



The Informer

Mobile District United Methodist Women Newsletter Aug 2017

A Message from the President

MOBILE DISTRICT MISSION TEAM 2017

President

Barbara Carroll

Vice President

Jay Locker

Secretary

Michele Smith

Treasurer

Kathy Ulmer

Program Resource

Bobbi Ferguson

Communications

Judy Burnham

Mission Coordinators

Education and Interpretation

Sylvia McCaskill

Membership Nurture Outreach

Robbie Bunkely

Social Action

Nancy Brumfield

Spiritual Growth

Gail Bradford

Committee on Nominations

Class of 2017

Nettie Lang, Chair

Linda Ferguson

Martha Teasley

Class of 2018

Martha Teasley

Mary Gipson

Joanne Myers

Class of 2019

Jamie Blake

Class of 2020

Betty Ewbank

Shirley Bryan

Nettie Lang

Greetings UMW Sisters

I hope you and your family are enjoying this beautiful summer weather. It is the perfect time to relax mind and body and prepare for the remainder of the year.

Welcome to our newly elected Unit Presidents. They are Juanita Glover, St. John UMW and Barbara Fox at St. Mark UMW. We are excited that you have accepted these positions and look forward to working with you.

Let me first thank and congratulate you on a successful first half of the year. I am excited that we are working in unity and we are well on the way to reaching our goals, which ultimately means that we are providing care for women and children in our communities and around the world. It also means that our lives are being enriched as we grow in faith, love and action. However, there is much to do. We have events to attend (both district and conference) and mission projects to complete in addition to planning for next year.

Our 2018 Conference Calendar has been completed. District dates are being added and they are being made available to you so that Unit Calendars can be planned. Please check your e-mail and the district website often as current and upcoming information will be posted. These posting will provide new information as well as changes that are being implemented.

Our District Committee on Nominations is looking to fill vacant positions. If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate, please send the name immediately. Elections will be held at Spiritual Enrichment Day on September 16.

I look forward to fellowshiping with you at our upcoming events. **Our events will be successful only if you attend** (check district calendar).

Let us continue to pray for one another. Let us continue to thank God for using us to serve His people.

FAITH..... of greater worth than gold
God Bless

Barbara Coakley Carroll, UMW Mobile District President



UMW Calendar

District Dates

August 12 – District Mission Study – Theodore, 9:30am
Sept 16 – District Spiritual Enrichment Day – Kingswood (election of District Officers)

Conference Dates

Oct 20-22 - Spiritual Enrichment Retreat, Blue Lake

Other Dates

May 18-20, 2018 UMW Assembly – Columbus, OH “Power of Bold”
Nov – UMW Sunday in local churches

Blue Lake Campground – An AWF-UMW Conference Institution

Blue Lake Campground, not only provides summer camp opportunities, it also serves as a retreat and meeting facility. The mission of Blue Lake is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world while connecting people to God’s creation. The first camp was held in 1951. 525 visitors can be accommodated in the three camps, Pinewood, Dogwood and Oakwood.

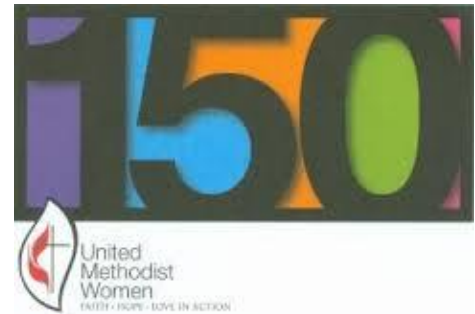
Blue Lake holds a special place in the hearts of those that attended there as a child or youth. Your UMW mission dollars help to support the work of Blue Lake Campground and helps it to continue to hold that special place for new campers.



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.

\$17.4 million has been raised toward the goal of \$60 million for the Legacy Fund. These funds will help lay the groundwork for the next 150 years for United Methodist Women.



Mission u 2017

Mission u 2017 was held at Millbrook UMC July 21-22. The Geographic Study: Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States was taught by Joyce Genz (Mobile District) and Kathie Harris. The Issue Study: Climate Justice was taught by Debbie Bracewell. The Spiritual Growth Study: Living as A Covenant Community was taught Clara Ester (Mobile District) and Carol Toney. These studies fulfil the purpose of the UMW by helping members increasing our commitment to global ministry.

On her 2017 Mission u experience, Gail Bradford notes, “Mission U is always a learning, advocacy promoting, and spiritually enriching experience. This year had something different because we each made our own nametags on pine rounds with beads, crosses, etc; and there was a separate time for crafts. The worship times and communion are set with litanies, sentences, and prayers that relate to the studies. My classes were with Clara Ester and Joyce Genz, our District was exceptionally well represented with great class leaders. The Mission U committee had everything well organization. I was amazed with Millbook's mastery--just the common of all the diets today--vegetarian, gluten-free, fruit-based, etc. while we try to stay healthy.

Spiritual Growth

My niece is 14 weeks pregnant with twins and triplets haven't been ruled out. She has already had three ultra-sounds and is scheduled for one every two weeks for the rest of the pregnancy. She already knows that she will be off work beginning with the eighth month, to be in bed the last two months. I bring this up because how different this is from many pregnant women around the world. United Methodist Women have always acted with faith in action for mothers and children. As we continue to study Maternal and Child Health, I want to ask you to journal and meditate about issues around births in your own family. What did you hear about your own birth? What do remember about births of your own children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews? These reflections will help you to prepare for the Spiritual Enrichment Day study sessions.

Plan to attend the **Spiritual Growth Enrichment Day, September 16, 2017 from 10 am until 2 pm at Kingswood UMC, 5200 Perin Re., Mobile (36653).**

We will have

>>>Worship

>>>Election of UMW Officers

>>> Refreshments/ Lunch and

.>>>Breakout Sessions

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF MOBILE will be our guest. The United Methodist Women has been a member of CWU since they began. Church Women United is a national, racially inclusive, culturally, and theologically inclusive Christian woman's movement celebrating and supporting men and women from various church/faith groups, celebrating and working for a world of peace and justice. CWU supports theological education and encouragement for ministry for women of color. CWU shares many of the same interest that UMW have--health care for all people world-wide, environmental care, Creation and economic justice. The local CWU in Mobile provides several programs in our area: contact of children whose mothers are at Tutwiler Prison and visit to their mother, usually monthly; Alabama-ARISE--which works to improve the lives of low-income Alabamians; and tutoring and child evangelism in some Mobile County Public Schools.

You will be able to attend two break-out sessions. The breakout sessions are:

- History of United Methodist Women
Leader: Clare Ester, National UMW Vice-President. She has a long list of successes as a Deaconess and has served a great part of her career in the AL W FL Conference, including as director the Dumas-Wesley Community Center.
- Praise Worship
Leader: *Amazing Grace Praise Team*, Toulminville-Warren Street United Methodist Church. The *Amazing Grace* Praise Team meditates on Scripture and offers praise and worship through dance.
- Maternal and Child Health
Leader: Cindy Messer, Recently Retired She is a RN midwife whose life-style is missions in action. She has served on the State of Alabama Board that certifies midwives. She and her husband, Phil, have been on mission trips to an orphanage in Honduras several times., the Red Bird Missionary Conference, and various UMCOR work teams. In June, she went to Haiti to teach midwifery, and infant health. (For more on Grace Children's Hospital and UMW's International Child Center in Haiti, which support these projects, see related article: from *Response*, November, 2016, pp. 26-33.)
- Meeting of Church Women United of Mobile. (This session will be held immediately following the service) Annie .T. Allen, Presiding.)

Gail Bradford
Spiritual Growth

Membership, Nurture and Outreach

Our membership needs to continue to grow with joy. Here are some ideas:
Sponsor a community family fellowship night with old fashion ice cream makers, letting everyone turn the handle, sing songs, play games and have fun. Important: give each a name tag as they register and get their address and phone number.

As they exit, be sure each lady has a UMW card!! Follow up on these names at least one week later. Take your UMW cards wherever you go. This is an automatic invite to our meetings. You don't have to say a thing. God takes care of the rest. Put cards on restaurant and business bulletin boards because we are in Gods' business!!

Another thing you can do to give a little spark to your meetings is to play "who am I?" Give each person a paper to fill out and turn it into the leader. Do not include your name.

1. Where was I born?
2. What crazy thing did I do growing up?
3. How many states have you been in?
4. Tell us something else about you that nobody knows.

At the end of the meeting the leader will pick out a paper and read the answers to the questions and say "Who am I?" Everyone will guess. Continue as time permits.

While we are still on this earth – young or older – we must help people find the joy of Jesus Christ. We need to take the joy to everyone!

GOD BLESS YOU!

Robbie Bunkley

Membership, Nurture and Outreach

Message from the District Secretary

Secretary at the unit level should be ensuring that the numbers for membership are accurate. These numbers determine the offering totals for "specials". The secretary should also be assisting the Spiritual Enrichment person in gathering information for members that have gone to be with God. If any secretary needs assistance or has questions please reach out to me. I am available by email michelesmith2002@hotmail.com, by text 251-895-1306, or by phone 251-895-1306. I am available any week night evening after 6.

Michele Smith
Secretary

Program Resources

Well, we've had a LOT of rain the past month to keep us inside. What were you doing on all those rainy days to keep busy? I hope that you were getting in a lot of reading of our UMW books. I think we have a lot of interesting, inspirational and a couple of fun books on our list this year. Please take some time to check out from the District library, the Christ Church library, your Church library or your local public library. Here are a few good ones I've read or have been told about from other members: *Coaltown Jesus*, *Love Cast out Fear* and *The Perfect Place*.

Bobbi Ferguson
Program Resources

Please remember to submit any pictures of your unit's activities to me for the 2017 yearbook.

Thank you!

Shirley Bryan
Historian

GoodReads

There is a tool available that is very helpful for use in the UMW Reading Program. It is an app called GoodReads (owned by Amazon.com) for sorting, rating and reviewing books. What I like to do is mark the most interesting Reading Program books "to read" and they stay in my list to remind me what book might be next. You can order books from GoodReads from Amazon for your Kindle or to be shipped to you. It is also helpful to mark your book "read" as you read them for when it is time to submit your books at the end of the year. There are also groups available to join and talk about UMW Reading Program books such as this one <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/9569-united-methodist-women> that I am a member of. It is so helpful to have an app on my phone or in my browser to keep track of reading program books and you may also find it useful.

Stephanie Jacobs
Saraland UMW

Congratulations to our Mobile District UMW ladies for the best report to date. The total estimated value of our UMCOR health kit project this year is \$6,661 and is calculated as follows:

\$4,944	412 kits assembled and sent to Sager Brown
\$1,580	Cash sent to Sager Brown to use for bulk supplies and shipping out to disaster areas
\$ 63	Bulk items sent to Sager Brown
\$ 74	Bulk items donated to local organizations
<u>\$6,661</u>	

Joyce Genz
Christ UMC



Saraland UMW and Cub Scouts Team Up for Fun

The Grace Circle of the Saraland United Methodist Church UMW teamed up with Cub Scout Pack 113 from the church to bring fun to residents of a local nursing home. The residents of Carrington Place in Satsuma love to play Bingo, and especially love getting prizes. UMW members collected two boxes of some of the favorite bingo prizes, such as candy, coloring books, tissues and lotion. Then our Cub Scouts from 1st - 5th grade made the trip to Carrington Place to play bingo with the residents and distribute the prizes. A great time was had by all as the Scouts called the numbers, helped their neighbors with their cards, and presented prizes.

Stephanie Jacobs
Saraland UMW

FAITH — "... of greater worth than gold .

. . . " *These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. — 1 Peter 1: 7 NIV*

Committee on Nominations

The United Methodist Women District Committee of Nominations is in the process of identifying a slate of nominees for vacant positions on the Mobile District Mission Team.

The Mission Team works with all participating units throughout the Mobile District by providing training and assistance with planning events and activities to ensure that we follow guidelines and meet yearly goals and objectives.

The Team is comprised of a cross-section of members from our district.

Elected positions will serve a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2018. Training will be provided and assistance is always available.

Your talents, resources and love for women and children are needed. If you are interested in serving or know someone who may be interested, please submit the name or a Talent Bank Form immediately. Elections will be held at District Spiritual Enrichment Day on September 16th at Kingswood UMC.

Call me for questions or comments.....

Nettie Lang
UMW Mobile District 2017 Chair Committee on Nominations
251-391-7027

Mobile District Webpage

Do you regularly visit the Mobile District United Methodist Women web page? It is updated regularly with items of interest particularly to our fair district. The newest items there are the Talent Bank Form and the new District Superintendent.

<http://www.awf-umw.org/mobile.html>

The AWF-UMW is updated weekly Saturday evening with something new in the “hot spot” to challenge you for the coming week.

<http://www.awf-umw.org/>

Vera Moore
Mobile District and AWF-UMW Web Queen



**United Methodist Women Assembly -
May 18-20, 2018 - Greater Columbus
Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio.**