



# Horizons

Fall 2010 A Publication of the North Alabama Conference United Methodist Women Fall 2010



## 2010 NORTH ALABAMA ANNUAL MEETING

# LIFE GIFTS



To the United Methodist Women of the North Alabama Conference, you are invited to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting that will be held at Camp Sumatanga and Conference Center, Gallant, Alabama on Saturday, October 2, 2010. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 2, 2010 in Joe Green Auditorium and the meeting will conclude that afternoon. This is a one-day event. Each local unit is entitled to two delegates to Annual Meeting.

As members of United Methodist Women, you are expected to participate in connectional activities and conference organizational meetings. As stated in one of our United

Methodist Women brochures, "United Methodist Women are the group of women in each congregation that is organized for mission". Come and share the gifts that God has given us.

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Cecelia Broome, Pastor at Pine Grove United Methodist Church, Lafayette and St. Paul United Methodist Church, Five Points.

Please complete the registration form, which is included in this issue. You do not want to miss this event. We hope to see you on October 2.

Hazel M. Holiness, Vice President

## The President's Message.....



**What time is it?** Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us that "*There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven.*" The next seven verses of Chapter 3 tell us what the seasons are. As I was reading and meditating on these verses, I also realized that there is a time for self-evaluation to see **where we have been, where we are** and **where we need to go**. On that same line of thinking, there is a time for each United Methodist Women's local unit to do the same.

At the beginning of each year we set goals and plan programs, but do we stop to evaluate what we are doing to fulfill our PURPOSE? Since more than half of the year is gone, this will be an excellent time for us to evaluate our efforts. I have a few questions that can help us begin our unit's evaluation process. I know that we all want to have a healthy and vibrant unit.

1. Has my unit done anything in the community to let others know who we are and what we do?
2. Has my unit attended any district events this year?
3. Has my unit contributed toward Mission Giving this year?
4. Will my unit be a Five Star Giver by the end of the year?
5. Are the programs in my unit inspiring, challenging and informative?
6. Is my pastor supportive?
7. Is my unit working toward becoming a Mission Today and Charter for Racial Justice Club Unit?

11. Does my unit have any new members?
12. Does my unit have a plan in place to attract new members?
13. Has my unit invited the District President or one of the other officers to a local unit meeting?
14. Is my unit utilizing the District Mission Team as resource persons?
15. Has my unit attended any Conference events this year?

If the answer to any of these questions is **no**, your unit needs to ask yourselves why? All the questions I have asked are vital to the life of our organization because they tell who we are and what we do. There are probably other questions you could add to this list, but my goal was to get us thinking.

God is calling us as United Methodist Women to bear fruit by carrying out His work and upholding justice. In Matthew 7:20, Jesus said, "*By their fruit you will recognize them*". As United Methodist Women, we want to be recognized not by what we say, but what we do. We are United Methodist Women in action fulfilling God's Call.

I challenge each unit to have a person/s attend Annual Meeting as we elect officers for 2011-2012, celebrate our accomplishments for 2009, and worship and fellowship together. What a joy it would be

**President's Article Continues on p. 6**

## ...And Our Annual Meeting Speaker Is Rev. Cecelia Broome

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Rev. Cecelia Broome is the pastor of the Five Point Parish in Five Points, Alabama. She was called into ministry in September 1994. She received her license as a part-time local pastor in the Roanoke District in 1995 and began as pastor of Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Fredonia, Alabama. She became pastor of the Five Point Parish in June 1996. Her parish consists of two churches: St. Paul United Methodist Church, Five Points, and Pine Grove United Methodist Church - Lafayette.



She completed her studies at Emory University in June 2001. Rev. Broome is a woman called by God to be a shepherd, to lead God's flock.

She was employed at West Point Homes, Inc. for thirty-seven years as Assistant Human Resource Manager until the plant closed.



### Greetings From *The Conference* Treasurer

I had hoped to be able to give a wonderful financial report pertaining to our pledge. Unfortunately, we have not even made the half-way mark toward our \$250,000.00 pledge as a conference. Giving has been down this year even more than last year. We have currently sent in less than \$110,000 toward

our conference pledge to date. This is cause for concern.

At Co-operative School, I repeated a story told to thousands of women gathered together at National Assembly. The story had a great impact on me as a Christian and United Methodist Women. It made me do some "soul" searching as to the meaning of being a member of United Methodist Women. I have had many requests to write down what I spoke about at Co-operative School so that others could hear the story mentioned above, my take on the story and how it moved me to be a better United Methodist Women and most importantly, a follower of Jesus Christ.

The story told at National Assembly was delivered by Anita Phillips who is an ordained elder and social worker who also is a member of the Cherokee Nation. She lived and worked on a reservation and recounted a circumstance that happened there. As the story goes, it was a cool beautiful day in the forest of the Northwest. A group of young people, ranging in age of about twelve to fifteen, along with a counselor, began a hike in the woods in the late afternoon. One of the girls, I will call her Mary, had a habit of playing "pranks" on her counselor and decided to venture off the path and "hide" from the group. She became lost in the dense forest and soon discovered she had no idea how to find the path back to safety. As soon as the group realized Mary was missing, they turned back and called for help. Many people came to the meadow where rescuers had set up a base camp. Many, including Rev. Phillips, searched hours for Mary until darkness fell and the search had to be called off for the night. Knowing that the young girl was alone in the woods, hungry and cold, Rev. Phillips and others decided to spend the night in the meadow so that they would be close at hand if by chance the girl found her way back to that spot. It was decided to start a fire in the middle of the clearing to give comfort and warmth to those who had elected to stay the night and also to hopefully give a sign to Mary that someone was searching for her. Wood was gathered and four of the adults decided to start out in different directions, North, South, East and West to look for Mary. Each person went straight into the woods searching and calling, but would keep the glow of the fire in sight so that they could find their way back to base. This enabled the search to continue throughout the night. Others stayed behind to gather wood and "feed" the fire so that those in the field searching for Mary could always find their way back. Without the fire, there would not have been a night time search.

**Greetings from the Conference Treasurer Continues on p. 8**

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Submitted by: Shirley Gillilan, Chairperson

Members: Nancy Higgs, Cecil Jean Robinson, Judith Steele



## **PRESIDENT: DIANE FIELDER**

- Current President of North Alabama United Methodist Women
- Former Director of Women's Division, Vice President of Women's Division
- North Alabama Conference UMW Conference Offices Held: VP, Treasurer
- Member of the Sweet Home United Methodist Church
- Retired Elementary Teacher
- Mother



## **VICE PRESIDENT: JACQUE CLAY**

- Current North Alabama Conference Coordinator For Social Action
- Former District President of Albertville District
- Held various offices
- Member of St. Paul United Methodist Church - Mountain Lakes District
- Registered Nurse
- Mother of three sons



## **SECRETARY: CAROL RUTH DEVORE**

- Current North Alabama Conference Secretary
- Former President of Central District UMW, Vice President, Communications Coordinator, Parliamentarian
- Former Local Unit President
- Member of First United Methodist Church of Hueytown, Chair Mission Outreach Committee
- Active member of Emmaus Community and Sunday School Teacher
- Retired Computer Specialist for Southern Company - Southern Nuclear
- Mother of three and grandmother of five



## **TREASURER: TERESA ALDRICH**

- Current North Alabama Conference Treasurer
- Former District Treasurer former Gadsden District
- Member of Springville United Methodist Church - Mountain Lakes District
- Mail Carrier for United States Postal Service
- Mother and grandmother

## **SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR 2010-2011**

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

## ~~~~~MISSION COORDINATORS~~~~~

### **SPIRITUAL GROWTH: MARY SPINKS**

- Current Vice President of Central District, Former Member of District Member of Conference Committee on Nominations
- Former Member of Conference Committee on Nominations
- Former local unit president, vice president, and secretary
- Certified Lay Speaker
- Mother of one son and grandmother of three grandchildren

PICTURE

UNAVAILABLE



### **MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, & OUTREACH: EULA THOMPSON**

- Current Conference Mission Coordinator of Membership, Nurture, & Outreach
- Former North Alabama Conference Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation
- Former District President of Birmingham West District
- Member of the Committee on Nominations for the South Atlantic Regional School of Missions
- Member of Wright's Chapel United Methodist Church - Central District
- English Professor at Jefferson State Community College - Birmingham
- Mother and grandmother



### **EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION: JUDY ENGELHART**

- Current Conference Mission Coordinator of Education and Interpretation
- Former North Alabama Conference Secretary Program Resources, Historian
- Former District President of Anniston District
- Member of Saks United Methodist Church - Cheaha District
- Mother
- Hobbies: Reading & Photography



### **SOCIAL ACTION: JO ANNE MINNITT**

- Current Conference Communications Coordinator, Conference Parliamentarian
- Former District Communications Coordinator, Member of Committee Nominations
- Current Local Unit President
- Member of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, Colony - Central District
- Retired educator - former President of Alabama Education Association
- Mother, grandmother, and new great-grandmother

## **SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR 2010-2011**

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS



## **SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES: GENIE THOMPSON**

- Current Conference Secretary of Program Resources
- Former President of Cheaha District
- Member of Bethlehem United Methodist Church - Cheaha District
- Active in the local unit
- Mother and grandmother

## **COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR: TRACY G. CONNER**

- Former District Communications Coordinator,  
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth,  
Member of Nominations Committee
- Local Unit: Bridge Builders District Unit, Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth
- Member of Irondale United Methodist Church
- Girl Scout Leader and Wayfarer
- Mother of two - new college student and 10<sup>th</sup> grader
- Wife of 22 years
- Volunteer

PICTURE

UNAVAILABLE

## **~~~~~COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS~~~~~**

### **MEMBER: MARJORIE SMITH**

- Former North Alabama Mission Coordinator for Social Action, Historian
- Current Southeast District President
- Member of Haven Memorial United Methodist Church - Alexander City
- Local President
- Wife of Lee Otis; mother of four daughters and one step-daughter;  
grandmother of ten; and great-grandmother of five

PICTURE

UNAVAILABLE

## **SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR 2010-2011**

**President's Article Continued from p. 2**

to have every United Methodist Women's unit in the North Alabama Conference represented! The Conference Mission Team needs your support and prayers for this event to be successful. **Can we count on you?** You can read more about this event in this newsletter.

What time is it for your unit? I pray it is evaluation time. Don't just answer yes or no to each question, but spend some time discussing them.

Let us continue to Rise, Shine and Glorify God with excitement in our hearts, minds and souls as we work together in love and unity to fulfill our PURPOSE.

*Love and blessings,*

*Diane Fielder*

**Conference President**

FALL HORIZONS 10 - 6

**North Alabama Conference  
 United Methodist Women Annual Meeting – October 2, 2010  
 THEME: Life Gifts  
 1 Peter 4:10  
 Speaker: Rev. Cecelia Broome**

**Registration in Main Lodge 8:00 a. m. – 8:45 a. m. / Session begins @ 9:00 a.m.  
 Pre-Registration Deadline: September 14, 2010  
 No Refunds after September 20, 2010 (Substitution permitted)**

**Adult Registration**

**Child Registration**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Ph. \_\_\_\_\_

First Timer? Yes No Delegate \_\_\_\_\_

(Report to Eva Walker Lodge 8:15 a.m.)

Special Diet? Type \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Cost:**

____ Registration Fee \$8.00	____ Child - No Registration
____ Lunch \$8.00	____ Child Lunch \$4.00

**\*\*\*On Site Registration: \$10.00**

**Lunch: \$8.00**

**Make checks payables to NACUMW (North Alabama Conference United Methodist Women).**

**Mail entire registration form and check to:**

**Sheila Billingsley  
 931 Holly St  
 Gadsden, AL 35901  
 Ph (256)543-1604  
 E-mail [bbillingsley1604@bellsouth.net](mailto:bbillingsley1604@bellsouth.net)**

**\*\*Bring Bible and wear comfortable clothes and shoes\*\***

In case of emergency, please notify: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. \_\_\_\_\_

**Guidelines for Children: Children must be pre-registered (age 6 months to 10 years). Registered adults must bring personal items for children to camp. Adult supervision and registered nurse will be provided. The adult supervisors will be responsible for the children only during the sessions. Children may be brought to the adult supervisor fifteen minutes before the sessions begin and remain with the supervisors during the sessions. Bring your child's favorite toy.**

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE  
ATTN: JO ANNE MINNITT  
16276 ALABAMA HIGHWAY 91  
HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA 35077**



**Greetings from the Conference Treasurer Continued from p. 3**

It hit me that this is the story of the United Methodist Women. Many of us want to go into the mission field to search for those who are lost and frightened. We want to bring comfort and peace to those in need, and as United Methodist Women we do. But, there is a need for some to stay at base camp and “feed” the fire. We must be the ones whom those in the field can depend. Those of us who make up the local unit are the “gatherers” of the wood. We keep the home fires burning. We make it possible for work to be done in faraway places where sometimes only a single glow of a fire guides souls back from the darkness. Without the local units sending in their pledge, the work cannot be accomplished. Many will be without the help they need. I want to be that person who is willing to go out and “gather wood to feed the fire” so others who are more suited for the mission field can venture out into the dark, dense forest and search for my brothers and sisters in need. Jesus told his disciples to follow him and he would make them fishers of men. He did not tell them to only “fish” in their local lakes and ponds. We must do all we can to “fish” for those in need locally, as well as nationally and internationally.

To be a true United Methodist Woman, we must seek out those who need us, no matter where they are located. Near or far, Jesus has commanded us as Christians to love one another. Join me in “feeding the fire” that is the United Methodist Women. Together we can make a difference to those who seek our help. Together we can keep the fire burning. As far as the ending of the story, Mary found her way to a farm house early the next morning. When asked if she was frightened in the night, she replied that at first she was scared of the dark. Then she remembered that God said he would be with her always. She knew he would send someone to find her. Mary said she lay down beneath a large tree and fell asleep. No longer scared and worried. What faith!

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***HORIZONS at a Glance***