

Alert

Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women

Volume 37 No. 4 Fall August 2009

Mission Team 2009

Beth Bowdin President

Georgette Griffith Vice President

Mary Jo Morton Socretary

Margie Outlaw Treasurer

Beth Henson Communications Coordinator

Ruth Ann Powers
Program Resources

Nancy May Chair, Nominations

Virginia Lindley Biue Lake

Mission Coordinators

Virginia Lindley Spiritual Growth

Edna Williams Social Action

Betty Worthington Membership Nurture & Outreach

> Betty Helms Education & Interpretation

Martha Rovira Spanish Language

Dr. Paul Leeland Bishop

Elizabeth Andrews
Dean of School of
Missions

Chartotte Hobson Registrar

Lynn Hamric Women's Division Director

"Come to the Table To Nurture, to Serve, and to Share

37th Annual Day October 30-31, 2009 Blue Lake Assembly, Andalusia, AL

Friday check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. Dinner is at 5:00 p.m.

Officer Update – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday check-in is at the gym at 8:30 a.m.

Offering for Mission Giving

Who should attend?

- Every United Methodist Woman
- Each unit has ONE voting delegate and MUST pre-register
- Bishop, District Superintendents, and Pastors

Guest Speaker - Rev. Nancy Hornsby



United Methodist Women Launches Assembly 2010

April 30-May 2, 2010 St. Louis, MO

Inspired by faith and activated by justice, Assembly 2010 is a movement of women from all walks of life. Women will come together as one body to worship, fellowship with each other, and also to address and act upon issues affecting women, children and youth. The Assembly theme is "Faith - Hope · Love in Action". Online registration and additional information is available at www.umwmision.org. Assembly registration includes all plenary sessions and worship; full access to exhibits, workshops, panel discussions and performances. Assembly House Parties to mobilize registration for the event will take October 20, 2009 and February 23, 2010. House parties gather women together to learn more about Assembly 2010, how to register and encourage individuals to attend.



My Dear Sisters,

The hot days of summer are upon us! Many of your units are not meeting now, but soon will be again. The District Annual Days are fast approaching and Conference Leadership Update and Annual Day are not far behind. All Conference and District Mission team members are to attend Leadership Update.

Before you say, "been there, done that", stop and take note. Leadership Update will be Friday night, October 30 beginning with dinner at 5:00 pm. At 6:00 pm, a beneficial training session will begin. It will NOT be a same old, same old thing. The Conference Mission Team is working hard to make sure it is worthwhile to spend the three hours in training and you coming away with useful information.

The next day, everyone will be there for Annual Day. It will be a day of inspiration, recognition of the great work done by all units; celebration of 140 years in mission; and meeting new Conference mission team members. Special color ribbons will let us know at a glance the first timers and new units. Watch for them and be sure to make them feel welcome. New units will receive a special one time scholarship to Annual Day.

Begin making plans for Assembly April 30-May 2, 2010 in St. Louis, MO. The theme is "Faith, Hope, Love in Action". The theme certainly describes AWF United Methodist Women! A bus has been reserved to take us to Assembly. Betty Helms is AWF's Assembly contact person. She has a block of rooms reserved for us. District Presidents have registration information for Assembly and the bus. Contact them. More information will be available Annual Day.

I'm getting EXCITED just writing about these special activities! Mark your calendar and invite others to come share our time together! This is a good time to show that we are "SPARKS". It is time to get the fire going.

Workers together in Christ's mission with women, children, and youth.

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

Bus and Hotel Information for Assembly 2010

Bus

- * Bus cost \$120.00 per person
- * Depart Dothan on April 29 in the morning with pickups at Blue Lake and Montgomery
- * Lodging in Nashville, TN on April 29
 - \$105.00 room (up to four persons per room)
- * Arrive St. Louis on Friday afternoon, April 30
- * Depart St. Louis Sunday afternoon, May 2
- * Lodging in Nashville, TN on May 2
 - \$105.00 room (up to four persons per room)
- * Arrive at Blue Lake, Montgomery, and Dothan May 3

Hotel at St. Louis, MO

- * Drury Plaza Hotel (Friday, April 30 through Sunday, May 2)
- * Lodging cost \$109.00 per night (up to four persons per room)
- * For reservations call 1-800-325-0720 or online www.druryhotels.com, click on Book it Fast, then enter group number 2069472
- * Reservations received after Monday, March 30, will be provided on a space available basis
- * Shuttle service from Hotel to Assembly

For additional information contact:

Betty Helms at (334) 794-2172 or (334) 790-8962, email bhelms1@centurytel.net

From the Vice President

The fellowship, the joy, the learning that took place at the Cooperative School of Christian Mission was truly wonderful. Those of his that were able to attend experienced the joy in seeing and learning to respond to the needs of others.

"Our year is moving fast but we still have so much to do. Please support your District by giving not only pennies to the PENNIES FOR MISSION PORTBOT but also give nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars paper money and cheeks. This is for MISSIONS so please dig deep.

This year we will have "Officer Update" on Friday. October 30th, beginning at 5:00 for dinner. All district officers are expected to attend. These meetings are open to all UMW who might be interested in holding an office on tocal district of conference. It will give you a chance to see what the duties are in each office. We welcome all to attend ...

: An Saturday, October 31st, we will have Annual Day. Our keynote speaker is Rev. Nancy Homsby 9 Birmingham, AL in the North Alabama Conference. The theme is "Come to the Table-to Serve: to No to Share". I understand we are in for a great treat so please make every effort to attend it.

Let us continue to serve those less fortunate as Tesus raught.

In His Service.

Georgette T. Griffith Vice President (334) 289-8273 griffithgeo@att.net

Vote at Annual Day

PROPOSED to delete all of Section II, dealing with Blue Lake Chairperson.

Delete all of Section II and renumber the remainder of the Bylaws accordingly.

III. will become II.

D. The Blue Lake Chairperson will promote plans for raising funds for Blue Lake, i.e. "In Honor", "In Memory" to be forwarded to the conference treasurer; supervise the storing and handling of all properties belonging to the conference United Methodist Women (in the UMW closet).

Rationale: No other conference has a Blue Lake Representative as one of their officers. We decided it would be more appropriate for this position to be appointed by the President. It is being presented by the Executive Committee for your consideration at Annual Day.



Second Quarterly Report June 30, 2009 UMW MISSION GIVING

Pledge to Mission	\$	24,220.93
Special Mission Recognition		1,524.00
Gift to Mission		2,329.55
Gift in Memory		1,085.00
		=
World Thank Offering		1,680.26
Call to Prayer and Self Denia		6,992.75
A Brighter Future for Childrer	1	
and Youth		30.00
Assembly Offering		14.35
Methodist Native American M	linistries	273.00
UMCOR		1,137.50
Dumas Wesley		1,940.31
Nellie Burge		1,940.31
Noah's Ark		1,440.31
S.K.I.P		1,440.30
Mobile Inner City		1,440.29
Hispanic Ministries		1,723.81
Assembly/Jurisdiction Love C	Offering	443.33
Blue Lake	_	3,412.50
Camp Discovery		75.00
A&MD Fund		<u>3,392.05</u>
		<u>5,582.05</u>

TOTAL	\$56,535.55

Inclu	ded in	Pledo	ae to	Mission above:	
Α	Seed	is	а	Promise\$ sion\$	215.00 326.29

We have been doing great with our Gift to Mission cards. Let's continue, but don't forget Gift in Memory. We have some beautiful new Gift in Memory cards. This year is passing fast, so let's work in our PENNIES to MISSION. Collect all pennies and loose change. I know those men would be happy to empty their pockets. When you collect those pennies, look at them close, read the top line on front, "In God We Trust". That coin is very important. It reminds us of who we should put our Trust in.

In HIS Service,

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



Don't forget you Pennies for Missions!

Alabama/West Florida UMW Proposed Budget for 2010

Audit 55 President to other meetings 21 Committee on Nominations Officer Expenses 55 Program Resources Conference Directory 25 Executive Committee Meetings 5,56 Scholarships 36 Retiring Officers Pins 1. Spiritual Enrichment Retreat 4,50 Jurisdiction/Assembly Conference 7 Travel 1,00 Coop. School of Christian Mission 2,56 District Leadership Development 9 Conference Coop. School of Christian Mission Expenses 2,00 Annual Day 4,00 *A&MD to Jurisdiction 1,24 Alabama Arise Membership Dues 30	00.00 00.00 25.00 00.00 50.00 50.00 00.00 00.00
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*A&MD to Jurisdiction 1,24 Alabama Arise Membership Dues 30	- '
Alabama Arise Membership Dues 30	
Church Women United of Alabama	0.00
Church Manney Heli L. J. C.	5.00 ·
Wall Caller - Printer Control	5.00
Florida Impant	- ^^
Cardo (Citta Mina)	5.00
Stationant 9 County -	0.00
Contingency Fund	0.00 0.00
_5	0.00 0.00 0.00

Total \$ 48,327.00

*A&MD to Jurisdiction is always 1% of your total

Pledge for 2010 is \$124,000.00

In HIS Service,

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



Only UMW approved articles may be sold at meetings - SERRV, Program Resources and UMW cards.

Alert



Report of Committee on Nominations Submitted by Nancy May, Chair

The following offices are to be filled for a two-year term (2010-2012) unless otherwise indicated.



Vice President Nancy May



Treasurer

Margie Outlaw



Chairperson of Nomination

Pat Dodge



Program Resources
Ruth Ann Powers



Mission Coordinator for Membership and Outreach

Georgette Griffin

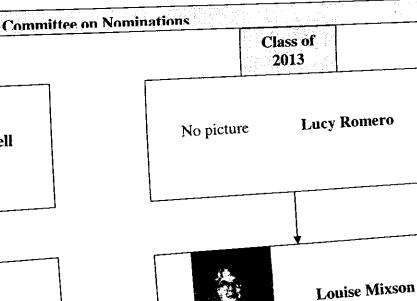


Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth Martha Spiva

Class of 2012

Betty Campbell

Class of 2013





Virginia Lindley

Important Dates to Remember *****

2009

October 30-31, 2009 District Officer Update and **Annual Meeting** Blue Lake

2010

- January 8-9, 2010 **Executive Committee Meeting** Blue Lake
- February 26-27, 2010 **Tapestry** Pensacola, FL
- March 26-28, 2010 Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Blue Lake
- April 30-May 2, 2010 Assembly St. Louis, MO
- June 24-27, 2010 South Atlantic Regional School of Christian Mission Ferrum College, VA
- July 23-24, 2010 Cooperative School of Christian Mission Blue Lake
- October 2, 2010 **Executive Committee Meeting** Blue Lake
- October 22-23, 2010 Officer Update and Annual Day Blue Lake

THANK YOU

A HUGE THANK YOU.... to the UMW for their generous gifts to **Blue Lake Camp**

They have been vital as we work to upgrade and maintain our wonderful facility. Recently the gifts have been used for the following:

- A new China Cabinet (8'x6') for the Oakwood Dining Room to hold dishes as we move away from using paper and Styrofoam utensils and dishes
- A set of colorful children's plates allowing us to introduce a 'child's plate' rate, making camp more affordable for families
- Paint as we replace, repair, and redecorate the center section and add a new color palate to Oakwood Lodge, and paint the Dogwood picnic Shelters.
- New lamps for the Oakwood North Wing as we address the aging décor and safety issues
- Sharpening the mowers which keep the grounds looking neat and clean.
- A new video camera to document our ministries for outreach and promotion purposes

So we invite you to come for a visit, enjoy what you've made possible, and we pray for your continued support as we express radical Christian Hospitality at Blue Lake Camp and in the Alabama West Florida Conference.

Phyllis Murray, Executive Director Blue Lake

New Director for Blue Lake

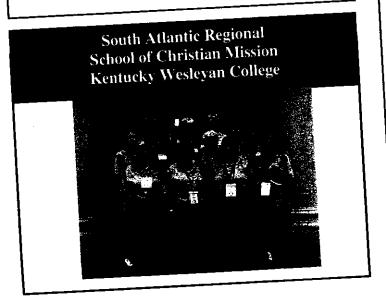


Phyllis Murray has spent the last 15 years as Director of Ministries at Potosi Pines United Methodist Camp in Las Vegas, Nevada. One of her passions and gifts is Christian Hospitality through Food Service Ministry. She brings a background in food service and catering, as well as leading retreats and is excited about exchanging ideas and recipes with her friends in the AWF Conference. She invites you to join her to worship God as He provides from His abundant love.

Blue Lake

The camping season at Blue Lake is in full swing. As of July 9, 2009, there are enrolled 200 more campers that in 2008. This is a very good number, because across the nation, camping numbers are This number means more children and young people are being taught about what Jesus Christ can mean to them. Also, the numbers of persons attending United Methodist Women events at Blue Lake are increasing. We are looking forward to a wonderful Cooperative School of Christian Missions. Don't forget that leadership training and Annual Day will be coming up in October at Blue Lake. Plan now to attend. I hope that your church is participating in the Blue Lake Capitol Funds Campaign. July 9, 2009, the fund stands at \$2,456,926.00. The amount collected at Annual Conference for Blue Lake was \$204,720.12. Phyllis Murray, the new director at Blue Lake, continues to share at Blue Lake her gifts of radical hospitality and love of people. She has a great vision for Blue Lake. I hope that you will plan to attend an event at Blue Lake in the very near future. You will be richly blessed. May God continue to bless us in His service.

Virginia Lindley
Blue Lake Representative
(850) 235-7879
vlindley@bellsouth.net



Program Resources

The Conference School of Christian Mission produced many sales of Program Resources. The time was short but the sales room was booming most of the time. Remember, buying program resources and Reading Program materials at United Methodist Women events saves you postage and keeps you involved. Thanks for your good nature and friendly interaction. Reading Program books for 2010 and the 2010 Program Book are supposed to be available in time for Annual Day. I will be ordering two copies of the Reading Program materials unless I have requests for more. If you are or your unit is interested in getting specific books at Annual Day, please try to let me know before September 15. I will be happy to order them and have them waiting for you. Also, any free materials that you may want can also be ordered. Check out the offerings online. Go to http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/. There you will see many programs of United Methodist Women: Assembly, Reading Program, Mission Study information, information about "Where the money goes", book reviews and many more interests of United Methodist women. Check it out! You will be glad you did. All these materials help us stay connected and informed and able to follow the Purpose of United Methodist Women. Let me hear from you.

Ruth Ann Powers (334) 298-6405 rall@ctvea.net

Websites

Online registration for Assembly www.umwmission.org

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

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

Mission Resource Center www.missionresourcecenter.org

UWM Online Community www.umwonline.org



Education and Interpretation

Time to check your calendar to see what UMW event is next!! It just happens to be our Conference Annual Meeting on October 30 & 31 at beautiful Blue Lake Meeting on October 30 & 31 at beautiful Blue Lake Meeting on October 30 & 1 know you are planning to be Assembly Camp Grounds. I know you are planning to be with us as we gather "Together at the Table" to nurture, to with us as we gather "Together at the Table" to nurture, to with us as we gather "Together at the Table" to nurture, to with us as we celebrate our share and to serve. Come join us as we celebrate our accomplishments for 2009 and as we rejoice in being in accomplishments for 2009 and as we rejoice in being in accomplishments for 140 years. Hear all about the plans the mission for 140 years. Hear all about the plans the conference has to attend Assembly 2010 in St. Louis, MO. The theme for Assembly is Faith. Hope. Love in Action. I know you will want to be a part of this event.

Why not purchase a Gift to Mission Card at our annual conference? You can send a card to anyone you wish and there are seven different cards available to send. They are Thank You! Happy Birthday! A New Baby! Thinking of You! A Special Day! Congratulations! In the Service Christ. There will be a limited supply of stamps available at the Resource Table and a basket to drop your cards in. I will personally see that they are mailed. This will help your unit to complete Mission Today criteria #11 and it is one with an asterisk.

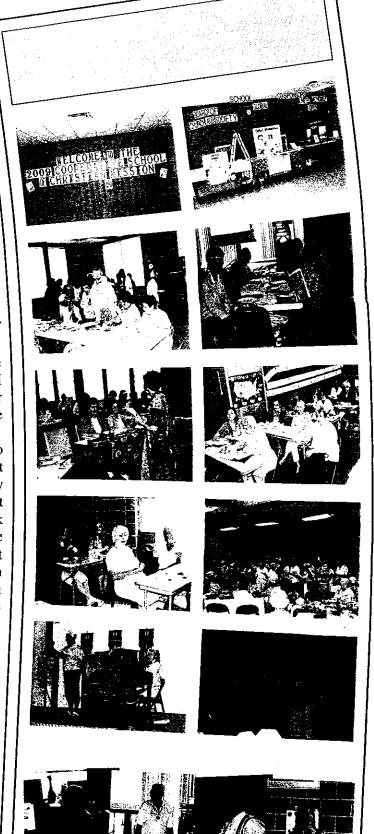
As we are fast approaching the end of 2009, you need to check your unit's status on becoming a Mission Today Unit for this year. Becoming a Mission today Unit is quite easy to accomplish and helps us to fulfill our United Methodist Women's Purpose statement. You still have time to check off some of the criteria. Keep on using Response Magazines, Prayer calendars can be used to contact missionaries, check and see where your unit stands on meeting your pledge and becoming a 5 star unit, plan attend a mission study, most districts offer district wide studies - check to see if your district does and if so, plan to attend. Check out how to become a member of the Charter for Racial Justice Club. There are many ways to accomplish the goal of being a Gold Mission Today Unit. If you do not have a current copy of the Mission Today Criteria pamphlet, contact your District Education and Interpretation Coordinator or me and we will be happy to see that you receive a copy.

Usually in October most of our units participate in a Pledge service. I ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your pledge this year by \$1. You know you can give up one soft drink, candy bar, or latte to increase your pledge by a dollar!!!!!

See you at the annual meeting in October!



Betty Helms (334) 794-2172 bhelms1@centurytel.net



Spiritual Growth

I shared these thoughts with the United Methodist Women Mission Team at Blue Lake during our July planning meeting. I hope that you will read them and take them to your heart. You might ask yourself, "Is it I, Lord?" Am I guilty of some of these things?

Something to Ponder

If all UMW sleeping members would wake up, If all lukewarm UMW members would fire up, If all UMW disgruntled members would sweeten

If all UMW depressed members would look up, If all UMW estranged members would make up, If all UMW agitated members would lighten up, If all UMW members would talk up United Methodist Women,

What a more wonderful UMW organization we would have!

We are among all women most richly blessed. Thanks be to God. May we share these blessings with all of God's children.

Spiritual growth can only take place when we give our very best to God. Are you doing this in your life today? Are you helping others to grow in their spiritual life? These are the questions that I am asking myself. I am urging you to ask yourself these questions, too. May God continue to bless us in His service.

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

2010 Mission Study Topics

Spiritual Growth

For the Love of God: John's Letters

Geographic

Sudan

Social Issue

Mission and Evangelism

From the Secretary.



It is almost impossible to believe that we will be meeting at Blue Lake in less than three months for District Secretary Update. You know that I can not spend two or three hours telling you how to do your job. It is not that difficult. I thought we might spend some time making up or sharing some ice-breakers that can be used at any level of UMW to get the meeting going with humor or we could write some litanies. Think about both of these ideas and let me know which you would rather concentrate on. We will need to have our Bibles for the latter. Check some of the other organizations that you belong to and borrow icebreakers from them. See you in October!

Mary Jo Morton (850) 482-3688 mimorton@embarqmail.com

Reminder of Reports and Due Dates

Local Unit Secretaries

New Roster of Local Unit Officers due to Beth Henson, Alert Editor, no later than October 1, 2009.

District Secretaries New Roster of District Officers due to Mary Jo Morton, Conference Secretary, and Beth Henson, Alert Editor, no later than October 1, 2009.

District Treasurers

Final reports due to Margie Outlaw, Conference Treasurer, no later than December 10, 2009.

Reports due by September 15, 2009

Reading Program Reports Mission Study Participants Mission Today Reports District New Unit Reports Outreach

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

37th ANNIIAI. MEETING District Officers Update-OCTOBER 30, 2009 Annual Day-OCTOBER 31, 2009

"COME TO THE TABLE TO NURTURE, TO SERVE, AND TO SHA

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Every United Methodist Woman
- Each Unit has ONE voting delegate and MUST pre-register
- Bishop, District Superintendents, and Pastors

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FO

Roommates MUST register together. Full payment MUST accompany registration. You may select one roommate. Linwood Wing on first come first served basis. Conference and District Officers and Voting Delegates must pay \$5.00 registration fee stay in Linwood).

Registration deadline is October 16, 2009. No registration will be accepted on the

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST PRE-REGISTER. Each person MUST use a separa Duplicate this form as needed. Friday check-in begins at 4:00 P.M. in the Atrium. Di Saturday check-in is at the Gym beginning at 8:30 A.M. MAKE CHECKS PAYAB

Mail Registration form and check to:

Lisa Smith, Registrar Blue Lake Assembly 8500 Oakwood Lane Andalusia, Alabama 36420 Phone: 334-222-5407

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME:			Phone:	
	— — ———		_Pnone:	
ADDRESS		City	State	 Zin
Church		E-Mail Address:	() ma ()	¬ıh——-
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		District	Conference_	
Handicap	Downstairs room	needed	First time at Blue Lake	
STATE NAME OF	YOUR DISTRICT			- · ·
ROOMMATE:				
An rees include the \$5	5.00 registration fee: rday (double) Oakwood			
			Total Enclosed:	

PLEASE COMPLETE THE HEALTH INFORMATION FORM ON THE BACK OF THIS REGISTRATION FORM.

ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN HEALTH INFORMATION

Please 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	e currently taking and the prescribing physician
Where could medical perso	onnel locate this medication during the sessions?
Specials Needs – Please spe	ecify
My physician is	
Telephone Number is: (day)	(night)
Insurance Company	
Policy Number	
Name of nearest relative	Phone number(s)
	qualified medical personnel to provide any emergency medical care ld harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, Th
AL-WFL Conference, The United Me medical emergency.	thodist Church, and/or Blue Lake for any act or failure to act during
	re and hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist ne United Methodist Church, and/or Blue Lake for any act or failure
Signature	Witness
Data	

Alert
Alabama-West Florida Conference
United Methodist Women
Beth Henson, Editor
27558 Stratford Glen Dr.
Daphne, AL 36526

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Robertsdale, AL Permit 6

The Purpose of United Methodist Women

The organized unit of 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.

367<u>8</u>4+3005 C002

Communications Corner

I thought I would share some information I received about Assembly when I attended the Regional School of Christian Mission in Kentucky. The excitement about the upcoming Assembly was exhilarating. A DVD of women sharing this message was recently shared with us at the Cooperative School of Christian Mission at Blue Lake. We, as United Methodist Women, have passion for what we believe and we have many opportunities to share the message of Christ. Our vision statement for Assembly reads: As United Methodist Women, who are disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to share...

Faith: Our belief in the possibility of a new heaven and a new earth

Hope: Our expectations of needs met for all.

Love: Our sisterhood of grace and our embodiment of justice.

In Action: We find fulfillment of Faith. Hope. Love in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our Assembly scripture is Colossians 1:3-6, "We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of our faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing-as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth."

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