

## *District Officers*

### **President**

Reda Brooks

### **Vice President**

TBA

### **Secretary**

Mable Lawrence

### **Treasurer**

Brenda Hargrave

### **Program Resources**

TBA

### **Spiritual Growth**

Bonnie Shanks

### **Social Action**

Ora Gillespie

### **Communications**

Carolyn Davis

### **Membership Nurture**

#### **& Outreach**

Reba Wooten

### **Education & Interpretation**

Marsha Clayton

### **Nominations**

Chair - TBA

Evelyn Teel, Member



Introducing our New Interim UMW President, Reda Brooks for the Montgomery-Prattville District! Reda is actively involved in the United Methodist Women's programs and missions on the local, district and conference as a former president and member. Her bio speaks for itself. We welcome you and look forward to learning from the "master teacher"!



Reda Faye Gillespie Brooks is an early childhood educator. Reda was born, reared, and educated in Starkville, Mississippi. Reda attended Mississippi State University for undergraduate and graduate studies in elementary education. Later studies led to Teacher/Trainer certification from the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation in Ypsilanti, Michigan. She has facilitated learning experiences with students from Pre-k through college and university.

She has served as unit president, secretary, membership chair, district and local program resource chair to name a few. Reda is very passionate about her belief that God has put her on earth to make life easier for children...especially those who do not have parents who are equipped to parent according to guidance from the Word. Reda is a Christian who tries to live her life in ways that will please God.

Reda is the wife of John Brooks, the newly appointed Director of Multicultural Ministries for the Alabama West Florida Conference. John and Reda are a blended family with five children and seven grandchildren. They have just returned from Hawaii (Pearl Harbor) where their oldest son, Ronald Edward Brooks, Command Master Chief with 30 years of service in the US Navy was highly honored at his retirement ceremony.

**Bonnie Shanks**



**Spiritual Growth  
Coordinator**

I encourage every local UMW members to attend District and Conference events. All dates will be posted on our website and will be included in each issue of **"The Messenger's Flame"**.

The key to our success and growth as a district is  
**COMMUNICATION.**



**Brenda Hargrave**  
Treasurer

**Your Change Can Make a Change in a Life**

This year our Conference 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. One of our units has already sent in \$64.50.

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.

**Montgomery/Prattville Officer Training**

If you did not attend Officer Training in February at Millbrook First, we missed you. Training packets have been mailed to all unit presidents. The packets contain the new Remittance form with instructions. The effective date for this new form was Jan. 1, 2018. Unit presidents, please be sure you pass the treasurer training info on to your unit treasurer.

**Montgomery/Prattville District 2018 Pledge to Missions**

Our District has pledged \$12,200 for 2018. As of May 25, we have received \$2459.50 towards this goal:

Pledge to Missions (includes Change for Change):	\$2187.50
Special Mission Pin:	80.00
Gift to Missions:	35.00
Gift in Memory:	50.00
World Thank:	87.00

All funds are due by Nov. 30, but we encourage you to consider sending your unit funds in throughout the year.

If you have any questions about the new Remittance Form, please call me at 334-285-5788 or 334-322-4086. I will be happy to help.

Brenda Hargrave



Marsha Clayton  
Education and Interpretation  
Coordinator

*Come and Join*  
The Montgomery-Prattville District  
*United Methodist Women*  
for  
District Mission Study #2 for 2018  
*"Missionary Conferences of the*  
*United Methodist Church"*

**Saturday, June 23, 2018**

**Montgomery First UMC**

2416 West Cloverdale Park, Montgomery

Wesley Hall - Epworth Room

9:00am (Registration starts 8:30am)

*You won't want to miss this opportunity to explore, share and discuss for a better understanding the mission and ministries of the three US missionary conferences and how they connect us to each other and to the history of the church. The intent of the study is to explore our connections and our differences and to see how both strengthen our community as well as our place within it.*

*Presenter: Tutti Johnson, AWF Conference Coordinator,  
Membership, Nurture, and Outreach*

Mark your calendar now to come and be a part of this event.

We believe you'll be glad you did.

***Hope to see you there!!!!!!***

**From Reba Wooten  
Membership Nurture & Outreach**



Membership Nurture and Outreach involves every United Methodist Woman. We should all encourage our unit members in attendance and participation in local, district and conference activities. This helps us to grow spiritually as well as knowledgeable. We should be sensitive to individual situations involving members and provide support where needed. We should reach out to ladies that are not members and encourage participation, *especially* for teens and young adults. We should keep contact with members that have been absent and provide help where needed.

Nurturing includes keeping in touch with members who need a caring heart. We extend a caring heart to Penny Colin, our Past President, in the loss of her mother Fran Bush. Fran was a long-time member of United Methodist Women, served as District President and held other various offices. Those of us who knew Fran, learned from her example she set for us as a dedicated Methodist Woman.

We also want to recognize other ladies who have served us in past years as District President:

1. Sarah Sheppard
2. Bonnie Shanks
3. Fran Bush
4. Kim Moore
5. Gloria Jean Canty (Williams) creatives
6. Beverly Snyder
7. Cathy Givan
8. Penny Colin

and our new president Reda Brooks. Thank you, Reda, for your willingness to serve. If you know of the others who have served as president, please let me know.

As we think of ways for Outreach, our National President, Shannon Priddy, shared a program for us to put into practice. Each member is to seek out a young woman and intentionally involve her in a United Methodist Women activity. Be creative!! Be a mentor for this person. On Annual Day we would like to recognize those who have become Priddy Pals.

Face-to-face contact is a proven method of success. As we meet together and make other contacts, remember United Methodist Women needs you. Go forth and work toward involving others and practice Nurturing and Outreach

Reba Wooten



**Ora Gillespie  
Social Action  
Coordinator**

## **"Who Are we?"**

***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.***

We are United Methodist Women members. Our purpose leads us into faith, hope and love in action.

As UM women, we travel with our PURPOSE. As we move about, we are standing on the firm foundation established by our foremothers. Our strength begins with the local unit, extends through the district, conference and into the world.

Romans 12: 9-13 is a reminder to each of us to let our love be genuine, hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good, love one another with mutual affection and outdo one another in showing honor. We should not lack zeal, be happy in spirit and serve the Lord with praise and honor. We should rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer, contribute to the needs of others and always extend hospitality to strangers (Social Action in Action).

We pray, study, pledge and act. We are all connected and tied together in this great community. We are living our legacy with/in faith, hope and love.

Your Montgomery-Prattville District  
Social Action Coordinator,  
Ora A. Gillespie

# The Reading Program 2018

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram](http://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 140 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 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including 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 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) and [New World Outlook](#) magazines.

### 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 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) and [New World Outlook](#) magazines.

### 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 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's titles).

Regular reading of [response](#) and [New World Outlook](#) magazines.

## Mark Your Calendars

**Saturday, June 23, 2018**

### **Mission Study:**

Montgomery First UMC  
2416 West Cloverdale Park  
Montgomery AL 36106

**Saturday, September 29, 2018**

### **District Day Apart/Spiritual Enrichment**

Clanton First UMC  
207 8th Street North  
Clanton Alabama 35045

## 2019 District UMW DATES

**Saturday, February 2019**

**Annual Day/Training**  
**Whitfield Memorial UMC**  
2673 Fisk Rd.  
Montgomery AL 36111

**Saturday, March 16, 2019**

**Mission Study: #1**  
**Greenville First UMC**  
112 Adams Street  
Greenville AL 36037

**Saturday, June 2019**

**Mission Study: #2**  
**Trinity UMC**  
610 Fairview Ave.  
Prattville AL 36066

**Saturday, September 2019**

**District Day Apart/Spiritual Enrichment**  
**Locust Bluff UMC**  
2721 Alternate County Road 21 N  
Prattville, Alabama 36068



**2018**

**Alabama West Florida Conference UMW**

**DATES**

**Friday, July 20, 2018 - Saturday, July 21, 2018  
Cooperative Mission u Event - Gadsden St United Methodist  
Church, Pensacola, FL**

**Friday, October 19, 2018 - Sunday, October 21, 2018  
Spiritual Enrichment Retreat - Blue Lake**

**2019 AWF UMW DATES**

**Friday, February 15, 2019 - Saturday, February 16, 2019  
AWF UMW Annual Meeting - First United Methodist  
Church, Demopolis, AL.**

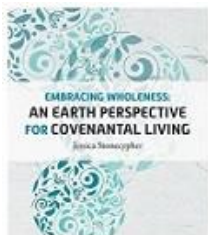
**Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 11 - 13, 2019  
Spiritual Enrichment Retreat - Blue Lake Assembly  
Grounds**

# Mission u 2018 Information

Friday, July 20 - Saturday July 21, 2018

Gadsden Street United Methodist Church - Pensacola, Florida - Location updated April 9, 2018

A cooperative event by Alabama-West Florida Conference Board of Church and Society and United Methodist Women.



## Spiritual Growth Mission Study Leaders: Jim DuFriend and Gail Baughman



*The Spiritual Growth Study, Embracing Wholeness* is the second in a two-part series about covenantal living. Part 2 is designed to build on this work it explores the ways God has called us to live in covenantal relationship with all of creation and challenges readers to work toward stronger and healthier relationships with creation, their communities, themselves, and God. [Read more](#)



## Issue Study Leaders: Betty Helms and Angie Woodward



*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. The author, Susan K. Taylor, 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. [Read more](#)



## Geographic Study Leader: Joyce Genz



*Missionary Conferences of The United Methodist Church in the United States* is a mission journey that guides us through the missionary conferences: Alaska Missionary Conference, Oklahoma Missionary Conference and Red Bird Missionary Conference. These conferences are mission fields close to our hearts. They are the communities and families served by individuals, churches and institutions that carry on the support and solidarity of United Methodist Women organized for mission with them. [Read more](#)

Click on the link below for the brochure for Mission U

[Registration Brochure](#)

<http://www.awf-umw.org/awf-mission-u-20180409.pdf>

**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	
<b>I</b>	<b>UNDESIGNATED GIFTS</b>	<i>Your change can change a life</i>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1. Pledge to Mission</b>		<b>Regular Pledge</b>	\$ -
<b>2. Special Mission Recognition (Pin)</b>		<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*
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
<b>3. Gift to Mission</b>	#	(cards - \$5 each) list below	# cards
			\$ -
	Baby	On Your Special Day	\$ -
	Birthday	Peace	\$ -
	Christmas	Thank you	\$ -
	Congratulations	Thinking of You	\$ -
	In Service of Christ		\$ -
<b>4. Gift in Memory</b>			
<b>5. World Thank Offering</b>			
<b>TOTAL UNDESIGNATED GIFTS (to be counted on 5-Star *)</b>			\$ -
<b>II</b>	<b>DESIGNATED GIFTS</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>6. A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial</b>			
<b>7. Supplementary Gifts: If other UMW Agency not listed, write in</b>			
3001146	A Brighter Future for Children and Youth		
3001148	Assembly Offering		
3001149	Scarritt-Bennett Center		
N721222	<b>DUMAS WESLEY</b>		
U000002	UMCOR (name Project/Adv #)		
<b>SUBTOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY GIFTS:</b>			\$ -
<b>III</b>	<b>AWF UMW CONFERENCE GIVING</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>
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	<b>AWFC UMW LOVE OFFERING</b>	# Members	\$ -
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED GIFTS (stays in Conference:</b>			\$ -
<b>IV</b>	<b>TOTAL REMITTANCE Check #:</b>		<b>TOTAL:</b>
Treasurer:		Check #	
Phone:		Email:	

**Section I - requirements for 5-star \***

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.

\$40 basic pin, \$60 with sapphire, \$100 with pearl, \$200 with emerald, \$500 with ruby, \$1,000 with diamond, \$2,000 with two diamonds.

**Annual Day/Training /Memorial  
At Millbrook UMC February 17, 2018**



**Montgomery-Prattville District UMW  
AWF Conference Annual Day  
At Foley UMC, In Foley, AL - February 24, 2018**



**Spiritual Growth Mission Study: Living as a Covenant Community At Wetumpka First UMC - March 24, 2018**



**Spiritual Growth Mission Study: Living as a Covenant Community At Wetumpka First UMC - March 24, 2018**



**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](mailto: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 Debbie Bush, Communications Coordinator: [Savannahgirl2759@gmail.com](mailto:Savannahgirl2759@gmail.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 [savannahgirl2759@gmail.com](mailto:savannahgirl2759@gmail.com) with your request and you will be added to our email list.**

**ALERT is also online at [www.awf-umw.org](http://www.awf-umw.org)**

## **Stay Connected**

UMW: [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

AL-WFL: [www.awf-umw.org/](http://www.awf-umw.org/)

Mont-Pratt District: [www.awf-umw.org/montgomeryprattville.html](http://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.*