

Vol 40 No. 3 Summer May 2011



ALERT

Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women



"Faith, Hope, Love in Action"

2011 School of Christian Mission

July 21–23, 2011



From the Desk of the President

The 2011 Cooperative School of Christian Mission theme this year is "All Things Made New". As followers of Christ, we hold fast to God's intention to bring hope and wholeness to the world through Jesus Christ. Grace-filled, we long for a world that moves from

brokenness to wholeness, from suffering to healing, from injustice to justice, from scarcity to abundance, from estrangement to reconciliation and from despair to hope. As partners in God's mission, the transformation we seek today is that of taking what is broken and restoring it to fullness in the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Faith-filled, we believe that out of the rubble and ashes of devastation will come new life – a life of hope, a life of abundance, a life of joy for the journey.

Where do I begin? Should I tell you about the great Study Leaders we have this year or maybe I should talk about the study books – all are great. Within this issue of the Alert you will find brief descriptions of each study; biographies and a photo of each of our study leaders. I encourage you to read the study you are interested in taking this year. A note of interest: the Haiti study written by Rev. Dr. Jacques E. Pierre is the brother of Judith Pierre-Okerson who will be teaching this study in our school this year. Also, the Spiritual Growth study will be offered in **Español** this year and we will have babysitting available for children up to age 5. Come to the school! We want you and need your support.

Betty Helms, Dean

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Logo Interpretation—All Things Made New:

The main focus of this logo is the cross of Jesus Christ. With Christ at the center of our lives, we are redeemed into a life that is NEW. The old has passed away. The green vine entwined "NEW" speaks to growth and eternal life. The butterfly represents resurrection into this new life in Christ. The invitation to new life is offered to everyone; the red in the word ALL brings this fact to our attention. Its bold color reinforces that the invitation is not limited to a few... Christ makes ALL things NEW... our hopes, our dreams, our lives. Christ invites ALL to be in relationship with Him...to have new life.

Conference: Western North Carolina

Logo Design: Lynne Gilbert

Logo Interpretation: Sara Williams

Registration to the 2011 Cooperative School of Christian Mission is available online at:

<http://www.awfumc.org/events/detail/2703>

This year the Princess Camp girls will be joining with the School of Missions. UMW ladies please share this information with your members and friends who have girls grades 2-5. Camp is July 19 -22, then the girls will join us on the 23rd.

The Princess Camp will be exploring what it means to be daughters of the King. They will study some of the 'Princesses' in the Bible, to include the responsibilities, privileges, and the fun of knowing that they are loved. They'll do crazy camp stuff, have a Royal Banquet and discuss Frogs, Prince Charmings, and Fairy Godmothers.

On Thursday, they will join the United Methodist Women and while we are attending our studies, they will have a special study of their own - God's Princesses in Haiti. See Page 8 for details for their study and speaker. Cost per camper is \$200. Interested mother/grandmother can register online, or download the form and mail or fax at www.bluelakecamp.com



Treasurer Report

ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE

UMW MISSION GIVING

JANUARY 01—MARCH 31, 2011

Pledge to Mission	\$13,880.55
Special Mission Recognition	\$1,139.05
Gift to Mission	\$1,218.25
Gift In Memory	\$1,225.00
World Thank Offering	\$3,465.35
A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial	\$3,156.19
Supplemental Gifts	\$1,425.00
Alert Subscriptions	\$165.00
A&MD Fund	\$2,539.50
Assembly Love Offering	\$279.75
Blue Lake	\$2,640.76
Dumas Wesley	\$1,188.78
Hispanic Ministries	\$1,088.61
Mobile Inner City	\$1,138.62
Nellie Burge	\$1,188.63
Noah's Ark	\$1,188.63
Skip	\$1,088.63



Included in Pledge to Mission above: Ribbons sold for Missions-\$2,413.90
This is a great start for our new project Ribbons for Mission. The ribbons
were seen everywhere at Tapestry and Spiritual Retreat. "BEAUTIFUL"

Let's not forget our regular PLEDGE!!

Thanks you for your faithfulness to our Missions.

In His Service,

Margie Outlaw Treasurer, Ph: 334-299-6877; moutlaw200@centurytel.net



Your Spiritual Walk

Blue Lake is beautiful in the spring and was the perfect setting for the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat. Using the life cycle of the butterfly, Speaker Cathy Byrd explained spiritual growth as a process. The teachings of Jesus in the Beatitudes became our example. Dr. Addie June Hall's portrayal of "The Woman at the Well" was powerful. In addition to Focus Groups, a new feature was interactive special interest sessions such as sharing faith stories and discussing ways to energize UMW units. Many enjoyed participating in the choir or doing Christian yoga. On Saturday evening, Duke ministerial student Ali Willis discussed faith maturity and ended with a very profound service of unbinding and letting go of things that encumber us.

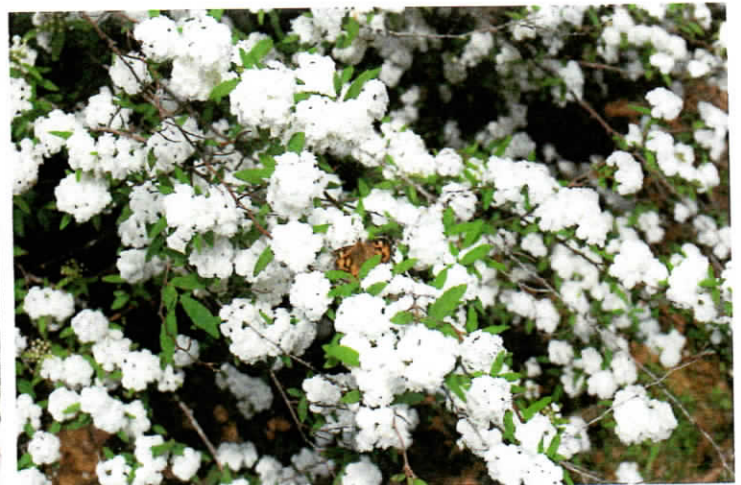
Sunday morning was a celebration of the joy of transformation from the caterpillar stage to the butterfly. Prior to the memorial service for the 127 deceased UMW conference members from 2010, President Betty Helms released newly-hatched monarchs onto the grounds. She also recognized the young women in attendance from the Demopolis District who are in the process of organizing a new UMW circle.


Rev. Tonya Elmore who presided at Holy Communion left us with the challenge, "You are all witnesses for Christ. Are you a good or a poor one?" A special thanks to the Mission Team and everyone who helped and participated. It was truly a spirit filled weekend. Blessings to each of you as you continue on your individual spiritual journeys. I hope to see you at the Cooperative School of Christian Missions on July 21-23.

The Spiritual Growth study is *The Journey*, forgiveness, restorative justice and reconciliation. Using stories from the Bible as well as recent history, this practical and timely study should help us as informed and concerned United Methodist Women to advance our goal of putting Faith, Hope and Love into action as we advocate for peace and justice at home and in the world.

Martha Spiva

Spiritual Growth Coordinator





School of Christian Mission

July 21–23, 2011

Lambuth Memorial Methodist Church

Blue Lake, AL Established 1823

"Faith, Hope, Love in Action"

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

**The Journey
Coming Out on the Side
of Grace: Reconciliation**
*with Elmira Nazombe, Martha
Rovira and Nancy Hudson*

This study deals with the theme of how individuals, families, and communities are called to a life-long journey of practicing forgiveness, justice, and reconciliation in our relational lives. In a series of Bible studies, the book enables the participants to understand how systems and structures violate people's lives and how these structures can be transformed to be more just and more conducive to human and cosmic well-being. The study aims to bring about personal and social transformation.

In short, the spiritual growth focus is on coming out on the side of grace and restorative justice in rebuilding personal, familial, and communal relationships.

GEOGRAPHIC

Haiti
*with Rev. Dr. Jacques Pierre
Okerson and Charlene Black*

It is nearly impossible to convey the full scope of Haiti's culture and history in one study, and the Rev. Dr. Jacques E. Pierre freely admits that this mission study "does not assume, it captures this mission study nor "does it captures every aspect of Haiti and its people's daily realities, their rich and vivacious culture, nor their long history of struggles." It offers 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 includes the impact of the devastating January 12th earthquake in 2010.

The purpose is to encourage ongoing exchanges of cultural understanding, mutual respect, and mission partnership between people of The United Methodist Church and people of God in Haiti. Most significantly, while the mission study never minimizes the impact of colonialism or the earthquake, it offers readers hope for Haiti's future.

SOCIAL ISSUE

**Joy to the World:
Mission in the Age of
Global Christianity**
with Susan Hunt

This study invites us to look at why we are involved in mission and how we proclaim the Good News in Jesus Christ. What are the biblical mandates for mission?

Does Christ call each of us to be his evangelist? Contemporary practices of world mission will be examined through models of mission rooted in both scripture and history: mission and hospitality, mission of healing and mission of reconciliation – all ways of celebrating God's intention to bring hope and wholeness to the world through Jesus Christ.

Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity gives us the opportunity to "catch-up" with the changes in direction, goals, and methods of mission work in these 100 years.

THE CHILDREN'S STUDY:

The Story of Haiti
with Jodi Cataldo

**KIRK? (Shall I tell a story?)
KRAK (Yes)**

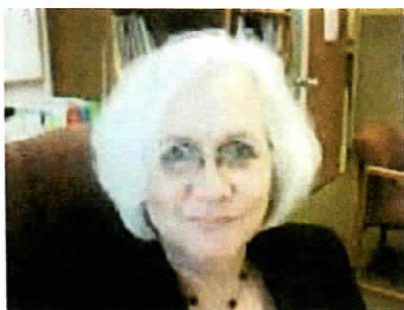
This study is a children's study that will introduce the girls to Haiti and Haitians. They will discuss the earthquake of 2010, and how Haiti is rebuilding both physically and spiritually.

This children's mission study includes stories that will draw the children together and guide them through the background of the country, the life of the people of Haiti, the earthquake, and how they can work in mission with Haiti. The sessions will include activities, games, songs and food that carry out the themes.

Kirk, Krak; the Story of Haiti will introduce the children to Haiti and Haitians as fellow children of God, as the girls learn they will find ways to share their knowledge.

Study Leaders

... continued



Jodi Cataldo

KRIK KRAK

CHILDREN'S STUDY

Jodi Cataldo is the Director of Leadership Development for the Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. She has the responsibility to resource and work with members of the Equipping the Local Church Link, to manage the process for assessing the viability of the local church, to provide, coordinate, and oversee the training, curriculum, and trainers, for developing strong, principled Christian leaders within the local churches of the Dakotas Conference, including lay speaking ministries, to resource the Board of Ordained Ministry and candidates for ministry, to link to the general church through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the General Board of Discipleship, and other appropriate denominational connections related to leadership development, and to raise up and develop current and emerging leaders across the conference.

For Jodi, it is an amazing opportunity to be back in the Dakotas and to be able to work with the annual conference as it moves into a new structure because it is a chance to really step back and rethink how we serve today as participants in God's mission "globally" (both locally and globally).

From 1999-2010, Jodi served first as a missionary in Lithuania and later as executive staff for the General Board of Global Ministries in the Mission Education Unit. Working with Global Ministries also provided her with the opportunity to write the 2010 Children's Study, "Hugging the World: Faith, Hope, and Love in Action", for the Schools of Christian Mission. Doing this study allowed her to bring together the work she did with the Global Praise resource, "Put Your Arms Around the World", with her own mission experiences into a book that teaches children what it means to be a global church.

Music Leaders



Pam Dannelly received her Bachelor of Music degree at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama, taught at Ransom Middle School in Escambia County for 31 years following 2 years at Pensacola School of Liberal Arts. The chorus program under her direction at Ransom grew from one chorus of 34 students to 4 choruses averaging over 230 students each year.

While at Ransom she was twice selected as Teacher of the Year and was among the 5 finalists for the County Teacher of the Year both times. Her choral groups traveled to choral festivals in Atlanta, Tampa, Orlando, San Antonio, Nashville, St Louis and Washington, D.C. and received superior ratings resulting in consistently being awarded Best in Class and 1st Place Chorus recognition. In District 1 Music Performance Assessment participation, her chorus consistently received excellent and superior ratings.

In her retirement, she is active in volunteer work in the Great Gulf coast Arts Festival, the choir program and is president of United Methodist Women at First United Methodist Church in Pensacola and in Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. She and her husband Bill are the proud parents (grandparents) of two sons & wives, and four absolutely adorable grandchildren.

Paulette Clark is also a member of the music program—Her picture and bio were not available at the time of printing the Alert.



Attention all Districts the Contest is on!

Marianna-Panama City is in the lead for our SPIRIT BANNER.

Second Place Demopolis

Third Place Dothan

Fourth Place Pensacola

Fifth Place Mobile

Sixth Place Montgomery-Prattville

Seventh Place Montgomery-Opelika

Eighth Place Baypines

Come on ladies we can do this; we need to work at all of our local events to make sure that we are inviting every women in our Church. It is great to be a United Methodist Woman!

Please make sure that you send me your attendance sheets from all your local events, we want to make sure you are counted.

Our next conference event will be the School of Christian Mission. Let's see which district will be the winner.

Refreshments for the School of Christian Mission:

July 21, Morning Registration: Pensacola

July 21, Evening Refreshments: Marianna- Panama City

July 22, Morning Registration: Montgomery-Opelika

July 22, Evening Refreshments: Dothan

July 23, Morning Break: Mobile

Plans are being made for a special young ladies event at Annual Day on October 22, 2011

Watch for additional information in your next Alert.

Cheryl Mothershed

President of the Presidents





N O M I N A T I O N C O M M I T T E E

Hopefully you attended the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat on March 25-28th. If you didn't attend, you missed a wonderful experience! The theme was Metamorphosis of a Butterfly in relation to our spiritual journey. We all start out at different places on this journey...there is no one "right way". I grew up in the Methodist Church, went to Blue Lake Summer Camp as well as being a member of MYF. Soon after college, I met my husband and we began our life together moving from place to place due career. When our children came along, they were baptized and brought up in "Methodism". During the middle years I was a working mother, and there were no UMW general meetings or circle meetings at night, so I never joined. As I

approached retirement in 2007, I decided it was time to get involved in UMW. I never have been disappointed with this decision. I have been a local unit officer and help my district mission team where needed. I became interested in working with the conference mission team after attending several School of Christian Missions and other UMW events at Blue Lake. I was approached by a Nominations Committee member to fill out a Talent Bank Form and the rest is history. I was elected to the Nominations Committee three years ago and was elected the Nominations Chair two years ago. At the end of this year, I will turn the Chair position over to another committee member. I plan to continue to serve on the conference mission team if I am so called.

What stage are you currently at in your metamorphosis? If you are at a stage where you can join the conference mission team and help carry on United Methodist Women's mission work we will welcome you with open hearts, open minds and open arms. We are looking for nominees for the following offices for 2012-2013:

Vice President, Treasurer, Program Resources, Nominations Chair, 2 members of Committee on Nominations and 2 members of Committee on Charter for Racial Justice

Please let me know you need a Talent Bank Form or check out the conference website - <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/awfconfumw/> to download a copy. If you are interested in any of these positions, or have questions about the benefits of serving, please contact me or a member of the Committee on Nominations. Committee members are Kathy McQuagge, Beth Bowdin, Gloria Jean Canty, Marjorie Vassie, Virginia Linley, Lucy Romero, Louise Mixson and JoAnn Ashley.

In His Service,
Pat Dodge
Chair of Nominations
pdodge@live.com Home # 850-857-4705



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 \$3.00 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. We look forward to hearing from you!

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



Gulfview UMW Celebrates 55th Anniversary

Gulfview United Methodist Womens celebrated Women History Month in Gulfview UMW Style. On March 14, 2011, Gulfview UMW remembered, celebrated and gave thanks to the Women who started Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) at Gulfview United Methodist Church in Laguna Beach, Fl. On February 27, 1965, a group of ladies met in the home of Mrs. E.R. Bramlett for the first time as WSCS. The district gave them a \$5.00 check to get the program started. In March, 1965, Mrs. R.L. Rogers was elected as Historian and from her we have the information. In April 1965, they had prayers for: The World Situation, General Conference, Community Problems and their own church. In the winter they sold boxes of Christmas cards to buy a coffee urn, but their most successful fund raiser was the bake sale which raised \$360.41. When it was time to pay their WSCS annual conference pledge, they did. They sent the required \$10.00. They started with 11 members, but by the end of the year they had 22 members.

The next year, the WSCS became responsible for organizing a Prayer Group, furnishing the parsonage; responsible for the church covered dish suppers and preparing the dinner for the laying of the church cornerstone.

Now 55 years later and the Gulfview United Methodist Women have come a long way and while some things have changed....most have not. I wonder if 55 years from now in 2066—will anyone remember our efforts?

The UMW officers served a delicious luncheon and invited all the women of the church to say THANK YOU to the first officers and to those 11 ladies who got the women's group started and to all the ladies that came before us.

Provided by Virginia Lindley For more information on the Gulfview WSCS contact Virginia at vlindley@bellsouth.net>



Barb's Notes

As I look forward to the upcoming School of Mission and all the great studies we will be having, I also remember what a great success and fun we had at Tapestry and the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat. This was my second time to go to Tapestry and if you missed it, you really missed a great program. The two days were filled with activities and Susan Emrich was one of the best speakers I've ever heard; but communion under the sail, with the ocean and all GOD's beauty topped everything off. Spiritual Enrichment was also my second time and once again it was an opportunity to return to Blue Lake. This was another great event to make new friends and to share the love of God within his wonderful nature. The dogwoods were in full bloom as well as the azaleas and Blue Lake could not have been more beautiful. Pictures of both events are at our AL/WF UMW web site. Check them out! Barb Henning e-mail bjhenning@embarqmail.com

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

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*Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and
 forevermore. From the rising of the sun to its setting the
 name of the Lord is to be praised." Psalms 113. 2-3*

2011 Calendar of Events



Date	Event
Jan 7-8	AL/WFL Conference Mission Team Meeting Blue Lake
Feb 25-26	Tapestry Port St. Joe FL
Mar 25-27	Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Blue Lake
July 21- 23	Cooperative School of Christian Missions Blue Lake
October 5-6	Executive Committee & Nominations Meeting Blue Lake
Oct 21	Leadership Training Event Blue Lake
Oct 22	Annual Conference Blue Lake

Alabama/West Florida United Methodist Women