to your Detroit Annual Conference Treasurer, David Dobbs. Final deadline submission date is January 9, 2015. Thank you.

## ***Benefit concert for the Sharon UMC Mission Team***

### **† The Leroy Street Band †**

**and Jan Harris**

Music Director at Sharon UMC

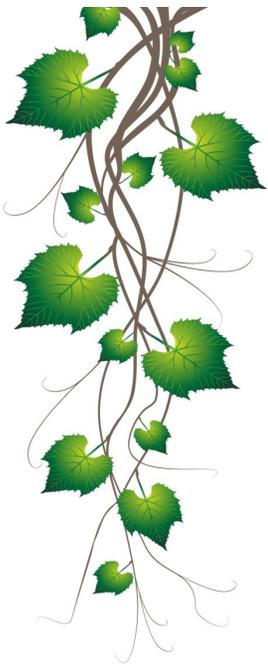
Saturday, January 10, 2015

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sharon United Methodist Fellowship Hall  
(M-52 & Pleasant Lake Rd)

Food, silent auction, great music!

Call 734-428-0996 for details



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## ***A Year-end Message from United Methodist Women, Ann Arbor District***

As we are approaching the end of 2014, we can look back over the year and say "it was a very good year". Many things have taken place over the year that has furthered the mission work of United Methodist Women. The individual units of the churches around the District have held events to educate and inform about the projects that are supported by United Methodist Women - Human Trafficking, Immigration, Poverty just to name a few. I hope that many of you have had a chance to attend one of these events.

Our District Annual Celebration that was held on October 4th at Commerce UMC was well attended and provided updates on our Church's Liberian Task Force given by Edie Wiarda, the Task Force chairperson, a mission study on Haiti, led by Christina Rockwell from the Milford UMC and a presentation on Poverty, given by Joy Coyle, our UMW Conference Social Action Coordinator. The installation of the 2015 District officers was performed by our Conference President, Kay Mowery.

The Conference Annual Celebration and Leadership Training were held on October 24-25 at the Owosso UMC. Bishop Deborah Kieseey was the keynote speaker. Conference UMW officers for 2015 were installed. The Ann Arbor District is proud that we will have three women from the District on the Conference Team- Donna Foster, Program Resources Chairperson; Mitsy Mentzer, Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator and Sherry Wagenknecht, Nominations Chairperson. They will represent us well.

As a Mission Team, we will continue to support the mission programs that UMW has in place. The three studies for Mission U for 2015 are The Church and People with Disabilities, Pursuit of Happiness and Latin America. There are many opportunities to participate in Mission U – Mission U of the South, Saturday July 18 at Marble Memorial UMC in Milan; The One-Day Sampler held on Thursday, August 13 at the Port Huron Retreat Center; The Two-Day School held on Friday and Saturday, August 14-15 at the Port Huron Retreat Center; and the Mission U of the North, to be held on Monday and Tuesday, October 19-20 at the Gaylord UMC. I do hope that you will take advantage of these studies. They are done so very well, are informative and show us how to put our faith, hope and love into action.

Should you have any questions about the UMW happenings, please feel free to contact me at [greemabert@comcast.net](mailto:greemabert@comcast.net), 734-483-4660 or mail me at 9064 Pitman Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. The entire District Team members are also willing to come to your events to talk about the ways you can become involved. Just give us a call!

Vicky Engelbert  
Ann Arbor District President

### **January Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Jan 11 Barbara Beird	Jan 22 Shawn Lewis-Lakin
Jan 14 Stephen Perrine	Jan 30 Tracey Hunter
Jan 15 Naylo & Dori Hopkins	Feb 1 Joel Walther
Jan 22 Robert Selberg	

Ann Arbor District Office  
of the United Methodist Church

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Ann Arbor MI 48103

## **Return Service Requested**



**The Arbor Vine**

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