



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

ALERT

Volume 43 Summer Issue

May 2014

Something NEW at MISSION u!

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2014 Conference Officers

PresidentBetty Helms

Vice President.....Pat Dodge

Secretary.....Sheila Hare

Treasurer.....Margaret Larson

Prog. Resources.....Margie Outlaw

Communications.....Laurel Akin

Nominations Chair....Cynthia Brown

Mission Coordinators

Spiritual Growth.....Nancy Shealy

Social Action.....Zan Jones

M.N. & O.....Cheryl Mothershed

Ed. & Interp.....Margie Miller

Committee on Nominations

Julia Norton.....Jennifer Swee

Toni Broughton.....Cynthia Brown

Ruth Ann Powers....Imogene Martin

Lynn Hamric

United Methodist Women Program Committee Representative

Clara Ester

Register now for Mission u, which is July 11-12, 2014. Mission u will be held at First United Methodist Church in Dothan, Alabama. Dean Lynn Hamric and Associate Dean Cheryl Mothershed have made wonderful plans with the help of President Betty Helms and the Mission u planning team.

The Mission u Study Topics:

1. "Spiritual Growth," "How is it with Your Soul" led by Dr. Wesley Wachob

2. Geographic, "The Roma of Europe" led by Ruth Ann Powers

3. Social Issue, "The Church and People with Disabilities" —here is the something NEW! There are 2 choices for this study. Debbie Bracewell

will lead the traditional classroom study. Harry Hodges will lead an interactive class that will be part classroom study and part hands-on workshop to explore ideas that churches may use to make a home or church accessible. Dress casually and be prepared to inspect and explore materials and components of assistive devices. Please share this information with people in your church that might be interested, such as United Methodist Men's group, missions committees, trustees, and of course your pastor!

We will be blessed by these wonderful teachers. The Mission u study books may be ordered from the UMW Mission Resource Center at <http://www.umwmissionresources.org/products> and will also be available at Mission u. The May/June 2014 of New World Outlook for contains chapters on, "A Church for People of all Abilities." Please use this information for our social issue study for Mission u.

You may register to take the spiritual growth study on Friday, and either the of the other studies on Saturday, or you may choose to take only one study. For more information contact Dean Lynn Hamric at lhamric@eng.ua.edu or Associate Dean Cheryl Mothershed at cgbells@yahoo.com.

All members of the Alabama-West Florida Conference of United Methodist Women should support Mission u and have their hearts and lives changed.

God Bless,

Margie Miller

Education & Interpretation Coordinator

margiem@fairpoint.net or call 850-229-6502



FROM THE PRESIDENT



ALL ABOARD!COME ONE – COME ALL.....THIS TRAIN IS MOVING...AS UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WE ARE MAKING IT HAPPEN! !!

Approximately 88 women from the Alabama West Florida Conference traveled to Louisville, Ky. to attend Assembly! This included many of your district and conference officers – get them to come and share what they learned. Some 35 of us traveled via charter bus – I am here to say it was a great time of fellowship during our trip. MAKE IT HAPPEN was the theme for Assembly and ladies, we DID help to MAKE IT HAPPEN! The weekend was spent learning how we put Faith, Hope and Love into Action.

There were opportunities to learn about who we are: an organization about to celebrate 150 years of Mission; what that mission includes; how we local women participate; how our retired women use their skills for United Methodist Women; and where our money goes. Opportunities for learning included sessions on growing spiritually, personal wellness, developing leaders, advocacy for justice, and United Methodist Women organizing for growth, to name just a few.

Keynote speaker former U.S. Secretary of State and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke passionately about the challenges facing many of the women and girls she's met in her travels, including growing inequality, human trafficking, lack of access to maternal care and other health services. She challenged United Methodist Women to "wake up our country and wake up our World about the work that can and should be done." She said, "We each are called in our own ways to lead" and added "there are lots and lots of people willing to fall faithfully behind you." She said, "Having hope, faith and love in action is exactly what we are called to do."

Some other highlights were:

Announcement of a partnership between United Methodist Women and United Methodist Committee on Relief on maternal health;

A march for economic justice—thousands of United Methodist Women left their Assembly meetings in the relatively affluent East Louisville downtown area

to stand with low-income neighbors of the city's west side. Some of the signs they carried read, "Economic Injustices = Economic Insecurity."

Music—Assembly's first all-woman band led us in worship. The eight women were diverse in race, ethnicity, musical style and age, ranging from those in their 20s to 60s. "We have a lot of flavors in the pot," said Ashley Powell, band leader.

Consecration of 26 women from 18 conferences as deaconesses in closing worship. "This class of deaconesses reflects the strength and unity found in the diversity of those who are called to ministries of love, justice and service," said Becky Louter, executive of United Methodist Women's Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner program.

Prayer shawls and baby blankets were displayed in Experience Hall. Most were blessed in worship services and provided a way for women who couldn't make it to Assembly to participate. They will be distributed to United Methodist Women national mission institutions, hospitals and individuals needing a special lift.



Our train is still moving around our conference and those of us on board are charged with telling our story—our story of mission to women, children and youth. We are challenged to work to prepare the way for this ministry to continue for another 150 years! We need YOU! We need your faith, your hope and your work to put love into action! Come get on board! And remember: DON'T LOOK BACK – WE ARE NOT GOING THAT WAY!

Betty



From the Vice-president

We began 2014 with Tapestry and Spiritual Enrichment Retreats. I hope you were in attendance as these events were educational and our speakers gave spirit-filled presentations.

April was highlighted with Easter and UMW Assembly in Louisville, KY. Thirty five of us traveled from Mobile and Millbrook, Alabama to Assembly on a Kingdom Coach. We also had about 20 others go by automobile. It was an awesome event, with workshops, retail sales, agencies with information and worship experiences.

We witnessed the confirmation of Deaconesses prior to our final worship and communion.

Plans have been made and assignments given to the Mission u Team, which is comprised of members from United Methodist Women, Board of Global Ministries and Board of Church and Society. Please make plans now, to attend Mission u

at Dothan First UMC in Mid – July. See the registration form in this newsletter.

Your UMW Mission Team is also preparing for Annual Day in the Fall.

If you have questions or comments about our conference organization, please contact me. If you have suggestions for speakers and/or musicians for future programs, I would love to hear from you.

In HIS service,
Pat Dodge



News from Membership, Nurture & Outreach

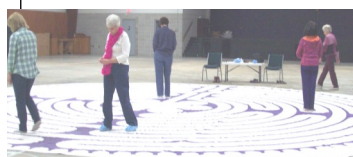
I am happy to report that Tapestry 2015 will be held at Enterprise First United Methodist Church, Enterprise, Alabama, February 20-21. The Tapestry Committee is in place and is already at work to make this a great retreat. The Reverend Dr. Laurel Early will be our speaker. Those of you who attended our Spiritual Enrichment Retreat several years ago will remember Dr. Early and the wonderful messages she shared with us. Mark your calendars and invite your friends— you will want to be in attendance for this event. A nursery will be provided at no cost. Look for more information at the United Methodist Women's annual meeting in October.

Remember that nominations for the Nell Chance special service recognition award are due to me by July 15, 2014. It is open to all ages. Please write a short essay about the nominee. It can be emailed to me at cgmbells@yahoo.com



If you have questions or concerns you are welcome contact me.

In His service,
Cheryl Mothershed, Membership, Nurture & Outreach



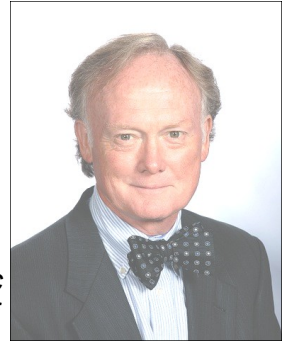
**Spiritual Enrichment
Retreat**



Photos by Jen Swee

Our Mission u Study Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Wesley Wachob, a native of Chipley, Fla., will lead the spiritual growth study “How Is It With Your Soul?” on Friday, July 11. He is senior pastor at Pensacola First United Methodist Church. Before his current appointment in 2006, he served as senior pastor of Glenn Memorial UMC on the campus of Emory University and taught in the Candler School of Theology. He pursued his undergraduate degree at Southeastern College (B.A.), studied at Erskine Theological Seminary and the Candler School of Theology (M.Div.), did his doctoral work at the University of Chicago and Emory University (Ph.D.). His published works include *The Voice of Jesus In the Social Rhetoric of James* and contributions to *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, *Authenticating the Words of Jesus*, *Fabrics of Discourse*, and *Reading James with New Eyes: Methodological Reassessments of the Letter of James*.



Several years ago Dr. Wachob taught a mission study on the book of James for our conference’s Cooperative School of Christian Mission. He enjoys reading, golf, running, and spending time with his two children.



Ruth Ann Powers, a native of Fremont, Nebraska, will lead the study “The Roma.” She grew up in Phenix City, Ala. She graduated from Chattahoochee Valley Community College and from Columbus College. Ruth Ann has served as United Methodist Women’s president for the conference and served as a director with the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries. She has led several studies at Regional and Conference Schools of Christian Mission, now Mission u, has served on the Alabama-West Florida Conference School of Christian Mission Planning Teams along with serving as Dean.

Always interested in world missions, she worked with a mission team from her local church in Oaxaca, Mexico from 1988 to 1994 to build a Methodist Church, played with children during VBS and met with Methodist women there. In 1996, she traveled to The Democratic Republic of Congo (then Zaire) where she lived and worked with children who were refugees from Rwanda. “It was my most life changing experience ever,” she states.

In her local community, Ruth Ann organized a shelter for battered women which eventually included rape crisis response and victim’s advocacy. She served as Board Chair and then Executive Director of the program until 2006. From 1989-1999 she served as a volunteer for the Department of Human Resources in Russell County where she coordinated Christmas sponsors for foster children and served on the DHR QA committee. In addition, she serves on a mediation board for first time juvenile offenders, has chaired the board of the Phenix City-Russell County Library and is a certified reading tutor and tutor trainer. She trains literacy tutors in several counties in Alabama and Georgia. She also teaches English as a second language. She currently chairs the Children’s Policy Council for Russell County.

Ruth Ann’s hobbies include sewing, needlework, reading and travel. She has two GRANDdaughters, Mary Casey and Isabelle and a bonus granddaughter, Gabrielle.





Debbie Bracewell will lead the social action study “The Church and People with Disabilities.”

She is the Executive Director of the National Council for Spirit Safety and Education and Assistant Director for the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches & Administrators. After 25 years of service, she retired from teaching and coaching at Enterprise High School, Enterprise, Alabama, where she taught senior English, AP English and coached varsity and junior varsity cheerleading for 23 years. She was selected as the 1999 Enterprise High School Teacher of the Year and the 2000 Cheer Ltd. Coach of the Year.

Debbie has a B.S. in English Education from Troy State University, an M.S. in Secondary Administration from Troy State Dothan, and recently completed an M.S. in Strategic communications from Troy University. She has been a member of Enterprise First United Methodist Church United Women since 1995 and has held several local and district offices. Debbie has two sons, two stepsons and 9 grandchildren.

Harry Hodges will lead an interactive study on “The Church and People with Disabilities,” incorporating classroom study and hand-on activity. After a stint in health and hospital regulation, Harry owned and operated a restaurant for 11 years, as well as a computer business for 20 years. He retired after 13 years in a mental hospital (on staff), in charge of quality assurance and risk management.



Harry has held many offices in his church in Thomasville, Alabama, where he sings in the choir. He is currently on the Conference Board of Church and Society, although he is better known as the husband of Shirley Hodges. He enjoys playing trombone in the community orchestra and occasional musicals, although serious playing with his three grandchildren is his best gig.

Harry has worked with disabilities in school systems and hospitals. He retired because of disability: a deteriorating spinal structure that, along with surgeries, is also crushing nerves and creating neuropathies which vary from painful to absurd. He always uses a cane, since his feet do not always concur with the messages from his brain. Harry has a perspective to share on disability.

Our Mission u Dean for 2014

Lynn Hamric has served in many capacities in Methodist Women at local, district and conference levels, Women's Division director, and several previous stints as dean or associate dean of Mission u or the Cooperative School of Christian Mission. She has also served the church as a member of the Board of Church & Society, the Board of Missions, a director of the General Board of Global Ministries, and numerous other roles. In her local church, in addition to her many UMW offices, she is/has been a choir member, Sunday School teacher, trustee, pianist, organist and lay speaker.



Her hobbies and special interests include reading, sewing, catering, music, interpretive movement/dance, MIME, photography, hunting, fishing, sports and the environment.

Lynn has one brother, two horses, one fur child and one furless child.

From the Treasurer

Time is flying, we are nearly at mid- year. Thank you for sending money on time. Continue so we can meet our pledge. Some districts have sent "Candle-Burning for Missions" money but others have not. Remember the candles will be burned at Annual day. The candle will burn for the number of minutes bought by that district in memory or honor of individuals or units. If you have not sent money your candle will not be lit. This money is the extra mission money we raise each year by special projects.

Remember to register by July 2nd for Mission U. It is going to be great; you don't want to miss it! Send registration and money to me.

Budgets are due by June 10 so we can get ready for our executive committee planning meeting July 18 and 19 at Blue Lake. If you cannot make it please get someone from your district to pick up info for you from me.

Please cash checks I send you ASAP so they do not carry over for 1 or 2 months. There is a policy on record that all checks must be cashed within 30 days or they are voided. If you want the money, you better cash the checks!

Thank you for all the hard work you put in for the districts.

Margaret Larson, Conference Treasurer.



Program Resources News.....

Greetings!

I wish all of you could have been with us at Assembly! We had a great time singing and learning. All the speakers were great, and there was wonderful fellowship. Everyone we passed commented on our beautiful scarves. They were the colors of our District's colors.

I know you will read several times about the Mission u studies that are coming to First Church, Dothan July 11 & 12. I hope you will fill out your registration in this Alert and come and look forward to seeing all of you. I will have the Program Resource room close to the classrooms. Everything will be so convenient. I know we will have some great meals and fellowship.

Don't forget our reading book exchange, bring all your books that are dated 2010 thru 2013 to share. Please put your name and address in the books if you want them back and also the category and date of book.



Come by the Program Resource room at Mission U!

In HIS Service,
Margie Outlaw

A Message from Our Spiritual Growth Coordinator

We are women with a PURPOSE...A Community of Women whose Purpose is to Know God and to Experience Freedom as Whole Persons through Jesus Christ. On July 11 at Dothan UMC in, Dothan, AL, we will meditate on "HOW IS IT WITH YOUR SOUL?" This amazing study will take us to places we may have never gone before. We will PRAY, LEARN, MENTOR, and be TRANSFORMED. We will journey with Dr. Wesley Wachob as he guides us along this path to freedom and wholeness. The Holy Spirit has already prepared special blessings for us all. See you in Dothan,

Your Servant, Nancy Shealy



Social Action: Make It Happen!

Over 7000 United Methodist Women gathered at Assembly 2014, in Louisville, Kentucky and the United Methodist Women of the Alabama- West Florida Conference were in the midst of the excitement. Assembly focused on many issues that face our communities, our nation and even the world such as human trafficking, malaria, maternal health, domestic violence, poverty and faithful living in a climate-changing world. We marched with United Methodist Women from all over the world and local community activists as we rallied for economic justice. I've highlighted some of the topics that I found to be especially informative and enlightening.

Human Trafficking is a term that's frequently in the news, and causes great concern. When we hear that children are being trafficked, we're even more distressed. "How can someone do that to a child?" and "How can this be happening to so many children?" are common questions. Often we feel helpless. "Why doesn't someone do something to stop this...aren't there laws against this? In our hearts, outrage battles within us, but we as United Methodist Women must continue to raise awareness about this horrific issue.

Maternal Health is a new initiative of United Methodist Women in partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief. A quarter of a million women around the world die each year during pregnancy and childbirth because of they lack access to a proper health facility or to health workers, or even because they have no say in their own reproductive health. The initiative aims to help save the lives of women and their children.

Imagine No Malaria: Malaria is a disease of the blood that is caused by the Plasmodium parasite, which is transmitted from person to person by a particular type of mosquito. Every 45 seconds a child dies in Africa from malaria. Your contribution will help us ensure no child dies for the bite of a malaria mosquito. Let us continue to put our faith in action and help end this preventable disease. Bishop Paul Leeland has challenged the Alabama-West Florida Conference to join the campaign to help save a 100,000 lives. Yes, we can make it happen.

United Methodist Women of the Alabama West Florida Conference, I encourage you to stand on the words of former U.S. Secretary of State, former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton as she said to us, "**wake up our world.**" We must continue live out our PURPOSE as United Methodist Women. Let's make it happen.

Faith, Hope, Love and Action!

Zan Jones, Social Action Coordinator



Marching for economic justice in Louisville
Photo by Zan Jones

2014 Alabama-West Florida Conference Mission u Event Registration

July 11-12, 2014

Dothan First UMC, Dothan, AL

Deadline for registration is July 2, 2014. Registration can be completed by mail. Send this completed form with full payment to Margaret Larson, 168 Cabana Way, Crestview, FL 32539. Make checks payable to AWFCSCM. Questions can be directed to Margaret Larson maggie42@cox.net or Lynn Hamric lhamric@eng.ua.edu.

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____ District _____

Please circle all that apply:

Female Male Clergy Lay CEU Credit

Conference/District Officer & Position _____

Need assistance traveling/moving around the campus

If dining on campus, list special needs (dietary, physical, access, etc.) of participants and attach to this form.

Study Course Registration and Fees

Each study is offered during one full day. Registration begins each day at 8 AM. The opening or orientation begins at 9 AM. Class ends at 4:30 PM. The Spiritual Growth study is offered on Friday. The Geographic and Issue studies are offered on Saturday.

Fees include registration fee and lunch and dinner on the day of your study. Scholarships are available to some first time attendees. A \$10 late fee will be added for those registering after July 2, 2014.

The fee does NOT include accommodations. Each participant is responsible for his/her own hotel accommodations. A block of rooms has been reserved at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites (334-793-9090). Ask for Mission u room at \$79.99 per night. This includes a continental breakfast.

Full School Package (\$36): Includes two mission study classes How Is It With Your Soul
on Friday and one other on Saturday (please choose your Saturday study)

The Roma of Europe

The Church and People with Disabilities

The Church and people with Disabilities hands-on workshop*

Friday Only (\$23): Includes How Is It With Your Soul

Saturday Only(\$23): Includes ONE of the following. (please choose your Saturday study)

The Roma of Europe

The Church and People with Disabilities

The Church and people with Disabilities hands-on workshop*

* Special "Hands-On" People with Disabilities Mission Workshop on Saturday (\$23): Includes a disability workshop and the demonstration and discussion of fabricating ramps, rails, and other improvements to assist people in our communities with disabilities as personal projects or church wide projects. Participants should wear casual clothes and be prepared to inspect and explore materials and components of assistive devices.

Health Form

Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment Form

Name _____ DOB _____

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 _____

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

Assembly 2014



Coming Attractions!

July 11 & 12

October 25

February 20 &

21, 2015

Mission u, Dothan First United Methodist Church

Annual Meeting, Blue Lake Assembly

Tapestry, Enterprise First United Methodist Church