



# DEMOPOLIS DISTRICT LINK

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*Points from the*

*President's Pen*

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The first quarter of the year is nearly gone! We have done so much in just a short period of time – The District Gathering, your Mission Team Meeting to plan the year, Your District Annual Day, your AWF Conference Annual Day at Blue Lake. We have been busy! How about you?

Just to update you if you were not there:

- The District Gathering on January 8<sup>th</sup> was more of an overview and a review. We had job description handouts for local officers so that those who were present could take back to their unit. In addition to the job descriptions there were sheets with dates of happenings throughout this year and brochures of some. We had 13 attending out of 330 memberships; that represents 8 out of 15 UMW units in our district.
- Our District Annual Day and Training on February 4<sup>th</sup> at Demopolis 1<sup>st</sup> was attended by 36 UMW members throughout our district. They represented 8 Local Units out of our 15 units; sadly that represents 10.9% attendance. Those in attendance were blessed by the Memorial Service given by Memie Mitchell of the Greensboro UMW. Memie has served as our Membership Nurture and Outreach and Social Action Mission Coordinator. Memie's program likened our departed sisters to the beautiful jonquils that bloom in her yard every February in their constancy, strength, persistence, and faithfulness. Each of the members was represented by a lovely vase of jonquils on the table, and the women in our gathering were invited to give a witness as Memie called out each deceased member's contribution to her church and unit. I hope that your unit got your Deceased Members Report in before it was too late. Outgoing President, Jean Creswell, presented Memie with a Special Mission Recognition pin since Memie has completed eight years of service. Well done, Memie!
- Following Memie's program we were also blessed by the presentation Dr. John Dorsey gave us as he shared his story in establishing Horseshoe Farm in Greensboro in 2007. You can see information about Horseshoe Farm on the internet by going to the Daniel Foundation of Alabama. This is a brief description that explains just a few facts about Horseshoe Farm:

This program works to find ways to care for and support the community's most vulnerable members including children, people with mental illness, and seniors in the Black Belt region of the state. The organization was founded on the idea that communities must take responsibility and come together to help provide structure and support to more effectively meet these challenges. As a result, they have reached 75% of the elementary age children in their area and helped them improve at least one quartile on the math portion of the Alabama Reading & Math test. They have also assisted 30 women with mental illness live more independently, and launched a community clubhouse that welcomes between 40-60 elderly and disabled community members for activities and fellowship.

Dr. Dorsey's program offers Fellowships for college interns interested in pursuing careers in various health fields and hands-on work in community relations as well as helping to provide a new model for how to prepare future community leaders in healthcare and education. He also brought three of his Student Fellows presently working with the women on the farm and those in town and gave us an opportunity to ask questions and get to know them better. The Executive Mission Team

designated Horseshoe Farm the recipient of our offering for Annual Day, and we were able to donate \$1,702 to this organization.

AWFC UMW Annual Day was held on February 11<sup>th</sup> at Blue Lake. We had 12 UMW members attending from the Demopolis District. Thank you ALL so much for your interest!

- Since our change to the calendar year, we will be doing the Memorial Service at the Annual Day meeting rather than at Day Apart because this meeting is now early in the year soon after year-end so we can get started on our new year. Day Apart and the election of officers and Installation Service will be held in October so that those serving in an office can get ready for the new job to begin January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Our Education and Interpretation and Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator, Kayte Melton, announced the mission study to be held at Pine Hill UMC August 19<sup>th</sup> and will be focused on "Climate Justice."

This year we are trying to get our units to send ¼ of their pledge **quarterly** so that it will not be so hard sending everything at the end of the year. Our total pledge to AWFC UMW is \$13,000 this year. This amount, if divided by 4 quarters, comes to \$3,250 each quarter. The first quarter ends the last week of March. Have you responded?

Have you signed up for the **Membership Census**? We have until the end of March to get an accurate count of our UMW membership. If the presidents will get your Membership Census Forms filled out and mailed in to me, we can get them keyed into the system.

AWF Mission Studies at Millbrook UMC on June 20-21, 2017 will cover the following books:

- Spiritual Growth** study is "A Covenantal Community"
- Education for Mission – Geographic** study is "The Missionary Conferences of the UMC"
- Social Action** study is "Climate Justice"
- The Youth and Children's** study will be "Climate Justice"

If you read each of these books it counts in these particular categories I have listed to you in your **Reading Program**. Don't forget that there are some books that are LARGE PRINT for your ease of reading. For every five books read, one of them can be a youth book. Make your plans to attend the Mission u at Millbrook UMC to receive your blessing. Don't forget Pine Hill is offering the study on Climate Change and will have a very qualified teacher as this subject is a part of her job. Registration is at 9:00 a.m., and the study begins at 9:30. Bring your sack lunch, and the host will provide drinks, chips, and desserts. Looking to see you there!

Margaret Agee



### **REQUEST FROM SYBIL SMITH FAMILY VILLAGE**

*Dumas Wesley's transitional housing program for families experiencing homelessness currently has 32 children residing with their parents. If you feel led to help, we are in need of **hygiene products for babies/children/teenagers**. This might include toothbrushes, toothpaste, hair products, deodorant, body wash for infants, etc. Please contact the Village at **251-473-5526** for further information. Thank you for supporting Sybil H. Smith Family Village.*



## Conference & District Dates

July 21-22	Mission u	Millbrook UMC
August 19	Mission Study – Climate Justice Beth Bond, Facilitator	Pine Hill UMC
October 7	District Spiritual Day Apart and Elections	Johnson Hill UMC
October 20-22	Spiritual Enrichment and Elections	Blue Lake
November 5	Training for 2018 Local & District Officers	_____



As a “first timer” @ Blue Lake Methodist Camp, I must say it was very fulfilling and enlightening. I met a number of Methodist Women from all over the Alabama West Florida Conference. The experience was a most enjoyable one I must say. I enjoyed the hospitality, conversations and the food. To top it off, I had the pleasure of meeting our newly appointed Bishop. We had a nice conversation with him and Bishop Graves even allowed us (my Aunt Beverly Sanders and I) to have a photo with him, I am looking forward to my next Conference @ Blue Lake.

*MN&O and Social Action  
District Officer, Tracye  
Kennie and District VP,  
Beverly Sanders with Bishop  
David Graves @ Conference  
Annual Day, Blue Lake*



*District Officers planning day in Camden @  
Margaret’s home in January*



*Demopolis District UMW Officers and Members at Annual Day 2017; minus two members who missed the photo op!*



*Demopolis District Annual Day, February 4<sup>th</sup> at Demopolis 1st*

*Dr. John Dorsey, founder of Horseshoe Farm and guest speaker at Demopolis District UMW Annual Day, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017*





## Nominating Committee

Remember the crazy, white haired lady you see at district meetings with a camera, taking pictures and encouraging ladies to fill out talent bank forms?? Well, there is purpose in her madness!! Kathy is the chairman of the Demopolis District Nominating Committee, and she and her committee members are beginning the task of finding new officers for the 2018 year. Offices to be filled are: Nominating Chairman (2 years), Vice President (1 year), Treasurer (2 years), Program Resources (2 years), Membership Nurture & Outreach (2 years), Education & Interpretation/Spiritual Growth (1 year), and 2 members of the Nominating committee (2 years) and Secretary. We are hoping that officers who are now serving (and have not reached their 8 years of tenure) will agree to continue in their office. But we will be going over our Talent Bank information to fill in missing slots. Pray with us that God will lead us to UMW members who have a heart to serve and who are willing to give their time to an area of service they love.

***Kathy Patterson***

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## ***Jefferson UMW News***

UMW ladies are already working toward their Gold Achievement Award for this year! On March 6<sup>th</sup> we heard from one of our own who accompanied her dentist husband on a medical mission trip to Peru. A district officer was invited to attend this meeting which was held at the Jefferson Community House.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> our unit will host a Sunday Dinner as a mission fundraiser. For \$10 guests can enjoy ham, green beans, potato casserole, roll, tea, and an assortment of desserts. Fellowship is FREE!! We will serve from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., but a ticket is required. Call 334-289-1870 to reserve your place at the table! ☺



Annual Day always concludes on Saturday with Holy Communion. Bishop Graves was invited to bring the message and celebrate Holy Communion with us. His scripture was from Mt. 15:21-28 in which a non-Jewish woman came to Jesus, pleading for him to rescue her daughter from the demons who were tormenting her. It's a story about persistence and faith, and in a very beautiful way Bishop Graves shared stories of three women in his life who have exemplified strong faith and determination to teach and guide him through difficult and trying times. He charged us to keep our commitment as United Methodist Women to be strong and faithful in our work for women, children, and youth in our homes, communities, and our conference. **Be sure to come to Demopolis 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 to meet Bishop Graves as he shares his vision for our conference and desires very much to know the men and women in the Demopolis District in a more personal way.**