

Circuit Writer

May 2018

District Events for

Marianna/Panama City:

June 23, 2018— “Missionary Conferences” Mission Study, St. Andrew UMC, Panama City

Sep. 15, 2018— “What About Our Money?” Study, Marianna FUMC

Oct. 6, 2018— District Planning for 2019, Blountstown UMC

Oct. 13, 2018— District Fall Gathering, Panama City FUMC

AL/WF Conference Dates

May 18-20, 2018— Assembly, Columbus, OH

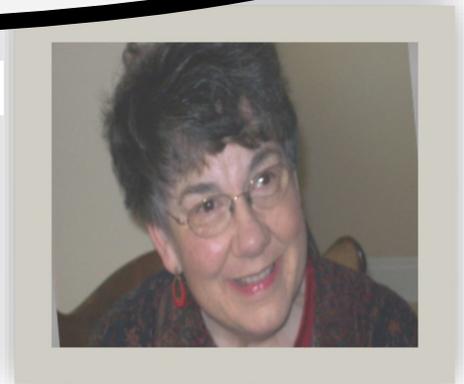
July 13-14, 2018— Exec. Mission Team, Blue Lake

July 20-21, 2018— Mission u, Pensacola, FL

Oct. 19-21, 2018— Spiritual Enrichment Retreat, Blue Lake

Nov. 3, 2018— Conference Training for District Presidents and Treasurers only, location TBA

Message from the President:



President Karen Fillman
Panama City First

Greetings to all United Methodist Women of Marianna/Panama City,

May is here and God has put us already 5 months into the year! Thanks to *Martha Spiva and Peggy Kundo*, we had a wonderful Moss Hill Day. Martha centered our focus on the hands that have led us through life already. Many talked about how important the people who have passed still are to them.

Next year we hope to make Moss Hill into a more spiritual day. We will have it without it being combined with Annual Day. We hope to meet a half hour later also.

On June 23, we have a very interesting *Mission Study* coming up. Kathy McQuagge will lead *MISSIONARY CONFERENCES IN THE METHODIST CHURCH*. We look forward to this interesting study, hosted by St. Andrews UMC United Methodist Women, 2001 W. 11th St., Panama City, 32401.

We all need to find out our church history so we can share with others. It's another way to connect with each other. Please encourage others to come with you.

Preregister by calling the church office: 785-1564, by 6/18/18, to give the number attending for lunch.

MISSION u IS ALSO COMING UP:

Hopefully, you are already preparing to go for the *one day or two day option* Mission u. It will July 20 and 21, 2018 at

GADSDEN ST. UMC in PENSACOLA.

Please notice this is a different location from the one previously given. A registration form is included within this *Circuit Writer* edition.

I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

Karen

SOCIAL ACTION: Economic Inequality

As a member of our UMW Book Club, I meet with a small group of women once a month in the back room at Peppers Mexican Restaurant to discuss books from our UMW Reading Program. (I secretly want to name our group the “Red Hot Peppers’ Book Club” but haven’t gotten their permission yet! My daughter said that is or was the name of a band.)

On a more serious note, the first book we read this year, a Social Action Book, was actually in a comic book format: *Wage Theft: Crime and Justice 1*, by the Interfaith Worker Justice Organization (www.iwj.org). When we read and discussed the plight of house cleaners, restaurant workers, health care providers, and construction workers, especially the undocumented ones, we learned that there are centers, such as the Houston Faith and Justice Worker Center, where the workers can take their cases of whatever type of abusive practices against them..

Did you know that when you tip your waiter or waitress by writing your tip on a credit card slip, an unethical restaurant owner can keep that money? It is better to tip with cash.

We also looked at a chart from the March 14, 2016, issue of *Time*, showing the gap between what men and women earn. “According to an analysis by Time, women earn less than men at every age range: 15% less at ages 22 to 25 and a staggering 38% less at ages 51 to 64.”

As members of the United Methodist Women, we want fairness and equality for all people. Be sure to keep informed by reading and discussing these issues with friends and taking action—that is our middle name: United (Action) Methodist Women—the Red Hot Peppers Group!



Ann Tison

850-227-6450

A VIP MESSAGE FROM OUR SECRETARY



**Meet the new Marianna-
Panama City District
UMW Secretary**

As your new UMW District Secretary, I would like to share some of my story. I am a member of Bonifay First UMC and the Flame Circle of UMW. I have served and continue to serve in several leadership positions in my local church in addition to serving as the District UMW Secretary.

For many years, my local Circle was not affiliated with the UMW. After serving as Lay Delegate to Annual Conference from our church and hearing the reports presented by the Conference UMW Presidents describing the amazing missional and outreach ministries of UMW groups throughout the district, I encouraged our Circle to join with our other church ladies’ Circle, the Joy Gals (who were already affiliated) and become official members of the District and Conference UMW, which we did under the capable leadership of Linda Hornsby. UMW contributes to the United Methodist Church’s missional call in so many ways that it staggers one’s imagination. Being a member and a district leader is a privilege I am honored to hold.

As Secretary, my first major opportunity and project was revising and updating the District UMW Handbook. By doing this, I learned which churches in our district have UMW units and the names of the officers and leaders in those units. I look forward to meeting many of you to “put some faces” with those names as we gather for the upcoming district meetings and trainings. While I have not attended many district meetings in the past due to employment constraints, I am now “fully retired” and look forward to being more active in the district and conference events.

As I gain familiarity with the specific duties of District UMW secretary, I plan to share some of the knowledge and skills learned with those who are serving in similar capacities in the local units. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me at johnja@embarqmail.com or 850-373-6154. I want to assist you and your local units in any manner you need.

Thank you again for showing your confidence in me by allowing me to serve as the District UMW Secretary!

Janis Johnson

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Summer is almost here and many units do not meet during those months. Now is the time to catch up on your UMW reading books and *Response* magazine, as well making plans for next year's activities and programs.

The 2018 Mission U will meet on July 20-21 at the Gadsden Street United Methodist Church in Pensacola. The very relevant Spiritual Growth study is *Embracing Wholeness*. It is the second in a two-part series about covenantal living. In focusing on "Seeking Health and Wholeness," the author challenges us to work toward stronger relationships with creation, communities, ourselves, and God. Hope to see you there.



There are several excellent books in the Spiritual Growth area in print or on Kindle. I am currently reading *Fully Awake and Fully Alive: Spiritual Practices to Nurture Your Soul*. The author awakens the reader to various practices within and outside traditional faith communities. Very challenging and interesting!

Be sure to mark your calendar for October 19-21 for the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake. Have a blessed summer.

In His service,

Martha Spiva



HEAR YE! HEAR YE! CHALLENGE REPEATED!

This year we can read from the lists of books for the past six (6) years – 2013 through 2018. Remember to read at least one book from each of the five categories:

Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth.

Reading these books encourages us to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. Through them we have an opportunity to deepen our spirituality and broaden our understanding of mission work.

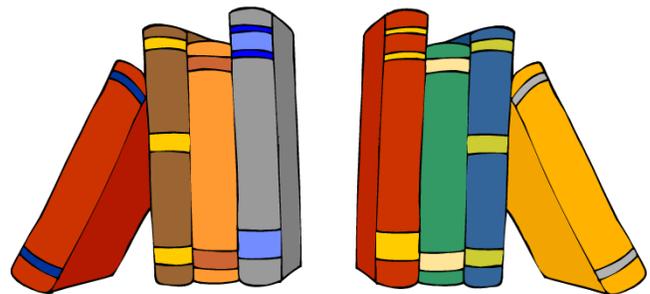
You can get more information at <https://www.umwmissionresources.org>. While you may purchase books here, you may also find your books for a better price at some internet sources, but they don't always have the book for which you are looking.

Elizabeth Bell

District Program Resources Chair

850-482-8469 or 850-209-1161

ebell410@comcast.net



Let's each read at least five books this year!



God Calling . . .

Hello Ladies!

Many of you have expressed interest in **Days For Girls** which provides women's hygiene packs or PODs (Packets of Dignity) as they are called. There are three options for participation in this project. The first is as a Solo Sewist who sews parts of kits and sends them to a team for further completion and inclusion in a POD. The second option is as a team which makes the PODs and sends them to a distribution site. A logical choice for us as United Methodist Women is to send them to our United Methodist missionaries. Ray Crump, the UMCOR Decatur director said that he is willing to contact our missionaries to learn where they are needed. The third option for participation is to financially support Days for Girls enterprises overseas. The Enterprises allow local women in the third world countries to make and sell the kits to earn an income. The kits that are made by US teams are never sold. All kits are distributed with menstrual health education for the girls. Days for Girls also provides education and assistance to generate clean water supplies for villages and culturally appropriate women's health information for men including the need to eliminate violence toward women.

More education is available through a free on-line Ambassador of Women's

Health course, which takes about an hour to complete. I found it informative and worth my time. It might be particularly helpful for anyone who works with youth even here in the USA. I found her method of explaining menstrual health informative and clear. This is the website:

www.Daysforgirls.org.

I have taken the first step in registering as a team in order to facilitate getting the information and contacts; however, I would like someone else to lead the team. Teams are named by geographical area rather than organization name. So our team name might be listed on the Days for Girls site as the "Marianna-Panama City Team."

This seems to be a project that would be best organized by a group of United Methodist Women who serve as the core and coordinate the project for participation by all district ladies. Who knows? It could expand to a conference project.

Anyone who is interested in leading this project, please contact me via email or phone, **850-819-4332**, so that I can transfer the information I have received to you and we can complete the team registration project. When we have a registered leader, we will be able to access the patterns.

Listen! Is God calling you to coordinate this ministry?

Peggy Kundo

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT

2018 Alabama -West Florida Conference

Cooperative Mission u Event July 20 -21

**GADSDEN STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
901 E GADSDEN STREET
PENSACOLA, FL 32501 -4073**

MISSION u STUDY LEADERS:

GEOGRAPHIC STUDY: *Missionary Conferences of The United Methodist Church in the United States*

- a mission journey that guides us through the missionary conferences:
- * Alaska Missionary Conference
 - * Oklahoma Missionary Conference
 - * Red Bird Missionary Conference

Joyce Genz

ISSUE STUDY: *What About Our Money? A Faith Response*

explores the biblical foundation of abundance (sufficiency), which stands in opposition to the scarcity narrative our culture tells us from the time we are very young.

Betty Helms and Angie Woodward

SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY: *Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living*

explores the ways God has called us to live in covenantal relationship with all of creation and challenges readers to work toward stronger and healthier relationships with creation, their communities, themselves, and God.

Jim DuFriend and Gail Baughman

MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM
with check payable to **MISSION u**
to the Registrar:
**TUTTI JOHNSON, PO BOX 870, PINE HILL,
AL
36769-0598**

REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline July 7, 2018

(\$10 late fee after July 8, 2018)

(name)

(address)

(city, state, zip)

(district)

(conference/district officer position, if any)

Check all that apply Female Male Lay Clergy
 CEU Credit

Need assistance moving around campus. List on separate sheet any dietary needs.

STUDY COURSE REGISTRATION.

Each study is a 6 hour course. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Classes begin after the opening and finish at 4:30 p.m.

Two Days School Fee: \$40

One study each day from the three offered

Friday _____

Saturday _____

Saturday Only: \$20

Choose your study _____ **Embracing Wholeness**

_____ **What About Our Money?**

Each person is responsible for own lodging.

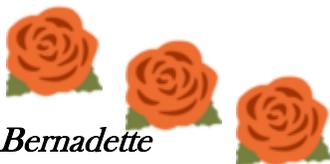
EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

Happy Spring to all!

We are almost halfway through the year. I am sure all units are struggling with attracting new membership. My own UMW unit is no different. Because our members have been busy fundraising, our board felt that it was time to fellowship and relax. We also felt that it was important to do something that might attract new members. So . . . , we decided to have an all women's Retreat. On April 21, we had a wonderful spiritual retreat focused on **Legacy**. Our own individual legacy was the focus, but we also talked about the legacy of UMW. At the end we invited everyone to come to a joint meeting of all our "circles" in May. We presented our "shoe box" program as the reason for that joint meeting. We will also be sharing pizza and fellowship. Our plan is to do God's Mission Work while, hopefully, creating some excitement that will draw new membership. I ordered 60 shoeboxes; I am hoping for a really good turnout. I will let you all know how everything works out.

And so, I am trying to give you some ideas. I also invite you all to attend the Mission Studies in June and September. Try to "be all in"; feel the excitement of doing new things. They might actually work. Have a thirst for the knowledge that a Mission Study offers. Everything is a new opportunity; a new idea; a new challenge that can help us to further the work that Jesus presented us with in the Beatitudes. If we are not excited about what we are doing in UMW, we will not attract others to our mission. So feel the joy and share it with all you meet; invite others to join you in a UMW Unit.

With our Mother's Day celebrations fresh in our hearts, let's each try to be like a mother to those around us who need some TLC,



Bernadette Hackett





UMCOR MISSION PROJECT DIRECTIONS



The official day to turn them in to St. Andrew UMC in Panama City is Saturday August 4th,
but we will also accept them on **June 23rd at the Mission Study at St. Andrew.**

Christmas Shoe Boxes for Third World Children 2018

Suggested Gifts for Third World Shoe Boxes

Boxes should be marked with ages (2-12) and whether it is for a boy **OR** girl.

Hot Wheels Cars	McDonalds Toys	School Supplies:
Small Dolls	Marbles (no more than 5/baggie)	Pencils (limit 4), paper
Small balls & Hand pump?	Wash Cloth	5 crayons
Soap	Toothbrush	colored pencils
Comb and Brush	Small Hand Mirror	small pencil sharpeners
1 pr Flip Flops (Each box needs one pr)	Underwear (underpants & t-shirt)	
Shorts & tee-shirts (boys & girls)	Dresses	
1 pr Socks for Sunday	(No candy, Tooth paste, bubble gum, suckers!)	

Little Girls: Barrettes, ribbons, bows, headbands, scrunches, ponytail holders, etc. All liquids should be in a zip lock bag. If you are doing one for a girl, age 9 or older, it is important to include a small training bra (Size 28 or 30) **and blouse.**

We are furnishing the shoe boxes. Please try to fill each shoe box. **Do NOT over fill!** If one is bulging at the top, we cannot get them in the case. It is that close. **An under filled box** means one child will only get one or two things, while his\her brother\sister gets a full box. This can cause unhappiness in the home. Printed on the boxes are (1) the **manifest form**. **Please fill out with a Sharpie** magic marker indicating whether it is for a boy or girl **and their age**. It needs to list what you have in the box. In addition (2) the **Customs Declaration** form needs to be filled out. Feel Free to decorate the outside of the boxes, but **DO NOT** cover up the Custom forms on both sides of the box. You can tape the front of old Christmas cards on the ends, top and bottom of the boxes. Please close with tape, do NOT interweave the top or bottom of the box.

Your Senior Citizens may print one of the following quotations in Spanish on the boxes.

I (He) came in a lowly stable.	El Señor vino en un humilde establo.
Let the little children come up to unto me.	Dejad que los niños vengan a mí.
Wise men search for Him.	Hombres sabios lo buscaron
Angels announced his birth.	Los ángeles anunciaron su nacimiento.
Prophets told of His birth.	Profetas dijeron de su nacimiento.
The shepherds came to know the Savior.	Los pastores vinieron a conocer a el Salvador.
King of all kings.	Rey de todos los reyes.
A loving God.	Un Dios amoroso.
A Savior is born.	Ha nacido el Salvador.

Thirdly, please **mail a check** payable to "Christmas Shoe Box Ministry" for **\$5.00** OR one check for your whole group to: **U. M. Disaster Relief Warehouse, P.O. Box 1133, Decatur, Al 35602.** The \$2.50 of the \$5.00 helps get it **to the missionary** and the other \$2.50 helps the missionary pay the cost of getting it **to the neediest!** Your boxes go to your closest "HUB." Be sure to send the \$5.00.

Several churches have found that by getting their people together on a Wednesday night, it is beneficial in sharing items like a bag of marble because if you give more than five (5) marbles or crayons, it causes problems. If it is more than the child can hold in one hand, other children may jump on that child and take it away. Other items that can be shared at your packing party are pencils, pencil sharpeners, wash clothes, hair barrettes, etc. You can also share a tape gun to put the boxes together. It can be a really fun party!

The Advent Coloring booklet tells the Christmas story in Spanish. **Ask us to send you a file so you can print the number of Christmas Coloring Books in Spanish that you need.** You can print them at your church office. Make as many copies as you need. The book requires three pieces of paper printed on both sides. Print one side, then the other. (It can also be used to reach Hispanic families in your community.)

Some churches ask their pre-school, elementary children and Senior Citizens to **color one part of the cover** on the coloring book. This means the children in a third world country can use the crayons in the shoe box to complete these. So ask your people if they might be interested in personalizing your shoe boxes. Be creative and have fun!

Does your Vacation Bible School need a project? Why not the Christmas Shoe Box ministry for a developing nation?

CONTACT PEGGY KUNDO: 850-819-4332





Editor:

GERALDINE (DEANIE) DEFELIX

2953 RAMBO RD
CAMPBELLTON FL 32426-6933

Website

United Methodist Women

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

One more thing from Peggy Kundo:

The Virginia Conference UMW collects stamps to raise money for mission. If anyone would like to lead a project like this for our district, please contact me and I will get you in touch with the coordinator in the Virginia Conference.

850-819-4332

April 21, 2018

*Local UMW Retreat for
Port St. Joe Ladies*

Small Groups discuss the Retreat's Focus: LEGACY of each individual & UMW

See Bernadette's article under
"Education & Interpretation" on p. 6.