

Demopolis District Link



Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 Demopolis District Photos
- 3 A Report of Our Giving
- 3 News from Jefferson UMW
- 4 Ben Sherrod Speaks at JUMC
- 5 Upcoming Events

Our next district group meeting will be on April 28 at Demopolis First.

Points from the President's Pen

We started our year of 2018 with the District Gathering at Demopolis First on January 7, 2018 and Jean discussed the changes of the Remittance Form to one page. Jean handed out the pages in the Workbook that were changing. If you have questions, just call on us. We had 30 members present representing 11 local units. Thanks to all who got the message to wear red for a picture to support the campaign to Stop Human Trafficking. We did not have the Directories ready to handout but the updated pages were available for the officer training which was held at Annual Day on February 3, 2018 in Grove Hill. We had 40 members present representing 10 local units for Annual Day with one visitor who was the speaker. Debbie Bell did a thorough job of explaining UMW, how we got started and why we exist and the importance of giving to the UMW missions. She taught the Presidents' class in training and Jean Creswell taught the Treasurers' class and we had the other officers represented in one class with a couple of teachers there to cover everything. Let us know how your training went and what you got out of it. What would you like to see done differently? Tracye did a beautiful job with the Memorial Service memorializing the lives of five of our members.

I was so glad to see seventeen of our members attending the AWF Conference UMW Annual Day meeting in Foley, Alabama. The Montgomery/Opelika District won the Many Colors, One Spirit banner this year. Demopolis District was the first winner when it started. LET'S BE THE NEXT WINNER IN 2018. We will be holding the AWF Conference Annual Day meeting in Demopolis on February 15-16, 2019.

Our next district group meeting will be held April 28 at Demopolis First where we will be holding our Mission Study on Missionary Conferences of the UMC. We will each bring a sandwich and the host will provide drinks, chips, and desserts. We had printed the date for the mission study as April 14 on the back of our Annual Day program. Please note the change due to a conflict in dates at the church.

Recapping our reporting for the year 2017 we dropped from 330 members to 294. We had five units who attained the Gold status and one who was Silver. We had ten units who attained 5-Star Giving status. We had 29 members representing six units attending the mission study on Climate Justice with 2 visitors. We had 21 readers representing five units in our Reading Program status.

We are still looking for a spiritual, dynamic, energetic speaker for the Spiritual Day Apart to be held September 8, 2018 at the Pine Hill UMC.



President Margaret Agee at the Demopolis District Meeting in January.



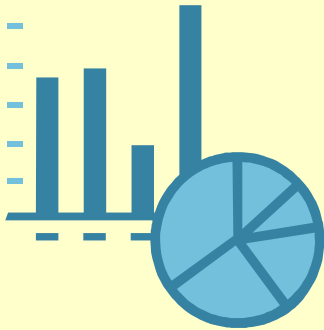
Jean Creswell gives the Treasurer's Report and explains the new form.

Demopolis District Meeting



The Demopolis District wore red to support the campaign to stop human trafficking.

A Report of Our Giving in 2017



In 2017 the Demopolis District United Methodist Women sent a total of \$20,423.30 to Alabama West Florida Conference United Methodist Women. This consisted of \$13,994.05 in pledges, \$1,698.07 in other 5-Star giving which gives us a total of \$15,692.12 in Undesignated Mission Giving.

Our giving to Conference Specials was \$2,852.43 and \$1,368.00 to Call to Prayer. We brought forward \$460.75 from December that is included in the above total to conference. Of our \$1,960 allotted to us for our district expenses we spent \$1,048.47.

We are looking forward to the 2018 year and the changes that have been made. Our Remittance Form will have everything on it and you will not have to send in several forms to get what you need; it will all be done on one form. It would be so much easier for you to send in your giving monies throughout the year rather than waiting to the last month to send it. Last minute giving causes a back log in the reporting process and sometimes it is just late enough that it does not get counted until the next year. Let's be mindful of our due dates. Thank you all so much for all you do and for all your giving.

News from the Jefferson UMW

Jefferson UMW has begun a new year with plans to re-implement our "Secret Sisters" project. We each chose a lady in our community to invite to UMW meetings, to send little anonymous gifts and cards to, and to become more acquainted with throughout 2018. At our December Christmas meeting, we will reveal our identity to our "Secret Sister" with the hopes that, having enjoyed our meetings and fellowship, she will join our unit! (The last time we tried this fun project we got four new YOUNG members!)

Plans are also being made to host a Sunday lunch on March 18. This will be our once a year fund-raiser to make money for our mission work. Tickets sell for \$10.00 and the meal will be roasted chicken quarters, potato casserole, green beans, a roll, tea, and dessert.

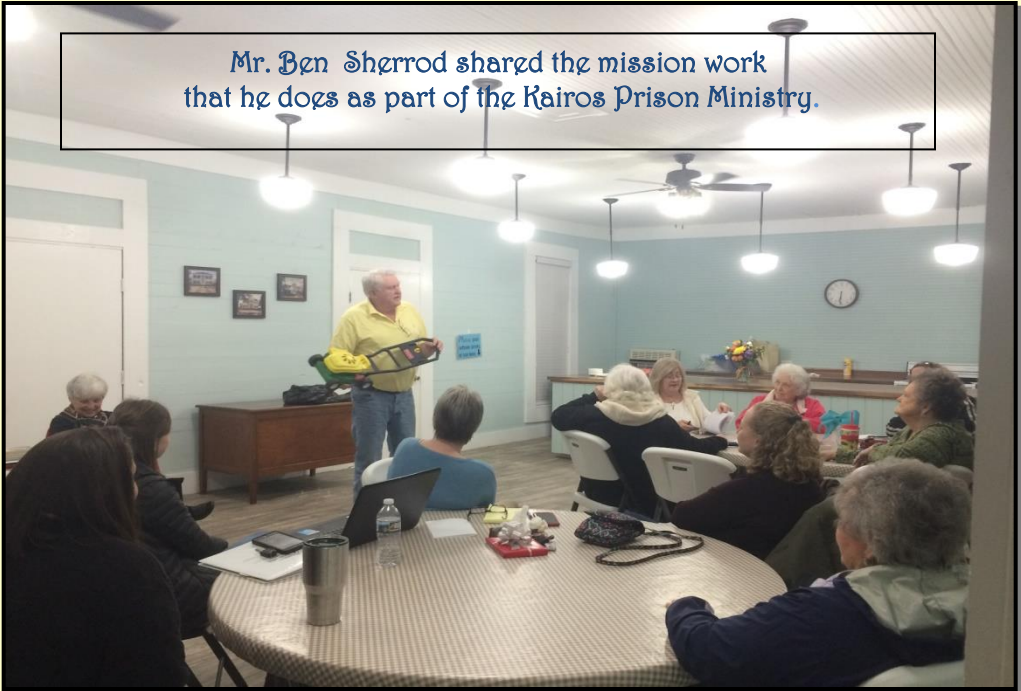
A WORD FROM THE EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION / SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR

If your unit missed the Demopolis District Annual Day and Memorial Service, held at Grove Hill UMC on February 3, you missed a chance for officer training, good fellowship, and a wonderful lunch. Thank you, Grove Hill ladies, for your warm welcome and wonderful hospitality. The group heard from our Alabama-West Florida Conference UMW President, Debbie Bell, and participated in a moving memorial service, led by Demopolis District Membership Nurture and Outreach Chairman Tracye Kennie..

Looking ahead, our first scheduled Mission Study will be hosted by the Demopolis UMW on April 28, 2018. Our study will be on the Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church (Alaska, Oklahoma, and Red Bird), and will be taught by Tutti Johnson. Mark your calendar! You will need to bring a sack lunch; Demopolis will furnish drinks and desserts.

Our first scheduled Mission Study will be hosted by the Demopolis UMW on April 28.

Continue to work on your Mission Today Unit checklist. Attendance at District and Conference Annual Days and Mission studies not only counts toward your unit's goals for 2018, but also expands your knowledge of UMW sponsored mission work both at home, nationally, and internationally. Fellowship with other UMW members and the sharing of ideas is an added plus. I look forward to sharing this time with you. Kathy



Ben Sherrod Speaks at Jefferson UMW

The Jefferson unit of United Methodist Women enjoyed hearing from Mr. Ben Sherrod as he shared the mission work that he does as part of the Kairos Prison Ministry. He reminded us that ministry can be simple, that it's about love, forgiveness, and caring for other people.

The bubble mower: When his son, Little Ben, was a boy, he'd bring his bubble mower out and push it while Big Ben cut grass then go in and tell his mom, "We cut the grass!" Mr. Sherrod compared this to his ministry work, saying that he's just walking alongside while the Father does the real work.

Upcoming Events

Please be sure to put these important dates on your calendar.

Easter Sunday	April 1
Jefferson UMW Fund-raiser	April 18
Mission Study	April 28
UMCOR Kits Due	May 5
Spiritual Day Apart	Sept. 8



Calling All Units

Please do not forget to bring your UMCOR kits to Pine Hill UMC on May 5th. Bring a sack lunch and drink and desserts will be provided by the host. We are only doing the Hygiene Kits, School Kits, and Cleaning Kits. Kits will be delivered to Annual Day and then to LA.

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 and the global ministries of the church.