

Circuit Writer

FEBRUARY 2019

DISTRICT:

March 8-9:
COSROW, Blue Lake

March 16: Moss Hill
Day Apart, Vernon

Nov. 9: District Mis-
sion Study,
"Embracing Whole-
ness," PCB

CONFERENCE:

Mar. 8-9: COSROW,
Blue Lake

July 19-20: Mission u,
St. Luke UMC, Pen-
sacola

Oct. 11-13: Spiritual
Enrichment Retreat,
Blue Lake

Nov. 2: District Meet-
ing



Happy New Year Ladies!

I am delighted to serve as your new District President. Past District President Karen Fillman served our district beautifully, and I appreciate all of her help in orienting me to the job.

Thanks to all who attended the District Annual Day/Leadership Development Day at First UMC in January. Thank you to Panama City First UMW for the fine hospitality.

Thanks also to our District Officers who provided education on how to fulfill our roles as local unit officers. Please remember that the District Officers are a resource for you. Call or email them with any questions. Please contact our District Secretary, Janis Johnson, for our District Directory. ***Remember that we do not share our contact information with anyone outside our district or conference UMW.***

We have a great corps of district officers, and I look forward to working with them and with each of you. Our next district event is our District Day Apart at Historic Moss Hill Church in Vernon. We will have quiet time to draw closer to God as well as a time to remember our members who passed on this past year. Please come--it won't be the same without you!

This is our birthday month! Happy 150th Birthday, United Methodist Women! I hope that you have planned some kind of celebration for this special birthday.

It has been a tough time since Hurricane Michael. Many of our members are displaced, and our church buildings have been devastated. God's love and protection is stronger than Hurricane Michael. Let's support and encourage each other. We will be flexible and creative as we navigate the "new normal." We will make it through because God is with us and loves us.

I look forward to seeing you at Moss Hill on March 16th!

Peggy Kundo



**VICE PRESIDENT
AND
EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION COORDINATOR
Karen Fillman**



Dear All United Methodist Women,

I hope you are as doubly grateful for our fresh 'pre spring' as I am.

On January 12 we had our combination meeting with overdue officer elections, along with Leadership Training and Annual Day. It was a great day and we were able to meet and accomplish a lot.

We were able to get things done because we all want to fulfill the PURPOSE of the United Methodist Women, and that starts with always reminding ourselves how God wants us to minister to others (our Purpose).

For the present, I have two jobs: As ***District Vice President***, I will be as helpful as possible to President Peggy Kundo. I know many Units have the job detailed to suit their needs plus it may not officially exist (on paper) because others are absorbing the work within their own job.

With my other job as your ***District Mission Coordinator of Education and Interpretation***, I'm really looking forward to talking with all of the Units. All of the officers are waiting for our 2019 District Directory to come out so we will know whom to contact. May I make some suggestions for now?:

- ◇ First, look at your Unit's Mission Today requirements to see what can be achieved right away; then you can plan your activities and programs around what you need to do throughout the year to reach your goals. The job goes much more easily when you use the requirements to plan your year of goals.
- ◇ I would love it if we could get more of us to attend all mission activities: (Local, District and Conference).
- ◇ Look for the ***2019 COSROW*** information and event application; you will be so blessed if you can attend!

I will be promoting other events through the year. WHEN YOU have an event, I WOULD ALSO like to hear of it and help promote your information to others to help you get more attending. For instance: if you are holding a local mission study, if you open it up to *all* women in your church, you might also garner more members for your Unit of United Methodist Women.

If you are thinking of holding a local mission study on ***The Missionary Conferences of the Methodist Church***, I have assembled a kit and will be happy to let you use it. The only stipulation? ***Please Share it with anyone you can!***

Lastly, as I said, I'm very interested in *how* I can help you have an active year, and I will be in touch as soon as the District Directory is available with contact information. Let's step forward and always follow our Purpose!

Karen

The Secretary's Pen

Janis Johnson, District UMW Secretary



It's amazing that the first two months of 2019 have passed so quickly. Hopefully, your local UMW units have had the organizational meeting and officer elections and you are moving forward into your ministry opportunities for the new year.

The local unit secretaries play an important role in keeping written records of minutes of meetings, coordinating written correspondence, and communicating with the district officers on matters that are necessary for district reports.

One important task of the secretary is to forward the names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of the unit's newly elected officers to the District Secretary. These are needed by November 30 of each year to enable the District Secretary to complete the revisions in the District UMW Handbook and forward these to the District and Conference officers by the designated deadlines.

The District UMW Handbook is available by electronic mail to all local presidents and to Conference Officers. If other members in the local unit desire a copy, their unit president can provide them a hard copy or a link to the electronic copy. Please remember that the information in the Handbook is not to be shared to outside agencies or persons.

With the chaos caused by Hurricane Michael, many units have not been able to meet on a regular basis and have not elected officers for the 2019 year. If your unit is in this situation, please know that those at the District and Conference level are well aware of your problems and are willing and eager to help in any way you need it. Please communicate with the District UMW officers if you need assistance in any manner.



Joshua 1:9
"Have I not
commanded you?
Be strong and
courageous.
Do not be afraid;
do not be
discouraged,
for the LORD
your God
will be with you
wherever you go."

Janis



SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND RENEWAL



FIND US FAITHFUL

All of the units in the Marianna-Panama City District have been impacted by Hurricane Michael. What a marvelous opportunity we will have this year for Spiritual Growth and Renewal by attending the Moss Hill Day Apart memorial service for deceased members from last year.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 16th. Registration begins at 9:15 (CDT). Remember to bring a covered dish and a lawn chair. The theme is "Find Us Faithful."

Jennifer Precht, the children's director at Point Washington United Methodist Church, will facilitate. The charismatic Marvin Miller from First United Methodist in Panama City is again the song leader. Come and bring a prospective member for this special event. See you there!

Martha Spiva

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

"For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever. His faithfulness continues through all generations."

Psalms 100:5



Greetings from your new district treasurer. There is no doubt I will experience a "learning curve" -- please be patient with me. I hope all unit treasurers have the new Remittance Form. It conveniently has all you need to report on one page. Also, listed under "**I. Undesignated Gifts**" are the five types of donations required to earn the "Five Star Award." They are



- ⇒ Pledge to Mission
 - ⇒ Special Mission Recognition Pin
 - ⇒ Gift to Mission (\$5 minimum)
 - ⇒ Gift in Memory (\$5 minimum)
 - ⇒ World Thank Offering
- I'm praying each unit will achieve this goal.

In Christ's Love,
Peggy Pelt
District Treasurer

PROGRAM RESOURCES

SOCIAL ACTION

Hello to all my UMW sisters,

I am your new Social Action Mission Coordinator. I will be praying for you in the coming year and hope you will do the same for me. If you have any questions, or suggestions, please let me know.

There is a lot going on in our world, not all good, but we know who is in control, and that should give us peace. Hope all are recovering from Michael.

Love to all,

Pat Whitley

850-896-9215

“Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’ “

Matthew 25:40 CEB



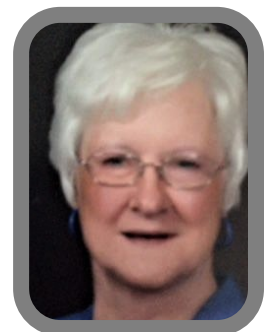
Well, it's time to begin reading for the 2019 UMW Reading Program. I hope many of you will join me in getting an early start in reading at least one book in each of the five categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. That will mean reading just one book every two months between now and November!!!



The list of new books for 2019 will not be printed and mailed to you. You can find a list in the December 2018 copy of *Response* or you can Google www.awf-umw.org; look in the left-hand column for Resources and choose Reading Program to find a list of new books.

Also, we are encouraged to read articles from *Response* as part of the Reading Program it will change to a bimonthly printing which means we receive only six issues per year. One way to share info from *Response* is to have a member give a brief report on an article at each circle meeting. The *New World Outlook* will no longer be published.

Let's all read to learn more about our global impact through the missions we support as United Methodist Women.



**RESOURCES FROM
CONFERENCE
WEBSITE**

2019 AWF-UMW CONFERENCE AWARDS & RECOGNITION

The award for ***Special Mission Recognition*** from the conference to the district is based on: percentages of attendance to the following **district events**:
Spiritual Enrichment Day
District Annual Day
Officer Training
Mission Studies

In 2018 the MOBILE DISTRICT was recognized and awarded.

The award for ***Many Colors, One Spirit*** from the conference to the district is based on:

percentages of attendance to the following **conference events**:

- ✓ Spiritual Enrichment Retreat
- ✓ Mission u
- ✓ Annual Day

In 2018 the MOBILE DISTRICT was recognized and awarded.

Program Resources

Reading Program winner is based on the most readers in the district during the year.

2018 winner, MOBILE with 60 participants.

Membership Nurture & Outreach

Nell Chance Award Selected from letters of recommendations submitted by members

2018 Nell Chance Award winner – Bobbie Lou Samac, Demopolis District.

Priddy Pals Recognition: Began in 2018 as an endeavor to seek out and intentionally involve younger women in some missions activity of United Methodist Women. The young woman's name is submitted along with her "Priddy Pal" to the MN&O conference coordinator for consideration. Your Priddy Pal should be selected from young women between the ages of 16-39. This recognition is named in honor of our National President, Shannon Priddy. A short paragraph from the young woman should accompany the recognition.

Involvement may include but not limited to:

- Giving technical help to UMW members, to help with smart phones and computers
- Reading a book from the Reading Program together with a UMW membership
- Driving mission team members to meetings – even if you don't need a driver
- Proofreading newsletters and other documents prior to publication

The Priddy Pals recognized in 2019:

Addison Genard – Mobile District, from Christ United UMW; her "pals" are Debbie Bell & Joyce Genz.

Anne Capps – Demopolis District from Pine Hill; her "pal" is Tutti Johnson

PANHANDLE FORGOTTEN?

Five months after Hurricane Michael's devastating visit to the Florida Panhandle, many are feeling forgotten by the rest of the nation. Insurance claims, FEMA assistance, and restoration of internet service are moving at what seems to be a snail's pace. With the able-bodied called back to work responsibilities, retirees and the homebound elderly are still in desperate need of home repairs and tree clearing. Even as this article is evolving, *The Weather Channel* in the background is reporting on the widespread tornado watches and warnings plaguing the Southeast—more damage and devastation to overcome.

How can we take much more? What can we do to get immediate help if we need it? The Graceville area is blessed with people who exhibit a deep sense of caring for neighbors when needs arise. One local church has developed a unique mission project that is helping to shine the light of love to neighbors in surrounding towns.

Immediately following the hurricane, the members of Graceville's First United Methodist Church began looking for ways to assist the hurricane victims who could not help themselves. Under the leadership of Pastor Mike Pearson, the church found ways to adapt the facilities (thanks to Pat Burdeshaw) so that disaster relief teams within the Alabama-West Florida Conference and others across the country can use the church as their base of operations for as long as they can stay to offer their much-needed assistance.



**EVANSVILLE, INDIANA
TEAM**



Auburn Team

FAITH, HOPE, LOVE in Action

The teams that come receive Graceville's special brand of Southern hospitality as breakfast and supper meals are provided daily. Julie Burdeshaw coordinates the schedule of UMW and other church members who volunteer to serve the meals, and Bonnie Wertenberger arranges for most supper meals to be provided by various area school food services. Some of the visiting teams claim that they're being spoiled, so many friendships are forming during this church project. Graceville's heartfelt hospitality is touching the lives of those who are doing God's work, singing and praising Him for teaching believers to love and help their neighbors.

No, this part of the Panhandle has not been forgotten; God is using the Graceville First United Methodist Church to spread His Love and Hope amid widespread destruction.

A NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

TIMES, THEY
ARE CHANGING

Greetings to my very special UMW Sisters!

This is a note of apology for not communicating very well the changes that have been taking place in getting our *Circuit Writer* newsletter out to everyone.

Let me try to summarize the situations that have forced us to modify our procedures with publishing the *CW*. First, postage rates have steadily increased over the years, along with the costs of printing hard copies. As technology keeps developing, we are finding that we can save approximately \$400 per year by publishing our newsletter online; therefore, we are currently having each new issue posted on the official Alabama-West Florida UMW website:

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

Additionally, the electronic copy is emailed to each district officer and unit president. If the president does not have an email address listed in the latest directory, the copy is sent to another unit officer who does show an email address. Then, we are asking those who receive the electronic version to use their church copier machines to print the copies needed to distribute to local members.

As always, we love to get news and pictures from across our district, so please keep us informed about the great things your United Methodist Women are doing to help fulfill our Purpose.

Our 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.

(Borrowed from Alabama-West Florida website)

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation,

Deanie DeFelix

COSROW EVENT

March 8 & 9, 2019

**Alabama-West Florida Conference Event
Blue Lake Assembly – Andalusia, Alabama**

*The Preacher and the Rabbi
Return Engagement by Popular Demand*



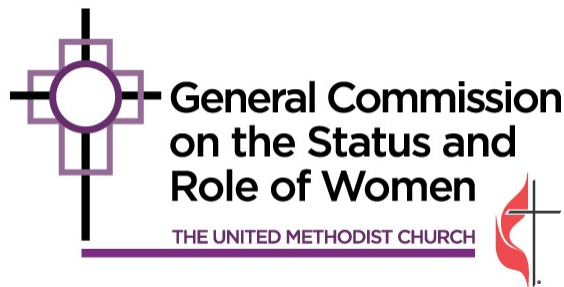
Lynn Smilie Nesbitt Lynne Downey Goldsmith

Event Topics

Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament Women

As well as Hebrew and Christian scriptures difficult texts

**Scholarship available for First Time Attendee
Contact the Registrar for application**



REGISTRATION FORM ON NEXT PAGE

**COSROW Event
REGISTRATION FORM
March 8 & 9, 2019**

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

ROOMMATE _____

COSTS: **Drive In – 1 Day - \$35.00/ea.** **Drive in – 2 Days - \$55.00/ea.**
 Weekend Single - \$70.00/ea. **Weekend Double - \$90.00/ea.**

If you have special needs or dietary requirements, please state them here:

Make checks to United Methodist Foundation-Development Fund (UMF- Dev. Fund)

Deadline for Registration is February 22, 2019. Registrations will not be accepted after this date.

Roommates must register together. Registration is complete when paid.

Send registration and payment to

Ruth Ann Powers, 712 31st Street, Phenix City, AL 36867

Phone: 334-614-1476 e-mail: rall@ctvea.net