

# Circuit Writer

NOVEMBER 2020

## DISTRICT:

**2021 Marianna-Panama City Annual Day and Officer Training (TBA)**

## CONFERENCE:

FIND DETAILS HERE:

**[awf-umw.org](http://awf-umw.org)**

(Since COVID 19 has caused schedules to change for all of us, please check the website above and your emails often for updates.)

**2021 Alabama-West Florida Annual Day  
MARIANNA FIRST  
Tentative Date:  
March 5-6**

**Next Circuit Writer  
Deadline:**

**FEB. 1, 2021  
Editor: Deanie DeFelix  
[deanie575@gmail.com](mailto:deanie575@gmail.com)**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: **Be a Blessing to All**

Are you among the countless number of people who anticipate putting 2020 behind them? If so, what are your plans for making 2021 better?

Let's begin by appreciating the many blessings we are still able to enjoy despite the limitations imposed upon us by life in the Covid world. Most of the Consolidated President's Reports from around the district share the same lament that in-person meetings just aren't happening much yet; however, we continue to support our United Methodist Women's purpose through our monetary giving. What a wonderful Thanksgiving message it was when our wonderful MPC District Treasurer Peggy Pelt surprised me with the following:

Here's a Thanksgiving gift for you...when I report the recent funds I have received we are only \$230 (rounded) from reaching our pledge of \$11,000! And a unit indicated they have a bit more to send in. This is absolutely miraculous, considering the circumstances. God is awesome (and our ladies are, too.)



Then, Jo Ann Stone shared one of her unit's successful projects that helped them focus on God's infinite blessings.

"This year it [World Thank Offering] was double all prior years and I think it was because we each had a Thankful Jar to put our money in and we had a specific reason to be grateful every month."

We haven't forgotten our purpose. All of us continue to pray for each other and look forward to the time when we can enjoy meeting in person again. While our plans are subject to change, our district is anticipating the honor of hosting the 2021 Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women Annual Day at Marianna First United Methodist Church on March 5-6. When the Marianna Unit calls on the rest of us to help in various ways, let's stand ready to do whatever we can

In His service,

*Deanie DeFelix*

***"I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever."*** Psalm 86:12





## *From the Secretary's Pen*

*Janis Johnson*

As I write this article, tomorrow is All Saints Day, which is celebrated in most United Methodist Churches and other denominations. I attended my third funeral in as many weeks, remembering three different, but unique saints. Only one attended my church. The other two, both women, were colleagues and friends during my years of working in the educational system. These events, along with the current situation with the Covid Pandemic, reminded me that we are all on the road to "sainthood"; some journeys are completed; some are still in progress.

Hebrews, Chapter 11, often referred to as the Roll Call of Faith, is one of my favorite chapters in the Bible. Many of the great saints of the ages are listed along with their "claim to fame" in how they exercised their faith. These manifestations of their faith are as different as each person named, but each one possessed and exhibited faithfulness in the challenging circumstances of their individual lives, which all of them faced. Beginning with Abel bringing an acceptable offering, Noah building an ark, Abraham and Sarah trusting God in leaving their home and going to another land and then having a child while well past child bearing years, Isaac blessing Jacob and Esau, Moses refusing a life of ease and wealth and bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, in defiance of Pharaoh's mandates, and going through the patriarchs and matriarchs throughout Israel's history reminds us of the necessity of faithfulness in our own lives.

These days call us to faithful living in ways that might challenge us as never before. And, as in the Roll Call of Faith, those challenges are unique to each of us in our own individual lives. As church leaders, we face many similar situations but, again, each unique because all churches are different. All Saints Day is the beginning of the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Planning for worship opportunities in this time of uncertainty presents many unanswered and unanswerable questions. Planning and preparations are necessary while knowing those might be changed or not happen at all. (Again, one looks at the men and women in the Roll Call of Faith and think how many of them experienced those kinds of dilemmas.)

Continuing to read through Chapter 11 of Hebrews, one reads in Verse 33, "By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and *received what God had promised them.*" Think about that for a minute. It reminds us that God is faithful to complete His work in us, despite outward circumstances. Verse 35b reminds us there will be serious difficulties to overcome at times when the writer says some were tortured, mocked, had their backs cut open, chained, stoned, and killed. It isn't all going to be easy! Living a life of faith requires courage, strength, trust, perseverance. Yet, the blessed words of assurance in Hebrews 11: 39-40 reminds us, "All of these people we have mentioned received God's approval because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God promised. For God had far better things in mind for us that would also benefit them, for they can't receive the prize at the end of the race until we finish the race." Hebrews 12: 1 further clarifies, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down,..... And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us."

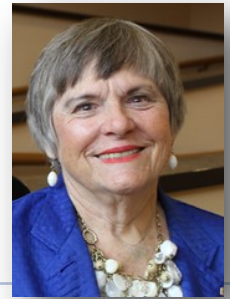
These saints who we read about in Hebrews, those whose funerals I attended and the saints that will be remembered in All Saints Services have attained that prize because of their enduring and steadfast faith, even in trying times. We too, will attain that prize as we live out the life of faith we are called to during this time of trial and uncertainty.

Blessings to each of you as you do just that and STAY SAFE!

*Janis*

## Spiritual Growth

Martha Spiva



Help yourself to spiritual blessings and growth by following the link below to the YouTube videos of the latest SER.



### The 2020 Virtual Spiritual Enrichment

The 2020 Virtual SER registration is over, but you can still watch the videos by clicking on this link. You just will not be counted in the attendance record for your district.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv\\_2TOVftvjxPs-odCK4frw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv_2TOVftvjxPs-odCK4frw)

It includes several videos. Watch 1st the Introduction & Overview. Then Devotion, then SER Worship, 1 Worship 2, and then the Focus Group.

If you wish to participate in the SER survey to help us improve, click on this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18p-uETuM0kxld5BHGxWvYRzZf2iMlvZYcMPBTPY8Shs/edit>

May the Advent Season bring you great joy, peace, and good health in His service.

*Martha*



# Tidbits from the Treasurer

Peggy Pelt



Ladies,

You have done an **awesome** job of contributing to United Methodist Women despite the challenges COVID - 19 has thrown at us. We have achieved **88.5%** of our \$11,000 pledge! We only lack \$1,269.85 to meet it. I know many units, including mine, collect their World Thank Offering in November. This donation applies to our pledge amount. Any additional contributions sent to me by **November 30** will apply to this year's financial report to the conference.

[Ed. note: See President's Message on p. 1 for updated information.]

Below is the breakdown of your generous giving.

Pledge to Mission	\$8042.75
Gift to Mission	95.00
Gift in Memory	385.00
World Thank Offering	587.40
Special Recognition Pins	620.00
<b>Total Applying to District Pledge</b>	<b>\$9,730.15</b>

(At this point we have four 5-Star Units - those who have made donations to each of these 5 areas.)

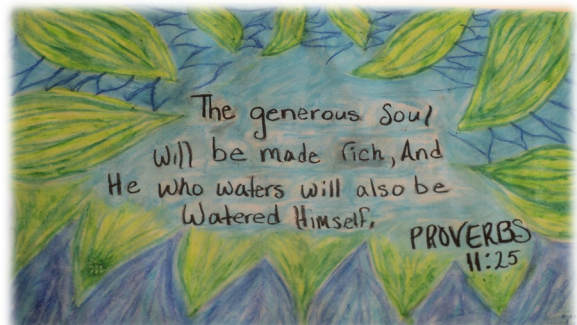
The donations below, while going to worthy causes, do not apply to our pledge:

Prayer and Self-Denial	\$1,562.00
Conference Love Offering	2,085.00
UMCOR	350.00
Legacy	200.00
<b>Total to Designated Projects</b>	<b>\$4,197.00</b>

**Total Giving by Our District**      **\$13,927.15**

Again, I am so proud of the efforts you have made!

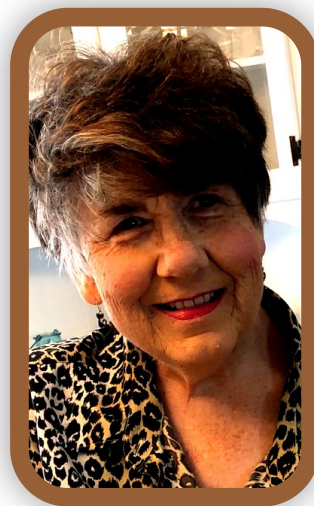
Peggy Pelt  
Treasurer  
Marianna-Panama City District





## SOCIAL ACTION and NOMINATIONS

**Karen Fillman**



**Greetings Sisters from your Social Action Coordinator!**

### ***YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT!***

*A SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT WHILE AT HOME:*

*Your choice and decision.....*

Previously we've been urged by our United Methodist Women *conference* to explore many ***SOCIAL ACTION*** projects *overseas*.

Obviously, right now many of us are growing concerned about the effect of this ongoing Corona Virus pandemic, both within our families and on a local level.

May I suggest this? Your *interest* and possible resulting action from it will be the best gift during these coming holidays for many Moms and their children.

To find out more: contact any of the following:

- White House (call directly or use a website)***
- State government and/or your local government (use websites/ phone)***
- Local community information***
- international***

I'm suggesting this because many of us are having a problem with being somewhat limited in what we *can* do. We can definitely do this though. (After all we are women and are supremely fantastic about being *persistent!*)

This is a 'gift' that we can spend the next few months on. You could share what you've found out with your Unit, and finally.... send it to me so we can share some of these ideas in the next *CIRCUIT WRITER* of 2021; *plus, I will mail it (your information) to all our units.*

Please send any information to me via email: kfillman345@comcast.net

Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, may your Christmas be bright, and see you in 2021!

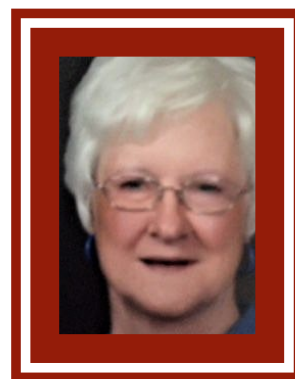
***Karen***

From your **Nominations Chair:**

Thank you for approving our newest slate of officers. Let me challenge you to start thinking about where you can serve when the next slots need to be filled. We pray that the pandemic will be over soon so we can resume a more active status with in-person gatherings and officer training sessions.

## PROGRAM RESOURCES and E & I

Elizabeth Bell



Ladies,

As you may have noticed in the last *Circuit Writer*, I am now serving as District Education & Interpretation/Program Resources person. That is because National and Conference United Methodist Women no longer have a separate office for Program Resources. For many of our small units that is good. We will have to adjust our thinking and remember that our E & I Coordinator (*if we have one*) is also responsible for the Reading Program information.

Since our report deadline for 2020 was November 30, we may have been challenged by the fact that most of our units have not met since February of this year. The CPR form is also a little different. The following notes show areas where I, as E & I Coordinator, should be assisting the local President:

**Item 1:** Mission Studies Completed (either local unit or District sponsored), number in attendance and the action taken. Do NOT list Mission u attendance here. Where appropriate, virtual participation qualifies for completion of a criteria item.

**Item 3:** Mission Today Unit Report- number of criteria completed- Level of Award achieved.

**Item 7:** Charter for Racial Justice

**Item 8. Reading Program:** Information needed- the Reader's full name, number of books by category, and plan level. Submitted to local president by the local responsible coordinator. **You will not need to send a report of your ladies who completed the Reading Program to me at the district level as we have done in the past.** The District President will forward your Reading Program info to me when she receives the report from your local president.

Moving forward, we'll just do the best that we can and pray that we will be able to meet beginning in January of 2021. I'm sure most of us are following the guidelines outlined by Bishop Graves and our local ministers. If I can be of help, contact me at 850-209-1161.

May we bless others in His service,  
*Elizabeth*

### PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

*United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and 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.*

**MARIANNA—PANAMA CITY  
DISTRICT ELECTIONS**

**SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2021  
(Approved as of November 5, 2020)**

<b>President</b>	<b>Deanie DeFelix</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Verna Roberts</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Janis Johnson</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Peggy Pelt</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Deanie DeFelix*</b>
<b>Nominations Chair <i>and</i> Social Action:</b>	<b>Karen Fillman*</b>
<b>Program Resources <i>and</i> Ed. and Interp:</b>	<b>Elizabeth Bell*</b>
<b>Membership, Nurture, &amp; Outreach:</b>	<b>Kathy McQuagge</b>
<b>Spiritual Growth:</b>	<b>Martha Spiva</b>
<b>Historian (<i>appointed</i>)</b>	<b>Jo Ann Stone</b>

**\*If you would like to offer your talents in service to our district by taking one of the positions these ladies have agreed to fill until others are led to take them, please contact Karen Fillman.**

We hope to resume in-person meetings early in 2021 so we can install our officers and committee-chairs, congratulate them, and pledge our support to them as our District Executive Team. Until then, continue to look for safe ways to fulfill the purpose of United Methodist Women. God has blessed us with technology to help us continue our work; let's rejoice that we are not alone as we find new ways to remain IN HIS SERVICE.

***ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA UMW UPDATE***

**The 2020 Elections results are in.  
These officers will start their duty 1/1/2021**

The next term (2021-2022) officers and committee members are:

Debbie Bracewell-President

Debbie Bell-Secretary

Joyce Genz-Education & Interpretation coordinator (E&I)

Ora Gillespie-Social Action coordinator (SA)

Peggy Cunningham-Committee on Nominations Chair

Clara Ester-Committee on Nominations Class member;

We also recognize our next members of the Charter for Racial Justice

- Cathy Givan & Beth Arp.

We want to thank the Committee on Nominations for their tireless efforts to seek out these officers to complete our AWF-UMW conference Executive Mission Team.





### ***ONE MORE THING!***

Another note of my deepest gratitude goes to outgoing conference president, Debbie Bell. Her patient mentoring has made a great difference in my ability to continue in my role. I am very thankful that Debbie will continue in her UMW service as conference secretary beginning in January.

***God bless you, Debbie!***



*Although we've been through a rougher year than we wanted, God has been with us as He promises in His Word so often. Let's close 2020 with thankful praises to Our Heavenly Father for His countless blessings.*

*Personally, I thank each of you for your loving support and encouragement as I have tried to learn the ropes as your Marianna-Panama City District President this year. Our officers and committee chairs have been wonderful to push forward during this most challenging pandemic environment; we pray that we can physically gather more when it is safe to do so.*

*With love and prayers for God's richest blessings as we celebrate the Greatest Gift of All, Our Lord Jesus.*

*Deanie*

