



SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RETREATS SET FOR APRIL 20-24



MARY WILLIS

Mission Coordinator: Christian Personhood

Each year we look forward to the matchless beauty of spring at Blue Lake. For it is the season when we schedule the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat. It is also a time when all

nature speaks, when all nature praises, and when all nature inspires. We are surrounded by God's magnificent beauty that touches us from outside and penetrates deep inside to ignite our spirit to action. It is said that "when flowers bloom and grow, they are silent." The Spiritual Enrichment Retreat provides opportunities for us to grow spiritually in silence.

From the 1980 Quiet Day Service comes this information: "Deep at the heart of each of us there is that silent sanctuary of the soul. There is a garden where the Word has been sown and will grow when we allow the conditions to become right. The prayer of centering is the primary way to help these conditions become right." As we pray, commit, meditate, communicate, and listen during the Retreat we prepare and grow spiritually.

"Through It All, God..." is our overall theme. For our 1983 Spiritual Enrichment Retreat theme we have chosen "God Speaks...Nature, Art, Music, Pen, and People." Mrs. Gwen White will lead us into many wholesome experiences

has a real concern for children and was involved in tutorial programs for seven years in Washington, D. C. and East Greenwich, Rhode Island. She served as a Staff Assistant to a Title I program in the East Greenwich schools.

She has been a member of the New Jersey Area Task Force on Child Advocacy for the United Methodist Women, served on the Commission of Status and Role of Women in Southern New England Conference and was a delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 1976.

She has served throughout New England and New Jersey as a Workshop leader in Family Enrichment, Communication Skill and Value Clarification. She also shares leadership with her husband in Marriage Communication Labs, seminars on Marriage and Family Life, and workshop on Inter-Generational Education and Ministries.

Mrs. White is a Worship and Retreat leader, has led Journaling workshops, has taught in Regional and Conference Schools of Mission, and is vitally concerned for the laity and their need to participate in a personal ministry and a

that will further develop and enhance our spiritual growth.

Hebrews 4:16 says: "Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." The experiences planned for you who will be in attendance at the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat will present opportunities for mercy and grace in needy times.

Dates for the Retreat are: Week-day, April 20-22 and Week-end, April 23, 24.

Mrs. Lois Roberts will again prepare for us the Prayer Room, where we come to pray, meditate, list our concerns and receive strength.

During the week-day session Mrs. Kathy Roberts and Mrs. Shirley Belcher will lead us in music. Music for the week-end retreat will be led by Mrs. Marilyn Bullington and Mrs. Nell Chance.

The entire Spiritual Enrichment Committee welcomes your prayers for God's guidance and presence as we continue to prepare and plan.

Come join with us as God speaks to us through nature, art, music, the written word, and people.

Bring your favorite devotional books, writing paper, and pen. Please bring a carload from your local unit and join us for this time together.

Christian lifestyle.

Bishop and Mrs. White have traveled extensively the past few years in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and the Middle East studying World Hunger and Peace and Justice issues.

KATHY ROBERTS TO LEAD SINGING AT WEEK-DAY RETREAT

Mrs. Kathy Roberts, wife of Mr. Henry Roberts, administrator of Wesley Manor in Dothan, Alabama, will be leading the group singing during the week-day Spiritual Enrichment Retreat. She will be accompanied by Mrs. Shirley Belcher who is a member of the handbell choir of Lafayette Street United Methodist Church in Dothan.

Kathy is a native of Atlanta, Georgia where she attended elementary and high school. She received a degree in music education from Georgia State University. At present she is director of music at Lafayette Street United Methodist Church.



MRS. GWEN WHITE

Retreat Leader

Gwen White was born in Nebraska, daughter of a Presbyterian minister. She attended Wayne State Teachers College in Nebraska, Buena Vista College in Iowa, Morningside College in Iowa, and Colorado State College of Education. She taught music in Iowa schools, where she met and married Dale White, Bishop of the New Jersey Area of the United Methodist Church. She served as an organist-choir director in several Methodist churches.

Mrs. White, mother of six grown children,

FINANCIAL MEDLEY

The Women's Division budget for 1983 is \$16,254,050, the largest ever. This is based on the pledge-to-mission giving of each member. In 1982 it cost \$1,795.53 per hour to support mission through the Women's Division. In 1983 it will be higher. Has your unit calculated the minutes/hours which it supports through the pledge it sends to the district treasurer?

"Where does the money go?" is a frequent question. Many resources provide answers, and **Response** magazine is one of the best. It is the official magazine of United Methodist Women, needed by every member if she is to understand the program and outreach of the organization. Increasing the number of subscriptions and the readership is another centennial goal. Consider giving subscriptions as Christmas gifts.

"Why undesignated giving?" is a second common question. "I like to know where my money goes." In hundreds of mission institutions it is undesignated giving (pledge to mission) that helps underwrite core budget: rent, fuel, utilities, salaries, administration. It is the "meat and potatoes" operating money to provide the buildings, staff and volunteers which make the program possible. **Response** describes programs in many such institutions. Undesignated money provides pensions and medical benefits for approximately 650 retired missionaries and deaconesses annually, as well as helping to underwrite the salaries of active missionaries. Names of these persons and their place of residence/work are listed in the **Prayer Calendar**.

"Where does mission money come from?" is an important question, infrequently asked. The answer? Approximately one-third of the annual budget of the Board of Global Ministries comes from undesignated giving of 1.2 million members of United Methodist Women. It is a larger percent, and a larger dollar amount than that provided by 9.4 million church members through World Service giving.

Because pledge-to-mission money is so vital to the mission outreach, be alert to those who seek money from United Methodist Women through junk mailings or for programs with no relation to the United Methodist Church. Question anyone who suggests uses of money which violate the policies of United Methodist Women.

The Centennial Celebration was officially launched at the Assembly, April, 1982. There are two financial goals in which each unit and each member's participation is vital: an increase in annual pledge giving and the establishment of a special Centennial Celebration Fund. To accomplish these, each unit will need to increase its annual pledge during 1983, 1984 and 1985 by at least 5 percent. Additionally, each member is asked to make a personal contribution of \$1 per year during 1983, 1984, and 1985 to the Fund. There are new remittance forms for treasurers this year with line 13 for reporting the Centennial Celebration Fund (If the names and addresses of your officers were sent to Service Center as



1983 is a time for new beginnings as United Methodist Women begin the new year. Taking leadership roles in the districts across the Alabama-West Florida Conference are these lay women: from left to right: Mrs. W. F. Williams, Jr., (Jimmie Nell) of Chipley United Methodist Women who is serving as President of the Marianna/Panama City District; Mrs. W. S. Carpenter (Jo Ann) of Livingston United

Methodist Women who is serving as President of the Demopolis District; and Mrs. Carl Jones (Lovie) of Asbury United Methodist Women in Montgomery, AL who is serving as President of the Montgomery District. (Not pictured is Mrs. Bill Chance (Nell) of Monroeville United Methodist Women who is serving as President of the Andalusia District).

they should have been).

I have received a letter from the Women's Division informing me that some Mission Recognition Pins have been ordered directly from them by someone in our Conference. I have been asked to inform all that monies should be sent through regular channels: local treasurer, district treasurer, conference treasurer, Women's Division.

FINANCIAL UP-DATE

Because United Methodist Women in the Alabama-West Florida Conference cared, the 1982 "pledge to missions" was reached!

Our pledge to Mission for 1982 was: \$109,067.00
We paid a total pledge of: 127,320.30
Supplementary giving was 49,666.92

Total To Women's Division: \$176,987.22
Giving sent directly within the conference \$19,426.28.

United Methodist Women in Alabama-West Florida Conference pledged to increase their giving 5% for 1983. It will take all 11,606 members of the conference giving systematically and sacrificially to reach this goal. The challenge is before us. How will we respond in 1983?

Alma Singleton, Treasurer

World Development Workshop Highlights Concerns

The United Methodist Women of the Alabama-West Florida Conference conducted a World Development Workshop, February 25-27, at Blue Lake for conference executive committee members, district presidents, vice presidents, mission coordinators for Christian Global Concerns, and mission coordinators for Christian Social Involvement. Other interested persons who wanted to learn about world

issues and needs were also encouraged to come.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide United Methodist Women with an opportunity for greater understanding to study the relationships between local communities and developing nations and to enable United Methodist Women to participate at the community level in development.

Ms. Barbara Weaver, executive secretary for developmental education from the Women's Division conducted the workshop with help from Ms. Virginia Vargas from Lima, Peru, who is itinerating in the United States with the Institute for Policy Studies. Ms. Vargas shared with the group her experiences with the women of Peru--their concerns, needs, and fears. Others from the conference taking part on the leadership team for the week-end were: Dr. Thomas Lane Butts, who spoke on development from the perspective of the Christian faith; Mrs. Annella Trobaugh, who spoke on Women's concerns; Michelle Johnson, who spoke on Refugee Resettlement; and Judy Cumble, who spoke on peace with justice.

Members of the planning team were Anne Dalton, Eloise McGucken, Jane Weekley, and Mary Willis.

Plans are for World Development Workshops and learning seminar experiences to be brought into the districts and local units later in 1983 and 1984. Knowledge gained from this encounter will serve as a springboard for alter workshops in our conference. Watch for details coming soon!



1983 Membership Emphasis

ANNOUNCING UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S RECOGNITION MONTHS

To: All Local Units

All Local Membership chairpersons

From: Conference Membership Committee

Zelda Medley, Chairperson

The Alabama West Florida United Methodist Women has designated March and April as United Methodist Women Recognition months. This is a time for each unit to emphasize membership. To make UMW highly visible and to acquaint the church on United Methodist Women, its purpose, its work, its goals, and its mission.

Following are some suggestions for the observance:

1. Have United Methodist Women as visible as possible at the Church Service. Consult your minister concerning participation in the Church Service on that Sunday, then refer to the Council on Ministries concerning details.
2. UMW preside or take part in the Service such as reading the scripture, giving the prayer, leading the responsive reading, etc.
3. Present a Special Mission recognition Pin (during the Service) to your Pastor or to a special member, explaining the meaning.
4. Secure a woman speaker for the Service.
5. Give name tags to members of UMW; recognize them during the Service.
6. Place posters around the church showing involvement and outreach of UMW.

7. Distribute leaflets "Who are United Methodist Women?" and "20 Questions" (free for postage from Service Center) plus local activities and time of meetings to each person attending Service.

8. UMW serve as greeters, ushers, and in taking collection during the Service.

9. Allow one member to give a three-to-five minute talk on "What UMW Means to Me" or about the work of UMW in general. This could include an invitation to non-members to join. Sit together during the Service.

10. Follow up with membership tea or some form of fellowship.

1983 UMW Conference Journals

Copies of the 1983 Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women Conference journals have been mailed out to all unit presidents district officers, conference executive committee members, and special issues were sent to connectional people. If anyone is interested in receiving one of these journals they can be obtained by sending \$2.00 and your name and mailing address to: Bess H. Evans, 406 Gibson St., Enterprise, AL 36330. Supplies are limited!

GOALS FOR THE CENTENNIAL ERA FOR EACH UNIT

(Dates 1982 - 1986)

1. Increase pledge to missions by at least 5% each year of the celebration.
2. Increase the membership by at least 10% each year, beginning in 1982.
3. Contribute \$1. per member per year (1983-1985) to the Centennial Celebration Fund. The Centennial Celebration Fund will help develop new programs to address the needs of women and children in the world today.
4. Buy (or encourage unit membership to subscribe) two new subscriptions to **RESPONSE** magazine per unit per year.
5. Plan a Centennial Celebration in each unit.



MAKE PLANS NOW---Mark Your Calendar

The 1986 United Methodist Women's Assembly will be in Anaheim, California, April 17-20, 1986. Each unit should begin now to plan to send a representative. A small amount could be budgeted annually as an accumulating fund to assist a person designated by your group.

WEEKDAY RETREAT - APRIL 20, 21, 22

Registration 9:30 a.m.

Make Checks payable to TREASURER, United Methodist Women

Mail To: Mrs. Shirley Kegerreis
4615 Christy Dr.
Pensacola, FL 32504

Name _____ District _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Need a downstairs room? _____ (You cannot choose a roommate if your request a room downstairs)

Roommate _____

Deadline for registration April 13th

COST \$44.25

Call To Worship: 10:00 a.m.

CHILD'S REGISTRATION

WEEKDAY ONLY

Cost per child \$21.00

Mother's Name _____

Child's Name _____ Age _____

WEEKEND RETREAT - APRIL 23, 24

Registration 9:30 a.m.

Make Checks payable to TREASURER, United Methodist Women

Mail To: Mrs. Shirley Kegerreis
4615 Christy Dr.
Pensacola, FL 32504

Name _____ District _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Need a downstairs room? _____ (You cannot choose a roommate if you request a room downstairs?)

Roommate _____

COST \$26.25

Call to Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Reservations may be made for Friday evening April 22nd. Add \$13.75 for room and meals. Supper 6:00 P.M. Deadline for registration April 13th. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope to return registration if Oakwood is full and you do not care to stay in Dogwood.

MEET YOUR NEW CONFERENCE OFFICERS

BESS EVANS



"I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve United Methodist Women in my new capacity as Secretary of Publicity and Public Relations," says Bess Evans. "It's with great joy I look forward to the days ahead of sharing with women across Alabama-West Florida the tasks and programs that await our mission commitments."

Bess comes as no stranger to the Alabama-West Florida Conference. She has been active in all areas of the church organization. Having served on the conference Sunday School Committee since 1978, the Conference Committee on Nominations, and District President of the Demopolis District, she relinquished these responsibilities when she moved with her husband and family to Enterprise, Alabama where her husband, Jesse, is pastor of St. Luke United Methodist Church.

At St. Luke, Bess enjoys singing in the Chancel Choir and teaching the second grade church school class. Being the mother of two girls, Susannah and Cindy, many hours have been spent in community service. Bess was president of Grove Hill PTA for two years while her family was in Grove Hill. She also worked as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society. In Enterprise she serves as a volunteer for the Girl Scouts where both her children participate. Bess also serves as an English tutor for Asian Americans.

When not busy with UMW work and activities with her family, Bess enjoys fishing and visiting with friends.

FRANCES JOHNSON



Frances Johnson was born in East Tallassee, Alabama. She is a graduate of Tuskegee Institute School of Nursing. Frances is the mother of Brenda Kay, Gayle Renee', and James, Jr. She is also a grandmother.

As a member of Bowen United Methodist Church in Montgomery District, Frances serves her local church as member and treasurer of the Senior Choir, Co-ordinator of Children's Ministries, Sunday School teacher (older elementary), member and treasurer of her local unit of United Methodist Women.

Frances has also served as Mission Coordinator for Supportive Community on the Montgomery District before taking over responsibilities on the conference level in this position.

"I thank God for letting me serve as a good Christian woman. My dream is to write a book about my service with United Methodist Women, nursing home residents, and my 94-year old mother who stands behind me," says Frances.

We look forward to working with Frances in the Alabama-West Florida Conference organization.

Announcing

WHAT'S NEW FROM SERVICE CENTER?
...."free" pamphlets to help with the Centennial Celebration
"Committed To Mission Tomorrow - Building on Yesterday"
"Centennial Celebration Fund"
"To Honor"

These pamphlets can be ordered from Service Center, 7820 Reading Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45237.

WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST WOMEN -- SOUTHERN REGION SEMINAR

The World Federation of Methodist Women will hold its Southern Region Seminar in Jackson, Mississippi on May 20-21, 1983. The Southern Region includes the states of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. Participating churches are the United Methodist, the A.M.E., the A.M.E. Zion, and the C.M.E.

Women of these faith groups meet together every four years for study, fellowship, and prayer. The seminar is open to all interested individuals.

Seminar headquarters will be the Holiday Inn in Jackson, Mississippi. A \$15.00 registration fee includes cost for Saturday lunch, workshops, and featured speakers. Anyone interested in attending should contact: Harriet D. Williams, 321 Susan Place, Hueytown, AL 35023 before April 1, 1983.

BLUE LAKE COSTS GO HIGHER

As you will have probably noticed in our registration blanks for the retreat coming up, prices have gone up. Because of inflation and the need to keep both Blue Lake operating expenses and United Methodist Women's budget in the black we had to make a slight increase.

ALERT 100 CLUB

Newton (Dothan District) 26
Bayou La Batre (Mobile District) 25
Cottonwood (Dothan District) 10
Hartford (Dothan District) 48
Abbeville (Dothan District) 72
Enterprise First - Circle One (Dothan District) 14

Gastonburg (Demopolis District) 8
Elba - 38 (Andalusia District)

Subscriptions come in almost daily. Thank you for the support of the conference newsletter. Encourage others to join us. Let the editor know if your unit should be listed here.

ALERT

Alabama-West Florida Conference
United Methodist Women
Bess H. Evans, Editor
406 Gibson Street
Enterprise, AL 36330

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Enterprise, AL
Permit No. 111

Mrs. James King (Kathryn)
P.O. Box 125
Webb, AL 36376

Expires Summer '83