

The Messenger's Flame

Montgomery District Women in Faith

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Jill Lowman

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Gloria Jean Williams

Nominations Member

Mattie Baker



Message from the President's Desk

The Montgomery District United Women in Faith is seeking to maintain itself as the mission field that God would have us to be; receiving the changes ushering in with the new brand; striving for leadership; praying for direction that guides us to the glorification of our God in community with each other.

To date this year, we have merged 26 units from the previous Montgomery-Prattville, Montgomery-Opelika, and Demopolis Districts, held a district mission team meeting jelling plans for 2022, held a District Annual Day event with our Conference Vice President, Katy Wrona as guest presenter and a leadership development time including a sharing of the “new brand” by our Conference Membership Coordinator, Kristine Jones, and held a district-wide mission study (Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom) with Rev. Alan Gantzhorn presenting/study leader.

We held a district mission team meeting July 30 to update and initiate plans for 2023. We voted to change our district name to be more inclusive of the areas covered and a final vote will be taken at our next district event. Our District Spiritual Enrichment Event is set for September 10 at Clanton 1st UMC. We continue on our path to work for the benefit of women, children, and youth in our local communities, throughout the nation, and around the world.

We are a group of women committed to being the hands and feet of Jesus as we develop and maintain a supportive community and participate in the global ministries of the church worldwide.

Marsha Clayton, District President



**Vice-President
Margaret Stephens**



United
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in Faith

District Annual Day on March 19 at Dalraida UMC was an inspiring and happy occasion at which units from the Montgomery District received recognition and award certificates for jobs well done and missions accomplished in a variety of endeavors.

The units that received recognition and certificates were listed in the Spring Newsletter. However, due to the process of merging several former UMW districts into one unified district, the Montgomery District, some of the units from the former Montgomery-Opelika District inadvertently were not included in the listing of awards.

This Summer Newsletter includes a full listing of all units from the former Montgomery -Opelika District that earned certificates.

Mission Today Units

Gold: Auburn and Crawford
Silver: Aldersgate and Brundidge
Bronze: Bowen, Murphy's Chapel, Opelika

Five Star Achievement in Giving

Aldersgate, Auburn, Bowen, Brundidge, Crawford, Murphy's Chapel

Charter for Racial Justice

First Time: Crawford
Reinstated: Bowen
Returning: Auburn

Reading Program

Plan 1: Auburn-6, Bowen-1, Crawford-1, Opelika-1
Plan 3: Auburn-1

Love and faith in Action,

Marge Stephens
(334) 703-8174
msueauburn89@gmail.com



Carla Lumpkin
Education and
Interpretation Coordinator



This year is passing by so quickly! The following are the programs we continue to encourage all year long, and it will soon be time to assess and report our efforts and accomplishments.

Mission Study: The District Mission Study "Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom" was held on June 25 at Millbrook FUMC, with 29 ladies present. We send a heartfelt "thank you" to the ladies of Millbrook UWF for so graciously hosting us. Reverend Alan Gantzhorn, pastor of Eufaula FUMC, facilitated the study, and those present have expressed their appreciation and applauded his presentation style.

Reading Program: There are still a few months to participate in the Reading Program, and I will repeat some of the info contained in the E & I section of our Spring 2022 newsletter. Books on the lists for the years 2015 through 2022 are eligible for credit. Also, if you have read eligible books during 2020 or 2021 and have not reported them, they can be reported for 2022. Current mission study books count as two books. Two Faith Talks count as one book, and three Faith Talks count as two books. The movies Just Mercy, The Hate U Give, and Pushout each count as one book. The reporting forms, which can be downloaded at uwfaith.org, outline the criteria for the four levels. Each level includes reading of Response magazine. You will receive a certificate for reading any of the books on the lists even if you did not complete a level. Remember to give your Reading Program report to your unit president by the end of November.

Mission u: Mission u for our Conference was held at Aldersgate UMC in Montgomery on July 22 and 23 and utilized "a transformative biblical type of curriculum for adults, youth and children." The study is based on the 13th chapter of Luke's gospel, and the title of the adult study book is "Who Can We Be Together." The studies for the three age groups have received many favorable and enthusiastic comments. A huge "thank you" to the members of Aldersgate UMC for their hospitality in serving as hosts. The Conference has planned a virtual session in September with three two-hour sessions (total of six hours) on the 12th, 19th, and 26th. You can download the flyer and mail-in registration form at awf-umw.org.

Mission Today: There is still time to complete many of the items to receive a Mission Today Unit certificate. In all probability some of you have accomplished many of the items and were unaware they count for recognition. The reporting form is available at uwf-umw.org and contains the items and three categories of recognition.

Mission Giving: We as units and individual members need to remain mindful that mission giving is our method of contributing funds to support the mission of UWIF across the United States and around the world, including vital ministries with primary focus on positive change in the lives of women, youth and children. Pledge to Mission, Five Star Unit, World Thank Offering and Call to Prayer & Self-Denial are some of the avenues of mission giving that we use to support our mission. Thanks to each of you for all you do. Please contact me if you have questions or difficulty locating forms on the websites.

Carla Lumpkin, Education & Interpretation Coordinator
carlalumpkin@yahoo.com 205-613-4537



Go to the Conference website to register online or mail-in
<https://www.awf-umw.org>

District Mission Team Meeting hosted by
Murphy's Chapel United Women In Faith – July 30, 2022





Jill Lowman
Spiritual Growth Coordinator



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Greetings,

Please save the date! We are working hard on our **Spiritual Enrichment Retreat which will be held on September 10th at Clanton First United Methodist Church.** District officers for 2023 will be elected. More Information to come. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there.

We also encourage everyone continue to use the **Prayer Guide** (Formerly the Prayer Calendar). It is newly revamped this year and is more user-friendly.



Please keep the people affected by war and relocation in your prayers for their safety. Our hearts are with them.

Peace and Grace to all.



Gloria Jean Williams
Nominations Chairperson



United
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The Montgomery District United Women in Faith

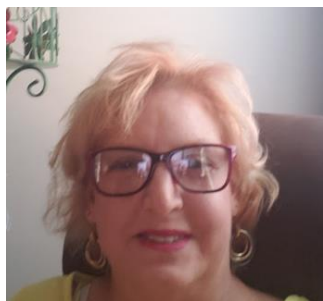
The executive team needs to fill the offices of the **Social Actions Coordinator and 1 additional person to serve on the nomination committee.**

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 Montgomery District Executive Team needs you!!

In His Service,
Gloria Williams, Nomination Chair.
skipind@att.net



Jill Farris
District Treasurer



Let me introduce myself. As of January 1, 2022, I am your new District Treasurer, Jill Farris. I bring my experience serving as my local unit's treasurer for 10 years and excellent training from the previous treasurer, Brenda Hargrave. I am looking forward to working with all the local unit treasurers this year.

Thank you to all the units that have sent monies in for the first quarter of this year. As of today, we have received **\$3,685.00** toward our conference goal of **\$20,675.00**. Keep up the good work and I will keep you updated with our progress.

**GIVING BY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
MEMBERSHIP AND GIVING**

Membership in United Women in Faith is voluntary and based on each individual woman's commitment to the purpose of the organization. For most members, making a pledge to her group's Pledge to Mission, whether local or district, is a way of supporting the organization and expressing her commitment to mission. However, a pledge or financial gift is not a prerequisite for membership. It is member giving, however, that funds the total mission of United Women in Faith.



Mable Lawrence
Membership Nurture
and Outreach



2021 Unit Survey is now available until August 30, 2022

If you are a unit president, or know someone who is, please make sure you complete this survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TZSYN2B>

Completing the survey helps make our organization better by sharing our voice with United Women in Faith at the national level to help improve programming, identify needs, and grow our membership.

This special Unit Survey is being released after the brand announcement to hear from you, our loyal members and leaders. Once you submit the unit survey, the thank you page will have links that you can copy or click on to learn more.

Tips for Recruiting potential 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 UWIF Sunday; sponsor a Children's Sabbath.
4. Recognize obstacles that prevent ladies from participating like childcare or elder care issues and try to respond.
5. Ask potential members about current involvement at home, at work and in the community.
6. Hold informal gatherings like teas, breakfasts, brunches, etc.
7. Wear name tags and provide them for visitors so you can greet each person by name.
8. Be flexible in scheduling meetings.
9. Share issues of response magazine with prospective members.
10. Invite non-members to participate in meetings and activities and offer responsibility.
11. Avoid over- or under-selling the organization.
12. Share YOUR story. What blesses you about being a United Methodist Woman and how have you been a blessing to others?
13. Use and display United Women in Faith materials and resources.
14. Make a United Women in Faith bulletin board and keep it current.
15. Send news to local media and post upcoming events and stories on social media.
16. Connect to others using social media sites.

Montgomery District & Alabama West Florida Conference

United Women in Faith Calendar 2022

JAN 15	Conference executive mission team officers AND District Presidents.	AWF-UMW Conference Executive Mission team meeting Aldersgate at Montgomery-- Officer reports due.
JAN 22	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps	Executive Mission Team Meeting Location: Metropolitan UMC - 10a.m.
FEB 19	All invited	AWF-UMW Annual Day – Marianna First United Methodist Church, Marianna, FL Time-9:00 a.m.
MARCH 19	Montgomery District UMW	Montgomery District Annual Day/Officer Training/Memorial Service - Location: Dalraida UMC 9:30 Registration Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
MAY 20-22	All invited	2022 Assembly, Orlando, FL
JUNE 12-15	ALL INVITED	Alabama West-Florida Annual Conference at the Dunn-Oliver Acadome on the campus of Alabama State University in Montgomery, AL.
JUNE 25	ALL INVITED	District-wide Mission Study – Location Millbrook UMC
JULY 16	Conference executive mission team officers, District Presidents' and District Treasurers'	AWF-UMW Executive Mission Team Meeting at Enterprise First UMC in Enterprise AL 2023 Budget Reviews District Treasurers required to attend.
JULY 22-23	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps All Invited	Mission U – Luke 13: One Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Everyone Location: Aldersgate UMC – 6610 Vaughn Rd. – Montgomery, AL
JULY 30	District Team, Local Unit Presidents, Vice, & 2 Reps.	District Executive Mission Team Meeting –Murphy's Chapel? 10 a.m.
SEPT 10	ALL INVITED	District Spiritual Enrichment, Election of Officers Location: Clanton 1st UMC
OCT. 14-15	ALL INVITED	AWF-UMW Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER) AND 2023 EX. Mission Team election & installation, Blue Lake Assembly Ground
NOV 5	Conference & District Presidents & Treasurers Meeting	Conference President and Conference Treasurer meeting with District Presidents and Treasurers Location TBA
NOV 14	ALL Local Units	United Methodist Women Day celebrations per Local Units
NOVEMBER 19	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps	Executive Mission Team Meeting - Review, Evaluations, Planning, Calendar for 2023 Location: Millbrook 1 st UMC at 10 a.m.
NOVEMBER 30	Reports Due	Local Units Consolidated Report due to District President

District Newsletter – The Messenger's Flame Article Due by February 17, May 17, July 17, December 5

Local Unit Spotlight: Aldersgate United Women in Faith Local Unit

Submitted by Judith Cantey, Aldersgate United Women in Faith

In a recent communication from our conference UWIF Education and Interpretation Coordinator, I noticed a suggestion that we could learn a lot by establishing a communication link with missionaries we are supporting in the field. This suggestion has prompted me to report that our Aldersgate UWF Unit not only supports the Missions sponsored by UWF, but we also have close ties with our church's Mission Team and participate in getting to know and communicate with our missionaries. Having reports directly from the field helps us better understand the challenges and successes of their work, and they report that they are greatly uplifted by the encouraging communications from us.

One of the missionaries we have been following is Davis Rhodes who is from our AWF UMW Conference. We first met him soon after his first assignment to Tanzania back in 2017 when he went there to work with very young men who were in dire poverty and living on the streets in the city of Tarime. He was successful in getting them involved in a brick making project using a brick making machine that our church purchased for them. With the help of Davis and a local man in the community, many of these young men were accepted back into their families. This was just the beginning of the beautiful story of Davis's call to work in showing the love of Jesus with people of Tanzania.

He is now the Site Director of The QuadW Missional Residency in a community called Songamele in Tarime, Tanzania "where a group of American, Tanzanian and Mexican Christian young adults ages 21 to 27 who are interested in growing closer to God through intentional community, share the good news of Jesus with their neighbors, and join in the work of bringing God's Kingdom on Earth" as they live and work together as a Christian community

Davis is a gifted writer so we are blessed with rich, detailed stories about the impact these 8 young missionaries are having in helping their neighbors as they lead them to Jesus. Here are photos of them:



(Last spring some of us were able to see Davis and Veronica's wedding via live streaming,)

Their stories are inspiring us, and they say that they feel our prayers and are encouraged by our interest and support. In a recent e-mail I sent to Davis, I wrote: "PRAISE GOD! Your stories from Songamele are like reading a 2022 supplement to the stories and parables in the New Testament. We look forward to your e-mails and the photographs. You write so well and the news you report is a beautiful example of the Gospel at work through you and your team in a culture so different from ours, yet with some similar core human issues."

Local Unit Spotlight: Opelika First United Methodist Church
United Women in Faith Local Unit
Annual Report – 2022 Submitted by Lisa Abercrombie, Unit President

We had our first official meeting, trying to regroup after Covid in July 2021, with 6 members present. Important business at that time was distributing a sheet of prospective members with contact information. We assigned each member 3 prospects to contact before our next monthly meeting. Prior to the contact, a letter was mailed to each prospect with a clear description of the purpose of United Women in Faith and an explanation of what to expect at each meeting. That effort has resulted in adding 10 new members! We have lost 2 members during the year. Our current membership is 17.

Our local giving is provided by 2 bake sales per year. One of our hands-on projects was collecting a large amount of personal care products (shampoo, body wash, etc.) for our homeless women's shelter.

One of our newer projects is providing supplies to a title 7 pre-school in our area. Some of our members volunteer to read to the children at this school on a weekly basis. For many years we have made 30 bibs for our local nursing home.

Because the contact list of prospective members was so successful last year, we will repeat that this year also. We are very encouraged by the interest of our members. We are fortunate to have everyone willing to volunteer to present a program from our program resource book and to provide refreshments at our meetings



Unit provided lunch for teacher appreciation at the school



Bib Project: We have made 30 bibs for our local nursing home.



Our bake sale



District-wide Mission Study – Location Millbrook UMC June 25, 2022



Facilitator, Rev. Alan Gantzhorn



Marsha Clayton, District President
Rev. Alan Gantzhorn, Mission study Facilitator
Brenda Hargrave from Millbrook



District Mission Study – Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom
Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical
Discipleship

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 does not furnish lists of their elected leaders or members to individuals or agencies outside the organization unless authorized by the Executive Committee.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/memberresources>
has some great information about how to host a virtual event,
copyright and permissions for virtual events,
and guidelines for filming yourself.

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