

The Messenger's Flame

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Frances Parker

Nominations Member

Mattie Baker



A Message from the District President



United
Women
in Faith

Greetings, Dear Friends in Christ, from the newly named Central Alabama District (from merged units of former Montgomery-Opelika, Montgomery-Prattville, and part of Demopolis). We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Alabama West-Florida Conference of the organized sisterhood of United Women in Faith. With our sisters in Christ, we continue to serve humbly and boldly in the mission field of outreach to and support of women, children, and youth in our communities and around the world.

In the midst of numerous upgrading changes, rebranding, questions, decreasing membership, and decreasing financial support, our strong and determined women keep moving forward with faith, hope, and love in action.

On February 11, 2023, we celebrated our District Annual Day at Metropolitan UMC in Montgomery. We were honored to have Kristine Jones, our Conference MNO Coordinator, in our presence to present our district member, Reba Wooten of Millbrook First, the well-deserved Nell Chance and Excellence Award. Metropolitan's Music Director, Kervin Brown and choir and Celeste Eubanks, Deaconess in the AWFUMC Conference, favored us with uplifting musical selections and our district executive mission team leaders were on hand to provide leadership tips and news in their respective areas. All in all, it was a fruitful event.

We look forward to our next district event: our District Mission Study set for Saturday, May 20, 2023, at Auburn UMC; theme: "Who Can We Be Together?"; facilitator, Rev. Kitsy Dixon of Spanish Fort UMC, and adult study leader at Mission U 2022. You will be reading and hearing more about that later. Plan now to attend. We will be looking for you.

In June, our conference will hold its first Soul Care Retreat, answering a call for a welcoming program combining spiritual nurture with care for the body, mind and spirit specially designed for current members to bring a non-member friend for a weekend of fun and nurturing. Be on the look-out for more information.

In the meantime, work on plans to send at least one representative from your unit to our Southeastern Jurisdiction meeting in Chattanooga, TN next year, April 19-21, 2024. Registration will be available in September and cost \$210.

This is a wonderful opportunity for your unit to get first-hand view of happenings beyond the local unit, the district, and even the conference activities that keep this organization moving. Past events of this nature that I have attended have been inspiring, invigorating, and motivating as well as educational in more than one area of interest. I believe you will not regret the effort.

President's Message Continued:

With that, I leave you with this message: We all know that United Women in Faith is a caring organization that works to support women, children, and youth in our communities and around the world, but it is also a very good source for continuously obtaining individual educational opportunities, leadership training, community-building skills, and spiritual growth. So, thank you for your interest, participation, and support and be excited to invite others to come aboard and share this journey with us. Be blessed.

Respectfully, *Marsha Clayton*, District President

*Calling All United Women of Faith
And Interested Friends
of the
Central Alabama District*

*For
District Mission Study
"Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13"
What does God say about:
Creating Spaces of Care? Community Building?
Shifting Boundaries and Norms?
and
How can this be done when the entire world seems on fire?*

Saturday, May 20, 2023

**Auburn United Methodist Church
137 S. Gay Street, Auburn, AL 36830**

**TIME: - 9:30 - 10:00 Registration, greetings & breakfast/brunch
10:00 - 12:00 Study
12:00 - 12:45 Lunch (provided by the ladies of Auburn UMC)
12:45 - 2:45 Study**

*Facilitator: Rev. Kitsy Dixon, Spanish Fort UMC
Alabama-West Florida Conference*

*Please RSVP by May 15th, 2023 to Carla Lumpkin
E-mail - carlalumpkin@yahoo.com*

or

Call - 205 646-2005

Invite a Friend and Plan Now to Attend



Jill Farris
District Treasurer



United
Women
in Faith

As reported at the Annual Meeting at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Central Alabama District was short of our budget for 2022 of \$20,675.00. All the units collected a total of \$14,204.82. We were only short \$6,470.18. Thanks to all of you for your efforts and contributions this year. 2023's budget is \$17,000.00. Let's everyone get some fundraisers started to get in additional funds for this year.

We had a total of nine units to get their 5-star recognition certificates this year. Well done!! The five areas needed to receive the 5-star award include: **Pledge to Missions, Gift to mission, Gift in Memory, World Thank fund and purchasing a Special Recognition pin.** I hope to see all units this year receiving their certificate for completing this program.

If there are any new treasurers beginning 2023, please feel free to give me a call, Jill Farris 334-313-0965, for questions or just needing forms. Thank you to ALL the local treasurers for your hard work and commitment to the United Women of Faith.

Jill Farris, Montgomery District Treasurer

Mission u 2023



LIVING THE GOOD NEWS
Reflecting God's Love

This study gives fresh eyes to the Lord's Prayer. Often learned by rote, the Lord's Prayer is a rich guide for how we can live out God's kin-dom in our lives. Participants dive deep into the meaning of each line over the course of the study.

July 22, 2023

Aldersgate UMC, Montgomery

[Registration Form \(PDF\)](#)



**Carla
Education**



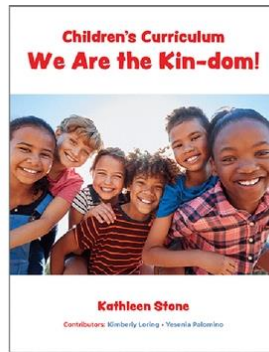
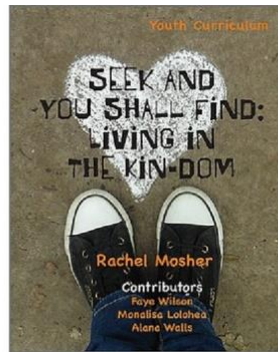
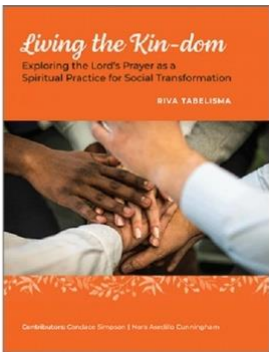
United
Women
in Faith

**Lumpkin
and
Interpretation Coordinator**

What a blessed and joyful time together we had at our District Annual Day event on February 11th! Our sincere appreciation to Metropolitan United Methodist Church-United Women in Faith for so graciously hosting us. CONGRATULATIONS to all those who received recognition and awards for participating in various programs and events of United Women in Faith in 2022.

Mission Study: Our District Mission Study is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Auburn United Methodist Church. The title of the study is “Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13.” It relies on the stories Jesus told as recorded in those passages of Scripture “to challenge us with a bigger and broader vision of the kind of community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss, grief and massive destruction.” The name of the study leader and other details will be forwarded to you.

Mission u: The 2023 Mission u for the Alabama-West Florida Conference will be held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Montgomery July 22nd. The adult study is “Living in the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord’s Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation” and invites us to “dive deep into the meaning of each line” of the Lord’s Prayer. The youth study is “Seek and You Shall Find: Living in the Kin-dom.” And the children’s study is “We Are the Kin-dom!” We will forward the time and names of the study leaders as soon as they are announced.



We are well into 2023, so it is time for your unit to discuss, plan and begin the actions for participation in UWF programs. Download the **Charter for Racial Justice**, along with the **Charter for Racial Justice Policies** reporting form and determine now to participate in those actions all through this year. Begin to participate in and accomplish the items to become a **Mission Today Unit**. Your unit likely completes many of the items during the course of the year, anyway, so be sure to record them on the Mission Today reporting form.

Reading Program: Books eligible for this year are on the lists from 2018-2023. You may locate the lists on the uwfaith.org website and in the November/December issue of Response magazine. The website also contains info about eligibility of Faith Talks and certain movies for credit in the program.

Mission Giving: We must emphasize the need for continual financial support for the program and mission and outreach of United Women in Faith across the United States and around the world. Use a copy of the Remittance Form for Local Treasurers to discuss the various ways your unit may contribute. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer questions or assist you in locating info and forms.

carlalumpkin@yahoo.com or 205-613-4537

**Local Units who received certificates of recognition for
The 2022 year was presented at
District Annual Day February 11, 2023**

5 STAR UNIT

Aldersgate, Auburn, Brundidge, Chapel, Church Street-Catherine Revel Circle,
Clanton First, Crawford, Metropolitan, Millbrook First

CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Auburn, Clanton First, Crawford, Locust Bluff, Metropolitan, Millbrook First

MISSION TODAY UNIT

Gold: Auburn, Crawford, Millbrook First

Silver: Aldersgate, Clanton First, Metropolitan, Opelika First

Bronze: Brundidge

Participation: Locust Bluff

MISSION STUDIES

Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom:

Aldersgate, Auburn, Crawford, Locust Bluff,
Metropolitan, Millbrook First, Opelika First

Pushout: Auburn

READING PROGRAM

ALDERSGATE: Plan 1: Jean Tribble

AUBURN: Plan 2: Debbie Rollins, Suzanne Bottoms, Carol Icenogle, Jeanette Parker

Plan 1: Flavin Glover, Mary Richburg, Amy Krietemeyer, Julia Norton

CLANTON FIRST: Plan 2: Carla Lumpkin -- Plan 1: Pam Koons

CRAWWORD: Plan 1: Linda Self, Jeannie Brewer, Dianne Pope,

JoAnn Laney, Caroline Peppers, Dagmar Christensen

Participation: Kayla Thompson, Robyn Johnston, Ruth Ann Powers,

Sherrie Holman, Joanne C. Laney, Peni Belrose

MILLBROOK FIRST: Plan 2: Joy Roger -- Plan 1: Reba Wooten, Brenda Hargrave



Jill Lowman
Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Greetings, Greetings in the name of the Lord!

I hope everyone is using the Daily Prayer Guide. It contains so much good information on the mission of United Women in Faith and how we are carrying out that mission. It reminds us that God said "You did not choose me, but I chose you for this

mission"(John 15:16)

and that we need to not just see with our eyes, but to see like Jesus, who saw every person and loved them.

We are still planning our Spiritual Enrichment Retreat and hope you have this on your calendars for August 19th. Please contact me with any questions concerning this.

Another good source of reflection is from The Welcome Table in their Table Talk. You can access these devotions at <http://www.thewelcometable.co> I encourage you to seek out these and other sources of devotions.

Peace and Grace,

Jill



Frances Parker
Nominations member

The Montgomery District United Women in Faith

The executive team needs to fill the offices of the **Social Actions Coordinator and 1 additional person to serve on the nomination committee.**

If you would like to serve on the Montgomery District Executive team, please contact me or one of the women on the District Executive Team.

Fill out a Talent form today. You can find a talent form on the conference website awf-umw.org.

The Central Alabama District Executive Team needs you!!

In His Service

Frances Parker, Nomination Member





Mable Lawrence

**Membership Nurture
and Outreach**

On February 11th at District Annual Day, we remembered those women who have given their time and service faithfully to support women and children. We lite a candle in their memory to God be the Glory.

In Loving Memory



Barbara Beals

Sara Bowden

Jane Vardaman

Gloria Jean Williams

Tips for nurturing and recruiting members

1. Smile, be pleasant and positive.
2. Send birthday cards to prospective members and cards to new mothers. (Gift to Mission cards are great choices for these cards!)
3. Plan and promote United Women in Faith celebrations such as A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial and United Women in Faith Sunday; sponsor a Children's Sabbath.
4. Recognize obstacles that prevent ladies from participating like childcare or elder care issues and try to change.
5. Hold informal gatherings like United Women in Faith (teas, breakfasts, brunches, etc.).
6. Be flexible in scheduling United in Faith Women's meetings.
7. Share issues of response magazine with prospective members.
8. Use and display United Women in Faith materials and resources.



Carolyn Davis

District Secretary

Greetings to all United Women in Faith! We are off to a new year. Local secretaries: find tips, duties, and responsibilities for secretaries to keep minutes in your local units.

Duties include:

1. Records minutes of all meetings and events, including conference calls, and distributes those to the mission team as soon as possible for review within two weeks of the meeting.
2. Assists the president in setting the agenda for unit meetings and events.
3. Take care of and coordinate all written correspondence. Read any important correspondences received.
4. Immediately after the unit's elections, the secretary should forward the names, addresses contact numbers, and email addresses for the new officers to the district communications coordinator and district secretary, but at a date no later than November 30th of each year.

A sample outline for writing minutes of meeting includes the following:

1. Name of group or Unit
2. Date, place, and time of the meeting
3. Call to order (name of person presiding)
4. Attendance (members present/absence)
5. Guests
6. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting
7. Approval of agenda
8. Correspondence
9. Referrals/recommendations
10. Unfinished business
11. New business
12. Highlights of program/event (full report should be an attachment)
13. Items for information
14. Adjournment motion and time
15. Signature of secretary or minutes taker

Minute taking tips:

Listen with care—focus on major issues, actions, and decisions and less on comments. Minutes are written in the third person. Minutes answer who, what, when, why and where (5Ws).

Stick to the Facts – Differentiate between statements that are facts and those that are opinions.

Motions—it is necessary to record the name of the person who made the motion and who seconds a motion. Minutes note all votes.

Don't Delay—the sooner the minutes are drafted the better. As time passes, important items that you heard but did not write down are forgotten and the less accurate the minutes will become.

Proofread—to ensure minutes do not contain misspelled words, incomplete sentences, and inaccurate punctuation. Before minute are distributed have them reviewed by the president or other designated person for accuracy.

Central Alabama District & Alabama West Florida Conference
United Women in Faith
Calendar 2023

JAN 12 (Thursday)	District executive mission team officers AND Local Presidents.	District Executive Mission team meeting Zoom Meeting -- 10:00 start time (Canceled)
JAN 14	Conference executive mission team officers AND District Presidents.	AWF-UMW Conference Executive Mission team meeting , 9:30 start time. Bay Pines District
FEB 11	All invited	Montgomery District Annual Day – Metropolitan UMC Start Time 10:00 a.m.
MARCH 24-25	All Invited	AWF – UWFaith Annual Day – Southwest District Mobile, AL
April 29	District executive mission team officers AND Local Presidents.	District Executive Mission team meeting Millbrook UMC-- 10:00 start time
MAY 20	All invited	District-wide Mission Study – Location Auburn UMC Mission Study “Who Can We Be Together” Facilitator: Rev. Kitsy Dixon, Spanish Fort UMC
JUNE 11-14	ALL INVITED	AWF Annual Conference, Mobile, AL Mitchell Center, USA campus Attendees: AWF-UWFaith Conference President & District Presidents Voting Delegates
JULY 10	Conference executive mission team officers, District Presidents’ and District Treasurers’	AWF-UWFaith Conference Executive Mission Team Meeting , Enterprise First UMC. Includes conference executive mission team officers, District Presidents’ and District Treasurers’ attendance required.
JULY 22	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps All Invited	Mission U – July 22nd Location: Aldersgate UMC – 6610 Vaughn Rd. – Montgomery, AL
August 19	ALL INVITED	District (SER) Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Location - TBA
OCT. 6-7	ALL INVITED	AWF- UWFaith Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER) AND 2023 EX. Mission Team election & installation, Blue Lake Assembly Ground
November Entire Month	ALL LOCAL UNITS RECOGNITION	UWFaith Sunday Celebration
NOV 4	Conference & District Presidents & Treasurers Meeting	Conference Leadership Development - Lunch & Learn for district presidents & district treasurers, 8:30-3:30, ZOOM
NOV 20	Local Units President Reports Due	Local Consolidated President Report forms due to District presidents
NOVEMBER 30 (Thursday)	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps	District Executive Mission Team Meeting - Review, Evaluations, Planning, Calendar for 2024 Location: Zoom Meeting at 10 a.m.

District Newsletter – The Messenger's Flame Article Due by February 17, May 17, July 17, December 4

Central Alabama District United Women in Faith Annual Day
February 11, 2023, at Metropolitan UMC



Deaconess, Celeste Eubanks sharing a song of praise



Music director, Kevin Brown, Metropolitan Women's Choir sharing songs of praise.



Richard Williams, pastor of Metropolitan UMC



Mable Lawrence, Memorial Service



Carla Lumpkin, Marsha Clayton, Frances Parker Skit: Old/New



Women at District Annual Day Metropolitan UMC



Kristine Jones, Conference MNO Coordinator



Judith Cantey, Aldersgate Sharing local unit mission project



Brenda Hargrave, Millbrook 1st Sharing local unit mission project



Carla Lumpkin, presenting, Certificates of achievement

**Central Alabama District United Women in Faith Annual Day
February 11, 2023, at Metropolitan UMC
Kristine Jones, Conference MNO Coordinator presents
Nell Chance Award to Reba Wooten**

Reba Wooten was nominated for the Nell Chance Award for this year by her Local Unit Millbrook 1st United Women in Faith. Reba has been a WSCS, UMW, UWF member for sixty plus years. As a pastor's wife she was instrumental in establishing units at the churches they served. Reba has served as secretary, treasurer, vice-president, and chairman of her Circle.



In the **Millbrook First** unit she has served as Membership, Nurture Outreach coordinator, Reading program Coordinator, Social Action Coordinator and Unit President. In the Montgomery-Prattville District, she has served as District Treasurer and District Membership, Nurture, Outreach Coordinator.

When a new lady visits the church, Reba is the first one to greet her and let her know that there is a place for her in our UWF unit. She encourages women of all ages to be involved in the wonderful missions that we do all over the world. She is an avid reader of the Response magazine and shares Mission opportunities for us to consider. Being a former educator, Reba helped establish our UWF library and encourages us to participate in the reading program. She usually is a Level 4 reader herself. She started and is still involved in raising funds for a Water Well project that she established before the Covid pandemic.

Although Reba is now ninety plus years old, she still attends and participates in her Circle and local unit and attends as many District and Conference events as she can. Her first question when a District or Conference event is announced is "Who has room in their car for me!"

Reba is a delight to know, and she has a strong Christian faith that is evident in all she says and does. Reba personifies the type of person who is deserving of the Nell Chance award.

Personal information:

Reba is the mother of 6 children, 11 grandchildren and 14 great grands. She loves the Atlanta Braves baseball team and watches every game. She is an Auburn fan in the midst of her family of Alabama fans. Reba was an elementary school teacher for many years and then became the assistant superintendent for the Elmore County Department of Education. She served in that capacity for two different superintendents.

This award is named in memory of Nell Chance as a way to remember her and the many ways she believed in our mission as United Methodist Women. She was a moving force in the mission work of United Methodist Women of the Alabama-West Florida Conference for many years and a passionate believer in our mission to women, children and youth. Nell was a member of Monroeville United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Church in Monroeville, Alabama. The award is open to all ages who are currently active in United Methodist Women. A brief letter should be submitted by individuals or mission teams giving biographical information and explanation of how this person has demonstrated the standards set by Nell Chance. A

Spotlight on Local Unit Aldersgate United Women in Faith

The Aldersgate UMC UWFaith Unit is blessed by having both a long standing and dedicated group of knitters and of quilters associated with our Unit. In addition to generating funds for our Unit through our fall Craft Sale, the work of these two groups also enables us to reach out to groups and individuals with such items as knitted prayer shawls, lap robes, scarves, infant caps and quilted bed covers in various sizes, lap robes, place mats, and table runners. We are able to include these items as we serve others including: homebound church members, patients at the Montgomery Cancer Center, victims of hurricanes, veterans served by the Quilts of Valor Foundation, and families served by our church Mission Program. For a recent Aldersgate UMC mission trip to build a house for a three generational family of 8 served by Yugo Ministries in Ensenada, Mexico, we sent along knitted and quilted items such as bed quilts, scarves, prayer shawls, and beautiful decorative items like wall hangings, table mats and runners to brighten up the simple house constructed in one week by our Mission Team and members of the family receiving the house including some very happy, if messy, little children who joined in the painting!

Submitted by Judith Cantey



We would love to include your unit activities and mission projects in *The Messenger's Flame*. Please submit articles and photos, if available, to cdavis854@bellsouth.net



Carolyn Davis, Communication Coordinator

United Women in Faith do not furnish lists of their elected leaders or members to individuals or agencies outside the organization unless authorized by the Executive Committee.

ALERT! . . . Are you a Subscriber?

You too can become informed of Alabama-West Florida Conference United Women in Faith events and activities by subscribing to Alert today!

You may receive a copy of the ALERT newsletter free by email. Email your request to the Conference president Debbie Bracewell at debbracewell@gmail.com and you will be added to the email list.

ALERT Newsletter is also online at www.awf-umw.org