



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

ALERT

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. SER Brochure/SER Guest Speaker
2. SER Registration Form/Agenda
3. Health Form
4. President's Report
5. Vice President Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Social Action Report/Voting Criteria
8. Standing Rule Changes to Vote On
9. Nell Chance Award
10. Nominations Report/W.M. Report
- 11 - 13. Nominees to Vote On
14. E & I Report
15. Mission u 2017 Pictures
16. "Save the Date"/C.C. Report

2017 Conference Officers

President	Debbie Bell
Vice President	Joan Simmons
Secretary	Cathy Givan
Treasurer	Jean Creswell
Comm. Coordinator.	Debbie Bush
Program Resources	Sally Ozan
Nominations Chair	Lorna Wiggins
Spiritual Growth	Nancy Shealy
Social Action	Laurel Akin
M.N. & O	Tutti Johnson
Ed. & Interp	Shirley Hodges

2017 Committee on Nominations

Lorna Wiggins	Reda Brooks
Zan Jones	Cheryl Mothershed
	Linda Green

President SEJ UMW Betty Helms

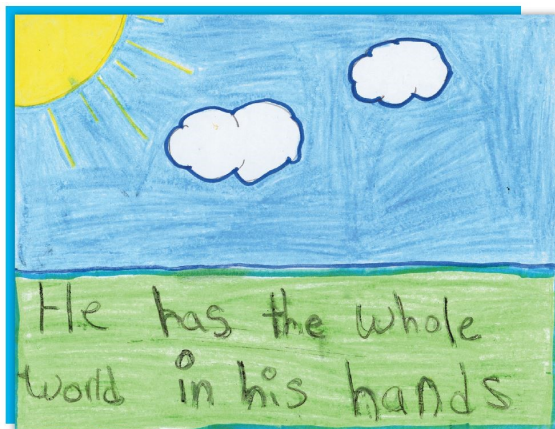
UMW National Vice President
Clara Ester

Web Manager Vera Moore

ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

All God's Children Gotta Have Faith

Rev. Dr. Laura Early



Darcy, age 12, Belize/Honduras District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas. Reproduced from The Prayer Calendar used with permission.

2017
Spiritual Enrichment
Retreat

Friday
Saturday
Sunday

October 20-22, 2017

Blue Lake Assembly

Our Leader:

Rev. Dr. Laura Early

Is the founding and lead pastor of All God's Children United Methodist Church, Aulander, North Carolina.

In the summer of 1996, a tiny abandoned church in Aulander, Bertie County, North Carolina came back to life with a hammer and nails, a fresh coat of paint, and the love of a young, female preacher, Laura Early. "Miss Laura" as she would be affectionately named, answered the call to bring God's presence and hope to this small town ravaged by years of unemployment, crime in the streets, rampant drug addiction, low test scores and single or no-parent households. Her mission became clear with the renaming of the church to "All God's Children."

Children and youth programs have expanded to include children of all ages, including our "Older Children" who meet every Friday morning for love, games, snacks and fellowship. Food and clothing distributions became a weekly event.



**ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
GENERAL REGISTRATION FORM
2017 SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RETREAT
OCTOBER 20-22, 2017
BLUE LAKE UNITED METHODIST ASSEMBLY GROUNDS**



EVENT

DATE

LOCATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

10/6/17**(A \$10 Late Fee will apply to all registrations)**

SCHEDULE	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	Note: Breaks will be called but not listed
CHECK-IN	Fri 10/20/17	3:00 PM	Oakwood Solarium	Check-In located in Solarium
DINNER	Fri 10/20/17	5:30 PM	Dining Hall	Friday & Saturday Dinner is at 5:30PM
PROGRAM	Fri 10/20/17	7:00PM	Chapel	Speaker, Rev. Dr. Laura Early, Faith
Focus Groups	Fri 10/20/17	8:30PM	Prayer Room	"What happens when women pray"
Breakfast	Sat 10/21/17	7:30AM	Dining Hall	Saturday & Sunday Breakfast is at 7:30AM
PROGRAM	Sat 10/21/17	9:00AM	Chapel	Business Session, 2018 Conference Officers Elections/installations; other business
PROGRAM	Sat 10/21/17	10:30AM AND 7:00PM		Speaker, Rev. Dr. Laura Early, Faith
LUNCH	Sat & Sun	Noon		All Meals in Dining Hall
Focus Groups	Sat 10/21/17	1:00PM-5:00PM		sign up for focus groups in Solarium at check-in
PROGRAM	Sun 10/22/17	8:30AM AND 10:30AM		Speaker, Rev. Dr. Laura Early, Faith AND Communion

All Participants MUST Register, even for 1 day. One Health Form must be submitted per calendar year. If you have sent one in, please check the box to the right.

Name

Email

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

District

Local Unit/Church

☐ **FIRST TIME** TO this Alabama West Florida Conference United Methodist Event

LODGING	Occupancy	Per Person	Roommate Name (Please confirm with roommate & try to mail together)	Enclosed Total
LINWOOD * Single rooms are limited; therefore all request may not be honored.				
# NIGHTS	TYPE	PER NIGHT		
	Double	\$ 36.00		\$ 0.00
	Single *	\$ 58.50	No roommate	\$ 0.00
CENTER SECTION				
	Triple	\$ 21.00		\$ 0.00
	Double	\$ 28.00		\$ 0.00
	Single *	\$ 48.50	No roommate	\$ 0.00
COMMUTER - NO LODGING			Check Here	0.00
MEALS - please enter the number of meals per type (2 max each meal)				
Enter # BREAKFAST to be eaten	# x Cost	Breakfast	\$6.75	\$ 0.00
Enter # LUNCHES to be eaten	# x Cost	Lunch	\$8.25	\$ 0.00
Enter # DINNER to be eaten	# x Cost	Dinner	\$8.75	\$ 0.00
Registration & Facility Fee - ALL MUST PAY THIS PART (if just commuting and not eating this would be your only price). All others please add.				\$ 15.00
If postmarked after the due date, add \$10, even Commuters				LATE FEE \$
TOTAL DUE				\$ 15.00

Make all checks payable to AWF-UMW

Mail to: Jean Creswell, Conference Treasurer
PO Box 250
Arlington, AL 36722

jean@pinebelt.net
334-385-2521 (after 5:00 p.m./weekends)
334-385-5015 (work day)

Special Needs (dietary or physical):

Please notify Cathy Givan, Conference Secretary, 1398 East Cotton Rd, Eclectic, AL 36024 / 334-541-3163 / cathy3163@hotmail.com of any special needs or requirements; Gluten Free is not option

ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN HEALTH FORM

For the Calendar Year 2017

Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment Form

Name	DOB
Home Phone	Work #
Physician's Name	Phone #
Health Insurance Company	Policy #
Allergies to medications:	
Other Allergies (food, animals)	

Conditions that treating personnel might need to be aware of:

In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during my stay at a UMW event, I authorize ALWF UMW to:

Name	Relation	Phone #	Alt. Phone #
Name	Relation	Phone #	Alt. Phone #

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE BELOW PLANS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Plan	<p>In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during my stay at a UMW event, I authorize ALWF UMW to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure and retain medical treatment and transportation if needed. 2. Release my health information to the authorized individual or agency involved in the medical emergency treatment. 3. I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the ALWF Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Consent Plan	<p>I DO NOT give my consent for emergency medical treatment/aid in the cases of illness or injury. In the event emergency treatment/aid is required, I wish the following procedures to take place:</p> <p>I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the ALWF Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.</p>

Your Consent Signature	Date
Witness Signature	Date

Let me share something with you. Every, I mean, E V E R Y United Methodist Women member in our conference has a spiritual story to share about being a United Methodist Women member. I have heard them. Sometimes, more than once! On purpose! (Laugh Out Loud).

Recently, I've been nudged to read or listen more than speak. And as always, I'm not good at being obedient to nudgings, how do you do it? Personally, sometimes I shrug off that a disturbance in my own mission of the moment. As the Alabama-West Florida conference United Methodist Women Executive Mission Team met this past month I recognized some heritage moments. Some members of our Leadership Team have been doing the mission work of United Methodist Women since right after leaving their youth activity in MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) and some have the same vision as stated in our 2017-2020 National handbook, "sharpen and energize the Purpose of United Methodist Women to remain vital in the years to come for women, children and youth around the world." I hope you have received the Legacy 150 information as a way to recognize the "vital" remnant our mission Purpose is depending on this endeavor. Just as we prepared, reviewed and approved the District budgets endeavor within our United Methodist Women conference, your giving to Legacy 150 can establish the next generation to carry on.

On May 18-20, 2018, our world-wide membership will assemble in Columbus, Ohio. I do not know how the weekend will unfold, I do know that our attention to budgeting and annual funding the mission will allow me to plan to be a part of that assembly. That's how Legacy 150 will be working in the future, encouraging and building up Leadership.

Have you felt that nudging? Please consider to respond and sponsor a Local Unit member to Assembly 2018. Connect with your District President for the details or visit our website <http://www.awf-umw.org>

Debbie Bell
Conference President



REGISTER NOW!
2017 Spiritual
Enrichment Retreat
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
October 20-22, 2017
Blue Lake Assembly
REGISTER NOW!



Our 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.

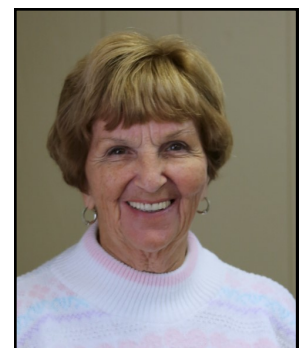
New and exciting news about Annual Day , 2018. Debbie Bell, AWF-UMW President has confirmed Shannon Priddy to be our Annual Day 2018 speaker for Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women. Shannon is the newly elected National President of United Methodist Women. She is young, vivacious and so excited to be coming from the north to the warmth of the Gulf Coast in February.

As we continue to transition to the calendar year, Annual Day falls into our Spring season and seems to be another busy season at The Blue Lake Assembly Grounds. They are scheduling other annual business "retreats" and UMW Annual Day is almost impossible to secure time at Blue Lake, even a year in advance during the month of February. This years' UMW Annual Day schedule was a example of issues when more than our group at Blue Lake. We were so disheartened when we realized we had to be out of the gym this year by 2PM because another group was coming (and then cancelled!). Our day felt so rushed and we know you did not have time to visit with others, see all the displays and enjoy being relaxed.

As we have began program plans for 2018 UMW Annual Day, the Conference Program Committee planning team was not able to get a date for Annual Day at Blue Lake for 2018 knowing we might have to share the time with others. But as always, God provides a way! Gerry Stiffler, President of the Baypines District United Methodist Women offered her own Foley First United Methodist Church as the Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women Annual meeting destination, in Foley Alabama. We are grateful for Gerry's radical hospitality to open their doors to us for our February 23-24, 2018 Annual Day and we accepted. Ladies, we will have Wi-Fi !!, telephone service, the beaches, oh and lest we forget, The Foley Outlets.

As we continue to plan this event we will keep you updated.

Joan Simmons
Conference Vice President



- The Legacy Fund is OUR special anniversary gift to future United Methodist Women members and ministries.
- Because we believe in the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women and want our daughters, granddaughters, nieces and friends to share our sense of meaningful "sisterhood."
- To "pass on" the legacy we have inherited.
- To be part of the joyous celebration in 2019 culminating 150 years of ministry.



TREASURER'S REPORT

We are a little over half way through the 2017 year, and we're also over 50% in our Pledge to Mission Giving. We can't stop now, the momentum must be maintained so that we can help all the women, children and youth around the world. If your local unit hasn't sent money into your district, please do so as soon as possible. The deadline for all money to be sent into the district is November 30th. That means by that date, not after, as your district treasurer has to report all her money into the conference by December 10th. We need every local unit to participate in funding our Pledge to Missions (\$126,200 for 2017). If you use the United Methodist Women's name, then you should be supporting our organization through Mission Giving. Local units can still give to local charitable causes that support our mission goals, but we must remember that we have neighbors around the United States and the world. Who is your neighbor? Someone who lives close to you and looks like you? Jesus said everyone is our neighbor. Therefore, I urge you to support our national missions as well as your local ones.

Your districts and our conference hold great events such as Mission u, district mission studies, Annual Day, Day Apart and Spiritual Enrichment - all for your benefit, education and the fellowship of women who share your passion for missions. These events, this newsletter, and the training, (just to name a few) also must be funded. The district and the conference do not raise funds. Only the local unit and individuals within those units. We need your support yesterday, today and tomorrow.

I want to challenge each of you individually to donate more this year than you did last year. Let's show the world what mission support is all about in the Alabama West Florida Conference.

On a different note, I am pleased that the 2016 financial audits of each district and the conference passed. There were a few recommendations for clarity and form, but over-all last year's treasurers did an excellent job. Thanks to each of you for this

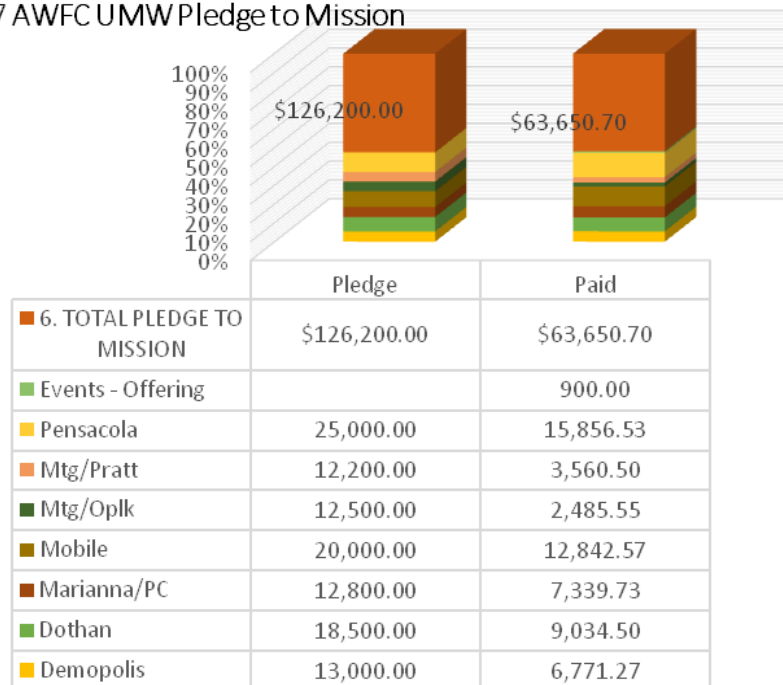
great job.

As always, I'm here to help, serve and work for each of you. If you need something or need clarification, please let me know.

Jean Creswell
Conference Treasurer



2017 AWFC UMW Pledge to Mission



Save the date!



"The Power of Bold" will be the theme of the 19th quadrennial Assembly of United Methodist Women in Columbus, Ohio, May 18-20, 2018. Learn more at <https://umwassembly.org/news/>

SPIRITUAL GROWTH REPORT RETREAT

The Bible says, ***"Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."*** (Luke 5:16)

This was the habit with Jesus and it needs to become a habit in our lives. We can find a quiet secluded place (Blue Lake). Just be there simply and honestly as we can. The focus will shift from you to God, and we will begin to sense His Grace. Here's the thing...We are not waiting on God, He is waiting on us. God wants to meet with us. There is nothing in our lives that God is not interested in,

"Don't worry about what you will eat or drink...or wear. Your heavenly Father knows that we need these things." (Matthew 6:31-32).

Always, Your Servant,

Nancy Shealy

Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator

See you all at Blue Lake for our
Spiritual Enrichment Experi-
ence, October 20-22!



SOCIAL ACTION REPORT

Alabama Arise Annual Membership Meeting will be September 16th at Aldersgate UMC in Montgomery. As a member organization, we have the opportunity to help choose the issues the organization focuses on next year. Six members of the UMW can vote, with each person having seven votes. If possible, let me know if you plan to attend.

Social Principles Seminar September 18th in Montgomery. Want to know more about what the United Methodist Church has to say about social issues? Learn more about the Social Principles and how they relate to you, your congregation and community at Frazer UMC in Montgomery on Monday, September 18th at 6 PM. Rev. Brandon Dasinger will be the presenter. Go to the website for more information, including registration for dinner at 5:15 PM. The program starts at 6 PM. View the current Social Principles at

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/social-principles-social-creed>

"The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1)

Laurel Akin, Conference Social Action Coordinator



In support of our Standing Rules language, we will follow the voting procedure notated in:

IV. ELECTIONS AND MEETINGS Art. V and VI, pages 141-142 (reference handbook 2017-2020)

A. The electorate of the conference organization shall be composed of the following:

One representative from each local unit

Conference Executive Committee

Bishop

District Executive Committees

District Superintendents

Directors of the United Methodist Women, Inc. residing within the Conference

Officers of the jurisdiction organization residing within the Conference.



STANDING RULES

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE

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

III. COMMITTEES Art. IV. P. 135-140

- (Grammar correction first bullet): The Committee on Nominations shall be composed of **five persons** including the chairperson. (fourth bullet – change of name of organization) The committee shall: Keep the conference Standing Rules up to date to conform to the Constitution and Bylaws of the **National United Methodist Women**;
(seventh bullet) The Committee shall serve for all **United Methodist Women** meetings. (eighth bullet – last line) Develop evaluation forms for each conference event except **Cooperative** Mission u.
(fifteenth bullet- last line) These members are presented by the Committee on Nominations for election at the **Spiritual Enrichment Retreat**. (sixteenth bullet –new bullet) **There shall be an Administrative Committee. The Committee function shall be to transact emergency business and other business referred to it by the Executive Committee and shall report all actions to the Executive Committee.**
- **The committee shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chairperson of Committee on Nominations.**

ARTICLE V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS. SECTION 1. ELECTIONS page 141, d. Directors of the **National United Methodist Women** residing within the boundaries of the conference will be elected.

V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS. V. Section 3 REPRESENTATION page 142

The Executive Committee at a meeting at least six months preceding the Assembly shall elect representatives to the Assembly as determined by the **National United Methodist Women**.

VII. JURISDICTION QUADRENNIAL MEETING Art. V. Section 3 and 4, page 142-143

Three conference officers and **one alternate** shall serve as delegates to the Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting as follows:

- **Treasurer shall be alternate.**

VIII. NOMINEES TO NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN Art. V. Section 4, b page 143

(third bullet) At the Annual Meeting of the conference organization preceding the end of the quadrennial, three women shall be elected to be considered by National United Methodist Women to serve on the Program Advisory Group of the United Methodist Women National Organization. Additional names may be nominated from the floor of the annual meeting with the consent of the nominee. The names of those elected will be sent to the United Methodist Women National Office.

(fifth bullet) In the first quarter of the year, district treasurers shall subtract the **\$750** start-up monies from their request for funds from **Administration & Membership Development pool**.

(Sixth bullet) **The executive committee requests the following item be removed from the Standing Rules and placed in the Policies of the Alabama West Florida Conference United Methodist Women: The conference organization may support Blue Lake Project. Funds for Blue Lake may be secured through the asking of \$2.00 per year.**

IX. FUNDS Art. VII, page 95

(Second bullet) By December 15, annually, districts shall return to the conference treasurer any monies left in their treasury, with the exception of an annual start up fee of up to **\$750**.

X. SPECIALS

The Executive Committee recommends the following agencies and requests are removed from the Standing Rules and placed in the Policies:

Dumas Wesley Community Center, Mary Ellen's Hearth (Nellie Burge), United Methodist Inner City Mission, Mobile, AL; Hispanic Ministries, Mission u

(second bullet) Funds may be given as Supplementary Gifts to Conference approved projects that are program relate to the work of the General Board of Global Ministries, which are supported by the **National United Methodist Women**.



Nell Chance Award
is presented annually by
Alabama West Florida Conference
United Methodist Women
at the Annual Meeting

This award is named for Nell Chance as a way to remember her and the many ways she believed in our mission as United Methodist Women. She was a moving force in the mission work of United Methodist Women of the Alabama West Florida Conference for many years and a passionate believer in our mission to women, children and youth. Nell was a member of Monroeville United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Church in Monroeville, Alabama. During her adult life, she served in many positions not only in her local unit, but district, conference and jurisdiction as well.

You may remember hearing Nell explain why we need to support United Methodist Women first saying, "I have never seen the March of Dimes contribute to the Heart Fund so why do we support agencies not connected to United Methodist Women?"

The award is open to all ages who are currently active in United Methodist Women. A brief letter should be submitted by individuals or mission teams giving biographical information and explanation of how this person has demonstrated the standards set by Nell Chance. A photo of the nominee, if available, included with the letter will be most helpful.

The letter should be sent to
Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach
and received by December 31.

WEB MASTER REPORT

Using the web! So you are at the doctor's office and just remembered you have responsibility for The Prayer Calendar at tonight's meeting. "Oh, dear, what can I do?" You can go to Prayer Calendar Daily at <https://www.facebook.com/umwprayercalendar/> No, you do not need to be a regular user of Facebook to see the posting on that public page.

So you don't remember the direct link to the Prayer Calendar. "How can I find it?" Surely everyone has memorized AWF-UMW.org as our conference website, so just go there and look to the left column where Resources are listed alphabetically, click on Prayer Calendar Daily to be taken to that page.

Have a lovely rest of the day confident that you are ready for your part in tonight's meeting.

Vera Moore

Web Master

REPORT FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

We are pleased to announce that the following are names to be nominated on at The Spiritual Enrichment Retreat in October:

Jean Creswell - 2 Year Term: Treasurer (Demopolis)

Joan Simmons - 2 Year Term: Vice President (Pensacola)

Sally Ozan - 2 Year Term: Secretary of Program Resources (Montgomery-Opelika)

Debbie Bush - Renewal Term: Communications Coordinator (Pensacola)

Carolyn Coker - 2 Year Term: MN&O (Montgomery-Opelika)

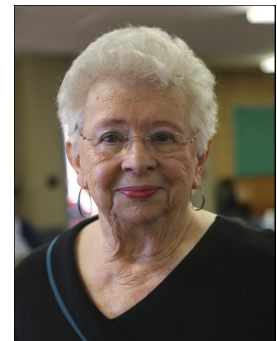
Tutti Johnson - 2 Year Term: Spiritual Growth (Demopolis)

Zan Jones - Chair of Nominations (Mobile)

Nettie Lang - Nominations Committee Class of 2018 (Mobile)

Cynthia Brown - Charter for Racial Justice (Montgomery-Prattville)

Doris Alvin - Charter for Racial Justice (Pensacola)



Nancy Shealy is completing a four-year term as Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator. We will miss her wonderful spiritual leadership and appreciate her guidance. Tutti Johnson has been nominated to be Spiritual Growth Coordinator and we appreciate the fine work that Tutti has done in her position as Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator. Linda Green will rotate off the Committee on Nominations after serving a one-year term. Thank you Linda for serving in that capacity.

In 2017, Zan Jones was appointed by our Conference President to represent the Alabama West Florida Conference for Racial Justice at National Headquarters. The Committee on Nominations has been remiss during the past few years by not staffing the Committee on the Charter for Racial Justice. The Charter for Racial Justice Committee is composed of Conference Officers tenured in their office. The Conference Officers are: President-committee Chair; Social Action Coordinator; Committee on Nominations Chairperson; a District President; a conference executive team member; remaining committee members at large to be nominated and elected and shall serve no more than three years.

Lorna Wiggins,

Chairman, Nominations Committee

CARES AND CONCERNS

Winn Marsh is appointed Personal Concerns Coordinator for Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women. You may contact her at winnmarsh@aol.com or **850-624-9709** to request prayer for your personal concerns. Winn will share the information according to your wishes.



Sally Ozan

**Nominated for Conference
Secretary of Program Resources**

Sally has been a member of UMW at First United Methodist Church in Opelika, AL, Morning Group for over ten years. She served as President of her local unit as well as of the Montgomery-Opelika District. She and Jerry have 7 children between them, 17 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She worked in Texas for 20 years in Commercial Real Estate managing high rise office buildings and shopping centers and was the first woman president of the Dallas Building Owners and Managers Assn which had 600 members while president of the Texas State BOMA at the same time. After returning to her home town of Opelika, she retired after 17 years as a Customer Service Rep for Commercial Insurance at an independent insurance agency. She loves to travel, read and try to keep up with all her children and grandchildren.

Zan M. Jones is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and has resided in Mobile, Alabama for over 26 years and has come to call it home as well. She is an active member of Toulminville Warren Street United Methodist church where she serves as an Usher and Chairs their Prayer Ministry. She has served as the Social Action Coordinator for her local unit as well as the Alabama West Florida conference of United Methodist Women. Presently she is the Spiritual Growth Coordinator for her local unit, she serves on the Mobile District Board of Mission & Church Excision and volunteers for COT (Communities of Transformation in the Mobile area. She has worked in the Healthcare field for over 30 years. She represents the Alabama West Florida Conference of UMW on the National Board of Maternal Health and is our conference representative for the Charter for Racial Justice. She is a loving wife to Reginald M. Jones and mother to Ashton Niccole Jones. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and in her spare time enjoys playing tennis.



Zan Jones

**Nominated for Committee
on Nominations Chair**

I belong to the Community Life UMC in Gulf Breeze FL. Along with being active in church activities I am part of a lively UMW circle. Previous positions held were president and secretary. I just completed 4 years as District President of the Pensacola District and currently VP of the conference. I am retired from West Florida Hospital in Pensacola holding the position of Director of Laboratory Services.

For 34 years I loved working in healthcare and miss it! I have 3 wonderful sons and a wonderful daughter, 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Luckily they all are close by so we get together often. I so enjoy being part of UMW for the great women I've met and the missions we so eagerly undertake. We truly are a 'sister hood' working toward the mission and purpose of UMW.



Joan Simmons
**Nominated for
Conference Vice
President**



Doris Alvin
Nominated for Charter for Racial
Justice Member at Large

Doris Alvin is a retired high school teacher. She lives in Pensacola, Florida, where she enjoys extensive reading, editing books, traveling and volunteering in church and community.

Doris has a bachelors degree in Elementary Education from the University of Massachusetts and a masters degree in Adult Education from North Carolina State University. She is not married, with 2 sons from a previous marriage, 3 grand children and 1 great grand child.

Doris is now attending Gadsden UMC and serves as the Education and Interpretation Coordinator for its UMW unit. She has previously served as President, Secretary and Finance Committee chairperson at Saint Paul UMC.

Tutti is a life-long Methodist, originally from Mississippi where she graduated at Wood Junior College; a small Methodist school and then she graduated with honors from Faulkner University.

Tutti worked on the BNSF Railroad for 29 years, then worked for her family Doctor for 5 years. Tutti lives in Pine Hill, has three children, Five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She is a member of the Arlington UMC where she teaches the Adult Sunday School class and Leads music in the Worship Services. Currently Tutti is the Vice President of the local unit; and she was on the Demopolis District Team

As Social Action Chair and as Secretary. Tuttie is also currently Serving as Conference Membership Nurture & Outreach Chairperson And has taught several Mission Studies at the local and District levels.

She will teach the Youth Leader's Study at Mission u.



Tutti Johnson
Nominated for Conference Spiritual
Growth Coordinator

Prior to 2017 where I served as your Conference Communications Coordinator, I had not been in United Methodist Women for over nine years due to work and soccer games, but before that I was very active in United Methodist Women. Offices I have held:

1. Local Unit President (Ensley UMC - Pensacola) for 8 years;
2. District Communications Coordinator - Pensacola for 4 years;
3. Pensacola District President for 4 years.

I even began bringing my now 20 year old daughter, Mariah to Blue Lake functions at the tender age of 18 months until she was 8 years old. In fact, Mariah is an Honorary United Methodist Woman! I have been married to Eric for the past 29 years and we are going through the empty-nest syndrome that so many of us face with our children leaving for college. I love United Methodist Women and am excited to be a part of such a ministry again!



Debbie Bush
Nominated for Conference
Communications Coordinator



**Jean Creswell
Nominated for
Conference
Treasurer**

Husband: John Creswell, Retired Col. With Alabama National Guard, Children: Clayton Tartt (wife - LuLu Brooks, Children: Chance and Bryce), Hester Tartt (wife - Sonya Ellison, Children: Walker and Reece), Jennifer Goggans, Anne Goggans Capps (husband, Justin, Children: Mary Coleman and Ty). I previously worked (1983-1999) for the University of West Alabama, Livingston, AL in its Alumni & Development Office (where I also received my B.S. in Business Administration/Accounting in 1976) and currently work for Pine Belt Telephone Co. (Arlington, AL) where I am the accounting Manager (since 1999). I am a member of the Arlington United Methodist Church where I am the Treasurer and I am the financial manager of my family's timber and hunting farm. I have held the position of local UMW Treasurer since 2005 and have been the Demopolis District's former President, Secretary and Treasurer. I am currently serving a one-year term as the Conference Treasurer for the AWFC UMW. I also serve on numerous local and district church committees.



**Cynthia Brown
Nominated for Charter for
Racial Justice member at
Large**

Born in Eclectic, Alabama (Elmore County). Cynthia has been a members of the Chapel United Methodist Church UMW Unit for more than 30 years. She has been instrumental in piloting several community service projects and is especially proud of the Unit starting the Annual Women's Conference. She has served on the Conference Committee of Nominations and as Chair of the Committee.

She is the Founder and Executive Director of Heritage Training and Career Center, Inc. a non-profit organization which works to provide job training, employment opportunities and access to services for the remediation of education and skills for low-income individuals who lack adequate training to achieve economic independence and to provide support services for women and children. Cynthia is a graduate of Elmore County High School and Troy State University. She is a member of Chapel United Methodist Church, Eclectic, AL, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and Troy State University Alumni Association. She has one son, JaMel and one grandson, JaDarien.



**Carolyn Coker
Nominated for Membership
Nurture & Outreach
Coordinator**

**Bio Unavailable at Newsletter
Release Time
For Carolyn Coker
and
Nettie Lang**



**Nettie Lang
Nominated for Committee on
Nominations Class of 2018**

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION REPORT

If you missed attending Mission u in Millbrook in July, you missed a treat. The Millbrook UMC hospitality was outstanding; the studies and plenaries were thought-provoking, informative and inspiring. Please seek out these studies in the districts this next year. You will not be disappointed.

E and I Coordinators, it is our responsibility to promote all channels of Mission Giving for United Methodist Women. If this office is vacant in your local unit or district, another officer should assume this responsibility. The five channels of annual Mission Giving make United Methodist Women's mission possible across the United States and around the world. Voluntary annual giving helps members fulfill the PURPOSE of the organization.

Pledge to Mission is the amount a woman gives to her local unit. It is usually the largest amount she gives every year for mission.

Special Mission Recognition is a set amount of money for mission (\$40, \$60, \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000) given by an individual, circle or local unit to honor any person. The honoree receives a certificate and a small gold oval lapel pin.

Gift to Mission honors someone with a contribution of \$5 or more for mission. A card may be sent to the honoree: "Congratulations," "Thank You," "In the Service of Christ," "A Special Day," "Thinking of You," "Happy Birthday," or "A Baby."

Gift in Memory is a gift of \$5 or more that honors the memory of someone special. A card can be sent to the family of the deceased.

World Thank Offerings are spontaneous gifts given out of gratitude for God's abundance.

Also, E and I Coordinators, please be sure to collect information from your units and districts regarding the mission studies held during the year. This should be reported on the local President's Consolidated Report Form as will the district which will, in turn, be reported on the District President's Consolidated Report Form. You are also charged with the Mission Today reporting. Copies of these forms may be found in the 2017 Workbook. These reports should be in to the District Presidents by November 30th. District reports should be in to the Conference President by December 10th. It sounds early, I know, but time will be here before we know it!

Thank you for all you do in the name of women, children and youth, and I hope to see you in October for our Spiritual Enrichment Retreat.

Shirley Hodges

Education & Interpretation Coordinator



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

response:
the magazine of women in mission!





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2017



More images in [Photo Album](#)

United Methodist Women
Alabama-West Florida
Conference
Debbie Bush
173 Overlook Drive
Pensacola, FL 32503

Save the Date!

February 23 - 24, 2018

Annual Day @ Foley UMC in Foley, Alabama

May 18-20, 2018

Assembly @ Columbus, Ohio

October 19 - 21, 2018

Spiritual Enrichment Retreat @ Blue Lake

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR REPORT

YOU CAN BECOME INFORMED OF ALL OF THE ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES BY SUBSCRIBING TO THE ALERT TODAY!

- To receive a copy of the ALERT in the mail, please send in your Name, Address and Telephone Number to Debbie Bush. Enclose a \$4.00 check made payable to:
Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women.
- You may receive a copy of the ALERT free by email. Please email Debbie Bush with your request at: **Savannahgirl2759@gmail.com** and you will be added to our email list.

Debbie Bush

Conference Communications Coordinator

STAY INFORMED

