

# Women of Purpose



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February, 2010

Gulf Breeze United Methodist Women

Issue No. 2010-1



Dear Women of Purpose,

Have you ever thought about the power embodied in a purposeful life? Have you ever noticed that it is so much easier to get up in the morning if you have a something to do that is truly worthy of your commitment? George Moore said, "The roads to nowhere are difficult to make. For a man (woman) to work well and sing there must be an end in view." Allow me to share a story of a simple man who was possessed with a purpose driven life.

In June of 1988, the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church appointed my husband as minister to the Leggett United Methodist Church in Biloxi. The moving van had arrived. We were in the front yard trying to decide how to begin the long and arduous task of getting everything moved into the parsonage. Suddenly, we were greeted by a strange little voice directed to my husband: "Preacher, have you got any cans?" We turned to discover an elderly man of small stature pushing a shopping cart. A few soft drink cans rattled around in the bottom of the basket. Walking appeared to be difficult for him for he leaned heavily upon the handle of the cart as he shuffled along the street. As he came closer, he introduced himself as Nat Cropper, a member of our new congregation.

We later learned Nat's story. He lived in a simply furnished room in the Methodist Retirement Center next door to the church. He had a debilitating disease that would ultimately confine him to a wheelchair. In the meantime, he kept busy. He shuffled along behind his shopping cart collecting cans which he sold. Money from the sale of cans was used to buy fertilizer. The retirement center had given Nat permission to till a small spot on their campus where he grew roses. His plan did not stop with simply growing roses, and in order to accomplish what he proposed to do, he needed a lot of personal information about a lot of people. How he got it is still a mystery.

Church members and residents in the retirement community began to notice that whenever there was a birthday, an anniversary or a celebration of any kind, a small vase of freshly cut roses mysteriously appeared making the occasion even more special. We all knew. It was a given --- the roses were grown and given by Nat Cropper.

He knew the life he faced. He could have wallowed in self-pity. He could have closed the blinds to his room ---EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT HE HAD A PUIRPOSE. He had a loving heart, a beautiful smile and roses which he used to tell people how special they were.

"Go thou and do likewise" --- If you do not have purpose in your life, find it!

Devotedly,  
Sara Munday

## ***You won't want to miss these special events***

### ***Call to Prayer and Self Denial***



**Thursday, February 18 10:30 a.m.  
Fairpoint Campus  
Lecture Hall**

Our local Unit of UMW will answer the Call to Prayer and Self Denial with a study: **PROPERTY MAKES MISSIONS POSSIBLE.**

An offering will be taken to support Missions and Programs begun and sponsored by UMW. This year our program and offering is focusing on the Buildings which both house and support these World Wide Missions. Judy Adams, Coordinator of Spiritual Growth, will make the presentation. Won't you come be with us as we all grow in wisdom?

### **Tapestry 2010 Retreat**

#### ***"Weaving the Threads of GRACE Through Our Lives"***

**Friday and Saturday, February 26-27  
First Methodist Church, 6 Wright St., Pensacola,**

TAPESTRY 2010 has a rich and inspiring agenda. Come Friday or Saturday, OR BOTH! It is for all ladies, young and old alike!

It begins Friday night at 6:00 with Dinner. Rev. Dr. Connie Shelton, Senior Pastor of Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi, will be the guest speaker. Saturday following a Continental Breakfast at 8:00 a.m., there will have an opportunity to engage in a Small Group each with a different focus: *Drum Circle, Hymns of Grace, Christian Yoga, Footprints, How did I get so Busy!,*

*The Virtuous Woman, Make Something!, and Prayer and Your Five Senses.* Two of our local unit members will lead groups—Sara Munday and Bettye Corcoran. The Rev. Dr. Connie Shelton will speak twice on Saturday. Lunch will be served and activities will conclude by 3:00 p.m. Pick up a Brochure in the Fairpoint Campus Church Office or Soundside Campus Front Desk. It includes a Registration Form—deadline for registering is Feb. 16 so do not delay.

If you choose to stay overnight in Pensacola, there will be special accommodations at Courtyard by Marriott. Make your reservations now, 439-3330 Code: UMW.



#### ***Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church Children's Ministry Workshops***

The third Friday of each month we are invited to help prepare materials for the Children's Ministry.

Come to the Children's Building, Fairpoint Campus  
at 10:30 a.m.

Please join us, it is fun and helpful.

*UMW Dinner Theater a fun night for all!!*

**Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup>  
Fairpoint Campus, Fellowship Hall**

Comedy Show  
**"The Patio"**  
Starring JR Ruth and Trish Davis



Tickets \$20 per person

6:00 p.m.—the doors will open for the bidding on silent auction items.

7:00 p.m.—a delicious dinner catered by Heather Neuman will be served.

8:00 p.m.—the show will start with the serving of dessert.

Tickets will be on sale February 28, Mar 7 & 14 after each service—  
in the courtyard on the Fairpoint campus and at the front desk of the  
Soundside campus. They will also be available at the Fairpoint campus office.

Childcare WILL be available in the Children and Youth building for both nights.

*One-half of proceeds will go to Global Ministries, one-quarter to Interfaith Ministries and  
one-quarter to Pensacola District Community Ministries.*

**JERUSALEM MARKETPLACE**

**March 14, 2010**

**3:30-5:30 p.m.**

Each year in the early spring, the children of our church participate in an exciting experience called Jerusalem Marketplace. This event will take place on March 14 between 3:30-5:30 pm in Gilmore Fellowship hall and the courtyard. There are two ways in which you can help.

- 1) provide food such as grapes, wheat crackers, cheese cubes, black olives, dates hummus and pita, etc.
- 2) help serve the food. If you volunteer to serve, you will be provided an authentic costume to wear.

*For more information call Jennifer Keenan 932-3594 at Fairpoint Campus,  
916-1660 at Soundside Campus or 449-9432 (cell). [jkeenan@gbumc.org](mailto:jkeenan@gbumc.org)*

## Other UMW Events

[For more information and to register, check with your Circle Chair or any UMW officer.]

### International

#### **2010 United Methodist Women Assembly *Faith • Hope • Love in Action***

Inspired by faith and activated by justice, Assembly is a movement of women from all walks of life. Women will come together as one body to worship, fellowship with each other, and also to address and act upon issues affecting women, children and youth. On April 30-May 2, in St. Louis, Mo., a broad and diverse gathering of women will convene for a three-day conference hosted by United Methodist Women celebrating and empowering women of faith. A historic quadrennial event that attracts thousands, United Methodist Women's Assembly has taken place since 1942, and has always been a gathering place to rejoice and mobilize women in mission for women, children and youth.

Judy Adams and Marsha Garza will represent our unit at this wonderful event. Look forward to hearing from them when they return. For more information and to register online go to: <http://www.umwmission.org>

### Pensacola District

This spring and summer, the Pensacola District UMW offers opportunities for UMW members from all our churches to get together with others to grow spiritually, share fellowship and learn about issues affecting women, children and youth.

#### **Saturday, March 20 "Food and Faith" Mission Study**

8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Cokesbury UMC, Summit Park, McClain Hall,  
3300 Summit Blvd, Pensacola

Leader: Reverend Karen Evans

This mission study will be hosted by the St. Paul United Methodist Women.

Friday-Sunday, March 26-28

#### **2010 Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Blue Lake Assembly**

##### **"This Little Light of Mine"**

Speaker, Garlinda Burton, General Secretary of COSROW (Commission on the Status and Role of Women) in the United Methodist Church. Registration deadline is March 12.

Saturday, April 17

#### **"The Sudan" Mission Study**

8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Destin UMC, 200 Beach Dr., Destin.

Leader: Mrs. Pam Dannelly

Saturday, May 8,

#### **"Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival" Mission Study**

8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Trinity UMC, 403 Racetrack NW,  
Ft Walton Beach

Leaders: Mrs. Libby Anderson, Atlanta,

Georgia and Mrs. Linda Baker, Cokesbury

July 23-24

#### **Cooperative School of Christian Mission "*Faith, Hope, Love In Action*" Blue Lake**

You won't want to miss these studies which include Spiritual Growth, "For the Love of God: John's Letters"; General Study, "Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity"; Geographic Study, "The Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace is Possible", and the Children's Study, "Teaching Mission to Children."

This is a Certified School, each course must be eight hours and we must include plenaries and worship opportunities. Contact: Dean Elizabeth Andrews, Dean Cooperative School of Christian Missions, at 850-485-5397 or [elizand01@aol.com](mailto:elizand01@aol.com)

**Remember, UMCOR is accepting  
donations to help Haiti.**

## Mission Giving in 2009

In 2009, our unit, including the Circles, donated over \$15,000 to support missions locally, nationally and internationally. We also helped over 20 organizations and programs locally with our time, talents and in-kind gifts. Our fall casserole sale was a huge success bringing in \$2,935 to go to missions. Thanks to all who cooked, packaged, sold, bought and enjoyed.

### TOYS for DUMAS WESLEY

Collecting and delivering toys to Dumas Wesley Community Center in Mobile has been a project for local UMW for a number of years. Rachael/Mae Gilmore Circle first did it as a circle project. Gradually the other circles joined their efforts. Christmas 2009 was the most successful collection of toys that there has been. Two vans and a number of members went to make the delivery. Since their Christmas funds were limited, the large delivery from Gulf Breeze was well received.



Ladies who went were given a tour of their facility along with a brief description of many of their programs. One of the highlights of the day was a tour of the Sybil Hill Apartments, a housing complex of seventeen apartments used to house women in transition. Women living there are required to be in school/training or have a job. There are many success stories of the women who find their way back into society.

If you feel you would like to begin now to buy toys that you find on sale for the next UMW Christmas delivery, by all means do it. It is still fun to play Santa!

### CHRISTMAS Gone but not Forgotten



A Christmas luncheon/banquet has been a tradition for local United Methodist Women for years, but it appears to be a consensus that the last one was the best ever! Tables were set and beautifully decorated with personal china, silver and crystal brought from homes which required a lot of effort. Both first and second prizes went to members in the Eloise Benson Circle. Great job, ladies.

Dr. Pokey Stanford, featured speaker, brought an inspirational Christmas message to a packed house. Lovely dinner music was provided by Maxine Gray at the organ. Dinner, catered by Dinner's a Breeze, was delicious. As the meal drew to a close, Sara Munday read a Christmas story from her recently published book.

One of the fun (but profitable) things that happened was a white elephant table filled with Christmas ornaments (handmade, old, new, gently used), small framed pictures, and bracelets made by United Methodist Women in the Topeka, Kansas Correctional Institution. Shoppers found just what they needed in the way of decorations or stocking stuffers, took what they wanted, and made a donation. A little more than \$550 came from this effort and will go for both local and global missions. It was a wonderful day!

## Officers for Gulf Breeze UMW 2010

President: Sara Munday  
Vice President: Martie Kennedy  
Treasurer: Marsha Garza  
Recording Secretary: Sandra Brubaker  
Corresponding Secretary: Joy Clark  
Mission Coordinators  
Spiritual Growth: Judy Adams  
Education & Interpretation:  
Carol Osborn and Nancy Douglass  
Social Action:  
Carol Carmichael and Pat Trachy  
Membership, Nurture & Outreach:  
Gayle Monserrate

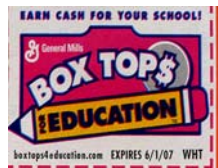
Secretary, Program Resources:  
Betty Whisnant  
Ways and Means: Gayle Monserrate, Lyn  
Morris, Heather Neumann, Karen  
Cook-Cowen, Peggy Rhyne, and JR  
Ruth (Chair)  
Communications Coordinator: Charis Powell  
Yearbook: Carol Ascherfeld  
Historian: Peggy Rhyne  
Nominating Committee: Lucille Taylor,  
Pat Trachy, Angela Addison, and  
Jennifer Keenan  
Church Representatives: Terrie Diamond  
and Jennifer Keenan

### **GBUMW Goals for 2010**

Adopted by the Board, October 15, 2009

1. Increase membership in UMW by 10 in 2010.
2. Increase publicity methods to reach all women in the church and community.
3. Increase participation/involvement in UMW events.

We will continue to support Ronald McDonald House and Red Bird Mission by turning in the following: pull tabs from soft drinks and other products for Ronald McDonald House and Campbell, Tyson and General Mills labels for Red Bird Mission. Clip and save UPC's & lids from participating products. Clip as shown below. *They are greatly appreciated.*



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***Try Something New!***  
**Visit the Marianna-Panama City UMW District  
Online Unit**

Go to the address below and see a new way to be a part of UMW.  
Attend a virtual meeting.

<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/mpconlineunit/>

(Information provided by Winn Marsh)



# Circle News

*UMW Circles are open to all women.*

## New Circle Forming

**A new Circle is on the horizon.** Looking for women of all ages for an evening Circle to meet on Soundside Campus.

The first meeting is being planned for mid-February. For more information, contact Judi Dickens, 529-5645 (cell), [jdickens@mva.net](mailto:jdickens@mva.net)

## Mary Miller Circle

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m., room 7, Fairpoint Campus. Circle Leader, Carol Busby, 982-0780.

Our main focus is on missions, reaching out to women of our community to encourage fellowship, and growing as Christian women through education. Programs this spring will include book reviews, a presentation from Favor House and a program on Youth/Missions.

## Eloise Benson Circle

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month for lunch at the church or a local restaurant. Co-Chair: Sue Binon, cell 910-0088, [sbinion@actinnovations.com](mailto:sbinion@actinnovations.com)

or on Facebook and Monica Jones, 932-8198, [MoJones3@mchsi.com](mailto:MoJones3@mchsi.com)  
The Eloise Benson Circle is a group of caring, dedicated, and wonderful women who care about our world, our church, our community, our families and our lord. We work together to give back to all of them through prayer, worship, commitment, volunteerism and fundraising. We focus on the best big events we can have—our church-wide garage sale, Vacation Bible School, Dinner Theater/Silent Auction, the annual casserole sale and a multitude of other events. We recently began a relationship with the BraveHearts ministry to support our military men and women

## Rachel-Mae Gilmore Circle

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in room 8, Fairpoint Campus. Circle Leader: Joy Clark, 932-2836. Our next meeting will be Feb 11. We are looking forward to a series of

programs planned to include *God's Little*

*Instruction Book*, the UMW Reading Program, *The Rock that Moved*, Methodism in England with Ruth Knights, and *Love Revolution*.

## Lillie Parris Circle

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m., usually in room 8, Fairpoint Campus. Circle Leader, Gayle Monserrate, 916-9104.

The year will be full as always beginning with a very informative talk by Dr. Finley Holmes, M.D., a general practitioner who is predominately involved in geriatric medicine, focusing on God and nutrition. Our own Ruth Knights will talk on British Methodism. Other programs will include Richards Memorial Community Center, Pathways for Change, a study from the book *Faith of Our First Ladies*, and a study of the book, *Three Simple Rules—A Wesleyan Way of Life*. Our mission for this year will be the Pensacola Village Project coordinated by Barbara Keene and Betty Shoopman.

## Mollie and Me Circle

Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. usually in the home of a member. Co-chairs: Karen Cook-Cowen, 712-8587, and Shelby Smith, 934-7288.

Our focus this year has been on “Growing our Circle” through, membership, outreach, and spirituality. We are pleased to have several new members. While our fall/winter programs focused on spiritual growth, our spring programs will provide insights into the work of some of our local outreach organizations. In January, we attended the Table service led by Shane Sanford. Our February meeting falls on Ash Wednesday, we will attend the Ash Wednesday service as our program. In March, we will tour the Good Samaritan Clinic then have a light dinner at the home of Capri Jones. A Favor House representative will present our April program at Tanya Nelson’s home. In May we will have a Bible study at Hettie Pacyga’s home. Several Circle members assisted in delivering toys to the Dumas Wesley Center at Christmas. Additional outreach included providing the Villa residents with Christmas sweaters, formals, and toiletries.



United Methodist Women  
Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church  
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Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

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## Upcoming Events



February 18—Prayer and Self-denial  
February 26-27—Tapestry 2010  
March 19-20—Dinner Theater  
See details on pages 2-3.

## BOOK NOTES

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following people who completed one of the UMW Reading Program Plans for 2009: **Sara Munday, Hettye Pacyga, Jennifer Keenan, Judy Adams, Sandra Brubaker, Linda McDade, Carol Ascherfeld, Mary May, Martie Kennedy, Marion A. Tinsley-Cowart, Bettye Corcoran and Annice Webb.**



**The READING PROGRAM books and materials** are now located in the UMW closet on the Fairpoint campus across from Room 8 next to Olga Batova's office. Here you will find:

- **A COMPLETE LIST** of Reading Program books eligible for awards in Dec. 2010.
- **NEW BOOKS** - more than a dozen new books from the 2010 list have been purchased by our unit and are available for you to check out.
- **RESPONSE and NEW WORLD OUTLOOK** magazines.
- **PROGRAM MATERIALS** for circles.

For more information contact Betty Whisnant 932-0380.

*Newsletter Editor: Carol Ascherfeld, [RCAscherfeld@bellsouth.net](mailto:RCAscherfeld@bellsouth.net)*