



Alert

Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women



Mission Team 2009

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Nurture & Outreach

Betty Helms
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Interpretation

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Dr. Paul Leeland
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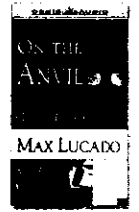
Elizabeth Andrews
Dean of School of
Missions

Charlotte Hobson
Registrar

Lynn Hamric
Women's Division
Director

2009 Spiritual Enrichment Retreat March 27-28, 2009 Blue Lake Assembly

"On The Anvil"



Final Registration Deadline is March 12, 2009

Check-in begins Friday, March 27, 2009 at 4:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Registration and Health form enclosed (please complete both sides)



Guest Speaker

Nancy Bearden Hudson

Nancy is a Director of Women's Division and the General Board of Global Ministries. She is a member of the Finance Section and the Women's Division and Chairs the Property Committee of that section. She also serves on the International Ministries with Women, Children, and Youth. On the General Board of Global Ministries, she is a member of the Finance Committee, serves on Evangelization and Church Growth, and also serves as Chair of the Property/Legal/Insurance Committee. Nancy is the past President of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Core Planning Group of UMW. In her local unit, Nancy serves as Coordinator of Education and Interpretation. She also serves on the Macon District Board of Missions for the Methodist Church and is a member of the South Georgia Conference Worship Committee.

Nancy is a member and the director of Music at First UMC in Centerville, Georgia. She is an MAT Mentor for Georgia College and State University and supervises student teachers on the master's level.

Nancy received her undergraduate degree from Wesleyan College in Music Education and her Master's degree in elementary education from Georgia College. She taught sixth grade for most of her 33 and 1/2 years before retiring in 2003. Her husband, Larry, died on Sunday after she retired on Friday.

Nancy married Leon Hudson on September 19, 2006, and now lives in Macon, Georgia. Together they have 5 children, 3 spouses, and 8 grandchildren. Needless to say, holiday's and get-togethers are rather spectacular.

"United Methodist Women is my passion. God allows me to be in ministry for women, children, and youth. Our mission is to help the marginalized, the oppressed, and the dispossessed. Our mission is great. Today, it is more challenging than it has ever been, and God needs all of us to do our part in making this world a better place for everyone. We must continue the legacy entrusted to us by our foremothers."



From the desk of the President...

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2008 is behind us. It was a great year for AWF United Methodist Women. We gained new/reinstated units and members. **Welcome, you are now a part of the greatest women's organization in the world!**

Thanks to all of you and your mission giving, **WE MADE OUR PLEDGE** for the first time in several years. You have been active in so many ways in your local mission as well as conference, U.S. and world mission. Annual day was the best yet! The workshop focus groups the night before, "For Christ sake.....Turn the world upside down" challenged us in new ways. Are we up to the challenge? Remember, in the next couple of years each district will share one or more of the focus groups with their district's units. AWF United Methodist Women have truly "rekindled the gift within" and shown that MISSION is our goal, our purpose, and our reason for being.

As 2009 begins, there are many challenges and opportunities before us. Circle these dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

- * **Women's Retreat, "Tapestry: Weaving the Threads of Justice into Our Lives".....February 20-21**
- * **Spiritual Enrichment Retreat.....March 27-29**
- * **Cooperative School of Christian Mission.....July 24-25**
- * **Officer up-date and Annual Day.....October 30-31**

Be sure to include your district events also. Instead of two districts walking around the gym in celebration of active participation of conference and district events, why not all eight districts?

All the events, both conference and district, are great opportunities to grow in relationship with God, to reach out to others, and to serve women, children and youth in Christ's name. We all have excuses for not going, not participating, and not supporting. When we stop and consider our excuses, they don't stand the test.

How would our excuses measure up when John Wesley's General Rules to live by were applied? 1) Do no harm; 2) Do Good 3) Stay in love with God..

As we begin this new year, I challenge all AWF United Methodist Women to live and work in 2009 to "Turn the world upside downfor Christ sake". Looking forward to a great year in MISSION with women, children and youth and by God's Grace, we will.

Shalom,

Beth Bowdin, President
 (334) 898-7676
 bbowdin@entercomp.com



The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of missions through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Spiritual Growth

"On the Anvil" is the theme for the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake on March 27-28, 2009. The retreat will be led by Nancy Bearden, a proven speaker and presenter who I know will challenge all of us. Nancy's presentation will be based on the book "On the Anvil" by Max Lucado, who is also a proven writer and thought-provoking challenger. I encourage each of you to send in your registration as soon as you have finished reading this issue of the Alert. I also would like to encourage you to read the book "On the Anvil". (You can purchase it on E-Bay or Amazon.com.)

As your new Spiritual Growth Coordinator, I am asking for your prayers as I begin (with your help) this important ministry. I feel very strongly that God is especially calling His people today to stand up for their Christian beliefs and to begin a very special spiritual walk with Him in this New Year.

Submitted by:

Virginia Lindley
Spiritual Growth Coordinator
(850) 235-7879
vlindley@bellsouth.net



Nominations

Happy New Year to All from the Nominations Committee! The Nominations Committee will be **BOLDLY SEEKING NEW LEADERS** this year and we need your help. We need you to recommend and send in a TALENT BANK to us from your Districts to increase the selections of your NEW CONFERENCE OFFICERS for 2010.

If you need a visit or help in your Districts or Local units, we are ready to help YOU.

I know we have a lot of TALENT and GIFTS that we do not know about. We need YOU!

In Christ,

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



Education & Interpretation

By the time this Alert goes to print, I hope you are all making plans to be in mission in 2009. One way to help in planning your mission year is to use the Mission Today Brochure as a guide. There are 18 criteria listed in the brochure. To be a Gold Mission today Unit, you only need to complete 15 of the 18 criteria. If you need a copy of this brochure, you can go online to our conference web page www.gbgm-umc.org/awfconfumw or contact me at bhelms1@centurytel.net and I will be glad to get a copy to you ASAP. Remember no matter the size of your unit, you can always do some of the items listed in the brochure. Your mission work will be recognized at your district annual day and at conference annual day for your effort.

You can start thinking about actions you can take after attending the mission studies this year. Our mission studies for the 2008-2009 year are: Spiritual Growth: I Believe in Jesus; Geographic: Israel and Palestine; General Issue: Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival. And for the 2009-2010 year: Spiritual Growth: Food and Faith; Geographic: Sudan; and General Issue: Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival. Please make plans now to attend one or all of these studies. Not only are they interesting, but what an educational opportunity we have to keep abreast of all the current things going on in our world.

Your districts are already planning ways to offer these studies to you and the Cooperative School of Christian Mission committee is hard at work securing teachers for the 2009 Cooperative School of Christian Mission to be held July 24-25.

Educational opportunities are everywhere. Check out the Tapestry Conference scheduled for Feb.20-21 in Montgomery. The Spiritual Enrichment Retreat is scheduled for Mar. 27-28 at Blue Lake.

Betty Helms
Education & Interpretation Coordinator
(334) 794-2172
bhelms1@centurytel.net



Important Dates to Remember

2009

- **Jan 9-10, 2009**
Executive Committee
& Nominations Mtg
Blue Lake
- **Jan 23-24, 2009**
COSROW Retreat
"Rooted in the Liberating
Message of Jesus Christ"
Blue Lake
- **February 20-21, 2009**
A Conference for All Women
"Tapestry: Weaving the
Threads of Justice into Our
Lives"
Dexter Avenue UMC
- **Mar 27-28, 2009**
Spiritual Enrichment
Retreat "On the Anvil"
Blue Lake
- **June 11-14, 2009**
South Atlantic Regional
School
Kentucky Wesleyan
- **July 10-11, 2009**
Executive Committee
& Nominations Meeting
Blue Lake
- **July 24-25, 2009**
Cooperative School of
Christian Mission
Blue Lake
- **October 3, 2009**
Executive Committee
& Nominations Meeting
Blue Lake
- **October 30-31, 2009**
District Officer Updates
Conference Annual Meeting
Blue Lake
- **November 8, 2009**
United Methodist Women's
Sunday

Program Resources

Looking forward to a new year of the Reading Program, Mission Studies and Handbook for 2009-2012. We can keep up with our missionaries and mission programs through the Prayer Calendar. The program book, *Who's at the Table?*, is an excellent resource for local units to begin a new year. *Response* and *New World Outlook* magazines keep us updated about the work of our pledge monies and the General Board of Global Ministries.

These resources are available through your conference and district secretaries of Program Resources as well as through the Mission Resource Center. You may order individual resources by calling 1-800-305-9857 or go to www.missionresourcecenter.org to view the online catalogue.

Call to Prayer and Self Denial resources are available now in English and Spanish. If you haven't received the sample packet, go online to order it. Your unit should begin planning now.

At the Tapestry meeting in February, the Mission Resource Catalogue and the Reading Program Catalogue will be available. The Reading Program Catalogue has all the resources available for 2009 and the listings for previous years that are still eligible to be used for 2009. Also in the catalogue is the Report of Completion Requirements. It will make your individual record keeping easier.

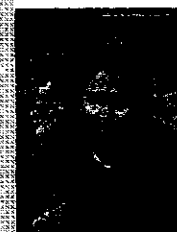
Resources for sale will also be available. Handbooks for 2009-2012 will be helpful as units and districts begin the process of reorganization for the quadrennium. The new Handbook is a complete resource for local, district and conference organizations in one spiral bound or three-hole punch book. Other organizational resources and membership resources will also be there as will Reading Program books and promotional resources. You will be able to renew or begin your subscription to *Response*.

A computer will be available so that materials not at the meeting may be ordered and be shipped directly to you.

If you have questions or problems deciding on resources, please contact your district Secretary of Program Resources or contact me at rall@ctvea.net or phone me at (334) 298-6405. We want you to have the help you need to become the best United Methodist Woman you can be.

Submitted by:

Ruth Ann Powers
Program Resources Coordinator





Congratulations

Marianna/Panama City District and Mobile District 2008 Winners for Many Colors-One Spirit Attendance Banner

WOW & WOW! WHAT A WAY TO CONCLUDE OUR U.M.W. CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING!

A TIE BETWEEN MARIANNA/PANAMA CITY AND MOBILE DISTRICTS FOR THE 2008 MANY COLORS ONE SPIRIT ATTENDANCE BANNER. AND, MARIANNA/PANAMA CITY DISTRICT WALKED AWAY WITH THE DISTRICT SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION AWARD AGAIN IN 2008. THEY WERE OUR WINNERS IN 2007.

Our Hall of Fame Winners are:

Many Colors One Spirit Attendance Banner:

2005: Demopolis

2006: Mobile

2007: Mobile

2008: Marianna/Panama City and Mobile.

Special Mission Recognition Award:

2007: Marianna/Panama City

2008: Marianna/Panama City

We all have our work cut out for us in 2009, but anyone of the districts can be the winner in either or both of these categories. Marianna/Panama City & Mobile Districts proved that. All it takes is the support of the local woman by attending events sponsored by the district and conference. Points are collected all year. Your district's name could be added to the list in 2009!

If you did not attend our U.M.W. Annual Meeting, you really missed a fabulous meeting. It was a wonderful way to celebrate our ministry and achievements as United Methodist Women. I invite you to come and be a part of who we are, your presence will be a blessing to all around and you will be blessed by being a part of this wonderful organization we call United Methodist Women.

Submitted by:

Betty Helms

(334) 794-2172

bhelms1@centurytel.net



Alabama-West Florida Conference
Cooperative School of Christian Mission
July 24-25, 2009
Blue Lake



General Issue: Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival
Geographic: Sudan
Spiritual Growth: Food and Faith



Blue Lake

Mission Statement

The mission of Blue Lake is to be a center of Christian hospitality and learning designed to help people affirm and expand their faith in God and their service as Christian disciples.

Core Values

Blue Lake will...

- Be an intentional place apart
- Extend genuine Christian hospitality and community
- Invite guests into an understanding of a personal relationship with Christ
- Nurture Christian faith and discipleship
- Develop Christian spiritual leaders
- Teach creation care and appreciation
- Collaborate with United Methodist churches and agencies
- Equip guests to do love and service

Happy New Year Everyone!

As your new Blue Lake Representative, I am looking forward to working with each District and each Unit to make sure that everyone knows what is happening at Blue Lake, what Blue Lake needs, what we can do for Blue Lake and, finally, what Blue Lake means to UMW! I am sure that many of you have been coming and going to Blue Lake for years, but Blue Lake has expanded and is continually growing and changing. If you do not have a Blue Lake Representative in your Units or in your Districts, then I will be in touch with your Presidents. Blue Lake is very important to United Methodist Women as it has been a place of sanctuary for us for many years. It is where we go to find a peaceful place to worship and to be around our sisters in Christ.

Look for more from me very soon and remember, Blue Lake is for you!!

In Him,

Debbie Bush
Blue Lake Representative
(850) 479-8758
debbush@cox.net



Social Action

"ALL THINGS NEW"

As I write this for our first ALERT issue for the year 2009, I am looking forward with great anticipation for how we United Methodist Women can be the best and brightest lights in the New Year. Not just in our local communities, but all around the world, as we engage in ministries for women, children and youth.

In John 13:34-35 we read, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (NRSV) These words of Jesus challenge us, not only at the beginning of a new year, but each day of our lives - **to love another**. This is a call to us for SOCIAL ACTION. Sometimes we forget, or choose not to remember, that Christians are to model our love for Christ by expressing that love in relationship with others. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (II Cor. 5:17. NRSV)

Shalom,

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



**Alabama-West Florida Conference Retreat
January 23-24, 2009**

**Theme: "Rooted in the Liberating
Message of Jesus Christ"**

**Leaders: Melanie Stanley-Soulen and
Stephen Soulen from the
N. GA Conference (Friday) and
Rev. Tonya Elmore (Saturday)**

ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2009 Spiritual Enrichment Retreat
March 27-29, 2009
"ON THE ANVIL"

Check-in begins FRIDAY, March 27, 2009 at 4:00 P.M. DINNER 6:00 P.M.
Each person must use a separate registration form. Duplicate this form as needed.

Make checks payable to: Blue Lake
Mail Form and check to: Lisa Smith, Registrar, Blue Lake Assembly
8500 Oakwood Lane
Andalusia, AL 36420

For additional information you may call:
Virginia Lindley 850-235-7879 or Charlotte Hobson 334-897-3510

FINAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 12, 2009

BLUE LAKE ASSEMBLY
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ E-MAIL _____
CHURCH _____ DISTRICT _____
DISTRICT OFFICE HELD _____
CONFERENCE OFFICE HELD _____

PLEASE CHECK YOUR PREFERENCE:

Oakwood Old Wing:

_____ Triple Occupancy \$73.50

Roommates:

1. _____

2. _____

_____ Double Occupancy \$81.00

Roommate:

1. _____

_____ Single Occupancy \$103.50

Oakwood New Wing:

_____ Double Occupancy \$113.50

Roommate:

1. _____

_____ Single Occupancy \$163.50

District/Conference Officers:

Registration \$15.00
(Specify which wing you will be in)

Roommate: _____

Roommates **MUST** mail registration forms together. Full payment **MUST** accompany registration.
REFUND POLICY: No refund of registration fee; no refund of Blue Lake costs after registration
deadline which is 2 weeks prior to the Event (exception: death in immediate family).

Health Information Form **MUST** be included with Your Registration

**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 _____

Tapestry...

Weaving the Threads of Justice into Our Lives

**February 20-21, 2009
Dexter Avenue UMC
Montgomery, AL**

**Sponsored by
Alabama/West Florida
Conference of UMW**

Featuring Biblical Storyteller Gail Losch

**“The stories are a part of
me now. They have
changed who I am ”**



**Reservation form online at
<http://www.gbgn-umc.org/awfconfumw/>**

Communications Corner



Happy New Year! God has blessed us abundantly! It is a privilege to worship in a free country. What great opportunities God has provided for us to witness for Him and share His love with all.

Newsletters - Design

- Focal point
 - A well-designed page that has one point on it that draws the eye immediately.
 - where does your eye go first on each page
 - is your eye drawn to more than one point
 - does your eye easily flow to every item on the page
 - is art used and what kind of art

Beth Henson, Alert Editor

continued

From the Secretary...



Secretaries:

I cannot believe that we can say this time so quickly. I know that you are in the middle of getting your 2009 budgets done. I am sure you have a lot of things to do and I am sure you are busy without thinking to notify the people who need to have that information. I am going out on a limb and reminding everyone: IF YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR HOME ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS, please let your district secretary know so it will go into your district directory correctly.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and the best Christmas ever.

In His Service,

Mary Jo Morton
(850) 482-3633
mmorton@embarqmail.com

I hope all of you had a Blessed Christmas and you will have a wonderful New Year. It's time for another year for United Methodist Women and I pray that we will have another great year.

We will continue the "Pennies for Mission" project another year, so start saving those pennies and change or even bills. Let's make this the best Year for Missions. There are so many needs everywhere. If we can do what we can for Women, Youth and Children, we will be blessed.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Blue Lake this year.

In His service,

Margie Outlaw
Treasurer
(334) 299-6877
moutlaw200@centurytel.net



**Fourth Quarterly Report
October 1 - December 30, 2008
UMW MISSION GIVING**

Pledge to Mission	\$28,457.34
Special Mission Recognition	1,080.00
Gift to Mission	942.00
Gift in Memory	1,592.00
World Thank Offering	9,757.61
A Call to Prayer and Self Denial	390.00
A Brighter Future for Children and Youth	360.00
Scarritt Bennett Center	191.00
Crusade Scholarships	60.00
Magazine Fund	5.00
UMCOR (Flood Baskets)	395.00
UMCOR	577.60
PET Project	100.00
Dumas Wesley	602.60
Nellie Burge	615.59
Noah's Ark	610.10
S.K.I.P.	673.09
Mobile Inner City	593.59
Assembly/Jurisdiction Love Offering	243.79
Blue Lake	1,360.75
A&MD Fund	1,382.00
TOTAL	\$49,989.06

Included in Pledge to Mission above:

Pennies for Mission	\$8,302.87
A Seed is a Promise	220.00
T-shirt Sales	215.00
Annual Day Offering	1,009.89

**Pennies for Mission
Annual Day**

1 st Place Marianna/Panama City	\$ 5,980.46
2 nd Place Decopolis	4,351.01
3 rd Place Dothan	4,131.11
4 th Place Mobile	3,570.70
5 th Place Montgomery/Opelika	2,039.39
6 th Place Baypines	1,172.55
7 th Place Montgomery/Prattville	1,080.00
8 th Place Pensacola	1,056.00

Grand Total \$23,381.22

**Alabama West Florida Conference
Giving for Year 2008
UMW MISSION GIVING**

Pledge to Mission	\$101,907.23
Special Mission Recognition	8,443.20
Gift to Mission	5,980.50
Gift in Memory	4,131.11
World Thank Offering	20,744.54
Total	\$139,206.58
Call to Prayer and Self Denial	3,175,176.04
A Brighter Future for Children and Youth	462.00
Scarritt Bennett Center	191.00
Assembly Offering	243.79
Crusade Scholarships	60.00
Magazine Fund	5.00
UMCOR	1,177.33
UMCOR (Flood Baskets)	395.00
Pennies for Mission	8,302.87
Mobile Inner City	5,046.58
Assembly/Jurisdiction Love Offering	2,437.79
Blue Lake	11,442.51
A&MD Fund	1,382.00
Other Conference Designated	1,400.00
Blue Lake Partnerships	3,117.9
Blue Lake (bedspreads)	75.00
Blue Lake (scholarships)	75.00
Total	\$249,103.12

Thanks to all of you
We made our Pledge \$139,206.58

We made \$985.00 for A Seed is a Promise
Thanks for all your support!

Maggie Outlaw
Treasurer
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Alert
Alabama-West Florida Conference
United Methodist Women
Beth Henson, Editor
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Websites

General Board of Global Ministries,
UMC/Women's Division
www.gbqm-umc.org/umw

United Methodist Women
Alabama-West Florida Conference
www.gbqm-umc.org/awfconfumw/

Mission Resource Center
www.missionresourcecenter.org

UWM Online Community
www.umwonline.org

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ALERT

Subscription Form

All Local Unit Presidents will receive a **free** copy of the Alert. All other officers and members may subscribe for **\$2.00** per year. The March 2009 issue will start the next subscription year.

You may receive a copy of the Alert **free by email**. You must submit your email address in order to receive your free copy. Please complete the form below to receive a subscription to the Alert by **mail or email**.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church Name _____ District _____

Email Address _____

Are you paying for a subscription? _____

Cash or check enclosed? _____

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