

Circuit Writer



NOVEMBER 2021



JANUARY 29:

**MPCD DISTRICT
ANNUAL DAY
FUMC
DOTHAN, AL**

FEBRUARY 19:

**AWF CONFERENCE
ANNUAL DAY
FUMC
MARIANNA, FL**

MARCH 19:

**MPCD MOSS HILL
DAY APART,
VERNON, FL**

**Next Circuit Writer
Deadline:**

FEBRUARY 1, 2022
Editor: Deanie DeFelix
deanie575@gmail.com

Therefore, if any-
one is in Christ, he
is a new creation;
old things have
passed away;
behold, all things
have become new.

2 Cor. 5:17
NKJV

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear UMW Friends,

The picture below is just a taste of the glorious experience some of us enjoyed at our Alabama-West Florida Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake in October. Elizabeth Bell arose early on Saturday morning to capture this beautiful scene of the cross at sunrise before the morning devotional lakeside. God showed up and showed out, indeed!

Being able to meet in person again at Blue Lake was such a joyous occasion. I hope and pray that more of us will be able to attend the upcoming meetings we are scheduling for 2022 (see page 6 for an overview of the year).

My Christmas Prayer for you:
Hope, Joy, Peace, Trust, Power

Deanie DeFelix





From the Secretary's Pen

Janis Johnson



This is my final newsletter article for the Circuit Writer as the Marianna-Panama City United Methodist Women Secretary. During my four-year tenure, I have met and enjoyed fellowship and friendships with many outstanding women from our District and Conference. But other commitments have increased, and I am no longer able to fulfill the requirements of this position and do the other things I need to do within my local church and the Conference, so I am not accepting the nomination for Secretary for another term. My prayers are with the officers and members of our local United Methodist Women as they navigate through this time of change and reconfiguration. I am honored to have served in this position.

As unit secretaries, it is important to review the records that have accumulated through this past year or your tenure as unit secretary, including attendance, meeting agendas, minutes, correspondence, and other relevant materials to ensure they are available for future officers and meetings. End-of-year reports need to be submitted to the appropriate persons at the District and Conference levels. Any relevant items need to be submitted to the Conference Archives. This is vital during a time of change and transition in which we currently find ourselves.

Another important item to consider is communicating with the incoming secretary to help her understand the job duties of her position. The Conference Office of UMW has an abundance of information to share with those persons who are in new positions. The website is www.awfumc.org. The resources are amazing, well-organized, and easily accessible. I found this very helpful as I learned the responsibilities of my job when I first became the District Secretary and even as I continued to serve in this capacity.

I firmly believe that United Methodist Women is one of the outstanding organizations within the United Methodist Church and will continue to be involved in my local unit and district and conference events as possible and encourage other women in my local church to become affiliated and involved with the ministry of UMW. My prayer is that the amazing work that has been the signature of UMW from its beginning will continue throughout this period of transition, even growing greater as the needs and issues arise as we face an uncertain and sometimes unsettling future. Our assurance rests in an unchanging God who leads us through these times, reminding us through His word that He will never leave or forsake us.

In His love,

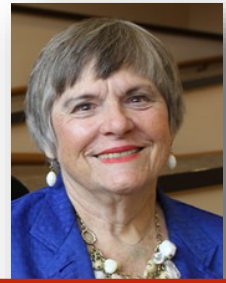
Janis



Believe, Hope, Trust

Spiritual Growth

Martha Spiva



The in-person Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake was an uplifting time for all who attended. The weather and natural beauty of our surroundings reminded us that God is LOVE and that He is always with us. Our district provided a key element of the spiritual renewal for attendees through the musical talent of Elizabeth Bell (Marianna First), who led the beautiful singing during the group sessions in the chapel. MPC District President Deanie DeFelix was privileged to lead the Friday afternoon devotional beside the lake. The breakout sessions offered a variety of ideas to help us improve and enhance our spiritual health, including meditation techniques adapted from yoga, aroma therapy, and interpretive dance. Coupled with delicious physical nourishment prepared by the Blue Lake kitchen staff, profound spiritual nourishment came from District Superintendent Jean Tippet's messages.

We are also hoping to have our Moss Hill Day Apart again on MARCH 19th of 2022 at Vernon, FL. Start praying now that our plans come to fruition; we definitely need to come together for a strong recharging and reconnecting with each other and Our Heavenly Father. Hope to see you there,

Martha

SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS:

Does your area have a center that reaches out to young girls/women who are seeking help with an unexpected pregnancy? A couple of centers are operating near several MPCD units: Pregnancy Resource Center in the Panama City area and Women's Pregnancy Center in Marianna. Both of these centers conduct fund raising dinners and other events to support their efforts to offer Christian counseling and material items needed for newborns. These agencies are making a difference in the lives of the women as well as the men who accompany the women. What better way to improve the lives of all than to help re-establish a strong emphasis on Christian family values!

Peggy Kundo suggests a contact named Joanna Lundy, and Vickie Duelz in the Marianna center is always glad to accept both monetary donations and baby items.

Maternal and Child Health

CAMPAIGN: END MATERNAL MORTALITY

Call on health care workers, lawmakers and advocates to fund maternal mortality review committees and implement recommendations in hospitals and communities.

Many women are unable to access proper health care prior to, throughout and after pregnancy.



African American women have the highest rates of maternal mortality, dying at **three to four times** the rate of white women.



TAKE ACTION:

unitedmethodistwomen.org/maternal-child-health

(excerpts from UMW Social Action Campaigns brochure)

If your unit supports other worthy local projects, please send photos and information that we can use to spotlight your "Love in Action" in future newsletters.

Merry Christmas!



Tidbits from the Treasurer

Peggy Pelt



Dear Ladies,

I understand it has been another tough year. Some units have been unable to meet or are just beginning to have meetings to try to regroup. Districts are merging to try to overcome challenges we're all facing.

Incredibly, we made our pledge last year, and we came closer than we expected this year. We are a resilient group of ladies! Let's continue our resolve to find ways to fund our United Methodist Women's Purpose in every way we can.

Peace!

Peggy Pelt

ppelt@comcast.net

The chart below offers a glimpse of the overall pledge picture for the Alabama-West Florida Conference as of December 6, 2021. Continue to pray that God will bless our giving as only He can do.

6. MISSION GIVING (PLEDGE)	Pledge	Paid	Balance	% Paid
Baypines	14,000	9,511.69	4,488.31	67.9%
Demopolis	14,000	8,609.95	5,390.05	61.5%
Dothan	12,000	9,039.47	2,960.53	75.3%
Marianna/PC	11,000	9,539.78	1,460.22	86.7%
Mobile	20,000	10,973.78	9,026.22	54.9%
Mtg/Oplk	6,750	5,170.48	1,579.52	76.6%
Mtg/Prattville	10,000	7,167.82	2,832.18	71.7%
Pensacola	20,000	16,704.83	3,295.17	83.5%
Events - Offering	2,700	879.20	1,820.80	32.6%
6. TOTAL PLEDGE TO MISSION	110,450	77,597.00	32,853.00	70.3%

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

Elizabeth Bell



*Many thanks to Elizabeth,
outgoing E & I/ PR Coordinator*

Beginning in January of 2022, Elizabeth Bell will assume the duties of MPCD District Secretary, leaving her position of Education and Interpretation / Program Resources Coordinator vacant until we can find someone to fill this vital position. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Elizabeth for her willingness to serve wherever we need her most. Her many talents are indeed wonderful assets to our group at all levels.

*Please consider serving as our new Marianna-Panama City-Dothan
E & I / Program Resources Coordinator for 2022-2023.*

This important leadership position involves the following:

- ◆ directing attention to mission projects, especially at the national and international levels;
- ◆ sharing information about resources available via online UMW websites;
- ◆ encouraging participation in the Reading Program; and
- ◆ coordinating Mission Today reports for presentation of certificates/awards at the district annual day.

Contact Deanie DeFelix, 850-209-3834, if you have questions. We pray you will realize that

**God will bless YOU in your service to Him through
United Methodist Women.**

REFLECTIONS ON SER 2021

Elizabeth Bell



Dear UMW Friends,

October 8-9, 2021, was a wonderful two-day visit to Blue Lake for Spiritual Enrichment Retreat! Geraldine (Deanie) and I rode together and had a great time reminiscing about other trips to Blue Lake. We gathered with about 40 other members of United Methodist Women from around the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

The retreat began at 5:00 P.M. with vespers at Lake Side or in the Chapel, followed by supper. At 6:15 we began our Focus Groups. I attended *Powered by Prayer* led by Rev. Sara Wrona in which she emphasized that our lives are more powerful if we center our lives with daily prayer. This was followed by our first Plenary Session which was led by our Marianna/Panama City District Superintendent, Rev Jean Tippitt, who is a down-to-earth woman and an inspirational speaker! At 8:15 we attended another Focus Group, and by 9:30 we were free to visit or head to our rooms for a night of rest.

I began Saturday by going outside at 6:30 to see the sunrise and at 7:15 went back to lakeside for morning devotional before 7:30 breakfast, which included crisp Blue Lake toast! At 9:00 we had a business session in which we elected new officers and updated the Standing Rules, which included combining Marianna/Panama City and Dothan districts into one district beginning January 1. You will be hearing more about that in the next couple of months. At 10:30 I attended a Focus Group led by Jean Tippitt on *Centering Prayer*, at 11:30 lunch, 12:30 Focus Group, and 1:30 the Closing Plenary Session led by Jean, who also served Communion. It was an inspiring return to Blue Lake!

I had the privilege of leading the singing, which consisted mostly of singing from *The Cokesbury Hymnal*. We also learned a hymn of benediction from the addition to our hymnal, *The Faith We Sing*, p. 2281. Below are the lyrics, which I hope will inspire you the same way they inspire me as I leave our worship service each Sunday morning.

May You Run and Not Be Weary

*May you run and not be weary
May your heart be filled with song
And may the love of God
Continue to give you hope
And keep you strong
And may you run and not be weary
May your life be filled with joy
And may the road you travel
Always lead you home.*

Grace and peace,
Elizabeth



**MARIANNA-PANAMA CITY DISTRICT
Welcomes the Dothan District
“A WORK IN PROGRESS”
to strengthen the
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE
2022 United Methodist Women Calendar
(All times are Central time.)**

Find forms and other resources online:

www.awf-umw.org

JANUARY 29, 2022:	ANNUAL DAY FOR MERGED MPCD DISTRICT 9 AM REGISTRATION; MEETING BEGINS AT 9:30 DOTHAN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FEBRUARY 19, 2022:	AWF CONFERENCE UMW ANNUAL DAY 9 AM REGISTRATION; MEETING BEGINS AT 9:30 MARIANNA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MARCH 19, 2022:	MOSS HILL DAY APART DISTRICT MEMORIAL / SER 9 AM REGISTRATION; MEETING BEGINS AT 9:30 MOSS HILL METHODIST CHURCH, VERNON, FL
MAY 20-22, 2022:	ASSEMBLY, ORLANDO, FL
JUNE 12-14, 2022:	AWF ANNUAL CONFERENCE, FRAZER UMC, MONTGOMERY
JULY 16, 2022:	AWF—UMW EX. TEAM, ENTERPRISE FUMC
OCTOBER 7-8, 2022:	SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RETREAT, BLUE LAKE CAMP
NOVEMBER 5, 2022:	TRAINING FOR DISTRICT OFFICERS (PRES. & TREAS.)
SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER:	UMW EMPHASIS IN LOCAL CHURCHES

NOTE: District start times may be adjusted, depending on meeting formats.

Lunch, if served, is \$7.00. (The amount is subject to change, pending
inflationary increases.) **Please call in lunch numbers the Monday
before the event unless it is a holiday; then it will be a Tuesday.**

**MARIANNA/PANAMA CITY/DOTHAN
DISTRICT OFFICERS
NOMINATED FOR 2022**

**Election and installation to be held at January 29th Annual Day,
Dothan FUMC
Please consider filling in one of the “OPEN” positions.**

PRESIDENT & COMMUNICATION

Deanie DeFelix, Graceville FUMC

VICE PRESIDENT

Verna Roberts, Bonifay FUMC

SECRETARY

Elizabeth Bell, Marianna FUMC

TREASURER

Peggy Pelt, St. Andrew UMC

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Martha Spiva, Panama City FUMC

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, OUTREACH

Kathy McQuagge, Panama City FUMC

**SOCIAL ACTION
(OPEN)**

**E & I / PROGRAM RESOURCES
(OPEN)**

**NOMINATIONS
(OPEN)**

Many thanks to those who have agreed to serve on the MPCD District Team!