

# Newsletter



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Central Texas Conference

## South District United Methodist Women

"Let Your Light Shine..."

Second Quarter, 2020

April-June



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### PRAYER

Who do you say Christ is by the way you live?  
Who do we say Christ is by the way we live? . . .  
Is there an alleluia deep inside you growing rusty?  
Awake and stand in the light.  
Praise God's name with singing and dancing!  
Unbutton yourselves and stand open to catch the wind.  
May they say of us: They are drunk on new wine . . .  
the new wine of the Spirit!



--from UMW Program Book  
By Alisha L. Gordon, adapted from Ann Weems' "Jesus and Dancing."

### Change to **yellow** CTC UMW Resource Book-2020:

Page 5 Judith Graham zip code is: 76140-4116

### Changes to **South District UMW Yearbook-2020:**

Page 6: District Vice President = VACANT

Page 13: SG, Carolyn Webster phone is 404-791-4849

Page 25: New President: Lavenda Elmer 512-775-5166

[elmerlavenda@gmail.com](mailto:elmerlavenda@gmail.com)

Page 26: Change Shepherdess to Ann Eubanks

Page 27: Secy, Jeanette Keller phone is 512-796-3020

Page 28: I placed this at the bottom of the page: ADD--

Round Rock, Journey of Faith UMW (NEW)

PR-Nancy Hobbs [nmf90102@yahoo.com](mailto:nmf90102@yahoo.com)

Secy/TR-Billie Ray [billie.ray@att.net](mailto:billie.ray@att.net)

CC-Julie Harrison [mikeymom@gmail.com](mailto:mikeymom@gmail.com)

Page 30: Change Shepherdess to Pat Moore

**Reminder!**

**June 15, 2020**

**Central Texas Conference**

**White's Chapel UMC, Southlake**

Check out the website for when you can  
register:

[www.ctcumw.org](http://www.ctcumw.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I started this article some time ago when our world was in a different place. We have all been glued to our televisions watching the news about the Novel Coronavirus. Most of us fall into the category of higher risk adults.

My college basketball games have been canceled, my sister-in-law and her husband are reconsidering their visit, and schools, universities, and yes, even Disneyland is closing.

Churches are closing for the duration and that hurts my heart. If we change when and how we worship, I now feel that this is a life changing event. Basketball games are inconsequential to our lives, but corporate worship defines us as Christians. If you find yourself unable to attend church or even your United Methodist Women meeting or event, I urge your group to keep in contact with each other. Have buddies or a phone tree, send out emails or use Skype, Alexa, or Facebook Live, among others, to visually see each other.

Check out the information available on the website for <http://UnitedMethodistWomen.org>. An article available there says "we feel tired, drained, fearful; we feel anxious. The world has become a scary place for many of us; it has become a place of injustice, of hate, of loneliness. During a time such as this, how can we know for sure that God continues to be among us? Is the Lord with us or not?" The article continues: "And in a time such as this, God meets us where we are, in the midst of our anxiety, and God takes us to the sacred place where we can experience God's presence and grace once again. Yes, indeed, the Lord is with us in this journey."

We depend on God's love every day, on his everlasting presence in our lives. If you had attended the South District Retreat at Troy United Methodist Church you would have felt his presence as Rev. Robbins spoke to us. We were blessed by his outstanding message.

I am hoping that we will continue to have Mission U this year. It is scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year we will be having a study in Anxiety, using the book "Finding Peace in an Anxious World." The other study uses the book "Pushout" and is about the criminalization of people of color. In the South District, I will be leading the Anxiety Study on August 4<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to get the book in advance and sign up for the study when registration becomes open.

United Methodist Women are committed to working together to create a better world for women, children, and youth around the world. We are the voices for those who have none. It is important that we work together to keep this important work going. March 23<sup>rd</sup> was the UMW Day of Giving. I encourage you to make a donation anytime to the Legacy Fund to keep this important work going.

Each of you makes a difference in my life. It is my privilege to serve as your President and I hope that through the rest of this year you will attend events hosted by the South District. The events are planned for YOU. Be there!!

With love and blessings,  
Donna Jensen, President



### THE JOURNEY OF BECOMING A LOCAL UMW ORGANIZATION

Step 1. On November 23, 2019, an "Informational Meeting" was conducted by Patty Lee, CTC UMW Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator with a few ladies from the Journey of Faith UMC in Round Rock.

Step 2. On January 11, 2020, an "Organized Meeting" was held. Donna Jensen (South District UMW President), Patty Lee (CTC UMW MNO), Sharon Gibson (South District UMW Communications Coordinator) and Andy Phair (member of Belton 1<sup>st</sup> UMW) attended the meeting for the Journey of Faith UMW. **Those in attendance from Journey of Faith UMW were: President, Nancy Hobbs; Secretary/Treasurer, Billie Ray; Communications Coordinator, Julie Harrison; plus Taylor Harrison, Gwen Kingery, Karen Nordling, Charlotte Smith, Krista Smith, Mick Suttle and Barbara Whitehead.**

Patty Lee opened the meeting with a prayer and had a Prayer Calendar moment. Introductions were made. Donna Jensen read the UMW Purpose. She discussed events (Legislative Event, Sing-a-Rainbow, Spiritual Growth Retreats, etc.) and discussed the organization (leadership team, pledge, mission projects, response Magazine and Program Book). Then she talked about their OWN RESOURCES and the group participated in what they could bring to the table. We stopped for lunch. Then Donna gave the program on prayer.

Step 3. A form "Packet for Organizing..." was filled out and mailed in.

Step 4. **On March 8, 2020** during church service the **Journey of Faith UMW was chartered** and received their certificate.

*See pictures taken by Sharon Gibson, South District UMW, Communications Coordinator, on next page.*



**Central Texas Conference/South District**  
**JOURNEY OF FAITH UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**  
**7301 County Road 110, Round Rock, TX 78665**  
**Chartered March 8, 2020**



Billie Ray, Secretary/TR and Nancy Hobbs, PR.



Charter Presentation, March 8, 2020

Donna Jensen, South District UMW President gave the program on Prayer at the JoF UMW Organization Meeting, January 11, 2020.



In yellow circle, **Julie Harrison, JoF CC**, Taylor Harrison, Gwen Kingery and Barbara Whitehead.



Patty Lee,  
CTC UMW, MNO

Those in attendance from Journey of Faith UMW were: President, Nancy Hobbs; Secretary/Treasurer, Billie Ray; Communications Coordinator, Julie Harrison; Taylor Harrison, Gwen Kingery, Karen Nordling, Charlotte Smith, Krista Smith, Mick Suttle and Barbara Whitehead (mother of pastor). *Lots of mother/daughter's in this UMW.*



# HOW I BECAME A UNITED METHODIST WOMAN

By Sharon Gibson

It was November of 1983 (I was in my young 30s) when R.E. and I had returned from a four year tour with the Corps of Engineers in Saudi Arabia. R.E. had a new job at WSMR, NM and I became a stay-at-home mom.

I had missed going to the Methodist church those years overseas where we could not have any church service. In December a friend of my husband's from work invited us to attend St. Paul's UMC Christmas Program in Las Cruces. I knew the moment I walked in this was going to be my church home. It looked so much like the Methodist church in Hyattsville, MD where I was an active youth and everyone was so friendly.

When we attended our first Sunday service that January, I met a lady who invited me to join the Elizabeth Circle and come to the UMW General Meeting that month. At that meeting they announced that the New Mexico UMW Conference was going to have a Spiritual Growth Retreat in March up in the Lincoln National Forest at the Sacramento Methodist Assembly site. I knew He was calling me.

I had never been up to the camp, so R.E. and I took a test run to see if I could find it on my own. It was a beautiful drive and you could see God's work everywhere. I was so excited to go on this retreat even more after the drive.

The day finally came and I went all by myself, didn't know anyone, but felt so at home when I arrived and after meeting all my new UMW sisters at the retreat. We sang that weekend the theme song many times "Here I Am, Lord", I had never heard it before. I cried each time we sang it. I was ready for Him to use me. It was a wonderful and inspiring retreat, I knew I had missed Him and the fellowship of Christian sisters. I was hooked and it's been 36 years of spiritual growth, mission work, learning, participating, organizing, volunteering, fellowshiping and so much more. *Thank you God for that nudge and for the United Methodist Women!*



Sacramento Methodist Assembly, NM

...Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

Written By Daniel Schutte

Please send me your story of **"How you became a United Methodist Woman"** and share it with your UMW sisters in our South District UMW Newsletter. Thank you.

—Sharon Gibson, South District UMW  
Communications Coordinator  
[gooma@suddenlink.net](mailto:gooma@suddenlink.net)

## Local UMWs

Attention Local UMW Organizations: When your assigned District Shepherdess comes to visit, please send me a picture of your shepherdess with your group for the district newsletter. Your 2020 District Shepherdess is listed below, if it has not been scheduled, please call and invite your shepherdess. Thank you.

**Belton, First:** Sharon Gibson [S: May 19<sup>th</sup>](#)  
**Belton, Mt. Zion:** Gwendolyn Caviness  
**Copperas Cove, Grace:** Shirleen Chandler [S: June 2<sup>nd</sup>](#)  
**Florence:** Julie Fuschak  
**Gatesville, First:** Vernice Black & Susan Peters [S: April 14<sup>th</sup>](#)  
**Georgetown, First:** Royce Aarhus  
**Georgetown, St. John's:** Pat Moore [S: May 9<sup>th</sup>](#)  
**Georgetown, Wellspring:** Julie Fuschak  
**Harker Heights:** Vernice Black & Susan Peters [V: March 14<sup>th</sup>](#)  
**Hutto, Discovery:** Donna Jensen  
**Killeen, First:** Marion Daniels & Sherry Gibbs  
**Killeen, St. Andrew's:** Marion Daniels & Sherry Gibbs [V: March 24<sup>th</sup>](#)  
**Leander, Good News:** Donna Jensen  
**Change→ Mooreville:** Ann Eubanks  
**Round Rock, First:** Rita Handley  
**Round Rock, Journey of Faith:** Donna Jensen [V: January 11<sup>th</sup>](#)  
**Round Rock, St. Philip's – Friendship Circle:** Rita Handley  
**Salado:** Sharon Gibson [S: August 17<sup>th</sup>](#)  
**Change→ Taylor, First:** Pat Moore  
**Temple, First:** Donna Jensen [S: May 6<sup>th</sup>](#)  
**Temple, St. James:** Royce Aarhus  
**Temple, St. Paul:** Gwendolyn Caviness  
**Troy:** Ann Eubanks



**This is another way to keep in touch with your  
South District UMW Leadership Team.  
It's all about communicating and getting to know one another.**

*"Each South District UMW Leadership Team member shall serve as the Shepherdess for two to three local UMWs and strive to attend one meeting of each annually." --Per South District UMW Policy on **Communications** V.D.*

**S = scheduled visit / V = visited**

*--Sharon Gibson, South District UMW  
Communications Coordinator*

## Individual Recognition – Who Gets the Forms...

**Burning of the Candle** – Fill out form by deadline, make check out to 'CTC UMW' and mail **directly** to:

Corliss McBride  
Central Texas Conference UMW Treasurer  
5618 Wilshire  
Waco, TX 76710

Corliss will prepare the certificates and mail them to our District Treasurer to be given out at our Annual Meeting. For questions, contact Corliss McBride, CTC UMW TR: [corlissm@msn.com](mailto:corlissm@msn.com)

**Five-Star Individual Giver** – Fill out form by deadline and give to your **Local UMW Treasurer** who will send it to the District Treasurer. The certificate will be given to you by our District Treasurer at our Annual Meeting. For questions, contact your local UMW TR or Rita Handley, District TR: [ritakot@suddenlink.net](mailto:ritakot@suddenlink.net)

**Reading Program** – Fill out form by deadline and give to your **Local UMW Secretary of Program Resources (SPR) or President**, if you do not have a SPR. She will send all the reading forms together to the District SPR. The certificate will be given to you by our District SPR, Ann Eubanks at our Annual Meeting. For questions, contact your local SPR or Regina Holleman, CTC UMW SPR: [regina\\_holleman@yahoo.com](mailto:regina_holleman@yahoo.com) or Ann Eubanks, District SPR: 254-721-8591.

All 2020 individual recognitions will be included in the yearly conference resource book and the district Annual Meeting brochure, if received by the deadline. **Forms can be found on our district webpage at:**  
[www.ctcumw.org/south\\_district](http://www.ctcumw.org/south_district)

**Our South District UMW 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be on  
September 19, 2020 at Temple 1<sup>st</sup> UMC.**



**Program "God, Tea and Me"  
Presented by Becky Brown**

*-- South District UMW: Rita Handley, Treasurer and  
Ann Eubanks, Secretary of Program Resources*

**URGENT MESSAGE TO ALL: WHEN WE FORWARD AN EMAIL TO YOU THAT COMES FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE, CTC UMW, ETC., PLEASE DO NOT REPLY 'ALL'. THIS IS CAUSING A PROBLEM FOR THOSE WHO USE THEIR EMAIL FOR WORK. IF YOU WANT TO REPLY, JUST REPLY TO THE SENDER. THANK YOU.**

—Sharon Gibson, Communications Coordinator

## READING PROGRAM 2020

**CATEGORY\* TITLE AUTHOR(S) PUBLISHER YEAR:**

**EFM** **When Others Shuddered:** Eight Women Who Refused to Give Up *Jamie Janosz* Moody Publishers 2014

**EFM** **The Pilgrim Journey:** A History of Pilgrimage in the Western World *James Harpur* BlueBridge 2016

**LD** **Teaching Outside the Box:** Five Approaches to Opening the Bible with Youth *Andrew Zirschky* Abingdon Press 2017

**LD** **Which Way Lord?** *Robert Fuguay* Upper Room Books 2017

**LD** **Vital Voices:** The Power of Women Leading Change around the World *Alyse Nelson* Jossey-Bass 2012

**NFC** **#RU Hooked:** Teens & Social Media, For Teens and the People Who Care About Them *Jonathan Smith* Tristan Publishing 2017

**NFC** **The Aging of Aquarius:** Igniting Passion and Purpose as an Elder *Helen Wilkes* New Society Publishers 2018

**NFC** **The Life Sand Ministry of Mary Webster** *Anne Mathews-Younes* E. Stanley Jones Foundation 2017

**NFC** **Glory Happening:** Finding the Divine in Everyday Places *Kaitlin B. Curtice* Paraclete Press 2017

**NFC** **Heartbeat of a Mother:** Encouragement for the Lifelong Journey *Jane Rubietta* Wesleyan Publishing House 2016

**NFC** **Tilly and the Crazy Eights** *Monique Grey Smith* Second Story Press 1968 / 2018

**NFC** **How the Woman at the Well Became the Well Woman** *Donna Rhoades* Memoir by Donna Rhoades 2016

**NFC** **The End of the Island:** Finding Life in the Movements of Human Suffering, Pain, and Loss *Jeffrey C. Tuck* Resource Publications 2016

**SA** **Who Lynched Willie Earle?** *Will Willimon* Abingdon Press 2017

**SA** **6 X 10: Stories from Solitary** *Mateo Koke and Taylor Pendergrass* Haymarket Books 2018

**SA** **Immigration and Justice for Our Neighbors** *Jennifer Clarke and Mariam Downey* Celery City Books 2017

**SA** **They Will Inherit the Earth:** Peace and Nonviolence in a Time of Climate Change *John Dear* Orbis 2018

**SA** **What Comes with the Dust** *Gharbi M. Mustafa* Arcade Publishing 2018

**SA** **Loaded:** Disarming the Second Amendment *Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz* City Lights Books 2018

**SA** **Holding Up Your Corner, Talking About Race in Your Community** *F. Willis Johnson* Abingdon Press 2017

**SA** **Storming the Wall:** Climate Change, Migration and Homeland Security *Todd Miller* City Lights Books 2017

**SA** **The Fig Tree Revolution:** Unleashing Local Churches into the Mission of Justice *Bill Medford* Cascade Books 2017

**SA** **Midnight Teacher:** Lilly Ann Granderson and Her Secret School *Janet Halfmann* Lee and Low Books 2018

**SG** **Writings of John Wesley** *Keith Beasley-Topliff* Upper Room Books 1997

**SG** **Raising World Changers in a Changing World** *Kristen Welch* Baker Books 2018

**SG** **We Pray With Her:** Encouragement for All Women Who Lead *Emily Peck-McClain, Danyelle Trexler, Jen Tyler, J. Paige Boyer, and Shannon Sullivan* Abingdon Press 2018

**SG** **If I should die before I Live:** Senior Meditation *Richard Renwick Smyth* Logos Books 2017

**SG** **Resist and Persist** *Erin Wathern* Westminster John Knox Press 2018

**SG** **Working Class Rage** *Tex Sample* Abingdon Press 2018

**SG** **God Unbound:** Wisdom from Galatians *Elaine Heath* Upper Room Books 2016

**SG** **The Magnificent Story:** Uncovering a Gospel of Beauty, Goodness and Truth *James Bryan Smith* IVP Books 2017

**SG** **40 Days with Wesley:** A Daily Devotional Journey *Rueben P. Job* Abingdon Press 2017

**SG** **Easter Stories:** Classic Tales for the Holy Season *Multi-authors including: C. S. Lewis, Leo Tolstoy, Oscar Wilde, etc.* Plough 2015

**CH** **Owen and Eleanor Move In** *H. M. Bouwman* Sparkhouse Family Press 2018 \$7.99

**CH** **The Watcher** *Nikki Grimes* Second Story Press 2018 \$16.95

**CH** **The Water Walker** *Joanne Robertson* Second Story Press 2018

**CH** **Who is My Neighbor** *Angela Levine and Sandy Isanberg Sasso* Fly Away Books 2019

**CH** **Where Will I Live** *Rosemary McCarney* Second Story Press 2017

**YT** **We Kiss Them with Rain** *Futhi Ntshingila* Catalyst Press 2018

**YT** **A Cage without Bars** *Anne Dublin* Second Story Press 2014

**YT** **El Pueblo Seguirá** *Simon Ortiz* Lee and Low 2017

Continues on the next page.

## READING PROGRAM BOOKS 2020—CONTINUES

**KO-SG Killing Kryptonite** *Sungmook Chung* Messenger International 2018

**KO-EFM Public Faith in Action: How to Think Carefully, Engage Wisely, and Vote with Integrity** *Miroslav Volf and Ryan Meannally-Linz* Brazos Press 2016

**KO-SA Refugee: Continuous Journey for Hope** *Youngsik Ha* Four Seasons 2017

**KO-LD Spiritual Leadership** *Jaehyuk Jin* Durano 2015

**KO-NFC Befriend: Create Belonging in an Age of Judgment, Isolation, and Fear** *Scott Sauls* Tindale House Publishers 2016

**BONUS BOOKS—MISSION STUDIES & OTHER** (These can count in two categories)

**SG Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship** *Janet Wolf* United Methodist Women 2019

**SA So you want to talk about race** *Ijeoma Oluo* Seal Press 2018

**SP Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission** *Ellen Blue* United Methodist Women 2019

**IS What About Our Money? A Faith Response** *Susan Taylor* United Methodist Women 2018

### Abbreviations:

**EFM** Education for Mission

**IS** Issue Study

**LD** Leadership Development

**SA** Social Action

**SP** Special Publication

**CH** Children

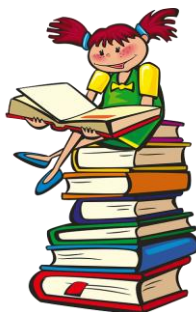
**KO** Korean

**NFC** Nurturing for Community

**SG** Spiritual Growth

**YT** Youth

**For the first time, United Methodist Women members will obtain Reading Program books exclusively through third parties—libraries, local bookstores and online.**



--Ann Eubanks, South District UMW  
Secretary of Program Resources

## UMW CENSUS

**LOCAL UMW ORGANIZATIONS, PLEASE LET ROYCE AARHUS, SOUTH DISTRICT MN&O COORDINATOR, KNOW IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR 'UMW CENSUS'. THANK YOU.**

EMAIL ROYCE AT

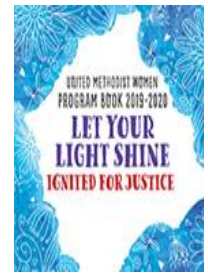
[mrs.kaarhus@yahoo.com](mailto:mrs.kaarhus@yahoo.com)

South District UMW  
Leadership Team  
Meeting for April 25<sup>th</sup>  
has been rescheduled  
for May 16<sup>th</sup>.



## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE: IGNITED FOR JUSTICE

From the United Methodist Women Program Book 2019-2020



**APRIL PROGRAM** "HOLY, BOLD WOMEN LEAD" WITH SCRIPTURE: AT DAWN ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, MARY MAGDALENE AND THE OTHER MARY CAME TO LOOK AT THE TOMB. (MATTHEW 28:1; CEB)

**MAY PROGRAM** "CATCH A FIRE" WITH SCRIPTURE: THEY SAW WHAT SEEMED TO BE INDIVIDUAL FLAMES OF FIRE ALIGHTING ON EACH ONE OF THEM. (ACTS 2:3; CEB)

**JUNE PROGRAM** "LIVING IN THE LIGHT" WITH SCRIPTURE: IF WE LIVE IN THE LIGHT THE SAME WAY AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS, HIS SON CLEANSSES US FROM EVERY SIN. (1 JOHN 1:7; CEB)

*If you are looking for a good program for your UMW General or Circle/Group Meetings use the UMW Program Book. You can use a program of your choosing, use all or part of it or even combine programs. It's always interesting and biblical based. Enjoy!*

*At St. John's UMW we choose, at least, two programs every year. This year our Co-Presidents chose the two programs: Patty Lee will do her program in May from the October 2019 program, "I Am the Light: Connecting Our Stories" and Shirley Channell did her program in March from the April 2020 program, "Holy, Bold Women Lead".*

*During the year, I also do a newsletter for our UMW and pick out items from the book to post in our newsletter. It's like getting ignited every month!*

*—Sharon Gibson, St. John's UMW*

## TO LOCAL UMW MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH DISTRICT



**The following positions need to be filled for the South District UMW Leadership Team:**

Vice President – **immediately**, 2020-2021

Treasurer – 2021-2022

Mission Coordinator for Social Action Coordinator – 2021-2022

Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth Coordinator – 2021-2022

Committee on Nominations, Class of 2024

*If interested, you can find the job descriptions in the 2020 South District UMW Yearbook, pp. 8-11.*

*Fill out the 'Talent Bank Information' form which can be downloaded online at:*

[www.ctcumw.org/south\\_district](http://www.ctcumw.org/south_district)

**Send Talent form to Vernice Black, 199 Mesquite Lane, Belton, TX 76513.**

**For more information email me at [jvblack2008@yahoo.com](mailto:jvblack2008@yahoo.com)**

**NOTE: Our district Secretary of Program Resources position will be eliminated in 2021 and the Reading Program will be included in the Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation. Shirleen Chandler will add this to her job description for 2021.**

*--Vernice Black, Chair,  
South District UMW Committee on Nominations*



## **CTC UMW Mission u 2020, Glen Lake, July 31-August 2**

Cost and registration can be found online [www.ctcumw.org](http://www.ctcumw.org) after mid-April.

### **Spiritual Growth Study:**

*Finding Peace in an Anxious World* – Rev. Donna McKee

*Managing Anxiety (youth)* – Rev. Corey Moses

*Managing our Emotions (children)* – Jocelyn Hodby

### **Issue Study:**

*Pushout* – Dr. Thalia Matherson

### **Special Publication:**

*Women United for change: 150 years in Mission* – Yvette Richards

*Leading for Change; Practical Tips for Social Action* – Yvette Richards



**One-Day Study in the South District will be at St. James UMC, 707 S. 3rd St., Temple on August 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Spiritual Growth Study: “Finding Peace in an Anxious World” presented by Donna Jensen.**

**District registration fee is \$25.00, book not included / must register online, see above.**

## **RESOURCES AND BOOKS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE**

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-studies](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-studies)

## **12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EPIPHANY BRUNCH**

*Held: January 11, 2020*

Once again the ladies of Temple First United Methodist Women provided wonderful food, fellowship and hospitality to our Sisters across the South District at their Annual Epiphany Brunch.

We started our day with a delicious brunch, time to fellowship with each other and time to shop at the vendors or to bid on auction items. All money collected from the auction went to missions.

We then enjoyed a wonderful program provided by Phil and Debi Jones of Sunrise Ministries.

Phil and Debi are gifted singer-songwriters who love the Lord and reflect this in the beautiful songs they write and sing. They sang many of their songs.

Phil shared his journey to discovering there is a God that answers prayers and has the power to heal and guide. Phil had a disease that had no cure by man and he was agnostic. Phil is living proof of that healing power and his life has been changed.

Debi did her hilarious imitation of Lily Tomlin’s character Ernestine. Debi imitated Ernestine as God’s operator, taking calls and intercepting prayer requests from Old Testament characters, such as Moses, Noah, Daniel, Jonah and Lot. The skit ended on a serious note that since Jesus came to Earth, we all have a direct line to God the Father. We no longer need an intermediary when we pray. So Ernestine was out of a job!

To learn more about Phil and Debi check out their website at [www.sunriseministries.com](http://www.sunriseministries.com)

Once again thank you to Temple First United Methodist Women.

--Shirley Channell,  
St. John’s UMW Co-President

***See pictures on next page.***

## Epiphany Brunch at Temple First UMC

*Held: January 11, 2020. Pictures below taken by Shirley Channell.*



Our host from Temple FUMC.



Phil and Debi Jones of  
Sunrise Ministries.



**ATTENDEES**



Shirley Channell

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## 2020 - Texas UMW Legislative Event

*Held: January 26-28, 2020. Below are our ladies from the CTC & South District that attended.*



South District UMW



## TEXAS UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2020

There are more than 100,000 members of United Methodist Women in Texas. At their annual legislative conference, UMW members from all six of Texas' United Methodist Annual Conferences adopt a consensus legislative agenda reflecting their priority legislative concerns. United Methodist Women was established in 1869. United Methodist Women place particular emphasis on issues impacting the well-being of women, children and youth. Texas United Methodist Women affirm the dedication of every member of the Texas Legislature. We thank you for your service to our state and we look forward to thanking you for your good work in the 87th legislative session. The following represent our consensus legislative priorities for 2020:

### **National UMW Priority Area: Economic Inequality Texas Legislative Priorities**

- Increase funding for public education
- No tax subsidies to private schools

### **National UMW Priority Area: Climate Justice Texas Legislative Priorities**

- Mitigate climate change by advancing renewable energy and reducing support for and reliance on fossil fuels
- Maintain and enforce existing environmental regulations

### **National UMW Priority Area: Criminalization of Communities of Color Texas Legislative Priorities**

- Repeal SB4 and prohibit all forms of discriminatory enforcement including racial profiling
- Increase transparency and accountability in detention centers

### **National UMW Priority Area: Maternal and Child Health Texas Legislative Priorities**

- Expand Medicaid as provided under the Affordable Care Act
- Strengthen the existing Medicaid program by implementing 12-month continuous eligibility for children and 12-month postpartum coverage



**2020 Texas UMW Legislative Event**  
**Pictured are those who went on the Capitol tour.**



## BE A SEED FOR JESUS

**Am I, are you a seed?** Jesus speaks of the mustard seed: “What comparison can we use for the reign of God? What image will help to present it? It is like a mustard seed which people plant in the soil: It is the smallest of all the earth’s seeds yet once it is sown, it springs up to become the largest of shrubs, with branches big enough for the birds of the sky to build nests in its shade” yep, we are called to be seeds for Jesus to plant good actions on earth that lead to better lives for our fellow humans. We are each unique in our particular calls to: speaking up, provide helping hands, working for justice. **What is your call?** Along with the recent UMW legislative priorities and the recent faith in action sent by the board of church and society, we have specific calls, and we can relate to them as we are called. I hope each of us will devote ourselves to at least one matter that answers Jesus’ call regarding our fellow humans. This can involve speaking up locally, statewide and nationally, plus, plus.

1. Ministry with the poor and addressing economic inequality. Most of us are grandmothers and some are great grandmothers. I think of their education and I will speak up for more school funding. Their successful future depends on a good basic education. And affordable higher ED.

2. If a seed is to grow it must be planted in good earth, receive enough water and healthy air. Yep! Climate justice is crucial. Let us speak up to our local, state and national leaders. Do they care? I sure hope so.

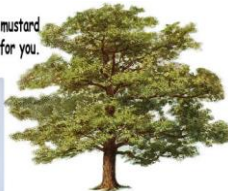
3. Everyone wants to be healthy and have good, necessary help when they are sick. Does everyone have it? Watch what is going on regarding Medicare and Medicaid and speak up as necessary.

You know all of the above already. I just encourage you to really devote some time to learning, teaching, writing, and acting in whatever way to make a difference in a couple of areas that really matter to you. We can learn so much from our Texas Impact friends by receiving their email information. Our UMW leaders will be informing us on all of this as they provide information to us. Also check out: [www.texasimpact.org/umw2020central/infact](http://www.texasimpact.org/umw2020central/infact).

Planting seeds in all these areas are key to the good future of my grandchildren and great grandchildren. We need to think about the future for our grand kids and great grand kids. **What will it be like?** Imagine! Our generation has to think about that future and speak up. **Remember:** “The seed of hope is with us here. We work for justice near. We plan and tend our tiny seeds: we hope for the unseen”.

--Julie Fuschak, South District UMW  
Social Action Coordinator

If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible for you.



The offering from the South District UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat was \$620.18. It will be sent to Angry Tias and Abuelas. They provide support and humanitarian aid for asylum seekers waiting in Mexico. Their fiscal sponsor is Progress Texas Institute, a registered 501(c) (3) organization.



## Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women

### Sing-a-Rainbow

#### **“Poverty among the Elderly: Seeking Justice for the Aging”**

*Held: February 15, 2020. Below are our ladies from the South District that attended.*



Rita Handley, Host UMW President; Estrella Chorale; and, Donna Jensen, South District UMW President



### *South District UMW*

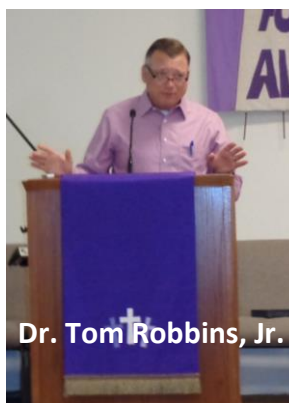
*Spiritual Growth Retreat*-- Held: February 29, 2020.

*“Seeing God in the Normal and the Awkward”*

*Presented by Dr. Tom Robbins, Jr.*



First-Timers



Dr. Tom Robbins, Jr.



Door Prize Winners

*See more pictures on our webpage:*

[www.ctcumw.org/south\\_district](http://www.ctcumw.org/south_district)

*Central Texas Conference UMW*  
*Spiritual Growth Retreat -- Held: March 13-14, 2020.*  
*"In the Shadow of the Most High" Presented by Rev. Denise Blakely*

Below are our ladies from the South District UMW who attended.



Sherry Gibbs (Grace); Sharon Gibson & Wendy Johnson (St. John's);  
Marilyn Allison & Donna Jensen (Belton 1<sup>st</sup>); and, Nancy Hobbs & Karen Nordling (Journey of Faith).

To view all the pictures from this event, go to [www.ctcumw.org](http://www.ctcumw.org).

**January – March was a busy time for the UMW.**  
**Hope you were able to attend some of those**  
**events mentioned above.**

**SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION QUADRENNIAL MEETING**

**"Calling"**

~~Was to be Held: March 26-29, 2020~~

**RESCHEDULED FOR**  
**SEPTEMBER 2-5, 2020**

**In Little Rock, AR.**



A THANK YOU CARD TO THE SOUTH DISTRICT UMW LEADERSHIP TEAM. WE TOOK UP A DONATION AT OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY AND ROYCE AARHUS BOUGHT A GIFT CARD WITH IT TO GIVE TO THIS CHILD.

*What a sweet note!*



## Mission Today

Is your local organization planning to submit a Mission Today report in August? If so, you may be considering a mission activity your organization could do outside your local church. Several were highlighted in our last Newsletter. More suggestions include:

- 1.) Volunteering to help Meals on Wheels.
- 2.) Mission trip to UMCOR in Louisiana.
- 3.) Wesleyan Home donation.
- 4.) Volunteering at local care centers.
- 5.) Prayer shawl ministry.
- 6.) Methodist Children's Home donation.

These were all completed locally in UMW in the Central Texas Conference last year. Perhaps this will give you an idea to build on. Blessings as you reach out to help others.

--Shirleen Chandler, South District UMW  
Mission Coordinator for  
Education and Interpretation





***SOUTH DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN***

**“IN REMEMBRANCE”**

**March 1, 2019-January 31, 2020**

**Belton, Mt. Zion UMW**

**Mattie Clemons**

**Gatesville, First UMW**

**Ronnie Smathers**

**Georgetown, First UMW**

**Mary Bost**

**Nancy Cunningham**

**Georgetown, St. John's UMW**

**Nora Shanafelt**

**Killeen, First UMW**

**Judy Burch**

**Elizabeth Caffey**

**Helen Kirby**

**Frances Wilson**

**Temple, First UMW**

**Carol Edwards**

Note: Information above was given by your Local UMW Organization.

## 2020 South District UMW Leadership Team

President: Donna Jensen

Vice President: **Vacant**

Secretary: Susan Peters

Treasurer: Rita Handley

Secretary of Program Resources: Ann Eubanks

Communications Coordinator: Sharon Gibson

Mission Coordinator for--

Education and Interpretation: Shirleen Chandler

Membership Nurture & Outreach: Royce Aarhus

Social Action: Julie Fuschak

Spiritual Growth: Marion Daniels

Committee on Nominations, Chair: Vernice Black

Plus: CON Classes and CTC UMW LT who reside in the South District.

### LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETINGS

8:30 a.m. @ Belton, FUMC

**Apr 25<sup>th</sup> meeting moved to → May 16<sup>th</sup>.**

July 18, Sept. 26 & Dec. 5

*To contact us, view event flyers, register for our events, to download the yearbook and to download BOC, 5-Star, Reading, Scholarship and Talent forms go to our webpage:*

[www.ctcumw.org/south\\_district](http://www.ctcumw.org/south_district)

## 2020 Central Texas Conference UMW Leadership Team

President: Lynne Grandstaff

Vice President: Margaret Gessley

Secretary: Becca Bilz Davis

Treasurer: Corliss McBride

Secretary of Program Resources: Regina Holleman

Communications Coordinator: Anne Ridley-Pleasant

Mission Coordinator for--

Education and Interpretation: Linda Beach

Membership Nurture & Outreach: Patty Lee

Social Action: Edie Snider

Spiritual Growth: Judith Graham

Committee on Nominations, Chair: Betty Foster

Plus: CON Classes, District Presidents and Mission u Dean.

Contact information go to

[www.ctcumw.org](http://www.ctcumw.org)

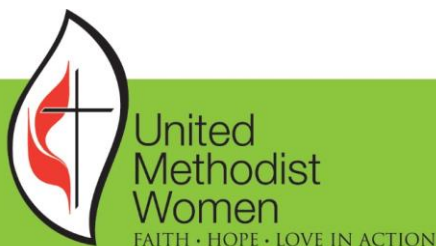
For more information about their events, read Crossties or Mission Ties go to their webpage above. Also visit the tab "Local News".

### LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETINGS

**Apr. 18 - "Zoom Meeting" scheduled.**

Last meeting will be Jul. 11<sup>th</sup>.

Send articles for the next newsletter (July-September) to the  
South District UMW Communications Coordinator,  
Sharon Gibson: [gooma@suddenlink.net](mailto:gooma@suddenlink.net) - **DEADLINE: June 1, 2020.**



Legacy Fund Goal = \$60,000,000

As of January 31, 2020 = \$31,069,377