

My name is Laura Lei Miller  
And I am currently reading:

**INHERITING THE TRADE:**



**A Northern Family  
Confronts Its  
Legacy as  
the Largest Slave-  
Trading  
Dynasty in U.S.  
History**

Thomas Norman DeWolf  
Beacon Press, 2008  
262 pages /R8012/ \$16.00  
In 2001, Thomas DeWolf  
discovered that he was  
related to the most

successful slave-trading family in U.S. history, responsible for transporting at least 10,000 Africans. This is his memoir of the journey in which 10 family members retraced their ancestors' steps through the notorious triangle trade route—from New England to West Africa to Cuba—and uncovered the hidden slave trade history

**Wow**—this book is fabulous and I am having a hard time putting it down to share with you what it is about (I am on page 169). I recently have become very interested in family history (my own) and this book is a **fascinating** story about Thomas DeWolf's experience in exploring his family and a really little understood part of world wide history. I love reading about history in this way. I think the subject matter is important and the insights in this book have touched me greatly. I am particularly horrified by the church's support of the slave trade. How could that happen? This is how I feel about lots of history (holocaust, crusades, inquisitions, etc.) when I learn it. I have also recently read the biography of William Wilberforce who was the architect of the abolition of slavery in Britain. That is on the list too. This helped me to understand why it took so long for abolition to pass in Britain. Some of the same politics were true in America too. Read this. You won't be disappointed.—Laura Lei Miller

**The Reading Program:**

Did you know that the reading program of the United Methodist Women is open to all people in our congregation? Men, children, youth and women are all encouraged to participate in the Reading Program. Our reading program library is in the Fellowship Room. This is a collection of books and magazines that are divided into five mission emphases to encourage us to read a diverse selection. The areas are: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth.

**The Purpose**

The purpose of the Reading Program is to encourage United Methodist Women members:

- to expand understanding of and participation in God's mission;
- to increase sensitivity to all human beings — their needs, interests and concerns;
- to encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today;
- to grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life;
- to enhance self-knowledge and to act from that knowledge; and
- to strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

United Methodist Women recommends a diverse range of books with the intention of broadening exposure to a variety of concepts. The Reading Program does not intend that readers accept each word or idea contained within each volume. Some books you may agree with. Some you may not. Either is all right. United Methodist Women cares and wants you to be a knowledgeable and caring Christian about current issues.

Check out the program. To learn more about what books are included (we don't own all of the books!) please contact Lorelei Atencio who is our officer in charge of the program.