



MARY AND MARTHA MAIL CIRCLE UMW

Christ United Methodist Church - Mobile, Alabama

Living the Legacy - Women's History Month

MARCH 2015

Member Involvement

Circle Coordinator
Vera Moore

Birthday Cards to MMM Circle
Patsy Adams

Birthday Cards to Missionaries
Melissa Motes

Weekly Prayer Focus
Norma Spiller

Children's Sabbath Planning
Notalsia Whiting

Get Well Cards MMM Circle
Glenda Contos

UMCOR Health Kits
Glenda Contos

Bake Sale Workers
Dawn Seese
Glenda Contos

Bake Sale Bakers
Dawn Seese

Glenda Contos
Melissa Motes

Safe Haven Workers
Glenda Contos

Soup Sale Workers
Glenda Contos

Soup Makers for Soup Sale
Glenda Contos

Please let us know if some have volunteered and not been listed.

We Make it Happen: A Living Timeline

How does a United Methodist Women member in your life inspire you and others to Make It Happen? Let's see some of our stories on [Pinterest](#).

150th Anniversary of United Methodist Women

On March 23, 1869, eight women gathered at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, and organized the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, what would become United Methodist Women. The women raised money to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that nation.

We begin preparations for 2019

Making It Happen is our legacy and our future. This is why the United Methodist Women Living Timeline will continue now and into our 150th Anniversary. To fully realize the differences we have made in the lives of women, children and youth, and to know where we need to go to reach our mission goals, we need you to share your powerful stories.

Share your story

1. Ask yourself: How you are feeding souls? Are you standing up to human trafficking? Did you participate in an Ubuntu Journey? Are you involved in social justice action by organizing and participating in rallies and legislative days? What are you passionate about that needs to be shared?
2. Create your story. Think in terms of one story or one experience that dramatically highlights the work you do. Present the story elements: What is the conflict, what is the climax and how did it get resolved? What in this powerful story changed the life of the person or community you served? How did this experience change you, deepen your commitment to feed the souls of women, children and youth?
3. Put your story into a creative format:
 - Create a piece of artwork of your story.
 - Create a video.
 - Write a song and sing it.
 - Write a journal, blog or poem.
 - Make a scrapbook of your story.
 - Submit your stories by e-mail:

livingtimeline@unitedmethodistwomen.org

Service Projects 2015

Your involvement with service projects will be published here as you report them to us and shared with CUMW treasurer, combined with others from CUMC and throughout the organization.

- Mobile Inner City Mission - purchased Boston Butt
- Walk MS - Kim Johnson walked for her mother.
- Cakes for Celebrate Recovery monthly
- Food for grieving families.

Please let us know when you are involved in any service or community project so we can add that to this list.



Celebrate the dedication and foresight of our foremothers in mission as we lead up to our 150th anniversary in 2019 with a special Day of Giving, **March 23, 2015.**

On that day donate to the [Legacy Fund](#) in honor or in memory of United Methodist Women who have influenced your life.

Alternative to online giving - send your gift to Phyllis Allen, CUMW treasurer, and ask her to credit it to Legacy Fund #3001147

Selections From the Prayer Calendar + *Mary and Martha Birthdays*

- Mar 1 Hea Sun Kim (S)
 Mar 2 Joel Ncahoruri (M)
 Nancy Swan
 Mar 3 Emma Kerr-Carpenter (MI),
 Mar 4 Jose Roberto Pena (M)
 Monique McFarland
 Mar 5 Dee Ann Heptas (CCW)
 Mar 6 Doris J. Frazer (D)
 Mar 7 Terri Goodin (D)
 Mar 8 Mistead Sai (US-2)
 Mar 9 Marsha Gail Alexander (M)
 Mar 10 Brenda Vaca (NPHLM)
 Mar 11 Pat Hoerth (D)
 Mar 12 Pierre Diamba Manya (M)
 Mar 13 Marilia Alves Schuller (M)
 Mar 14 Elizabeth McRill (MI)
 Mar 15 Bradley Kenn (MI)
 Mar 16 Nan McCurdy (M)
 Mar 17 Patricia Magyar (S)
 Mar 18 Debbie Aylmer (D)
 Mar 19 Democratic Republic of the Congo:
 Conference Women's School Fund
 Mar 20 Brenda Awad (M) (Bio on page 3)
 Mar 21 Princess Jusu (M)
 Mar 22 Epworth Children and Family Services, St.
 Louis, Missouri
Mar 23* Jeff Murrell (HMR)
 Mar 24 Debbie Keeney (CCW)
 Mar 25 Gayle McCreery (D)
 Mar 26 Belinda Forbes (M)
 Mar 27 Rhonda Gardner (S)
 Mar 28 Epworth Village, York, Nebraska
 Patty Parris
 Mar 29 Christie R. House (S)
 Mar 30 James Keech (M)
 Mar 31 Ellen K. Knudsen (S)

*March 23, 2015 - Save the Date

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Watch for additional information about this day at <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

Response Moments *Selections by Vera Moore*

Jesus was a master storyteller. His parables prove a point, convey a message and motivate people to action. They extend an invitation to follow him and his teachings, to be involved in his ministry and mission. When you tell others why you are a United Methodist Women member, you are extending an invitation for them to likewise commit to the Purpose and join the organization in its special assignment to mission with women, children, youth and disenfranchised communities.

Here are a few best practices for sharing your story in a way that might move others to join in Christ's mission.

The 5 Ws and H:

Asking yourself the 5 Ws and H will help you formulate your story.

Who? Determining who your audience is will greatly affect how you tell your story. For example, if your audience is an individual your story may be shorter or longer, more detailed or less, than if you were sharing your story in front of a room of 1,000 people. Who were the people in your life who led you to be involved in United Methodist Women? What did they do or say that made you want to join? Make sure to include them in your narrative.

What? What does United Methodist Women—local, district, conference and national levels—do to make the world a better place for women, children, youth and the most vulnerable among us? Always have a brief overall answer and at least one example on the ready. For example, "Mission Giving from United Methodist Women around the country supports more than 98 community centers, residences, shelters, schools and programs in the United States and programs and personnel serving women, children and youth in more than 100 countries. Our local United Methodist Women supports (insert a local ministry your group supports) in our county." Sharing a funny or moving story from the day you volunteered at a mission institution or delivered items to a local shelter or assembled baby layettes with your circle can help a listener get a better feel for the joy of mission. Whenever I get stuck in my writing, I think of my dad who always asks me, "What are you really trying to say?" This can be applied whether you're writing or verbally telling a

(Continued on page 4)

Missionary of the Month Brenda Awad

Happy Birthday - March 20!
Serving At: Bethlehem Bible College
Location: Israel/Palestine, Middle East



Brenda Awad
with spouse, Alex Awad

Brenda Kay Waddell Awad is a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries serving in Israel/Palestine with her husband, the Rev. Alex Awad, where they are involved with a small international church in East Jerusalem and in supporting the ministries of Bethlehem Bible College (BBC).

Brenda fills a wide range of functions at the church— Sunday School director and teacher, women’s group leader, and hospitality coordinator. At the Bible College, she spends approximately 30 hours per week assisting with English administrative needs and developing proposals for the college’s worldwide support base. Brenda substitutes as an English teacher as needed, and also works with other United Methodist mission personnel in the region to facilitate United Methodist group visits.

In an effort to bring about reconciliation among Palestinian and Israeli believers in Christ, Brenda and Alex participate in and support the activities of Musalaha (an Arab-Israeli reconciliation organization). The Musalaha ministry conducts annual activities (women’s meetings, theology of the land seminars, desert encounters, and leaders’ events) that foster ties between the two groups and promote peace and understanding amid much diversity.

A native of Fleming-Neon, Kentucky, Brenda says, “My parents taught me and my 10 older siblings the value of hard work, honesty, and faith in God. My parents’ influence, plus interaction with school missionary programs and church groups led me to accept Christ and the basic tenets of Christian faith at an early age. I committed my life to God to serve wherever the Holy Spirit would lead.”

Acting on this rich Christian heritage and desiring to prepare for Christian service, Brenda attended Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education. While at Lee University, she was active in missions and felt the call to serve as a missionary, not knowing where God would lead. One scripture verse that seemed to follow her was Acts 1:8: “And you will be my

witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Upon completion of her work at Lee, Brenda taught first grade in Calhoun, Georgia. She then married Alex, a native of Jerusalem, whom she met in her last year of college. They both taught in the public school system in North Georgia for several years. While teaching in Georgia, Brenda received a master’s degree in education from North Georgia College in Dahlonega.

In 1979, the Awads responded to the call to go to Bethlehem and assist with the newly formed Bethlehem Bible College, where they spent the next six years as independent missionaries. From 1985 to 1987, they served at Hope Secondary School, a charitable boarding school for young people from ages 12-18 in Beit Jala, near Bethlehem. Most of the students were victims of previous wars and occupations in their land. The Awad family was forced to leave Israel because they were refused renewal of their visas.

Brenda and Alex were commissioned as missionaries by the General Board of Global Ministries for service in Israel/Palestine, but spent the next five years struggling to obtain visas to re-enter the country. During that time, they served as mission interpreters in various locations on behalf of Global Ministries: as Mission Interpreters In Residence (MIIRs) in Ohio from 1989 to 1990; as peace and justice educators in upstate New York from 1990 to 1991; and as MIIRs in the South Central Jurisdiction from 1991 to 1994. In 1994 they returned to Jerusalem, where they continue to serve the body of Christ.

Brenda and Alex three adult children: Christy, Basem, and Randy.

This publication is the monthly virtual meeting of the Mary & Martha Mail Circle, United Methodist Women at Christ United Methodist Church, Mobile, Alabama. Our Circle is just like each of the other Circles of Christ UMW with the exception that we do not have monthly meetings other than by this “virtual” program, devotion, prayer calendar/ concerns, and Response moments. We make annual pledges to mission and participate in the projects of CUMW in all ways possible. We attend General Meetings as we are able. We constantly keep each other and each woman of UMW in our prayers.

Questions? Contact: Circle Coordinator
Vera Moore - 888-248-1680 or
email - ymooore4474@gmail.com

(Continued from page 2)

story. What do you want a listener to walk away with after hearing your story?

Why? Asking yourself why you are a United Methodist Women member will help you focus your story into a succinct and impactful narrative that can encourage other women to join you in mission.

When? Think about when you were called to be in mission through United Methodist Women. Were you young and in college? Were you a young mother? Did you become involved once you retired? What was this time in your life like? When did you know you needed to put your faith into action?

Where? Think back to where you were when you realized you wanted to be a part of United Methodist Women? Where were you living? Where did you first hear about the organization? Next, consider where you are telling your story. Are you in a large conference room with an audience of 1,000 people? Are you at a bus stop on your way to the church when someone asks you where you are going and why? Also consider where United Methodist Women is in mission. The answers to these questions will help you hone in on details for your story.

How? How has putting your faith, hope and love into action through United Methodist Women impacted your life and relationships with people and God? How has answering God's call to mission with women, children, youth and the most vulnerable impacted your spiritual growth?

If you process better through writing, try setting aside time to answer the 5 W's and H in a journal. If you process better through discussion, identify and find a storytelling partner who can listen as you formulate your story. Ask them for feedback to help you develop your story. Your group may even want to try this as an exercise during a meeting.

Also, while it is important to paint a broader picture of the overall mission of United Methodist Women, try to be specific with details. This will help paint the picture for the listener, making it more vivid. Be careful though to only include details that are relevant to the point of your story, otherwise your story runs the risk of dying at the hand of lengthiness.

Next, remember to practice, practice, practice! Just like anything else, storytelling takes practice. Ask a friend if you can practice telling your story to her or him. Again,

make sure to ask for feedback so you can improve your storytelling skills. If no one is available, practice telling it to an empty room or to a family pet. The more you actually tell your story, the more succinct it will become and more of an impact you will make on listeners.

Last, don't be afraid to get personal. Sharing your story can make you feel vulnerable because it opens you up to criticism about something that is deeply personal to you—your faith. It is normal to be hesitant to share personal details, but that is precisely what can make a listener feel more invested in the story. The more invested and engaged in a story someone is, the more likely they will take related action. People want to know about you. Is there something particularly funny in your story? Humor is a great way to connect with a listener.

Stories connect us as human beings. We all have a story. Hearing someone's lived experience is an honor because they are inviting you into a part of their life. They are sharing a piece of themselves with you. When you tell your story, you are doing the same thing. You are ultimately telling people why you are a United Methodist Women member because you want others to join in as well. You are relaying to them something you are passionately involved in that means a lot to you. You are extending an invitation to them to be involved in a community of women, putting their faith, hope and love into action around the world! It is a gift to have a story to tell, to hear someone's story and to invite others into the larger story of United Methodist Women. And remember, if you don't tell your story, someone else will!

Amanda Mountain is a United Methodist deaconess and former strategic partnerships manager and communications trainer for missionaries for the General Board of Global Ministries.

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How does a United Methodist Women member in your life inspire you and others to Make It Happen? Let's see some of our stories on [Pinterest](#). We don't find any stories, so far, from Alabama.

Across the years, our ministries with women, children, and youth have fed the hungry, healed the sick, educated millions, changed laws and policies, and transformed lives. What a great legacy we have inherited!