



### **Challenge: Called to Serve**

#### **President, Vice President, Secretary, & Secretary of Program Resources**

I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples.” —Mother Teresa

If Mother Teresa could do it, so can you. I know that it seems like October is a long way away, but for the East Central District Leadership Team, it is just around the corner. My tenure is about to run out and we will need several other positions filled. Take it from me; it can be the greatest opportunity that you will ever experience.

Mark Twain once said “Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do.” So don’t let this opportunity pass you by. Step up to the plate and serve.

Let this verse be your guide....So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10...Believe this! He will be with you every step of the way and many “Women, Children and Youth” will be thankful that you were willing to serve.

On Saturday, March 18, 2017, at the Spring Day Apart Event, find Celeste Hicks and one of the members of the Committee on Nominations and volunteer to serve on the 2018-2020 District Team. You won’t be sorry.

From your current East Central President, Linda Gustafson  
From Winter Garden, FL

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEED YOU!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS SO YOU DON'T MISS THESE IMPORTANT DATES!**

**March 18, 2017...Spring Day Apart (Palm Coast UMC)**

**July 13-16, 2017...Mission u (Bethune-Cookman University)**

**September 23, 2017...Mission Studies Sampler (Sanlando UMC)**

**October 21, 2017...District Annual Meeting (FUMC Clermont)**

**November 4, 2017...Conference Annual Meeting (Lakeland)**



“Where we've been, where we are, where we're going” was the theme this year of the annual Valentine Tea hosted by the United Methodist Women of Orange City United Methodist Church. One hundred thirty guests enjoyed fancy tea sandwiches and cookies, Saturday afternoon, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

The history of the United Methodist Women was presented in an informative and entertaining way with members of the organization portraying representatives from each era of the 150-year span of the United Methodist Women. Mrs. William Butler (Margaret Fletcher) told about the founding of the United Methodist Women in 1869. Carrie Johnson (Pat Saiz) was the Flapper era of the 1920's and 30's. Joan LaFleur as Rosie the Riveter reported on the history of the United Methodist Women during the 40's and 50's, a period when women came into their own. Daisy Moonbeam (Bonnie Cary) was a flower child of the turbulent 60's and 70's. The future of the organization was represented by Savannah and Faith grandchildren of Cheryl Atkins who played the part of the extremely busy United Methodist Women member of today.

We all agreed that the 150-year history of the United Methodist Women has been an interesting one, that the future is in good hands, and that supporting the Legacy Fund will guarantee that the ministries of the United Methodist Women will not only continue but will expand in the next 150 years.

The tea closed with each guest receiving a long-stemmed red rose as they sang “Let There Be Peace on Earth”.

Peace United Methodist Women Host  
Elizabeth Lynn, Community Relations Manager  
Orlando Union Rescue Mission February 25



What an eye opener! I suggest more United Methodist Women units contact Elizabeth Lynn to learn more about the impact they are making, particularly for homeless women and children in the Orlando areas.

We collected an SUV full of baby wipes and toddler size 5 and 6 diapers and are making a \$200 donation.

If you want more information on this worthy project, contact annstrehlow@gmail.com (United Methodist Women Peace Communications and Membership)

---

#### Sanlando United Methodist Women's Program "Look for the Pearls"

Over 70 women gathered to attend the "Look for the Pearls" program on March 4th in the church fellowship hall. Included were guests from the Asbury UMW and the Grace UMW. The keynote speaker, Shannon Basso, is the founder and editor of BECOMING women's studies which inspires and equips women to grow in spiritual maturity and become who God created them to be. She spoke about Pearls of Wisdom and how these truths can change your world. We also heard from Karen Sellers, assistant director of E.S.T.H.E.R., which embraces single mothers and their families throughout Central Florida. More than \$260 was donated to support this organization. Thank you to all of our circles who contributed to make the afternoon a success!



The United Methodist Women of Tomoka United Methodist Church in Ormond Beach has formed a monthly book club. We are following the Reading Program Plan of United Methodist Women by selecting a book from each of the five mission emphases: Social Action; Education for Mission; Leadership Development; Nurturing for Community; And Spiritual Growth. When we complete our readings we will meet Plan 1 requirements. Five members have agreed to host and facilitate the monthly Book Club in their home. We enjoy our fellowship with prayer, lunch and discussion. We began in January with *The White Umbrella-walking with survivors of sex trafficking* by Mary Frances Bowley. It was a serious topic that led to a thought-provoking discussion. The book was a timely read with many communities focusing on sex trafficking awareness in January. Our February book was *Age of Dignity-Preparing for the Elder Boom in a Changing America* by Al-Jen Poo. Another eye-opening read

and serious discussion about the fastest-growing demographic group- the 85 plus age group. The book addresses the challenges involved to meet the needs of caring for our aging citizens. We look forward to three more interesting books and discussions. Books are meant to be shared and discussed. Our United Methodist Women Book Club is a perfect solution to share thought-provoking books for reflection, discussion and action.

\*\*\*\*\*

Joyce Waldon Bright would like to recommend this article in honor of Women's History Month: Remembering Theressa Hoover, woman of firsts **By Linda Bloom**

Theressa Hoover was the first and she made sure she was not the last.

The first African-American woman to become a top staff executive for The United Methodist Church was a mentor to many young women, promoted the leadership of laywomen and engineered a secure future for the women's organization of the denomination during a period of tumultuous change.

Hoover led the Women's Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, the corporate body of United Methodist Women, for 22 years, from 1968 to 1990.

"She had a presence that could be larger than life, but she also had a presence that could be as soft and gentle as a dove," said Andris Salter, a United Methodist Women executive who witnessed how Hoover ministered to women struggling with issues such as physical and sexual abuse.

Hoover, 88, died Dec. 21 in Fayetteville, Ark., the hometown that had proclaimed May 30, 2008, as Theressa Hoover Day. Her funeral took place Dec. 30 at Sequoyah United Methodist Church, where she was a member.

One of five children born to James C. Hoover and Rissie Vaughn, Hoover's options might have seemed limited in the segregated South, especially after her mother died when she was a small child. But her father, a city hospital orderly, taught her to be fearless and gave her the confidence to do what she needed to do. A 1946 graduate of Philander Smith College, she helped the Little Rock Methodist Council, a coalition of 19 black and white Methodist congregations, convert a former turkey farm into Camp Aldersgate, dedicated in 1947 as a camp for African-American youth and a racially integrated training center.

To continue reading the article, visit:

<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/remembering-theressa-hoover-woman-of-firsts>

---

### **Children's Week in**

### **Tallahassee**

700 hand arts were collected from several preschools in Lake Mary and members of **Grace**

### **United Methodist**

### **Women, Lake**

**Mary** attached them to colorful ribbon. The strands of hand art will hang with tens of thousands of paper cut-outs of children's hands in the Florida Capitol Rotunda during Children's Week, March 26-31. The goal for the "Hanging of the Hands" is to provide a visual and powerful statement that every set of hands represents a child who is impacted by the policy decisions of the Florida Legislature. Go to [childrensweek.org](http://childrensweek.org) for more info for next year.



## Flagler Beach has busy February



At the regular meeting of the Flagler Beach WISDOM Circle on Tuesday, February 7, members fill 100 school kits with a specific list of supplies. From the left, Mary Black, Sue Baldwin, Fran Anderson and Phyllis Sweeney fill bags; then Bette Rountree packs them for delivery to farm worker children in the Pierson area. All 100 cloth tote bags are sewn by Bette, while the members contribute the other items. Each bag is valued at \$11.

Flagler Beach UMW held its annual fellowship luncheon Thursday, February 9, in the church hall. Units from Palm Coast and Ormond by the Sea Riverview joined in the camaraderie.



Drucilla Singleton from Palm Coast, left, sits with Flagler Beach members Rita Simmons and Marie Swart.



Jean Gritman, East Central District UMW coordinator for Social Action, chats with Joyce Graham from Riverview about the unit's invitation to a group luncheon in September.