



## BAYPINES BEACON

*Serving United Methodist Women in the Baypines District  
September 2016*

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Baypines Mission Team

*President  
Peggy Cunningham*

*Vice President  
Marcia Middlebrooks*

*Secretary  
Carolyn Anderson*

*Treasurer  
Lyn Stuart*

*Spiritual Growth  
Sharon Anderson*

*Education/Interpretation  
Beth Henson*

*Communications  
Dell Walston*

*Membership, Nurture  
& Outreach  
Mary Barnhill*

*Program Resources  
Patricia McKee*

*Social Action  
Edith Brooks*



### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT Peggy Cunningham

Hello Baypines United Methodist Women,

First, I want to remind you that reports are not due until November. Going to the calendar year has made it so easy for getting the reports done. You will find the forms and dates due in the new notebook you were in January. If you did not get your notebook, let me know. I left notebooks for Atmore, Brewton, Evergreen and Flomaton at the District office in Bay Minette so your Pastors could pick them up for you. The forms are also on the web site.

We have a new Unit at Holly Grove in Castleberry. I want to welcome the new Unit and thank Judy Baker for starting the Unit. As United Methodist Women, you will be helping us turn faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth.

As we know, Mission is and always has been the focus for United Methodist Women. This is God's plan for us and this is how we respond to God's love for us. We have so many ways to show the world Jesus' love.

We get involved in social justice issues that impact the lives of women, children, and youth around the world. We have wonderful resources such as the Response magazine, Prayer Calendar, and reading books to keep us informed of these social injustices.

Through our Bible Studies and prayer we grow spiritually and deepen our relationship with Christ. United Methodist Women work together and learn from each other in order to make our world a better place. We are truly a community of women who love God and each other.

I have had a few health issues since February and have been able to read many UMW books as well as pray about issues we are faced with in this world. United Methodist Women have so many focus areas that I know you can find one that touches your heart and you will that is where you should put your time and energy. As you pray each day, take time to listen to God. He has a plan for you and you will know it.

Love and blessings,

Peggy

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# SECRETARY

## CAROLYN Anderson



**The Morgan's Chapel UMW has started a book club. All the members read the same book, which we select from the UMW reading list. Then we meet monthly to discuss the book.**

### **So far we have read:**

"I Love Growing Older But I'll Never Grow Old" by J. Ellsworth Kalas--A book about growing and continuing to grow--personally, spiritually and in our relationships with God and others--

"The White Umbrella" by Mary Francis Bowley--Tells the stories of young girls who have survived being held captive by the sex trafficking trade and the people who help the girls to break free from that life--

"Tilly, A Story of Hope and Resilience" by Monique Gray Smith--The story of a young Lakota/Cree Indian girl growing up in the 1980's and her struggle with drugs and alcohol.

We enjoy our time together discussing the books we have read, while earning the credits we need to become a five-star unit. It may work for you in your unit too. Give it a try.

Carolyn

**“You're never alone when you're reading a book.”**  
— Susan Wiggs



Lyn Stuart, Treasurer

## TREASURER'S MID-YEAR REPORT

Effective this year, 2016, our UMW year runs from January 1 to December 31. This will be beneficial to us. Our Baypines District Pledge for 2016 is \$12,200.00. So far we have collected \$5,823.42 of that. Our Conference Specials are: Dumas-Wesley, Nellie Burge, SKIP, Mobile Inner City Mission, Hispanic Ministries, Blue Lake, Administration & Membership Development, Assembly Offering, & MissionU.

Units are asked to contribute \$9.75 per member to these Conference Specials each year. We've collected \$1,423.78 so far. This money stays in the AL-WF Conference.

Pledge to Mission is over & above contributions to Conference Specials and is our National/International Mission Giving. Please give to BOTH.

A total of \$750.00 has been given to the Legacy 150 Fund.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Lyn Stuart. (251) 605/7773 [lyn\\_stuart@att.net](mailto:lyn_stuart@att.net)

### REMAINING 2016 Calendar of Baypines District Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Type Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
August 20		Mission Study	Robertsdale
October 16		Fall Event	TBA
November 7		Executive Meeting	Gulf Shores

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Sharon Anderson

Can you believe we are starting another school year and summer vacation is over? My husband and I have kept busy with gardening and putting up vegetables this summer. God has blessed us in so many ways!

We will be getting back into a routine as our UMW's will be meeting again after a summer break.

Hope many of you will be able to attend the Baypines District Mission Study on August 20 at Robertsdale UMC. I'm sure Beth will do a great job on reviewing the study of "The Bible and Human Sexuality".

I wanted to share a few quotes that I have found this summer that says a lot to me. Hope these quotes will help you in your daily walk with Jesus as our master and heavenly father.

- Ursulak LeGuin said "Love doesn't just sit there, like a stone. Love has to be made, like bread, remade all the time and made new."
- Angela Martinez said "Compliments cost nothing but can make someone feel like a million bucks."

I also want to share a prayer with you from "Devotional Prayers" by Henry Thornton:

- "Make us patient and contented, kind and loving, humble and spiritually minded. We pray, God, that you will also make us diligent and useful in the world in which you have placed us. May we not misspend our time, nor neglect any opportunity of doing good, but be willing daily to deny ourselves, that we may more abundantly minister to the various wants and needs of others."

Enjoy the remaining summer days!

Sharon

## MISSION COORDINATOR E&I



**Beth Henson**

I hope you are having a great summer! It certainly has been hot and we could use some cooler weather.

Our mission study will be held on Saturday, August 20, at Robertsdale United Methodist Church from 9:00-1:00 pm. The church will provide the drinks and desserts. You will need to bring a snack lunch.

We will eat during the mission study. The mission study is “The Bible and Human Sexuality” written by Ellen Brubaker.

This study invites us to explore the complexity of the biblical text and our varied understanding of it in light of human sexuality. I attended the study at Mission u and it was taught by Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson.

You may purchase the book from Mission Resources. Please email <http://www.umwmissionresources.org/products/the-bible-and-human-sexuality> or call 1-800-305-9857.

Please encourage your members to attend this mission study.

### CONFERENCE CALENDER FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2016:

<b>AUG 29-SEP 3</b>	— World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women
<b>SEPT 10</b>	— Special invitation from MPC District
<b>OCT 21</b>	— Pre Fall Event Friday Night — Blue Lake
<b>OCT 22</b>	— Conference Fall Event — Blue Lake
<b>NOV 13</b>	— (AWF — 2nd Sun. of November) UMW Sunday in local churches

## SOCIAL ACTION



Edith Brooks



Elections! I hope that you are finding peace in this important, but wild and crazy election year. My prayer is one of hope that our country will bridge our differences and come together to serve one another with respect, honor and love.

Speaking of elections...It is time for the Bay Pines District to nominate a new slate of district officers. If you have a passion for UNITED METHODIST WOMEN and are willing to serve, or know someone who would serve as a district officer, we would appreciate you contacting us. It really is not as demanding or as time consuming as you might fear. The positions offer a place where you can make a difference, "act out your faith" and develop sweet long lasting friendships! Please prayerfully consider serving and then just give me a call, text or email. 251-747-3434 or [edithbrooks@centurylink.net](mailto:edithbrooks@centurylink.net). Thank you!

### **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.



**PROGRAM RESOURCES**  
**Patricia McKee**

Ladies,

I would like to encourage you to participate in the reading program. We at Morgan's Chapel have begun a "Book Club", with the reading program books. It has been fun for us to get together and discuss the different books. Those of us who did not have time to read would still come and participate with the discussion. We would read one a month. I would encourage you to get a few friends from your UMW group and begin a "Book Club". I believe you will be surprised at the knowledge of the world that the reading program gives you.

Last year we did not offer any UMW materials at our meetings, because we were in a transition of leaders in that department. This year for our fall Annual Day we would like to order materials for you and you can purchase them at the meeting. If you will email me or any of the district Mission team officers and let us know what you would like. As in program book, Prayer books, if we order them the district will take care of the shipping... With books that could be good. We will have some of the new reading books available. We will be ordering a few program and prayer book, but we might not have enough to supply everyone. So, please, if you want something special, let someone know!!







Dell Walston  
Communications

Hello friends,

On behalf of our Mission Team, I want to apologize to all of you for not having a newsletter since January. Life, as we know it, has a way of changing our plans. My computer crashed and then our wonderful president had some family and personal health issues. So, with all of that, and a few other problems, we didn't publish our newsletters.

Hopefully we are back on track – for a while anyway! I have “patched” my old computer (the one I am typing on now) and hopefully it will last a while longer. Although I purchased a new laptop, I feel like a technological dummy! ... I do hope you understand .....

In the meantime, I am looking forward to attending Beth's study in Robertsdale. She is such a remarkable lady and I look forward to hearing her presentation, and visiting with all of you.

Continue reading to see what else is taking place in ROBERTSDALE, ALABAMA!



*Note: Michelle Nelson reports that the following article has been submitted to **Response** magazine for publication. We thought it would be beneficial to share it with all of you to further publicize the remarkable work that is taking place in Robertsdale.*

## RAISING MONEY FOR MISSIONS AT ROBERTSDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN ROBERTSDALE, ALABAMA

In 2015, Robertsdale United Methodist Women in Robertsdale, Alabama, raised approximately \$32,000 for missions. With the help of the United Methodist Men and the entire congregation, the women held their biannual Quilt Show in February and the annual Fruitcake sale in November.

In an on-going effort to “turn faith, hope, and love into action,” the efforts of this committed group of servants provided financial support for the following global, area, and local missions:

- World Gospel Missions - “Sharing the LIGHT, Restoring Vision” (Dr. Ben Roberts in Kenya, Africa)  
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- Under His Wings - Christian ministry for hurting girls providing healing and restoration to teenage girls in a home setting
- Women’s Medical Care Center - Christian ministry supporting women in all aspects of crisis pregnancy
- The Refuge for Women - a facility dedicated to caring for women suffering from addictions where women are taught to make use of Christian principles, Biblical truths, and faith to live a life free from substance abuse.
- Robertsdale United Methodist Church We Care Fund, Food Pantry, and School Uniform/Supplies Ministry
- Blue Lake Camperships providing funds for summer camping opportunities to children and youth
- General Mission Fund of the United Methodist Church

According to Nancy Robertson, Executive Director of the Refuge for Women, “Your generous gifts go directly to help support a woman fighting drug and alcohol addiction. The Refuge is very thankful for this meaningful connection to the women of Robertsdale United Methodist Church. Our women feel loved and cared for by your group. Thank you for your gifts, your prayers, and your concern.”

“We are once again overwhelmed and tremendously blessed by the donation from your fruitcake and quilt show mission project. Countless lives will be touched and many saved through your hearts of mercy and grace,” wrote Sue Leavins, director of The Women’s Medical Care Center.

An interest in the “fiber arts” and creative sewing has long been associated with the Baldwin County, Alabama, area. About 19 years ago a small group of UMW ladies, led by Peggy Wilcox and Mary Barnhill, decided to use this interest as a platform for mission fundraising. And so it began! The show has grown to what it is today showcasing over 300 quilts from quilters all over the country.

“Snowbirds” wintering on the Gulf Coast display quilts from the north alongside those of local quilters. Local merchants loan antiques and collectables to make the room displays truly unique and memorable. “This is not a juried show or a sale,” said 2017 co-chair Nancy Blackmon. “It’s an opportunity for all

quilters, beginners to advanced, to share their work and for others to enjoy this amazing fiber art. When the church is filled with these colorful quilts hanging in all the rooms, the halls, the fellowship hall, the chapel, and the sanctuary, it truly takes your breath away.”

“Visitors also have the opportunity to purchase soup/salad lunch and enjoy musical entertainment while they take a break from the show,” said Betty Gwaltney, 2017 co-chair.

Robertsdale United Methodist Women have also been raising money for missions by baking and selling fruitcakes for over 30 years. In the 1980’s, Mrs. Lolly Gravette shared her secret recipe with the ladies at Robertsdale United Methodist Church, and the rest is history!

Every year during the first two weeks of November the process begins. The fellowship hall and kitchen bustle with activity as church members gather to assist United Methodist Women in chopping fruit and nuts, carefully measuring and filling bags, and preparing the other ingredients. Since the heavy batter is mixed by hand, the men of the church take shifts with the bowl and spoon. For quality control, each cake is weighed to make sure it meets the two pound requirement before it’s sent to the oven for baking. Soon the entire church is filled with the unmistakable, yummy aroma of Christmas fruitcakes.

In 2015, 1400 cakes were baked and sold for a profit of over \$18,000.00 which goes entirely to the mission projects. According to Brenda Pierce, who took over the baking after Ms. Lolly passed away, “Baking fruitcakes is a labor of love. Church members are eager to do their part.”

# Quilt Show



See over 300 handmade QUILTS creatively displayed with antiques and collectibles.

**Robertsdale United Methodist Church**  
**Highway 59, Robertsdale, Alabama**

**Thurs, Fri, and Sat, February 2 - 4, 2017**

**9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Daily**

**Admission: \$5 Quilt Show**

**Registration for displaying a quilt/quilts**

**Sun., Jan. 30**  
**Time: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Mon., Jan. 31**  
**Time: 9 a.m. to 12 noon.**

**Vendors** will be on hand with lots of quilting supplies including patterns, kits, machines, fabrics, needles and notions.

**Lunch - \$7.00**

Soup, Salad & Dessert

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Musical Entertainment during lunch

For more information contact:  
Betty Gwaltney: (251) 947-5354  
Nancy Blackmon (251) 947-4146

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