



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

The Connection

DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Volume 2019 Issue 1

SPRING 2019

LOVE in Action 2019

Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.
1 John 3:18 NIV

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



We are already into the third month of 2019! United Methodist Women have been active in events and meetings—local circle meetings, Prayer & Self-Denial, District Annual Day, Conference Annual Day. It is exciting to see current and new members attending these events. Conference Annual Day was held in the Demopolis District at Demopolis First United Methodist Church. It was a wonderful gathering of United Methodist Women, district superintendents, and our bishop and his wife. We enjoyed great fellowship and inspirational hymns and speakers. The 2020 Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women's Annual Conference will be held in the Dothan District at Enterprise First United Methodist Church. SAVE THE DATE—February 14-15, 2020.

Our Dothan District Annual Day was hosted by Abbeville United Methodist Church. While attendance was small, we enjoyed fellowship and an inspirational homily from Reverend Randy Greene. Our remembrance service gave an opportunity to reminisce about the thirteen United Methodist Women from the Dothan District who passed away in 2018.

This year we welcome Jane Brown to the district leadership team as our Spiritual Growth leader. Jane has served on the board in the past, and we welcome her skills and talents to the board again!

It is time to think about college scholarships, and our district Mattie Kolb scholarship information has been shared with local churches and the district website. You will find a copy of the application included in this newsletter.

Our conference theme this year is LOVE IN ACTION as 1 John 3: 18 says, *Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.* Mission studies, district and conference spiritual days, and unit projects await us as the year unfolds. What will be your favorite United Methodist Women's story this year? How does your unit plan to celebrate our 150th birthday? Share your stories about loving others with words and actions.

Joyful blessings,

Debbie Bracewell

President
Dothan District United Methodist Women

2019

Dothan District
Mission Team

President

Debbie Bracewell

Vice President

TBD

Secretary

Marilyn Skipper

Treasurer

Carolyn McInnis

Program Resources

TBD

Spiritual Growth

Jane Dyer Brown

Membership Nurture & Outreach

TBD

Social Action

Jean Johnson

Education & Interpretation

TBD

Communications

Carolyn McInnis

Nominations

TBD

Conference Annual Day



Debbie Bell, UMW
Conference President



Bishop David Graves



Mrs. Nancy Graves



**2019 Dothan District
Pledge to Mission
\$14,750**

TREASURER

**Dothan District 2018
Pledge to Mission
Received
\$13,485.48**

A New Year and a Clean Closet?

Have you ever found an article of clothing in your closet that you have never worn? Did it still have the tags on it? If this has ever happened to you, how did it make you feel? I am ashamed to tell you that this happened to me recently. I found a blouse in my closet that I had completely forgotten that I had bought. All I could think was — what a waste of money!

I try to clean out my closet at least twice a year, but in January, I also try to evaluate what I have bought during the last year. Was it what I wanted? Was it what I needed? Was it worn very often — or even worn at all? That last question is the one that really stings! I always think about money that I have wasted on items that do not meet my needs. I could have spent that money on other things — such as my Pledge, my Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering, my Legacy 150 donation, or my World Thank offering. The money we give to United Methodist Women is never wasted. It goes to help women, children, and youth in the United States and around the world.

Our theme this year is “Love in Action” -- *Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.* 1 John 3:18 NIV. We can put our love into action in many ways: we can volunteer in our churches and communities, we can make prayer shawls, we can donate unused clothes, we can help with our district social action project, Days for Girls, and we can give our money. This year, I am asking you to look for different ways that you can put love into action and help United Methodist Women meet its goals for the year.

We almost met our district pledge goal last year, but I am hoping that we will exceed our goal for 2019. One of the best things about January is the fresh start we are given to make our goals for the year. In 2019, I am planning to be more thoughtful about my spending (and not buy something that I am not going to wear), to reevaluate my pledge and various offerings to United Methodist Women, and to look for other ways to help put “Love in Action.”

Blessings,

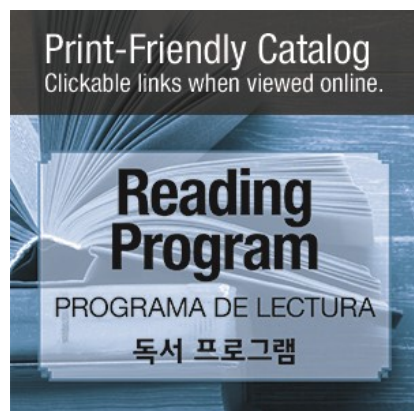
Carolyn McInnis

Treasurer

READING PROGRAM

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 books listed on the reading program include *Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography*, *An Insider's Guide to Praying for the World*, and *The Hidden Life Awakened*. These are just a few of the interesting books that await us readers.

While the reading program remains the same, the way we purchase the books will be different. According to the December *response* magazine, **books with stock numbers listed are available at United Methodist Women Mission Resources** by visiting unitedmethodistwomen.org/store or by calling 800.305.9857. **All titles labeled "Kindle" are available as e-books or in print.** Using the Digital Catalog (shown to the right) allows readers to click on the desired book and order online. This gives United Methodist Women a percentage of the proceeds. Books can also be found at your local library or at independent bookstores.



The reading program catalog can be downloaded at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram

Mattie Kolb Scholarship

It is time to give applications to all your family and friends at church, work and home. All of you have made it possible to give these \$500 scholarships every year. Some years we give one and some years two or three! It is important that you get any funds for Mattie Kolb to the district treasurer by May 1, 2019. That will determine how many scholarships we can give; currently we have enough for one. Anyone, male or female, young or old, that is attending college may apply. Financial need, grades, community and church activities are selection criteria. It is hard to pick one or two out of over 100 applications, but we prayerfully do it!

Scholarship applications can be found on the awf-umw.org website under Dothan District. Please feel free to call me or email me with any questions at 334-791-5530 or jolinda928@gmail.com.

Jolinda Strickland
Mattie Kolb Scholarship Chair

Jolinda Strickland

Dothan District Annual Day



Betty Helms invited everyone to the SEJ Meeting in Mobile, AL



Our Service of Remembrance



Rev. Randy Greene

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

2019 A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial is an opportunity for women to reflect on the gospel of Christ and make an offering that helps sustain ministry around the country and the world. Every year, United Methodist Women members participate in this observance. It is a chance to study and reflect on the focus.

The mission focus for 2019 is “Building a Thriving Generation of Children and Youth World-wide.” All offerings this year will go to programs that promote well-being and equal opportunities for children and youth which include but are not limited to the following:

- Advocacy to end the school-to prison pipeline.
- Anti-violence and child protection programs.
- After school and wraparound programs.
- Vocational livelihood training for refugees and vulnerable children and youth.
- Formal and informal workshops on healthy living.
- Equal access to education. (especially in Haiti and Liberia)
- Access to educational and life opportunities for children with disabilities.

In the coming years, United Methodist Women will pay attention to children marginalized by the legal system. Focus will be on interrupting the school-prison pipeline to advocate for a 25% decrease in the number of arrests of children and youth in schools, with specific focus on the youth populations which are most impacted. United Methodist Women is also seeking the redesign of zero-tolerance policies in school so they can protect rather than criminalize children.

You are encouraged to commemorate A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial in the first months of the year. Be creative, but there are suggestions and ideas on the unitedmethodistwomen.org website or the United Methodist Women *Sisterhood of Grace Program Book* 2018-19.

Jane Dyer Brown
Spiritual Growth Coordinator



Days for Girls Project **Dothan District Mission Team - Social Action**



In 2016, Celeste Mergens, Founder and CEO of Days for Girls, visited the United Methodist Women National Office to tell them about her organization. It was an obvious fit for United Methodist Women to help because Maternal and Child Health has been an important part of our mission. Apparently, this was a connection that was “meant to be.”

In 2008, Celeste Mergens was working in community development for an NGO in Kenya. In the wake of the country’s post-election violence, she witnessed a tremendous rise in the number of girls in orphanages. “What happens to these girls when they menstruate?” Mergens wondered. She quickly learned that the girls stay in their rooms, sitting on a piece of cardboard, missing out on school and work. What they desperately needed, in Kenya and many other parts of the world, was access to feminine hygiene items. Thus, the non-profit Days for Girls was born, which provides washable, sustainable hygiene kits to girls and women all over the world. Each hygiene kit lasts 2-4 years, giving girls back months of missed education and opportunity. Visit the Days for Girls website <https://www.daysforgirls.org> and learn more about the organization.

The simple Days for Girls hygiene kits have a tremendous impact on women’s and children’s lives. Girls no longer have to miss days of school every month. And when girls are educated, they feed their families and lift their entire society, breaking the cycle of poverty. In addition, the availability of hygiene kits gives girls and women back their dignity, shields them from abuse, and protects their health. Days for Girls also empowers women to become entrepreneurs and build businesses. The organization helps support training centers in some of the countries where kits are distributed. At the training centers women learn how to make hygiene kits and sell them to schools, NGOs and governments. In the U.S., the organization is talking to schools, prisons and half-way houses about distributing the kits to girls and women in need.

In 2018, the UMW Dothan District Mission Team organized our own hands-on sewing project affiliated with Days for Girls. We have had several productive sewing days and small sewing groups are being formed to continue the project between larger events. We regularly ship boxes of Days for Girls kits to Bellingham, WA, where the Days for Girls National Office is located.

The Dothan District will have a sewing day soon. Volunteers will be needed for sewing and non-sewing jobs. The tasks are not difficult, but each is necessary for the quality product that we will produce as a team. An added advantage is the camaraderie, especially with United Methodist women from other churches in the District. There are small sewing days at St. Luke UMC in Enterprise on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.

We’d love for you to join us. If you cannot join us and want to contribute in some other way, please give us a call. For more information and to let us know to make room for you and your friends at the sewing table, call Jean Johnson, Dothan District Social Action Coordinator, at 334-406-7964, or email jjohnsontrue@gmail.com. Let’s make a difference for the girls and let’s do it together!

Jean Johnson
Social Action Coordinator



Celebrate 150 Years!

This milestone year is a time to celebrate United Methodist Women members, past and present, lasting impact on the lives of women, children and youth. This is an inspiring time to plan toward our future!

Day of Giving | MARCH 23, 2019

unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund

Let us honor our foremothers by giving to the Legacy Fund to ensure United Methodist Women can continue serving women, children, and youth around the world for the NEXT 150 years. Generous donors have already committed to matching a portion of our gifts received on the Day of Giving.

WAYS TO GIVE:

Go online: unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund to make a secure credit card payment.

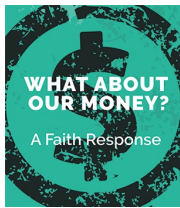
Text to Give: Text "41444" on your cell phone and enter "Legacy 150" in the message area.

Give by Mail: United Methodist Women National Office
475 Riverside Drive 15th Floor, Attn: LEGACY New York, NY 10115. Write "Day of Giving" in the memo section.

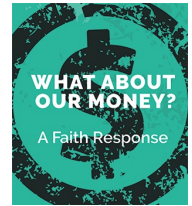
The Legacy Fund is a permanent endowment to support the work of future generations of United Methodist Women.



THE LEGACY FUND
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN



April Mission Study Dothan First United Methodist Church



What About Our Money? A Faith Response explores how we relate to money within the context of our faith. Through this connection between our faith and our money, readers discover how to live closer to God and God's people, even in our North American culture that is so deeply defined by money. She explores the biblical foundation of abundance (sufficiency), which stands in opposition to the scarcity narrative our culture tells us from the time we are very young.

The text's seven chapters start with providing a biblical foundation for the discussion to come. Taylor then explores the systems in which we make our financial decisions, our modern-day understanding of what is available to us, and how we use/consume our resources in Chapters 2–4. Chapters 5–7 help readers take steps to implement this knowledge in their lives by looking at what belongs to God, how we can plan for the future as people of faith, and to make the connection between our faith and finances.

The focus of this study is both personal and communal. Readers will explore their own relationship with money, the money choices available to us, and how we individually and collectively respond in light of our faith. The text takes into account that we are all in different places, in different financial circumstances, health, family structure, race, age, and stage of life, and each of us has our own values and capacities.

REPORTING DUE DATES

Local Officer to District Officer

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Treasurer's Report Unit Treasurer	By November 30 Carolyn McInnis, District Treasurer
*Name of Deceased Members Unit Secretary	By November 30 (please report any December deaths by January 10) Jane Dyer Brown, Spiritual Growth
*Local New Unit Report Unit Secretary	By November 30 TBD, Membership Nurture & Outreach
*Social Action Report Unit Social Action Coordinator	By November 30 Jean Johnson, Social Action
*Reading Program Reports Unit Program Resource	By November 30 TBD, Program Resources
*Mission Study Participants Unit Education & Interpretation	By November 30 TBD, Education & Interpretation
Consolidated President's Report Unit President	By November 30 Debbie Bracewell, President
New Officer Lists Unit Secretary	By November 30 Marilyn Skipper, District Secretary
*Included in the Consolidated President's Report	

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p><i>January</i></p> <p>13 — District-Wide Officer Training, 9:30, Enterprise First UMC, Fellowship Hall, District Mission Team meeting following Training 25-26 — Conference Executive Meeting, Enterprise First UMC, Enterprise, AL 27 — Super Sunday</p>	<p><i>February</i></p> <p>15-16 — Conference Annual Day, Demopolis First UMC, Demopolis 23 — Dothan District Annual Day, 9:30, Abbeville UMC</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>8-9 — COSROW, Blue Lake</p> 
<p><i>April</i></p> <p>21 — Easter Sunday 27 — District Mission Study, 8:00 Registration, 8:30 Welcome and Study, Dothan First UMC, District Mission Team meeting</p>	<p><i>May</i></p> 	<p><i>June</i></p> <p>2-5 — Annual Conference, Frazer United Methodist Church</p>
<p>July</p> <p>12-13 — Conference Executive Meeting, Pine Hill, AL 19-20 — Mission u, St. Luke UMC, Pensacola, FL</p>	<p>AUGUST</p>  <p>3 — Dothan District Mission Team Meeting, Enterprise First UMC, Gathering Room, 9:30</p> <p>District Spiritual Day</p>	<p><i>September</i></p> <p>District Mission Study, 8:00 Registration, 8:30 Welcome and Study, Headland UMC</p>
<p><i>October</i></p> <p>11 –13 — Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER), Blue Lake</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>2 — President & Treasurer Conference Training for District Officers</p>	<p><i>December</i></p>  <p>Come let us <i>Adore</i> Him</p> 

Mattie Kolb Scholarship Committee

Dothan District United Methodist Women

% Jolinda Strickland

512 E. Church Street

Headland, AL 36345

January 30, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed is an application for the Mattie Kolb Scholarship which is a \$500 scholarship awarded yearly by the Dothan District United Methodist Women. Please make copies available to any student, male or female, you believe may be interested. The scholarship is awarded based on financial need, academic record, and service to church and community.

The application can also be found on our website www.awf-umw.org, under Dothan District.

Please contact Jolinda Strickland at jolinda928@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mattie Kolb Scholarship Committee

Mattie Kolb Scholarship Application

DIRECTIONS: Complete the application form accurately and completely. Attach additional sheets if needed. Put NA in any blank not applicable to you. Applications not filled out completely and applications postmarked after April 15th will not be considered.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____
 Street or P O Box City State Zip Code

Marital Status: _____ Name of Spouse: _____

Number of Children: _____ Ages of Children: _____

Parents' Name: _____

Parents' Address (if different from yours): _____

Parents' Telephone Number: _____ Number of brothers & sisters living at home: _____

Number of other family members to be enrolled in college during the coming academic year and name of their school: _____

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1. What is your family's gross income? Place a check in the appropriate blank.

_____ Under \$15,000 _____ \$15,000-\$30,000 _____ \$30,000-\$45,000 _____ \$45,000-\$60,000
_____ \$60,000-\$75,000 _____ \$75,000-\$90,000 _____ \$90,000-\$105,000 _____ Over \$105,000

2. What are your estimated college expenses for the coming year in specified categories?

\$ _____ Tuition and Fees
\$ _____ Books
\$ _____ Housing (Resident students only)
\$ _____ Transportation (commuting students only)
\$ _____ TOTAL

3. What income do you expect to earn yourself during the coming year?

\$ _____ Income for work during the academic year
\$ _____ Income for work during the summer or breaks

4. Have you received financial assistance for college expenses during the past year from any source other than family? _____ Yes _____ No

5. Do you expect to receive financial assistance for college expenses during the coming year from any other source other than your family? _____ Yes _____ No. If your answer is yes, specify the source(s) and anticipated amount(s): _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

1. List the name and location of the college you plan to attend during the coming year and classification

School: _____

_____ Freshman _____ Sophomore _____ Junior _____ Senior

2. Identify your major: _____

3. What will your enrollment status be during the coming year? _____ Full-Time _____ Part-Time

4. What degree are you seeking? _____

When do you expect to complete this degree? _____

List all colleges you have attended, dates of attendance and degrees earned (if any)

College _____ Dates _____ Degree _____

College _____ Dates _____ Degree _____

5. Give the name and location of high school(s) you attend(ed) _____

Note: For this application to be considered, official transcripts of all high school and college work must be sent to the address below. The transcripts must indicate your GPA.

CHURCH AFFILIATION & ACTIVITIES:

LIST SCHOOL/COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND HONORS:

MY SIGNATURE BELOW CERTIFIES THAT I HAVE ANSWERED ALL ITEMS ACCURATELY AND COMPLETELY TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY. I GIVE THE DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PERMISSION TO POST MY NAME ON THE DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S WEBSITE, IN THE DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S NEWS LETTERS, AND IN THE DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S DIRECTORIES THAT ARE GIVEN TO MEMBERS.

Signature

Date

This application and your official transcripts must be mailed to the following address no later than April 15th:

Mattie Kolb Scholarship
c/o Jolinda Strickland
512 E Church Street
Headland, AL 36345

Note: Scholarship winners will receive notification no later than May 30th.



TALENT BANK INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE LEADERSHIP

(To be completed by prospective leader)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary) Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Local Church _____ District _____

Age _____ Email _____

Spoken _____ Racial Ethnic Group _____

Professional skills, job experience _____

Office(s) Held in United Methodist Women

Office(s)	Dates of Service
Local _____	_____
District _____	_____
Conference _____	_____
Jurisdiction _____	_____

Additional Experience on the local, district, conference or general church level (other than United Methodist Women) or in the community _____

Special Talents or Skills _____

Areas of Special Interest or Concern

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> secretarial | <input type="checkbox"/> recruiting members | <input type="checkbox"/> publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> social issues | <input type="checkbox"/> workshops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> computer | <input type="checkbox"/> creativity | <input type="checkbox"/> newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> accounting/bookkeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> recording minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> retreats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organization of details | <input type="checkbox"/> public policy | <input type="checkbox"/> music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nominations | <input type="checkbox"/> public relations | <input type="checkbox"/> youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> program planning | <input type="checkbox"/> community building | <input type="checkbox"/> children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> administration | <input type="checkbox"/> inclusiveness/pluralism | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Do you wish to serve on which level (circle): Local District Conference

Which office(s) on the United Methodist Women’s Team would you most like to hold given the opportunity to serve?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Nurture & Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Growth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair of Nominations | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Interpretation | |

Why are you interested in this position and what qualifications do you feel you have for your office(s) of choice?

Would you be able to use your gifts and talents to uphold and strengthen United Methodist Women through the PURPOSE of the organization? _____

Is it possible for you to be away from your home or employment for:

Full Day _____ Weekend _____ Extended Time _____

Yes or No Yes or No Yes or No

_____ I am sorry but I am unable to accept an office this year. Please keep my name on file and contact me in _____.