WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

S.M.I.L.E.
See Miracles in Life Everyday

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

June 16-17, 2017
Lake Junaluska
North Carolina
Memorial Chapel: Open during the retreat for prayer and meditation. Our tradition to pray for each other continues - leave your written prayer in the basket at the front of the Chapel and TAKE the prayer of another.

Retreat Check-in & On-Site Registration: 2:00-6:30 PM, Friday Harrell Center Auditorium and in Stuart Auditorium lobby before each session. Please check-in or register even if you are not staying on the Lake property.

Program Resources: Hours: 2:00-6:30 PM, Friday and 7:30-8:30 AM, Saturday in Harrell Center Auditorium. Reading Program books, study books, leadership aids and Gift to Mission cards will be available for purchase and will also include some free resources.

MISSION COORDINATOR DISPLAYS: Located in the Harrell Center Auditorium. Stop by and learn more about current issues and events important to and supported by United Methodist Women.

Meal Schedule at the Terrace and Lambuth Hotels:*

Dinner: 5:00-6:30 PM  Breakfast: 7:00-8:30 AM  Lunch: 12:00-1:30 PM

Guests at Terrace, Lakeside Lodge and Apartments dine at Terrace
Guests at Lambuth Inn dine at Lambuth

*Please allow those with ribbons on their nametags to break line if needed. They have duties for the retreat. Thank you.

MISSION GIVING OFFERING: An Offering for Mission Giving will be taken during the Second Session. Checks should be made payable to WNCC UMW.

2017 Spiritual Growth Committee
Martha Efird, Chairperson, Tonya Lanier, Julia Willis, Nancy Reigel, Linda Greer, Jatana Royster, Sibyl Long, Deborah Ray, Renee Hayes, Lorraine Burns, and Darlene Gardner
Dates to Remember in 2017:

**Mission u at Pfeiffer University**, July 13-16:
Registration form available at [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)
Must be received by June 27
Theme: “In Covenant with All Creation”

**44th Annual Conference Celebration at Lake Junaluska**
September 29-October 1
Online Registration Opens June 19!

**CHANGE IS GOOD**

**UBUNTU Day of Service - Locations across the Conferences**
October 14
Online Registration opens July 1!

**Leadership Development Training for District Officers:**
October 21, 2017 First United Methodist Church, Taylorsville,
Program Resources 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Training 9:00 -12:30 p.m.
Scriptures in all sessions from Common English Bible

“Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly”

S.M.I.L.E- Session One: Do Justice
Friday evening, June 16

Gathering Praise - 6:45 PM
Joyce Brooks, Song Leader
Matt Stratford & Gary Chapin

Welcome
Tonya Lanier
Conference President

Greetings from Lake Junaluska
Dr. Jack Ewing
Executive Director, Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center

Announcements and Introductions
Martha Efird
Conference Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator

*Call to Worship
Betty Jacobson
Catawba Valley Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Come, be glad, be still, await and see!
For, this evening, God will show us beautiful miracles.
Let the troubles of your heart fall away. Relax in the arms of the Holy Spirit, present in this place.
For God seeks to comfort us as we worship and hear the miracles in his Word.
With the innocence and eagerness of a child, let joy and anticipation wash over you and fill you with the peace that surpasses all understanding and the knowledge that you are loved.
For God seeks to show us the miracle of his Holy Love.
Through God’s love, his spirit, and his faithfulness we will strive to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly.
So now with open hearts, eyes, and hands we rejoice worship in the name of Jesus Christ.
*Hymn:  Lift High the Cross

Prayer Calendar and Opening Prayer
Sherry Summerlin
Appalachian District Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator

Special Music: Chain Breaker
Jonathan Smith, Mia Fieldes and Zach Williams
Matt Stratford

Scripture: Exodus 1:15-20 Common English Bible
Esther Manchester
Smokey Mountain District Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator

Message:
Rev. Ashley Pickerel Thomas
Justice: Shiphrah and Puah-Living Out A Resistance to Evil, Injustice, and Oppression

*Benediction
Renee Hayes
Mission Coordinator Social Action

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.

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The Lake Junaluska Singers in Concert
Following Evening Session
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Together we stand in God's Garden here at the lakeshore. With the break of dawn came the fresh touch of our Lord.

We rejoice in the fresh glow of his Son, the fresh kiss of the gentle breeze – the breath of angels, and the and the quenching drink of the morning dew.

We lift our arms in joyous thanksgiving and praise singing with fresh voices and seeing with fresh eyes.

God rejoices at the sound of our voices and blesses us with his mercy. We open our eyes and revel with God in his love, his mercy, and blessings.

*Hymn: In the Garden  
UMH Page 314
Message: Rev. Ashley Pickerel Thomas
Mercy: Elizabeth- Mercy to Mary, belief in building up the young and vulnerable

*Praise Song: God of Wonder Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong

*Benediction Jatana Royster
Mission Coordinator Membership Nurture Outreach

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.

S.M.I.L.E - Session Three – Walk Humbly
Saturday, mid-morning, June 17, 2017

Gathering Praise - 10:15 AM Joyce Brooks, Song Leader
Matt Stratford & Gary Chapin

Announcements Martha Efird

*Call to Worship Carolyn Briggs
Uwharrie District Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Come, now is the time to worship! For God rejoices in our glad hearts!

We stand worshiping and praising with glad and joyous hearts.

We give thanks for this time with the Lord. We are humbled and grateful that God shares his Holy Love and Wisdom with us so that we may see miracles every day.

We stand together—humbly in adoration of God’s Son Jesus Christ, the miracle for all. Jesus -Miraculous in his birth, miraculous in his life, miraculous in his death and resurrection. For it is the miracle of Jesus Christ that allows us to see and be miracles in life every day.
Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Leader: We are precious to God, but not perfect. Let us confess our sins before God and one another. Let us pray:

All: We confess to you, all-knowing God, that we often fail in being obedient to Your Word and Your Will. We fall away from You when caught in the daily cares, activities and responsibilities of our daily lives causing us to sometimes think only of ourselves. We strive to walk closely with you, and promise never to take a step without you, yet in the rush of this earthly life, we lose sight of you, we let emotions drive our thoughts and actions. We forget to be gentle and kind and do not love our neighbors. You know this of us and still you love us, forgive us and grant us pardon and mercy. Let our faith never waiver and let our faith strengthen and encourage us to sincerely and truly do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before you Oh God. Grant us Wisdom so that we may be strong risk taking praying forgiven women living by Jesus Christ, your Holy Son. Amen

Leader: We have asked for forgiveness. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Scripture: Proverbs 9: 1-12 Common English Bible
Northern Piedmont Spiritual Growth Coordinator
Kelli Smith

Message: Rev. Ashley Pickerel Thomas
Walk Humbly with God: Lady Wisdom-Humble and Bold For Christ’s Sake

Special Music: The Table
Matt Stratford
Service of Holy Communion**  
Rev. Ashley Pickerel Thomas, Celebrant  
Deaconess Linda Young, assisting

Communion Music  
Gary Chapin

Prayer After Communion:  
Lorraine Burns  
President Appalachian District

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery, this holy miracle of communion through which we come in to union with the Holy Spirit, Your Son Jesus Christ and you through body and blood shed for us and given to us.

Grant that we go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, to humbly help and humbly serve while always forwarding love, justice, mercy and kindness in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Song: Holy is the Lord  
Chris Tomlin and Louie Gigilo

*Sending Forth  
Tonya Lanier

Postlude

*Please stand as you are able.

**The Gluten Free Station for Holy Communion near the organ.

- Special Thanks -

The Spiritual Growth Committee would like to thank the following individuals and groups for sharing their talents and gifts for this meeting:

- All of the program participants
- All of the District Mission Teams for your help and support
- Members of the Conference Executive Committee
- The Lake Junaluska Assembly staff
- YOU for your dedication to United Methodist Women
NOTES FOR SESSION ONE
S.M.I.L.E – PART 1
Justice:
Shiphrah and Puah-Living Out Resistance to Evil, Injustice, and Oppression
Scripture: Exodus 1:15-20 Common English Bible
NOTES FOR SESSION TWO

S.M.I.L.E.

Mercy: Elizabeth- Mercy to Mary, belief in building up the young and vulnerable
NOTES FOR SESSION THREE

S.M.I.L.E.

Walk Humbly with God: Lady Wisdom-Humble and Bold For Christ’s Sake

Scripture: Proverbs 9: 1-12 Common English Bible
**Program Participants**

**Rev. Ashley Pickerel Thomas - Retreat Leader**
Ashley serves as pastor of Stokesdale United Methodist Church in the Northern Piedmont District. Ashley was born and raised in Cashiers, NC; growing up in Cashiers UMC. She is a graduate of UNC-Wilmington (B.A. Psychology 2003), and Duke University Divinity School (M.Div. 2007). Ashley served Duke Hospital (CPE, Pediatric Chaplain) and Davidson United Methodist Church (Associate Pastor of Campus Ministry and Young Adults) prior to her appointment to Stokesdale. She is married to Rev. A.J. Thomas, who is also United Methodist Clergy.

**Joyce Carmichael Brooks: Song leader**
Joyce is a career nonprofit executive, working in human service organizations for over 30 years. Her expertise is in nonprofit fundraising. Joyce is currently the Development Manager at RAIN in Charlotte, an AIDS service organization providing support for people living with HIV and working to prevent the spread of the virus. A lifelong United Methodist, Joyce is delighted to serve in the musical ministry at this Conference. She has been singing in church choirs since she was a youngster, under the direction of her mother who was her home church Organist and Choir Director. Joyce began taking piano lessons at age 9 and voice lessons at age 12. Joyce is married to Rev. Linwood Brooks and worships at Mouzon UMC in Charlotte. In addition to singing at Mouzon, she loves working with children and youth particularly teaching Senior High Sunday School and accompanying youth on mission experiences. Joyce and Linwood have two adult sons and a new daughter-in-law. Joyce loves the outdoors, especially the beach and gardening. She also loves to read and play with her grand dogs.
Gary Chapin: Pianist

Gary Chapin is a teacher, church musician, mediocre chess player, and lover of all things nerdy. Since 1992 he has lived in Charlotte, and worked for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. For about the last 15 years, he has worked as an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher. Before that he was a happy orchestra teacher for several years, and he even tried being a 5th grade teacher for a short while. Before and during all this, Gary has held part time jobs providing music in churches since graduating with a Bachelor of Music degree from UNC in 1985. For the last 18 years, Gary has been the music director at Mouzon United Methodist Church in Charlotte. When he’s not at school or church, Gary loves to study and play chess, listen to and play classical music, study and attempt to speak Spanish, and travel to South America. You can contact him at gchapin1000@att.net.

Matt Stratford: Acoustical Guitar

Matt is a full-time musician in the Charlotte metro area. Along with leading worship at three Methodist churches in the conference, Matt also plays in a wedding and event band called "Chunky Daddy." He has performed with famous secular artists from every genre including; Zac Brown band, Lionel Richie, James Taylor, Janet Jackson, Dave Matthews Band, Darius Rucker, and Chairman of the Board just to name a few. Matt studied recording/sound engineering and vocal performance at the University of Maryland Baltimore. He is married to his best friend Rebecca, and father to their son Michael. When Matt is not singing you can usually find him on the golf course with his wife and child, helping out at his sons school, or volunteering with one of the churches where he leads worship.
THE LAKE JUNALUSKS SINGERS

The Lake Junaluska Singers were formed in 1954, and their legacy includes national and international performances for conferences, dignitaries and major events. Their music ranges from classical choral and contemporary works to gospel, folk, traditional hymns and musical theatre. They are under the direction of:

Mary Wannamaker Huff: Interim Director

Mary Huff graduated cum laude from Furman University in 1999 and received a Master of Music degree in 2001 from Yale University. She furthered her post-graduate studies in music education at Westminster Choir College, specializing in the training of children's choirs. She is the founding director of the New York City Children's Chorus and associate director of Music at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. Her choirs have performed in Carnegie Hall, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Radio City Music Hall, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, as well for national broadcasts on Good Morning America, the TODAY Show, and CBS Sunday Morning. She also plays the organ for liturgies, accompanies and conducts the Church Choir and Saint Andrew Chorale, and manages the church concert series.

Kathy Geyer McNeil: Associate Director

McNeil received a Bachelor of Music in Education and a Master of Music in Organ Performance from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. McNeil presently directs the choir for Grace Church in the Mountains and also serves as an organist for Lake Junaluska. She has given numerous recitals throughout the New York metropolitan area and in Western North Carolina, and she is in demand as an accompanist for soloists and choral groups. McNeil is also the choir director for the Haywood Community Chorus in Waynesville, NC.
While at Lake Junaluska

- Visit Memorial Chapel for prayer and meditation.
- Browse through the materials available in the Program Resources area and purchase books and supplies for yourself and your unit.
- Enjoy the peace and beauty of the Susanna Wesley Garden.
- Sit at the foot of the Junaluska Cross or Amphitheater to rest, meditate and worship, and thank God for His creation.
- Stroll around the lake on the walking trail.
- Enjoy the fragrance and beauty of the roses.
- Fellowship with your sisters in Christ. Make new friends while cherishing your old friends.
The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Visit our Conference UMW Website:

www.wnccumw.org