



# Alert

Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women

Volume 38  
No. 4  
Fall  
August  
2010

## Mission Team 2010

**Beth Bowdin**  
President

**Nancy May**  
Vice President

**Mary Jo Morton**  
Secretary

**Margie Outlaw**  
Treasurer

**Beth Henson**  
Communications  
Coordinator

**Ruth Ann Powers**  
Program Resources

**Pat Dodge**  
Chair, Nominations

**Virginia Lindley**  
Blue Lake

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## Mission Coordinators

**Martha Spiva**  
Spiritual Growth

**Edna Williams**  
Social Action

**Georgette Griffith**  
Membership  
Nurture & Outreach

**Betty Helms**  
Education &  
Interpretation

**Martha Rovira**  
Language  
Coordinator

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**Dr. Paul Leeland**  
Bishop

**Elizabeth Andrews**  
Dean of School of  
Missions

**Charlotte Hobson**  
Registrar

**Lynn Hamric**  
Women's Division  
Director

## "Come Together at the Table With Grace and Togetherness"

**38th Annual Day**  
**October 22-23, 2010**  
**Blue Lake Assembly, Andalusia, AL**

**Friday check-in begins at 4:00 pm in the Atrium. Dinner is at 5:00 pm.**

**District Officers Update – 6:00 pm.**

**Saturday check-in is at the gym beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

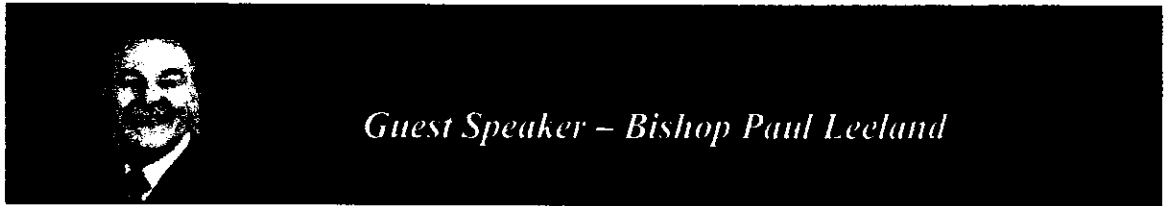
**Registration deadline is October 9, 2010.**

**No registration will be accepted on the day of this event.**

### 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 – Bishop Paul Leeland*

**Bev Snyder, President, Montgomery/Prattville  
District presented a prayer shawl to Beth Bowdin  
for her dedication and service as  
Alabama West Florida Conference President.**

**Thank you Beth for your many years of service!**





*From the desk of the President...*

**GREETINGS SISTERS!**

This year is quickly winding down as is my term as President of this unique, awesome organization of women whose PURPOSE is to Know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

As you are reading this, we are looking forward to the Leadership Development event and Annual Day. It is of utmost importance that ALL District Mission Team members come and meet with their conference counterpart to go over responsibilities and share helpful tips! (There is always something new we can learn.) The goal for the event is to help each mission team member to be as prepared as possible to serve as leaders in their District. The conference mission team is working hard to assure the time spent will be profitable!

District Mission Teams you have made a commitment to the women of your District to be the best you can be as you live the PURPOSE and serve as a leader. Part of that commitment is to become prepared to serve for the position you have been elected. Make your plans to be present and participate fully.

Annual Day is our Celebrating together the many accomplishments of the AWF Conference United Methodist Women. It may be Mission Giving; Mission Today units; charter for Racial justice Policies unites. a new Unit or circle. Whatever, we can rejoice together! We will worship together in song and WORD, visit with old & new friends; make plans for the future! Annual Day is our special day together as a Conference and takes stock of our year and maybe sees where we need to go.

As I look back over the 4 years you have allowed me the privilege of serving as AWF Conference President, I am proud to be a part of this special group of women who continue to carry on work begun over 140 years ago by women seeking to make life of women, children, and youth better. May we continue this important work with zeal for as long as there is a need for someone to advocate for those marginalized, without basic needs, the "least of these" in our world. Think about it....if we don't speak/work for them, who will?

United Methodist Women is noted for being "the Mission arm of the Church", for going and speaking when others back off. They see the need and move forward to meet needs. I have watched this happen many times in the last 4 years. Thank you for allowing me the many opportunities to work with you as we have emphasized over and over MISSION is our goal; MISSION is our purpose; MISSION is our reason for being.

United Methodist Women has been, is, and will continue to be a vital part of my life. I look forward to seeing you all at future United Methodist Women events. You are and will always be special people in my life. Thank you everyone for all you have done and do through United Methodist Women and all you have done and do as a part of my supportive community!

See you October 22 for Officer Update/ Leadership Event and October 23 for Annual Day!

"...I now remind you to stir into **flame**  the gift of God which is within you..." II Timothy 1:6

My love and God's peace be with you.

**Beth Bowdin, President**  
**AWF Conference UMW**  
**(334) 898-7676**  
**[bbowdin@centurylink.net](mailto:bbowdin@centurylink.net)**

Registration Information  
Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women  
38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
District Officers Update – October 22, 2010  
Annual Day – October 23, 2010

***“Come To The Table With Grace and Togetherness”***

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 is available for first come first serve basis. Conference and District Officers and Voting Delegates must pay \$5.00 registration fee early (\$10.00 to stay in Linwood).

Registration deadline is **October 9, 2010**. **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 pm in the Atrium. Dinner is at 5:00 pm. Saturday check-in is at the Gym beginning at 8:30 am. Make checks payable to: **AL-WF UMW**

Mail Registration form and check to: **Charlotte Hobson, Registrar**  
**PO Box 191**  
**Elba, AL 36323**  
**(334) 897-3510**

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**Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

What is the name of your District? \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

All fees include \$5.00 registration fee: Friday night and Saturday (Double) Oakwood \$55.00, Linwood \$60.00 (Single) Oakwood \$80.00, Linwood \$85.00

Saturday only (includes lunch) \$13.00

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE  
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
HEALTH INFORMATION

Return This Form with Your Registration

Please bring your medical insurance card in case of illness or emergency.  
If desired, you may bring this form in a sealed envelope and it will only be opened in an 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**From the Vice President,**

Greetings from your Vice President: It's almost time for Leadership Training and "Annual Day" at Blue Lake. The theme this year is "Come to the Table with Grace & Togetherness". Be sure to mark your calendar for October 22 & 23, 2010. Bishop Paul Leeland will be our guest speaker on Friday and Saturday. We will enjoy singing with song leader, Reverend Jackie Slaughter and music by Heidi Branch. Liturgical dancers will be our special treat by the Korean children from St. James UMC, Montgomery, Alabama. If you plan to come Friday and you are not an officer, you may want to attend a class of your choice to observe. This will be a great opportunity for you to learn about UMW leadership. We look forward to seeing you there for education and fellowship.

In His service,

Nancy May  
(850) 994-1108  
[monkmay@yahoo.com](mailto:monkmay@yahoo.com)

**2011 Mission Study Topics****Spiritual Growth**

Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Reconciliation

**Geographic**

Haiti

**Social Issue**

Mission and Evangelism

**God is great all the time!  
All the time God is great!**

Your Conference Nominations committee attempted to contact all of the members we have in our Talent Bank files, by phone or e-mail between January and July. We also contacted district officers for referrals. We appreciate the time you spent talking to us or responding to our e-mails. We will gladly receive an updated or new Talent Bank form from any UMW member.

We are pleased to present the Slate of AL-WFL Conference Officers for 2011-2013. Please review the slate as it appears in this newsletter. Then send your delegates to vote their approval at our Conference Annual Day on October 23, 2010.

District Nominations Chair and members are encouraged to attend Leadership Training on October 22, 2010. We will review points of concern from the UMW Handbook and have a time for questions and sharing of ideas.

Your sister in Christ,

Pat Dodge  
Conference Nominations Chair  
[pfdodge@live.com](mailto:pfdodge@live.com)  
(850) 857-4705

**Success in Scholarships – Blue Lake**

With the generous assistance of the members of the UMW and other friends of the AWF Conference, this year Blue Lake Camp has provided scholarships for 80 children, in addition to almost 100 from the Dumas Wesley and Inner City Mission in Mobile, and 12 inner city children from Pensacola. Partnership funds were also made available for 82 children of the Common Ground Ministry in Montgomery.

As the financial crisis and the Oil Crisis continue, we are thankful that God has put it on the hearts of our supporters to contribute to these scholarship needs. Being away from their sometimes troubled homes, in nature, and surrounded by nurturing staff who share the love of God, allows children to have perspective about the problems and gives them a chance to see possibilities in their own lives. Blue Lake is committed to continuing to invest in these children, and invite you to continue to be blessed by them also by being sure that a week of camp is something they can count on.

The Blue Lake scholarship fund accepts gifts all year.

Gifts can be designated and sent to:  
Blue Lake Camp  
8500 Oakwood Lane  
Andalusia, Alabama 36420



Phyllis Murray

**Second Quarterly Report  
June 30, 2010  
UMW MISSION GIVING**

Pledge to Mission	\$	22,648.43
Special Mission Recognition		1,200.00
Gift to Mission		1,015.00
Gift in Memory		940.00
World Thank Offering		2,550.83
A Call to Prayer and Self Denial		5,230.47
A Brighter Future for Children and Youth		35.00
Scarritt-Bennett Center		100.00
UMCOR Advance for Haiti Earthquake		577.00
UMCOR		170.00
Dumas Wesley		1,110.31
Nellie Burge		1,110.31
Noah's Ark		1,110.31
S.K.I.P		1,110.34
Mobile Inner City		1,110.31
Hispanic Ministries		1,110.31
Assembly/Jurisdiction Love Offering		524.57
Blue Lake		2,678.42
A&MD Fund		<u>2,656.42</u>

**TOTAL \$46,988.03**

This will be our last year for Pennies for Mission. Let's see if we can make this year the best. We have five more months to make this our top year. Local Units, let's get to work and see what we can do.

Remember to buy a card for Mission. They are beautiful cards and cost only \$5.00. Anyone would be happy to receive one. The Memorial cards are also beautiful and mean so much to those who have lost a loved one.

In HIS Service,

**Margie Outlaw**  
AWF Conference Treasurer  
43 East King Street  
Newton, AL 36352  
334-299-6877  
[Moutlaw200@centurytel.net](mailto:Moutlaw200@centurytel.net)



**Alabama/West Florida UMW  
Proposed Budget for 2011**

District A&D Fund	\$	19,205.00
Alert printing and mailing		1,000.00
Audit		500.00
President's Expense to other meetings		200.00
Committee on Nominations Expense		25.00
Officer Expenses		500.00
Program Resources		50.00
Conference Directory		200.00
Executive Committee Meetings		6,000.00
ANNUAL Day and Officer update		5,500.00
Conference Scholarships/Assembly or Jurisdiction		300.00
Retiring Officers Pins		140.00
Spiritual Enrichment Retreat		5,600.00
Regional School Travel Expense		4,700.00
Jurisdiction/Assembly Conference Travel		1,500.00
Coop. School of Christian Mission Budget		2,500.00
District Leadership Development		400.00
Conference Coop. School of Christian Mission Expenses		4,000.00
*A&MD to Jurisdiction		1,267.00
Alabama Arise Membership Dues		300.00
Church Women United of Alabama		75.00
Church Women United of Florida		25.00
World Federation of UMW		25.00
Florida Impact Dues		100.00
Gift to Mission & Gift in Memory Cards		100.00
Stationary & Supplies		200.00
Contingency Fund		<u>93.00</u>

**Total \$ 54,505.00**

\*A&MD to Jurisdiction is always 1% of your total Pledge.

**Pledge for 2011 is \$126,700.00**

In HIS Service,


**Margie Outlaw, Treasurer**  
(334) 299-6877  
[moutlaw200@centurytel.net](mailto:moutlaw200@centurytel.net)

*Reminder!*


**Only UMW approved articles may be sold  
at meetings - SERRV, Program Resources  
and UMW cards.**




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




**President**  
**Betty Helms**




**Secretary**  
**Sheila Hare**




**Communications  
Coordinator**  
**Barb Henning**



**Mission Coordinator for  
Social Action**  
**Clara Ester**




**Mission Coordinator for  
Education and Interpretation**  
**Margie Grimes Miller**




**Committee on Charter for  
Racial Justice Policies**  
**Lucy Romero**

**Committee on Nominations**

Class of  
2011




**Beth Bowdin**



**Joann Young Ashley**

Class of  
2012



**Mary Jo Morton**

*"Through love serve one another."*  
Galatians 5:13

### Important Dates to Remember

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2010

- **October 2, 2010**  
Executive Committee  
& Nominations Meeting  
Blue Lake
- **October 22-23, 2010**  
District Officer Updates  
Conference Annual Meeting  
Blue Lake
- **November 7, 2010**  
UMW Sunday

2011

- **January 7-8, 2011**  
Executive Committee  
& Nominations Meeting  
Blue Lake
- **February 25-26, 2011**  
Tapestry, Port St. Joe, FL  
Hosted by Marianna-Panama City  
District
- **March 25-27, 2011**  
Spiritual Enrichment Retreat  
Blue Lake
- **July 8-9, 2011**  
Executive Committee  
& Nominations Meeting  
Blue Lake
- **July 21-23, 2011**  
Cooperative School of Christian  
Missions  
Blue Lake
- **October 5-6, 2011**  
Executive Committee  
& Nominations Meeting  
Blue Lake
- **October 28-29, 2011**  
Leadership Training  
Conference Annual Meeting  
Blue Lake

### Membership Nurture and Outreach

We had some excellent speakers (Bishop Morris, Rev. Walker Epps, Rev. Dr. Clayton Childers and Ruth Gynther) at School of Christian Mission. The theme, Faith. Hope. Love in Action, was certainly evident in all who attended and was carried home with each of us.

This year we will have Leadership Training on October 22nd and Annual Day on October 23rd--a week early. This will allow Bishop Leeland to attend and be the guest speaker. You don't want to miss this so **MARK YOUR CALENDAR.**

I need each District MNO to send me a picture of your young circle members with their names and ages. I also need all units/circles that were chartered this year. I also need a copy of the charter from Women's Division.

Keeping records of our membership is so important, but we also need to stay informed about the needs and concerns of membership as well as organizing new units.

All of us are called to be good leaders and good members within United Methodist Women.

**Georgette Griffith**  
(334 289-8273  
[griffithgeo@att.net](mailto:griffithgeo@att.net)



**TAPESTRY 2011**  
*"Weaving The Threads of Faith"*

February 25-26, 2011  
First United Methodist Church  
Port St. Joe, FL

Hosted by Marianna-Panama City District

Guest Speaker – Susan Emrich  
Sessions include; Grieving, Journal Writing, Quilting,  
Floral Arranging, and Stress Relief



### Blue Lake

In the last Alert, I informed you that it would be my last report as your Blue Lake Representative. However, our President, Beth Bowdin, has asked me to assume this position for another year. I accepted this assignment very willingly as I feel that Blue Lake is such an important part of our United Methodist Women's ministry. The Christian lives of children, youth and adults are constantly being affected by the ministries that take place at Blue Lake.

The Board of Trustees for Blue Lake now meet monthly and have assumed a greater role in the operation of Blue Lake under the expert and inspired leadership of Director Phyllis Murray. Henry Gross, a Board Trustee member, is giving a great deal of expert time to the finances of Blue Lake. The Capitol Funds Campaign is moving along. Rev. Rob West is the new chair of the Board of Trustees. The Board has hired a new Development Director, Sissy Louise Moore. The new Development Director began her work on July 12, 2010. Patric Newton continues to do an excellent job as Blue Lake Program Director. Patric works very closely with the very active program committee. Estimated summer camp enrollment should exceed at least a growth of 100 campers. Many camp scholarships have been presented this summer.

In all probability, the next major building project at Blue Lake will be the renovation of the chapel. Funds are being solicited to make this possible.

The Board of Trustees continually study the strategic plans and goals and mission of Blue Lake.

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

### Program Resources

Program Resources will have a busy time as I prepare for the Conference Annual Meeting, October 22 & 23, 2010. The good news is that I will have two of the things many have asked about. The 2011 Reading Program books will be available and I will have the ability to accept credit cards. The New Program Book, "Finding Peace" will be there as well as the 2011 Prayer Calendar. I am ordering double the number I had last year so I hope everyone will get what you need. There will also be mission study texts and organizational materials.

District Secretaries of Program Resource, if you want Program Resources for your Districts, please let me know before October 1, 2010. I will order extras of any resources you want.

Start making your plans for the 2011 Reading Program for your units. Be sure to send your 2010 Reading Program lists to your District Secretaries of Program Resources before September 15, 2010.

Ruth Ann Powers  
(334) 298-6405  
[rall@ctvea.net](mailto:rall@ctvea.net)

### Websites

General Board of Global Ministries,  
UMC/Women's Division  
<http://new.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)

United Methodist Church  
[www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

UWM Online Community  
<http://umwonline.net/>

WWW.

### Education and Interpretation

We have just completed the Cooperative School of Christian Mission for 2010. I hope many of you attended this year. It was a great school. The studies this year are exceptional and as always very timely with the topics. Our spiritual growth study was For the Love of God: John's Letters; general issue study: Joy to the World; Mission & Evangelism and geographic study: The Courage and Beauty of Sudan. Remember attending the school helps to fulfill Mission Today criteria #2.

This is the time of year when we begin to compile reports in preparation for district and conference annual meetings. If your unit made kits for UMCOR – check off #18. Look over the criteria and I am sure you will find that most of you have completed many of the items on the list. Remember ...these kits are being shipped to Haiti and Chile to help them recover from the earthquakes. **YOU MAKE MISSION POSSIBLE!** Read your April issue of Response magazine containing articles on mission and evangelism which is the general issue study for this year's school. There is a wealth of information in all of the articles. Go to your next meeting with a review of one of the articles and give a "Response Moment". The unit then fulfills Mission Today criteria #13.

You probably have already fulfilled many of the steps to be a Mission Today unit this year! If not, you still have time to be a **MISSION TODAY UNIT!** The most important step is to make and meet your pledge. If a unit has made their goal you have also completed #10 of the Mission Today program. Do you use the Prayer Calendar (#6) and correspond with at least 5 persons listed during the year? Have you implemented the Charter for Racial Justice and become a Charter Club member? (#8) I know that many of you have already checked off many of the Mission Today criteria and are on your way to becoming a Mission Today unit. **LET'S DO IT!!!**

Another way to become a Mission Today unit is to have attended Conference Annual Meeting (#3) at beautiful Blue Lake Camp Grounds last October. If you did not attend last year, come and celebrate the accomplishments of your district and unit this year on October 23 and you will be able to check it off your list for next year's Mission Today Report. This year Bishop Leeland will be our keynote speaker. You do not want to miss hearing from someone that is very supportive of the mission work of United Methodist Women. I encourage you to make plans to attend this event. You will hear about all the mission work your conference has been busy doing all year as well as have the opportunity to renew friendships and make new friends.

Betty Helms

(334) 794-2172, [bhelms1@centurytel.net](mailto:bhelms1@centurytel.net)

### Cooperative School of Christian Missions Blue Lake- July 2010



## Vote on Standing Rules

(Changes must be approved by majority of votes of delegates to Annual Day)



### II. DUTIES OF APPOINTED LEADERS, Art II, p 101

- D. 1. (New to Standing Rules) *The Blue Lake Representative shall represent the conference mission team on the Blue Lake Board of Trustees.*
2. The Blue Lake Representative promotes plans for raising funds for Blue Lake, i.e. "In Honor", "In Memory" gifts to be forwarded to the conference treasurer, ~~supervise the storing and handling of all properties belonging to the conference United Methodist Women (in the UM Weloset).~~

### III. COMMITTEES, Art. III and IV, p.101-105

- D. There shall be a Committee on Registration
1. The committee shall be composed of the following:
- Registrar, appointed by the president, shall be the Chairperson
  - Treasurer
  - Communications Coordinator
  - Blue Lake Chairperson
  - others as determined by the Executive Committee
- E. There shall be a Committee on Communications
- The committee shall be composed of:
- Communications Coordinator, who shall be the Chair
  - Vice President
  - Secretary
  - Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth
  - Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation
  - One District President
  - Treasurer, if needed.

### VIII FUNDS Art. VII, page 108

- D. Each member of the local unit shall *may* give \$2.00 per year to supplement the Administration and Membership Development expenses.
- E. The conference organization shall *may* support the Blue Lake Project. Funds for Blue Lake shall *may* be secured through the asking of \$2.00 per year and through "In Memory" and "In Honor" gifts.
- F. Each member of the local unit shall *may* give twenty-five cents (.25) per year for Assembly/Jurisdiction love offering.

### IX. SPECIALS

A \$4.50 special per member shall *may* be paid each year.

- Seventy-five cents (.75) of this amount shall be given to Dumas Wesley Community Center in Mobile, Alabama;
- Seventy-five cents (.75) of this amount shall be given to Nellie Burge Community Center in Montgomery, Alabama;
- Seventy-five cents (.75) of this amount shall be given to United Methodist Inner City Mission in Mobile, Alabama;
- Seventy-five cents (.75) of this amount shall be given to Noah's Ark in Panama City, Florida;
- Seventy-five cents (.75) of this amount shall be given to SKIP, Inc. in Montgomery, Alabama;
- Seventy-five cents (.75) of this amount shall be given to Hispanic Ministries within the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

## Spiritual Growth

As your Spiritual Growth Coordinator, I attended the South Atlantic Regional School Of Mission at Ferrum College in Virginia sponsored by the Women's Division. In addition to training, I took the spiritual growth study *For the Love of God: The Epistles of John*. My leader began by quoting the Serenity Prayer. She asked us to think of one thing in our life that could not be changed. There were diverse answers, but the consensus was that each of us is a beloved child of God, chosen by Him for His purpose. God is light, and we were challenged to walk in His the light. We can also light the way for others by putting FAITH, HOPE and LOVE into ACTION, which was the theme of the school. Bishop Morris also inspired us and gave additional insights into John's letters and his message during our Cooperative School of Christian Mission at Blue Lake. It is my hope that this relevant study will be taught in each of the districts. I have the study materials and am available to assist you with planning.

I am looking forward to seeing you at Conference Annual Day at Blue Lake on October 23. Each district will have an opportunity to "show their colors" and share their mission activities and accomplishments. During the Friday evening program, all district officers will be trained by their conference counterparts. Even if you have attended before, it is very important to receive updated information and meet the new officers in your position. Please make every effort to attend.

Mark your calendars now for next year's Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake on **March 25-27, 2011**. The theme is "Your Spiritual Journey." If you would like to facilitate an activity or a Focus Group, please let me know.

**Martha Spiva**  
[mespiva@bellsouth.net](mailto:mespiva@bellsouth.net)

*Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God. I John 4:7*

## Reminder of Reports and Due Dates

### Local Unit Secretaries

New Roster of Local Unit Officers due to Beth Henson, Alert Editor, **no later than October 1, 2010.**

### District Secretaries

New Roster of District Officers due to Mary Jo Morton, Conference Secretary, and Beth Henson, Alert Editor, **no later than October 1, 2010.**

### District Treasurers

Final reports due to Margie Outlaw, Conference Treasurer, **no later than December 10, 2010.**

Reports due by September 15, 2010

Reading Program Reports

Mission Study Participants

Mission Today Reports

District New Unit Reports

## Congratulations

**Save Kids of Incarcerated Parents (SKIP)** was chosen as one of Babble.com's best organizations and charities for children.

For additional information the link is <http://www.babble.com/kid/kid-activities/25-best-organizations-childrens-charities-nonprofits/>



**Members of the Mary Circle at FUMC in Panama City at a Noah's Ark retreat.**

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Foley, AL Permit 9

**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.

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**Communications Corner**

What a wonderful four years it has been for me to serve as your Communications Coordinator for the Alabama West Florida Conference. I have learned so much about the Conference and established some blessed friendships I will cherish through the rest of my life. God has certainly been good to us. As this is my last issue I will publish as the Alert Editor, I thank God for the opportunity to serve you. I plan to continue to participate in the events sponsored by the Conference. I firmly believe in the mission of UMW. As quoted by deputy general secretary of Women's Division, Harriett Olson, "United Methodist Women has urgent work to do: turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world."

What has God called you to do? Find out by getting involved in your local unit and attending District and Conference events. There are so many things for you to learn and ways you can serve God. Share the love of God wherever you go. Tell someone what you are a United Methodist Woman!

God Bless!

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Phil. 4:13

