

Circuit Writer

FEBRUARY 2020

DISTRICT:

March 14, 2020: Day Apart, Moss Hill, Vernon, FL

May 2, 2020: MISSION STUDY, led by Linda Hornsby, Marianna FUMC, Marianna, FL

CONFERENCE:

FIND DETAILS HERE: awf-umw.org

March 6-7, 2020: COSROW, Blue Lake

June 7-9, 2020: ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Frazer UMC, Montgomery, AL

July 24-25: MISSION u Aldersgate UMC, Montgomery, (see p. 8)

April 17-19, 2020 Southeastern Jurisdiction meeting, Mobile, AL All are invited.

2021 District Annual Day MARIANNA FIRST Tentative Date: March 5-6

Next Circuit Writer Deadline:

May 1, 2020 Editor: Deanie DeFelix deanie575@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: "Never Walk Alone"

Hello Ladies,

The new year is bringing us exciting opportunities to be "In His Service." Martha Spiva is busy planning a wonderful Day Apart at Moss Hill in Vernon to celebrate the amazing lives of our sisters who walked through Heaven's gates during 2019. Mark your calendar for March 14th for this special service.



Deanie DeFelix

If you missed our Alabama-West Florida Conference in Enterprise on February 14-15, you missed many blessings. The incredible hospitality of the United Methodist Women of Enterprise FUMC offered a welcoming, loving atmosphere for reflection on the past year and planning for an even better year ahead. Conference President Debbie Bell informed our Marianna-Panama City group that the rotation for Conference Annual Day has our district up for hosting the 2021 Annual Day. Since so many of the larger churches in our district are still trying to rebuild after the hurricane, the obvious location equipped to host this event is Marianna FUMC. Please pray that we can work out scheduling and catering details to allow us to serve our conference in this capacity. Now that we are down to twelve participating units in our district, we need all of you to assist in some way. We will contact you as soon as we know exactly what we will need. The conference budget covers most of the hosting expenses, so we will not have that burden.

This is a good time to get serious about encouraging some of our younger church members or new community members to join our units. Look for community service projects that will show the good works side of UMW. Wearing a simple smile as you serve is one of the most contagious attitude adjusters out there. Yes, we have been hit hard in our district, but we know God is with us always. If we are truly "In His Service," we will inspire others to want the kind of JOY that comes from serving others as our Lord has shown us to do.

Find the blessings *in His Service*,

Deanie DeFelix

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

(Matthew 28:20, NIV)

VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Verna Roberts

I hope everyone is having a blessed and Happy New Year! Bonifay UMW has gotten off to a busy start. On January 12th, both circles of our UMW, Flame and JOY Gals joined for our annual United Methodist Women's Day. This year three ladies shared about different aspects of their experience with the organization. I spoke about the early history of UMW and how it has grown in number and scope over the past 150 years.



Lucy Etheridge shared about two women who have had a great impact on her. The first one was Martha Sanborn from Port St. Joe. Martha was instrumental in Bonifay First United Methodist's women joining the of District Unit. Martha made several trips to Bonifay to share what being a United Methodist woman was all about. Martha was an inspiring woman who was always there with a word of encouragement and advice. She always called our group "her unit" and was very proud of any milestone we reached. Deaconess Clara Ester was the second woman Mrs. Etheridge spoke about. We met Clara Ester at Mission U in Dothan, Alabama, where she taught a class on happiness. Her life experiences were proof of the power of the Holy Spirit in an individual's life.

Janis Johnson spoke about how she came to be a member of the Flame Circle and what it has mean to her. Janis also received a special mission recognition pin for her contribution to Bonifay United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women.

As we closed the day with a lunch for missions, I realized how very blessed I am to be part of a dedicated group of women who are always willing to participate in activities to support the goals of United Methodist Women. Now, I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Moss Hill in March!

In His Service,

Verna





From the Secretary's Pen

Janis Johnson



The Marianna-Panama City District United Methodist Women met for the District Annual Day and Officer Training on January 11, 2020, at First United Methodist Church at Graceville, Florida. Deanie DeFelix, District President, presided at the meeting. Rev. Dr. Mike Pearson, Pastor of Graceville UMC, welcomed the group of twenty-seven United Methodist women from across the District. He also shared an informative talk on the Raising Warriors Project which focuses on providing assistance to children and youth who have been traumatized by sexual trafficking and abuse.

Awards were presented to those District UMW units who had met the criteria in the Reading Program, Mission Today, and Gold Star units, reflecting the missional involvement of United Methodist Women throughout the District.

Attendees were reminded of the Conference Annual Day in Enterprise, Alabama, on February 14-15, 2020, and Moss Hill Day Apart on March 14, 2020. A delicious lunch buffet of soups and desserts was served by the members of the Graceville UMW.

District Officers met during lunch and planned for the upcoming year. Dates were set for the Mission Studies to be held at Marianna FUMC on May 2, 2020, and Bonifay FUMC on August 29, 2020. Fall District Gathering is tentatively planned for October 24, at Chipley FUMC.

Peggy Pelt, the District Treasurer, shared information related to the requirements for Five Star Units. She also shared the District met 85% of the 2019 Pledge of \$13,000. The 2020 Budget was approved at \$11,000, which averages about \$34.00 per district member. In addition, there is a request for a \$10 love offering for each member.

An important upcoming event for United Methodist Women is the Southeast Jurisdiction United Methodist Women Quadrennial Meeting to be held in Mobile, Alabama, on April 17- 19, 2020, at the Renaissance Riverview Hotel. Registration is now open by going online at the AWF-UMW website. The cost to attend is \$215. Some scholarships are available. This is a rare opportunity for this event to be held in close proximity to our district. You might want to consider attending!

In His Service,

Janis

Remember to contact Nominations Chair Karen Fillman to volunteer your leadership skills to serve our Marianna-Panama City District.

You can contact Karen at this address: kfillman345@comcast.net

Tidbits from the Treasurer

Peggy Pelt



Dear Ladies:

It is the time of year when we need to make financial decisions for our units -- including having members make their pledges. Our district pledge for 2020 is \$11,000 (a decrease from last year's \$13,000). I'm confident our 325 members will reach that goal; it would take only \$34 each.

In addition to individual pledges, members are asked to donate \$10 each to the Conference Love Offering which goes to Dumas Wesley (a Methodist community center in Mobile,) Mission u, Administrative & Membership Development Fund, and Jurisdictional Assembly Offering.

Again, I encourage each unit to strive to be a Five-Star unit, which requires donations via:

1. Pledges
2. Special Recognition Pin (minimum \$40)
3. *Gift to Mission (minimum \$5)
4. *Gift in Memory (minimum \$5)
5. World Thank Offering

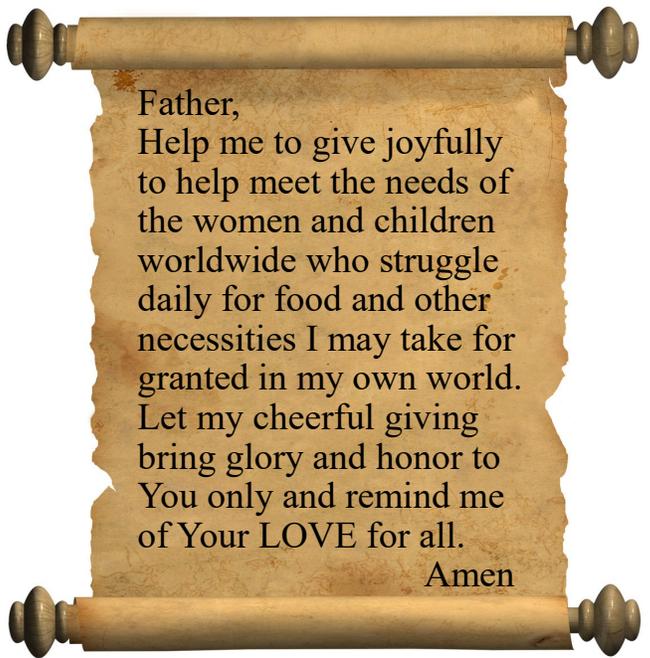


*You may remember the UMW cards bought for \$5 each to notify those honored by Gift to Mission or families of those remembered by a Gift in Memory. You do not have to buy those cards. In my unit I simply send the notification on note cards I may already have. (However, you can buy those cards from me if you would like.) My unit's Christmas gift to our president is a donation to Gift to Mission in her honor.

On a parting note, I would like you to know our district gave \$11,040 in pledges last year -- meeting 85% of our goal. (I received additional monies after my November Circuit Writer report.) Our donations to Prayer and Self-Denial and the Conference Love Offering were in addition to that. You are generous UMW members!

In Christ's Service,

Peggy



Father,
Help me to give joyfully
to help meet the needs of
the women and children
worldwide who struggle
daily for food and other
necessities I may take for
granted in my own world.
Let my cheerful giving
bring glory and honor to
You only and remind me
of Your LOVE for all.

Amen

Spiritual Growth

Martha Spiva



Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 14 for the Moss Hill Day Apart. Registration begins at 8:30 (CST). The theme is Hope in Action, with Dr Jeremy Pridgeon from the First United Methodist Church in Panama City speaking. We will also honor all of the United Methodist Women who departed to heaven during 2019. Bring a covered dish, a lawn chair, and a sweater so you can enjoy the fellowship of other UMW members in the district. Although the church itself has no electricity, modern restrooms are available. Those who have never experienced Moss Hill near Vernon, Florida, will surely be blessed by this special service and fellowship.

We are saddened over the loss of Pat Whitley from Hiland Park UMW. She was president of their unit and a district officer. Margie Miller from the Port St. Joe UMW unit also passed away. She was a past president of their unit and held positions at the conference level. Both will be missed for their faithful service.

It has been almost a year and a half since Hurricane Michael roared through the Panhandle, bringing much destruction. It is also a time when we as United Methodist Women should meet the challenge of reaching out with hope to those in need as we rebuild and restore. There is much work to be done, and with God's help we can do it.

In His service,

Martha Spiva

Spiritual Growth Coordinator



Martha's Challenge:

I challenge you during this Lenten season to spend time in reflection and spiritual renewal. For my devotional time, I am using *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young as I strive to enjoy peace in His presence.



SOCIAL ACTION and NOMINATIONS

Karen Fillman



Ladies,

If you were able to attend the 2019 District Mission Study (*Embracing Wholeness*) on Saturday, November 9, 2019, you were undoubtedly blessed by the engaging study led by *Pastor Gail Baughman*, (Gadsden Street UMC in Pensacola). *Pastor Gail* taught at the 2018 *Mission u* and has been teaching *Embracing Wholeness* throughout our Conference in 2019. We all enjoyed the way she connected with us at Mission u and were treated to more of her insight into God's challenge for us to seek His wisdom and guidance in being good stewards of His many blessings.

Of course, the hospitality of the Gulfview UMW, led by President JoAnn Stone, was warm and welcoming. All of us appreciated their willingness to serve our district with open arms, great food, and loving fellowship.

Information about future mission studies will be announced soon. We hope several from your unit can participate.

Karen Fillman

With Precious Memories

"Strength and dignity are her clothing, . . . and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."
Prov. 31:25-26

LOCAL UNIT, DISTRICT, & CONFERENCE OFFICER

Margie Miller

We remember your compassion for the less fortunate;
We remember your faithfulness to your church;
We remember your commitment to doing the Lord's work;
We remember your loyalty to United Methodist Women;
We remember your willingness to serve;
We remember your Faith, Hope, and Love in Action;
We remember your quiet humility as you led by example.

We will always remember our dear friend and thank God for the countless ways she blessed all who knew and loved her.



This picture of the terrible destruction to Port St. Joe's sanctuary is typical of several churches in our district that were devastated by Michael. It truly shows what so many of our United Methodist Women are *still* trying to overcome in their churches, homes, and communities.

Please read the letter below that I received from Cathy Cox, President of the Port St. Joe unit of UMW. Let us support her unit and all others in our district with our prayers and resources during the rebuilding and emotional healing all of us need to be able to move forward.

There is no time better than today to be



IN HIS SERVICE

Hi Deanie,

[written prior to Margie Miller's passing]

In response to your email, we fortunately did not have any deaths this year of our UMW members.

As you may know, our church was significantly damaged, and we have been meeting in our Great Hall that was completed just prior to the storm. Our sanctuary and preschool are still standing but will need to be demolished later this year. Then we will start the rebuild process which is estimated to take several years as our current Great Hall is also going to have to have major work done to it as well.

We had 51 active UMW members prior to the storm, of that number, 27 either lost their home or had significant damage. Some are still not back in their homes. UMW did not have any regular meetings in 2019. We did have a UMW Christmas party as a way to regroup and invited anyone who might like to join UMW. As a result, we have added 15 new members, (6 of whom lost their home). So, as you can see, our church is alive and well!

This year we are going to be concentrating our UMW efforts locally as there is still so much need in our community.

We thank God for the progress that has been made, and we look forward to the ways in which our local UMW can serve our church and community.

In His Service,
Cathy Cox

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and truth"

1 John 3:18 NIV



PROGRAM RESOURCES and E & I

Elizabeth Bell



MISSION STUDY INVITATION FROM MARIANNA UNIT

Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship

Study Leader: Linda Hornsby
Date: Saturday, May 2, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. CDT
Marianna FUMC Wesley Center

COOPERATIVE MISSION U



WHEN:
July 24 & 25, 2020

WHERE:
Aldersgate UMC
6610 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36116

Special Publication:
Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission
Debbie Bracewell

Spiritual Growth Study:
Finding Peace in an Anxious World
Dianna DuFriend & Deaconess Celeste Eubanks

Issue Study:
Pushout – The Criminalization of Black Girls in School
Team One: Zan Jones & Brenda Boman
Team Two: Deaconess Clara Ester & Gerry Stiffler

EDUCATE TO TRANSFORM
EACH YEAR UNITED METHODIST
WOMEN AND OTHERS PREPARE FOR
FAITHFUL LIVING AND ACTION BY
STUDYING MISSION STUDIES.

REGISTER: BY MAIL OR ONLINE
AT:
WWW.AWFUMC.ORG/MISSIONU2020

HOTEL DETAILS
Room block at Comfort Inn & Suites
1201 Towneplace Dr.
Montgomery, AL
Special rate: \$89.00 plus tax

Scholarships are available!
Email: betty@fumcdathan.org

Laurel Akin, Dean
Rev. Jim DuFriend, Assistant Dean

Schedule:
7:30-8:00 a.m. Registration
8:00-8:50 a.m. Welcome and Plenary
9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Class Session
12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30-5:00 p.m. Class Session
Friday Only: 5:00-5:50 p.m. Plenary
Dismissal

