

UMW District President's Word

Dear, Dear Sisters of the Montgomery-Opelika

District of United Methodist Women,

I used the double "Dear" in my greeting because that is how I truly feel about each of you. A lot has transpired for me personally since we last communicated via this newsletter. My adult life, as I knew it, suddenly without warning, changed on March 1, 2016. You showed up for me. Your outpouring of care and concern was so needed and cherished. It has helped to sustain me. You definitely lived up to the part of our PURPOSE—"to develop a creative, supportive fellowship". Please accept my heartfelt THANKS! The goodbye process is yet overwhelming. I know though that I must muster up gracefully to move on. I've got to get up now. We have UMW to do! I know God; I trust Him and I will be good.

Since our last newsletter, the District has held three events. The first was on February 20, 2016. This was our training for all local unit officers. It was held at Opelika First UMC. The event was a huge success. After an overview in the general assembly, all local unit officers participated in their office's breakout session conducted by their District Mission Team counterpart. All participants evaluated that they learned from this training. It was good to see and interact with our fellow District UMW sisters. Thank you so much to Joan Salter and the Opelika First Morning Group and Lisa Abercrombie and the Evening Group. They were most gracious hosts. Also thank you to Judy Smith, District Nominating Chair who was the event's liaison. Attending were officers from Aldersgate, Auburn, Beulah, Bowen, Brundidge, Grace, Murphy's Chapel, Opelika First A.M., Opelika First P.M., Troy and Watoola. Certainly hope I did not omit anyone.

On February 27, 2016, Aldersgate UMW hosted a study on The People of Latin America. It was coordinated by Judy Cantey of Aldersgate. It was very interesting and personable. Thank you to Judy and the Aldersgate UMW for this event. On a scale of 1 to 10, I give this event 11! Great presentations, great accommodations and great food! Attending were Aldersgate, Auburn, Beulah, Bowen, Brundidge, Grace and Murphy's Chapel. Again I hope I did not omit anyone.

On April 10, 2016, our District Spiritual Growth Coordinator, June Headrick, coordinated our District Day Apart. She had a wonderful program. Elaine Brown was the speaker. Her message was thought provoking and refreshing. June will speak to you in this newsletter about this event. The hosting and facility by Murphy's Chapel were so warm and inviting. Thank you June, Peggy, Mary, Willie Jean, Rosemary and Elaine. In attendance were Auburn, Bowen, Brundidge, Grace, and Murphy's Chapel.

Our next event is Mission U on July 29-July 30 in Millbrook. I believe this is a bit closer for us than in the past. Please make plans to attend. You can find the registration form at www.awf-umw.org. This is the only event scheduled for the next three months.

The District budget is due to the Conference in July.

Please refer to your calendar of events in the District Directory for future events and due dates of reports.

Please remember to consider holding District Office. You may contact Judy Smith, District Nominations with any questions. Her contact info is in our District Directory.

Until next time,

Faith, Hope & Love in Action!

Linda





Montgomery-Opelika District UMW

A Message from our District Treasurer

Happy Spring to everyone!

I'm so glad we have been having some nice weather, and I'm enjoying it, knowing the oven will be turned on before we know it!

In reading the Conference Newsletter, The Alert, I was interested to learn from Conference Treasurer Margaret Larson that the Alabama West Florida Conference met and exceeded its pledge to the National Office in 2015, Hooray for us! As one of the AWF Conference Districts, let's continue to do our part in 2016. Margaret also shared the amount given to each of our Conference Specials (used to be called Askings) in 2015. Check our the March Alert at www.awf-umw.org if you have not already done so. I was reminded that the \$9.75 we each give stays in our Conference. Margaret sends it directly on to Blue Lake, Dumas Wesley, SKIP, etc. This money is **not** a part of our pledge amount. Pledges go to the National Office to fund all of our missions in this country and around the world. None of this giving is required to be a member of UMW, but nothing would be accomplished without your generous support. Thanks to everyone for all you do.

I hope your Unit was able as a group or individually to take part in the Day of Giving for the Legacy Fund. Giving to this fund will take the place of our Special Project for the next couple of years, I believe until our 150th anniversary in 2019.

Please email me or call if you have any money related questions!

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MISSION STUDY ON "LATIN AMERICA: PEOPLE AND FAITH"

HELD ON FEBRUARY 27 AT ALDERSGATE UMC MONTGOMERY

On February 27, 40 participants attended a very lively and interesting Mission Study on "Latin America: People and Faith", sponsored by the Opelika/Montgomery UMW District with input from the GO Lead Mission Team at Aldersgate UMC. Through a variety of speakers, films, Power Point presentations, printed materials, and a resource book table, participants received an introduction to the historical contest of Christianity in Latin America and current issues in Latin America related to Christianity and to society in general. Aldersgate mission team members who are familiar with two interesting Christian ministries serving in Latin America — a soccer ministry in Medellin, Columbia (Christian Union Sports Ministry) and a program in Quito, Ecuador that provides day care and Christian education for children—gave special presentations about those ministries. The program in Quito is affiliated with the Alabama based organization, Servants in Faith and Technology, and also with Compassion International, a Christian based sponsorship program dedicated to the long term development of children living in poverty around the world.

The 28 programs and ministries sponsored by UMW throughout Latin America were highlighted on a trifold poster made by UMW member and faculty person for Mission U 2015, Debbie Bracewell. The Latin American theme was featured through the decorations in the room including colorful weavings, pottery, and wood carved items and a wall display of copies of Paul Jeffrey's wonderful photos of children from indigenous group who are disproportionately affected by the severe poverty in some areas of Latin America.

Montgomery-Opelika District

Recognizing the Hispanic communities in Alabama and West Florida, Martha Rovira, Director of AWF conference Hispanic Ministries, gave us a very informative and encouraging update on the growing and strong Hispanic Ministries in our conference. We ended with a luncheon that featured arepas—a delicious, corn meal based, traditional bread item popular in many Latin American countries.

“Gracias” for a worthwhile day of broadening our understanding of the people and faith of Latin America, and for the opportunity to share good fellowship with each other!



Message from June Headrick District Spiritual Growth Coordinator
.District Day Apart—April 10, 2016

Ladies of Montgomery/Opelika District UMW, I am happy to announce a successful Spiritual Enrichment Day Apart Service. We had an enjoyable time together on April 10 at Murphy's Chapel with a sweet memorial service and a very inspirational sermon from Rev. Elaine Brown. We missed those of our sisters who did not make it to the meeting, but those who were able to attend were rewarded.

Reminders:

1. Read the Reading Program books on Spiritual Growth and report to your unit president.
2. Use the Prayer Calendar at each meeting
3. Attend events which contribute to your spiritual growth.

Officer Training on February 20 at Opelika First UMC





Liisa Pierce, , director of Alabama Rural Ministry addressed FUMC Opelika UMW AM group on April 19 concerning their plans for the summer ministry.



FUMW Opelika UMW AM group hosted the Tuskegee Chapter at a salad luncheon on May 17.