



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

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2018 Conference Officers

President	Debbie Bell
Vice President	Joan Simmons
Secretary	Cathy Givan
Treasurer	Jean Creswell
Communications Coordinator.	Debbie Bush
Program Resources	Sally Ozan
Nominations Chair	Zan Jones
Spiritual Growth	Tutti Johnson
Social Action	Laurel Akin
M.N. & O	Carolyn Coker
Ed. & Interp	Shirley Hodges

2018 Committee on Nominations

Reda Brooks	Zan Jones	Cheryl Mothershed
	Nettie Lang	

President SEJ UMW	Betty Helms
UMW National Vice President	Clara Ester
Web Manager	Vera Moore

ALERT

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RETREAT

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19th - SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 21st @ BLUE LAKE**

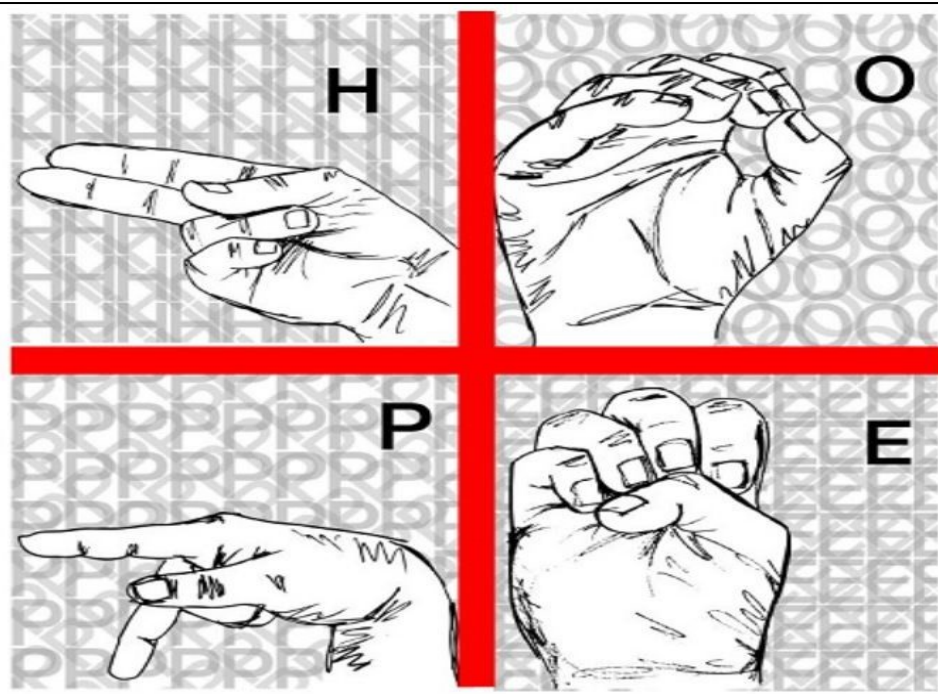
THEME: HOPE

GUEST SPEAKER:

REV. DR. CONNIE SHELTON

HEBREWS 6:19-20

*"This HOPE we have as an anchor of the soul,
a HOPE both sure and steadfast and one
which enters within the veil, where Jesus has
entered as a forerunner for us, having
become a high priest forever."*



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Reflections and Thankfulness

I recently experienced a season of God's plan for my personal spiritual growth and I probably saw it coming but just like always, wasn't ready for what was about to happen and just flat-out missed the sign. I became a care-giver for my Mother during her longtime heart illness that eventually (and recently) took her to her heavenly home; sharing those daily and nightly duties with my sisters and brothers (yes, my two brothers did some daytime sitting with Mother.) I'm going to be honest here, not one United Methodist Women response magazine, prayer calendar or reading program book or article prepared me for what transformation happened in a "blink of an eye" in our family.

Our National United Methodist Women Handbook doesn't have a section for equipping a person for care-giving of our parent. The medical professionals try to give subtle changes that we should look for. Most times we don't even talk about "care-giving" and politicians certainly don't address why medical care, costs and "gaps" exist for the elderly in our nation. That's what you think about while waiting for the Rx at the drug store or wrapping the sore on the leg before it gets infected...the list is endless.

Let me tell you what God did? He surrounded me with a prayerful, grace-filled and compassionate gathering of friends that lifted me in prayer throughout the first overnight back at home with Mother to the last breath she took as she left this earth. Those friends are United Methodist Women I've come to know and appreciate as - friends and prayer warriors, not just the women who come to the same UMW meeting I attend.

So, why should you plan to attend Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake in October? What's in it for you? Not because of my story in this article. Not even because of more tragic stories you've heard or even experienced yourself with care-giving.

A great gathering of some mission-minded friends is happening and you may not want to miss it. God is transforming the World as we meet, one person at a time. And He's planning a spiritual growth session just for you!

Join in the "creative, supportive Fellowship" October 19-21, 2018 at Blue Lake for our annual Spiritual Enrichment Retreat.



Debbie Bell
Conference President

HOPE

President (2017-2018)
Alabama/West Florida-United
Methodist Women (AWF-UMW)
9640 Sky Vista Dr. Semmes, AL. 36575
mawbel36575@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

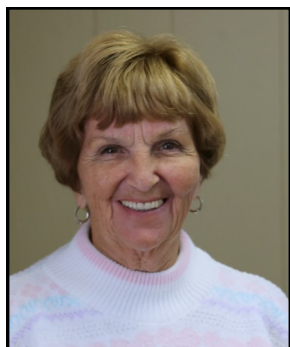
Your Conference Executive Committee met in July in Dothan, AL. The Committee on Program met to share information and your comments on the Annual Day evaluations. We take your suggestions seriously and worked to address each and come up with solutions to ensure we move in the right direction in 2019. Our recommendations were presented to the whole team for approval.

We then turned the meeting over to Tutti Johnson, Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator who is well into plans for our Spiritual Enrichment Retreat October 19-21, 2018. Different duties were assigned to individuals on the Program Committee but rest assured Tutti has the program well under control. You will hear more from her in this issue of Alert.

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed Mission u not only for the studies presented but for being with friends from all over the conference. What a blessing to be part of United Methodist Women and the Purpose we support. See you at Blue Lake in October.

All District and Local Unit Vice Presidents, please contact me with any questions about your "Vice-President" Leadership role. The District Officer Training sessions are where you can learn about planning programs for Annual Day or Spiritual Enrichment; you may even be asked to organize a mission study or a workshop.

Psalms 33:1 How very good and pleasant it is when "sisters" live together in unity.



Joan Simmons
Conference Vice President



TREASURER'S REPORT

**Give Thanks.
Give Now.**



We are a little more than half-way through our year, but our conference Pledge to Mission is only at 42% paid as of July 15th. Let me urge each local unit to not wait until the end of the year to send in at least half of the pledge you made to your district. There are several reasons why you shouldn't wait: 1) The need from the mission agencies and advances that United Methodist Women support doesn't all happen at the end of a calendar year, 2) It creates more work for your district and conference treasurer to have a mass influx of reports and money all come in mid-November as they too have deadlines, holidays and family gatherings, and 3) your belief in United Methodist Women and its mission is year-round, not just once a year. Our Conference Pledge is \$121,450, but we have only received \$50,607 to date.

Each district and the conference has received their 2017 audits back and each has passed. All your district treasurers have been good stewards of the funds that you have sent up the chain. The only notable recommendation was that many of our districts are giving their offerings at the district events to other agencies outside the United Methodist Women. It is okay for an individual and a local unit to donate funds to other agencies, but just like Red Cross wouldn't make a donation to UMW; we shouldn't be donating to other agencies at the district and conference level. All funds should go to your Pledge for Missions supporting only United Methodist Women. If you have a guest speaker, your standing rules require you to pay a set amount to that speaker, but not to the organization they represent. Your local unit can take that information from the speaker and send a check from the local unit or individual to that agency. However, local units should remember that the primary mission of our organization is support of United Methodist Women and its agencies, scholarships, and initiatives. If you'd like to know more where the money is actually spent, please go to our national website: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finance>.

I will be working in the next few months to try to figure out ways that we can donate on-line to our conference so that those that don't want to "write" an old fashion check can make their pledge. We are also looking at other alternatives to better meet the needs of our younger members. If anyone has ideas on how to serve you better in the way we collect mission dollars, please don't hesitate to let me or your district treasurer know.

We are also trying to be more transparent in our finances, so we voted at our July meeting to keep an updated chart of giving by districts on our Alabama West Florida Conference website: <http://www.awf-umw.org/>. It will be updated at least quarterly, and I will try to get it out there monthly. Thank your district treasurers the next time you see them for doing a hard job and doing it well. All of our district treasurers are super and I appreciate them and their hard work very much.

On the Local Unit Remit Form that the local treasurer sends to the district treasurer, you will notice that there are two places to put Pledge money. One is the regular pledge each member has made and the other is for our Special Project "Change a Life". This could be from a jar passed around at your regular meetings where members dump all their coins (and bills too) in. The money, although goes to your pledge, is to be reported separately and at our Annual Day in February 2019 (in Demopolis), we will light one candle for the number of minutes that money has raised to support the cost of missions for one minute. Since we are in this together and not one district competing against another, we will light just the one candle. Based on the latest audited and reported figures by National (2016) it costs \$23.02 per minute to fund all of our missions across the world. How much can you and your unit give – five minutes (\$115.10), ten minutes (\$230.20), more? There will be a certificate of participation for each district that participates.



TREASURER'S REPORT CONT'D

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN				
THE REMITTANCE FORM				
FOR ALL LOCAL TREASURERS				
Local Unit:		District		
Conference	AL-West FL	DATE		
I	UNDESIGNATED GIFTS	Your change can change a life		Total
1. Pledge to Mission		Regular Pledge		\$ -

For the Year 2018 – Alabama West Florida Conference as of 7/15/18

MISSION GIVING (PLEDGE)	Pledge	Paid by Districts	Balance	% Paid
Bay Pines	12,200.00	8,181.08	4,018.92	67.1%
Demopolis	12,000.00	2,686.31	9,313.69	22.4%
Dothan	14,750.00	6,691.25	8,058.75	45.4%
Marianna / Panama City	12,800.00	3,371.16	9,428.84	26.3%
Mobile	20,000.00	14,367.64	5,632.36	71.8%
Montgomery / Opelika	12,500.00	1,984.59	10,515.41	15.9%
Montgomery / Prattville	12,200.00	4,014.00	8,186.00	32.9%
Pensacola	25,000.00	7,697.80	17,302.20	30.8%
Events - Offering		1,614.03	-1,614.03	
TOTALS FROM DISTRICTS	121,450.00	50,607.86	70,842.14	41.7%



Jean Creswell
Conference Treasurer

STANDING RULES

Upon review of the Alabama West Florida Conference of United Methodist Women Standing Rules, the committee determined that clarification was needed for the term of this position. Please note the recommended addition is printed in red.

The Committee on Standing Rules is recommending the following change:

III. COMMITTEES

2. There shall be a committee of district presidents.

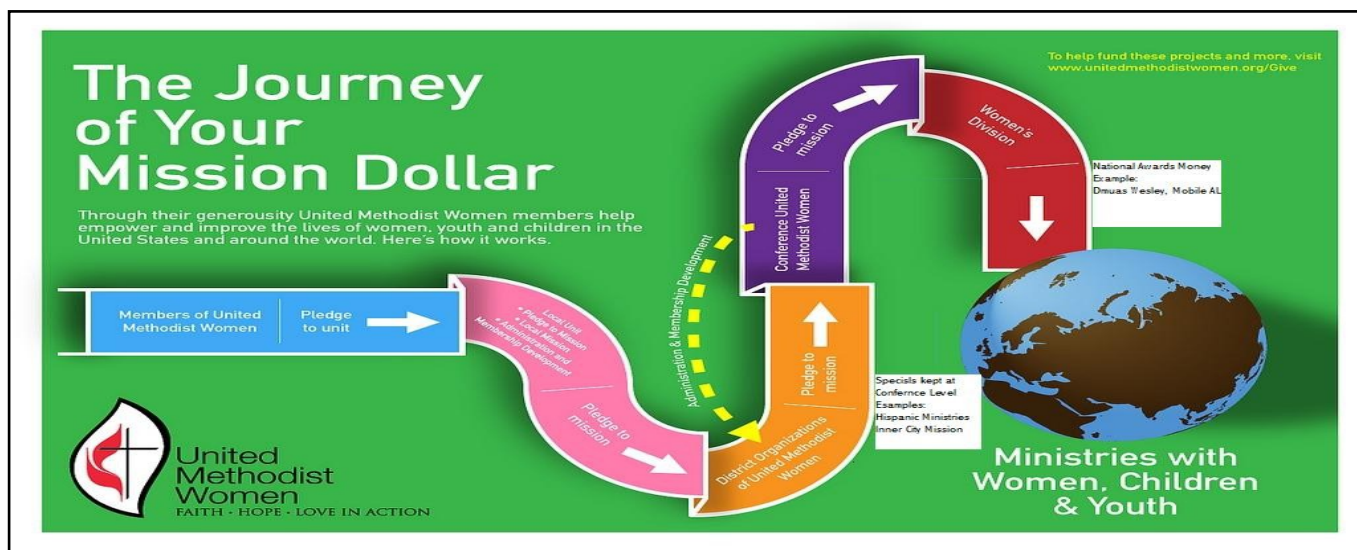
b. The committee shall elect it's chair. **Her tenure shall be for one year only.**

Betty Helms, Chair

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION REPORT

I would like to remind you of three things:

1. **Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake is October 19-21.** You will not want to miss the Reverend Dr. Connie Shelton. See the registration form in this ALERT issue or on the conference website.
2. Please be working on your Mission Today forms so we can get a count of Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Also, Mission Study attendance needs to be reported for Local, District and Mission u Studies. District E and I Coordinators should make sure District Presidents have this information to complete their Consolidated Presidents' forms to send to our Conference President, Debbie Bell. I need this same information, so please send it to me, as well. Thank you, in advance.
3. Please take a moment to check our Conference Website to see the statement regarding Mission Giving which contributes to Local Mission, Spiritual Formation, Programs for Membership Development and Outreach. Pledges are designated for Ministries with Women, Children and Youth and are prioritized by our national body. Our Handbook 2017-2020 has a section on Funding the Mission. The UMC Book of Discipline, 2016, also addresses this topic. Remember, District E and I Coordinators, this interpretation of where the money goes is part of your job description.



Thank you for all you do in the name of women, children and youth! Hope to see you at Blue Lake in October. Blessings,



Shirley Hodges
Education & Interpretation Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE & OUTREACH REPORT

Here are the results of the Census Report for 2017:

The local unit leaders were asked more in-depth questions during the census geared to solicit responses that would inform the national office, conference and district leaders of the assets and needs of the local units.

Some summary info included: English was captured as our major language; Facebook was used 88.89% of reporting local units; the main form of communication for the local units reporting - email and "no" meeting tools available like go-to-meeting/free conference call/social media were in use. Some strategies reported being used to increase membership in the local unit included equally community relationship, creating a social media page and virtual units/circles. Of our 2017-2020 four social justice priorities maternal and child health stood out as a conference-wide priority.

The tools presented during the census captured that local units needed "connect to other units to share ideas and Fellowship" to further the work of United Methodist Women. The most used local unit activity to increase visibility in the church - the church bulletin-that frequency, only every month or 3 to 4 times a year! How the local unit was visible within the community-fundraisers and partnering with local government for advocacy.

Again, this is a snapshot of the results of strategy many of the local leaders notated. The tools for membership are available on the national website www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/member-resources

Please take time to check out the website for ideas to share within your local unit.

In 1941, the AWF-UMW membership total was 8,948; in 1967 we had 12,268 members. According to the annual district president report, the 2017 membership total is 3,612. To end, what are the strategy and priorities for membership going forward for our conference?



Gifts to the Legacy Fund can be made in several ways:

- Online at unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund
- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 am-6pm EST, M-F)
- Text Legacy150 to 41444
- By check: note "*Legacy Fund*" in memo and mail to: United Methodist Women: Treasurer's Office 15th Floor 475 Riverside Drive New York, NY 10115.

What's happening with "A Way Forward Conversation"

Commission on a Way Forward offers more video resources for 2019 General Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In its continued efforts to inform The United Methodist Church on its processes and work, the Commission on a Way Forward is releasing four more videos this week that document the experiences, hopes, dreams, concerns, approach, and learnings of the 32-member Commission.

The videos released today are:

Commission on A Way Forward Moderators Overview: Bishops Sandra Steiner Ball, David Yemba and Ken Carter share an overview of their role as moderators for the Commission and how service was one of their primary focus. (Length 5:35).

You Tube: <https://youtu.be/5tOGnPrLqKg>Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/umcforward/videos/2114673678815014/>

Jasmine Smothers, Julie Hager Love and Tom Berlin are all Commission members who are also clergy serving in the SEJ. In this interview they reflect on their experience and their hopes for the future of the United Methodist Church. (Length 5:46).

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/85KP5qxfCpA>Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/umcforward/videos/2114649482150767/>

Dave Nuckols (laity, Minnesota) and Helen Cunanan (clergy, Philippines) - have a conversation about the Commission on A Way Forward sharing their experiences from very different places in the world. (Length 7:50).

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/pJCPnFqQgUU>Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/umcforward/videos/2114658032149912/>

Bishops Gregory Palmer and Robert Schnase, who are members of the Commission, talk about how the work of the Commission points to the larger mission of The United Methodist Church. (Length 5:35).

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/52EVb7wuva8>Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/umcforward/videos/2114658685483180/>

A WAY FORWARD

Our 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.

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES REPORT

Hope everyone has had a great summer and that you are enjoying some good Reading Program books. If you attending the recent Mission U, you know that there was an abundance of 2019 Reading Program Books, as well as some from 2018. You can always order them online and/or add to your Kindle. One of the 2019 Books under the Spiritual Growth Section is *"The Soulmaking Room"* by Dee Dee Risher. Ms. Risher is a freelance writer and editor. A cofounder of Philadelphia's Alternative Seminary, she serves on the board of the Karitas Foundation, which supports several community-based initiatives in Mexico. Shane Claiborne, who wrote the foreword for the book says, in part: "Her faith is not just about comforting the victims of injustice but also about driving a spike into the wheels of the machine that keeps running over people. While most Christians stay in the shallow end of the faith pool, Dee Dee invites you to wade in the water and get into the deep end where things are not as safe, not as crystal clear, and not as predictable." The book revolves around the story of the Shunammite woman who builds a holy room for God's prophet and then the author uses her own true story to tell of how today's world contains bigotry, loss, mistakes and reshaping. You will find lots to think about and reflect on and possibly change some of your thinking about what is going on in our world today and what you can do to change it.

Enjoy!



Sally Ozan
Secretary of Program Resources



PROGRAM RESOURCES ALERT!

We have been advised by the head of Program Resources from National United Methodist Women in New York that a new procedure modeled after Scholastic Book sales is being put in place to be used in Resource Rooms at upcoming *conference* events. The consignment process we currently use is considered complex, time consuming and expensive. We will no longer have copies of Reading Program Books on hand, but you will be able to order whatever you would like. Order forms will be available at Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER). The completed forms will then be submitted to the processing center in Atlanta. They will ship your order directly to you and bill you for your items. This way you will not have to bring additional cash and checks with you to our conference events. This new procedure will specifically affect directly purchasing Reading Program books. We WILL have a few new Prayer Calendars and Program Books for purchase, but these, also, can be ordered the new way. The other thing to consider is that if you do not want to order your books this way, you can always order through Amazon or local booksellers. We will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about this new process. The National Staff are hoping that, in the long run, this will be more cost efficient for everyone. As we all know, sometimes change can be difficult, so we ask for your patience and understanding while we all get used to the new system.




response:
the magazine of women in mission!




SOCIAL ACTION REPORT

At Spiritual Enrichment Retreat in October we will elect some of the leaders for our Conference United Methodist Women. On November 6, we will vote for candidates in local, state, and federal elections. For this issue of the ALERT, I would like to share with you some highlights from the Action Alert issued on July 13, "Electing Candidates Committed to Transforming the Lives of Women, Girls and Families." Please note that this is not an endorsement of any particular political party or candidate. Instead, it is designed to help us think through the issues and evaluate the candidates.

First there is  ["2018 Candidate Checklist: A Questionnaire for Candidates Seeking Election"](#) for you to use while following this year's election. Use these sample questions or ask others unique to your community and personal concerns.

The  [United Methodist Women Voter Guide](#) explains why the mid-term elections are so important!

Take Action: The  [Election Checklist](#) can be used for taking suggested actions: (Please keep in mind that all candidates should be asked to explain his/her support or opposition to an issue.)

 [Download the 2018 Voters Rights Toolkit](#)

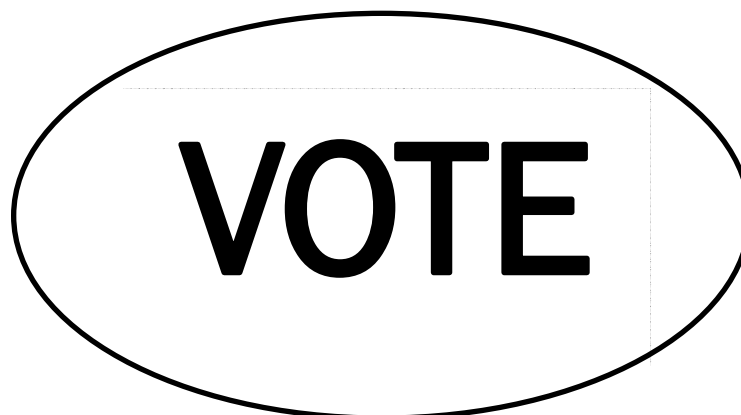
All of these tools and more can be found at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/election2018>

"My vote is my voice ... and the voice of all who have struggled, so that I may have my voice."

Please don't waste your vote!



Laurel Akin, Deaconess
Social Action Coordinator



CARES AND CONCERNS

Winn Marsh is appointed Personal Concerns Coordinator for Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women. You may contact her at winnmarsh@aol.com or **850-624-9709** to request prayer for your personal concerns. Winn will share the information according to your wishes.

ELECTING UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OFFICERS TO LEAD IN OUR MISSION

Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women Standing Rules. IV. Elections and Meetings.

The voting Body of the Annual Meeting of the conference organization shall be composed of the following:

One representative from each Local Unit

Conference Executive Committee / Bishop

District Executive Committees / District Superintendents

Directors of UMW residing within the conference /Officers of the Jurisdiction residing
within the conference

Journal entry, retreat day....

In my many years of being a member in United Methodist Women I never really paid attention to the Standing Rules much. But when electing leaders to the offices for our mission for women, children and youth, I really should be more attentive. My participation in nominating and voting for a leadership team member requires some careful consideration. My Local Unit has only "ONE" vote and we must be attentive as the Local Unit, the District and the Conference team has some very specific duties and must work together for the mission. Each year as the election has been completed, the installation begins and near the end each officer "commits to the duties required in that officer role." But then there comes my part in the installation service. A statement and a question is placed before the membership body that's present, "Women gathered here, You who elected these women are called to be involved in the work of United Methodist Women, to support your leaders and work with them in our Purpose for God's mission - If you will accept *your* responsibilities as members of this unit, this district or this conference respond by saying " I will, with God's help. "

I just committed to support and work with these officers. I may have agreed in haste and wanting to get this part of the meeting over with! But, how else will I become involved in missions? This volunteer team of leaders (I just agreed to help) will guide and direct the massive work of the United Methodist Women. We can't do it alone, we *will* need God's help.

In the coming months, many United Methodist Women members interested in Leadership roles in their Local Units, District and Conference Teams will be nominated, elected and installed as a United Methodist Women officer. They will need your help to organize this meaningful group for the Purpose of mission for women, children and youth.

Particularly, please be attentive to the Saturday morning Business Session during Spiritual Enrichment Retreat, October 19-21, 2018 at Blue Lake Assembly Grounds. This is when we will receive the Committee on Nominations report of Slate of Conference Officers for the next term; we'll begin the election and end with the installation. As President, I will read and conduct the election process (much of what's captured in the journal entry above) to the membership present. I will explain how the voting will happen (either of these: acclamation, standing, raising hand, paper ballots) and I will explain the nominations from the floor process and all it includes. Please determine your Local Unit delegate who will vote before you arrive for the event/meeting. Only those attending mentioned in our Standing Rules, will vote. There are no absentee votes.

[See the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Registration form for a delegate checkbox]

Your participation is very important and we'll need your attention to the election process, from delegate seating to the voting acclamation determined.

Debbie Bell, President

Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

Things are moving right along on preparations for the SER in October. Our speaker, Rev. Connie Shelton is familiar, having been with us for the Pensacola Tapestry as well as the Demopolis Tapestry. We've got three breakout sessions scheduled for Saturday afternoon:

1. Jean Creswell will be teaching a **Course on Computers** and those who are interested in her class need to send her questions about things they want to learn - this is NOT just "another" computer class, but Jean does need to know specific things we are interested in so that she can be prepared. Also those participating will need to bring their laptops.
2. Joyce Genz and Jay Locker will be teaching a class on **Crocheting Plastic Grocery Bags into Mats** that are useful to the homeless and provide a means to dispose of refuse we don't need to just bury. Homeless women use these to avoid sleeping on the ground or directly on concrete and not only do they serve that purpose, they can also be washed out and kept clean to make life easier for these women and girls. Participants in this class will need to save their plastic bags to bring along with crochet needles size F – J.
3. The final breakout is an opportunity to get outside for a **Biblically-based Scavenger Hunt** around the grounds at Blue Lake. Those who choose this class will be given instructions to help them along their way, and there will be some surprises to be found. We have listened to your complaints about sessions being too short to complete anything so we're trying this format. Those who don't choose to participate can take a nap, read, or just enjoy the peace we find at Blue Lake.

Another change is in our music. I'm bringing all new songs! (Just kidding!). We will get our music from the United Methodist Hymnals in the Chapel. Think of this as "an old-fashioned singing." Pat Dodge will be leading our music.

Attached you will find the 2018 Spiritual Enrichment Retreat registration form and instructions. The event takes place at Blue Lake on October 19-21. Please note the last day (Oct. 10th) to send in your registration and money without incurring a late fee. Blue Lake requires (by our contract) that we send in the names, room assignments and meals two weeks prior to the event.

The cost of the event depends on whether you come in Friday or Saturday and which meals you will be partaking. The most common registration is rooming with someone in Linwood, coming in on Friday afternoon and leaving on Sunday. That cost would be \$124.50 for lodging, meals and registration fee. The Center Section is less expensive but has common bathrooms for all that wing. If you wish a roommate and don't have one listed, we will match you up with someone. However, if you are extremely cold or hot natured, please write a note on the form so we won't match you with someone of opposite tastes. The Linwood section also fills up faster, so the first to register will receive those as they come in.

If you have any questions about the form, the costs or the classes, please just email Jean Creswell. I hope that everyone will forward to others in their local unit and district so they might be included. The form is also on our website:


<http://www.awf-umw.org/>

Tutti Johnson,
Spiritual Enrichment Coordinator




INSTRUCTIONS FOR Spiritual Enrichment Retreat REGISTRATION FORM - OCT. 19 - 21, 2018**HOPE — "... We have this HOPE. . . "**

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever — Hebrews 6:19-20 NM

SECTION	HEALTH FORM - if you've already sent one for Annual Day - don't send another one unless something medical has changed. This form allows us to help you in an emergency situation while at the event.	
A		
B	NAME - ADDRESS: please print as neatly as possible especially email addresses in case the Registrar needs to ask you a question. FIRST TIME: if 1st time at one of the AWF SER events, please check so we can recognize you.	
C	DISTRICT / CONFERENCE OFFICERS ONLY section. Only fill out if you currently hold a position. Please make sure you state the position & district.	
D	LODGING: Please note the number of nights you plan on spending in the 1st column of the Lodging section The cost listed for the night is per night, so if you are staying 2 nights, multiple to cost by 2. For instance, if rooming with someone for 2 nights in Linwood, the total cost for that line is \$62. We will make every effort we can to grant your request for a specific type of room, but they are limited and it is on a first come first serve basis. If you select a double room without listing a roommate, one will be assigned to you. If you are commuting - please indicate on the Commuter line.	
E	MEALS: Because we have to let the Blue Lake staff know how many meals to prepare, we need you to enter the number of meals you are eating. There are 6 total meals, starting with Friday supper and ending with Sunday lunch. Please indicate exactly which meals you are eating and carry over the total for that meal to the cost column.	
1-6		
F-1	Subtotal: add together E 1 through E 6 - all meal Plus Lodging Section D	
F-2	DISTRICT & CONFERENCE OFFICERS: You are allowed \$55 for 1 24-hour period that covers lodging & meals. Please enter a negative amount on this line of no more than \$110.	
F-3	Subtotal: add together Line F-1 plus F-2	
F-4	If your registration form is postmarked after Oct. 10th, a \$10 late fee must be paid.	
F-5	Everyone, whether a commuter, staying one day or all days, has to pay the \$15 registration fee .	
F-6	If your payment isn't the correct amount, the registrar will try to email the problem, but it is helpful if you try to fill out the form correctly. All unpaid amounts will be expected to be paid either prior to the event or at registration when you arrive.	
G	FOCUS GROUPS: Friday night is for everyone. Saturday you can choose 1 or 2 of the 3 offered. Class size is limited, so the first ones to register get first priority.	
H	VOTING DELIGATES: Each Local Unit has ONE (1) vote, Delegate designated, each District officer 1-vote, / Conference officer 1-vote / SEJ and or National officer 1-vote / resident Bishop 1-vote. ONLY delegates in attendance will Vote and will be designated by a colored ribbon which they will pick up at registration. We may designate seating for voting delegates during the election session AND each delegate must signify their vote by designated "ballot" (raising hand or standing or whatever is determined) If a Local Unit is only represented by a district officer that is ONLY one vote as a district officer. If a Local Unit is only represented by a conference officer that is ONLY one vote as a conference officer. If a Local Unit is only represented by a National officer/representative that is ONLY one vote as a National officer/representative. If a Local Unit is only represented by a SEJ officer/representative that is ONLY one vote as a SEJ officer/representative.	
SPEAKER	Rev. Dr. Connie Mitchell Shelton serves as Superintendent, East Jackson District, Mississippi Annual Conference. She previously served as Director of Connectional Ministries for the MS Annual Conference; Joint Senior Pastor of Galloway UMC, Jackson, MS; Co-Director of Field Education, Duke Divinity School; Executive Director of The United Methodist Hour; Co-pastor of Court Street UMC, Batson UMC, and Crossroads UMC. Beyond Connie's gifts in the pulpit, she enjoys singing and hosting. Among those she has mentored, she is known for her powerful gift of insight.	
		
SAT. FOCUS GROUPS	1. Computer Tips - Excel, Word, E-mail, Internet, filing and finding - you may bring your laptop - Jean Creswell 2. Prayer Walk with Scripture Scavenger Hunt - around campus, weather permitting - Tutti Johnson 3. Craft - making mats for homeless - crocheting - TBA - bring your empty plastic bags & crochet needle	
DATE	SCHEDULE - Breaks will be called but not listed	LOCATION
Fri 10/19	3:00 P.M. CHECK-IN - Solarium	Oakwood Solarium
Fri & Sat	5:15 P.M. DEVOTIONAL TIME	Lakeside or Chapel
Fri & Sat	5:30 P.M. DINNER	Dining Hall
Friday	7:00 P.M. PROGRAM - Speaker Rev. Dr. Connie Shelton	Chapel
Friday	8:30 P.M. FOCUS GROUP - A Way Forward - everyone	Chapel
Sat & Sun	7:00 A.M. DEVOTIONAL TIME	Lakeside or Chapel
Sat & Sun	7:30 A.M. BREAKFAST	Dining Hall
Saturday	9:00 A.M. PROGRAM - Business Session, Election of Conference Officers/Installation	Chapel
Saturday	10:30 A.M. PROGRAM - Speaker Rev. Dr. Connie Shelton	Chapel
Saturday	7:00 P.M. PROGRAM - Speaker Rev. Dr. Connie Shelton	Chapel
Sat & Sun	12 Noon LUNCH	Dining Hall
Saturday	1:00-5:00 P.M. FOCUS GROUPS - sign up @ Registration - limited space in each	TBA
Sunday	8:30 A.M. PROGRAM with Communion, Speaker Rev. Dr. Connie Shelton, and Offering to Pledge to Missions	Chapel

Section A HEALTH FORM <i>All Participants MUST Register, even for 1 day. One Health Form must be submitted per calendar year. If you have sent one in, please check the box to the right.</i>						ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN REGISTRATION FORM 2018 SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RETREAT OCTOBER 19 - 21, 2018 BLUE LAKE UNITED METHODIST ASSEMBLY GROUNDS
Section B NAME - ADDRESS INFO						
Name as to appear on Name Tag		Email (Please PRINT)				
Address		City	State	Zip		
Phone		District		Local Unit/Church		
Section C DISTRICT & CONFERENCE OFFICERS - ONLY All District and Conference Officers only pay Registration Fee, but please indicate if you are eating the meals on Friday and Saturday in Section E below.						
District Office		DISTRICT				
Conference Office						
Section D LODGING <i>If you don't list a roommate and you wish a Double Room, a roommate will be assigned to you.</i>						
# NIGHTS	Occupancy	Per Person PER Night	Single rooms are limited; therefore all request may not be honored. First come - First served. Under Nights, please list Fri and/or Sat			
LINWOOD						
	Double	\$ 31.00			\$ -	
	Single *	\$ 53.50	No roommate		\$ -	
CENTER SECTION						
	Triple	\$ 21.00			\$ -	
	Double	\$ 28.00			\$ -	
	Single *	\$ 48.50	No roommate		\$ -	
RV Park						
	Hookup	\$ 14.00	per night		\$ -	
COMMUTER - NO LODGING <i>Check Here</i>						
Section E MEALS To get accurate Meal count, please indicate by putting 1 or 0 in the # Column Below						
			#	COST	Enclosed Total	
1	Friday Dinner			\$ 8.75	\$ -	
2	Saturday Breakfast			\$ 6.75	\$ -	
3	Saturday Lunch			\$ 8.25	\$ -	
4	Saturday Dinner			\$ 8.75	\$ -	
5	Sunday Breakfast			\$ 6.75	\$ -	
6	Sunday Lunch			\$ 8.25	\$ -	
Section F REGISTRATION, LATE FEES & TOTALS						
1	SUBTOTAL Section D and E				\$ -	
2	District & Conference Officers can deduct \$55 per 24-hr period from the Total Due. Put in as a Negative #, no more than \$110					
3	SUBTOTAL Line F1 and F2 (can't be a negative number, enter zero instead)				\$ -	
4	Late Fee if postmarked after Due Date \$10.00					
5	Registration Fee - All must pay this				\$ 15.00	
6	TOTAL OWED & ENCLOSED Please add all Lodging + Meals + Registration+ Late Fee				\$ -	
Section G FOCUS GROUPS <i>Limited Space, Secured by order of registration received. Put in 1 to 3 order of Preference</i>						
Class	Time I/O	Register	Time I/O	Register	Class Size	
Computer Tips (bring your laptop)	1-2:45 PM		3-4:30 PM		25	
Prayer/Bible Scavenger Walk	1-2:45 PM		3-4:30 PM		Outside	
Craft: Crocheting Homeless Mats (bring plastic bags & crochet needles)	1-2:45 PM		3-4:30 PM		20	
Make all checks payable to AWF-UMW Mail to: Jean Creswell, Conference Treasurer PO Box 250 Arlington, AL 36722 jean@pinebelt.net 334-385-2521 (after 5:00 p.m./weekends) 334-385-5015 (work day)						
Special Needs (dietary or physical):						



United Methodist Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

H. VOTING DELEGATES only:

_____ Local Unit name

_____ District Officer

_____ Conference Officer

_____ SEJ Officer

_____ National Officer

See instructions on back page.

ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN HEALTH FORM

For the Calendar Year **2018**

Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment Form

Name		DOB	
Home Phone	Work #	Cell #	
Physician's Name		Phone #	
Health Insurance Company		Policy #	Group #
Allergies to medications:			
Other Allergies (food, animals)			
Conditions that treating personnel might need to be aware of.			

In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during my stay at a UMW event, I authorize ALWF UMW to contact:

Name	Relation	Phone #	Alt. Phone #
Name	Relation	Phone #	Alt. Phone #

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE BELOW PLANS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Plan
	In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during my stay at a UMW event, I authorize ALWF UMW to:
	1. Secure and retain medical treatment and transportation if needed.
	2. Release my health information to the authorized individual or agency involved in the medical emergency treatment.
	3. I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the ALWF Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Consent Plan
	I DO NOT give my consent for emergency medical treatment/aid in the cases of illness or injury. In the event emergency treatment/aid is required, I wish the following procedures to take place:
	I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the ALWF Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.
Your Consent Signature	
Date	
Witness Signature	
Date	

CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS REPORT

We are pleased to announce the following Nominees during the Business session at the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat:

Debbie Bell

President: 2 Year Term (Mobile District)

Cathy Givan

Secretary: 2 Year Term (Montgomery/Prattville District)

Joyce Genz

Education & Interpretation Coordinator: 2 Year Term (Mobile District)

Kristine Jones

Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator: 2 Year Term (Montgomery/Prattville)

Ora Gillespie

Social Action Coordinator: 2 Year Term (Montgomery/Prattville District)

Michele Smith

Communications Coordinator: 2 Year Term (Mobile District)

Zan Jones

Committee on Nominations Chair 2019 (Mobile District)

Peggy Cunningham

Committee on Nominations Member 2019 (Baypines District)

Cheryl Mothershed

Committee on Nominations Member 2019 (Baypines District)

Shirley Hodges

Committee on Nominations Member 2019 (Demopolis District)

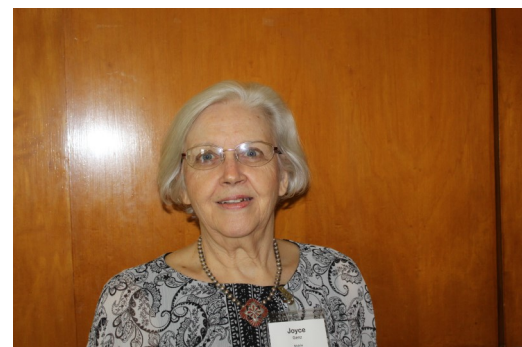
Zan M. Jones,

Chairman Committee on Nominations



Joyce Genz Bio

Joyce Genz is an active United Methodist Women member at Christ United Methodist Church in Mobile, Alabama. Joyce has served as the unit president for the past 6 years. She lived and taught on the Navajo reservation for 19 years before moving to Mobile where she had a 25-year career at Spring Hill College. Joyce taught in the Intensive English Language Institute and later retired as dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies. In retirement, Joyce and her husband Bill continue to teach English as a Second Language to students from all over the world at Christ United Methodist Church in Mobile. Joyce has led a number of mission studies at the unit and district-level and led Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States in the 2017 and 2018 AWFL Mission u. Joyce holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Evangel University in Springfield Missouri and a Master of Science in Instructional Design from the University of South Alabama. She loves teaching, reading and gardening. Joyce has two children Daniel (deceased) and Geri.



Ora Andrews Gillespie Bio

Ora Andrews Gillespie was born in Burnt Corn, Alabama and moved to Montgomery at 8 years old. She joined Metropolitan UMC at 12 years old after hearing a sermon preached by the Rev. Joseph Lowery. Ora has been a member for more than 40 years and has served as unit president for Metropolitan for several years, and serve as the Social Action Coordinator for the Montgomery-Prattville District for three years. A quote from, Ora "I have embraced this community of women and am excited to be a part of the legacy". Ora grew up in the United Methodist Youth Fellowship until graduating from high school. She received her



Bachelor of Science in Elementary education from Alabama State University; Masters of Education, Fayetteville State University; University of North Carolina, Pepperdine University, Los Angeles, California. Career Highlights: Taught in Florida three years, North Carolina seven years, and California twenty-five years, grades K – Adult Education, mentor and demonstration teacher for thirty-seven years; retired teacher, California 2004. Ora is a proud mother of two adult sons, Dekovan and Damian, three (3) grands and three (3) great-grands. She says that life is great and full of love and joy!

Michele Smith Bio

I am a registered nurse since 1988. Divorced. Member of South Brookley UMC since 1991. Active in local UMW since 1992. Have been social action, education and interpretation, and President. I sing in the church choir, help with VBS and other local church outreach programs. I have two children: Morgan Heath 28 years old. He lives in Ozark Alabama, he is single and works for Ozark Board of Utilities. Sarah Fell 25 years old. She lives in Prattville Alabama, she is single and she teaches Elementary Music. I hope to help better the lives of local women and children as well as reaching out with UMW mission work.

**No Picture
Available at Time
of Publication**

Debbie Bell Bio

Skills within United Methodist Women Leadership: Local Unit President - 2 years / District President - 4 years / Conference President - current. My skills for this Leadership role will continue to support our conference membership to the National organization legacy endeavor in mission. In the past six (6) years as conference/district president I have been setting annual goals for the Leadership Team members and myself. I have a strong, decisive skill when determining our annual actions for women, children and youth. I study and review our Standing Rules and Policies and the national Handbook for clarity and direction. As required in this presiding role, I initiate and delegate the duties and actions of the Leadership Team members. **Professional Background:** I am and have been retired from the "world" workforce since 2003. As I worked in the papermaking industry for 26 years, my most impressive position I held was when I took opportunity to be involved in the safety program as a coordinator for the safety of our workforce and workplace. I organized and conducted safety meetings, investigated injuries and conducted safety inspections to name a few duties. **Family:** My husband, Richard (or Ricky as all others call him) and I have been married for 28 years; our dog Thor lets us live with him. We are both very involved with Christ United Methodist Church in Mobile, AL. and respond to volunteer opportunities to grow our attention to God's will and direction. **Contributions? Or, Why re-elect Debbie as president again?** If I am given opportunity to continue this role as the conference president, I will continue to take on the tasks for our mission and provide direction to the conference officers, the District and Local Unit Leadership. Their tasks require attention to lead, gather members, organize, plan, serve, prepare and complete programs for mission - I will continue to provide advice and training ideas for that massive work. I'll help recruit other leaders to listen to God's call for the mission of United Methodist Women. I will continue to restate the Purpose of United Methodist Women through my Faith, Hope and Love in Action.



Shirley Hodges Bio

A member of Thomasville UMC, Shirley Hodges, is president of her United Methodist Women's local unit and is her church's Lay Member to Annual Conference. She chairs the Worship Committee and serves on several other church committees. She has held several district United Methodist Women's offices, including the Demopolis District President's position. She is the outgoing Conference E and I Coordinator. Shirley and her husband, Harry, have two daughters and three delightful grandchildren. Her interests, in addition to United Methodist Women, include reading, needlework and plants.

**Cathy Givan Bio**

Cathy Givan is completing her second year as the Alabama -West Florida Conference United Methodist Women Secretary. She is a member of Chapel United Methodist Church in the Montgomery-Prattville District. She has served as president of her local unit and as district president. She has also held the position of district coordinator for education and interpretation. She has served on the Committee for the Charter for Racial Justice. Cathy assumed the role as Lay Leader of the Montgomery-Prattville District in January 2017 and is currently serving her second year. Additionally, she is a certified lay servant. In her church, she is an adult Sunday School teacher, member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, member of the adult choir and the Seven Notes Singing Class. Cathy is employed as the Administrative Chief of Staff with the Alabama Association of Justice.

**Kristine Jones Bio**

Kristine Jones has lived all across the state of Alabama. She attended high school in and around the Birmingham area and later enrolled in college at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. At UAH, she participated in many on-campus activities including: Leadership roles in her social sorority; President of the Student Alumni Association; Working with the Office of the President of the university. From Huntsville, she made her way to Auburn University and obtained a Master's degree in Public Administration. While at Auburn, Kristine continued to stay active as: A senator in the Student Government Association representing all graduate students; a member of the code of laws committee; and a member of the Graduate Student Council. After graduation from Auburn, she attended law school at the Jones School of Law at Faulkner University in the great city of Montgomery. She was a member of the Dean's List, member of Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity, and an elected chairman of the Student Bar Association. Kristine is a lifelong United Methodist. She grew up in the church attending UMC and UMYF. At FUMC Montgomery, she is a member of the Cathedral Handbell Choir, member of the Harvest Sunday School Class, and Circle 10 UMW President.





MISSION U
GADSDEN STREET UMC
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA
2018



SOCIAL ACTION DAYS FOR GIRLS PROJECT



Great news! We are quickly mobilizing as the Dothan District UMW Mission Team to sew Days for Girls feminine products that will help women and girls in third world countries lead more productive and healthier lives. Through this work, not only women and girls, but also their communities, will grow stronger. Drop-out rates in a Uganda school went from 36% to 8% after one year of access to Days for Girls kits. *We can make a difference* in a very meaningful and practical way.

Our first sewing day was Saturday, May 19, 2018, at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Enterprise. We expected only a few women, but we had twenty-two! Every pattern was cut exactly, every stitch important, and every detail added with love.

We learned about the project with a video and introduction to the product and materials; then, we created an assembly line to include tracing patterns, cutting, basting, assembling, sewing the shields, ironing, quality checks and adding snaps. We went for the "gold standard," measuring carefully for an excellent result.

Since that day, we have completed well over 100 shields, twice that many liners, and have many fabric pieces cut and ready to sew at the next workshop. We have branched out from shields and liners to add drawstring bags. Our next goal is to put together Supreme Days for Girls Kits, which include a small collection of hygiene items.

Patsy Chalker from St. Luke UMC has been officially added as a co-leader for our team. Patsy has put in many hours of sewing for this project. We have passed all quality inspections and we are an official team for Days for Girls. We're now on the map!

We got together Days for Girls Sewing Day, which was held July 19, 2018, at Tabernacle United Methodist Church.

The Dothan District UMW Mission Team has taken on an exciting project in Days for Girls. Please join us as we continue on this journey.

Yours in Christ,

Jean Johnson, Social Action Coordinator, 334-406-7964



Montgomery/Opelika District Seeks to Help Stop Plastic Pollution

April 28, 2018 saw over thirty members of Montgomery/Opelika District United Methodist Women attending a Mission Study on Climate Justice. Aldersgate UMW in Montgomery, AL hosted the event with Judith Canty presenting an opening devotional in the courtyard with the church's huge globe rolling around in the yard. The ladies of Aldersgate provided a wonderful array of snacks as well as lunch soup and sandwiches throughout the day.

Debbie Bracewell presented a very well-researched class that opened our eyes to several problems in our environment. At Judith's suggestion, we opted to follow-up with a campaign to raise awareness of the plastic pollution in our world. As one method, we are encouraging the use of fabric shopping bags instead of the plastic bags given at stores. Each member present received an orange fabric shopping bag to remind them to spread the word about the plastic pollution problem.

Montgomery/Opelika District challenges all other districts to join with us to find other methods of reducing use of plastic products and/or recycling as much plastic as possible. Together we can make a difference.

In His Service,
June Headrick
Montgomery/Opelika District President



COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR REPORT

YOU CAN BECOME INFORMED OF ALL OF THE ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES BY SUBSCRIBING TO THE ALERT TODAY!

- To receive a copy of the ALERT in the mail, please send in your Name, Address and Telephone Number to Debbie Bush. 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. Please email Debbie Bush with your request at: **Savannahgirl2759@gmail.com** and you will be added to our email list.
- **Stay informed and catch up with your Conference news and make sure each person, unit and District knows what is happening in the Alabama West Florida Conference!**



KEEP INFORMED!

Debbie Bush,
Conference Communications Coordinator

AROUND THE CONFERENCE COOLER

I am so thrilled to place our first two (2) Districts (Dothan & Montgomery/Opelika) who have submitted articles for Maternal and Child Health and Climate Justice for the “Around the Conference Cooler”!

This has been an idea of mine since I started doing the Newsletter almost two years ago! I have more ideas for the Newsletter to better the communications within the Conference that I hope to be able to implement in the future.

The News Around the Conference Cooler needs to be what the Local, District or Conference is doing in relation to our Mission and our Issue Priorities:

- **Economic Inequality**
- **Climate Justice**
- **Criminalization of Communities of Color**
- **Maternal and Child Health**

Any news that you have on these issues please let me know so that I can let others know about it. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or by email.

United Methodist Women
Alabama-West Florida
Conference
Debbie Bush
173 Overlook Drive
Pensacola, FL 32503

Save the Date!

October 19-21

**Spiritual Enrichment Retreat
@ Blue Lake**

2019

February 15-16

Annual Day in Demopolis, Alabama

July 19-20

**Mission u in Pensacola, Florida
@ St. Luke UMC**

October 11-13

**Spiritual Enrichment Retreat
@ Blue Lake**