



ALERT

Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women



Your Spiritual Journey

Spring is right around the corner and it is my favorite time of the year. Just to see the azaleas, pear and apple trees start to bloom renews my love of nature. I enjoy the warmer weather and the chance to get outside more. I have a big garden and start my own plants - so far peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes and various herbs have been planted. I can't wait to get my hands into the rich soil. Spring to me is a time of renewal and with Easter and the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat in March, how much better does it get! The Spiritual Enrichment Retreat will be at Blue Lake and last year the lake was breathtaking.

Join us March 23-25 as we celebrate our Spiritual Enrichment Retreat. I promise it will offer you new opportunities filled with learning and love. Our prayer is that you will come and allow God's Spirit and direction to bless you.

Spiritual Enrichment Retreat 2012 begins at Blue Lake on Friday, March 23th at 4 p.m. with Registration and ending after lunch on Sunday. Our prayer and hope is the retreat will be an exciting spiritual experience for each of you.

We have an exciting program this year. We will gather for a time to prepare you for an exciting spiritual experience. The Saturday session begins at 7:30 AM and the afternoon session concludes by 5:45 PM. The Sunday session starts at 7:15 and ends after lunch.

This Enrichment Experience will offer renewal for your soul. We believe that we crafted it to provide programs that offer you many blessings. Extend an invitation to someone and come to the Lake to share your faith and renew friendships. This retreat is open to everyone -- come and invite someone to come with you.

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The Alert is also available online at: <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/awfconfumw/>

Registration forms for the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat, SEJ registration and the health form are also available at this web page.

From the Desk of the President



The Alabama West Florida Conference United Methodist Women finished 2011 with wonderful news. WE ACHIEVED OUR 2011 GOAL FOR MISSION GIVING – WE MADE OUR PLEDGE! Look for specific information in the Treasurer's Report for 2011. Your generous giving made that happen. You made and continue to make a difference in the lives of women, children and youth throughout the world. Thank you!

2012 is moving forward and there is still plenty of work for United Methodist Women to do. The Purpose of United Methodist Women states that we are to: "expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church." We do this by: praying for missionaries and mission projects using the Prayer Calendar; reading Response magazine; learning at the Cooperative School of Christian Mission; attending Conference and District events and giving money for missions.

Praying: In the Prayer Calendar we learn the names of missionaries and mission projects. Then we pray.

Reading: We use Response magazine to learn about projects that receive financial support from United Methodist Women. And we learn how to be an advocate to help alleviate problems for women, children and youth.

Learning: Information about the Cooperative School of Christian Mission is provided in this newsletter. An excellent group of study leaders are already preparing for you. Make plans to attend.

Attending: The Spiritual Enrichment Retreat is a wonderful opportunity for us to deepen our relationship with God. Make plans to attend this retreat – complete your registration form today. Do you know someone that has never attended this event? Invite them to attend with you.

"How can we help?" is the question we all ask when a disaster happens in the world. United Methodist Women are already helping! Our pledge to Mission Dollars is already at work in the 300 International Institutions and the 100 National Institutions in the United States supported by mission giving. You are empowering women, caring for children, educating and building youth, looking after the neglected, advocating for social justice issues, creating economic opportunities and changing neighborhoods.

As United Methodist Women, we do "expand concepts of mission" as we reach out to women, children, and youth around the world. Continue to pray, read, learn, attend, and give as we participate in the wonderful ministry of United Methodist Women.

We are **PLUGGED INTO THE POWER!** Remember to be in prayer for our work, always put others first, listen to the word of God, become better equipped to do our work and to always respond with a willing heart and joyful spirit. **(P-Prayer, O-Others, W-Word of God, E-Equipped, -Respond)**

Remember don't look back. We are not going that way!

I thank God for you!

Betty



Treasurer Report

Fourth Quarterly Report UMW Mission Giving

Pledge to Missions	\$24,174.27
Special Mission Recognition	\$1,560.00
Gift to Mission	\$860.00
Gift in Memory	\$1,315.00
World Thank Offering	\$7,069.48
A call to Prayer and Self Denial	1,748.75
A Brighter Future for Children/Youth	\$70.00
Assembly Offering	\$57.88
Scarritt-Bennett Center	\$15.00
Crusade Scholarship	\$15.00
Magazine Fund	5.00
Tornado Victims	\$332.00
UMCOR	\$100.00
A&MD Funds	\$1,431.53
Assembly Love Offering	\$105.67
Blue Lake	\$1,509.25
Dumas Wesley	\$529.88
Hispanic Ministries	\$529.87
Mobile Inner City	\$729.87
Nellie Burge	\$529.88
Noah's Ark	\$529.88
SKIP	\$529.87
TOTAL	\$43,748.08



Thank you so
much for your
support in

2011, We made our pledge.

2011 YEARLY REPORT December 31,2011 UMW MISSION GIVING

Pledge to Missions	\$94,864.51
Special Mission Recognition	\$7,659.05
Gift to Mission	\$4,290.43
Gift in Memory	\$5,481.91
World Thank Offering	\$14,379.22
A Call to Prayer and Self Denial	\$15,786.63
A Brighter Future for Children and Youth	\$125.00
Assembly Offering	\$181.34
Scarritt-Bennett Center	\$110.00
Crusade Scholarship	\$15.00
Magazine Fund	\$5.00
Haiti	\$50.00
Japan (Earthquake Relief)	\$175.00
Tornado Victims	\$332.00
Advance #3021326	\$315.30
UMCOR	\$1,300.11
Sudan	\$1,292.00
A&MD	\$9,093.53
Assembly/Jurisdiction Love Offering	\$943.20
Blue Lake	\$9,425.25
Dumas Wesley	\$4,675.98
Hispanic Ministries	\$3,709.27
Mobile Inner City	\$3,979.27
Nellie Burge	\$4,554.05
Noah's Ark	\$3,810.04
SKIP	\$3,688.51
TOTAL	\$190,241.60

Thank you for allowing me to be your Conference Treasurer for the last four years. I have learned so much and loved getting to know all of you. I know Kathy McQuagge will be a great Treasurer for us. Our commitment to women, children and youth depends on your mission giving. We are so blessed.

In HIS Service, Margie Outlaw

SOCIAL ACTION

During our Officer Update/Training session at Blue Lake Assembly, Cami Hacker, Joyce Genz and I gave a report on the National Seminar held August 13-18, 2011 in Birmingham, AL. This event is held every four years to engage the participants in education and action opportunities for social justice. The theme for the event was Mission : Reconciliation – Restoring Justice, Building Community. Opportunities were provided to share and learn more on issues concerning immigration, human trafficking, domestic violence and climate change.

As a result of our participation in such an informative and powerful seminar we returned energized, equipped and prepared to make a difference in the lives of those traumatized. due to the results of immigration, human trafficking, domestic violence and climate change. We challenge you to join us on this journey to create a new moral order in America.

We challenge every local unit to read “The Journey-Forgiveness, Restorative Justice and Reconciliation,” as well as participate in the mission study on “The Journey.” Secondly, we challenge every local unit to become involved in some action plan addressing one of the four priority issues of the Women’s Division (immigration, human trafficking, domestic violence, or climate change). Thirdly, we challenge each of the eight districts to select at least one of those issues as a district priority. Finally, we challenge the conference to choose one of the issues for a Bold Faith Seminar to be held sometime in 2013.

Our District Mission Coordinators for Social Action chose the following priority issues for 2012 in the AL-West Florida Conference:

Immigration
Human Trafficking
Bullying

Remember, together we can make a difference.

Clara J. Ester



Mission Giving

GIVE

United Methodist Women's Mission Giving supports programs helping women, children, and youth in the United States and Internationally to acquire skills and access resources they need to stand as full contributing members of society and experience a more abundant life.

We have the privilege to serve God and help others all the while making some of the most precious friends in mission ever.

United Methodist Women's Mission Giving supports work that makes peaceful and abundant living possible for many women, children and youth.

We still have ribbons and cards for you to purchase. They are available at your local units, at district meetings, at Spiritual Enrichment Retreat as well as our Annual Meeting.

PEACE...Kathy

Conference Treasurer

HUGS & KISSES SHAWL MINISTRY

Calling all nimble fingers! We need YOU!

This year at the United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting we are asking each unit of United Methodist Women in our conference to make and bring a Prayer Shawl to our meeting. We will first use them to decorate the Gym on Saturday, Oct. 20th.

After the annual meeting they will be divided among the following agencies: Dumas Wesley, Open Door Community House, Vashti and United Community Center. A representative from each of the above agencies will take part in our program. These are all agencies that are supported with funds from our mission giving.

Each person receiving a prayer shawl will surely feel the love and prayers of the person that created it.

2012 SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RETREAT AT BLUE LAKE ASSEMBLY

"Friendship and Faith" Retreat Leader: Rev./Dr. Laura Early

March 23-25, 2012



A Spiritual Retreat is a way of "re-treating" life. It allows us "to treat our life again with the love of God", so we can re-retreat daily life with the hands-on service of love and justice. This event is one of the highlights of the year for United Methodist Women.

The theme is "Friendship and Faith". The scripture reference is Proverbs 3 ;5-6--"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path".

We are fortunate to have The Rev. Dr. Laura Early from Aulander, North Carolina as our retreat leader. Dr. Early has served the United Methodist Church for over 30 years. Her career began in Christian Education where she served at Duke Memorial and McMannen United Methodist Churches in Durham, N. C. She also served in Christian Education at Queen Street United Church in Kinston. Dr. Early has served as Pastor of the Aulander and Gatesville United Methodist Charges. While she was serving at Gatesville it was recipient of the Kay Taylor Award for Outreach and Evangelism in the North Carolina Annual Conference.

Laura was appointed to a North Carolina Annual Conference Pilot Project as Elizabeth City District Director of Christian Education where she worked with the district in strengthening local churches through programing and leadership training. She later accepted an appointment as Pastor of All God's Children in 1997. All God's Children focuses on meeting the needs of children and has established programs to meet the needs of "at risk" children through Morning Lambs, a preschool program; After School FAMILY, a program fostering learning; and HOME BASE, a food and clothing distribution facility.

Laura is a native of Durham, NC. She and her husband, Bill, have three children and two grandchildren.



Our Music Leader is Pam Dannelly of Pensacola, FL. She graduated from Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Al. with a degree in Music. After 31 years of teaching she retired and is now active in volunteer work in the Great Gulf Coast Festival, the choir program. She is the unit president of Pensacola First United Methodist Women. Pam and her husband, Bill, are the proud parents of two sons and grandparents of four adorable grandchildren.

Our pianist is Nancy Carleton. She has been the organist at Monroeville First United Methodist Church since 1991. She became the Director of Music in 2001 and at present she direct several children's choirs, a youth choir, and an adult ensemble and hand bell choirs, at FUMC. She has taught piano, organ and voice in the community for a number of years and currently accompanies the Monroeville Kiwanis Men's chorus and the Excel High School Chorus.

Nancy is married to Mark Carleton. They have one son, Warren, who is a freshman at Auburn University.

2012 Alabama West Florida Cooperative School of Christian Mission



2012 THEME: "THAT ALL MAY HAVE LIFE"

NEW PLACE: Huntingdon College – Montgomery, Alabama

NEW DATE: August 2-5, 2012

NEW OPPORTUNITIES: Regular Studies, Mini Studies, Youth Study, & Children's Study

The Mission Study offerings are: Immigration in the Bible, Poverty, Haiti

Youth Study: Hope for Haiti

Children's Study: The Girl Under the Bridge – Stories of Poverty and Hope for Children

Make plans to attend the Cooperative School of Christian Mission this year. Commuters Welcome!

We are offering the following options:

Attend Thursday through Sunday and participate in two of the three studies

Attend Friday & Saturday and participate in mini studies of Poverty and Haiti

Attend Friday or Saturday and take either Poverty or Haiti

Children ages 6-12 – Friday and Saturday Study on Poverty

Youth ages 13-18 – Saturday Study on Hope for Haiti

Registration information will be available in early April. For Scholarship information contact Georgette Griffith griffithgeoumw@gmail.com, Sheila Hare s.share13@gmail.com or Susan Hunt susan@awfumc.org

ISSUE STUDY: POVERTY – Poverty is a human rights issue with grave impact on women and children. Written by Dr. Jack A. Keller, with chapter contributions by other selected writers, this mission study on poverty is designed to help participants recognize and claim for themselves the connections between Scripture, church tradition, compassion for the poor, social outreach, and social justice. Stories of those living in poverty and multiple and diverse examples of encounters between middle-class Christians and the poor are woven throughout the study. Participants in the study will engage in deepening their understanding of the realities of poverty and be invited to commit to solidarity with the poor through accompaniment and advocacy. This study will be offered as an 8-hour study and also as a 5-hour mini study during the school.

GEOGRAPHIC STUDY: HAITI – It is nearly impossible to convey the full scope of Haiti's culture and history in one study, and so Rev. Dr. Jacques E. Pierre freely admits that this mission study "does not assume it captures every aspect of Haiti and its people's daily realities, their rich and vivacious culture, nor their long history of struggles." What it does offer is an overview of the cultures that shaped Haiti's past and the ongoing legacy of colonialism, along with glimpses into the heart and soul of Haiti's people through pictures and Creole adages. The mission study also includes the impact of the devastating January 12th earthquake in 2010.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY: IMMIGRATION AND THE BIBLE – This study shares the story of the Bible as a narrative of immigrants and migration. Exploring the Biblical and theological understanding of immigration, immigrants and migration, this study seeks to enable the participants to examine what it is to be a sojourner and to live into the biblical mandate of hospitality for "the stranger" and "aliens" in our midst. This study seeks to equip participants to see the Bible as the ultimate handbook for responding to immigrants. The Bible was written by, for, and about migrants, immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. It gives directions for responding to sisters and brothers from around the world who come to a land seeking safety, sanctuary and sustenance. The Bible offers guidance and direction for persons who migrate or immigrate by choice as well as for persons who flee because of devastation and destruction through violence or natural disasters.

United Methodist Women Southeastern Jurisdiction Leadership Team

“Feeding the Multitude”

Greetings to each of you,

The Southeastern Jurisdiction Leadership Team of United Methodist Women is excited about the upcoming 10th Quadrennial Meeting and I hope each of you are planning to attend. Our Quadrennial Meeting will be held on June 1-2, 2012, at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel in Birmingham Alabama. The United Methodist Women of the North Alabama Conference have been very busy preparing for your arrival. They join us in extending this invitation to you. The entire Quadrennial meeting will be take place in the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel.

The theme for our meeting is “Feeding the Multitude”. The scripture is John 6: 1-14.

Mission Opportunities are being planned and you will hear about those in the very near future.

The schedule for our meeting is as follows: Friday, June 1st – Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., Exhibit Hall, Literature Room and Prayer Room will open, 3:00 – 4:30 pm Orientation for voting delegates, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Rehearsals for Communion Servers, Ushers, Treasurers, 6:00 p.m. Banquet. After the banquet and concert by the Triumphant Quartet there will be a reception for Women’s Division and SEJ nominees.

Saturday, June 2nd - Gathering music begins at 8:15 a.m. followed by Introductions, Worship – (Bishop Violet Fisher), Business session, Voting and election of nominees, Installation for those elected, etc.

The offering collected will be designated towards Mission Giving.

We’re looking forward to seeing each of you, so get ready to pack and be "Ala bamie" bound!

Kathy Booker, President
Southeastern Jurisdiction Leadership Team

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION QUADRENNIAL MEETING

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Birmingham, Alabama

JUNE 1-2, 2012

"FEEDING THE MULTITUDE"

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date: _____

Reg.No.: _____

Check No. _____

Amount: _____



Registration Form

Registration Deadline: April 16, 2012

(Or until all seating capacity is met.)

Please complete all information requested on this form. You may photocopy additional forms as needed. **Send one registration form and the \$150 registration fee for each person who will be attending. Add an additional \$25.00 after April 16, 2012.** The fee covers the cost of **Registration, Banquet, and Triumphant Quartet Concert.** Those who are not registered may attend the banquet for a fee of \$50.00. **Make check or money order payable to SEJLT UMW.**

Return the Registration Form and Registration Fee to the Registrar: **Margie Caldwell, 709 – 11th Avenue, Pleasant Grove, AL 35127; 205-744-8390, msmargie@hotmail.com.** If you would like a confirmation, please provide an email address or include a stamped return envelope and/or postcard. Childcare will be provided for children 6 years of age and under.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE

Name: _____ Name for Badge _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Conference: _____ Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Arrival Time: _____ am/pm Airline: _____ Flight No. _____

Departure Date: _____ Departure Time: _____ am/pm Airline: _____ Flight No. _____

Car: _____ Charter Bus: _____ Other: _____ Arrival Date: _____ Approx. Arrival Time: _____ am/pm

To assist in preparing a profile of attendance and to gather data for evaluation, please give the following information:

<u>Voting Delegate</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Special Needs</u>	<u>Language Translation</u>
____ First Time Attendee	____ 13-17	____ Male	____ Sign Language	____ Spanish
____ Women's Division Director	____ 18-25	____ Bishop	____ Wheelchair space	____ Korean
____ Women's Division Staff	____ 26-46	____ Clergy	____ Other	____ Creole
____ Missionary (____ Active)	____ 47-69	____ Laity	____ Childcare & Age	____ Other
____ Deaconess (____ Active)	____ 70 & Over			
____ Nominee, please specify _____				

Emergency Contact: _____

Allergies: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Registration Fee Summary

Registration Fee: \$150.00

Late Reg. Fee: (After April 16, 2012) 175.00

Banquet Fee: (Those not registered) 50.00

Quartet Concert (Those not registered, Seating is limited for concert) 10.00

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Refund Policy: Request must be in writing to registrar. 50% refund until **May 1, 2012.**

Substitution will be allowed.

No refund after May 1, 2012.

HOTEL POLICY: NO SMOKING ALLOWED IN ANY ROOMS!!!!

Responsively Yours: "Something there is that doesn't love a wall"

By Harriett Jane Olson

For me, these words of Robert Frost call to mind the cold stone walls separating fields and properties through the forests and hills of New England. While they serve their dual purpose of providing a place to put stones removed while clearing the fields and of demarcating boundaries, over time these walls break down, spreading out in the bracken so that they seem to disappear. In some places the stones are collected and reused, and in others, they remain a silent testimony to the lines that seemed important enough to merit the labor it took to build them.

Let us not give walls undue power. In this new year, let us dream of peace, but let us also commit ourselves anew to work for peace, and to declare the message of the love of God for all peoples on earth.

This process of building walls and demarcating boundaries also reminds me of walls that have fallen in places around the world where the work of reform and reconciliation has taken place. I have a little piece of the Berlin Wall in my kitchen — a souvenir from a trip that my dad and my brother took. Imagine! A fearsome, military installation deemed important to world order and national security removed in tiny pieces that could be glued to plastic forms by enterprising vendors.

At the same time, we are continuing to defend other walls and fences. The "peace walls" in Belfast remain in place with Protestant and Catholic communities divided on either side, only coming into contact at the "interfaces" or through intentionally planned activities. The walls have allowed generations of children to

grow up not knowing one another, separated by school uniform, calendar, tradition and fear.

In communities along the southern border of the United States, families with members on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border are funneled through checkpoints replacing the previously free interchange. Fear and law and violence make these walls and fences even more restrictive.

A similar pattern is at play in Israel and in Korea where people are separated from one another in the name of security. Governments and those with a financial stake in maintaining division use all the usual weapons — fear, policy, intimidation and financial incentives — to build physical boundaries and to reward and coerce separation and suspicion. All this takes place despite the fact that the people affected often have more common interests with one another than they do with those in positions of power and would be better served by working on their common interests than by focusing on what divides them.

Something there is that doesn't love a wall. Parties may need time apart for reflection, to regroup, or to allow the heat of passion to cool, but separation is not a long-term solution. Separation does not make peace. United Methodist Women members know we must work together for the good of all.

Let us not give walls undue power. Borders change. Alliances change. Only God's love remains steadfast. In this new year, let us dream of peace but let us also commit ourselves anew to work for peace, and declare God's love for all peoples on earth.





Membership, Nurture, and Outreach

Greetings my sisters in Christ! What challenging times we live in and what an exciting time to be a member of the United Methodist Women. As we begin our new year together, let me share some thoughts for you to think over.

First, we are shrinking in numbers at a time when we need so badly to be on the increase. Older members are passing away and units are disbanding. The agencies and missionaries we support need our help now more than ever. To come to grips with this, you can expect to see me out and about in the Districts meeting with our units and district presidents to ask their thoughts on how we can address getting more members and what changes we need to make in how we do business so we can attract the next generation and keep the members we have while getting them more involved.

Second, we are having a meeting of all district Membership, Nurture, and Outreach coordinators on March 17th at Frisco City UMC from 10:00 AM to 4:00 to begin working together to grow our membership, increase our nurturing activities, and to plan outreach programs that will attract and keep others with new, innovative ideas.

Third, there is a new energy in our Conference, and we want to share that with each and every member. We welcome your ideas, criticisms, and input as we move confidently into the future stronger, more active, more caring, and more in tune with one another. Let me know what you think: kebonner43@gmail.com. You will get feedback on your ideas.

Last, I ask each of you to reaffirm your commitment to service as a member of your local United Methodist Women's unit. If you know of a small church near you that does not have a unit, reach out to them and ask them to join with yours. Visit with the women of your church and tell them about the UMW and what membership means to the hurting in our world and communities. Invite them to come to your meetings with you. Reach out, pull in, and lift up!

In His service,
Bonnie



Tapestry 2012

Pictures By D Graves



Committee on Nominations



The Committee on Nominations is pleased to announce a new member. Sharmon Morris of Dothan is filling a vacancy on the committee for 2012-2013. We all look forward to working with her.

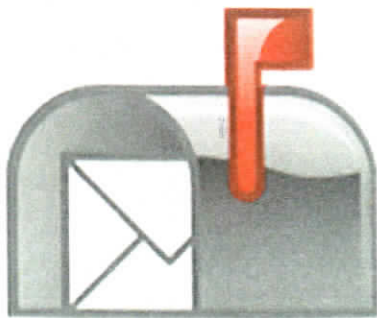
The committee is meeting on February 18. We will be looking at possible nominees for election for 2013-2015 terms. The committee asks for your prayers as we deliberate.

We also ask for your investment in the future of United Methodist Women. At the Tapestry meeting in Mobile and at Spiritual Enrichment Retreat members of the committee will be staffing a table. At the table, there will be talent bank forms to fill out and also committee members can take your recommendations for potential leaders.

Keeping our offices staffed is a job for all of us. If you know someone, even yourself, who would like to become a leader or officer for United Methodist Women, please pass the information on to any member of the committee or you may contact me at: rall@ctvea.net or 334-298-6405.

Striving to provide you with the best possible leadership for the conference organization.

Ruth Ann Powers
Chair, Committee on Nominations



*Alert is a publication of the
Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women*

Alert

ARE YOU A SUBSCRIBER?

(Note: Local unit presidents receive the *Alert* free)

You, too, can become informed of Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women events and/or activities by subscribing to the *Alert* today.

Send your name and address to Barbara Henning, 2055 Henning Lane, Marianna, FL 32448. Enclose a \$4.00 check, made payable to Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women. You may receive a copy of the *Alert* **free by email**. Email bjhenning@embarqmail.com with your request and you will be added to our email list.



Barb's Notes

It seems like yesterday that I started doing the *Alert* and now a year and half later and I still love it. I really enjoy meeting all the lovely ladies in UMW and if you are not attending our events and activities, you are really missing a lot. We have many activities planned for this year. By the time you get this Tapestry will be over, but the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat will be soon approaching. The 10th of March is the last day to register for this so if you haven't done it, please do. This year's School of Mission will be at the Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama. Several of us had a chance to go there to look around and plan the layout for our school. We were very encouraged about what they have to offer us and I think if you come, you will love it. We still love Blue Lake, but we want to offer more options of courses and teachers, as well as, increase attendance. I will have more about the School of Mission in the next Alert. Barb



Sheila's Moment

Happy Spring!

I know it really isn't Spring yet - the groundhog dashed my hopes of that but here in Mobile, the flowers and trees are flowering out and are just beautiful! How the time does fly! January is gone and February is almost complete. Tapestry will be over by the time you read this and the ladies of the Mobile District will be celebrating what I know will be a very successful event. If we aren't careful, we are going to be wishing each other Merry Christmas again very soon. There is still much to do before then!

Speaking of time flying by - don't let the time get away from you and miss registering for the Spiritual Enrichment retreat in March. The deadline is March 10 and registrations are coming in steadily. Encourage a friend to come with you. Remember, we want to encourage growth in the United Methodist Women to accomplish our PURPOSE. What better way to introduce a friend to UMW than a praise and worship filled weekend at Blue Lake with fellow sisters in Christ! There are scholarships available through the Conference and through some of the Districts so check with your District President or any of the Conference Mission Team about availability and criteria of those scholarships.

I hope you will also make plans to attend this year's Cooperative School of Christian Mission being held at Huntingdon College August 2nd through 5th. The study leaders and musicians are going to be great. There will be studies for youth and children available as well.

How many times do we allow the pressures of family, work and life in general to control our lives to the point that we forget who we are - to whom we belong? Does our life, our attitude, our behavior reflect God living in us? I pray that God will remind me daily that my life is a witness to others - it is my choice whether it is a good witness or a bad witness. Our Purpose is to be about God's work and to be a reflection of God's love for others to see. What greater privilege is there than to share God's love and grace with another?

God Bless each of you and I hope to see you at one or all of our upcoming events.

Sheila Hare

Secretary

United Methodist Women
Alabama/West Florida Conference
 Barbara J. Henning
 2055 Henning Lane
 Marianna, FL 32448

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“Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them. For God will save Zion. Psalms 69:35

2012 Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
✓ Jan 6-7	AL/WFL Conference Mission Team Meeting Blue Lake
✓ Feb 24-25	Tapestry Mobile, AL
Mar 23-25	Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Blue Lake
Jun 1-2	Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting Birmingham AL
Jun 3-6	South Atlantic Regional School Huntingdon College, Montgomery AL
July 6-7	AL/WFL Conference Mission Team Meeting Blue Lake
Aug 2-5	Cooperative School of Christian Missions Huntingdon College, Montgomery AL
Oct 19	Leadership Training Event Blue Lake
Oct 20	Annual Conference Blue Lake
Nov 11	UMW Sunday

Alabama/West Florida United Methodist Women