



# BAYPINES BEACON

Serving United Methodist Women in the Baypines District

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2016

**President**

Peggy Cunningham

**Vice President**

Marcia Middlebrooks

**Secretary**

Carolyn Anderson

**Treasurer**

Lyn Stuart

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### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Hello to all,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and will have a very Happy 2016.

As we are starting our New Year, let us pause and pray to God that as UMW we will be the hands and feet of Jesus this year. I believe if we listen to what God tells us, He will direct our hands and

feet to do our UMW mission work.

I am so proud of what we accomplished in 2015. We surpassed what we had pledged, had thirteen 5 Star Units, had ten Units to complete Mission Today, had 33 members who completed a Reading Program Plan, and had 58 to attend District Annual Day. Let us set out our goals even higher for next year! I know we can do it.

I would like for each Local Unit President to encourage your members to attend District and Conference Events; this is the area where we are very weak. Set the example for your members. You have the dates for all the events. Make sure to put these dates on your calendar now and send each member these dates so they can do the same. I am thanking you in advance for doing this.

This year we are going to a calendar year from January to December and it will be a change from previous years. There will be some changes in our Events since the year will end in December; however it will make doing our reports so much easier.

Continued on page 2

We will start the year with Leadership Training (was called Officer Training) with a different format. Two Districts in the Conference that are close together will have their District Presidents and Conference Officers doing the training. The Conference Officers are Zan Jones, Tutti Johnson, Clara Ester and the District Presidents are Debbie Bell and myself. (January 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. at Bay Minette UMC.)

Each Unit President will receive a Workbook to be used hopefully for four years just as the UMW Handbook is used for four years. This is especially important that the Unit President attend.

We are the first in the Conference to do this training...we are the "guinea pigs" as one might say. We could have visitors to see how it goes. I am asking that every Unit officer attend and as many other members as possible. If your officer cannot attend, send someone in her place. I need comments on how you think the training was. There are some Units with only 2 or 3 officers and the President can assign someone to do a report so this is why I am asking everyone to attend.

As you see, we have changes; but if we all work together, we will definitely be the hands and feet of Jesus. We will have a great year doing UMW mission work and fulfilling our UMW Purpose.

Blessings to all of you,  
*Peggy Cunningham*

## VICE PRESIDENT



*Marcia Middlebrooks*

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year and looking forward to seeing you at our leadership training. This will be very beneficial and enriching for each of us!

Hopefully, I will be able to participate more actively this year in our Bay Pines UMW functions. I have been recovering from major surgery four months ago and, hopefully, I will be completely recovered soon.

Thanks so much for all the thoughts and prayers.

**MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER**

**BAYPINES UMW MAKE THEIR PLEDGE TO MISSION GOAL FOR 2015**

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Congratulations! Baypines UMW exceeded our Pledge to Mission Goal for 2015. Our goal for Pledge to Mission (through our Five Channels of Mission Giving) was \$12,200.00. We contributed \$13,365.38.

Additionally, we contributed \$4,147.05 to our District/Conference Askings, \$1,100.35 to Call to Prayer & Self-Denial, & Special Designated Gifts of \$400.00 to UMCOR, & \$100.00 to Moore House. Baypines Total Mission Giving was \$19,112.78. Great Job!!

Please be sure to send any 2015 monies you may still have. Thanks!

**Lyn Stuart**

**2016 Calendar of Baypines District Events**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Type Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
January 16	9:00 a.m.	Leadership Training	Bay Minette
February 29		Executive Meeting	Loxley
March 12		Spiritual Day Apart	Gulf Shores
August 8		Executive Meeting	Morgan Chapel
August 20		Mission Study	Robertsdale
October 16		Fall Event	TBA
November 7		Executive Meeting	Gulf Shores

Dates for Articles or Other Material for District Newsletter

January 10 or 6

March 2

June 10

September 10

(See page 21 in Workbook)

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Sharon Anderson

Happy New Year to each of you! Hope you are looking forward to a new year with new friendships and a closer walk with our Lord and Savior.

I want to share some thoughts from my morning devotion which comes from the "In Touch" by Dr. Charles Stanley. Dr. Stanley gives four suggestions for 2016:

**Do a clean sweep** – Rid your mind of attitudes and behaviors hindering your spiritual growth and your relationships.

*"And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him."* Colossians 3:10

**Talk less, listen more** - Relations become healthier and happier when others see you are listening.

*"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:"* James 1:19

**Bark less, wag more** – Replace complaints and criticism with thanks and praise. Change your attitudes!

*"Do all things without murmurings and disputings."* Philippians 2:14 *"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."* Philippians 4:4

**Celebrate each day** – Find something special to rejoice over each day. Each day is a wonderful gift from God. *"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."*

Psalm 118:24

Hope to see each of you at Bay Minette UMC on January 16 for Leadership Training! Have a great year!

Sharon

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## *Education/Interpretation*



*Beth Henson*

Greetings to everyone!

I do hope that all of you will attend our Leadership Training on Saturday, January 16 at 9:00 am at Bay Minette First UMC. This meeting will help us become more informed about our responsibilities as United Methodist Women. As we become more informed, we grow stronger in our walk and are more committed to serving our Lord.

The *Mission Today* Unit criteria is listed on the web site at <http://awf-umw.org/> under forms for local units (pages 38-39). Activities completed between **September 1, 2015 and November 30, 2016**, will be recognized at 2016 Annual Day Meeting (Held in January of 2017). Activities completed between 12/1/16 and 12/31/16, should be sent on a REVISED report immediately or include them on the next year's record keeping. Report the Total on this form to the Consolidated President's Report ITEM #3. Thanks for all you do!

*Beth*

## *Membership Nurture and Outreach*



*Mary Barnhill*

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend our Leadership Training event on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at Bay Minette First UMC.

Membership Nurture and Outreach is really one and the same. As I look back on new members in my local unit last year, I don't think there is one person who became a member because of one outstanding event or speaker. I think it was a personal invitation, providing transportation and continual friendship. Let's talk about it Saturday at our Leadership Training.

Looking forward to seeing you.

*Mary*



**SOCIAL ACTION**

Greetings! Hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and praying that all of us have a healthy, happy and peaceful new year.

The world certainly seems to be in turmoil and this has led many of us to be fearful and anxious. Jesus came to bring peace to us and the world. As we begin this New Year, let us remember that there are acts that we can do to help bring peace and justice to our community, our country and our world. Let us pray for guidance and discernment and then with confidence; we can help bring peace! If you want to know more about what we can do, Zan Jones, the conference Coordinator of Social Action, will be at our district Leadership Training Day and will be sharing information on ways that we can help Change the World! Please join us.

*Edith Brooks*



**SECRETARY**

Hi,

My name is Carolyn Anderson and I am the new District Secretary. I am a member of Morgan's Chapel UMC, in beautiful Bon Secour, where I am the secretary/treasurer of our UMW unit, and I live in Foley. Since I am new to this position, I hope you will bear with me for a few months while I am learning everything I need to be doing.

Don't forget that Leadership Training is right around the corner on January 16, 2016, at Bay Minette UMC. Please make sure to sign in at the door and along with your name please include your email address and your telephone number. If possible, bring the names of the officers in your unit and include their email address and telephone number also.

Let's all do everything we can to make this new year a great year for United Methodist Women.

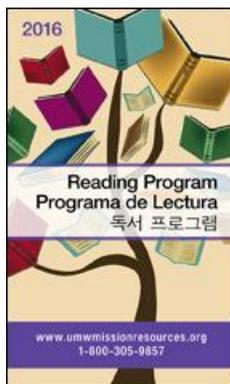
*Carolyn Anderson*

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

Patricia McKee



## Reading Program Catalog 2016



### Reading Program: 2016

Extended Reading List! While supplies last, 2011 books can be used to fill requirements for the Reading Program. PLUS - 2011 titles are on sale for \$2.00 - \$5.00. (Originally up to \$35.00)

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.

#### **The Reading Program Leads to Action!**

For 140 years, United Methodist Women have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action. The Reading Program is a study opportunity, but it should also lead to action. The purpose of the program is to encourage United Methodist Women members to:

- Expand understanding of and participation in God's mission.
- Increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests and concerns.
- Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.
- Grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.
- Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge.
- Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

**United Methodist Women  
Mission Resources**

has almost everything you need.

The Handbooks and Bylaws 2013 - 2016 are now available  
for downloading from the site.

<http://www.umwmissionresources.org/>

## ALABAMA - WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE INSTITUTIONS

Blue Lake United Methodist Campground  
Hispanic Ministries  
Dumas Wesley Community Center  
Save Kids of Incarcerated Parents (SKIP)  
Nellie Burge Community Center  
Mobile Inner City Mission - Metro Ministries

### Conference Dates 2016

January 29-30	Conference Executive Meeting with Presidents	Blue Lake
March 18-20	Spiritual Enrichment Retreat	Blue Lake
June 3-5	Southeastern Jurisdictional Quadrennial Meeting	Charleston, SC
July 15-16	Conference Executive Meeting (with District Presidents & Treasurers)	Blue Lake
July 29-30	Mission u	Millbrook
October 21-22	AWFC Fall Event	Blue Lake
November 13	UMW Sunday	Local churches
Feb or March 2017	Conference Annual Day	Blue Lake

## COMMUNICATIONS



*Dell Walston*

**Greetings to all of you and may God's blessings be with you.**

Happy Day, 2016 is here!

Ask yourself: "What does this mean for me as a member of United Methodist Women in the Baypines District?"

*It means* that all those wonderful desserts have disappeared and our hips are "jiggling proof" of where they went!

*It means* that all of the Christmas décor has been taken down and stored once again.

*It means* that now we have the dilemma of trying to keep those poinsettias alive – where do we keep them, how often do we water them, and can we hope to use them next December?

*It means* it's time to get out the 2016 calendar and post all of the local, district and conference UMW meeting events so they don't slip up on us! (See page 3 for the 2016 Baypines Calendar of Events).

If you haven't done so yet, it's time to meet with your individual units and discuss 2016 objectives.

How will we better serve our Lord? What needy projects are we going to support? If we still have officer vacancies, are we willing to volunteer to serve in this capacity?

It would be great to hear from you. Would love for you to send me an article for the next newsletter pertaining to your projects. Won't you share what's working in your unit? We love success stories!

**Ladies, at the Leadership Training on January 16<sup>th</sup> I will be taking candid photos that will be posted in our Alabama West Florida Conference Baypines Scrapbook. I also need to get updated photos of our district officers. I am looking forward to seeing all of you.**

Let's continue to support our UMW, an organization that feeds the hungry, educates women, helps children, and provides many other worthwhile services.

*Blessings to each of you as you continue to grow in faith!*

*Dell*

### **PURPOSE**

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.