



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

# ALERT

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President	2
Vice President & E&I	3
Social Action	4
Spiritual Growth & Treasurer	5
Nominations	6&7
2017 Budget	8
Fall Event Registration Form	9
Health Form	10
Calendar of Events	11

### 2016 Conference Officers

President	Lynn Hamric
Vice President	Betty Smith
Secretary	Charlotte Hobson
Treasurer	Margaret Larson
Prog. Resources	open
Communications	Laurel Akin
Nominations Chair	Lorna Wiggins
Mission Coordinators	
Spiritual Growth	Nancy Shealy
Social Action	Zan Jones
M.N. & O	Tutti Johnson
Ed. & Interp	Shirley Hodges
Committee on Nominations	
Cynthia Brown	Betty Helms
Sheila Hare	Reda Brooks
Lorna Wiggins	
President SEJ UMW	Betty Helms
UMW Board Member	Clara Ester
Webmaster Vera Moore	

## Register now for the Fall Event—details on Pages 3,4 & 9!

### Let's Have a Stress Free Registration!

#### Information to Help you Succeed:

**Step one:** In this issue of ALERT, you will find a Registration Form for the Fall Event. Let's make the most of it. Go ahead and decide you want to come to this One Time Only Event!

**Step two:** Select a roommate from your many friends and UMW members or get your unit to commit to come in pairs. Take the registration form from this ALERT and make copies, one per person. **Please do not reformat the registration form**, just make the number of copies you need. Distribute the copies to all who are planning to come to the Event. **Read the registration form.**

**Step three:** Notice that the cost of the event includes a registration fee of \$15.00. This amount helps the Conference United Methodist Women pay costs of the meeting. It helps pay for honoraria, travel & expenses for speakers, musicians and other guests. It is the only money UMW gets from registration.

**The other costs are for lodging and food for the event.** If you have a roommate, the cost of the room listed is one-half of the cost of the room. The costs also account for all the meals eaten each day. For this Friday and Saturday event, there are three meals. All of these costs are paid to Blue Lake.

The only other charge is if you miss the first deadline. The \$10.00 late fee is to encourage everyone to register on time. The numbers for each meal have to be given to Blue Lake two weeks before the date of the meeting.

**Step four:** Please notice that there is only one place for the name of the registrant. Each registration form is for one person, the costs listed are for one person. Each person has to send in a registration form and roommates should send in their forms together. The registrar cannot hold rooms, waiting for a second person. We could run out of rooms quickly. There are places to check if someone wants a private room. The cost increases and is listed on the registration form.

I am looking forward to this event and hope all United Methodist Women are excited about the possible for training and learning about Mass Incarceration and Maternal Health.

See you soon,  
Ruth Ann, Registrar

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Sisters in Christ,

I realize we are in the midst of summer heat and afternoon thundershowers, that you're planning to cram in that long Labor Day weekend get-away, but we still have work to do.

Many of our local units take a break from meeting during the summer and as I reflect on this, it's probably a good thing. It allows us to have a change of pace; to not be so serious; to hopefully catch up on our reading program while we're at the beach or in the mountains. I also hope it allowed you to investigate areas in which you and your units can become involved now that it's time to re-group. I am listing a few topics that I am keenly interested in and working on, and hope to entice you to become involved in them as well. These are issues the National Office has provided information on (see their web page under Advocacy), and ones that are in every community whether or not we realize it.

- Domestic Violence
- Climate Justice
- Health Care
- Immigration Justice
- Racial Justice
- Economic Justice
- Global Justice/Peace
- Human Trafficking
- Peace Building
- Women's Rights

We cannot solve all the problems listed above but we can select one issue and work toward making conditions better for women, children and youth.

My priority is to try and stop human trafficking. We have had our "one day" to "raise our umbrellas" and make a statement. Now it's time to actually put our words into action. We need to work with our local agencies to identify where we can plug in and actually do some hands on work.

As part of your end-of-summer reading program please make *Human Trafficking: A Resource for Preventing, Protecting, Prosecuting* one of your reads. There are free downloadable PDF files from the National office web page to get you started at <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/human-trafficking>

Here are some agencies and their contact information to get you started...both in Alabama and West Florida.

- National Human Trafficking Resource Center - 1-888-373-7888
- Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force - 1-800-991-0948 - 8121 Parkway Dr. Leeds, AL
- West Florida Center for Trafficking Advocacy - 727-940-2282 - P.O. Box 2282 Tarpon Springs, FL
- Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking - 727-442-3064 - P.O. Box 2948 Clearwater, FL
- Alabama Immigration Information Center - [immigration.alabama.gov](http://immigration.alabama.gov)
- Alabama Law Enforcement Agency - 855-837-4396 - P.O. Box 304115 Montgomery, AL
- Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida –Immigration & Refugee Services (Pensacola Office) 850-436-6420 <http://www.ccnwfl.org> - [immigration@cc.ptdiocese.org](mailto:immigration@cc.ptdiocese.org)

Whether your unit is small or large there is something you can do to make a difference in the lives of women, children and youth.

Now is the time. This is the place. Let us move forward with the confidence of God's children.

In His Service,  
F. Lynn Hamric



# Fall Event 2016 is coming!

School is just beginning for the 2016-2017 year and we, as United Methodist Women, are beginning another year of service to our Lord and Savior.

This fall we will not be having our Annual Day, but will have a one-time Fall Event as Annual Day will now be in the spring. The Fall Event will be October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016, beginning **Friday night** with supper and training for the incoming district presidents and treasurers. There will be informational and fun activities for others who are in attendance that evening.

On **Saturday**, we will have a **short business meeting** where we will elect and install new conference officers and approve the budget for 2017. Following that, we will have **Dawn Hare** speak to us on **Mass Incarceration** as it pertains to Women, Children and Youth. We will also have **Hardy Tyler** speaking to us on **Maternal Health**.

There is a registration form in this edition of the Alert, so please fill it out and let us know you are coming.

*Betty Smith,  
Vice President*



## Education and Interpretation

With the current temperatures soaring into the mid to high 90s, it may be hard to think that fall is on the horizon, but it will be here before we know it. With fall's coming, we are reminded that the end of the year will soon be here. That brings to mind that summarizing reports will be due.

I would like to remind all of us to look at the Mission Today forms and take inventory regarding what is left to be done among those items that will give us Bronze, Silver or Gold status. Please be sure to get your information to your district presidents for the Consolidated Presidents' form so that the conference can call attention to these accomplishments at our Conference Annual Day after the new year.

Also, please be sure to let your district presidents know which mission studies you have completed during the past year. Local and district mission studies are so important to our members' continuing education, which in turn make us all better informed, better UMW members and better citizens.

Thank you for your continued faith, hope and love in all you do for women, children and youth in our communities and around the world!

Blessings,  
Shirley Hodges, Education and Interpretation Coordinator



# Focus on Social Action at the Fall Event

Our Fall Event will focus on two areas of concern to United Methodist Women: maternal health and mass incarceration. Dawn Hare will speak about mass incarceration on Saturday morning and Hardy Tyler will speak on maternal health after lunch.

Learn more about these issues on the United Methodist Women website, [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org).

Here are a few direct links:

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/ending-mass-incarceration>

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/national-seminar/mass-incarceration>

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/maternal-health-stories>

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/maternal-child-health>

**Did you know?** In 2015 United Methodist Women granted more than \$1 million to U.S. and international partners providing health programs for women and children. In 2015 United Methodist Women granted more than \$1 million to U.S. and international partners providing health programs for women and children. The grants, are part of United Methodist Women's [Global Maternal and Child Health Initiative](#).

## *Cares and Concerns*

Winn Marsh is appointed Personal Concerns Coordinator for Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women. You may contact her at [winnmarsh@aol.com](mailto:winnmarsh@aol.com) or 850-624-9709 to request prayer for your personal concerns. Winn will share the information according to your wishes.

## **Our Purpose:**

**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.**



## A message from our Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Nancy Shealy



God's Mission Call comes in differing ways, indicating differing paths, leading to differing goals.

But one thing is always true, the call is to the individual woman, and God is with each of us all the way.

One Hand upon our shoulder, and the other pointing clearly to the direction we should go.

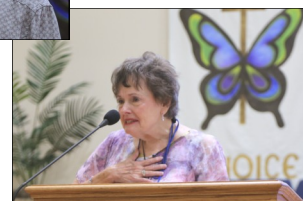
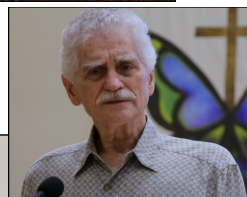
So long as we remain open and sensitive to insights and nudges indicating Our Purpose.

The Joy is that God is always with us, as close as a hand on the shoulder and a finger tracing the path.

*Naomi R. Wray  
Retired Missionary  
Virginia Conference*



**Mission  
u 2016!**



## From the Treasurer

This October we will have a "Fall Event" instead of Annual Day. On Friday evening there will be training for Treasurers starting at 6.30 pm. We have the whole evening to work on problems for new and returning treasurers. Bring your lap-tops, if you can, so we can work on-line if necessary.

Hope to see you all there,

**Margaret Larson,  
Conference Treasurer**



# Committee on Nominations Report

At the July 15-16 Executive meeting the Nominations Committee Chairman presented the following slate of officers for the 2017-2018 term:

President: Debbie Bell

Secretary: Cathy Givan

Treasurer: Jean Creswell

Social Action Coordinator: Laurel Akin

Education & Interpretation Coordinator: Shirley Hodges

Program Resources Coordinator: Sally Ozan

Communications Coordinator: Unfilled

## Nominations Committee Nominees:

Linda Green, Class of 2017

Cheryl Mothershed, Class of 2018

Zan Jones, Class of 2020

So that you will get to know these nominees better I have written a brief biography of each one.

**Debbie Bell** is a member of Christ United Methodist Church in the Mobile District. She has served as chairman of her circle and president of her local unit. She has also served as district president. At her local church she has been food service director and also served on the board of Dumas Wesley Community Center. Her professional work experience was as safety coordinator at Kimberly Clark.

**Cathy Givan** is a member of Chapel United Methodist Church in the Montgomery-Prattville District. She has been Administrative Chief of Staff at the Alabama Association of Justice for a number of years. She has served as president of her local unit and district president. Another position held by Cathy has been coordinator for education and interpretation. She has been on the Committee for the Charter for Racial Justice. In her church she is an adult Sunday School teacher, member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, member of the adult choir and the Seven Notes Singing Class. She is a certified lay servant and was the committee chair in the conference campaign "Imagine No Malaria". She is proficient in using Microsoft Word and Excel.

**Jean R. Creswell** is a member of Arlington United Methodist Church in the Demopolis District. She is the accounting manager at Pine Belt Communications. She has served as coordinator for social action and treasurer in her local unit. She has been secretary and president of her district. In the local church she has been treasurer, on the Pastor/Parish Committee, Stewardship/Finance Committee, Parsonage Committee and Outreach Chair. In the District she has served on the CORE team, Committee on Ordained Ministry and the Committee of Superintendence. She has served as her local church treasurer and on the University of West Alabama Wesley Foundation Board. Her job skills include using Microsoft Office and Accounting software.

**Laurel Akin** is a deaconess candidate and currently the conference UMW communications coordinator. She has served as local unit president, local unit spiritual growth coordinator, district vice president, and district social action coordinator. She is a VISTA volunteer serving with Communities of Transformation as communications coordinator. She is the missions committee chairman in her local church.

**Shirley Hodges** is a member of the Thomasville United Methodist Church in the Demopolis District. She is a day care director and teacher. She has served as secretary and president of her local unit. She has served as district secretary, vice president, social action coordinator and president, and is presently serving as the conference coordinator for education and interpretation. She has served as lay member to the Annual Conference for both her church and her district. In her local church she has been worship chair, past member as a district trustee, on the Conference Episcopacy Committee, and the Conference Steering Committee ACE Church Council. She is nominated for a second term as Coordinator for Education and Interpretation.



**Sally Ozan** is a member of Opelika First United Methodist Church in the Montgomery-Opelika District. She has had experience as a Commercial Insurance C.S.P. and some bookkeeping and property management experience. She served as president of her local unit and district president. She has been a member of the Pilot Club of Lee County, president of the Opelika Civitan Club, and participated in therapeutic foster care for eight years through the Lee County Youth Development Center.

**Zan Jones** is a member of Touminville-Warren Street United Methodist Church in the Mobile District. She is a nurse at the USA Children's NS Women's Hospital. She has served as coordinator for social action in her local unit and at the conference level. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and has worked in numerous public service projects.

**Cheryl Mothershed** is a member of Daphne United Methodist Church in the Baypines District. She serves as a preschool teacher and director of the nursery at Daphne UMC. She is well known for directing hand bell choirs and leading mission studies. She served as president and vice president of the Bay Minette UMW. She was president and served in other capacities for the Baypines District. She also serve as president of the district president's council.

**Linda Green** is a member of Bowen United Methodist Church in the Montgomery-Opelika District. She served as secretary for her local unit. For the district she served as nominations chair and president. She was financial manager for Veterans Affairs for 34 years. At Bowen UMC she is chairman of the finance committee and does internal auditing for the church. She sings in the choir and is a trustee of the church.



Debbie Bell



Cathy Givan



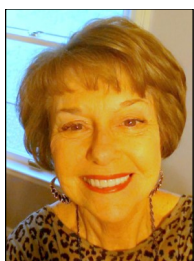
Jean Creswell



Laurel Akin



Shirley Hodges



Sally Ozan



Linda Green



Cheryl Mothershed



Zan Jones

Submitted by Lorna Wiggins, Chair of Nominations, on behalf of the committee; members Betty Helms, Reda Brooks, Sheila Hare, Cynthia Brown



## Alabama West Florida Conference UMW

### Proposed 2017 Budget

District Administration and Membership Funds	\$13,500
Alert Printing and Mailing	1,000
Audit	800
Conference Directory	150
Conference Assembly/Jurisdiction Scholarship	300
President to other Meetings	200
Officer Expenses	700
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,650</b>
 Program Committee Expenses	
Spiritual Enrichment Retreat	5,000
UMW Expenses to Mission U	3,500
District Leadership Development	500
Annual Day Meeting	5,000
SWAT	1,000
 <b>Total</b>	 <b>15,000</b>
 Executive Committee Meetings	4,500
Leadership Development Training	1,100
Assembly/Assembly Travel	2,000
Mission U Budget Offering	3,000
A & MD Funds to Jurisdiction (1% of Pledge)	1,283
Alabama Arise dues	300
Church Women United of Alabama	75
Church Women United of Florida	25
World Federation Of Women	25
Florida Impact	100
Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory Cards	75
Retiring Officer Pins	120
Miscellaneous Expenses	530
 <b>Total</b>	 <b>13,133</b>
 <b>TOTAL</b>	 <b>44,783</b>
 2017 Alabama West Florida Conference Pledge	 \$128,300



**ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
REGISTRATION FOR 2016 Fall Event  
October 21-22, 2016  
Blue Lake United Methodist Assembly**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 13, 2016**

**Friday Check in: 4 PM in Oakwood Solarium**

**Friday Dinner is at 5:30 PM**

**Program begins at 7:00PM, Chapel**

**Friday: Presidents and Treasurers training. Informational and fun activities for others attending.**

**Saturday Check in at 8:00 AM Blue Lake Gym**

**The business meeting will begin at 9:00 with the election of officers and approval of the budget.**

**Dawn Hare: Mass Incarceration of Women, Children & Youth, Morning**

**Hardy Tyler: Maternal Health, After Lunch**

**All participants must pre-register**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference/District Officer ☐ Office: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ First time to Blue Lake UMW event

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR PREFERENCE: (includes registration, 1 night's lodging & 3 meals per person)**

**A \$10.00 Late Fee will apply to all registrations received after October 6, 2016**

**LINWOOD WING before Oct. 6-after Oct. 6**

**CENTER SECTION before Oct 6 after Oct. 6**

\_\_\_\_\_ Double Occupancy \$69.75 ea \$79.75 ea

\_\_\_\_\_ Triple Occupancy \$59.75 ea \$69.75ea

\_\_\_\_\_ Single Occupancy \$92.25 ea \$102.25 ea

\_\_\_\_\_ Double Occupancy \$66.75ea \$76.75ea

\_\_\_\_\_ Single Occupancy \$87.75 ea \$97.75ea

**ROOMATE:**

**ROOMATES:**

**ROOMMATES MUST MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS & FULL PAYMENT TOGETHER**

**Conference and district officers pay current registration fee, an additional \$25 for single room, if wanted, and if received after 10/6/16, the \$10.00 late fee.**

**Single rooms are limited; therefore all requests may not be honored.**

**Make all checks payable to AWFUMW**

**Mail to: Ruth Ann Powers, Registrar, 712 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Phenix City, AL 36867 [rall@ctvea.net](mailto:rall@ctvea.net) 334-298-6405**

- ❖ To register as a commuter, pay \$15.00 registration, \$23.75 meals and \$4.00 per day Blue Lake fee, for a total of \$46.75.

**Special Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notify the registrar of any special needs or requirements.**

**HEALTH FORMS MAY BE COMPLETED AND MAILED WITH REGISTRATION OR PRESENTED ON DAY OF CHECK IN IF ONE HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED FOR 2016.**

**ALABAMA/WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE  
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
HEALTH FORM FOR 2016**

**Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy# \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies to medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Current medications: \_\_\_\_\_

In the event of an emergency, contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during my stay at a UMW event, I authorize **AL/WF UMW** to:

1. Secure and retain medical treatment and transportation if needed.
2. Release my health information to the authorized individual or agency involved in the medical emergency treatment.
3. I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the AL-WFL Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Consent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Consent Plan**

This authorization includes x-ray, surgery, hospitalization, medication and any treatment procedure deemed "life saving" by the physician. This provision will only be invoked if the person(s) above is unable to be reached. I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the AL-WFL Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Consent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Consent Plan**

I DO NOT give my consent for emergency medical treatment/aid in the cases of illness or injury. In the event emergency treatment/aid is required, I wish the following procedures to take place:

I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the AL-WFL Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Consent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Here's What's Happening!

Oct. 21-22                      Fall Event @ Blue Lake

Feb. 10 & 11, 2017        Annual Day@ Blue Lake

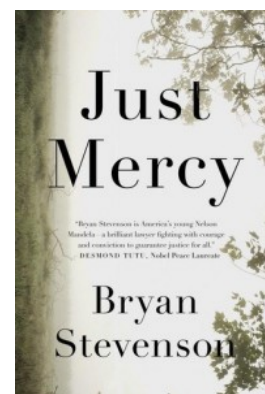
July 21 & 22, 2017        Mission u @ Millbrook

Oct. 20-22, 2017    Spiritual Enrichment Retreat

@ Blue Lake

On August 30 at 7:00 pm, Bryan Stevenson, author of the book *Just Mercy*, will be speaking at Auburn University. His book is on the United Methodist Women reading list. If you are interested in attending, click on the link for details.

<http://wp.auburn.edu/sustainability/event/common-book-speaker-event-just-mercy-bryan-stevenson/>



## ***ALERT!* . . . Are you a Subscriber?**

You too can become informed of Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women events and activities by subscribing to *Alert* today!

Send your name and address and telephone number to Laurel Akin, 104 Windwood Lane, Enterprise AL 36330. Enclose a \$4.00 check, made payable to Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women (AWFCUMW). You may receive a copy of *ALERT* free by email. Email

laurel36330@gmail.com with your request and you will be added to our email list. **Please include a telephone number! With each issue that is sent, several mailed and emailed copies are returned!**

United Methodist Women  
Alabama-West Florida  
Conference  
Laurel Akin  
104 Windwood Lane  
Enterprise, AL 36330

