



Alert

Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women

Volume 35
No. 1
Winter
January
2007

2007 Spiritual Enrichment Retreat March 23-25, 2007 Blue Lake Assembly

"Resurrection Women"



Guest Speakers
← **Jeanette Clifton**
Jackie Whitehouse
Myra Martin →



Jeanette Clifton
SEJ Core Planning
Group
Treasurer

Jeanette is married to Franklin Clifton and they just recently moved to Sylacauga, AL from Columbiana, AL. They have one daughter, Danette, who is the Director of Communications for the North Alabama Conference. Jeanette retired after working 15 years as Financial Secretary for the Columbiana United Methodist Church.

She has served her local unit in almost every office since joining United Methodist Women in 1977. She has served the Sylacauga District team as treasurer, communications coordinator and president. She served on the North Alabama Conference team as secretary for four years. She enjoys traveling, reading and helping her husband with his woodcrafts.

Jacquelyn Whitehouse
SEJ Core Planning
Group Secretary

Jackie is a wife and mother of two (son and daughter). She served on the Florida Conference UWM for 12 years before becoming Secretary of the SEJ Core Planning Group. She served as secretary, secretary of program resources, communications coordinator and two years on the committee on nominations. She also served for two years as Assistant Dean and two years as Dean of the School of Christian Mission. She served on the South Atlantic Regional School of Christian Mission for three years. She enjoys being with her family, singing in the choir and reading.

Myra Martin
SEJ Core Planning

Myra is from Pensacola, FL and a long time member of UWM in the AWF Conference. She has served her local unit as president, vice-president, and nominations chair. On both the Pensacola District and conference teams, she served as secretary of programs resources. She was elected to serve on the SEJ Core Planning Group in 2004. Myra is employed as the financial assistant to the church administrator at First UMC. She is married to Mel and has two daughters, Leigh and Caroline, and two granddaughters, Emma and Tiffany.

Final Registration Deadline is March 9, 2007
Check-in begins Friday, March 23, 2007 at 4:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Registration and Health form enclosed (please complete **both** sides)

Important!

Each participant is asked to bring the following items:
Bible, pen/pencil, photo of yourself (non returnable)

Mission Team
2007

Beth Bowdin
President

Georgette Griffith
Vice President

Mary Jo Morton
Secretary

Nancy J. Smith
Treasurer

Beth Henson
Communications
Coordinator

Bess Evans
Program Resources

Margie Outlaw
Chair, Nominations

Virginia Lindley
Blue Lake

.....
Mission
Coordinators

Marie Bird
Spiritual Growth

Edna Williams
Social Action

Betty Worthington
Membership
Nurture & Outreach

Joyce Maddox
Education &
Interpretation

Mary Lou Brown
Spanish Language

.....
Larry Goodpaster
Bishop

Guthrie Childs
Dean of School of
Missions

Winn Marsh
Registrar

Myra Martin
SEJ CP Group

Lynn Hamric
Women's Division
Director

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**.



From the desk of the President...

Greetings,

This is a fresh new year! A time of excitement of looking ahead to wonderful opportunities. Opportunities to live out the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women!

Page 2 of the pamphlet, "United Methodist Women Nurturing through...", gives an insightful explanation of the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women. It begins, Organized Unit: we are organized for MISSION, making United Methodist Women different than other groups, clubs, or fellowships. Community of women: we come together with a shared mission focus. Although individually diverse, we make MISSION possible. I encourage each of you to get a copy of this pamphlet and read all 15 pages.

Looking forward to this new year, may we model ourselves, as did our foremothers, after John Wesley's Rule: Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as you ever can.

We have a challenge before us to continue the legacy of women organized for mission and join in fulfilling the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women. Will you join me in the following pledge? "I pledge my support to my sisters to walk together along this journey toward fulfilling God's mission through the organization of United Methodist Women."
("United Methodist Women Nurturing through...")

Keeping before us the flame and cross and Paul's words to Timothy, "...I now remind you to stir into the flame the gift of God which is within you...". As United Methodist Women, we share our gift/s of God with others through mission.

May we move into 2007 with a renewed sense of joy, excitement and enthusiasm for mission with women, children and youth!

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

The Joys of United Methodist Women Membership

- **I WILL make the most of learning opportunities and mission education events.**
- **I WILL expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.**
- **I WILL engage in mission studies at Schools of Christian Mission.**
- **I WILL read Response magazine and join the Reading Program.**
- **I WILL be empowered by the history and heritage of United Methodist Women.**

Mission Resource Information

January 1, 2007 has begun a new era for improved and up-to-date service from the Women's Division/United Methodist Women. The Service Center in Cincinnati, Ohio closed December 31, 2006. The Service Center in Cincinnati is no more! All orders for Reading Program books, UMW and other related resources should be handled through the United Methodist Reporter in Dallas, Texas at the Mission Resource Center. The Women's Division and the United Methodist Reporter have joined hands in a partnership to provide United Methodist Women with the same items previously ordered from the Service Center.

The Mission Resource Center will be using the website, online ordering and toll-free number at the Service Center.

E-orders: www.missionresourcecenter.org

Center Catalog Orders: 1-800-205-9857 toll-free

Web Address: www.scorders.org

The staff is ready to serve you. Make your checks payable to: Mission Resource Center. The new mailing address is:

Mission Resource Center
1221 Profit Drive,
Dallas, Texas 75247-3191.

Please contact Bess Evans, Alabama-West Florida Conference Secretary of Program Resources, if you have questions or concerns about the Mission Resource Center and its service. She will be glad to help you.

Bess Evans
Program Resources
(850) 623-1305
bessevans@bellsouth.net



Education & Interpretation

As I begin my tenure as conference Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation, I very much feel like a new kid on the block; even though I have been a member of the United Methodist Women for nearly fifty years, I have served countless offices in local units, and served as District Secretary, District Spiritual Growth Coordinator, and District President, I have never held a conference office. However, as I have done in each previous position, I look to this as an opportunity to serve; a love and appreciation for the wonderful work that is done in God's name through this organization and a commitment to do my best to promote its programs in our conference. Specifically, my responsibility is to promote the Mission Today program and to encourage the mission studies. I see these programs as a means by which we can grow spiritually and mentally so that we can best serve our Lord in a world much in need of His grace and mercy.

As we begin this New Year, I invite you to come and grow with me as we serve, learn and pray together. God has need of us and a place for us in His work, but we must be willing to learn and to serve Him to fulfill His purpose in our lives.

May God bless each and every one of you in the place that you are planted in His garden.

Submitted By:

Joyce Maddox
Mission Coordinator
Education & Interpretation
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Important Dates to Remember

2007

- **Jan 12-13, 2007**
Executive Committee
& Nominations Mtg
Blue Lake
- **Jan 26-27, 2007**
COSROW Retreat
Blue Lake
- **Mar 23-25, 2007**
Spiritual Enrichment
Retreat "Resurrection Women"
Blue Lake
- **July 13-14, 2007**
Executive Committee
& Nominations Mtg
Blue Lake
- **July 26-29, 2007**
Cooperative School of
Christian Mission
"Sing Across the Walls"
Blue Lake
- **September 28-29, 2007**
Executive Committee
& District Officer Training
Blue Lake
- **October 26-27, 2007**
Conference Annual Mtg
Blue Lake

Other Important Dates to Remember

2008

- **Mar 21-23, 2008**
Spiritual Enrichment Retreat
Blue Lake
- **Apr 4-6, 2008**
Southeastern Jurisdictional
Mtg
"Called By Name"
Hampton, VA
- **July (date TBA)**
C.S.C.M.
Blue Lake
- **Oct 3-4, 2008**
District Officer Training
Blue Lake
- **Nov 1, 2008**
Conference Annual Mtg
Blue Lake

Women grow through:

- * Education **about** God's mission
- * Education **for** God's mission
- * Education **through** involvement in God's mission
- * Education **by** interaction with others in God's mission

"Called by Name"

But now, thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned; and the flames shall not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."

Isaiah 43:1-3a

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

John 10:3-4

I HAD NO IDEA THAT THIS WOULD BE THE LAST SOUTHEAST JURISDICTION MEETING COMING UP IN 2008!



YES! SO PLAN NOW TO ATTEND! THE THEME IS "CALLED BY NAME" AND IT WILL BE IN HAMPTON, VIRGINIA APRIL 4-6, 2008

**2007 Spiritual Enrichment Retreat
 March 23 – 25, 2007
 “RESURRECTION WOMEN”**

Check-in begins FRIDAY, March 23, 2007 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: **334/222-5407**

FINAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 9, 2007
BLUE LAKE ASSEMBLY
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

Name of District needed to determine percentage for banner

UMW DISTRICT OFFICE HELD _____
 UMW CONFERENCE OFFICE HELD _____

PLEASE CHECK YOUR PREFERENCE:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Oakwood Old Wing: | | Oakwood New Wing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Triple Occupancy \$79.50 | | <input type="checkbox"/> Double Occupancy \$94.50 |
| Roommates: 1. _____ | | Roommate: _____ |
| 2. _____ | | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Occupancy \$139.50 |
| | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Double Occupancy \$94.50 | | District/Conference Officers: |
| Roommate: 1. _____ | | Registration \$ 10.00 |
| | | New Wing <u>10.00</u> |
| | | TOTAL \$ 20.00 |
| | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Occupancy \$139.50 | | |

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.

I NEED A DOWNSTAIRS ROOM _____ I NEED A HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE ROOM _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE HEALTH INFORMATION ON REVERSE SIDE OF THIS 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 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 _____

District President's Corner



**Mobile
District**

"Has Braggin Rights"**MANY COLORS – ONE SPIRIT BANNER AWARD**

Mobile District was awarded the **Many Colors–One Spirit Banner** at our United Methodist Women Annual Meeting at Blue Lake on September 30, 2006. With some 70 plus members in attendance it was obvious to all that they came to claim those braggin rights! Indeed, the Mobile District were SHINE WOMEN with the beautiful smiles on their faces as they came forward to take their victory walk in celebration of their achievement.

Demopolis and Marianna-Panama City Districts were the 2nd and 3rd place winners this year.

We all worked hard to encourage attendance and it is showing. Our attendance to events increased last year – let us all continue to encourage all United Methodist Women to attend all of our events. Your next opportunity to attend an event and give your district points will be the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat on March 23-25, 2007.

Your district could be the next recipient of this prestigious award! It depends on **YOU!** Support your district by attending all UMW conference sponsored events.

Criteria for The Banner:

1. Each UMW Annual Day, the district that has accumulated the largest amount of points by annual day will be awarded the **Many Colors – One Spirit Banner**.
2. These events are: Spiritual Enrichment Retreat, Mother/Daughter Event, Cooperative School of Christian Mission and UMW Conference Annual Day.
3. The points will be awarded at each event to the districts by attendance. The district that accumulates the highest number of points will be announced at Annual day. If a district does not have anyone in attendance, the score for that event will be zero.

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| First Place: | 80 points |
| Second Place: | 70 points |
| Third Place: | 60 points |
| Fourth Place: | 50 points |
| Fifth Place: | 40 points |
| Sixth Place: | 30 points |
| Seventh Place: | 20 points |
| Eighth Place: | 10 points |

4. The winning district will be recognized during the annual meeting. The district will receive a certificate and each member of that district in attendance will be given buttons signifying the award. A ribbon will be permanently attached stating the district's name and year they received the banner.
5. The banner will always remain at Blue Lake.

Submitted By:

Betty Helms
(334) 794-2172
bhelms@ala.net

Conference Annual Day Offering collected on September 30 at Blue Lake was **\$1,276.00**. This offering was placed in Pledge To Mission under Mission Giving (formerly Undesignated Giving) and sent to the Women's Division.

Blue Lake

The building and re-modeling programs have already begun at Blue Lake. Professionals as well as volunteers are doing the work. More volunteers are needed. If your church can participate, please call **Keron Vickers** at Blue Lake. I want to urge everyone to attend the **COSROW Retreat at Blue Lake on Jan. 26-27**. Also, please make plans now to attend the **Cooperative School of Christian Missions on July 26-29**. And may God continue to bless us in His service.

Happy New Year!

Submitted By:

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

Alert! Alert! Alert!

Working Together as a Team

- "Love one another." (John 13:34)
- "Serve one another in love." (Gal. 5:13b)
- "Encourage one another and build each other up." (I Thess. 5:11a)
- "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." (Col. 3:23)

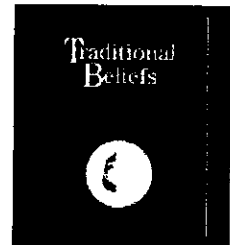
Book Review

Traditional Beliefs of United Methodists

This short 28-page booklet is a "must-read" for **2007 Reading Program participants**. J. Ann Craig does a wonderful job of providing the reader with a studious look at John Wesley's teachings about the faith we are called to live as United Methodists. The short study includes structured sections for discussion and devotional time. The booklet lends itself to a program unique to those of us who call ourselves United Methodists. The readers will learn what it means to put faith into action through the teachings of John Wesley's social gospel.

Submitted By:

Bess Evans
Program Resources
(850) 623-1305
bessevans@bellsouth.net



NEWS FLASH / SMR PIN PRICE INCREASE

Effective January 1, 2007, the price for our SMR pins have increased due to cost of precious metals in recent years. This has resulted in increased cost for SMR pins. To maintain the amount going to missions, Women's Division Board of Directors voted in October 2006 to increase pricing for two of the pins.

Basic Pin - Increase from \$35 to \$40

Sapphire Pin - Increase from \$50 to \$60

To Local and District Treasurers: Please pass this information on to your local units regarding this price increase before SMR pin orders start rolling in.

I look forward to seeing and working with each of you again this year. It is my honor to serve and help you in anyway I can.

Nancy J. Smith
Conference Treasurer
(251) 861-2111
nancyjsmith@msn.com

Why a Spiritual Enrichment Retreat?

Ann Craig, one of the contributors of The "*Resurrection Women*", explains that a spiritual retreat is a way of "re-treating" life. It allows us "to treat our life again with the love of God, so that we can re-treat daily life with the hands-on service of love and justice."

The spiritual growth retreat focuses on theology of mission. It is designed to increase understanding of and commitment to God's mission to women, children, and youth. The retreat is being conducted in each annual conference for United Methodist Women by members of the Core Planning Group of each jurisdiction.

Come and Experience

Worship, Music, Art, Drama, and Individual Reflection

Come as YOU are; immerse yourself in the directed sessions and leave refreshed for having experienced God's love through the retreat.

Go into the world as a "*Resurrected Woman*"



The **Leadership Training Event** was held November 17-19, 2006 at the Renaissance St. Louis Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. Those attending from the Alabama-West Florida Conference were from left to right seated: **Beth Bowdin, Georgette Griffith, and Beth Henson**; standing **Nancy May, Mary Lou Brown and Joyce Maddox**.

United Methodist Women Online Community

Have you joined the UMW online community? It is a wonderful place for members of United Methodist Women to find information about the various interests and programs of this organization. It is easy to join with opportunities for participation from individuals as well as varied interest groups. There are chat group, files, data and help with concerns that are only a click or two away. Join today and find the answers to questions you may have.

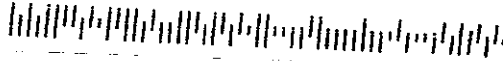
Why an online community? "Through this ministry, women from across the country and the world will share testimonies of faith, creative approaches to mission, models of effective education, and any ideas they find helpful to participating in Christ's mission with women, children and youth." (Jan Love, former CEO of the Women's Division)

The online community will enhance the ways our members communicate with each other. By utilizing present-day electronic technologies, it will be possible for United Methodist Women and women around the world to have a common platform from which to move beyond the traditional limitations of time and space. For example, a woman in Georgia, Idaho or India could connect online any time during the day or night with each other to discuss a topic or participate in a Bible study. This is an opportunity to share the love of Christ, and the United Methodist tradition, in new and creative ways.

Go to: <http://www.umwonline.org/> Sign up! Invite others to join! You will be glad you did.

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

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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 2007 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.

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