

# Circuit Writer

NOVEMBER 2019

## DISTRICT:

**Jan. 11, 2020:**  
**DISTRICT ANNUAL DAY, FUMC, Graceville, FL**

**March 14, 2020: Day Apart, Moss Hill, Vernon, FL**

**MISSION STUDIES (to be determined)**

## CONFERENCE:

**Feb. 14-15, 2020:**  
**CONFERENCE ANNUAL DAY, FUMC Enterprise, AL**  
**FIND DETAILS HERE:**  
[awf-umw.org](http://awf-umw.org)

**March 6-7, 2020:**  
**COSROW, Blue Lake**

**June 7-9, 2020: ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Frazier UMC, Montgomery, AL**

## START PLANNING NOW TO ATTEND:

**April 17-19, 2020**  
**Southeastern Jurisdiction meeting, Mobile, AL**  
**All are invited.**

**Next Circuit Writer Deadline:**  
**February 1, 2020**  
**Editor: Deanie DeFelix**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hello Ladies,

As we all know, Life has a way of undoing our most carefully laid plans, but God never leaves us and will guide and bless us through even the darkest, most challenging times. We've cried out for strength to face and recover from storm after storm during the past year. The winds and floods of Michael are no longer raging, but most of us are still dealing with the devastation and disruption he left.

Even more difficult for many of us, has been the sadness of losing loved ones, whether unexpectedly or at the end of courageous battles with health issues. Our district's leadership team has been dealt two difficult blows recently with our dear sister Pat Whitley's sudden passing and the loss of President Peggy Kundo's husband. To help Peggy in this time of sorrow and adjustment, I have agreed to try to fill in for her as district president for the coming year. Having experienced the wonderful support and encouragement of you Marianna-Panama City ladies in the past, I know that each of you will understand that our road ahead will have a few rough spots as we regroup. However, "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us" (based on Philippians 4:13).

Kudos to Past President Karen Fillman, who has generously stepped back up to help Peggy and me with our transitions. Because of her love and concern for all of us and for the mission of United Methodist Women, she continues to serve our district in any way she can. The time is here for "All hands on deck!" to keep our ship afloat.

Blessings,

*Deanie DeFelix*



*"And surely I am with you  
always, to the very  
end of the age."*

(Matthew 28:20, NIV)

**VICE PRESIDENT  
AND  
EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION COORDINATOR  
Karen Fillman**



Ladies,

If you were able to attend the 2019 District Mission Study (*Embracing Wholeness*) on Saturday, November 9, 2019, you were undoubtedly blessed by the engaging study led by **Pastor Gail Baughman**, (Gadsden Street UMC in Pensacola). *Pastor Gail* taught at the 2018 *Mission u* and has been teaching *Embracing Wholeness* throughout our Conference in 2019. We all enjoyed the way she connected with us at *Mission u* and were treated to more of her insight into God's challenge for us to seek His wisdom and guidance in being good stewards of His many blessings.

Of course, the hospitality of the Gulfview UMW, led by President JoAnn Stone, was warm and welcoming. All of us appreciated their willingness to serve our district with open arms, great food, and loving fellowship.

Information about future mission studies will be announced soon. We hope several from your unit can participate.

*Karen Fillman*

**With Precious Memories**

*"There is a lot going on in our world, not all good, but we know who is in control and that should give us peace. Hope all are recovering from Michael. Love you all."*  
(from CW Feb. 2019)

**SOCIAL ACTION CHAIR**

*Pat Whitley*

We remember your compassion for the less fortunate;  
We remember your faithfulness to your church;  
We remember your commitment to doing the Lord's work;  
We remember your loyalty to United Methodist Women;  
We remember your willingness to serve;  
We remember your Faith, Hope, and Love in Action;  
We remember your quiet humility as you led by example.

We will always remember our dear friend and thank God  
for the countless ways she blessed all who knew and loved her.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SUNDAY



### *November: Thanks be to God*

Thanksgiving dinner usually draws families together to enjoy feasting from a heavily-laden table with football games playing in the background and humorous tales from the family history retold by the elders while those at the kids' table circulate their own tales of their latest escapades. Yet some find the holidays to be depressing for various reasons, lack of resources for the traditional meal being one of them. Situations such as this often call local UMW units to action. Each year the UMW ladies of Methodist churches can be counted on to prepare fruit baskets or boxes of food to include the makings of a traditional Thanksgiving meal to share with needy families.

So, it's altogether fitting that November is also the month chosen for promoting United Methodist Women in their local churches. If your church has held a UMW Day recently, please send a picture and brief comments about your service similar to the following from the Graceville UMW unit.

#### **Congratulations, Lady!**

On November 24, the Graceville First United Methodist Church worship service featured several United Methodist Women leading the order of the day. One of the highlights was the presentation of the 2019 Woman of the Year to Lady Dietrich (center). The 2018 recipient, Barbara Mixson (left), introduced Lady with a lengthy list of the many ways she serves her church, her family, and her community. UMW President Louise Mixson (right) was one of the first to congratulate Lady following the presentation. May we all serve God with joy and love for others as these special ladies do.



We are very grateful to **Karen Fillman** for once again offering her knowledge of our District's members in their local UMW units to serve as **Nominations Chair**.

We truly appreciate Karen's loyal service to our district.

Please make her job easier by volunteering your leadership skills to serve our Marianna-Panama City District.

You can contact Karen at this address: [kfillman345@comcast.net](mailto:kfillman345@comcast.net)

*We thank **Verna Roberts** of Bonifay for taking **District Vice President** and **Elizabeth Bell** for taking **District Education/Interpretation**.*



## *From the Secretary's Pen*

*Janis Johnson*

As I write this, it is All Saint's Day, November 1. This is a day when Catholics and some Protestant denominations honor those who have entered heaven.

While reflecting on the significance of All Saint's Day, I remembered several ladies in the history of the United Methodist Church who deserve to be honored today. Susanna Wesley is the first woman that came to mind. As most United Methodists know, she was the mother of Charles and John Wesley, along with 17 other children, 19 in all! Can you imagine? Nine children died as infants, with 2 sets of twins among those. Her husband was often absent, and she assumed the role of being the primary source of her children's education. She set apart time every week to spend individual time with each child. An interesting fact was their home burned down 2 times, and son John nearly died and had to be rescued from the second story window. Susanna wrote several pieces, including meditations and spiritual commentaries, that had major impact on her children, especially John and Charles.

Two other women who made a significant impact on United Methodist Women. Mrs. William Butler and Mrs. Edwin Parker, wives of missionaries to India, were home on furlough. They spoke to eight women in Boston about the spiritual and physical needs of women in India. These women gathered other women and organized the Methodist Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. These women raised funds and sent an educator and doctor to India. A third woman, Mrs. Lizzie Hoffman was instrumental in forming the Women's Missionary Association of the United Brethren Church. As the denominations merged, various women's groups continued to organize until in 1973, United Methodist Women became the women's mission organization of The United Methodist Church.

Each year during our annual memorial service, our District honors the memory of those from our local units who have entered heaven. These beloved sisters and members of each United Methodist Women's unit have continued the tradition of "service, worship, standing up, stepping up, and making our voices heard" in the world to positively impact the lives of women, children and youth.

What is truly amazing about all of those referenced above and others each reader remembers is they were not trying to leave a legacy for themselves but were focused on sharing the faith in Jesus each of them had with those that followed them. The lyrics from a song resonate with me about their mission and purpose. "Only Jesus" by Casting Crowns says, "I don't want to leave a legacy. I don't care if they remember me. Only Jesus. And I, I've only got one life to live, I'll let every second point to Him, Only Jesus."

As we contemplate the meaning of All Saint's Day and the lives of the women who have contributed in unimaginable ways to the mission of the United Methodist Church, may we remember their goal was not to build a legacy for themselves but to let their lives point others to Jesus. And, as we live our own lives, as we build our legacies (as we all do), let us commit to let "every second" we live point others to Jesus, because "Jesus is the only name to remember."



*Janis*



## Treasurer's Reminder

Dear Ladies,

As of November 30, 2019, I have received the following donations:

### Undesignated Giving:

(Pledges, Special Recognition Pins, Gifts to Mission, Gifts in Memory, and World Thanks Banks apply to the District's Pledge. These are also the contributions that make a unit a 5-Star Unit.)

**Pledges: 75.5% of \$13,000 pledge for 2019: \$9,819.93**

Designated Givng: (These monies are earmarked for specific projects.)

Prayer and Self-Denial:	\$1,736.85
Conference Love Offerings:	\$2,575.00
Legacy:	\$ 302.00
Supplemental Gifts:	\$ 124.00

Although we didn't meet our district's pledge for 2019 of \$13,000, I think it is significant that we made 75.5% of our pledge during this challenging year after Michael's visit. Next year's pledge is \$11,000. We have approximately 325 members, so we'll need about \$34 per member to achieve that. Of course, the amount we pledge individually is a personal decision, but don't forget that the missions we support involve people who are generally so much worse off than we are.

While we don't pay dues to be a member of UMW, the \$10 Conference Love Offering is requested to fund worthy projects throughout the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Sometimes units give more than the requested \$10 Love Offering simply because they know of specific needs in the conference. That's what makes UMW members so special: as soon as they learn of specific areas where they can make a difference, they jump into action!

We can also celebrate the fact that 8 units made Five-Star status in giving this year. When we consider all we've had to face recently, we have done very well!

I look forward to working with all of you this year.

In Christ's service,  
*Peggy Pelt*





## Spiritual Growth

How do we grow spiritually? Does such growth just happen suddenly, you know, like a twelve-year-old grows three sizes in a matter of months? Or do we sometimes find ourselves so busy with life that we hardly notice any growth at all for long periods? We are entering one of the busiest seasons of the calendar: the "Holidays"! In our efforts to make Christmas the very special time of celebration that it should be, let's remember to stay true to the reason we celebrate.

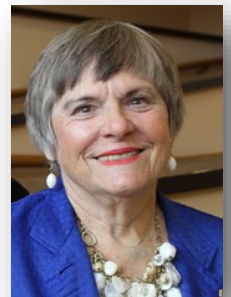
The ladies of United Methodist Women have a long tradition of seeking out those families who are struggling to clothe and feed themselves, those who can't pay their power bills, those who just want to know someone cares. Reaching out to the poor, the hungry, and the lonely members of our communities can help us to grow spiritually in the twinkling of an eye. Sharing our blessings, whatever they happen to be, will cause our joy of the season to warm us through and through. That warm glow is contagious because it comes from the greatest source of love and joy, "The Reason for the Season," as we say, Our Lord and Savior's miraculous birth.

All of us need to search God's Word daily, converse with Him in prayer, seek His will so we can feed each other in fellowship, comforting, supporting, and encouraging each other. Yes, we've experienced times of loss, frustration, and sadness in recent months, but we still have the JOY and PEACE that only God's children can know. His LOVE will see us through; it is the Living Water that helps us to grow spiritually in mysterious ways.

In His service,

*Martha Spiva*

Spiritual Growth Coordinator



Sent with LOVE,  
from our GOD above,  
a precious gift for all  
beyond the stable wall.



***"Let us not love with  
words or speech but with  
actions and truth"***

*1 John 3:18 NIV*



## **MOSS HILL CALLS US TO A DAY APART**

**MARCH 14, 2020**

If you ever long to return to a time when the daily pace was much slower and people really talked to each other, you will certainly enjoy attending A Day Apart at the historic Moss Hill Methodist Church near Vernon, Florida. Martha Spiva is planning a wonderful day of celebrating our heritage by remembering the dear sisters of our district who have joined the heavenly choir to sing glorious praises to Our Almighty God.

We will begin the day with coffee and goodies during registration at 9:00 a.m., followed by a worship service that concludes with a touching time of tribute to those who now live in the homes prepared for them by The Master Carpenter. The service begins at 9:30 a.m. (Central).

Don't forget to pack a covered dish for lunch, a sweater/umbrella (if weather doesn't cooperate), and a folding chair. Since the vintage church is not equipped with electricity, we get to experience some of the ambience of days gone by. No worries, though, modern restrooms have been added for our convenience. Hope to see you there!





## PROGRAM RESOURCES

Elizabeth Bell



This has been a difficult year for many of our units because of Hurricane Michael. I pray that next year things will improve. Since we are beginning a new year soon, you will find a partial listing of books approved for the Reading Program below. The entire list is posted on the AWF-UMW.org site.

### READING PROGRAM 2020

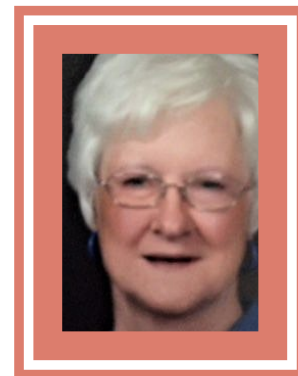
CATEGORY <sup>†</sup>	TITLE	AUTHOR(S)	PUBLISHER	YEAR	MSRP PRICE
EFM	<b>The Pilgrim Journey:</b> A History of Pilgrimage in the Western World	<i>James Harpur</i>	BlueBridge	2016	\$14.95
EFM	<b>When Others Shuddered:</b> Eight Women Who Refused to Give Up	<i>Jamie Janosz</i>	Moody Publishers	2014	\$13.99
LD	<b>Teaching Outside the Box:</b> Five Approaches to Opening the Bible with Youth	<i>Andrew Zirschky</i>	Abingdon Press	2017	\$16.99
LD	<b>Vital Voices:</b> The Power of Women Leading Change Around the World	<i>Alyse Nelson</i>	Jossey-Bass	2012	\$15.99
LD	<b>Which Way Lord?</b>	<i>Robert Fuguay</i>	Upper Room Books	2017	\$9.99
NFC	<b>#RU Hooked:</b> Teens & Social Media, For Teens and the People Who Care About Them	<i>Jonathan Smith</i>	Tristan Publishing	2017	\$6.99
NFC	<b>The Aging of Aquarius:</b> Igniting Passion and Purpose as an Elder	<i>Helen Wilkes</i>	New Society Publishers	2018	\$17.99
	<b>The End of the Island:</b> Finding Life in				

### BONUS BOOKS—MISSION STUDIES & OTHER (These can count in two categories)

EFM	<b>What About Our Money?</b> A Faith Response	<i>Susan Taylor</i>	United Methodist Women	2018	\$10.00
NFC	<b>Women United for Change:</b> 150 Years in Mission	<i>Ellen Blue</i>	United Methodist Women	2019	\$10.00
SA	<b>So you want to talk about race</b>	<i>Ijeoma Oluo</i>	Seal Press	2018	\$27.00
SG	<b>Practicing Resurrection:</b> The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship	<i>Janet Wolf</i>	United Methodist Women	2019	\$10.00

#### †LEGEND:

EFM	Education for Mission
KO	Korean titles
LD	Leadership Development
NFC	Nurturing for Community
SA	Social Action
SG	Spiritual Growth
SP	Spanish titles
*	Suitable for Children
**	Suitable for Youth



Thanks for sending in your reports. Celebrate 2020 by resolving to read more than you did during 2019.



