

CIRCUIT WRITER

**MARCH
2024**

COMING EVENTS

**SAVE THE DATE!
APRIL 13TH, 2024
**MOSS HILL - A DAY
APART****

**SAVE THE DATE!
APRIL 19-21, 2024:
**SOUTHEASTERN
JURISDICTION
QUADRENNIAL
MEETING
CHATTANOOGA, TN****



President's Message 2024

Spring is Coming!!!

Google has been telling me that it is time to put out the hummingbird feeder, but it still feels cool at night, so I wonder if Google is right in telling me what is going on. However, after looking outside at my azaleas I can truly say that spring is very much upon us. I had thought for sure that Christmas 2022, we had frozen out our azaleas. They barely bloomed much in 2023. Suddenly in early November we had some small blooms. And now look this azalea is full of blooms about ready to pop open. There are three more starting to bloom but not as much as this one.

Well, that is how it is was the Southeast district. We are blooming and getting ready for a fantastic year of United Women in Faith! We have started the process of aligning our UW Faith district units with our Conference Church Districts. We have just held a listen and share session with 20 plus persons to see the what's going on and to share how we can do this and still have some of the good things that we have going on in our district right now. Looking forward to how we here and see from others later in March. We can hardly await April and our annual potluck and Service of Remembrance at Moss Hill, April 13th. We celebrate our accomplishments of having the greatest number of persons at district meetings for the year. We are grateful as well to those mission today units, and 5-star givers. Despite our small district unit numbers, our giving and participation is up. Thank you so much for everything you are doing to uplift the mission and purpose of United Women in Faith.

Look forward to seeing you and hearing what you are doing to help share the purpose of United Women in Faith.

Happy Spring!!

Deb Ketzel

District President, Southeast District

United Women in Faith

Email: Ketzel2@outlook.com

Phone: 815-821-3615



**Deb Ketzel
President**



**From the Secretary's Pen
Elizabeth Bell**

Happy 2024 to each of you local secretaries!!

As secretaries, it is our job to help our president remember important dates and business items. If you will encourage your unit to elect officers in November and then send their info to me in December, I will be able to get out the 2025 Directory.

Officers will not take over until January of each year, but the District Presidents needs the End of the Year Reports, too which includes a list of new officers, treasurer's reports, as well as mission today goals, deaths, and Charter for Racial Justice goals. Finishing these reports is a good way to see what you have been doing as a unit and what you might do in the next year.

May 2024 be an inspiring and fulfilling year for your unit of United Women in Faith.
Grace and peace,

Elizabeth Bell
ebell410@comcast.net



*Tidbits from the Treasurer
Bonnie Brant*

Hello United Women in Faith!

It is easy to send in Mission and Conference Donations. Simply mail donations to reach me by the end of November. Debbie Bracewell has created a new remittance form for the units. If you need some, I'll be glad to send them to you.

1. If you need Mission Cards, simply include at least \$5 per card on your Remittance form, and I will ship them to you.
2. If you need Gift in Memory Cards, just text, call, or e-mail me.
3. Please continue to make checks to "UMW."

2023 UWF Giving in our District		
*Pledge to Mission	\$9,330.00	5-star requirement
*SMR Pins	\$360.00	5-star requirement
*Gift to Mission Cards	\$240.00	5-star requirement
*Gift in Memory	\$410.00	5-star requirement
*World Thank	\$1944.00	5-star requirement
Total Pledge Giving	\$12,224.00	
Prayer and Self Denial	\$1419.00	
Conference	\$2165.00	
UMCOR	\$100.00	

Speaking of 5-star giving, here are our own 5 stars for 2023. Please join me in congratulating them.

Abbeville	Blountstown
Dothan First	Graceville
Marianna First	First UMC Panama City
St. Andrew	Wewahitchka

Happy Spring to you all. It has been so good to meet many of our Treasurers in person. If we have not met yet, I hope we will soon. Let us continue our work in 2024 to support these important UWF missions doing God's work. Again, thank you for being willing to serve.

Bonnie Brant
316 Blue Sage Road
Panama City Beach, FL 32413
Text or call: 478-262-5600
E-mail: bonniebrant@live.com



Spiritual Growth
Margorie Vassie

Scripture Ephesians 2:1-10 and John 13:34

We as United Women in Faith are leaders in the forefronts of our community in uplifting education for all, advocacy for women, children, and youth, and are involved in many economic programs around the world. We continue to be Christ’s hands and feet and ears and eyes in the world. It seems the world is in a lot of trouble. Wars, famine, struggles with getting along with others, mental health concerns, etc... the list grows. However, we do not do this work alone. We have Christ, who saves us and is present with us at all times.

During this Lenten season and leading up to Easter, I leave with you words of encouragement for the soul.

John 16:33 – “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Prayer: Please Lord, heal the broken, make well the sick, restore happiness to those in great despair. Amen and Amen.

Thank you in Friendship and Love,
Marjorie Vassie



Communications Coordinator
Kathy Hardy

Listen and Share

On Saturday, March 3rd, some 20 ladies from our district met at St. Andrew UMC in Panama City to discuss the future district alignments of UWFaith units with the 2024 Conference Church Districts.

Please see pictures attached from the meeting.





***Social Action Coordinator
Mert Stephens***

Please join me in welcoming Mert Stephens as our Social Action Coordinator!

Bio-

Martha (Mert) Stephens

Graduate Mississippi Baptist Hospital School of Nursing, 1962

Graduate Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, FSU, 1976

Married 1962, Don Stephens, Sons: Lane and Scott Stephens with five grandchildren.

Current: City of Blountstown, City Councilwoman third term.

Member: Blountstown Main Street: Board of Directors-Calhoun County Pioneer Settlement;

United Methodist Women in Faith: Secretary/Treasurer; Republican State Committee Woman for Calhoun County; Member Blountstown United Methodist Church, Youth Sunday School Teacher, Member Chancel Choir.

Election of Officers

An election of officers was held on October 28th of last year at the Graceville United Methodist Church. Pictured below are the officers that were installed. Congratulations to all these women who serve our United Women in Faith!



*Mert Stephens - Social Action; Margie Vassie – Spiritual Growth; Bonnie Brant – Treasurer
Elizabeth Bell – Secretary; Kathy McQuagge - Vice President; Deb Ketzel – President and
Deanie DeFelix - Alabama West Florida Conference Communications Coordinator*

Moss Hill Day A Day Apart

A Time to Celebrate 2023 Achievements

Service of Remembrance
Potluck Fellowship
District Event for Spring
Saturday, April 13, 2024
Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
Program starts at 9:45 a.m.
Time of songs at 9:30 a.m.

Address:
Moss Hill Road, Highway 279
Vernon, Florida 32462

Join members and friends of United Women of Faith of the Southeast District of the Alabama-West Florida Conference as we meet together on the Historic site of the Moss Hill United Methodist Church in Vernon, Florida. We will sit in the pews and sing and worship in the unique setting of the oldest United Methodist Church in our area. We will celebrate our achievements as a district UWFaith by awarding units who have achieved 5-Star Giving in 2023 and have participated as a Mission Today unit. We will also remember our friends, mothers, and sisters that have died in 2023.

Following worship and awards we will gather under the pavilion and enjoy a potluck fellowship luncheon on the grounds. Come with your potluck item, your lawn chair to enjoy fellowship with others of our district.

We are asking each unit attending to bring some extra things (garbage bags, plates, cups, coffee, tea, water, ice, extension cord and the like). We will be calling you to set up what to bring.

Please call or email in your reservations for your unit to Deb Ketzal, president by Monday evening, April 8th where enough drinks and supplies will be available for everyone. For further information, please contact Deb Ketzal at 815-821-3615 or email ketzel2@outlook.com.



*Annual Day of Giving
Debbie Bracewell*

Why March 23rd? Because on that date in 1869 a group of eight intrepid women founded the **Woman's Foreign Missionary Society**, an organization that was the forerunner of United Women in Faith. To fulfill their vision of creating educational opportunities and providing health care to women in India, these founding women asked others to contribute "their prayers and two pennies." In this way, a movement of faith and generosity in action was born.

[The Legacy Endowment Fund](#) of United Women in Faith is a permanently invested endowment that supports the work of improving the lives of women, children, and youth at home and abroad.

[The annual Day of Giving on March 23](#) is the single largest fundraising activity for the Legacy Fund of the year. United Women in Faith members and supporters nationwide gather locally and virtually to contribute to and raise funds for the endowment.