



DEMOPOLIS DISTRICT LINK

SEPTEMBER 2009

Published by and for
United Methodist Women

NOTES FROM SHIRLEY:

Greetings UMW Units:

Since we do somewhat seasonal newsletters, it seems I am always amazed at the passing of time when I start to write to you. But, really, what did happen to the time this quarter??? So much has gone on since our last letter, and so much is about to happen. It really is hard to keep up sometimes, isn't it? I sent out two communications via e-mail and regular mail recently which went to local presidents (and others, if I have your e-mail addresses), and some of the things I am writing about will be repeating myself, but maybe that's OK if your memory is in any way like mine.

The end of July we had several members attend the School of Christian Mission from the Demopolis District, and the studies were great. Blue Lake is such a spiritual place and the perfect setting for reflecting on the topics presented. As you know this school is a joint effort with United Methodist Women, the General Board of Global Ministries, and the Board of Church and Society. We had the counterpart study for our district August 15th in Demopolis. This is a great time to hear a little bit about the studies and determine which ones might fit our local groups. The District Office coordinates it with the District UMW. Rev. Bonner did an outstanding job recruiting leaders, and our ladies went all out with the food and decorations. If you missed out on either or both of these times of study, please make an extra effort to attend next year.

We are looking forward to being in Camden for our District Annual Day September 19th. Ruth Kinne and her Unit will be serving us lunch that day and have extended a warm invitation to us all. Please try to be there. Jane Watson, our vice-president has lined up a great program with the focus being on Hispanic Ministries. As you know, we will have a business session, and we will be handing out certificates for various accomplishments. However, if you are not getting recognized this year, please still plan to come and get inspired and maybe learn something you didn't already know. We are a little bit behind with our pledge to Conference so if your unit has not turned in your pledge for this year, please send that on in to Margaret Agee. We are moving registration up this year to 9AM and planning to have lunch at 11:30AM and then have two short workshops which will fulfill our emphasis on "For Christ's Sake, Turn the World Upside Down." One is on healthcare, and the other is on racial justice. We are planning to be finished by 1 PM.

Conference Annual Day is October 31st, and we will be going to Blue Lake to wrap up the business for this year. There is a registration form in this newsletter. Go ahead and plan to get that in as early as possible. We want a really big group to go from our district. Remember our color is green--wear it if you can. We will be taking our Pennies for Mission green footprints again, but they are a little bit different from last year's. They are smaller, and each one represents \$25 instead of \$5. We had them going up the wall as well as all over the floor of the gym. Remember we were in second place last year out of eight districts. Let's try to be first this time. It is not too late to contribute; this project will continue next year as well.

The Charter for Racial Justice reports are due the first of September. We just need to have completed one item in each of the three categories to be a Charter Member Unit this year. Names will be listed at Annual Day at Blue Lake. Let's try to have as many as we can for this first effort. Many of the activities are things we are already doing; we just need to document them. Send these to Beth Bowdin, Conference UMW President.

Please be sure to send all the report forms in as soon as possible. We want to have as many 5 Star Units, Reading Program participants, and Mission Today Units as we can.

District Officers: please remember that Officer Update at Blue Lake will be Oct. 30th. The new policy there is that they will be expecting all officers to be there. If you cannot for some reason, you must cancel, or you will be billed for the accommodations and food. So, please let me know if you cannot attend.

Thank you for all you do in the name of United Methodist Women for women, children and youth.

Peace,

Shirley Hodges - Demopolis District President

Secretary

By Jean Creswell

Local Unit Secretary,

The only report that you are personally responsible for is upcoming soon – the LOCAL UNIT OFFICER LIST for 2010 year. Our 2009 Demopolis Directory date has the due date listed as November 1st, but per the recent Conference Alert, has it listed as October 1st. If you can, please try to have this list to the District (Jean Creswell) and a copy to the Conference (Beth Henson, Alert Editor) by the 1st of October. If you don't have a form, please let me know, or if nothing else, please just create your own list. Make sure you put your unit's name and the Demopolis District on the top. List each office, then officer's name, address, phone number and email (very important to help save postage). The information you send in will go into the 2010 Demopolis Directory and will be used for newsletters from both the district and conference. Even if you do not have any officer changes, please send in a form listing so that we can make sure we have the correct information.

As secretaries, we should not only be recording every meeting's minutes, but you should have an active roll on each member, an updated officers listing, copies of all financial reports your treasurer prepares, and all correspondence the unit sends and receives. At any time, you should be able to go back in your officer's book and be able to look up what has gone on in your unit.

I look forward to hearing from each of you and expect to hear great things from all the Demopolis local units. As ever, if you need anything from me, just call, email or write.

Jean R. Creswell jean@pinebelt.net
PO Box 250, Arlington, AL 36722
334-385-5015 (work) 334-385-2521 (home)

Vice-President

By Jane Watson

We're looking forward to Annual Day at Camden UMC on Saturday, August 19th. Registration will begin at 9:00 with the program beginning at 9:30. Please be sure to send all of your reports in to your district officers immediately so that you can be counted.

Hispanic Ministries in the Demopolis District will be the emphasis of the program. You will be excited to learn what is being done as well as what is needed in this area. Come and share with your fellow UMW units what you are doing and get ideas from them.

All Vice Presidents—please review your years program activities to be sure that you are balanced in all areas and are not neglecting any. Let's fulfill the purpose of United Methodist Women in our local units.

Education and Interpretation

By Rose Mary Nettles

I hope all our Demopolis Units are busy working on becoming Mission Today Units. Your reports for this year are to be sent to me at: P.O. Box 308; Arlington, Al. 36722. The reports should reach me by September 1st. The report forms for Mission Today and Mission Study are found on pages 32 and 34 of the 2009 District Directory. Each unit president should already have a copy of this directory

Remember that each unit is asked to complete at least one mission study a year and to complete a project for one of the mission agencies supported by UMW or UMCOR.

Let's always keep in mind that we are a community of women whose purpose is to expand concepts of missions through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Blue Lake

By Patricia Grindle

“What's Cookin' at Blue Lake?”

This time let's take this literally. Please join the “ladies day out” for four great days at Blue Lake September 29th, October 20th, November 17th and December 8th (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. each event). Come and learn how to make some of Blue Lake's new and old favorites (Fall soups, side dishes, breads and desserts). Email: registrar@bluelakecamp.com

Phyllis Murray will be the facilitator. One of her passions and gifts is Christian Hospitality through Food Service Ministry. She brings a background in food service and catering and is excited about exchanging ideas and recipes with new friends in the Alabama West Florida Conference. Please join us for at least one of these fun events.

Other happenings at Blue Lake include: Fall Family Camp & Blue Lake Day Celebration **October 2-4, 2009**. Blue Lake invites you to come rest, play, and grow as a family. Experience a weekend specifically designed with your family in mind. Fall Family Camp 2009 gives your family space to enjoy Blue Lake in a number of different ways, but most importantly however best suits your family. Arrival time and options vary (Friday or Saturday). Registration deadline is September 25th! Email: paige@bluelakecamp.com

What better way to top off a great weekend than a Blue Lake Day Celebration on Sunday, October 4th, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The day will begin @ 11:00 with a Communion Day Worship service featuring guest speaker Bishop Leeland. Following the service, from 12:00 – 4:00, activities for all ages are planned including: a picnic lunch, games, inflatables, swimming and boating, tours of Blue Lake, live music, and many other surprises.

Please make plans to join us at Blue Lake and celebrate their 60th year of ministry. Anytime at Blue Lake is a great time to renew your faith, to be close to God and have fellowship with other Christian brothers and sisters.

Treasurer

By Margaret K. Agee

Our 'to-date' totals are looking good. Since sending out the report cards as to where we are in our giving, we have received more pledges. We have not yet met our pledge to Conference but we are getting there. Thank you for all you do to make our district stand with the rest of them even though we are the smallest and the most spread out, area-wise. Our "Pennies Walking for Missions" is looking good even though we are not where we were last year. With each footprint counting as \$25.00 we have 54 feet to date. Last year at Blue Lake we had footprints everywhere on the floor and even taped to the wall. Get your church involved in collecting pennies for missions as well. Get them sent in as soon as possible.

At the beginning of the year each district was asked to send 10 Mission cards to be sold at the Blue Lake events. So far ours has sold \$65.00 worth. Also a jar for pennies was placed on the UMW table at Annual Conference and at the Christian School of Missions at Blue Lake. We have had \$8.98 placed in the jar at these events. Every bit helps and can be used. We have two new designs in Gift in Memory cards this year. If I can be of help to any of you please email or call at 334-385-2240 or margaret@pinebelt.net

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORKS LADIES. YOU WILL BE BLESSED.

I have been asked by several of you to share these recipes. I am happy to do this--but I would also enjoy some of your favorite recipes. Just send them in for the newsletter or to me. Maybe we could have a Demopolis District Cook Book and make some money. Georgette Griffith – Conference Vice President

VEGETABLE ASPIC (serves 8-9)

1 pkg lemon jello (I use sugar free)	1 cup boiling water	1/4 cup cold water
1/4 cup white vinegar	1 can tiny English peas—drained	1 can french green beans--drained
1 can white shoepeg corn—drained	2 Tablespoons (or more) chopped onion	2 TBS (or more) chopped celery
4-6 Tablespoons(or more) sliced olives	salt and pepper to taste	

Dissolve jell-o in hot water. Add cold water and vinegar. Refrigerate--when partially congealed add other ingredients and pour into molds that have been sprayed with Pam.

Dressing: 1/2 cup mayonnaise, 1/2 cup sour cream, 1 Tablespoon horseradish (or more--to taste)

Cold Cucumber Soup

1 cucumber (unpeeled) chopped	2 cans cream of celery soup	2 cans chicken broth
1/4 pt. sour cream	juice of one lemon	1 slice of green pepper
Jane's Crazy Salt to taste-starting with 1/2 teaspoon		

Blend 1/2 of the ingredients in blender (won't hold all of recipe) at a time. Chill and serve in bowls or mugs.

I served this several years at one of my mission team dinner meetings. My son could not believe that I would serve it--all my family hates it but I love it. Hope you will enjoy it as much as I do. I make it just for me. Saves well in the refrigerator.

2009 Demopolis District Mission Sampler



Jane Watson and Ruth Gynther looking at Sudan map



2009 Mission Sampler Sat., Aug. 15 at Demopolis First

Mark your calendar

What? District Annual Day
Where? Camden UMC
When? September 19, 2009 - 9:00 a.m.

What: Conference Annual Day
Where: Blue Lake
When: October 31, 2009
Note: District Officers will meet at Blue Lake October 30th, 2009.

Remember: Assembly in St. Louis, MO April 29 – May 3, 2010. Materials will be available at District Annual Day or contact Shirley Hodges – Phone: 334-636-5166 or e-mail gertbob@hotmail.com

Communications

The next issue of our Demopolis District Link will be published in February 2010. We would love to have news of activities in your local units. Please submit articles to the District Office, P.O. Box 1279, Demopolis, AL 36732 or email to: Patty Kirkpatrick (District Office) at umcddoff@bellsouth.net. In the subject line put "UMW Link Newsletter article".

Demopolis District – UMW
The United Methodist Church
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Demopolis, AL 36732

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God Loves

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
37th ANNUAL MEETING
District Officers Update–OCTOBER 30, 2009
Annual Day-OCTOBER 31, 2009

**“COME TO THE TABLE
TO NURTURE, TO SERVE, AND TO SHARE”**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Every United Methodist Woman
- Each Unit has **ONE** voting delegate and **MUST** pre-register
- Bishop, District Superintendents, and Pastors

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM!

Roommates **MUST** register together. Full payment **MUST** accompany registration.

You may select one roommate. Linwood Wing on first come first served basis.

Conference and District Officers and Voting Delegates must pay \$5.00 registration fee only (\$10.00 to stay in Linwood).

Registration deadline is **October 16, 2009**. **No registration will be accepted on the day of the event.**

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST PRE-REGISTER. Each person **MUST** use a separate registration form. Duplicate this form as needed. Friday check-in begins at 4:00 P.M. in the Atrium. Dinner is at 5:00 P.M. Saturday check-in is at the Gym beginning at 8:30 A.M. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO Blue Lake.**

Mail Registration form and check to:
Lisa Smith, Registrar
Blue Lake Assembly
8500 Oakwood Lane
Andalusia, Alabama 36420
Phone: 334-222-5407

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____ Phone: _____

ADDRESS _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Voting Local Delegate: yes () no ()

Which UMW Office do you hold: _____

Delegate _____ : Local Unit _____ District _____ Conference _____

Handicap _____ **Downstairs room needed** _____ **First time at Blue Lake** _____

STATE NAME OF YOUR DISTRICT _____

ROOMMATE: _____

All fees include the \$5.00 registration fee:

Friday night and Saturday (double) Oakwood \$55.00, Linwood \$60.00

Saturday only (includes lunch) \$13.00

Total Enclosed: _____

Health Information Form MUST be included with Your Registration

**ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
HEALTH INFORMATION**

Please Return This Form with Your Registration

Please bring your medical insurance card in case of illness or emergency.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

List all medications you are currently taking and the prescribing physician

_____ Where could
medical personnel locate this medication during the sessions?

Specials Needs – Please specify

My physician is _____

Telephone Number is: (day) _____ (night) _____

Insurance Company _____

Policy Number _____

Name of nearest relative _____ Phone number(s) _____

Please select one:

___ I hereby give my permission for qualified medical personnel to provide any emergency medical care which they may deem necessary. I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, The AL-WFL Conference, The United Methodist Church, and/or Blue Lake for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

___ I waive any necessary medical care and hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the AL-WFL Conference, The United Methodist Church, and/or Blue Lake for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Signature _____ Witness _____

Date _____