Happy April, Everyone!

I am the Harpeth River District Program and Resources Officer. When Kate Howard, the District Nominations Chair, announced in one of our local meetings that this position was open, I knew it was meant for me.

As far back as I can remember, reading has been an important part of my life. My Mother was the perfect role model for me. She was an avid reader until dementia set in. One of my favorite memories is of the Christmas when each of us received the first book of a series. Mine was Nancy Drew. We knew with each birthday and Christmas Mother would add to our series.

The United Methodist Women is a lot like my Mother … an avid reader. UMW has a Reading Program encouraging us to read books with Mission Emphases divided into five categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Aside from books, we are encouraged to read the **response** magazine, which is available every two months. In September at the District Annual Meeting, a Certificate of Recognition is awarded to each local unit, which has completed one of the four Reading Program Plans.

I have challenged my unit to participate in the Reading Program by reading 5 books this year; and I would like to extend this challenge to all of you, individually as well as per unit. I just finished my 11th book for this year (I told you I love to read). The book, *Without You There is No Us*, is about the elite/upper class young men going to a missionary college in North Korea. What an eye-opening book. Try to dedicate just a few minutes per day to read one of the books on our list. I don’t think you will be disappointed.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the Reading Program or need assistance with ordering books and resource materials.

Happy reading!

Bobbi Toombs

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Then in a separate column, I’ll list the Reading Plans.

See below.

READING PROGRAM PLANS

PLAN I  
• 5 books each year.  
• 1 from each category.  
• Selections from the current reading list, if not included in previous reports.  
• Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN II  
• 10 books each year.  
• 2 from each category.  
• Selections from the current reading list, if not included in previous reports.  
• Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN III  
• 15 books each year.  
• 2 books from each category.  
• PLUS 5 additional books from any category.  
• Selections from the current reading list, if not included in previous reports.  
• Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN IV  
• 20 books each year.  
• 2 books from each category.  
• PLUS 10 additional books from any category. Selections from the current reading lists:  
 www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram/plans.  
• Regular reading of **response** magazine.