

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) continues to develop ways to inform and sensitize the leadership within the conference at all levels on issues that affect women and prohibit the full participation of women in the life of the church. This years' goals were to continue to publish the annual newsletter, and to offer a one day workshop with the opportunity of receiving continuing education credits as resources for the conference.

Our newsletter previously known as *Women in the Pulpit* has been renamed *The Eve*. In the past few years, the newsletter has expanded its focus beyond just women in the pulpit to other areas of leadership and concerns for women in the church; therefore, we believe *The Eve* is a more accurate reflection of COSROW. Eve was the woman in the Bible who was created to be a companion of Adam; but throughout the Bible and today, the roll of the woman has continued to evolve into so much more. Women are not just leading in the pulpit, but in various areas of the church, positions that were once held only by men. *The Eve* celebrates women and their accomplishments in the life of the church. The theme for the Spring 2009 issue of *The Eve* was "Stepping Out on Faith and Celebrating Success." This issue continued to include worship resources for "Women in the Pulpit Sunday;" featured the success stories of women embarking on different leadership roles within the church; as well as new features, such as resources for health and law.

The one day workshop has been scheduled for August 15, 2009 with M. Garlinda Burton, who is General Secretary of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in the United Methodist Church, as our keynote speaker. This workshop and future events will hopefully address issues that will help churches in areas such as prepare/welcome their first female pastor; identify how to access at-risk women in the church; men talking to men about ways to successfully communicate and advocate for women, and more.

COSROW continues to strive for innovation in becoming a more visible and more effective ministry as we resource the South Carolina Conference on issues pertaining to the status and role of women.

Cathy D. Mitchell, Chairperson