

District Officers

President

Penny Colin

Vice President

TBA

Secretary

Bonnie Strait

Treasurer

Brenda Hargrave

Program Resources

TBA

Spiritual Growth

Bonnie Shanks

Social Action

Ora Gillespie

Communications

Carolyn Davis

Membership Nurture & Outreach

Mary Wilson

Education & Interpretation

Marsha Clayton

Nominations

Mable Lawrence, Chair
Evelyn Teel, Member
Carolyn Davis, Member



From the President,

Summer is over, fall is beginning and we are gearing up for our fall activities and meetings. Many of our units do not meet in the summer months, but hopefully do remain focused on our purpose and mission as United Methodist Women, and keep our financial commitments.

Through the fears of hurricanes, floods, fires and other disasters, we have prayed for God's protection and comfort and steadfast love. As our conference has just emerged from a hurricane that could have been catastrophic, we praise Him for minimal damage. Let us not forget others who were not as fortunate and continue to pray for recovery and restoration.

We accomplished much in the first half of 2017 in our District with Conference Annual Day, District Annual Day and officer training, District Mission studies, and Mission u at Millbrook UMC. Thank you to all who participated in these events and a special thank you to the ladies of Millbrook United Methodist Women who received rave reviews for their hosting skills at Mission u!

As your units plan fall activities, remember our District Spiritual Enrichment Day Apart is Saturday, October 7th, at Hope Hull UMC, as well as our Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake October 20th – October 22nd.

Assembly is May 18-20, 2018 in Columbus, Ohio. A bus is reserved for the trip and can carry 36 members. More information about Assembly and the bus can be found at www.awf-umw.org.

Our Montgomery Prattville District Mission Team needs you. The District Nominations Committee is working to fill positions on the District Team. Please prayerfully consider stepping up to fill one of the vacant roles. Our team is praying for God to place that call on those He needs to fill the available positions and work as a team to accomplish His work through United Methodist Women. "God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called". If no one answers the call, we will enter 2018 with 4 people committed to their position and doing the work of 10.

From Bonnie Shanks - Spiritual Growth



Mark your Calendars for Saturday, October 7th

Our Spiritual Enrichment event this year will be held at Hope Hull UMC on Saturday, October 7th, replacing our spring District Day Apart which moved to the fall with our reorganization of conference events.

Our focus will be Our God of Second Chances.

Mary Ellen's Hearth's dynamic Executive Director, Dr. LaTeasa Hick,s will update us on the progress of the women and children who are receiving second chances at this special place of ministry.

Please plan to attend, and as we traditionally do, please bring gifts from your local UMW Unit for this ministry as we did once before. Dr. Hicks is again requesting cleaning supplies and Walmart gift cards of \$10 each.

Hope Hull is undergoing an exciting construction project. Come to see their beautiful new building, to celebrate with Dr. LaTeasa Hicks, and to worship together Our God of Second Chances.

We will begin with registration at 8:30.

Spiritual Growth

Bonnie Shanks



From Your District Treasurer – Brenda Hargrave

As United Methodist Women, our purpose is to expand global missions with an emphasis on women, youth and children. Part of the way we do this is through our monetary gifts to our local units.

The \$9.75 that is donated goes for administrative functions and mission programs within our Alabama West Florida conference.

The Pledge to Missions includes Mission pledge, Special Mission Recognition pin, Gift to Mission (Gift in Honor), Gift in Memory and World Thank. This goes for some administrative needs but primarily for approximately 100 mission programs within the United States and approximately 117 abroad.

Contributing to all five areas of the Mission Pledge designates your unit as a 5 Star unit. In 2016, 14 units earned this distinction and we rejoice with you. My hope is that all our units will strive to be 5 Star units this year.

Our Montgomery/Prattville District UMW has pledged \$12,200 for our Mission Pledge for 2017. Thus far we have received \$3560.50 toward this goal. This leaves us a balance for \$8639.50 for the next 5 months. Please consider sending in your money collected thus far but money can still be sent in until November 30, 2017 to be counted for this year.

October and November are the months we contribute to World Thank and participate in the World Thank program in our UMW Program books. As we have been blessed, let us share our blessings with those women, children and youth who need our help.

If you have any questions about forms or need help understanding the 5 Star requirements, please contact me at jbhargrave@elmore.rr.com or 334-285-5788.

Brenda Hargrave
District Treasurer



Reminder Note:

Where Does the \$9.75 for the AWF UMW Conference Goes?

This is a question that is often asked by members so here is a breakdown. Your money is being well spent on conference missions as well as operating expenses and maintenance.

Dumas Wesley- Mobile:	\$1.50
Mary Ellen's Hearth (Nellie Burge)-Montgomery:	0.75
Unrestricted giving TBD	0.75
Mobile Inner-City Missions-Mobile:	0.75
Hispanic Ministries-Conference wide:	0.75
Jurisdictional Assembly:	0.25
Blue Lake:	2.00
Mission u:	1.00
Administration/Membership Development:	2.00

How can each unit become a "5 Star" one?

Your unit can be one this year! Contribute to each of these undesignated areas of missions that are both nationally and internationally served:

Pledge to Missions:	Any amount over \$5.00
Special Mission Recognition Pin:	Minimum of \$40 per pin
Gift to Missions:	Any amount over \$5.00
Gift in Memory:	Any amount over \$5.00
World Thank Offering:	Any Amount over \$5.00

These are minimum amounts and I would encourage each unit to give generously. Our pledge this year is \$12,200 for these items and we have only received about \$2,348.

Brenda Hargrave, District Treasurer

From

Mable Lawrence, District Nomination Chairperson



Greetings,

To all my UMW Sisters, as you begin to start your fall activities, we pray that each of you and your families are being Blessed in the Season. As we approach the beginning of fall, we hope that you find in your heart to become a UMW district officer and be willing to serve on the Montgomery/Prattville District team. We have positions open, and I know that if you decide to join us you will enjoy. Say you will become a district officer today bringing new ideas to inspire women of all racial, ethnic, language and economic groups the opportunity to realize their full potential and to participate in the life of the church and society.

Please pray for the District team that our positions will be filled. We are still prayerfully seeking someone to fill the:

**President Position
Vice President position
and
Nomination position as a member.**

If you are interested please contact Mabel Lawrence, Evelyn Teel, or Carolyn Davis.



**BECOME A DISTRICT OFFICER AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN
THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN THROUGH MISSION!**

Report Reminder

Hello, My Dear UMW Friends,
Hope all is well with you and your unit members.

It is report time and I, as your District E&I Coordinator, am seeking an accounting of **your unit's participation in mission studies this year.**

You are receiving this request based on the listing for your unit's president or E&I Coordinator in the 2017 Directory. If someone else in your unit should get this request, please let me know for future reference and pass this request to that person. Thanks.

I need your report as soon as possible to submit to the District soon thereafter. I just need to know which, if not all, of the studies your unit participated in this year.

Be sure to report the study by name if not all.

The 2017 studies are:

The Bible and Human Sexuality

Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God

Climate Justice

Latin America

Note: If you have a planned study between your reporting date and November 30th, let me know that also.

If your unit had representation at Mission U in July, let me know that too.

Also, I will need your unit's Mission Today report, just the number of criteria your unit met this year so

that I will be able to properly categorize your unit's level of achievement for recognition. I ask only that the number reported to me be the same

as that submitted on your unit's Consolidated President's Report

I thank you in advance for your immediate and diligent response to this request.

Hope to see you at our next District event, Spiritual Retreat-Day Apart on Saturday, October 7, 2017 at Hope Hull UMC.



**From Marsha Clayton,
Education & Interpretation**



From
Ora Gillespie
Social Action



UMW Sisters

*This **Fall** Continue to Make your Local Units and other women aware of
Human Trafficking*

The United Methodist Women, for 2016, joined secular and interfaith allies to kick off our annual awareness campaign for National Human Trafficking Awareness. Teaching individuals and communities how to prevent trafficking, to identify and protect trafficked persons and what can be done to aid in the prosecution, will continue in 2017.

Human rights for all people is one of the historic principles of United Methodist Women from its beginning. For more than 100 years, our mission has been involved in social action, often leading the church in the call for social justice.

We are an organization of many people/women of different races, nationalities, languages and cultures and our United Methodist Heritage reflects a history of commitment to social justice and social action. It's time for us to get started on our work for this new year.

What are we going to do? Let's Box 'Em Up and Stack 'Em Up!

Read about the 2017 campaign and how your unit can participate at

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/human-trafficking>

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/box-em-up>

I am available if you need copies of the Charter for Racial Justice,
Racial Justice Time Line or other web sites for information.

Social Action Coordinator
Montgomery-Prattville District
Ora Gillespie
334-269-4635

oragillespie@aol.com



Let's Box 'Em Up and Stack 'Em Up!



Get Ready and pack your suitcase to attend...

Assembly 2018

United Methodist Women is currently the largest faith-based women's organization in the world and Assembly is the largest quadrennial gathering of that organization. At Assembly, you viscerally feel “The Power of Bold” with the combined energy of 8,000 women through communal, face-to-face growth, action, celebration and inspiration- 8,000 women in ONE time, ONE place, ONE space... this is ASSEMBLY.

Assembly will be in Columbus, Ohio on **May 18-19, 2018**. The Conference is chartering a bus to leave Dothan on May 17 at 6am with a stop in Millbrook. The bus will return on May 21 at 1am to Dothan with a stop in Millbrook. Cost for 36 passengers is **\$200.00** per person.

Contact Debbie Bell for registration. **\$100** deposit required by Oct 22, 2017 with final payment of **\$100** by Feb 24, 2018. Early registration is **\$295** by Nov.30, 2017 and regular registration is **\$330** by April 9, 2018. The registration link is not up yet on the National website.

Information from AWF Conference President, Debbie Bell

Everyone, here's some other info about Assembly 2018. I have been in contact with 2 hotels on the list trying to get a block of rooms for our bus riders. The 2 I've checked are Drury Inn AND Hyatt Regency, both with walkway to convention Ctr. (walking distance). The Drury Inn is the only hotel that has a sofa to a bed that could allow more than 3 to a room, others have double-double beds.

I was not aware that the hotels would be available prior to registration, they were not before. So, our bus-riders choice hotel is getting down.

As the contact for our conference for Assembly 2018, I have requested to my National contact to open more rooms in these 2 hotels. I have placed my name with these 2 hotels to contact if/when other room reservations are opened. In the meantime, you may pursue from the list provided AND view the Assembly schedule. Scroll past the pictures of Harriet & Shannon for this information.

Also See More Information about Assembly 2018 on the next Page:

Read more about Assembly 2018: <https://umwassembly.org/>

YouTube Assembly 2018 at this link: <https://youtu.be/UVqcoLsWnfc?t=78>

Assembly 2018 Bus info

Departure **to** Assembly

May 17, 2018 Dothan Departure @ 6AM

From Southern Coach business location, P.O. Box 2245 Dothan, AL. 36302

2nd pickup Millbrook First UMC 3350 Edgewood Rd. Millbrook, AL.

Assembly Arrival – Pending info

Departure **from** Assembly

May 20, 2018 Columbus, OH. Departure @ 1PM

1st Dropoff at Millbrook First UMC (time, unknown)

Final return stop May 21, 2018 @ 1AM in Dothan at Southern Coach business location

36-passengers / \$200.00 per person, full capacity

Contact Debbie Bell (251-232-6898) to reserve your seat on this bus. Your **\$100 deposit** will reserve that seat.

Goal: Fill bus to capacity AND have a minimum of 97 AWF-UMW members at Assembly in 2018. Would like

Bus Deposits upon notification of reservation / but will accept Deposit checks *finally* on Oct. 22, 2017 and must be made out to AWFC-UMW and on the for line write Assembly 2018 bus.

Bus Balance \$100 due FINAL on Feb. 24, 2018

A more complete itinerary will be communicated as our bus contract is completed. I am asking for a person planning to ride the bus to consider assisting/volunteering with trip plans.

Assembly 2018 will convene at the Greater Columbus Ohio Convention Center.

Early registration fee \$295.00 Deadline is Nov. 30, 2017

Regular registration \$330.00 Deadline is April 9, 2018.

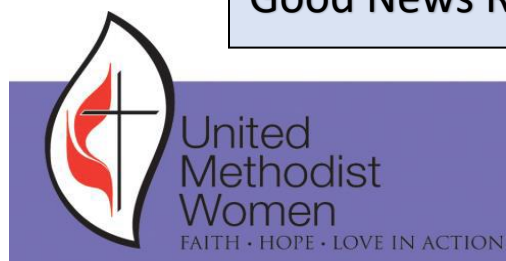
Currently, the National website does not show registration link just promotion,

The Power of Bold. Once you are able to register, the hotel accommodations will be available.

Definitely, bus group should plan to be at same location.

The bus is relying on interested UMW members reserving a seat EARLY!

Good News Read All About It: UMW Legacy Fund



United Methodist Women Announces Legacy Fund Campaign Goal of \$60 million

With great excitement, United Methodist Women is pleased to announce the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign Goal of \$60 million. The Legacy Fund will undergird the capacity of future generations of United Methodist Women to carry forward our mission of service and advocacy with women, children and youth in the United States and around the world for the next 150 years.

Achieving this ambitious and forward-looking goal will culminate United Methodist Women's five-year 150th anniversary celebration. We are already off to a great start having secured \$17.4 million for the fund—nearly a third of the campaign's \$60 million goal!

"The Legacy Fund will provide a firm foundation that both builds on the generosity and commitment of women before us and enables future generations of women to engage in mission that makes a difference in the world by improving life for women, children and youth," said Shannon Priddy, president of United Methodist Women's board of directors.

United Methodist Women General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson applauded the organization's elected leaders for setting a goal that "inspires" and rallies the participation of every member.

"In setting this goal, the elected leaders of United Methodist Women have, again, demonstrated the character of our movement," Ms. Olson said. "They have focused on what will be needed, committed themselves to the work of raising it and to ensuring that every member of our organization has a chance to participate. This energizes and inspires us all. Together we will continue to find ways to make more mission possible."

The Legacy Fund is a permanent endowment with generated income that will enable United Methodist Women to distribute grants and scholarships, coordinate work with mission personnel and make needed upgrades to technological and communication systems and more. The Legacy Fund will ensure a regular source of support for these core expenses of being in mission. It will enable United Methodist Women to enhance programming and launch new initiatives to address emerging needs of women, children and youth.

At this special commemorative moment in United Methodist Women history, we are laying the groundwork for our next 150 years in mission through the Legacy Fund. We look forward to working with you to achieve the goal of the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign.

About United Methodist Women:

United Methodist Women is the women's mission organization within The United Methodist Church in the United States, focusing on the needs of women, children and youth since 1869. Its programs promote spiritual growth, leadership development, transformative education and service and advocacy. For more information, contact: Yvette Moore, Director of Communications at (212) 870-3822 or y Moore@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

The Reading Program

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram

The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work.

The Reading Program Leads to Action!

For 140 years, United Methodist Women have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action. The Reading Program is a study opportunity, but it should also lead to action. The purpose of the program is to encourage United Methodist Women members to:

- Expand understanding of and participation in God's mission.
- Increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests and concerns.
- Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.
- Grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.
- Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge.
- Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

Local UMW members can choose from 1 of 5 reading plans:

Plan I: 5 Books Per Year

One book from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

Selections can be from the 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth titles). Regular reading of [response](#) magazine.

Plan II: 10 Books Per Year

Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

Selections can be from the 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) and [New World Outlook](#) magazines.

Plan III: 15 Books Per Year

Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

PLUS 5 additional books from any category.

Selections can be from the 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) and [New World Outlook](#) magazines.

Plan IV: 20 Books Per Year

Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth PLUS 10

additional books from any category. Selections can be from the 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) and [New World Outlook](#) magazines.

2017

Calendars of Events

Montgomery-Prattville District

2017 Events

Spiritual Enrichment Day Apart – October 7, 2017 at Hope Hull UMC

Conference Events

2017

Oct. 20-22, 2017 -- Spiritual Enrichment Retreat @ Blue Lake

JAN. 20, 2018 – COSROW @ Blue Lake

FEB. 23-24, 2018 – Conference Annual Day – Foley UMC, AL

May 18-20, 2018 -- Assembly @ Columbus, Ohio

Mission Studies 2017

Spiritual growth: Living as a Covenant Community

Issue study: Climate Justice

Geographic: Missionary Conferences of the U.S.

- **Children's Study:** Joined and Held Together (Missionary Conferences)
- **Youth Study:** In Mission Together (Missionary Conferences)

Each year, United Methodist Women members prepare for faithful living and action by studying mission studies. Mission studies are offered each year - a **geographical, topical, and spiritual growth** study. These studies motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry.

For participants, Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on **current mission study topics** with particular attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church. Participants grow in understanding the mission of the church in the current world context; conference events are open to members and non-members of United Methodist Women.

We would love to include your unit activities
and mission projects in *The Messenger's
Flame*. Please submit articles and photos, if
available, to Cdavis854@bellsouth.net

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!

- To receive a copy of the ALERT in the mail, please send in your Name, Address and Telephone Number to Debbie Bush. Enclose a \$4.00 check, made payable to: Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women (AWFCUMW).
- You may receive a copy of the ALERT free by email. Please email Debbie Bush at Savannahgirl2759@gmail.com with your request and you will be added to our email list. However, please include a telephone number! With each issue that is sent, several mailed and emailed copies are returned!

Stay Connected

UMW: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

AL-WFL: www.awf-umw.org

Mont-Pratt District:

www.awf-umw.org/montgomeryprattville.html

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.