

APRIL
2017

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SOUTH WEST DISTRICT SOJOURNER

UMW Publication Florida Conference

Good Morning South West District Sisters!

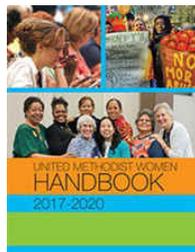
Greetings to All! I hope this note finds you well on this beautiful day of April! Looking ahead, there are many events coming up that are **VERY IMPORTANT**. I strongly urge you to share them with your unit ladies as well as to the congregation of your church – remember...ALL are invited to become a UMW!!!

Our next **District event will be May 20th in Sebring Spring Lake**. Sharon Wilson and Mary Van Tol will be presenting programs on both MN&O AND Communications. This event will be a half day ONLY. Registration and breakfast will begin at 9 am and the event starting at 10. No lunch will be served. Please look in your e-mail box for coming information!

June brings our **Annual Church Conference, June 8-10 in Orlando** at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel. Please click on the following link: <http://www.flumc.org/annual-conference-2017> to go to the Conference's site and retrieve additional information. As I mentioned at our March event, this conference will be especially important to attend as the decision to reduce our conference from nine to eight districts will be voted upon.



July 13-16 will be the Florida Conference's Mission u. The theme for this year's Mission u will be "Learning Together for Transformation..." and will be held in **Daytona Beach at Bethune-Cookman University**. Studies will be offered for children, youth and adults. Adult studies will be offered in English, Haitian Creole, Spanish and Korean. T-Shirts available for \$10 each. Please continue to check your email address for additional information. It will be sent as it becomes available. It will also be posted on our District's website!



The UMW 2017-2020 Handbooks are now available! This handbook provides you with guidelines and policies and equips each group to organize in a way that makes the most sense to them. Learn about the work of United Methodist Women and how you can engage in mission, connect with one another and find practical tips and suggestions for organization and resources to help you assume responsibility. For ease and flexibility, giving you room for additions and customization, it comes to you three-hole punch, shrink wrapped. **The cost is \$12.50 and the Item Number is: M3196.** All Presidents and Vice Presidents are strongly urged to have a copy on hand at all times.

And last but certainly not least on **May 18-20, 2018 will be ASSEMBLY!** We will be traveling to **Columbus, Ohio** which marks both the official celebration of the organization's **150th anniversary** and the location of the **first Assembly in 1942!** This event is sure to offer an incredible personal faith journey through community building, training for action and visioning a movement for the future! Please click on the following link to find out more: <https://umwassembly.org/>



So get your UMW calendars out and mark down these dates! I'll be at each one of them and I hope you will make plans to join me!

Blessings,

Shelley Davidson,
President, South West District

The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women

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.

A Note From Your Vice President...

I wish to thank all those who attended our March Spiritual Growth Event “Living a Life of Joy” on the 25th. The over 70 women attending were touched by the testimony of our guest speaker Reverend Denise Sawyer, Chaplain of Cape Coral Hospital. She passionately shared her personal struggles, allowing us to see how turning to God can turn our lives around and enable us to find the joy that He wants for us. Reverend Lisa Degrenia, Trinity UMC pastor, spoke in the afternoon and reminded us of the verse from Nehemiah 8:10 “For the Joy of the Lord is your strength.” She was touched by both Denise’s story and Roberta Swords’ devotion and brought the message home as she, too, overcame struggles in her life and found that “joy” through the word of God.

A special thank you goes out to Roberta Swords who helped put the program together, the ladies of Trinity Sarasota led by Sherrill Carr (President) who went above and beyond to make us welcome. A big thank you to Beverly Packer and Evelyn Miller along with Sherrill Carr for filling the air with beautiful music which truly made everyone feel that God was with each one of us that day!

Blessings & Joy,

Mary Van Tol

Vice President, South West District

Earth Day is

Saturday, April 22

Climate Justice is one of United
Methodist Women's justice priorities

To all the wonderful ladies of the South West District,

The Committee on Nominations is working to fill several positions and we need your help. These are the positions that need to be filled.

President
Treasurer
Social Action Coordinator
Spiritual Growth Coordinator
Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator
Committee on Nominations

Our goal is to fulfill the PURPOSE and to meet the needs of the district. The committee is reaching out to you to consider becoming a member of the South West District Team. We are looking for ladies who are willing to serve, give their time and be committed to the South West District Team. You can contact any member of CON for information about a particular position. Please help to keep the South West District Team strong and healthy, WE NEED YOU!!!

Diane Killmaier,
Chair of Committee on Nominations
dianekillmaier@gmail.com
phone: 609-774-6350



Highlights from "Living a Life Of Joy"

Spiritual Growth Event,

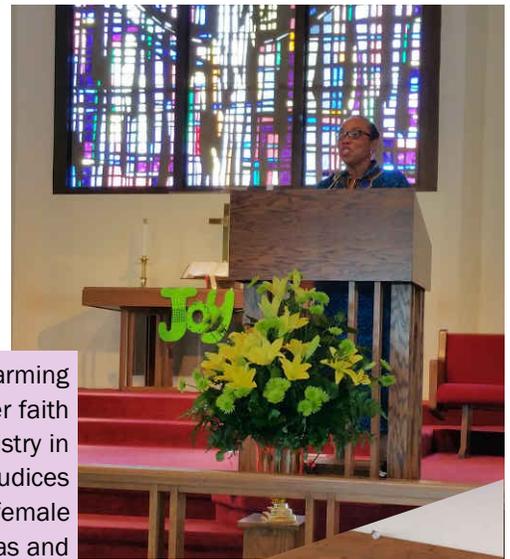
March 25, 2017

Trinity Sarasota

United Methodist Church



The morning began on a beautiful note as we were cheerfully greeted by the women of Trinity wearing flowers and directing us to where we needed to be and provided yummy breakfast treats! Pictured above from left to right are Mary Van Tol, Roberta Swords, Charlene & Shelley Davidson. Evelyn Miller played the flute with Beverly Packer accompanying her on the piano to get us in the mood for a spiritual day!



Rev. Denise Sawyer gave a heartwarming testimony and helped us see how her faith sustained her as she began her ministry in a new country, overcoming the prejudices she encountered being a black female born and raised in the warm Bahamas and placed in the middle of Kansas in winter! She shared how she was an outsider who eventually became much loved in her community. She had to overcome the prejudices of her sex, accent, & color and almost lost her joy for the ministry she felt called her. She passionately showed us how she turned to God to regain that joy and demonstrated how we, too, are never alone and can seek Him and find that joy He wants for us!



Highlights from "Living a Life Of Joy"

Photos from the delicious lunch and the afternoon!



Pastor Lisa Degrenia giving us a message of hope



Sherrill Carr & Beverly Packer playing a piano duet which brightened our spirits after lunch!



Thanks to Sherrill & Denise by Shelley!



Communion was special with Pastor Lisa and Rev. Denise.

Meet the South West District

Nominations Team

Joan L. Bowsby Class of 2017



Contact Information:
Phone: 239-543-4569
Address: 154 Caravan Circle
North Ft. Myers 33903

Joan L. Bowsby (nee Snyder) lived in Pennsylvania for many years before moving to Bath, NY. After high school graduation her family moved to Ithaca, NY where she attended Cornell University. She married her loving husband Richard on October 27, 1956. They have two sons, Paul and Bruce and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Richard retired at age 56, and they moved to Florida. At first they lived in an RV Motor home on her parent's land. They decided to stay permanently and moved into an RV park and have lived there for 29 years. Sadly, Richard passed away on October 8, 2016.

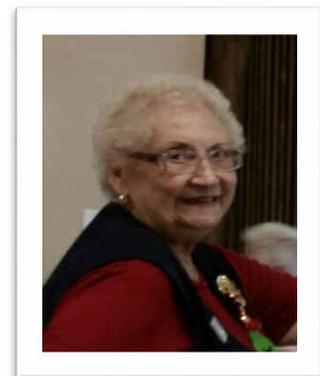
Joan served as treasurer of the Good Shepherd UMC in North Ft. Myers for six years and was Council Chair for five years. In the past Joan served six years as Treasurer of the of our District UMW and currently serves as Vice President of her local UMW unit. Joan has been serving on the nominations committee and was Nominations Chair last year but had to step down to take care of her husband who had been experiencing many medical problems. She has loved living in Florida and is especially thankful to her local pastor and her church family for the love and support she has had this past year during her husband's illness and passing.

Marie Clear Lennox, born July 13, 1933 in Hebron township, MI. She attended a one room school starting with first grade. In 1942 her family moved into town, Mackinaw City. She graduated high school in May, 1950 winning the Good Citizenship Award. She also served as a Junior Girl Scout Leader. She received a Medical Assistant Certificate from Elkhart Business University in Indiana. After working in various hospitals, she began her career in 1955 at Michigan Bell Telephone. In July of that year she married her husband Donald. They have two sons, Jeff and Donald (wife Debbie) with two daughters and one granddaughter. In January 1985 she retired and moved to Punta Gorda. While working, Marie volunteered at Maplegrove Treatment Center, a Satellite of Henry Ford Hospital for 2 years.

Marie joined Friendship UMC in 1987, the same year her husband went to heaven. She joined UMW and served as Circle Leader, Secretary, Vice President and President. She has also served as Ft. Myers District Vice President and President. After completing her term, she was asked to serve on the Florida Conference as Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator for 2 years and Vice President for 4 years.

Keeping busy in her local church in Punta Gorda, she has serves as President of local unit, has led the Upper Room Bible Study for 7 years along with various other Bible studies. She is an avid reader and loves to have the books end happily ever after.

Marie Lennox Class of 2017



Contact Information:
Phone: 941-639-6912
Email: mrlenn6@aol.com
Address: 12199 Maravilla Dr.
Punta Gorda, FL 33955

Meet the South West District Nominations Team

Velma Lockett Class of 2019



Contact Information

Email:

velma1515@embarqmail.com

Phone: 863-655-2648

Address: 5972 Thunder Road
Sebring, FL33876

Velma T. Lockett, is the second child of the late Wilfred and Alberta Turner. She is a native of Tunica County MS. She graduated from Coahoma County Agricultural High School in Clarksdale, MS and received BA Degree from MS Valley State University in Itta Bena, MS. She received her MA from Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, AL.

She is a widow and the mother of three beautiful children, and four amazing grandchildren. After serving over 39 years in the field of education from director of a five county early childhood education program, to elementary and middle school teacher she graciously retired from the Miami-Dade County Public School System. From a very early age in her life, she has been actively involved in working in the church. Upon moving to Sebring, FL, she joined the Spring Lake United Methodist Church and continues to serve where ever needed. She served as a Vacation Bible School teacher, a member of the church choir, secretary of the United Methodist Women and presently serve as a member of the Pastor's Parrish Committee as well as church treasurer.

Pamela Freeland is a North Dakota native and a Florida transplant. Her husband peacefully passed away last April. She lives in Venice and her home is always open for guests and visitors from the colder winter climate! Between her and her husband Keith, they have seven children, 18 grandchildren and three great grandchildren (one on the way). Her career spanned a variety of experiences in health care. Being a nurse, she has taught, worked in areas of critical care, psychiatry, chemical dependency, elderly care and most recently, administration.

After retiring from the health care system in 2004 she started her own consulting company, facilitating planning and decision making in companies and municipalities across the United States. She met a bucket list goal with the opportunity to work in Ethiopia with the Ministry of Health. She currently uses her skills working with groups in her local church, Christ Venice. She currently leads a women's study group "Soul Searchers" and is active on several church committees. Serving as President of her local unit and being a member of the Nominations Team, she is grateful to work with others to make a difference in the lives of women, children and youth in her own community and around the world!

Pamela Freeland Class of 2020



Contact Information

Email:

p.schaefer.freeland@hotmail.com

Phone: 701-361-7973

Address:

112 Cala Court, Venice, FL 34292

Talent Bank Survey

Talent Bank Survey

In an effort to fill vacancies in our District and possibly Conference, we are asking that every officer of your unit complete one of these forms and return it to: Diane Killmaier

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ E-MAIL: _____

ETHNIC/CULTURAL HERITAGE: _____

AGE GROUP: 20-35 36-50 51-60 61 & ABOVE

CONFERENCE: _____

CHURCH: _____

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EXPERIENCE:

LOCAL _____

DISTRICT _____

CONFERENCE _____

JURISDICTION _____

GENERAL CHURCH _____

SPECIAL TALENTS, SKILLS, AND INTERESTS:

How many years did you serve?

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
 239-271-0161
 e-mail: mvantol@embarqmail.com

April 10, 2017

Greetings to All United Methodist Women:

Can you believe our next event is only six weeks away? I am writing to inform you and the ladies of your unit that your South West District Mission Team is once again busily preparing the next event of the year.

We will be learning how membership can be nurtured and grow through communication. Sharon Wilson our Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator will be talking to us about ways to engage your members to enable them to grow our vision of turning faith, hope and love into action. I will show you how the ways you communicate with the different generations can also help your local units grow. This event will be both entertaining and interactive!

Please make plans to join us Saturday, May 20, 2017 at Sebring Spring Lake UMC (8170 Cozumel Lane, Sebring, FL 33876). Registration and fellowship will be held from 9-9:45am, and our event will begin at 10:00 am. The ladies of Sebring Spring Lake will have breakfast refreshments available. Since this is a half day event, no lunch will be served. We expect to be done by 12:30.

I am attaching a flyer for you to post and SHARE with the ladies of your unit as well as inviting anyone in your congregation who might like to attend.

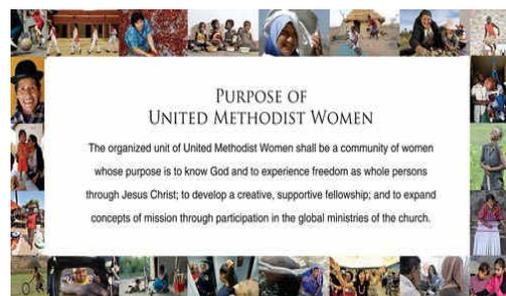
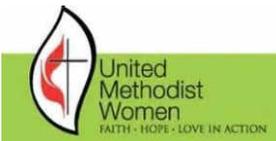
If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me at the number and e-mail listed above. See you on the 20th!

Love & Blessings,

Mary Van Tol

Mary Van Tol

District Vice President





**SOUTH WEST DISTRICT
United Methodist Women**

**Membership, Nurture & Outreach
and
Communication**

***“Membership Grows With Good
Communication”***

**Saturday, May 20, 2017
Registration: 9 am – 9:45 am
Event: 10 am – 12:30 pm**



*“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.”
~ Psalm 19:14*

**Sebring Spring Lake UMC
8170 Cozumel Lane
Sebring, FL 33876**

Please note: No lunch will be served

Upcoming Events

April 5, 2017

1st Quarter Pledge Due

Send to Treasurer
Dorris Ann Wasson
1430 Oak St.
Nokomis, FL 34275
warrenwasson@aol.com
941-412-0847

May 20, 2017

Membership, Nurture & Outreach/
Communication Event
Sebring Spring Lake UMC
Registration 9-9:45am Program 10am-12:30pm
See info on pages 8-9.

May 20, 2017

The Mission Today Annual Report is due.
Activities for each unit are on a calendar year
basis- Jan. 1, 2016 - Dec. 31, 2016
Forms available online:
<http://southwestdistrictumw.com/mission-study>
Send to E & I Coordinator
Marti Daltry:
1995 Longfellow Drive
North Ft. Myers, FL 33903
martidaltry@gmail.com
239-997-0673

Article Deadline

Please submit articles for our next Sojourner issue by the **20th of this month**. We want to highlight your activities for the month, whether it is a fund raiser, social action, spiritual growth retreat, UMW Sunday or a mission study...all stories are welcome!

Mary Van Tol

Vice President/
Communications Coordinator
mvantol@embargmail.com
Phone: 239-571-0161
Mail to: 1216 SE 19th Terrace
Cape Coral, FL 33990

This is Trey

Has Your Information Changed?

People move, get new email and new phones. Please remember to send any updates anytime this happens to **Sharon Wilson** at the address below. Please include their name, address, phone number, cell number (if available) email and their position in the Unit.

613 Sabel Avenue
Clewiston, FL 33440
561-313-3641 (c)
golfpro613@embargmail.com



Happy Easter!



Be sure to visit our websites to get updated news and find information about our District.

www.southwestdistrictumw.com

www.facebook.com/southwestdistrictumw.com

