

## District Officers

### President

Reda Brooks

### Secretary

Mable Lawrence

### Treasurer

Brenda Hargrave

### Social Action

Gloria Jean Williams

### Communications

Carolyn Davis

### Membership Nurture &

#### Outreach

Reba Wooten

### Education & Interpretation

Marsha Clayton

### Nominations

Chair - TBA

Evelyn Teel, Member



## From The President's Desk

### *TAKE A BOW*

Your District team officers are diligently working on fine tuning plans for District Spiritual Growth Day, making decisions about providing snacks for Conference Spiritual Growth Weekend, establishing the 2020 calendar and contacting units to provide places for 2020 programs and events. Also, our work included planning to attend Legacy Museum with our sister units from the Baypines District, sending recipes to the cookbook committee for Jurisdictional Meeting in Mobile and contacting dynamic speakers for our programs in 2020. **WE NEED YOU!!! PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND YOUR UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EVENTS.** We were blessed to have Sandy join us. Sandy is a perspective local president with our unit at Millbrook.

### *COMING SOON*

You don't want to miss our Book Cluster Event @Metropolitan. We will gather at 8:30 October 26, 2019, enjoy a light breakfast, read and discuss highlights of the books, plan a real response to our new knowledge and be gone before lunch time. We expect to complete highlights from two books. These books will help us reach our goal to complete Plan 1 of the United Methodist Women Reading Program. Come to River City on Monday, October 21 @ 10 to welcome the UMW pilgrimage. Then we will visit the Equal Justice and Legacy Museums. Cost is \$20 and we will need to reserve tickets. Email me for info. [redabrooks@att.net](mailto:redabrooks@att.net). Register now for Spiritual Growth Weekend @Blue Lake.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars and plan to join the UMW car caravan to District Spiritual Growth Day to be held at Locust Bluff UM Church of Prattville. This is a special event and we want every unit to make an extra effort to attend. ALL UMW OFFICERS AND MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

Bring the most ladies and win the traveling trophy for best attendance.

September 14, 2019 @8:30am



## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO?



Chapel United Methodist Women won the traveling trophy for best attendance at a District event. This means that the Chapel ladies have unilateral bragging rights to the trophy until our next District Event. Chapel brought the most participants to our Mission Study entitled "Embracing Wholeness and Covenantal Living" hosted by our unit at Trinity United Methodist of Prattville. Facilitated by our District officers Marsha Clayton, Ora Gillespie, Gloria Williams, Reba Wooten and Mable Lawrence, we learned so much about how-to live-in community with ourselves and all that God has made. We are so very appreciative to our sisters at Trinity for all the wonderful, radically hospitable things that they did to welcome us to their church family. A huge thank you to Pastor Ken Jackson, his always-friendly wife Cindy and all the other ladies at Trinity. The next District Event is our annual Spiritual Growth Retreat Day, to be hosted by Locust Bluff United Methodist Church on September 14, 2019. This wonderful opportunity to enrich our spirits will begin @8:30, Saturday, September 14. We expect the bragging three-time trophy winners at Chapel to remember to bring the trophy to this event to pass the trophy to the group that brings the most attendees. Big congratulations to Chapel. We appreciate you!

**UMW Love in Action in the Montgomery/Prattville District**  
**Our District is so very excited to welcome Baypines United Methodist Women to Montgomery and to join them on this pilgrimage of faith and healing. Please let me know if you can come and greet the group @ River City and then do the tour with the group on Monday, October 21, 2019. What an awesome opportunity to join with sisters and brothers in Christ.**

### SAVE THE DATES

Spiritual Growth Day	September 14
Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat	October 11-13 <a href="http://www.awf-umw.org">www.awf-umw.org</a>
Messenger Flame to Communications	August 3
Messenger Flame to Conference	August 10
Baypines UMW Pilgrimage to Legacy Museum	October 21
Book Cluster Event	October 26
District Team Meeting	November 2

Reda Brooks, President



**Brenda Hargrave  
Treasurer**

**Be a 5-Star Unit and Make a Difference**

The global ministries that UMW supports are primarily to assist women, youth and children. The money we contribute to our 5-Star program supports women and children locally, nationally and internationally. One such international program is “Shade and Fresh Water” in Brazil. Eighteen million people in Brazil have an income of less than \$3.20 a day. Another 8.9 million have an income of less than \$1.90 per day. Unemployment is at 13.1%. Public schools are few and limited to 4 hours a day either in the morning or afternoon.

“Shade and Fresh Water” is an afterschool program with focus on children 6-14 years of age. They provide a safe place away from the drug dealers, good food and water, tutoring, and personal and spiritual growth so children will become productive members of society.

The money you contribute to Pledge to Missions, Special Mission Recognition Pin, Gift to Mission card, Gift in Memory and World Thank all go to support programs such as this. The need is great so I would encourage each unit to send in your money as it is received from your members instead of waiting until the end of November.

The Montgomery-Prattville District pledge this year is \$11,000. So far, we have received about \$3800 from 6 units. We know that our units want to make a difference and look forward to your support.

Brenda Hargrave  
Montgomery-Prattville District UMW Treasurer



**Marsha Clayton**  
**Education and Interpretation**  
**Coordinator**

**News from Education and Interpretation**

Hello to my sisters in love throughout the Montgomery-Prattville District. We are now  $\frac{3}{4}$  into 2019, this beautiful gift from God, and, hopefully all is going well in your units.

Thankfully, we have accomplished the 2 major goals under this area emphasis in this District: Presenting the 2 mission studies, one in March (“Money Matters” with Debbie Bracewell facilitating at Greenville First) and the second study (“Embracing Wholeness with 3 District officers and a Conference officer facilitating at Trinity UMC/Prattville). Much appreciation goes to the facilitators, host units/churches and all of you (some 35-40 per event) who participated by attending and/or by pausing to pray for the events. Evaluations were most favorable. Special comments will be considered for future events.

In addition, ten members from our District attended Mission U at St. Luke UMC, Pensacola, Fl. July 19-20. The two mission studies coming from this event to be presented in our District next year are “The Gospel of Mark: Radical Discipleship” and “Women United for Change.

Mission U 2020 will be held at **Aldersgate UMC in Montgomery**, Alabama July 24-25. **The 2020 studies will be “Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety”, “Mass Incarceration: School-to-Prison Pipeline”, and the repeat study, “Women United for Change”.** Make your plans now to attend. Watch for additional information and registration forms.

Hope you are working on your Mission Today items. At least 8 of the items (including 4 with asterisks) are items that many of us do as standard operations in our units annually. The report is due in November along with your unit’s report of mission study attendance and/or studies accomplished.

Keep in mind, mission growth and development is of great benefit as we seek to become whole persons through Jesus Christ and to become and help make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Best wishes to each of you for the remainder of this year in service with United Methodist Women-Montgomery-Prattville District and, as always, thanks so much for all you have done and will continue to do. God bless.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Marsha Clayton*, District E&I Coordinator

**From Reba Wooten  
Membership Nurture & Outreach**



**The District United Methodist members were in good attendance at the Mission study at Trinity United Methodist Church. We had some participants that had not attended a District event before. Let's continue to encourage participation at District events. Thanks to Trinity United Methodist Women for hosting the Mission Study event.**

**We also had good representation at Mission U in Pensacola.**

**I encourage every local Unit to actively invite other women to join United Methodist Women. It is imperative that each Local Unit encourages new members especially younger women.**

**We also need to contact United Methodist Women who have been active, but no longer attend.**

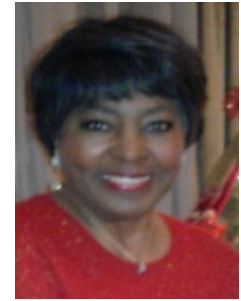
**Remember we are supposed to be "Love In Action."**

**Good luck as you prayerfully continue to serve Him.**

**Reba Wooten**



**Montgomery-Prattville District  
Social Action Coordinator  
Gloria Jean Williams**



**Back-to-School Webinars with United Methodist Women:  
Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline**

**Save the dates for these upcoming webinars.**

**The Reality of It All: Injustice of Our Education System with Khaylan De La Hoz and Star Rodriguez  
(United Methodist Women High School Summer Inter**

**Tuesday, August 13 -- 12PM-1PM EST**

*Two high school students will share their experience and knowledge about the real challenges students and teachers face due to the school-to-prison pipeline and the importance of relationships and school community. This webinar will include stories, statistics, film clips and more. This webinar will be led by United Methodist Women National Office Summer High School Interns, Khaylan De La Hoz and Star Rodriguez.*

**Understanding and Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline 101 with Emily Jones**

**Monday, August 19 -- 7PM-8PM EST**

*You'll participate in a brief "101"-level introduction to understanding the school-to-prison pipeline using a Wesleyan lens. This is a repeat of a previously-offered webinar for those who may have missed it earlier this year. No prior knowledge necessary.*

**Trauma-Informed Care with Kenya Cummings -- Monday, September 16 -- 7:30PM-9PM EST**

*You'll build a deeper understanding of trauma-informed approaches to education, care and community-building, including an introduction to key concepts and tools that you can use in caring for young people, yourself and others in your community. This webinar is especially helpful for those who support, teach, facilitate, organize, or otherwise care for children, young people and/or adults.*

**Bible the Study: Using School-to-Prison Pipeline Bible Study with Emily Jones**

**Monday, September 30 -- 12PM-1PM EST**

*You'll experience a taste of the school-to-prison Bible study tool in an interactive online session and then learn more about how you might use the full resource in your unit, circle or church. This webinar is open to anyone interested in exploring how Scripture helps us understand and interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.*

**Organizing Skills: The Campaign Essentials and Base-Building with Kenya Cummings**

**Monday, October 14 -- 7:30PM-9PM EST**

*You'll learn new concepts and practices for strengthening your organizing. This webinar is most helpful for those who are already familiar with the school-to-prison pipeline and are trying to learn more skills and tools to organize to interrupt/dismantle it.*

Mission Study – “Embracing Wholeness”  
Trinity United Methodist Church - June 15, 2019



Presenters Marsha Clayton, coordinator, Gloria Jean Canty, Mable Lawrence, & Conference officer Ora Gillespie

Chapel United Methodist Women won the traveling attendance trophy



Montgomery-Prattville District at Mission U  
St. Luke United Methodist Church  
Pensacola, Florida



The Montgomery – Prattville District United Methodist Women need a **Vice-President** and a **Spiritual Growth Coordinator**.

If you would like to serve on the Montgomery – Prattville District.

Please contact Mable Lawrence  
[mablelawrence@windstream.net](mailto:mablelawrence@windstream.net)



JOURNEY  
OF  
*Faith*

Monday

October 21, 2019

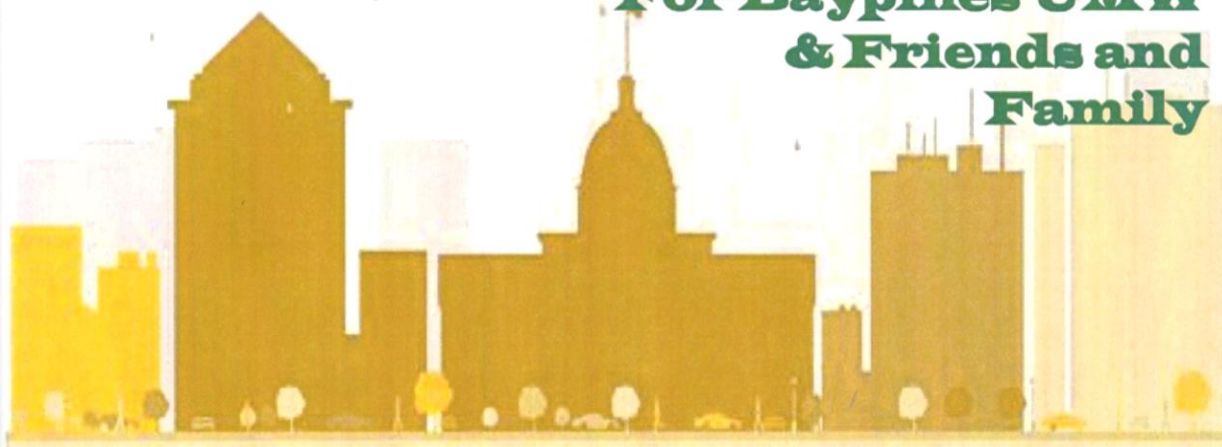
Save  
the  
Date



**THE** Legacy Museum &  
National Memorial  
for Peace and Justice

**PILGRIMAGE**

**For Baypines UMW  
& Friends and  
Family**



## **Do you need a Mission Project?**

### **Maternal and Child Health**

The 2017 Prayer and Self Denial program about the lack of feminine hygiene products for girls and women following childbirth in underdeveloped countries opened the eyes of 4 churches in the Montgomery-Prattville District (Clanton, Mulder, Metropolitan and Millbrook).

Girls cannot attend school during these 5 days a month because they do not have access to hygiene products or cannot afford them. It is believed that girls who stay in school are less likely to marry early or die in childbirth and they are more likely to train or educate their families. Following childbirth many women develop infections because they do not have clean hygiene products.

One solution to this problem is to provide girls with their own Hygiene Kit which contains 3 pair of underpants, a soap dish and bar of soap, a washcloth and 6 washable pads with safety pins for closure, and a zip lock plastic bag for soiled pads. All these items are enclosed in a pretty draw-string bag. The pads are very absorbent, washable and expected to last 2-3 years.

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The first shipment of 60 Hygiene Kits for girls and post partem mothers was sent in December 2017 to Haiti. Since then, over 125 have been sent to Haiti, Ecuador and Zambia and there are 26 kits ready to ship to Zambia this summer.

For more information about this program, Days for Girls, their web site is [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org)

or

contact Millbrook First at 285-4114

**Brenda Hargrave, Treasurer**



## The Reading Program 2019

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram)

The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work.

### **The Reading Program Leads to Action!**

For 150 years, United Methodist Women have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action. The Reading Program is a study opportunity, but it should also lead to action. The purpose of the program is to encourage United Methodist Women members to:

- **Expand understanding of and participation in God's mission.**
- **Increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests and concerns.**
- **Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.**
- **Grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.**
- **Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge.**
- **Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.**

Local UMW members can choose from 1 of 5 reading plans:

#### **Plan I: 5 Books Per Year**

One book from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Selections can be from the 2014-2019 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and youth titles). Regular reading of Response Magazine.

#### **Plan II: 10 Books Per Year**

Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Selections can be from the 2014-2019 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and Youth titles). Regular reading of Response magazine.

#### **Plan III: 15 Books Per Year**

Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. PLUS 5 additional books from any category. Selections can be from the 2014-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's titles). Regular reading of Response Magazine.

#### **Plan IV: 20 Books Per Year**

Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. PLUS 10 additional books from any category. Selections can be from the 2014-2019 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and Youth and titles). Regular reading of Response Magazine.

As of January 2019, United Methodist Women Mission Resources will no longer stock books on the Reading Program lists.

- You will no longer be able to order books on the Reading Program lists from United Methodist Women Mission Resources.
- You will be able to purchase books from Cokesbury, Amazon and other major retailers, often at less cost than offered by Mission Resources.
- If you purchase from Amazon, the books are shipped free if you are a Prime member. If you purchase through the Amazon Smile, program, a donation is made with each order to United Methodist Women. To Learn more about Amazon Smile, visit [Smile.amazon.com](http://Smile.amazon.com). (Choose the United Methodist Women in New York, N.Y. to support the national office.)

# Mark Your Calendars

## MONTGOMERY/PRATTVILLE DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2019 Upcoming Events

<b>SEPT 14</b>	<b>All invited</b>	District Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Location: <b>Locust Bluff United Methodist Church</b>
OCTOBER 26	ALL	Book Club Cluster Day Location: TBA
NOVEMBER (Recommended)	ALL	UMW Day celebrations per Local Unit Be Invitational!

## Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women Upcoming Events for 2019

<b>October 11-13</b>	<b>Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake Assembly Grounds</b>
Nov 3	Conference President and Conference Treasurer meeting
Nov	United Methodist Women Day celebrations per Local Units

**We would love to include your unit activities and mission projects in *The Messenger's Flame*. Please submit articles and photos, if available, to [cdavis854@bellsouth.net](mailto:cdavis854@bellsouth.net)**



**Carolyn Davis, Communication Coordinator**



**Mable Lawrence, District Secretary**

## **ALERT! . . . Are you a Subscriber?**

You too can become informed of Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women events and activities by subscribing to Alert today!

Send your request to Michele Smith, Communications Coordinator: [Michelesmith2002@hotmail.com](mailto:Michelesmith2002@hotmail.com) She will give instructions for mailing a \$4.00 check, made payable to Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women.

You may receive a copy of ALERT free by email. Email [Michelesmith2002@hotmail.com](mailto:Michelesmith2002@hotmail.com) with your request and you will be added to our email list.

ALERT is also online at [www.awf-umw.org](http://www.awf-umw.org)

### **Stay Connected**

National UMW Website:

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

AWF-UMW: [www.awf-umw.org](http://www.awf-umw.org)

Montgomery-Prattville District:

[www.awf-umw.org](http://www.awf-umw.org)

### 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.*