



# The Informer

Mobile District United Methodist Women Newsletter Nov 2018

## MOBILE DISTRICT MISSION TEAM 2018

President

**Barbara Carroll**

Vice President

**Jay Locker**

Secretary

**Michele Smith**

Treasurer

**Kathy Ulmer**

Program Resource

**Bobbi Ferguson**

Communications

**Judy Burnham**

Mission Coordinators

Education and Interpretation

**Sylvia McCaskill**

Membership Nurture &

Outreach

**Robbie Bunkley**

Social Action

**Nancy Brumfield**

Spiritual Growth

**Gail Bradford**

Committee on Nominations

Class of 2018

**Martha Teasley, Chair**

**Mary Gipson**

**Joanne Myers**

Class of 2019

**Jamie Blake**

**Linda Ferguson**

**Linda Weaver**

Class of 2020

**Betty Ewbank**

**Shirley Bryan**

**Kay Lauber**

Class of 2021

**Trina Jackson**

**Ella Dean Ellisor**

## A Message from the President

As we enter the ending months of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Mobile Membership for your support and dedication through-out the year.

This has been a successful year in that we have had the participation of the majority of our units at district and conference events. The events were well planned and filled with information, fun and fellowship. Sincere thanks to the Mobile District Mission Team and Local Units for working together to ensure that our purpose was fulfilled.

It is time for our units to wrap up business for this year. Unit Annual Meetings should be scheduled where you will elect new officers, sign pledge cards, plan calendar of events and fundraisers and approve incoming budgets. 2019 District information will be distributed at Unit Officers Training on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Christ United Methodist Church – please mark your calendar now.

I hope that as you plan for next year, you will do so with the goal of extending the invitation of membership to every women you meet; that you will spread the joy of United Methodist Women membership as we continue efforts to bring HOPE to women, children and youth in our communities and around the world.

I wish for each of you, a Blessed and HAPPY THANKSGIVING and a JOYFUL MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thanks again for your support and all that you do to put FAITH HOPE AND LOVE INTO ACTION

*Barbara*

Barbara Carroll  
Mobile District UMW President  
United Methodist Women

### Notice to all UMW Mobile District Units:

The District needs a location for 2019 Annual Day, Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Barbara Carroll to volunteer.



## UMW Calendar

### 2019 District Dates

Jan 19 – District Mission Team meeting – Vision Center  
 Feb 23 – District Officers Training – Christ UMC  
 March 16 - District Mission Study – Citronelle UMC  
 March 30 - District Mission Team – Vision Center  
 April 28 - District Annual Day – Location TBD  
 May 18 - UMCOR – Christ UMC  
 June 29 - District Mission Team – Budget Meeting  
 Aug 3 - District Mission Study – Springhill Ave  
 Aug 24 - District Presidents/Treasurers Workshop – Vision Center  
 Sept 28 - District Spiritual Enrichment Day – Saraland UMC  
 Oct 26 - District Mission Team – Vision Center

### 2019 Conference Dates

January 25-26 - X Mission Team – Enterprise First UMC  
 Feb 1-3 - Leadership Development Days (attendees selected)  
 Feb 15-16 - Conference Annual Day – Demopolis UMC  
 March 8-9 - COSROW – Blue Lake  
 July 12-13 - X Team Meeting – Pine Hill UMC – Budget Meeting  
 July 19-20 - Mission u – St. Luke UMC, Pensacola, FL  
 Oct 11-13 - Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat – Blue Lake

### Other 2019 Dates

June 2-5 - Annual Conference – Montgomery  
 Nov – UMW Sunday in local churches

### Looking Forward

SE Jurisdiction UMW, Mobile - April 17-19, 2020

## Mobile District United Methodist Women 2019 Budget (Approved 6/30/18)

### Officers' Expenses

Postage	\$125
Supplies/Copies	\$200
Travel	\$300
<b>Total Officers Expenses</b>	<b>\$625</b>

### Other Expenses

Resources/Literature	\$250
Officer Training	\$150
District Annual Day	\$150
Spiritual Enrichment Day	\$250
Newsletter/Correspondence	\$150
District Directory	\$125
Mission Studies	\$125
Leadership	–
Assembly/Jurisdiction	\$300
Contingency Fund	\$200
Scholarship Annual UMC Conf (Pres)	\$600
Scholarship for First Time Attendance Annual Day	\$100
Scholarship Fund	\$100
Retiring Officers	\$160
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$2760</b>
<b>Total Administrative and Development Budget</b>	<b>\$3385</b>

**TOTAL PLEDGE TO MISSION \$20,000**

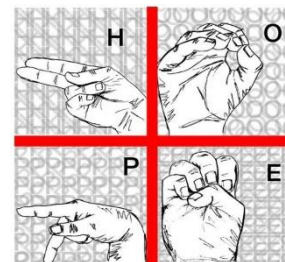
### Purpose

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.

### 2018 Conference Theme:

**HOPE...This HOPE we have as an anchor of the soul, a HOPE both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever.**

**Hebrews 6:19-20 NIV**



### 2019 Mobile District United Methodist Women Leadership

Current Officers nominated elected to addition term:

President	Barbara Carroll – Toulminville-Warren Street
Vice-President (one-year term ending Dec 2019)	Juanita (Jay) Locker - Christ
MNO (one-year term ending Dec 2019)	Robbie Bunkley - Christ

New Officers nominated to be elected to a two-year term:

Secretary	Linda Ferguson- Toulminville-Warren
Communications	Stephanie Jacobs, Saraland
Education & Interpretation	Rosalind Darby – Theodore 1 <sup>st</sup>
Social Action	Katy Wrona, St. John
Nominations Chair	Jamie Blake – Dauphin Way
Nominations Class of 2019	Martha Teasley- Theodore
Nominations Class of 2022	Mary Gipson- Theodore 1st
Nominations Class of 2022	Sallie Brown, Pine Grove

Officers completing previously elected terms

Treasurer	Kathy Ulmer – Kingswood
Program Resources	Bobbi Ferguson – Christ
Spiritual Growth	Gail Bradford – Saraland

Nominations Committee: Class of 2019 Linda Weaver, Martha Teasley, Jamie Blake, Chair  
Class of 2020 Shirley Bryan, Kay Lauber, Betty Ewbank  
Class of 2021 Celeste Eubanks, Katrina Jackson, Ella Dean Ellisor, Chair  
Class of 2022 Mary Gipson, Sallie Brown

Check out the flicker page for UMW Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/umwomen/albums/72157664337515848>

### Children's Sabbath: Fighting Childhood Hunger in Our Own Backyards

In this age of plenty and free meals in schools, we still have children and families in our communities who do not have food to eat over the weekends. Again in 2018, Christ United Methodist Women were pleased to support the “weekend” backpack programs at Dixon Elementary (in Irvington) and Saraland Elementary Schools begun by the United Methodist Women of New Hope United Methodist Church and Saraland United Methodist Church.

Our drive began just prior to Family Day held on October 20 on church grounds, as this was to be our initial day for gathering the food items. The list had been reproduced and dispersed within our circles and Sunday school classes. Boxes were readied to receive the food supplies and placed in strategic areas. Volunteers were lined up to work at the United Methodist Women booth at Family Day and to ‘woman’ the tables to receive the supplies on the two Sundays of our drive.

We were blessed to make quite a haul for the children in need at these two schools and were happy to support the work of these two churches as they provide a much-needed service. Love in action surely makes a difference in the lives of these young people!

For more information, please contact Joyce Genz, [jgenz@comcast.net](mailto:jgenz@comcast.net) or 251-259-1675.

Susan McRae  
Communications Coordinator, Christ UMW

### **“YOUR CHANGE CAN CHANGE A LIFE”**

“YOUR CHANGE CAN CHANGE A LIFE” was established a few years ago as a means of collecting additional donations to increase pledge to missions. Each unit was asked to collect ”CHANGE” at every meeting and through-out the church if possible. The “CHANGE” was to be forwarded to the district treasurer and each district was recognized at the UMW Annual Conference event. THIS COLLECTION HAS BEEN RE-STARTED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

Please forward your “UNIT CHANGE” to our District Treasurer in the usual manner, but indicate “YOUR CHANGE CAN CHANGE A LIFE” on the form. Thanks for your participation. Every little bit helps when it comes to saving the lives of women, children and youth.



### **Message from the District Secretary**

As Secretary of the Mobile District United Methodist Women it has been a blessing. I have enjoyed meeting you at different events. I, too, thank you for your support for the past 4 years. My successor is Linda Ferguson from Toulminville-Warren Street UMC. Please welcome her as she undertakes this endeavor. If there are changes or updates to your officers, please forward to me via email at [michelesmith2002@hotmail.com](mailto:michelesmith2002@hotmail.com). Faith, Hope, and Love in action.

Michele Smith  
Mobile District UMW Secretary

### **Spiritual Enrichment Day**

Thanks to all that made the Spiritual Enrichment Day a success. The break-out sessions were especially good. Spring Hill Avenue UMW provided lunch, which you all enjoyed and knew about, but also, they were wonderful with all the things that go with the local arrangements. They were so cooperative and good to work with. It was also such a joy to have their pastor, Jon Seale, present for the whole day and he was so helpful with whatever was needed. Thanks to Dr. Deborah Bishop for being with us and leading Communion again this year.

This month is very important for Spiritual Growth. The World Thank Offering/Program is the responsibility of the Spiritual Enrichment Coordinator. They do not have to DO the World Thank Offering Program but assure that it happens. This year's program is rooted in the Book of Ruth and is about how women provide community for each other in their struggle for survival, and to apply that knowledge to the work of the World Thank Offering. If your unit needs help with this program, contact any of the District Team.

As you go towards the end of the year, I hope you will be impressed with what you have done for your own growth through the avenues of UMW and for women, children and youth around the world. December's program is about our roots in our foremothers and their visions of shalom. May you end the year and approach the new year singing God's songs of peace from throughout the ages. Call me if you need help. (251-675-4761 or Cell, 502-424-8259)

Gail Bradford  
Spiritual Growth

***It's All about Mission***  
***Education and Interpretation (Sylvia McCaskill)***  
***Mission Today Unit Reports due November 30***

“Mission is presence, relationship, witness and sharing. Mission is refusing to turn away when the tears of God are being shed over the violence and injustice and suffering of God’s wayward creation.”

The Mission Today Criteria encourages us to focus on this definition of Mission in the following ways:

**Mission Giving (sharing)**

1. Made and met Unit Pledge to Mission.
6. Became a 5-Star Unit by contributing to all 5 channels of undesignated giving.

**Spiritual Growth (witness)**

3. Used two programs from the *Program Book*.
18. At least one member attended a District or Conference Spiritual Enrichment.

**Membership (presence)**

17. Added two new members.

**Attendance (presence and relationship)**

10. Invited a District or Conference officer (other than a member of the unit) to one meeting.
12. At least 2 members attended the district or conference annual meeting.
13. At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended a conference *Mission u.*

**Mission Education (presence and witness)**

4. Unit or circle conducted/attended at least one *Mission Study*.
9. One member completed a *Reading Program Plan* and reported on one of the books.
3. Used two programs from the *Program Book*.
2. Used the *Prayer Calendar* regularly in the unit meetings.
8. Unit had two members reading ***Response*** each month.
7. Unit included a ***Response Moment*** during its meeting using an article to tell our mission story.

**Mission Action (presence, relationship, witness, and sharing)**

16. Unit will complete a project for mission agency or UMCOR.
14. Communicated with five persons listed in the *Prayer Calendar*.
19. Had at least one member participate in a hands-on mission
13. Had at least one person receive and respond to legislative information from the United Methodist Women’s Action Network.
15. Unit participated in a *Campaign for Children*
20. Made a pledge to care for God’s creation and worked to become a “green” United Methodist Unit.
5. Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice policies in at least one way during the year.

*Make sure to complete your Mission Today Reports (send to [smccaskil@gmail.com](mailto:smccaskil@gmail.com)) because it’s all about mission and mission is all about God’s love for His people and creation.*



**We should certainly count our blessings,  
but we should also make our blessings  
count.**

**Neal A. Maxwell**

Please, please, everyone check your Alabama-West Florida and Mobile District web pages at least weekly, if not daily. Debbie Bell and Barbara Carroll maintain constant contact with me and assist in keeping the most current and accurate information on the websites.

<http://www.awf-umw.org/mobile.html>

<http://www.awf-umw.org/>

Vera Moore  
Keeper of the websites

### **Mobile District UMW Establishes Scholarship Program**

Mobile District of United Methodist Women offers scholarships for attendance at Mission and Conference UMW Annual Meeting. The applicant must be a member of the United Methodist Women in the Mobile District or affiliated with the United Methodist Church in the Mobile District.

Applicant will provide a brief statement indicating how/why they would benefit from attendance. Preference will be given to first-time attendees. Young women, ages 18-40, are especially encouraged to apply.

Completed forms are due one month before the event and should be submitted to the Mobile District Coordinator for Education & Interpretation.



Please mail a picture of your unit with the name of your church. The pictures are for the 2018 yearbook. Thank you!

Shirley Bryan  
Mobile District UMW Historian

*grateful  
thankful  
blessed*

Grace and peace to my sisters in Mobile District UMW. I hope your summer was filled with fun and adventure and that your plans were accomplished. These plans, I hope, also excluded participating in local, district and conference UMW activities.

As Vice Presidents you should be prepared to accomplish the goals of your circle or units. Also, I hope that you are an encourager. By that I mean ; encouraging your circles and units to attend meetings that help us to fulfill our pledge to be in mission, especially to women, infants and children. Encouraging others to be excited about attending meetings, participating in the reading program, and being involved in mission projects and volunteering to provide leadership.

UMW Annual Days are scheduled for November for some units. I am requesting that you volunteer to participate in planning and follow up. Ask other women to attend. Be an encourager. I pray you have been enriched by your participation in UMW activities.

Shalom,  
Jay Locker  
Mobile District UMW Vice President

It's time to start winding up your reading and handing in your list of reading plans for 2018 to your Unit Program Resource Secretary or your Unit President by October 31<sup>st</sup> so that she can compile that list and turn them into me, Bobbi Ferguson, District Secretary of Program Resources. Then I will compile all Unit reports to send to District President Barbara Carroll by November 30<sup>th</sup>. for her year-end reports. I am looking forward to receiving Reading Program reports from all local Units this year so we can bring home to Mobile the prize for most read books in 2018. I have to give a big kudos to Kingswood UMW for sending in their report early which I received on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Bobbi Ferguson  
Mobile District Program Resources

### **A SMILE DOESN'T COST A THING**

During one Christmas season I had the misfortune of falling on a treadmill and breaking my nose. I looked like I had been in a fight...black eye...a nose bandage that looked like a snow man nose. When I went shopping some people would look at me and then look at the floor. When they did this, I just smiled and said, "Merry Christmas". Hopefully as they passed me they had a different expression or thought.

We are happy when we are helping someone . . . Like packing child birth kits or kits for cleaning after a storm for UMCOR. This makes us feel good. That same feeling comes when you call someone. So, how about you calling someone and just talk! Put a smile in your voice while talking. Wow! What a difference we could make in someone's life... Just for a few minutes!!! Make someone smile because you care!

Enjoy working for the Lord. Let us remember the Christ Child and may God bless you!

Hugs and smiles,  
Robbie Bunkley  
Mobile District UMW MNO

*Enter his gates  
with **thanksgiving** and his  
courts with praise; give  
thanks to him and praise his  
name.*

*Psalm 100:4*

This will be my last issue to serve as Editor of the Informer. Starting in 2019, Stephanie Jacobs, Saraland UMC, will serve as the Mobile District UMW Communications Coordinator. She currently serves as the Communication Coordinator for the Saraland UMW. She is also the co-founder and leader of the Grace Circle at Saraland UMC and has been a participant in the UMW Reading Program since 2014. Stephanie is employed as a graphic designer For SCHOOL in SITES. I thank you for your submissions and encouragement during my tenure. As I told Stephanie, when you nurture a project it is reassuring to turn it over to someone that you know will continue that process. I know Stephanie will and hope you will continue to support and encourage her.

Judy Burnham  
Mobile District UMW Communications Coordinator

### **AWF-UMW Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER) 2018 Held At Blue Lake Camp Oct 19-21**

SER took place at beautiful Blue Lake Camp where God's presence is always noticed. The retreat began by singing "Our Hope is Built" which was the theme throughout. Our Spiritual Leader, Dr. Connie Mitchell Shelton, DS from East Jackson, Mississippi Conference was, to say the least, dynamic. At each session, she guided attendees in prayer using the scriptures from Luke 18.

Dr Rev Shelton on Friday evening encouraged all to create space for God and be present with God and one another. UMW members were encouraged to **be real, listen well, we are not here to fix, we are not here to rescue or give advice.** We are here to trust that God is here. We need to practice confidentiality, be fully engaged and present. Don't guilt yourself for needing to rest or have down time.

On Saturday morning, Dr Rev Shelton encouraged all to pray **persistently for justice**, pray for **humility**, pray for **authenticity...**make it real and **pray to let go and let God.** On Saturday evening, Dr Rev Shelton spoke on living the Hope of Christ. Remember the un-churched need to be reached at their level. We are to make disciples by **engaging** people, **connecting** with people at their level, **equipping** people for acts of piety, and **sending out** with acts of mercy. Remember that what worked 40 years ago doesn't work today. Be open to suggestions. She reminded us to not live with Spiritual obesity but rather give away the fullness.

On Sunday morning, Dr Rev Shelton asked us to practice the Sabbath. 1 Cor 12 notes that we are powerless until we join God and then we become more significant. She encouraged us to find our spiritual gift or gifts and claim it and use it. We should ask ourselves, "What does God want me to do?"

The business portion of meeting involved election and installation of new officers, one standing rule change, and the budget for the Conference for 2019. Officers elected from the Mobile District are:

Debbie Bell, President  
Michele Smith, Communications  
Joyce Genz, Education & Interpretation  
Zan Jones, Nominations, Chair

Breakout sessions were held where participants learned about crocheting mats from plastic bags or computer skills or took part in a scavenger walk with scripture readings.

The SER was successful from start to finish. The weather was great for travel; the event was well planned; members came with an attitude of fellowship and expecting a spiritual awakening and the food was fantastic. Over 70 UMW members attended, with 14 first timers in attendance. The Mobile District was represented by 19 members. Mobile District members, Joyce Genz and Jay Locker conducted break-out sessions teaching Crocheting Homeless Mats. Barbara Carroll and Nettie Lang gave the Lakeside Devotion on Friday evening.

Our theme for 2019 will be "Love in Action" 1 John 3:18.

**Mark your calendar!! Save the date!!!  
Plan to attend next year on October 11-13 at Blue Lake**

Barbara Carroll and Michele Smith





Mobile District Mission Team at the President's Training Session



The Mobile District UMW Mission Team was honored to host the AWF Conference Quadrennial Boundary/Sexual Ethics Training on Saturday August 25, held at The Vision Center.

We served as greeters, registration and lunch support. The Toulminville-Warren Street Unit led by Vanessa Shoots and Sylvia McCaskill provided and prepared lunch for approximately 185 participants.

It was a day of unity, cooperation and fun for the units to come together and work on this project.

Great things happen, when UMW organize for action.....

Thanks to everyone who participated.

Barbara Carroll

**NOT WHAT WE SAY ABOUT OUR BLESSINGS, BUT HOW WE USE THEM, IS THE TRUE MEASURE OF OUR THANKSGIVING.**

**W.T. PURKISER**

