



# Alert

Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women



**Mission Team  
2008**

**Beth Bowdin**  
President

**Georgette Griffith**  
Vice President

**Mary Jo Morton**  
Secretary

**Margie Outlaw**  
Treasurer

**Beth Henson**  
Communications  
Coordinator

**Mae Langheld**  
Program Resources

**Nancy May**  
Chair, Nominations

**Virginia Lindley**  
Blue Lake

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**Mission  
Coordinators**

**Betty Ewbank**  
Spiritual Growth

**Edna Williams**  
Social Action

**Betty Worthington**  
Membership  
Nurture & Outreach

**Joyce Maddox**  
Education &  
Interpretation

**Mary Lou Brown**  
Spanish Language

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**Larry Goodpaster**  
Bishop

**Guthrie Childs**  
Dean of School of  
Missions

**Charlotte Hobson**  
Registrar

**Myra Martin**  
SEJ CP Group

**Lynn Hamric**  
Women's Division  
Director

## "Women of Faith: Walking In The Spirit"

**Guest Speaker: Susan Emrich**

**Song Leader: Beth Henson, Communications Coordinator, Baypines District**

**Pianist: Elizabeth Bell, Marianna District**

**Dancers: St. Lukes Sacred Dancers**

**36th Annual Day  
October 31-November 1, 2008  
Blue Lake Assembly, Andalusia, AL**

**Friday check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. in the Atrium. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday check-in is at the gym at 8:30 a.m.**

**Offering for Mission Giving**

**Who should attend?**

- Every United Methodist Woman
- Each unit has **ONE** voting delegate and **MUST** pre-register
- Bishop, District Superintendents, and Pastors



**Guest Speaker – Susan Emrich**

Susan and her husband, Harold, are members of the Madison First United Methodist Church located in Madison, Florida. A long-time Methodist, Susan has taught Sunday School, Disciple 1, and has served on various committees including Staff Parish and Finance.

Susan will give a motivational speech Friday night and will be the keynote speaker on Saturday. Come and be a "Woman of Faith: Walking in the Spirit".



*From the desk of the President...*

Greetings Sisters,

The long, hot, "lazy" days of summer are behind us! Everyone is ready to get back to work on United Methodist Women projects and missions that many of us let go for the summer. As we begin again, let's take a fresh look at our PURPOSE. Read it carefully paying special attention to the verbs. They are all active. Reading the PURPOSE with that in mind it becomes a challenge to each person. You might say, the United Methodist Women PURPOSE challenges each member to LIVE it, not just say it.

An opportunity to do that in a new way will be presented at the "For Christ sake...turn the world up-side down" workshop to be held Friday night. Don't forget your "pennies for mission" as you strive to walk miles for mission.

Annual Day is going to be an exciting and fun time as we follow the eight colors of feet to take stock of what we have done as Districts and a Conference this year. Challenges for the coming year will be presented as we look toward 2009. Both of these events we MUST attend!

Working together as United Methodist Women to "for Christ sake...turn the world up-side down".

Beth Bowdin  
(334) 898-7676  
bbowdin@entercomp.com

**AWARD OF ANNUAL ATTENDANCE BANNER COMING UP FAST!!!**

Marianna/Panama City is for the second year in a row leading in points -- and Mobile is coming up fast. Yeah Marianna/Panama City and Mobile!! Good Job!

Hey Ladies of the Baypines, Demopolis, Dothan, Montgomery/Opelika, Montgomery/Prattville and Pensacola Districts- **GET EXCITED - YOU CAN DO IT!** We still have one more opportunity to shine! One of YOU could easily unseat the leader - all you have to do is support your District ladies by YOUR ATTENDANCE! **Come to Conference UMW Annual Meeting on Oct 31-Nov 1.** A great program is planned. The conference mission team has been working all year to make this one of the best ever. Come see the Districts as they present skits/songs, etc. Participate with your District in this activity. Be an active part of this wonderful sisterhood as we strive to continue the mission work of United Methodist Women. **TERRIFIC THINGS** are planned for Friday night with a wonderful keynote speaker and Turn The World Upside Down focus groups with information about seven different issues: Community Food Security, Economic Justice, Public Education, Health Care, Militarism/Peace/National Security, Immigrant/Refugee Rights and Environmental Justice. To close off the Friday night schedule, we will have special never-seen-before live entertainment. You will enjoy the fellowship with friends - make new friends - **Live Our PURPOSE!**

Betty Helms, District President  
(334) 794-2172  
bhelms1@centurytel.net

Offering from School of Christian Missions - \$1,935.50  
Flood buckets - \$1,282.30  
Native American Day Care in Pembroke, NC - \$653.00

**ATTENTION!!!****MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**October 4, 2008  
Officer Update  
9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**All newly elected 2009 District Officers MUST attend this meeting.**

Registration will be from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at Blue Lake. Gathering and welcome will begin at 9:30 a.m. Update will be from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. If more time is needed, we will finish after lunch.

**October 31-November 1, 2008  
Conference Annual Day**

Our year has had such an exciting start with *Women's Tapestry: Weaving the Threads of our Lives* in Dothan on Feb. 22-23. The keynote speaker was Gail Losch, a Biblical Storyteller that made the Scripture come alive. One of best Spiritual Enrichment Retreats was led by Julia Tulloch, Secretary of Leadership Development of Women's Division.

The School of Christian Mission held on July 24-26 featured Israel-Palestine led by Dr. Ervin Dailey; I Believe in Jesus led by Lynn Hamric and Rev. Donald Smith; Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival led by Virginia Lindley and Joann Ashley; and Teaching Adults to Teach Mission to Children led by Betty Helms.

Annual Day will be held at Blue Lake Oct. 31st-Nov. 1st. **Registration will be from 4:00-6:00 with dinner beginning at 5:30-6:30. The program will begin at 6:30 in the gym.** Our keynote speaker, Susan Emrich from Marianna, FL will give a motivated talk followed by "Turn the World Upside Down" focus groups and closing with special entertainment you don't want to miss.

**Saturday registration will begin at 8:00-9:15 a.m. with the Annual meeting beginning at 9:15.** The Theme is *"Women of Faith-Walking in the Spirit"*. We will have special music performed by the St. Luke's Sacred Dancers from Pensacola, FL. Remember our Special Mission Project is "Pennies for Mission" so keep collecting those pennies (and folding money) for Mission.

I want to urge all United Methodist Women to attend ANNUAL DAY.

Georgette T. Griffith  
Vice President  
(334) 289-8273  
griffithgeo@demopoliscatv.com



**Second Quarterly Report  
April 1-June 30, 2008  
UMW MISSION GIVING**

Pledge to Mission	\$	25,671.11
Special Mission Recognition		2,255.00
Gift to Mission		1,267.75
Gift in Memory		997.50
World Thank Offering		1,784.94
Call to Prayer		8,139.00
A brighter Future for Children and Youth		47.00
Assembly Offering		6.50
Scarritt-Bennet Center		5.00
Crusade Scholarships		50.00
Cameroon Women		220.00
Adv. 1408 Israel & Palestine		50.00
UMCOR		2,289.78
Adv. Project14908 (Liberia)		50.00
Nothing but Nets		10.00
Dumas Wesley		2,068.60
Nellie Burge		2,068.62
Noah's Ark		1,468.60
S.K.I.P		1,506.12
Mobile Inner City		1,568.60
Hispanic		1,468.61
A&MD Fund		4,090.00
Blue Lake Fund		4,087.25
Assembly/Jurs. Love Offering		410.63
Blue Lake Bedspreads		311.79
Blue Lake Camp Scholarships		75.00

**TOTAL \$61,967.40**

Included in Pledge to Mission above:  
A Seed is a Promise-----\$ 195.00  
Pennies for Mission-----\$1,907.32

What better way to let someone know that you are thinking about them in the loss of a loved one than with a Gift in memory Card. Check with your Treasurer!

In HIS Service,

Margie Outlaw, Treasurer  
(334) 299-6877  
moutlaw200@centurytel.net

Don't forget you  
Pennies for Missions!



**Report from Nomination Chair**

Good News! The Nominations Committee selected and the Executive Committee approved the slate of officers listed in this Alert issue to be voted on at Annual Day, November 1, 2008.

We are still SCOUTING for new Talent. We will have Talent Bank forms and Recommendation forms at the Nomination table on Annual Day.

We need your gifts, time, and talents! We want you to have an opportunity to be a Conference Officer in the future.

Nancy May  
Nominations Chair  
(850) 994-1108  
monkmay@yahoo.com



**Program Resources**

We are having a wonderful year in the Book Room. If you haven't received your reading books, remember, they can be used for three years. I would like to recommend *Grace Matters* by Chris P. Price. John Perkins, Chairman of Christian Com Development, said "It is a real story about real people and real faith". Glenn C. Lousy, Boston University, said, "It is a story of a powerful Christian faith, intense, personal commitment, and maddening human frailty."

Also, *Leap of Faith* by Queen Noor. Queen Noor is the story of a young American woman who became wife and partner to an Arab Monarch. It is a story of a mother coming to terms with being the wife of the King and the effect it had on her family. But, it is also a love story of how she lost her heart to a King.



Mae Langheld  
(334) 774-7275  
langheld21@charter.net

Report of Committee on Nominations  
Submitted by Nancy May, Chair

The following offices are to be filled for a two-year term (2009-2010) unless otherwise indicated.



**President**

**Beth Bowdin**  
*Dothan District*



**Secretary**

**Mary Jo Morton**  
*Marianna/Panama City District*



**Mission Coordinator for  
Social Action**  
**Edna Williams**  
*Montgomery/Opelika District*



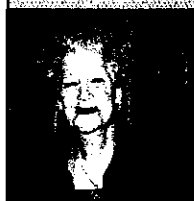
**Communications**

**Beth Henson**  
*Baypines District*



**Mission Coordinator for  
Education & Interpretation**

**Betty Helms**  
*Dothan District*



**Mission Coordinator for  
Spiritual Growth**

**Virginia Lindley**  
*Marianna/Panama City District*



**Blue Lake  
Representative**

**Debbie Bush**  
*Pensacola District*



**Program  
Resources**

**Ruth Ann Powers**  
*Montgomery/Opelika District*

Committee on Nominations



**Pat Dodge**  
*Pensacola District*

Class of  
2011



**Toni Broughton**  
*Mobile District*

**Important Dates to Remember**

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2008

- **October 3-4, 2008**  
Executive Committee &  
District Officer Update  
Blue Lake
- **October 31-Nov 1, 2008**  
Conference Annual Mtg  
Blue Lake

**More Important Dates to Remember**

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2009

- **January 9-10, 2009**  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Blue Lake
- **February 20-21, 2009**  
Tapestry Retreat  
Montgomery, AL
- **March 27-29, 2009**  
Spiritual Enrichment Retreat  
Blue Lake
- **June 7-10, 2009**  
Annual Conference  
Montgomery, AL
- **June 11-14, 2009**  
South Atlantic Regional School of  
Christian Mission  
Kentucky Wesleyan College
- **July 10-11, 2009**  
Executive Committee & Finance  
Meeting  
Blue Lake
- **July 23-25, 2009**  
Cooperative School of Christian  
Mission  
Blue Lake
- **October 30-31, 2009**  
District Officer Update and  
Annual Meeting  
Blue Lake

**South Atlantic Regional School of  
Christian Mission  
Kentucky Wesleyan College**



**Reminder of Reports and Due Dates**

**Local Unit Secretaries**  
New Report and Financial Officer  
Ben Henson, Alert Editor, to be published  
October 1, 2008

**District Chairmen**  
New Report and Financial Officer  
Ben Henson, Alert Editor, to be published  
October 1, 2008

**Annual Conference**  
New Report and Financial Officer  
Ben Henson, Alert Editor, to be published  
October 1, 2008

## Blue Lake

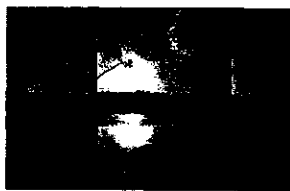
Have you been to Blue Lake recently? This summer has been a very busy time at Blue Lake. The camping season is drawing to a close. Many of our children and youth have had experiences with each other and with God at Blue Lake this summer that they will remember all of their lives. Many persons decide to follow Jesus at Blue Lake.

I have just returned from a very successful School of Missions at Blue Lake. The schedule was packed, but you could tell from the expressions on the peoples' faces that the study classes and the plenaries were very meaningful. New friends were met and old relationships were renewed. I had the privilege of leading the course on "Giving Our Hearts Away -Native American Survival". We had a total of 43 in this study class. We quickly became a caring, sharing, and giving community, seeking to know God's call to us concerning Native Americans.

You will have opportunities coming up this fall to attend important meetings at Blue Lake - October 4, Officers Update and Oct. 31-Nov 1, Conference Annual Day.

There are many changes taking place at Blue Lake. You need to come to Blue Lake and meet the new program director - Patric Newton. You should see what has taken place at Pinewood, Dogwood and the Gym. Be looking forward to new signage and renovation of the Chapel.

Blue Lake is a special place to meet God and your fellow Christians.



Virginia Lindley  
Blue Lake Representative  
(850) 235-7879  
[vlindley@bellsouth.net](mailto:vlindley@bellsouth.net)

## From the Secretary.....



I learned in the Finance Meeting that at least one District Superintendent or their administrative assistant will not let the secretary of District UMW run the directory at their office. I suspect it was the latter that made the decision and the DS knows nothing about it.

I am going to write a personal letter to each DS asking them to work with us on this as we are all in this together. If it does not work, we will not have lost anything. I know how possessive some of these people can get about their positions. We certainly do not offer any threat to them - we should be an asset to them. I am the secretary of my District CORE Team because I want to stay informed of what is going on at the District and Conference level.

Take Heart, Ladies. I am here to support you.

In His Name,

Mary Jo Morton  
(850) 482-3688  
[mjmorton@embarqmail.com](mailto:mjmorton@embarqmail.com)

## Websites

General Board of Global Ministries, UMC/Women's Division  
[www.gbqm-umc.org/umw](http://www.gbqm-umc.org/umw)

United Methodist Women  
Alabama-West Florida Conference  
[www.gbqm-umc.org/awfconfumw/](http://www.gbqm-umc.org/awfconfumw/)

Mission Resource Center  
[www.missionresourcecenter.org](http://www.missionresourcecenter.org)

UWM Online Community  
[www.umwonline.org](http://www.umwonline.org)



## Education and Interpretation

By the time the Alert goes to print we will have participated in the Cooperative School of Christian Mission at Blue Lake and begun to think about our fall meetings coming up; District Annual days, District Officer Training at Blue Lake on October 3-4, and Conference Annual meeting, October 31-November 1. This means that information has to be gathered on all levels so that recognition can be given at these various meetings.

I know that each local unit has been in mission in many ways throughout this year, and we want to hear how you have helped bring God's kingdom a little closer through your mission efforts. At our annual meetings this year, certificates will be awarded to those who have achieved bronze, silver or gold status in the Mission Today program; however, each unit who completes the "Local Unit Mission Today Report Form" and returns it to their district will be eligible to receive a Basic Mission Today Participation Certificate. I think every unit in our conference has done something for missions so send those reports in and be recognized for what you are doing in God's name.

We also need to know how many of your units have had mission studies and what action has been taken as a result of that mission study. You will be receiving forms for this information as well, and I encourage you to make sure that you send this information to your District officer.

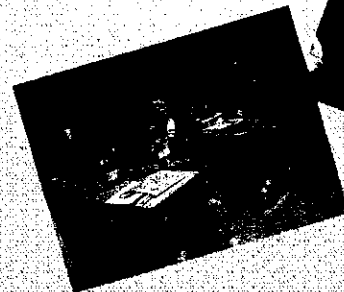
It has been a wonderful year and I commend you and thank you for all of your efforts to do God's will in your life and in your UMW. We serve a glorious Savior and He has promised that if we lift Him up, He will draw all men unto Him. That is our hope and our prayer; that the UMW is lifting Him up in all that we do.

Joyce Maddox  
 Coordinator for Education and Interpretation  
 (334) 585-5071  
 ejoycewatford@hughes.net

## Cooperative School of Christian Missions Blue Lake, July 2008



Emily Vandemark  
 Tonya Elmore





**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**  
**ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**  
**36th ANNUAL MEETING –OCTOBER 31-NOV. 1, 2008**

**“WOMEN OF FAITH - WALKING IN THE SPIRIT”**

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

- Every United Methodist Woman
- Each Unit has **ONE** voting delegate and **MUST** pre-register
- Bishop, District Superintendents, and Pastors

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM!**

Roommates **MUST** register together. Full payment **MUST** accompany registration.  
You may select one roommate. Linwood Wing on first come first served basis.  
Conference and District Officers are Voting Delegates and must pay \$5.00 registration fee only.  
Registration deadline is **October 17, 2008**. **No registration will be accepted on the day of the event.**

**ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST PRE-REGISTER.** Each person **MUST** use a separate registration form.  
Duplicate this form as needed. Friday check-in begins at 4:00 P.M. outside the Chapel door.. Dinner is at 6:00 P.M. Saturday check-in is at the Gym beginning at 8:30 A.M. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO Blue Lake.** Mail Registration form and check to: **Lisa Smith, Registrar**

**Blue Lake Assembly**  
**8500 Oakwood Lane**  
**Andalusia, Alabama 36420, Phone: 334-222-5407**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Local Delegate: yes ( ) no ( )

Which UMW Office do you hold: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate \_\_\_\_:      Local Unit \_\_\_\_\_      District \_\_\_\_\_      Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap \_\_\_\_\_      Downstairs room needed \_\_\_\_\_      First time at Blue Lake \_\_\_\_\_

ROOMMATE: \_\_\_\_\_

All fees include the \$5.00 registration fee:

Friday night and Saturday (double)      \$55.00

Friday night and Saturday (single)      \$77.50

Saturday only (includes lunch)      \$13.00

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILD CARE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE THIS YEAR**

**ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE  
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
HEALTH INFORMATION**

Please Return This Form with Your Registration

Please bring your medical insurance card in case of illness or emergency.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

List all medications you are currently taking and the prescribing physician

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where could medical personnel locate this medication during the sessions?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Specials Needs – Please specify

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My physician is \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number is: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (night) \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of nearest relative \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

***Please select one:***

\_\_\_ I hereby give my permission for qualified medical personnel to provide any emergency medical care which they may deem necessary. I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, The AL-WFL Conference, The United Methodist Church, and/or Blue Lake for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

\_\_\_ I waive any necessary medical care and hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the AL-WFL Conference, The United Methodist Church, and/or Blue Lake for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Alert  
Alabama-West Florida Conference  
United Methodist Women  
Beth Henson, Editor  
27558 Stratford Glen Dr.  
Daphne, AL 36526

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**The Purpose of  
United Methodist Women**

The organized unit of 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.

**Communications Corner**



The first step in critiquing the quality of your newsletter's content is to be familiar with what's included. The checklist below will help you to do that.

Evaluating content includes:

- 1) Identifying what is included
- 2) Determining what should be eliminated
- 3) Determining what should be added
- 4) Assessing how well it is written

Beth Henson  
Alert Editor  
[bah9103@aol.com](mailto:bah9103@aol.com)

continued in next issue