



Alert

Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women

Volume 38
No. 3
Summer
June
2010

**Mission Team
2010**

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Missions**

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Registrar**

**Lynn Hamric
Women's Division
Director**



**2010 Cooperative School of
Christian Mission
July 23-24, 2010
(July 22 optional day)
Blue Lake Assembly, Andalusia, AL**

Geographic

**The Beauty and
Courage of
Sudan**

For most of the past twenty years the country of Sudan has been plagued with severe drought. Desertification is apparent in the west, where thorn bushes dominate the savanna landscape of South Darfur and are killing out the native acacia trees. The shortages of food due to drought have sometimes reached famine proportions. Climate change in Sudan is not just a looming crisis; it is the reality on the ground. Yet at Sudan's core is beauty. Written by Linda Beher, with study guide by Maxine West, this study offers an extended portrait of Sudan. Explored are an overview of history that began in Bible times; the country's main ethnicities, religions and languages; touch points and possible causes for the wars; and the way Sudanese women are contributing to the peace process and to the culture as a whole.

Spiritual Growth

**For the Love of
God:
John's Letters**

The Epistles of John were written to encourage deeper, more meaningful faith, and therefore they speak to us just as much as they spoke to congregations 20 centuries ago, say study authors Catherine Gunsalus González and Justo L. González.

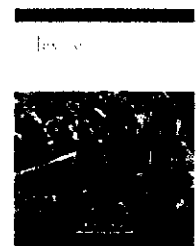
The 2010 Spiritual Growth Study focuses on modern-day relevance of the Epistles as God's Word, emphasizing love for all humanity; revealing who among us are false teachers. Fellowship with God cannot be separated from fellowship with one another.



General Issue

**Joy to the World:
Mission in the Age of
Global Christianity**

...in the Age of Global Christianity (Mission Study 2010-11 with Study Guide) explores the flow of mission, evangelism and theology in the context of 21st-century Christianity as a worldwide religion of hospitality-healing-reconciliation.



This will be a timely look at mission work and evangelism in the Methodist Church. This study is for anyone concerned about the church's outreach, for those involved in mission work and for all church leaders.

Author Dana L. Robert



From the desk of the President...

Greetings,

Excited I am! As I think of United Methodist Women, it is clear that the theme for **Assembly 2010; "Faith•Hope•Love in Action"**, describes United Methodist Women completely! My heart was full and overflowing as I watched example after example of people, agencies, and institutions that exist and are able to help women, children and youth because we give to MISSION i.e. The 25 cents per member given for Assembly offering enabled Alabama West-Florida Conference to give \$2,369.00 to the Assembly Offering.

The Assembly offering will help fund organizations and projects focused on global health and environmental justice issues that affect women, children and youth in the US and internationally. How far and how wide extends our **"Faith• Hope•Love in Action"**. This is just one example of how important our Pledges to Mission, the 5 areas of Mission Giving, and Pennies for Mission are.

We are at the half way point in the year. Stop. Take note of where you and your Unit are in meeting your goals and plans for 2010. Take stock and use the remainder of the year to meet and exceed your goals! There are so many depending upon us to help them have a better life. **IF WE DON'T DO IT, WHO WILL?**

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Cooperative School of Christian Mission in July.

We are Flames  of **"Faith•Hope•Love in Action"**!

Beth Bowdin, President
bbowdin@centurylink.net
 (334) 898-7676



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.

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 _____

ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA COOPERATIVE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

THEME: "FAITH, HOPE, LOVE IN ACTION"

July 23-24, 2010 (optional day July 22) Blue Lake Assembly Grounds, Andalusia

Registration Deadline: July 8 (NO REFUNDS after this date)

Check-in from 9 to 10 am on Friday, July 23 or 9:30 to 10 am on Thursday, July 22

Name _____ E-Mail Address _____ M/F _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____ District _____ Church _____

I need a downstairs room _____ I need a handicap accessible room _____

NOTE: A limited number of handicap accessible rooms are available. A roommate may be assigned in these rooms.

ROOMMATES 1. _____ 2. _____

(Roommates must use a separate registration form and mail the forms together when registering)

CEUs requested _____ (Persons receiving CEUs must participate in all activities for ENTIRE School.)

Check made out to Blue Lake Assembly MUST accompany registration. A \$10 registration fee is included in all totals.

ONE STUDY (July 23-24)- Friday and Saturday

TWO STUDIES (July 22, 23 & 24) -Thursday - Saturday

Center Section: One Night

Center Section: Two Nights

Single: \$85.00 ____

Single: \$152.50 ____

Double: \$62.50 ____

Double: \$107.50 ____

Triple: \$55.00 ____

Triple: \$92.50 ____

Linwood Wing: One Night

Linwood Wing: Two Nights

Single: \$90.00 ____

Single: \$162.50 ____

Double: \$65.00 ____

Double: \$112.50 ____

Fees include all meals and linens. Rooms will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. All refunds and/or adjustments are processed through Blue Lake AFTER the completion of the school.

If attending the two day school only, select ONE. If attending the three day school, select John's Letters and ONE additional study.

For the Love of God: John's Letters _____

Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity _____

Sudan _____

Mail registration forms and full payment to:

Paige Haley, Registrar
Blue Lake Assembly
8500 Oakwood Lane
Andalusia, AL 36420
(334) 222-5407

Scholarship information:

Mary Jo Morton, Scholarship Chair
3010 College Street
Marianna, FL 32446
(850) 482-3688
mjmorton@embarqmail.com

PAYMENT IN FULL TO BLUE LAKE ASSEMBLY MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION. THIS APPLIES TO ALL BOARDS, AGENCIES, UNITED METHODIST WOMEN, AND CHURCH/SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.

Be sure to bring: Bible, notebook, pen/pencil, sweater, umbrellas, and any other special comforts you may need. PLEASE BRING YOUR HEALTH FORM IN A SEALED ENVELOPE WITH YOU TO CHECK IN.

Cooperative School of Christian Mission
 Elizabeth Andrews, Dean of School, 2010
 Betty Helms, Assistant Dean



Elizabeth Andrews



Betty Helms

**Greetings from Elizabeth Andrews, Dean, &
 Betty Helms, Assistant Dean**

Make plans to come to Blue Lake and learn about missions! The School is an opportunity to grow spiritually, to learn and become involved in mission within our church, and to meet and fellowship with other Methodists from throughout our conference. The learning environment is casual and discussion oriented. The studies are prepared by the Board of Global Ministries and are taught throughout the country. Each study leader receives training and is certified to lead the studies by the Women's Division of the church.

Textbooks will be available for purchase at the School. Upon request, CEUs are offered for clergy persons who attend all sessions of the School. For any additional questions, please contact us:

Elizabeth Andrews
Elizand01@aol.com
 (850) 485-5397

Betty Helms
Bhelms1@centurytel.net
 (334) 794-2172

**Alabama-West Florida Conference
 Cooperative School of Christian Mission**

Faith-Hope-Love In Action

Sponsors:

**Board of Church & Society
 Conference Board of Global Ministries
 United Methodist Women**

Three (3) scholarships available for CSCM

The scholarships are offered to qualified participants, those who are first time attendees. Each scholarship is on a one time basis.

- The Don Brill Scholarship is available to new clergy members of the AWF Conference (the scholarship is available within the first five years of the new clergy tenure).
- Nell Chance Scholarship is available to a new United Methodist Women of the AWF Conference attending her first School of Christian Mission. The purpose is to introduce the CSCM to as many new UMW members as possible.
- Lib Claridy Scholarship is available to a lay person who has never attended AWF CSCM.

Applications are available on the Conference and UMW websites.

Submit completed scholarship applications to:

Mary Jo Morton
 3010 College St.
 Marianna, FL 32446
mjmorton@embargmail.com

Cooperating School of Christian Mission
 General Issue: To the World Mission in the Age of Global Christianity
 Reverend J. Walker Epps and Reverend Dr. Clayton Childers



Rev. J. Walker Epps

Rev. J. Walker Epps currently serves as the District Superintendent of the Dothan District of the Alabama-West Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church. Appointed to this position in July of 2008, Epps was previously the superintendent of the Marianna/Panama City District for two years.

He was raised in Headland, Alabama, where he attended the public schools and the Headland Methodist Church. His parents were Julian W. and Mary Ligon Solomon Epps, and he has one sister, Malinda Morris of Headland. Epps graduated from Birmingham-Southern College in 1971 and from Boston University School of Theology in 1974. In 1971 Epps married Lynn Thomas of Dothan, and they have two children, Micah who lives in Charlotte, NC, and Ellise, who lives in Headland, AL.

After living in parsonages for thirty-four years, Walker and Lynn now reside in the family home in Headland.

Epps was a pastor in the Alabama-West Florida Conference for thirty-two years before being appointed to the Cabinet. Appointments served include, Cloverdale in Dothan, Greensboro, Mary Esther, FL, Andalusia FUMC, and Enterprise FUMC. Epps is on the Boards of Trustees of Birmingham-Southern College, the Methodist Homes Corporation, and The United Methodist Foundation.

An avid reader, Epps enjoys history and biographies, good fiction, and the works of Thomas Merton. His dream is to become a mentor, or coach, or spiritual friend to a person or two who would like such a friend.



Rev. Dr. Clayton Childers

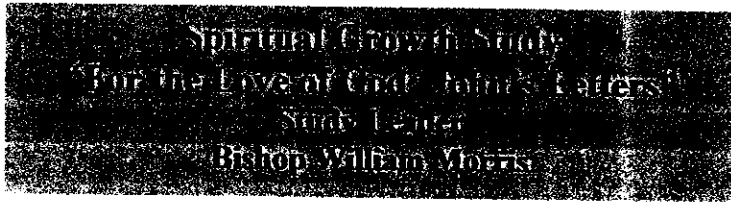
Rev. Clayton Childers grew up in Atlanta Georgia during the days of the Civil Rights movement and the Vietnam War. Both were formative in his upbringing. After serving in the local church for sixteen years in Virginia and South Carolina, Rev. Childers came in 2001 to work at the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society on Capitol Hill in Washington DC.

In his current position as Director of Conference Relations, he has traveled widely teaching about the call of the church to social action and advocacy. "As people of faith we need to think and talk about what we are for," says Childers, "not just what we are against. We need to present our message in positive and inviting ways, painting a picture of a preferred future. This is the secret of Jesus ministry. Jesus painted a picture of an alternative Kingdom, the reign of God on earth as it is in heaven".

As Director for Conference Relations Rev. Childers has represented GBCS in 4 of the US Annual Conferences (areas), as well as in the Philippines Liberia, Nigeria, Egypt, Palestine, Israel, Turkey, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, The Bahamas, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Russia, Kazakhstan and Germany. In addition, he has enjoyed hosting numerous UM leaders and groups at the United Methodist building in Washington, DC. These have included training events with Directors of Connectional Ministries, District Superintendents, Annual Conference Lay Leaders, Conference Elder/Deacon Probationers, District Pastor Trainings, seminary classes, college groups, youth groups, and confirmation classes.

Rev. Childers holds degrees from Furman University, Southeastern Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Candler School of Theology, Emory University with an emphasis in Christian education.

He is married to the Rev. Denise Matz Childers, a pastor in the Virginia Conference currently serving at St. George's United Methodist Church in Fairfax, Virginia. They have two daughters, Allison, age 24 and Carly, age 20.



Bishop William Wesley Morris

William Wesley Morris was born in Baltimore, Maryland and was educated in the Baltimore school system. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan with an A.B. degree, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary with a B.D. degree, Scarritt College with an M.A. degree with distinction, and Vanderbilt University with D. Min. degree.

While serving student appointments, he was ordained deacon in 1959 and elder in 1961. He served Bethany Methodist Church, Chicago Illinois; Union Avenue Community Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois; Christ Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois; Stanley Methodist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee; John Wesley United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, and First United Methodist Church, Gallatin, Tennessee. He also served as an Associate Council Director, Council Director and District Superintendent of the Clarksville and Murfreesboro Districts, and on the General Council on Ministries.

On July 15, 1992, he was elected bishop of the United Methodist Church at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, where he was assigned to the Alabama-West Florida Area. In July of 2000, he was assigned to the Nashville Area. He served as president of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits from 2000 to 2004, and is currently a Trustee at Emory University.

He was married to the late Mary Head Morris of McMinnville, Tennessee, and they have four children: Loretta, Eva, Michael, and Mark. In 2006, he married Princilla Smart Evans.

Cooperative School of Christian Mission

July 23 and 24

(Optional Day July 22)

I hope that you have marked your calendars and are ready to register for the annual Cooperative School of Christian Mission scheduled for Friday and Saturday, July 23 and 24, at Blue Lake Assembly grounds. This year we will kick off the event with a Mission Fair. Registration check-in will begin at 9:30 am with the Mission Fair occurring at 9:30. There will be displays by our mission organizations who receive support through the United Methodist Church and through United Methodist Women.

A special feature will be a presentation by Gene Schmidt, a member of Pensacola's First United Methodist Church, who used his own small airplane to deliver emergency supplies to Haiti following the disaster there. If you or groups from your church are interested in serving on a mission team in Haiti, we will have information at the fair regarding those opportunities.

Following the mission fair and opening session, our mission studies will begin. For those persons who wish to take two studies, Bishop Morris will be leading an all day study of John's Letters on Thursday. He will repeat the course on Friday and Saturday for those attending only the two day school. The school is open to all lay and clergy persons who are interested in mission study.

Elizabeth Andrews, Dean

Elizand01@aol.com

(850) 485-5397

Cooperative School of Christian Mission
 Monte Vallo, VA
 Heidi Branch and Rev. Pam Avery

Geography Study: The Beauty and
 Challenge of the Sudan
 Ruth Gynther



Heidi Branch

Heidi Branch is the Assistant Director of Music/Accompanist at First United Methodist Church in Pensacola, where she works with her husband, Rick, the Minister of Music. They have been at FUMC, Pensacola since 1994. Heidi has accompanied church and school choirs since she was 12 years old. In addition to the piano, she also plays flute frequently in worship and church concerts. She received her B.S. in Nursing from the University of Florida in 1986 and has worked as an RN since that time. She currently works part time in outpatient surgery at Sacred Heart Hospital. Heidi and Rick have been married for 24 years and have 2 children, Drew, 18, and Kylie, 12.



Rev. Pam Avery

Rev. Pam Avery is currently serving in her sixth year as pastor of Lathram Chapel United Methodist Church in Cantonment, Florida. She is involved in Native American Ministries, prison ministries and women's ministries as well as serving on the Board of Managers for North Alabama Course of Study School and the Commission On Archives and History of the Alabama West Florida Conference. Prior to her call to ministry, she taught music for twenty years in public and private schools, and then served as a church director of music ministries. She received her music education at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She has studied international and folk music at The University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. After two bouts with cancer, she dedicated herself to serving God as her continuing life's work. She has two grown sons, one daughter-in-law and two furry children (dogs!). She is married to Charles Avery who is a retired United Methodist Minister.



Ruth Gynther

Ruth grew up in southwest Alabama with Methodist as part of her identity. She was active in Wesley Foundation at both Monte Vallo, where she received her bachelor's degree and at UNC where she did graduate work. She taught psychology at the University of MO, St. Louis and is retired from the Psychology Department of Auburn University.

Her association with Methodist women goes back to a student circle of WSCS at Monte Vallo, and she has been a member since 1956. She has served at the local, district, and conference levels and recently completed a term as Conference Chair of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women. She represents Auburn United Methodist Women with AL/ Arise.

In addition to teaching the Sudan at School of Mission in 2009 Ruth has taught it for the Demopolis District and for Auburn UMC and led a class on East Africa for Lifelong Learners of Auburn University.

South Atlantic Regional School
 of Christian Mission
 Ferrum College, Virginia
 June 24-27, 2010

Program Resources

As many of you know, I had some medical problems in the past few months. The cartoon reminded me how important reading can be to get your mind off your problems and get you up and moving again.

Of course, reading offers us many other benefits. We read for entertainment, read to study, read for information and to expand our concept of the world and therefore of mission. Many United Methodist Women have bought books from me this year. Books have been purchased for individuals, for UMW Units in local churches, for gifts and for United Methodist Women's Studies.

At the Conference School of Christian Mission in July, I will again have an assortment of Reading Program Books, 2010 Study books, some organizational books and free materials. Any of the above materials that are available in Spanish will also be available. I will no longer have any bags to hold your purchases so be sure to bring a shopping bag with you.

This Conference School of Christian Mission promises to be an exciting study and learning time. If you want to buy your study books ahead of the School, please know that you can do that. Go to www.missionresourcecenter.org and check out the on line catalogue. You may also phone 800-305-9857 and request a catalogue or place an order by phone. You may contact the Mission Resource Center by mail at P. O. Box 660275, Dallas, Texas 75226-0275. Request a catalogue to be sent to you and then place your order by mail.

If you prefer to buy your materials from the conference United Methodist Women, please contact me with any specific resources you may want to buy and I will order them with the consignment order and have them ready for you when you arrive at Blue Lake. Contact me at rall@ctvea.net or 334-298-6405.

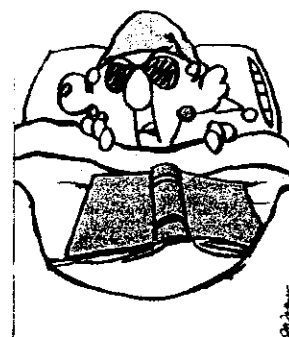
Units and individuals who may need forms for the reading program can also get them from the Program Resource Room. We strive to make resources available to each of you in easiest way possible.

Gift in Mission cards are also on sale in the Program Resource Room. I will mark the sale for your district, if you choose. Gift in Mission cards are a wonderful way to let someone know you are thinking of them and the cost is about the same as a purchased card in a card shop; plus the money goes to mission work.

See you soon at the Conference School of Christian Mission.

Ruth Ann Powers
Secretary of Program Resources

*Books . A nice change from
reading prescription labels.*



**Alabama West Florida Conference
UMW Mission Giving
First Quarterly Report
March 31, 2010**

Pledge To Mission	\$	13,910.32
Special Mission Recognition	\$	1,160.00
Gift To Mission	\$	880.00
Gift In Memory	\$	2,325.00
World Thank Offering	\$	3,014.03
A Call to Prayer and Self Denial	\$	2,776.58
A Brighter Future for Children/Youth	\$	66.12
Assembly Offering	\$	35.97
UMCOR Native American Ministries	\$	138.00
UMCOR Advance for Haiti Earthquake	\$	225.00
UMCOR	\$	2,050.00
Dumas Wesley	\$	1,272.44
Nellie Burge	\$	1,122.44
Noah's Ark	\$	1,122.44
S.K.I.P	\$	1,021.16
Mobile Inner City	\$	1,072.44
Hispanic Ministries	\$	1,022.42
Assembly/Jurisdiction Love Offering	\$	238.77
Blue Lake	\$	2,826.50
A&MD Fund	\$	2,676.50
TOTAL	\$	38,956.13

Important Dates to Remember

2010

- **June 24-27, 2010**
South Atlantic Regional School
of Christian Mission
Ferrum College, VA
- **July 9-10, 2010**
Executive Committee
& Nominations Meeting
Blue Lake
- **July 23-24, 2010**
Cooperative School of
Christian Mission
Blue Lake
- **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

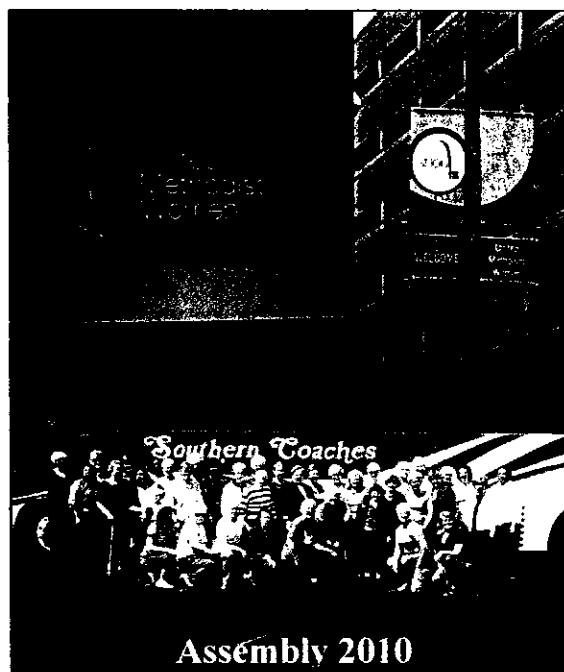
Treasurer's Report

Those who went to Assembly had a wonderful experience and good time.

As your Treasurer, I was honored to take our Love Offering check of \$2,369 along with the other Conference Treasurers and place in the basket on Friday night. It was a special feeling of how God had blessed our Conference. This money was collected from each UMW member on our Conf. asking of 25 cents per member per year. We put this in savings and at the end of two years this is given as our Love Offering to Assembly or Jurisdiction. Isn't it amazing what just 25 cents from each member can do? Thanks!

In HIS Service,

Margie Outlaw, Treasurer
43 East King Street
Newton, AL 36352
(334) 299-6877
moutlaw200@centurytel.net



Nominations

The Nominations Committee has been working hard for you at Tapestry, Spiritual Enrichment Retreat and on the bus to and from Assembly. We have met new UMW members and those in our conference that have not served on the Conference Mission Team recently or at all. We are still searching for persons interested in Social Action and Communications Coordinator. If you have an interest in either of these positions, I would like to hear from you. As a matter of fact, if you are interested in serving on the conference level in any position and you have not completed a Talent Bank Form, please do so. I will gladly mail or email you a Talent Bank Form. My contact information is as follows:

Pat Dodge
 517 North Oak Drive
 Pensacola, FL 32514
pdodge@live.com
 850-337-1705 (home)
 850-350-3677 (cell)

From the Vice President

After attending Assembly in St. Louis, this scripture came to my mind from Matthew 5:14... SHINE, YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. It was such an amazing weekend. There is so much we can learn from going and seeing the whole atmosphere of the Assembly. I wish everyone could have had an opportunity to go. Now we are back, we will start planning for Regional School of Christian Missions and the activities for our own Cooperative School of Christian Missions on FAITH - HOPE - LOVE IN ACTION. Plan now to attend July 23-24 (optional day July 22). We feel that each year you will learn something new and exciting from coming to this weekend. We have scholarships available for first timers. So check with us to see who could be available for a scholarship. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a larger part of the UMW. We are growing and we are going to keep on growing. Thanks to all who are willing to participate in service to the UMW.

In His Service,

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

Spiritual Growth

Thanks to all of you who attended and assisted with the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat. The speaker, Garlinda Burton, was outstanding. Song leader Beth Henson and pianist Ruthie Asmussen (who was recruited at the last minute) inspired us to "Let our Light Shine" through music and praise. Signer for the songs was Whitney Hobson, a student at the University of Alabama and the granddaughter of our registrar Charlotte Hobson. Rev. LuAnne Houser conducted a "Service of Remembering Your Baptism" and also coordinated walking the Labyrinth. Focus Groups led by Lynn Hamric and Martha Rovira provided opportunities for participants to share ideas for expanding UMW by attracting new members and being more inclusive. Virginia Lindley gave an excellent presentation of Three Simple Rules, a 2010 Spiritual Growth book in the Reading Program. Rev. Tonya Elmore, the DS from the Mobile District., made a trip to Blue Lake from a very busy schedule to preside over the Communion service on Sunday. Plan to attend the SER next year on the last weekend in March. See you there!

As a "first timer" to a UMW General Assembly, I joined with the fifty-two members from the Ala/WFla Conference at St. Louis last month. We participated in multi-lingual activities and heard inspiring stories of spiritual growth, mission work and social justice done by United Methodist Women. At the opening session over 6500 women from the US and around the world celebrated Communion led by the first female bishop in Africa. In the closing remarks by Harriett Jane Olson, we were challenged to go forth and turn faith, hope and love into action. It was an awesome experience!

Mark your calendar for July 23-24 for the **Cooperative School of Christian Mission** at Blue Lake. The Spiritual Growth study this year is *For the Love of God: John's Letters* led by Bishop William Morris. It will also be offered on Thursday, July 22 for those who want to take an additional study--*Sudan* or the general issue, *Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity*. I encourage each District to send your members for training and to teach those outstanding studies in your units.

Have a blessed and relaxing summer!

Martha Spiva
mespiva@bellsouth.net
 (850) 874-0308

Social Action

IMMIGRATION

Approximately 2000 of those present at Assembly in St. Louis had the opportunity to participate as one of the groups in the May 1 nationwide rally to protest the anti-immigration measure passed in Arizona that they fear will lead to racial profiling. United Methodist Women carried a sign that read:

**Because We Believe . . .
WE ACT FOR
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS**

Harriett Olsen, deputy general secretary of the Women's Division stated, "This is a particularly urgent moment . . . Laws like the one in Arizona will lead to caste laws and legalized racial profiling. As people of faith, we must declare: This is not just." Phoenix Bishop Minerva Carcano said the "faith-based public witness" showed that immigration justice is more than a political issue. It is at the very core of what it means to be a people of faith. We stand for immigration rights." Interfaith rally participants included Methodist, Catholic and Muslim leaders. Bishop Carcano urged United Methodist Women to petition U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano about our nation's "broken immigration policies that can lead to racial profiling, arbitrary detention and deportation.

- From The United Methodist Reporter, May 14, 2010

The Council of Bishops at its spring meeting in Columbus, Ohio, offered prayer and support to Bishop Carcano in her opposition to the new Arizona immigration law. In response to a request from Iowa Area Bishop Julius Trimble, several bishops signed a large poster with a statement calling on The United Methodist Church "to recognize humane, comprehensive immigration reform as the faith issue that it is and hold our officials accountable."

-From Faith in Action, a publication of the UM General Board of Church and Society, May 12, 2010

I had the opportunity to listen to the May 20 National Faith and Immigration conference call by the General Board of Church and Society. The discussion centered on what will be happening in the U.S. to support our brothers and sisters in Arizona. We were told that several states are introducing or have introduced legislation similar to Arizona's concerning immigrants.

Edna L. Williams
Social Action Coordinator
(334)727-0314
elwilli@bellsouth.net



I can't believe we finally made the cover of the Response Magazine.

What an awesome experience we had at Assembly! It was an experience of a life time that I will never forget. The ride on the bus was enjoyable and the fellowship with the other UMW was priceless! I especially enjoyed the uplifting music and wonderful speakers. The mission work of UMW touches so many lives all over the world. We are unique and called by God to do His perfect will.

I would like to encourage you to get involved with your local unit, district, and conference. There are so many opportunities for you to serve and put love in action.

Thank you for the cards and prayers during the recent death of my stepfather. Your support is a blessing to me and my family!

Beth Henson
Communications Coordinator
bah9103@aol.com

Maxine Say's it Best!

How many times do we tell someone that we are "ready to listen" but really have other things on our mind? Maybe we have become numb to the onslaught of information everyone seems to want to share with us. Many times our minds are formulating answers to questions or replies to statements that haven't even been fully spoken. In our world today, time is of the essence. No more sitting on the front porch visiting with neighbors in the late afternoons. Everyone is "connected" electronically and most of us instantly know way more about each other than we really need to know.....but most of the time it's fun!

Alabama West Florida Conference United Methodist Women held two focus groups at our recent Spiritual Enrichment Retreat where we concentrated on trying to not only determine why more women are not actively involved in UMW but also how we can work on making changes that will benefit the organization locally and globally. As I told the women in these two groups....I'm ready to listen and I wanted them to start thinking and sharing their ideas. We had a very fruitful time together and the information, suggestions and comments shared during this time will become a part of my report to the conference mission team as well as the other directors of the Women's Division as we work toward increased involvement. You will also be hearing from me in the form of a survey, but I would like to do this electronically as it proves to be less expensive, much easier to complete and quicker to tabulate. In order for this to work I will need your email address. Not just current UMW members but the email addresses for any woman you think might be interested in becoming a member. We MUST ask the questions...*what are YOU interested in...* because that is where we need to begin to make our changes.

We have a rich and glorious past that we are extremely thankful for. We have a vibrant presence in the world today. The question remains...Where do we go from here? Won't you be a part in helping to guide and direct this great organization? Email me any suggestions or comments you have now and I'll add you to my database for the upcoming survey.

*I'm ready to listen...
are you ready to think?*

F. Lynn Hamric, Director
Women's Division
lhamric@eng.ua.edu

**Secretaries Report**

Ladies:



Summer is here with a vengeance. We did not have much spring, a season which I love. Maybe we will have an early fall and a late winter - wish on, Mary Jo.

We attended Assembly in St. Louis in May and it was wonderful. It is so inspiring to see that many UMW members together in one place - for one purpose: worship and fellowship.

Before we know it, I will be getting information together for the Conference Directory for the last time. There will be lots of things about Conference Mission Team meetings that I will miss and some that I won't miss. I guess it is that way with whatever we are involved with. Other things can come first for the first time in six years.

Cooperative School of Christian Missions is coming up soon. I hope that I get Bishop Morris for my teacher at Regional School. I believe the Pensacola Newsletter said that he was teaching in our Conference this summer. He is an excellent teacher. He thoroughly prepares you to go out and teach the study.

I look forward to seeing you at CSCM or the July Mission Team meeting.

Blessings,

Mary Jo Morton
Secretary

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