



UMW DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S WORD

Dear Ladies of Montgomery/Opelika District,

2018 has been a busy year already! District Annual Day on February 18th and Conference Annual Day on February 23rd and 24th were wonderful celebrations of the work done by United Methodist Women in 2017. At Crawford, awards were given to those units that had accomplished goals for Reading Program, Mission Study participation, Mission Today Units, and 5-Star giving. At Conference, in Foley, Montgomery/Opelika District won the Many Colors One Spirit Award. It has been a fun week!

Our Leadership Development Day (Training Day) was a great success. Lots of information was provided. If your unit was not represented, please contact me to get your information.

Now, the 2018 adventure begins:

*April 28 Mission Study: Climate Justice at Aldersgate. Hope to see you all there.

* May 17-20 The National United Methodist Women's Assembly will be in Columbus, Ohio. There is still room available on the bus going from AWF Conference. Register now if you can attend.

*Mother's Day and Father's Day – Crawford UMW unit has challenged the other units our district to accept donations to Legacy Fund Endowment in honor or memory of mothers and fathers. Details are being worked out and will be posted later.

*Shannon Priddy has asked us to participate in a "Mentoring Program. In our conference, we have named this program "Priddy's Pals". Ask a woman or girl in your church or area to work with you on something related to UMW, not necessarily to a meeting. This will help to spread information about UMW to women who may not really know what we are about.

*I did not get to visit every unit in 2017. Please invite me to your unit, especially if we did not get together last year. You are all important to me, and I want to get to know you all.

Unit Presidents, please, watch for emails that I post. Read and respond. Many thanks to you all!

Your Servant,

June Headrick

NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT OFFICERS

Acting District Treasurer – Dianne Flowers

Of course the biggest news on the treasurer's front is our new combined Remittance Form with the removal of Conference Specials, or Askings, as they were formerly known, and the addition of what our Conference has termed a "Love Offering". This form was distributed during training on the 17th, but it can be found on our Conference web page, www.awf-umw.org.

Towards the bottom there are two options for local forms, PDF and EXCEL. If you use Excel, you don't have to add! I downloaded the file and then printed what I wanted from it. This form combines the four previous forms, Remittance, Cards, Pin, and the Conference request, previously known as Specials. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to email or call me.

I also wanted to give the report on last year's giving. Our District pledge for 2017 was \$12,500. We fulfilled \$9,038 of that pledge. This was the total of our Five Star (undesignated) Giving; Pledge to Mission, SMR pins, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering. Our pledge for 2018 is the same. And speaking of Five Star Giving, five units gave to all of those categories and received their Certificates at Annual Day. They were Aldersgate, Bowen, Brundidge, Crawford, and Opelika First A.M. In addition Auburn, Grace, Murphy's Chapel, Opelika First P.M., and Trinity participated by giving to one or more.

If you missed Conference Annual Day, you missed a treat!

Dianne Flowers, Acting Treasurer

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Education and Interpretation Coordinator – Judy Smith

Mission giving is the rock upon which missions build and grow. When you read the Response and New World Outlook, you will make connections between places and institutions and your mission giving.

Mission study recognition is earned by attending or presenting a mission study. Following the study, there must be some action taken by the unit which relates to or is an outgrowth of the study. Auburn, Opelika A.M. and Grace received awards for Latin America.

The Mission Today units recognized are as follows:

Aldersgate – Silver

Auburn – Gold

Brundidge – Silver

Murphy's Chapel – Silver

Opelika A.M. - Silver

Opelika P. M. – Silver

On April 28, there will be a mission study on Climate Justice at Aldersgate UMC

Mission u will be at St. Luke in Pensacola, Florida on July 20-21, 2018.

District Spiritual Enrichment Retreat will be at Opelika FUMC. The date will be announced later.

Blessings to all,

Judy Smith

Education and Interpretation Coordinator

District Coordinator for Social Action – Marge Stephens

Our district president, June Headrick, presented a program on human trafficking, including the labor aspect of unfair wages and working conditions, for the Watoola unit of UMW. The unit requested a program on this topic. "They use and abuse them. They are mean to them also" she said. June also presented the program at a friend's Baptist church in Pike County.

Brundidge UMW presented a program on human trafficking, which often is for the purpose of labor abuse, last February. The Pike County sheriff and city of Brundidge police chief participated. June Headrick, district president, attended.

Carolyn Coker, president of Grace UMW in Auburn, presented a program on human trafficking, including labor aspect, for her unit last year.

UMW member Lorna Wiggins organized a community-wide program on human trafficking last spring in Auburn. The director of the domestic abuse center and a member of the police force presented. Members of several UMW units attended, including Auburn UMC, Opelika FUMC, Grace UMC, Bowen UMC, Millbrook UMC, Murphy's Chapel UMC and Aldersgate UMC as well as area clergy other community members, and June Headrick, district president.

UMW members Ruth Gynther from Auburn UMC and Carolyn Coker from Grace UMC promoted and attended a program on human trafficking presented by the League of Women Voters in the spring of 2017. Ruth and Carolyn are League members. The problem of unjust labor was discussed. Community officials and Auburn University professors presented, followed by discussion and questions and answers.

Blessings,

Marge Stephens

District Coordinator for Social Action



CLIMATE JUSTICE MISSION STUDY

Aldersgate UMC, Montgomery [from 9 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on April 28](#)

The earth is our God given home. God gave humankind the responsibility of caring for the earth and for all forms of life in our earthly home. God also calls us to be a just people who live in ways that neither harm others nor the earth that sustains us --for all of life on earth is interconnected. As we experience climate change and see its harmful effects worldwide, how are we as people of faith, with a God given responsibility to care for the earth and to seek justice for all people, responding? The harmful effects of climate change have the greatest effect on those with the least resources, the poor in our world.

In this study we will focus on actual examples of the effects of climate change on the world's most vulnerable people. We will also look at how our consumption of the earth's natural resources impacts our environment and climate. In the upbuilding of God's kingdom, we are people of hope with a willingness to take action on our God given responsibility to care for the earthly home God has given us. Let us come together and ponder this challenge as we seek to be good stewards of our earthly home and to care for the most vulnerable people around the world with whom we share planet Earth.

To register visit www.aldersgateumc.org/events

The Opelika FUMC A.M. and P.M. units held their Call to Prayer and Self Denial meeting on February 22, 2018 at the church. Our speaker was Julie Baggs with Four Corners Ministries. Four Corners Ministries serves in Uganda.

In addition to Opelika FUMC UMW members, we also had attending Auburn UMC UMW members and Bowen UMC UMW members.



Attendees to the Training and Annual Day Event at Crawford UMC United Methodist Women in Phenix City, Alabama.