

The Informer



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Mobile District United Methodist Women Newsletter
November 2019

We have reached the holiday season which means that this is our last mass communication for the year. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to review our theme and express my gratitude to the many dedicated members of the Mobile District United Methodist Women and family, friends and staff who have supported us.

For the past three years, the Alabama West Florida Conference United Methodist Women has celebrated the theme: FAITH HOPE AND LOVE IN ACTION. Our new year will start a new series of themes, so since I feel that our current one exemplifies the true purpose of UMW, I want to present a short re-cap. Our Scripture is 1 John 3:18 "Let us not love in words or speech, but with actions and truth"

Down through the years, women have always had to fight for equality. Others have tried to control our circumstances, but they have never been able to control our hearts and mind. Our organization has been in existence for 150 years. Why? Because we have FAITH HOPE and LOVE and we believe in putting that Love into Action.

We BELIEVE in our PURPOSE. We truly are a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ.

We HAVE FAITH - FAITH enough to believe that through Christ all things are possible- that we can expand concepts of mission to all corners of the world.

We HAVE HOPE!! We believe that we can make a difference in the lives of our sisters and their families. We believe that we can be a light in a world of darkness. We believe that it is our responsibility to care for the underserved.

We LOVE!! We LOVE as God has loved us. We believe that if we combine our talents and resources, if we continue to give our pledges and support to missions of UWM, we can FEED the hungry, we can give DRINK to the thirsty, we can TAKE IN strangers, we can CLOTHE the naked, we can TEND the sick, we can GO to the prisons. We can continue to put love into action.

I hope that we will Stand-Up, Speak-Up and Step-Out and do everything that you can to perpetuate the legacy of United Methodist Women.

Thanks to our Officers and Members in our Local Units, District and Conference Teams for your support throughout the year. We have had a successful and enjoyable year. Our events were well attended, our Mission Studies were outstanding, our Reading Program participation has increased AND we are well on the way to making our PLEDGE TO MISSION.

My deepest appreciation to our outgoing officers. I thank you sincerely for your service and will miss seeing and working with you. Congratulations to our incoming officers. I am elated that you have accepted leadership positions in our district and I look forward to sharing resources and ideas with you. To our returning officers I say, Let's go!! We have work to do.

Our appreciation to our DS, Dr. Debora Bishop and District Administrator, Kim Doss for their support and assistance.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. See you next year...

God Bless

Love in Action

Barbara Carroll, Mobile District UMW President



Spiritual Enrichment Day

Spiritual Enrichment Day was held on Sept 28th. Thanks to 75 members from 15 of our units who attended! Christ United hosted this enlightening and fun event and Saraland UMW provided the delicious lunch. Clay Smith from Wesley Student Ministry USA spoke and expressed his thanks to Mobile District UMW for their support and for the snacks that were provided. Speaker Dr. Jennifer Gregory Pastor talked about Love in Action and District Superintendent Dr. Debora Bishop celebrated communion. Thank you to all of our National and Conference Officers who participated and for the offering of \$496.26 going toward pledge.



MOBILE DISTRICT MISSION TEAM 2019

President

Barbara Carroll

Vice President

Juanita Locker

Secretary

Linda Ferguson

Treasurer

Kathy Ulmer

Program Resource

Bobbi Ferguson

Communications

Stephanie Jacobs

Mission Coordinators

Education and Interpretation

Rosalind Darby

Membership Nurture &
Outreach

Robbie Bunkley

Social Action

Katy Wrona

Spiritual Growth

Gail Bradford

Historian

Shirley Bryan

Parliamentarian

Sylvia McCaskill

Committee on Nominations

Jamie Blake, Chair

Martha Teasley

Shirley Bryan

2019 Yearbook

I am closing out the yearbook for 2019. Please mail me any pictures or article that you want me to include in the yearbook about your units. Thank you for your help in making this an interesting book for future members.

Shirley Bryan

1216 Anchor Dr

Mobile 36693



Spiritual Enrichment Retreat

The Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat was held at Blue Lake Camp from October 11-13. The speaker was Rev. Reba Wiley, who is the pastor at the Pine Hill Charge UMC and also works with Communities of Transformation. UMW members had worship and participated in fun workshops like making wooden crosses, armchair yoga, and crocheting crosses. There was also election and installation of the Conference Officers. Make plans to attend next year!



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2020 District Conference Calendar

1/11	Mission Team Meeting
2/1	District Officers Training
2/14-15	Conference Annual Day
3/ 6-7	COSROW at Blue Lake
3/21	District Annual Day
4/17-18	SEJ Calling u – To Celebrate
5/2	District Mission Study
5/16	UMCOR
7/24-25	Mission u
8/18	District Mission Study
8/22	President/Treasurers Workshop
9/26	District Spiritual Enrichment Day
10/9-10	Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat

Pledge Report

We have collected most of our \$20,000.00 pledge for 2019. You still have time to get those pledges in!

Congratulations!!!

We have completed almost another United Methodist Women year! Everyone has worked very hard, thank you very much! Enjoy this fall, with thanksgiving and all our blessings! God gives us people all over the world to work with and for... we are doing this for God ... not ourselves! (Galatians 1:10) give of ourselves the work God expects of us. Think higher about what the UMW does! We are all in this together and together we work harder! Let the blessings flow.

Just a thought ... I was a member of another group, who got points for bringing in new members. One lady brought 52 women into this group! How about that? Just hoping for new members is not enough, try action ... call one person each day, in this way we can help and invite others to our fellowship. Remember ... let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18 NIV.

Remember God loves you. The faith and works of the United Methodist Women will be stronger together to do God's work ... enjoy! Hugs...

Robbie Bunkley
Membership, Nurture, & Outreach

To God Be the Glory

Thank God for another year. First of all, I would like to thank you all for entrusting me again for another year to serve as your District Secretary. I Pray that I will be able to fulfill my duties to you. We had a very prosperous year and we're looking forward for another great year in 2020. As the year ends it time to start looking forward for next year officers, if you have had your election great, but if haven't please do it soon as we need your elected officials and appointed ones also by the end of the year, because we have to have accurate records of all officers of your unit for the District Directory. We need name, correct email address and phone number home phone and cell if possible. It's very important that we have this for the district because these numbers keeping a accurate roll of your unit and keep it updated the distance and conference budget are based on the unit numbers. You can email me your information to linfaf0662@aol.com or send the information to Barbara. If you have any questions please feel free to call me @ 251-259-5020 home or 662-648-9398 cell or can email me, you also can text me on my cellphone.

Linda Ferguson
District Secretary

Thank you!

Thank you all for all the loving efforts you have made in this past year to support the purpose of UMW. It has been a pleasure to serve as the Vice President for the Mobile District. I have found your Mission Team to be a group of dedicated women who know the Lord and wish to serve Him.

This note comes as a word of encouragement also. Remember when you took your office and promised to fulfill your duties to the best of your abilities, so I want you to resolve to do your best, encourage those around you, attend your local, district and conference events and to be bold in your actions. We need to know our purpose and be faithful in completing our responsibilities. I trust that you will be faithful in your response.

A reminder to all presidents to forward to Barbara Carroll all of your year-end reports. Let's be diligent in submitting this report.

Again, I thank you for supporting all of the activities of UMW and encourage you to continue to be energetic and bold in your response to our mission. Get out your calendars, circle the dates for UMW activities and I will see y'all soon. Remember also it is important to attend officer training, even if you have attended in the past. We need your ideas and expertise. God bless you all.

Jay Locker
Vice President

Calling u ... to Celebrate

Register on <https://www.umwsej.org/registration>



The 2020 Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event will be held on April 17-19, 2020 at the Riverview Hotel & Convention Center in Mobile. A block of rooms has been reserved until March 15, 2020. Mobile is the Host City and we need a good representation – PLEASE REGISTER! Early Bird Registration cost is: \$185 per person - deadline for early bird registration is December 15, 2019. Final registration is Feb 29th. We will be offering 10 different workshops with great leaders! Meals included area box lunch and the dinner banquet on Saturday.

Assistance with hosting the event will be needed. Start collecting Mardi Gras beads and related items for the opening parade. Church vans and drivers will be needed to shuttle guests from the airport to the hotel

UMW Day



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.



Attn: Unit Presidents!
Consolidated Reports are due by November 30th. Call if you need help!

UMW Day was November 10th. Across the Mobile district, UMW members planned special moments, such as being part of the morning worship service or having special guest speakers. Our own president Barbara Carroll spoke at Toulminville-Warren Street United Methodist Church, and Social Action Coordinator Katy Wrona spoke at Saraland United Methodist Church about her work with Communities of Transformation. Christ United had Rev. Bobbi McArthur Lassiter as their special speaker at a luncheon. What a great day of celebration!



Our Past & Our Future

Our grandmothers and mothers influenced our decision to join UMW. They showed us that a UMW is about Mission work and Fellowship. Being a UMW has broadened my horizons on what it means to serve, and how important it is to continue to grow as a Christian UMW. We have met new UMW from other districts, and within our district. Each Mission Study, and all the events that UMW have throughout the year increases our knowledge of how wonderful it is to be a UMW.

At First United Methodist Church of Theodore, AL we will hold an annual after Christmas party on Dec 29, when we will feed the ladies of McKemie Place and give them Christmas presents. We also give Christmas gifts to Lynwood Nursing home and that consist of 125 people. Our unit feeds the women of McKemie Place every 5th Sunday. We conduct and helped coordinate the VBS at our church. We have helped served breakfast along with the Youth Department to the children in the neighborhood. The UMW women also help with the Children's message on Sundays.

Rosalind M. Darby
Mobile District Education & Interpretation
Coordinator

Spiritual Growth

It's been an exciting last four years as your Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Mobile District. The four SED days were well received and I have only thanks for all who responded to request to help with each and every one of them. The one, recently at Christ Church was so wonderful, the food sponsored by Saraland Unit, and all the wonderful set up by Christ Church's circles, just leave me speechless with how much talent there is in this group. I hope that you have found things in each one of the four years that was an inspiration and did spur you to something about your continuing spiritual growth where God is leading you and us together. Thanks to God that you have been so willing to make these a regular part of your life. I pray for your continued spiritual growth as we all work together ministry for women, children, and youth in a very hurting world.

I now, will be stepping forward to again work with you all as the new District Vice President. This will continue the challenge to keep us growing and stepping up to be about our work with women, children, and youth. If I can help in any way, that's my prayer. Contact me or Barbara Carroll, our President. It is my plan to help you in any ways I can at Barbara's direction and things I learn in our walk into this next year. I am already working on the upcoming Annual Day. Pray that it will be what we need and will provide the inspiration to again commit ourselves to our PURPOSE. HOPE TO SEE YOU AT ANNUAL DAY.

Love and prayers,

Gail Bradford
Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Social Media



We are now live on your favorite Social Media sites @MobileUMW
[Facebook.com/MobileUMW](https://www.facebook.com/MobileUMW) | [Instagram.com/MobileUMW](https://www.instagram.com/MobileUMW) | [Twitter.com/MobileUMW](https://www.twitter.com/MobileUMW)

Program Resources



I have been the District Secretary of Program Resources for the past four years and now it is time to pass the baton to someone else. I hope that Rosalind enjoys her time in this office as much as I have. Ordering the books for the district Library was one part of the job that I enjoyed the most as well as attending all the district and conference meetings. During my four years I not only attended meetings in many parts of Alabama and Florida, but I also went to our Conference in SEJ meeting that was held in Charlestown, South Carolina. Louisville, Kentucky, and Dayton Ohio. Those were amazing conferences, lots to learn, lots of UMW women to mingle with and get to know. But back to the books I have read so many

interesting and fun books and I think anyone of you who aren't taking the opportunity to read the UMW books are really missing out. I am so happy that I started reading these books, they say you never too old to learn and it's definitely true, I have learned a lot from many different countries as well as our own. They are not all just information books some are very interesting and entertaining novels. Like they say, "Try it, you'll like it". Mission U is also something everyone should attend at least once; I guarantee you will go back again. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to All

Bobbi Ferguson

District Secretary of Program Resources



Act Justly

When I think of the social action of UMW, my mind goes to this scripture verse... “to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” Micah 6:8. This year has flown by but I rejoice today because the women of the Mobile District are acting justly, loving others, and walking humbly with God. Thank you for serving in our community and continuing to uplift the quadrennial priorities through education, advocacy, and service.

Relationships are at the heart of social action and our units have embraced and lived into this model. Our units are walking with the women of McKemie as they provide meals every month. Our units are walking with the community at Open Doors Thrift Store as they also support countless ministries around our district. Our units are walking with the families at Sybil Smith Village and Dumas Wesley. Our units are partaking in education opportunities to learn more about the school to prison pipeline.

Thank you for your unwavering love and service. Your light is shining bright and you are setting an example for the next generation of women to follow. I am praying for each of you.

With gratitude and love,
Katy Wrona