

**MAY
2016**

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT SOJOURNER

**SOUTH WEST
DISTRICT OFFICERS**

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863-599-9070

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305-323-2432

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UMW Publication Florida Conference

May Greetings South West District!

The month of May is upon us and I can hardly believe we are already five months in to this year! Upon thinking of an article for this month's newsletter, the notion of "who are we as United Methodist Women?" occurred to me. When I first became your District President, I, along with the other incoming District Presidents were given a gift by Deaconess Mary Melvin. It was a book – that she had written- and in this book were all types of ideas and themes. If you wanted it, it was there! It had bible verses, quotes and prayers, games, pledge service ideas and well, just about everything we would need as a "newbie". Needless to say, I have treasured that book, as well as used its many pages of topics.

In the coming months, your District Committee on Nominations will be scouting for new District officers AND coordinators. As I thought about the Committee and their tasks that lie ahead, I remembered a page from Mary's book entitled, "Who Are We?" I'd like to share an excerpt of the article.

Who Are We?

A United Methodist Women is a person whose feet are firmly rooted in the local unit of her church with her wings spread out in the global arena.

She is a witness to the story of stories, that the church has its origin in God's mission in Christ.

It is an awe-inspiring story – a story of commitment and conviction.

It is also a story of love and involvement – a story of sacrifice and death.

It is the story which our foremothers lived out in their homes, implanted in our land, and carried across the seas and continents.

Organizationally, the United Methodist Women live out this grand story of love and salvation by empowering women, youth and children.

The ministry is one of mission, education and advocacy and action!

It interprets the mission of the church and helps women be involved in that mission, both physically and financially.

(continued on next page)

United Methodist Women's PURPOSE

The organized unit of 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.



The organization of United Methodist Women provides a support system for its members as they challenge racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination.

Our organization is committed to programs that enable full participation of women in the church and society and to programs that advocate for the needs of children and youth.

The leadership of United Methodist Women must be able to further its Purpose and the concerns already listed.

The recruitment and selection for nomination of this leadership is the task of the Committee on Nominations.

We are United Methodist Women and we are proud to represent such an awesome organization that has been in existence for almost 150 years!

So when you are contacted by a committee member, take a few minutes from your day and let them share with you a little bit more about our organization, our Team and how you can be a part of it!

Looking to see each of you on the 21st in Venice!

Love & Blessings,

Shelley Davidson
District President



2014 UMW Louisville Assembly



A Note From Your Vice President...

Greetings Women of South West District!

As we adjust to the Spring weather here in Southwest Florida, and say good by to our lovely “snowbirds” as they head north for the summer, we on the District Team still have a lot of work before us. After our event on the 21st, we will meet to discuss our next year’s events and budget. I am asking for prayers in advance to help us to be guided by God as we do this important 2017 planning. Our events bind us together and help us grow spiritually while providing us with the tools we need to help others as Shelley so nicely shared with us in her greeting. We ask that you be open to hosting an event next year and invite others to come and be a part of our work together. If your Unit feels the call to host an event (either District or Mission Team Meeting) please email or call me or one of the District Team members and let us know. Since we cover such a large geographic area, we want to give everyone a chance to have an event near where they live and can only do that if your church is willing to host us!

If your church or Unit is small, hosting a MTM would be wonderful as we can bring our own lunch and drinks. Having a place to meet is a great way for us to get to know and visit the smaller churches in our District as well.

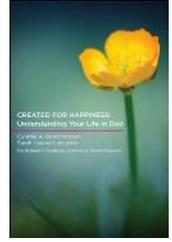
Blessings,

Mary Van Tol





Mission Studies



It's That Time of Year - Mission Today Annual Reports are Due **May 20, 2016** not June 15, 2016. Each unit Education and Interpretation Coordinator or the President of the local unit needs to submit this form, which counts the activities that each local unit has been involved in from **January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015**. These **reports** need to be submitted to the District E & I Coordinator, **Marti Daltry, 1995 Longfellow Drive, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903**.

At the District Annual Meeting in October 2016, certificates will be awarded to the units with the following levels: 17 - 19 Criteria - Gold, 11 - 16 Criteria - Silver, 8-10 Criteria - Bronze and 6-7 Criteria - Certificate of Participation.

It is important that Marti receives these reports as she must submit a list of Mission Today Units to the Florida Conference United Methodist Women to be included in the Conference Annual Meeting Program Book by July 31, 2016. The Application for **Mission Study Credit report** is not due until **June 15, 2016**. The studies that each unit is reporting are the study or studies that have been completed between **July 2015 and July 2016**.

Remember that to fulfill the requirements of a mission study, you must have a minimum of four hours for each study. Forms are available on our website at www.southwestdistrictumw.com/mission-study.

If you have any questions, please contact Marti at 239-997-0673 or **new email** : martidaltry@gmail.com.

Application for Mission Study Credit

Deadline June 15, 2016

Florida South West District UMW _____

Church _____ Person reporting: _____

Phone no.: _____

Name of Study _____

Type: Issue Study _____

Study Dates _____

Spiritual Growth _____

No. in attendance _____

Geographic _____

Class hours _____

Action growing out of study: _____

Leaders: _____

If a cluster, list all Units involved: _____

Please submit this updated form to your District E & I by May 20, 2016 to get credit for a Mission Today Unit.

Florida Conference United Methodist Women

MISSION TODAY ANNUAL REPORT

To qualify as a MISSION TODAY UNIT, the unit must participate in at least **eight** of the following criteria, five of which must be marked with an asterisk (*).

Program year being reported: _____

Unit/City: _____

Submitted by: _____

Office: _____ Date: _____

- *1. ___ Made and met our Pledge to Mission.*
2. ___ Was a Five Star Unit by contributing through all 5 channels of Mission Giving.
- *3. ___ Used the Prayer Calendar at every unit meeting.*
- *4. ___ Used at least two programs from the Program Book for UMW during the year.*
- *5. ___ Had at least two members subscribe to Response Magazine.*
6. ___ Had a regular Response Moment at circle/unit meetings where an article is lifted up to tell the mission story.
7. ___ Had at least 2 members complete Plan I of the Reading Program and encouraged all members to participate.
- *8. ___ Conducted or co-sponsored at least one Mission Study during the year.*
9. ___ Had at least one member other than a conference or district officer, attend the Conference Mission u.
10. ___ Had at least one member, other than a conference or district officer; attend a district or conference training or spiritual growth event.
11. ___ Had at least two members, other than a conference or district officer attend the district or conference Annual Meeting.
12. ___ Increased contacts between units and mission personnel, stations and projects in at least one way.
13. ___ Had at least one member actively involved in the UMW Action Network.
- *14. ___ Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice in at least one way.*
15. ___ Participated in the Campaign for Children in at least two ways.
16. ___ Honored God's Creation (environment) in at least one way.
17. ___ Helped to address the needs of women, children and youth in at least one way.
- *18. ___ Added at least two new members by reaching out to all women of the church.*
19. ___ Connected with the larger organization by inviting a conference or district officer to attend a meeting during the year.

Member News

Bonita Springs UMW "Fills the Van" Again

Nearly 750 pounds of personal hygiene items, cleaning/laundry supplies, and paper goods were donated to Bonita Assistance to help needy families as a result of the second annual "Fill the Van" drive conducted by the United Methodist Women of First UMC in Bonita Springs.

Thanks to the generous support of the congregation, UMW was able to successfully recreate an outreach project that was initiated last year. Non-perishable food donations to Bonita Assistance are an ongoing project for the Bonita Springs church. Starting in late March, UMW asked our generous congregation for donations of items not eligible for purchase with the EBT card under the SNAP (food stamp) program. The request specified personal hygiene, cleaning, and paper products. These items are in short supply at the assistance office's food pantry. For example, UMW members who volunteer at the food pantry mentioned that sometimes a family would be given only a single roll of toilet paper. This shortage of supplies is especially true during summer months when donations to the program are down.

The 2016 "Fill the Van" project did indeed fill a full size van with a variety of these items, and 748.9 pounds of items were delivered to the Bonita Assistance Office on April 11. They will be made available to clients of the agency via the Food Pantry. The agency was amazed by the donation; however, UMW members who participated added, "What a blessing to be part of this mission."



Member News

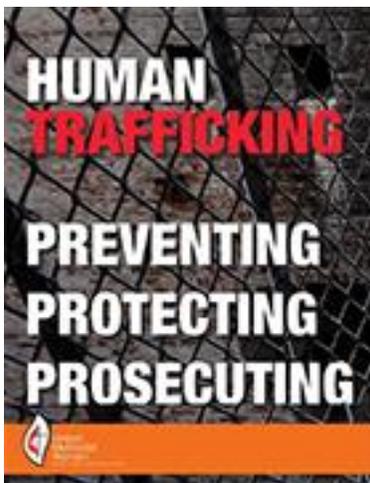
April declared "Month of Outrage" in national Wendy's Boycott

Methodist Women in Venice traveled to Sarasota to join other marchers from around the state of Florida to demonstrate in front of Wendy's on route 41. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers are asking for a boycott of Wendy's. The United Methodist Women's Organization has been very supportive of CIW for the past five years. We now, as an organization, need to continue our support of CIW by boycotting Wendy's and asking friends to join us.

The reason for the boycott is that Wendy's has refused to come to the table to discuss "The Fair Food Agreement." AND they are now buying tomatoes from Mexico's worse human rights violator of farm workers.



Article and photo submitted by Nancy Vanderwall,
Venice Grace UMW Vice President



Sarasota Crossroads held a Unit Meeting on April 19th on the topic of "Human Trafficking" put on by Bonnie Pentecost with a flare for drama (she dressed as and pretended to be a victim). The wonderful decorations included one large and individual small white umbrellas, and placemats with startling trafficking statistics. Sandy Segur, our Loving Link, was our guest that day. Bonnie repeated her program on Thursday night, April 28th, at a meeting in our church library for a potential start-up night time circle for our Unit with 9 in attendance, including officers.

Article submitted by Ora Jean Henry, Crossroads
UMW President/Communications



Member News

United Methodist Women of Friendship Punta Gorda have been busy putting their mission study into action!

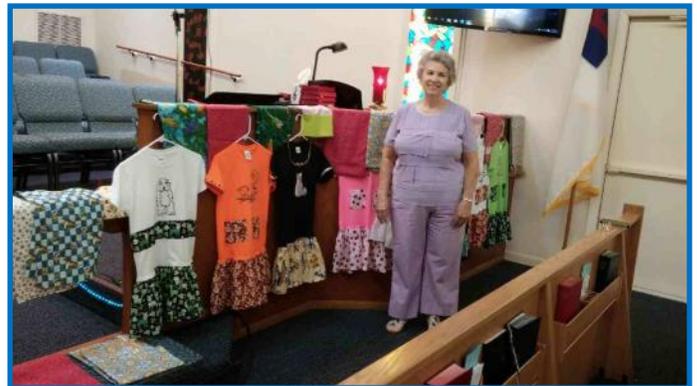
The Ruth Pierce Circle of Friendship United Methodist Women, Punta Gorda, sewed 74 dresses as a result of the Latin America Mission Study. The dresses were sewed by Grace Chamberlain, Ruth Pierce, Chairperson, Kay Seaman, Bev Rojem and Angie Priest. The dresses will be divided between Haiti and Nicaragua. Also, flip flops were donated by Friendship congregation.



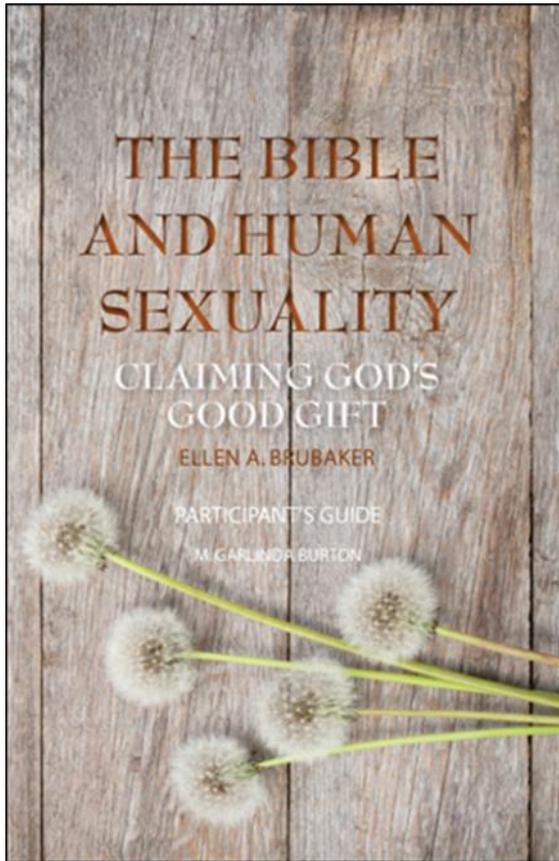
Windy Murphy, Children's Ministry, Lily Murphy, Aiden Murphy, and Ells Gariettson, Pastor Deborah McKown and Angie Priest



United Methodist Women members pictured from left to right are Grace Chamberlain, Kathy Hanley, Angie Priest (guest), Marie Lennox and Alice Sowles.



Pictured above is Grace Chamberlain who is the Chairperson of Ruth Pierce Circle and who just before Christmas, sewed 10 labyrinth squares which were sent to United Methodist Women's National Office for the General Conference in Portland, Oregon.



2016 Mission Studies

[Spiritual growth: The Bible and Human Sexuality](#)

[Issue study: Climate Justice](#)

[Geographic: Latin America-People and Faith](#)

[Children's Studies: God's Extravagant Garden: Climate Justice](#)

[Youth Study: Joining Voices for Climate Justice](#)

The Many Ways to Order Resources:

On the WEB: www.umwmissionresources.org

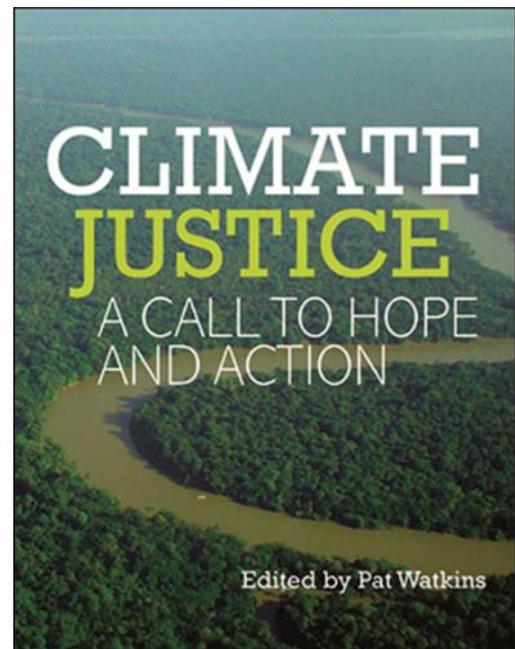
Toll-Free: 1-800-305-9857
Customer Service: 1-800-305-9857

Mail: United Methodist Women
Mission Resources
1650 Bluegrass Lakes Parkway
Alpharetta, GA 30004

E-Mail: cs@umwmissionresources.org

Fax Anytime: 1-770-280-0061

A table of current Reading Program Books, Mission Studies Books and other essentials along with Free United Methodist Women materials are available at scheduled events throughout the year.



Submitted by: Sandy Segur, Secretary Program Resources

sandyrsegur@gmail.com 941-249-8726

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
 SOUTH WEST DISTRICT
 The United Methodist Church
 Florida Conference
 Mary Van Tol, District Vice President
 1216 SE 19th Terrace
 Cape Coral, FL 33990
 Phone: 239-271-0161
 e-mail: mvantol@embarqmail.com

Dear Unit Treasurers:

The South West District United Methodist Women will hold their next event May 21, 2016. It will be their Program Resources & Social Action Event at Venice Grace United Methodist Church. The address of the church is: 400 E Field Ave, Venice, FL 34285. We are asking for your assistance in coordinating reservations and collecting money for your unit to cover the luncheon that will be prepared by Venice Grace United Methodist Women.

The reservations must be received no later than Friday, May 13, 2016 by Ms. Annette Cochran, Venice Grace's Unit Treasurer. Please use the form at the bottom of this page when you send in your reservation.

Please make the checks payable to Venice Grace Methodist Women. Send the form with a check from your unit's checkbook when you make the reservation.

Should you have any other questions, please feel free to contact myself, District Treasurer Dorris Ann Wasson (941-412-0847), or Annette at the numbers listed on this form. Thank you for helping with this matter.

Blessings,

Mary Van Tol

Mary Van Tol
 District Vice President

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Name of Church Unit _____

Name of Person picking up Luncheon Tickets _____

There will be (#) _____ persons eating lunch at \$8 per person
 We have enclosed \$ _____ for reservations.

SEND RESERVATIONS TO:

Annette Cochran
20396 Cavallo Ct.
Venice, FL 34292
941-480-0433

E-mail: cochranannette37@yahoo.com



United
 Methodist
 Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

The organized unit of United Methodist Woman shall be a community of woman 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.

FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
'MISSION u' ADULT REGISTRATION FORM
July 7 – July 10, 2016, Bethune Cookman University, Daytona Beach, Florida
640 Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Boulevard Registration deadline June 22
 Please fill out carefully and completely – Please print legibly. **No Lunch on Sunday**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name of Church: _____ City: _____ District: _____

First time attendee? ___ Attending a college or university? ___ Age Group: 18-35 ___ 36-50 ___ 51-70 ___ 71 + ___
 Laity? ___ Clergy? ___ Missionary? ___ Deaconess? ___ Member, United Methodist Women? ___
District or Conference Officer? ___ Your Office _____ CON member _____

HOUSING: Female ___ Male ___ Couple ___ Choice of Roommate _____
 (Roommates, please send your registration forms together).

Physical Disability Needs: 1st floor dorms ___ Wheelchair access ___ Wheelchair accessible shower ___

Check if you wish Advance Certification for Lay Servants Ministry. (Note that you MUST have completed a Basic Course.) ___

EMERGENCY (MUST BE COMPLETED) _____
 (Name) (Phone)

Physician _____
 (Name) (Phone)

Insurance/Policy # _____ Allergies, medical concerns, health & dietary needs ___ (use other side) ___

All participants will take the Spiritual Growth Study. Indicate 1st & 2nd choice of Study Leader. PLEASE CHOOSE an additional study. Indicate 1st & 2nd choice of study leader.

<u>Spiritual Growth Study</u>	<u>Latin America: People & Faith</u>	<u>Climate Justice</u>
<u>The Bible & Human Sexuality</u>		
Studies in English: Dr. Judith P. Okerson _____ Rev. David Range _____ Jackie Bridges _____ Deaconess Nancy K. Gordon _____ Sandra Barton _____	Study in English: Rev. Charline Pierre _____ Study in Spanish: Juana R. Lightbourne _____	Study in English: Elan Brown _____ Dr. Anne Winn _____ Rev. Dr. Larry A Rankin _____ Study in Korean: Rev. Haksop Kim _____
Study in Spanish: Rev. Miguel Velez _____	Study in English Dr. Laticia Scriven _____	Study in Creole: Rev. Amos Adhemar _____
Study in Creole: Dr. Judith P. Okerson _____	YOUTH (Climate Justice)	CHILDREN'S STUDY (Climate Justice)
Study in Korean: Gwang Hyun Jacob Park _____	Study in English: Rev. Gewanda Parker _____	Studies in English: Catherine Mospens _____ Marvia Aitken _____ Norla Cruz _____

Sign language needed? ___ Interpreter? ___ What Language? _____ Need Golf Cart Service* _____

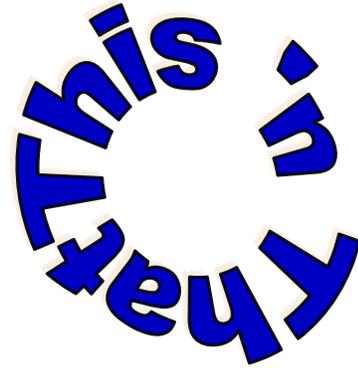
Postmarked by June 22: \$200.00. After June 22: \$210.00.
Commuters: ** \$50.00. Commuters: ** \$60.00.

REFUND: Refunds will be made by written request only and must be submitted to registrar by July 5, 2016.

MAIL registration & check, payable to Florida Conference United Methodist Women Mission u, to: Ciliane Louis, PO Box 2923, Hallandale, FL 33008. Phone 954-226-8110. Email: clouis3@yahoo.com.

* Limited golf cart service available. ** Meals can be purchased in the cafeteria.

Mission project: This year an offering will be taken for Wesley House Center.



Social Action & Program Resources Event
May 21 Reg. 9-10, Program 10AM
Unit Treasurers fill out form on page 9 and send to Venice Grace Unit Treasurer.

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**Mission Unit Today Form due May 20**  
**Mission Study Form due June 15**  
**Please send to E & I Coordinator**  
Marti Daltry, 1995 Longfellow Drive, N Ft. Myers, FL 33903 (martidaltry@gmail.com)

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Registration for Mission u due June 22
See form on page 10

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**2nd quarter pledges due July 5**  
  
Send to District Treasurer, Dorris Ann Wasson (warrenwasson@aol.com)

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Reading Plan Participants due July 15
Send names & book numbers to Secretary Program Resources, Sandy Segur, 479 Northview, St., Port Charlotte, FL 33954 (sandyrsegur@gmail.com)

Article Deadline

The Sojourner is YOUR newsletter to let others in the District know about your challenges and triumphs working to help those women and children in need. Please **send** me anything you wish to share with the District Units by the **25th of the month.**

Mary Van Tol
VP/Communications Coordinator
South West District
mvantol@embarqmail.com
Cell: 239-571-0161



If at anytime throughout the year you or anyone in your unit have updates to contact listings for your ladies, please forward that information to District Secretary, Sissie Lumpkin. She is the person responsible for maintaining our database for the entire District. Once she updates the database, she then forwards the information to your district counterparts so they know how you can be reached.

slump60@gmail.com
863-228-3186

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM **ONE BY ONE.**
COUNT YOUR **MANY BLESSINGS**
SEE WHAT **GOD** HAS DONE.

Be sure to visit and bookmark our website to find forms and information about our District.
www.southwestdistrictumw.com

Like us at:
<https://www.facebook.com/southwestdistrictumw>
 Find us on: **facebook.**