

2019 Design Team

Valerie Beckles-Neblett, Coral Springs



Valerie has been a faithful and enthusiastic attendee of the Women's Retreats for over 21 years. Valerie is the Chair of the Design Team this year. Her home congregation is at FUMC of Coral Springs, FL.

As a retired Pediatrician, Valerie spends her spare time in volunteer activities, and with occasional Medical Mission trips abroad. She has directed and led 12 Medical Mission Teams over the past 20 years for humanitarian service abroad – to the two poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. To date, there have been 5 trips to Honduras and 7 trips to Haiti. Her current, joyful, and rewarding occupation is caring for her two grandchildren on most weekdays. Valerie is daily aware that God's blessings abound in her life, and she longs to share those blessings with others.

Sierra Clark, Riverview



Sierra loves helping others and making a difference. She calls it, "loving on people" (allowing her light to shine). Since 2013 she has been an active member of The Good News Club. Sierra currently Volunteers at 3 public schools in Pinellas County by mentoring our youth in all aspects. She is now a proud member of *Mark of Excellence Ministry*. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Kim Fisackerly, Marco Island



Kim is in her 2nd year on the Design Team, but served previously in the 90's. She was born in Charleston, WV, but moved to Miami when she was 3. She met her husband, Bill, while serving on team at the UM Children's Camp, when it was in Brandon, FL. They married in 1984, and have 3 grown children (Bethany, Ally, and Wil). They are now "empty-nesters" with just their cat, Lucy, at home. As a UM pastor's wife, Kim has served in many different capacities alongside her husband at his appointments in Deltona, St. James Sopchoppy/Ochlockonee Bay, Estero, Gulf Cove (Pt Charlotte), and currently

at Wesley UMC. She loves music, drama, and teaching/leading small groups whenever and wherever she can. Women's ministries have always been her passion. Kim has also worked for Weight Watchers as a leader (and many other roles) for the past 20 years.

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Gladyanne Hood, Homosassa



Gladyanne is new to the Design Team this year, but she has served in many capacities on Emmaus Walks in the past. She has been married to the love of her life, Tom, since 2000; together they have five children (two of whom are already with Jesus), 13 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Currently they both serve as Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers, and with their volunteers, host Faith Café on Sunday mornings. Gladyanne is a Communion Steward, a volunteer at the 1UMC Thrift Store, a member of United Methodist Women, the Drama Team, and the church's Administrative Council.

Gladyanne believes that what she has loved about nursing and health care administration are why God has guided her choice of ministries. Still new to Florida, Gladyanne feels as if she has found a welcoming home here.

Tabatha Parish, Brandon



Tabatha lives in Brandon with her black lab mix, Big Bear. She worships at New Hope Methodist Church of Brandon where she is an active member of the choir. She also participates with the Tampa Bay Area Emmaus community on a regular basis. During the day she spends her time encouraging children in their reading as an elementary school Media Specialist.

LuAnn Peck, St. John's



LuAnn was born and raised in the Midwest. When her father's business required relocation, her family transferred to Italy for 5 years, then moved to New Jersey and retired in Florida. LuAnn has Bachelor's degrees in Communication/Writing Arts and Elementary Education. She attends St. John's UM and has been an active member of various mission teams within the Florida Conference: Clearview UMC in St. Petersburg, Grace UMC in St. Augustine, and Brooklawn UMC. Her mission trips have taken her to Cuba, Brazil, Dublin Ireland, and Arizona NM. She helped established the Cuban Methodist – (Sister Church relationship between Santa Rosa UMC and

Clearview UMC). She has filled many roles: church office manager, choir member, played hand bells, Administrative Council, Secretary to the Church Council and taught Vacation Bible School every summer. She volunteers to: Feed the Homeless, work in the Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels and at the Florida Folk Festival in White Springs. She is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Bethlehem Chapter 169. She enjoys spending time with her grandchildren ages (5-18 yrs. old), reading & writing and spending Thursdays with her daughter. LuAnn is very excited to be one of the new members on the 2019 Design Team.

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Suzanne Raines, *Homosassa*



Suzanne graduated from Cocoa Beach High School, FL in June 1970. She retired from the Air Force in 2002. She used the in-service GI Bill to obtain a bachelor's degree in Religion from St. Leo College in 1985 and in 1988 received her master's degree in Human Services Administration with a concentration in Pastoral Ministries from St Edwards University, Austin, TX. After retiring from the Air Force, she spent almost 10 years in Mora, Sweden before returning to the United States. She is a member of the First United Methodist Church in Homosassa, where she serves on the Think Tank, Drama

Team and is a Communion Server and Stephen Minister. Suzanne also regularly attends Wednesday and Friday morning Bible Studies following up those sessions by conducting her outreach ministry at the West Citrus Elks Lodge as a volunteer server. She is active in the Citrus County Snippet Organization helping obtain low-cost spay and neuter services for pets in her county. She begins six mornings a week with a one-hour walk. In her spare time, Suzanne plays Pinochle, Hand and Foot, Sheepshead, Spades and Hearts whenever she can get up a game.

Sheila Rust, *New Port Richey*



Sheila was raised in Alexandria, Virginia and Atlanta, Georgia. She has two adult children and a thirteen year old grandson, living in Georgia. Sheila is a full time care giver to her younger brother, Chip, who has Down Syndrome and feels sincerely blessed to have been given that honor. Sheila is a retired Certified Medical Assistant and worked of twenty-five years for the States of Georgia and Florida. She has attended Palm Harbor UMC since her move to Florida in 2004 and is a former Board member of the Women's Ministry there.

Sheila volunteered at Metropolitan Ministries and St. Vincent de Paul serving those in need. Her passion is helping and serving others. She is on the Pasco County Special Olympics Management Team and Fund Raising Committees as well. She has attended the Women's Retreats since moving to Florida and feels the presence of God there as soon as she steps foot on this Holy Ground.

Robin Stetler, *Englewood*



Robin joined the Design team in 2017. She has attended the last 5 Women's retreats. She and her husband Jim have been married for 34 years. They have a daughter, Pamela and a smart, amazing, adorable 3 year old grandson Alex. She was blessed to be a stay-at-home mom while Pam was growing up. She was a co-leader for her Girl Scout troop for 8 years and also a PTA treasurer. She ran a house cleaning business, then got into antiquing in Tarpon Springs for many years until she moved to Englewood in 2007. She is most proud of initiating a Bible drive with the Disciple classes at Palm Harbor UM to make sure every

pew had Bibles! Her church home is now Englewood UM where she has been Church Council secretary for 6 years. She loves gardening, fishing, volunteering at church, being goofy with her grandson, "junking", and rearranging furniture. She feels privileged being a part of helping to make these retreats a place of peace and escape where all who attend are able to renew and strengthen their faith, connect with God and friends, laugh, lighten their load and just be.

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Cynthia Ulrich, Valrico



Cynthia is a native of Warner Robins, GA and lives in Valrico, FL with her husband Andy, a golden retriever (Simon), a yellow lab puppy (Hope) and four parrots (Gracie, Punky, Bubba and Kiwi). She worked for the Department of Defense while attending college at night to get her B.S. Degree in Computer Science & Math. Cynthia graduated from California State University and worked as a Software Development Engineer and Project Leader for Fortune 500 Companies like Ernest & Julio Gallo Winery, Southwestern Bell Communications, and GenAmerica / MetLife. Cynthia has worked at the Department of Veteran's Affairs since 2008 as the Master Veteran Index Lead Software Quality Assurance Analyst for Identity Access Management. Cynthia attends New Hope Methodist Church of Brandon where her husband, Andy serves as a Lay-Pastor. She has co-hosted a Friday night Bible Study with her husband in their home for the past seven years, and has led a Healing Ministry three years. Cynthia is very active in her church's mission's outreach traveling to the Dominican Republic, and has taught Math to at risk children for 29 years. She believes that *"God has truly blessed her so that she can be a blessing to others."*

Barbara Watson, Kissimmee



Barbara is new to the Design Team this year. She has attended the Women's Retreats for the past 12 years, receiving many blessings. She has worked on many Emmaus and Chrysalis teams, and was the Lay Leader for a Chrysalis Weekend. She was married 32 years before her husband passed away 19 years ago. God truly blessed her with 3 wonderful children and 7 amazing grandchildren. She has been a member of First United Methodist Church-Kissimmee since 1985 and have served on many committees and volunteered in many capacities at my church. She has been blessed and privileged to participated in 20 plus adult mission trips both domestic & internationally. God has allowed her to share His love with her children, church, community, country and the world. She is new to the Design Team this year and looks forward to serving for the next 3 years.

MaryAnn Yotka, Pembroke Pines



MaryAnn was born and raised in Saddle Brook NJ. She married her husband Gene in 1993. Gene is pastor with the United Methodist Conference and together they have 5 children (Beau, Kitty, Tara, Kurt and Victoria) and 8 grandchildren (Bella, Kaya, Alina, Lincoln, James, Josie, Tyler and Richard) her dogs Keeva (40 lbs mixed) and Benson (170lbs English Mastiff). In 2004 the family moved to Florida to continue in their ministry; MaryAnn is a Spiritual Director, the showroom manager of ACE Educational Supplies, Public Speaker in motivation & encouragement and serves with her husband on the board for The Awakening Institute, a spiritual formation school for one's mind, body and spirit. She is involved in Public speaking, teaching, Spiritual direction, Soul Care, singing, her art and other creative endeavors. 2 Corinthians 6:3-4 *"We live in such a way that no one will stumble because of us, and no one will find fault with our ministry."*