

District Officers

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Reda Brooks

Secretary

Mable Lawrence

Treasurer

Brenda Hargrave

Social Action

Gloria Jean Williams

Communications

Carolyn Davis

Membership Nurture & Outreach

Reba Wooten

Education & Interpretation

Marsha Clayton

Nominations

Chair - TBA
Evelyn Teel, Member



From The President's Desk

TAKE A BOW

Our District Team has been working on communicating and nurturing current members, fostering greater participation in the reading program and continuing the local, district, national, and world mission projects that we have chosen as local units.

PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND YOUR UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EVENTS. See the District calendar for dates. Next TEAM meeting is July 27.

COMING SOON

You don't want to miss our very first **Book Cluster Event**. Reda Brooks will facilitate the book reviews at 8:30, **Saturday, May 18th**. We will enjoy a **light breakfast**, read and discuss highlights of the books, plan a real response to our new knowledge and be gone before lunch time. We expect to complete highlights from "All the Colors We Are" and "Weird: Story of Bullying in School". These books will satisfy the Spiritual Growth and the Leadership Development areas of learning for 2019. See you at **Metropolitan UM Church on May 18th**.

Our United Methodist Women group in **Foley/Orange Beach** area has cordially invited our District UMW to accompany them on a pilgrimage to visit the **Equal Justice and Legacy Museums** in **Montgomery** tentatively set for **October**. More information to come.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars and plan to join the UMW car caravan to District Mission Study on Health and Wholeness to be held at Trinity UM Church of Prattville.

This is a special event and our second and last Mission Study for 2019. ALL UMW OFFICERS AND MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

Bring the most ladies and win the traveling trophy for best attendance.

June 15, 2019 @8:30am



(President's Message)



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO?

Millbrook United Methodist Women won the traveling trophy for best attendance at a District event. Millbrook brought the most participants to our Mission Study entitled "What About our Money?" facilitated by Debbie Bracewell and hosted by our ladies at Greenville First United Methodist Church. Thank you, Debbie!

We are so very appreciative to our sisters in Greenville for all the wonderful, radically hospitable things that they did to welcome us to their church family. A huge thank you to Pastor Angie Long and all the ladies at Greenville. This means that the Millbrook ladies have unilateral bragging rights to the trophy until our next District Event. The next District Event is Book Day, May 18 at Metropolitan. Bring the most participants and take home our beautiful traveling attendance trophy.

Our District Treasurer, Brenda Hargrave facilitated a workshop to help local unit treasurers adapt current procedures to new procedures encouraged by our Conference treasurer for Greenville First. Brenda Hargrave facilitated a Prayer and Self Denial Program with Greenville First also. How awesome that we can be a resource for each other as we build community.

I am confident that every United Methodist Women group had a Legacy Party to commemorate our 150 years of service. Please email some pictures to Michelle Smith and Carolyn Davis to be added to our website. Betty Helms is asking for recipes from each District to be included in a cookbook. Please email those Debbie Bracewell.

UMW Love in Action in the Montgomery/Prattville District

Whitfield UM Church for District Annual Day and Officer Training

Demopolis First for Conference Annual Day

United Methodist Women Legacy Party @ Metropolitan

United Methodist Women Annual Spring Tea @ Locust Bluff

Social Action Program About Native American issues @ Metropolitan

"What About our Money" Mission Study @ Greenville First

Racial Healing and Reconciliation Community Forum @ the Rosa Parks Museum

SAVE THE DATES

Book Day	May 18
Annual Conference	June 2-5
Mission Study	June 15
Conference Team Meeting	July 12-13
Mission u	July 19-20 www.awf-umw.org
District Team Meeting	July 27

Reda Brooks, President



Brenda Hargrave
Treasurer

**Montgomery/Prattville District UMW Treasurer's Report
First Quarter of 2019**

Balance on Hand 1/1/19		\$000.00
Income		
From Units		2572.75
Transfer from A&MD		25.00
Offering		282.00
Total Income		2879.75
Expenses		
Pledge to Missions	1239.75	
SMR Pins	80.00	
Gift to Missions	170.00	
Gift in Memory	25.00	
World Thank	300.00	
Prayer/Self Denial	548.00	
Conference Love Offering	517.00	
Total Expenses		-2879.75
Balance on Hand 4/8/19		\$000.00



Marsha Clayton
Education and Interpretation
Coordinator

Ladies, Mark Your Calendars Now

for the next

District Mission Study

“Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living”

Saturday, June 15, 2019

At Trinity UMC/Prattville

Come, share, and participate in this interactive study as we explore what it means to be in a covenantal relationship with all creation; to think in new, more profound ways about the significance of the soil and the role it plays in our lives as people of faith.

We will explore:

Real issues that are facing our planet today and ways to make a difference.

And

Topics such as the importance of worship, acts of justice and mercy, being in solidarity with others, the social responsibility of seeking happiness, and the biblical command to love ourselves.

To the end.....

.... That we might develop a covenantal living plan or at least acquire some helpful tips for intentional spiritual growth.

Presenters: UMW Officers with mission study facilitating experience
Reba Wooten, District Coordinator, Membership and Nurture
Gloria Jean Williams, District Coordinator, Social Action
Ora Gillespie, Conference Coordinator, Social Action
Mable Lawrence, District Officer
Marsha Clayton, District Coordinator, Education and Interpretation

Plan today to attend. Hope to see you there.

Also note: **Registration Deadline** for **Mission U** at St. Luke UMC in Pensacola is **July 8**

**From Reba Wooten
Membership Nurture & Outreach**



E-Mails have been sent to each unit including suggestions of ideas that may be used for attracting new members. Each unit is encouraged to increase their membership by at least 10%. I would like for us to provide recognition in some way to all units that reach that goal.

The Nell Chance Award deadline is June 1. This award is open to all ages who are currently active in United Methodist Women and who have demonstrated the standards set by Nell Chance.

“Priddy Pals” nominees are being accepted through October 2019. A “Priddy Pals” nominee is a woman age 16-39, she may be or may not be a member of UMW, and is currently being mentored by a woman who is currently active in UMW.

The Southeastern Jurisdiction is putting together a recipe book. All; proceeds will go to the Legacy Fund. It will be on sale at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in Mobile (April 17-19) 2020. We are asked to submit 2-5 recipes from each District.

Remember that Devotion, Fellowship and Attention to the needs of women, children and youth are central to the growth of United Methodist Women.

Good luck as you prayerfully continue to serve Him.

Reba Wooten

**Montgomery-Prattville District
Social Action Coordinator, Gloria Jean Williams**



Fourteen Lee University students were the guest of Gloria Jean & Norman Williams and the United Methodist Women of Metropolitan, Sunday, March 3, 2019.

University The Lee students stayed at the Williams' for three days and two nights to tour historical sites, to volunteer their services to SKIP (Save Kids of Incarcerated Parents) and to interact with our congregation. Our UMW unit provided lunch for the group after Sunday

The Lee University students of Tennessee experienced the Equal Justice Initiative Museum and found it difficult to reconcile Christian living with all that they saw. The purpose of their tour was to integrate faith and justice by learning more about the nation's history, specifically visiting the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Southern Poverty Law Center, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice as a reminder of the humanity to continue the *Kingdom Work* demonstrated in the Civil Rights movement while examining the Legacy of Racial and Economic Justice.



**Alabama State University Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
Equal Pay Day Women's Leadership Conference - Montgomery, AL
Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 8:45 – 11:30 am**

Andrea R. Mosley, SBDC Director sponsored the conference with the participation of U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Birmingham District and Department of Labor Wage per Hour (WHD), and the Delta Sigma Theta Montgomery (AL) Alumnae Chapter. The focus was on equal pay issues, such as the effects of unequal pay for women; unequal pay affects what a woman earns today, future pension benefits and social security. According to the law, a compensation charge is timely filed if at least one discriminatory paycheck was received within the filing period. Participants were given tools to gain an understanding of the laws and how employers can protect themselves through knowledge of and compliance with federal and state laws. **For more information: www.pay-equity.org.**

Attendees: Gloria J. Williams & Ora Gillespie far right.



**Metropolitan United Methodist Women – Montgomery, AL
Ora Gillespie, President**

**Social Action Unit Program:
Social Action & Charter for Racial Justice Coordinator, Gloria Jean Williams
*WOMEN RISING UP FOR HUMAN DIGNITY AND RIGHTS***

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Objective: To study Rizah's silent vigil for her family and the injustices Native Americans continue to face, and as United Methodist Women members, to rise up with our native sisters and brothers as they engage in actions to uphold their human rights.



**Nancy Travis
Guest Presenter**

Mrs. Travis is the Social Action and Charter for Racial Justice Coordinator of Dalraida UMW. She lead the discussion on the history of the Native American Indians as it relates to the tribal peace treaty of the Civil War and how UMW can offer *a sisterhood of grace covenant* of support.



**L-R: G Williams, N Travis,
O Gillespie & M Clayton**



**Over 20 attended including Montgomery –
Prattville Dist. UMW Pres. Reda Brooks.**

**Montgomery-Prattville District United Methodist Women
150th Celebrations across the district**

Millbrook First UMW Celebrates

March 24 was a three- way celebration day for Millbrook ladies. They celebrated the 150th birthday of UMW, the 97th Birthday of the Millbrook unit and UMW day. Cake and punch for all church members were served during their Sunday morning Gathering Time.

UMW members served as ushers and choir members during the service and showed a power point interview with Millbrook's oldest member, Laura Cobb, and their youngest member, Natalie Rimel. Jacki Smith, Millbrook's Children's and Youth minister gave the sermon with references to UMW.

The Unit's projects were displayed in the Fellowship Hall during the gathering time and included UMCOR School and Health Kits, Hygiene kits for school girls in Haiti and Africa, food for local food pantry, paper products and cleaning supplies for Mary Ellen's Hearth as well as UMW literature.

Special guest was former church pastor, Rev. June Jernigan.



**UMW
150th Birthday
Celebration**

District Annual Day, February 2, 2019 Whitfield United Methodist Church (Officer Training & Memorial Service)



Mission Study –“What About Our Money”
Greenville 1st United Methodist Church
March 15, 2019



Presenter Debbie Bracewell,
Marsha Clayton, coordinator
Reda Brooks, district President



Millbrook 1st won the
traveling attendance trophy



Greenville 1st UMW Unit



Montgomery-Prattville District at Conference
Annual Day at First UMC in Demopolis



Reda Brooks Montgomery-Prattville District President in the procession of Districts



**Betty Helms, SEJ President
Clara Ester, UMW National Vice-President**



Memorial Display of UMW Names

Remember Your Change Can Make A Change in a Life

This year our District UMW is encouraging all members to collect their loose change throughout the year and send it to the District Treasurer.



All money received will go towards our Mission Pledge but most importantly, it will help a woman or a child who is relying on us to make a difference in their way of life.

Find a cup, jar, or can and start placing your loose change in it on a weekly basis. It will make your purse lighter!



Perhaps even encourage family members to do the same.

At Conference Annual Day in 2019, we will burn a candle to celebrate the money collected and rejoice that we have helped a woman or child.

Do you need a Mission Project?

Maternal and Child Health

The 2017 Prayer and Self Denial program about the lack of feminine hygiene products for girls and women following childbirth in underdeveloped countries opened the eyes of 4 churches in the Montgomery-Prattville District (Clanton, Mulder, Metropolitan and Millbrook).

Girls cannot attend school during these 5 days a month because they do not have access to hygiene products or cannot afford them. It is believed that girls who stay in school are less likely to marry early or die in childbirth and they are more likely to train or educate their families. Following childbirth many women develop infections because they do not have clean hygiene products.

One solution to this problem is to provide girls with their own Hygiene Kit which contains 3 pair of underpants, a soap dish and bar of soap, a wash cloth and 6 washable pads with safety pins for closure, and a zip lock plastic bag for soiled pads. All these items are enclosed in a pretty draw-string bag. The pads are very absorbent, washable and expected to last 2-3 years.

The first shipment of 60 Hygiene Kits for girls and post partem mothers was sent in December 2017. We now have 52 more to ship this month. Our kits went to Haiti where Rev. Steve McGinnis and his wife Tish were missionaries. Pastor Steve is a member of the AWF Conference and currently is serving a church in the Montgomery-Prattville District but still maintains contact with Haiti.

For more information about this program, Days for Girls, their web site is

www.daysforgirls.org

or

contact Millbrook First at 285-4114

Brenda Hargrave, Treasurer



The Reading Program 2019

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram

The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work.

The Reading Program Leads to Action!

For 150 years, United Methodist Women have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action. The Reading Program is a study opportunity, but it should also lead to action. The purpose of the program is to encourage United Methodist Women members to:

- Expand understanding of and participation in God's mission.
- Increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests and concerns.
- Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.
- Grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.
- Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge.
- Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

Local UMW members can choose from 1 of 5 reading plans:

Plan I: 5 Books Per Year

One book from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

Selections can be from the 2014-2019 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and youth titles).

Regular reading of **response** magazine.

Plan II: 10 Books Per Year

Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

Selections can be from the 2014-2019 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and Youth titles).

Regular reading of **response** magazine.

Plan III: 15 Books Per Year

Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

PLUS 5 additional books from any category.

Selections can be from the 2014-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's titles). Regular reading of **response** magazine.

Plan IV: 20 Books Per Year

Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

PLUS 10 additional books from any category.

Selections can be from the 2014-2019 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and Youth and titles). Regular reading of **response** magazines

BONUS BOOKS: Books identified as Bonus Books count as two, either as two in the same category or as one book in two different categories, Social Action or Education for Mission.

Book titles are available in print, for Kindle, as audio downloads and audio CDs.

Links to purchase these titles are online at unitedmethodistwomen.org/reading-program/all-books.

Mark Your Calendars

MONTGOMERY/PRATTVILLE DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2019 Calendar of Events

Theme: **Love in Action** Scripture: 1 John 3:18

"My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love." (The Message)

JAN 12	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps	Executive Mission Team Meeting Location: Millbrook
FEB. 2	ALL	District Annual Day/Officer Training/Memorial Service Location: Whitfield U M Church
March 16	All invited	Mission Study Location: Greenville First
April 27	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps	Executive Mission Team Meeting Location: Millbrook 1st
MAY 18	ALL	Book Club Cluster Day Location: Metropolitan UMC
JUNE 15	ALL	Mission Study Location: Trinity/Prattville
JULY 27	District Team, Unit Presidents, Vice, Two Reps	Executive Mission Team Meeting Location: Millbrook 1st
SEPT 14	All invited	District Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Location: Locust Bluff UM Church
OCTOBER 26	ALL	Book Club Cluster Day Location: Metropolitan UMC
NOVEMBER (Recommended)	ALL	UMW Day celebrations per Local Unit Be Invitational!
NOVEMBER 9	District Team, Vice, Presidents, Two Reps from other Women Ministries	Review, Evaluations, Planning, Calendar for 2019 Submit monies and Report Forms Location: Millbrook

Alabama-West Florida Conference **United Methodist Women Events for 2019**

Jan 25-26**	Conference Mission Team and District Presidents at Enterprise First UMC, Enterprise
Feb 15-16	Conference Annual Day at Demopolis First UMC, Demopolis
Mar 23	United Methodist Women Annual Giving Day
July 12-13**	Conference Officers, District Presidents & Treasurers at Pine Hill UMC, Pine Hill
July 19-20	Mission u at St. Luke UMC in Pensacola, FL
Oct 11-13	Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake Assembly Grounds
Nov 3	Conference President and Conference Treasurer meeting
Nov	United Methodist Women Day celebrations per Local Units

ALERT Articles Due By: February 10, May 10, July 21 and November 10

**Notification to the President and Registrar of a member's intention is required two weeks prior to the meeting. Failure to notify will be reported to the treasurer, by the registrar, and any associated costs incurred will be deducted from the next reimbursement check.

Living Our Vision

United Methodist Women is turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

We provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ and put faith into action.

We are organized for growth, with flexible structures leading to effective witness and action.

We equip women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, workplaces, governments and churches.

We work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems.

We provide educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world.

[2017-2020 United Methodist Women Handbook, *Living our Vision*]

Make Plans to Attend
Mission U
St. Luke UMC in Pensacola, Florida
July 19 & 20, 2019
Registration Deadline: July 8, 2019

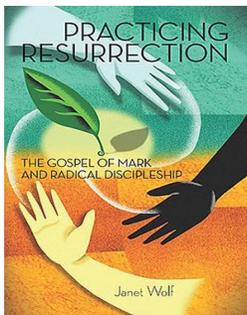
Each year, United Methodist Women and others prepare for faithful living and action by studying mission studies. Mission studies are offered each year – a geographical, topical and spiritual growth study. These studies motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry.

Leaders are trained to lead one of the 3 mission studies through the organization's mission u program offered around the country. Those leaders, in turn, are able to lead mission studies in their local and district groups.

Mission U 2019 Studies

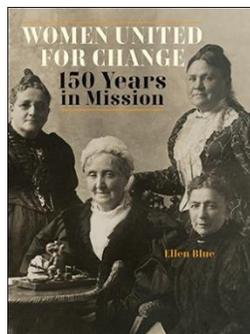
Spiritual Growth

The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship



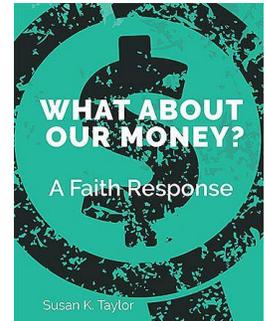
Anniversary Study

United Methodist Women History



Social Issue

What About Our Money?



To See the Mission U Brochure and registration forms go the [Alabama West-Florida UMW Website](#):

Every church and local unit of United Methodist Women is strongly encouraged to participate.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN				
THE REMITTANCE FORM				
FOR ALL LOCAL TREASURERS - all money must be to the District Treasurer by Nov 30th				
Local Unit:		District		
Conference	Alabama West Florida	DATE		
I	UNDESIGNATED GIFTS	<i>Your change can change a life</i>		Total
1. Pledge to Mission		<i>Regular Pledge</i>		\$ -
2. Special Mission Recognition (Pin)		<i>If you want SMR pin, fill out below. Minimum Cost \$40 (see bottom for all)</i>		
	Recipient's Name	Sent to name & address	Value*	\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
3. Gift to Mission		#	<i>(cards - \$5 each) list below</i>	# cards
	<i>Baby</i>		<i>On Your Special Day</i>	\$ -
	<i>Birthday</i>		<i>Peace</i>	\$ -
	<i>Christmas</i>		<i>Thank you</i>	\$ -
	<i>Congratulations</i>		<i>Thinking of You</i>	\$ -
	<i>In Service of Christ</i>			\$ -
4. Gift in Memory				
5. World Thank Offering				
TOTAL UNDESIGNATED GIFTS (to be counted on 5-Star *)				\$ -
II	DESIGNATED GIFTS			AMOUNT
6. A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial				
7. Supplementary Gifts: If other UMW Agency not listed, write in				
3001146	A Brighter Future for Children and Youth			
3001148	Assembly Offering			
3001149	Scarritt-Bennett Center			
N721222	DUMAS WESLEY			
U000002	UMCOR (name Project/Adv #)			
SUBTOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY GIFTS:				\$ -
III	AWF UMW CONFERENCE GIVING			AMOUNT
Per Member	<i>Formerly Conference Specials: will be broken out by the vote of the AWFC UMW Executive Committee. Any local unit can send funds directly to old Conference Special agencies, however, the district and conference will not send for you any longer.</i>			
\$ 10.00	AWFC UMW LOVE OFFERING	# Members		\$ -
TOTAL DESIGNATED GIFTS (stays in Conference:				\$ -
IV	TOTAL REMITTANCE	Check #:		TOTAL:
Treasurer:			Check #	
Phone:			Email:	
Section I - requirements for 5-star *		<i>Return form with check to District Treasurer. Any funds not listed above will be returned to you to send by your unit to the Agency.</i>		
\$40 basic pin, \$60 with sapphire, \$100 with pearl, \$200 with emerald, \$500 with ruby, \$1,000 with diamond, \$2,000 with two diamonds.				

We would love to include your unit activities and mission projects in *The Messenger's Flame*. Please submit articles and photos, if available, to cdavis854@bellsouth.net



Carolyn Davis, Communication Coordinator



Mable Lawrence, District Secretary

ALERT! . . . Are you a Subscriber?

You too can become informed of Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women events and activities by subscribing to Alert today!

Send your request to Michele Smith, Communications Coordinator: Michelesmith2002@hotmail.com She will give instructions for mailing a \$4.00 check, made payable to Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women.

You may receive a copy of ALERT free by email. Email Michelesmith2002@hotmail.com with your request and you will be added to our email list.

ALERT is also online at www.awf-umw.org

Stay Connected

UMW: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

AL-WFL: www.awf-umw.org/

Mont-Pratt District: www.awf-umw.org/montgomeryprattville.html

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.