

NORTHERN PIEDMONT DISTRICT

United Methodist Women

QUARTERLY NEWS

SECOND QUARTER 2021



Summer Is Coming; Time for Conference Events!





Spiritual Growth Retreat 2021 Theme: "You Lift Me Up" June 18-19 via Zoom

Registration link and other info coming soon; visit wnccumw.org/events/spiritual-growthretreat-2021

Retreat Leaders









We all need a break from our busy lives--a time for reflection, a time to listen for God's guidance. We are so busy doing all the things we are called upon to do, we don't often take the time to slow down, sit back and think about the things that are really important. Join us to pray, to listen, to study, to fellowship with United Methodist Women from across the Conference.

Mission u 2021 July 15-18 via Zoom

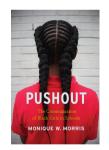
Registration link and other info coming soon to wnccumw.org

This transformative education program offers study on biblically grounded curricula. These curricula are intended to motivate, inform and enrich our commitment to be in ministry for a more just and equitable world, locally and globally.



Bearing Witness in the Kin-Dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship by Daryl W. Stephens

In Jesus' own words, he came to bring good news to the poor. release the captives, restore sight to the blind and let the oppressed go free. What is the responsibility of the church to follow Christ's example in word and deed? The purpose of this study is to help the church and its members discern our call and bear witness to the will of God for a more just world.



Pushout: the Criminalization of Black Girls in School by Monique W. Morris

This book shows how even with obstacles, stigmas, stereotypes and despair, Black girls still find ways to breathe remarkable dignity into their lives in classrooms. juvenile facilities and beyond, and challenges the rest of us to do the same.

This Is Fairfield Unit's 2020 Story. What's Yours?

*** And to think it happened at Hwy 62 and Harlow ***

A place the FUMW wants you to know.

Who is the UMW, you might ask,

A group of women who love a Godly task;

Our purpose is to love God and serve him well,

As we reach out to women, youth and children without fail! As we planned the many ways we'd serve in the year, 2020 – We never could have imagined how much we'd need;

Our faith, our God and prayers, a plenty!

cont. on pg. 2



Inspired by And to Think I Saw It on Mulberry Street by Dr. Seuss

Table of Contents

2021 calendar & Fairfield 2020 story...

pg. 2

President & VP articles...pg. 3

Treasurer, Nom. Chair & SPR

articles...pg. 4

MEI article & Local Unit Spotlight...pg. 5

District Contacts & Fairfield 2020

Story...pg. 6

Social Action article & Fairfield 2020

Story...pg. 7







Conference & District Calendar for 2021

June 18-19 Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat: "You Lift Me Up," Virtual Event

July 15-18 Conference Mission u, Virtual Event

Aug. 22 District Annual Celebration, Virtual Event

Program: 3-5:30 p.m.

Sept. 11-12 Conference Annual Celebration: "Lift Up Our Spirits With Faith

& Hope, So Love IS Action," Virtual Event

Oct. 2, 9 Conference Ubuntu Day: "I Am Because You Are"

Dates TBD Book Study: We Are All Fast Food Workers Now by Annelise Orleck,

Facilitated by Lily Pierce & Book Study: So You Want to Talk About Race

by Ijeoma Oluo, Facilitated by Kathy FitzJefferies

Nov. 20 District Leadership Development Day for Local Unit Officers, Virtual Event

Visit <u>wnccumw.org</u> to learn more about Conference events, and join the District email list for more info on District events; contact Lily Piercepg. 6.



Every link in this newsletter is clickable from the PDF version!

Contact Albertina McGirt,
District Historian, to
submit your unit's
2020 story

ASAP. (see pg. 6).



Fairfield Unit's 2020 Story Continued



*** And to think it happened at Hwy 62 and Harlow ***

January, the first month of this new year,

As we prepared our first mission fundraiser,

We looked and the coast was clear!

Our 'Soup-Up Your Super Bowl' orders came in,

Once again our church family gave us a win---

50 quarts of taco & vegetable soups + chili bean orders=\$500

Supported a few of our many projects: Mt. Shepard Retreat

Center, Crossnore Children's Home,

Randolph County Senior Adult Association- Mobile Meals

Together we were thankful and gave a loud holler!

*** And to think it happened at Hwy 62 and Harlow ***

February followed with our young ladies in faith

Stepping up to the plate – No one wanted to be late!

Preparing a delicious Valentine Luncheon of potato soup and

chicken stew

Enjoyed by our seniors in our church and community, too.

God's love was shared all around.

We counted our blessings that truly abound!

We had much to do before February became history!

We, faithful women, grounded in our 150 Legacy

Serving God by reaching out near and far,

Knew change was ever present,

We prayed for God's guidance and as the wise men who

searched for our Lord,

We looked upward in prayer for a bright star...

Realizing we did not have to look far.

cont. on pg. 6

Once again we felt God's presence as we revamped and restructured

our community of women to keep us moving forward, seeking and trusting to fulfill our Purpose:

"To know God and to experience freedom through Jesus Christ..."

We reached out with our 'Heart for Mission' Project for Leslie's House in High Point.

The collection of toiletries and breakfast foods supported Those women, our neighbors, in need of God's love and care.

*** And to think it happened at Hwy 62 and Harlow ***

Time marched on We anticipated the many ways we'd serve God, the fellowship we'd share,

Devotions and prayers that would bring us closer to our Lord, ---District Prayer Breakfast, Spiritual Growth Retreat, Mission

u Study, Annual Celebrations

Gathering at the lake to experience the peace offered by the

water... But, alas, we stopped in our tracks!

An unknown word was being broadcast throughout the land, far and near

Casting a shadow of darkness and fear.

Coronavirus, COVID-19, pandemic; illness and death

Dealing with the unknown was a challenge for all

Do we stay strong in our faith or do we fall?!

*** And to think it happened at Hwy 62 and Harlow ***

Our physical connections were broken; churches, schools and businesses were closed...

A world we had never known was suddenly real!





Feeling Hopeful About the Future

Happy spring, my UMW sisters! As I write this, the trees and shrubs in my neighborhood are in full bloom. I'm ready for these warmer days and spring activities. And, **thank God! Many of us have been fully vaccinated, our church buildings are re-opening, and we are hoping to put this pandemic in our rearview mirrors.** We probably haven't been this hopeful in guite some time.

But that's who we United Methodist Women are: hopeful people. Throughout this pandemic year, you have lived out the motto of UMW, putting "faith, HOPE and love into action." We may not have all been in the same room, but together we participated in a wonderful virtual mission study in February. We may have had to do it a little differently this year (and not call it a "prayer breakfast"), but we enjoyed a beautiful, creative and supportive fellowship during our Spring Renewal Gathering and memorial service. Ladies, I applaud the fact that you continue with our hands-on mission projects and your Mission Giving. I am hopeful that, as we look forward to spending more time together in person, we will keep our focus on Christ and keep up our activities on behalf of women, children and youth here at home and around the world. I pray that you will attend all of the upcoming events scheduled at the Conference and District levels. (A list is located on pg. 2.)

We have a lot to look forward to, and we have many ways to stay connected. Even if you're not quite ready to get together in person, each unit can safely "meet" by way of technologies like Zoom or Free Conference Call. If you need some help with this or with just about anything related to UMW, please contact your LUV (Local Unit Visitation) partner. If she doesn't have the immediate answer you need, she'll try to find it or connect you to the appropriate resource. The list of LUV partners was sent to everyone on our District email mailing list. The list will soon be available for our Northern Piedmont District on the Conference website (www.wnccumw.org).

Hang in there, hopeful people! You are keeping UMW alive and well.

Blessings, Sandrea Williamson, District President





Issue Priorities for 2021-2024: Criminalization of Communities of Color & Climate Justice

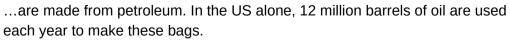


I'm sure everyone has been enjoying this beautiful spring. However, I know that many of you have lost family members and good friends during the past year and that, for all this beauty, we also shed tears and have heavy hearts for those we will miss among us. Let us be sure to pray for one another.

Our plans are to hold all this year's events in the virtual format. Be sure to add the dates and times to your calendar and to watch for announcements for any changes or additions. You also need to pay attention to dates for registration and the site where you must register. If you need help, contact one of your District officers.

There are two United Methodist Women Mission Issue Priorities for 2021-2024. The first priority is the criminalization of communities of color with a focus on interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. The second is climate justice with an emphasis on just energy for all. If you have attended a previous study on one of these topics, you will find that new information is constantly evolving, so you'll want to attend the studies for this year. Watch for registration information and be sure to register online. If you need help, contact one of our District officers. Visit <u>unitedmethodistwomen.org/focus-issues</u> for educational resources and action ideas.

I leave you with these thoughts from the Western North Carolina Conference Gram: Those plastic shopping bags...



...create greenhouse gases if burned and add to the climate crisis.

...are part of the 13 million tons of plastic washed into the ocean every year. Think about bringing your own bags to the stores or start brown bagging it!





May God bless all your days and bring you peace, Jean Carter,
District Vice President







Leading the Nation in Mission Giving



Greetings to you all!

GOOD NEWS! Based on the UMW Conference Giving Report, for the period that ended December 31, 2020, Western NC Conference United Methodist Women *led the nation in 2020 Mission Giving* with giving of \$531,728.59. This included some Mission Giving sent directly to the National Office through their giving portals. This news is so humbling...that in the face of such difficulties, we, WNCC United Methodist Women, were still blessed with the ability to receive this level of giving from our members.

I hope your units are planning some programs you missed in 2020, such as your Pledge Service or World Thank Offering programs. As many of you know, an online donation process has been set up on the WNCC United Methodist Women website. It can be found on the very top line on the homepage at "GIVE NOW" or at wnccumw.org/online-mission-giving. You will be asked to enter your name, church and District so that your gift can be credited back to your unit and our District.

A few District love offerings have been sent to me since our Spiritual Renewal Gathering (Virtual Prayer Breakfast) on Saturday, April 10. Hopefully you were able to "attend" this very inspiring service, but if you were not, feel free to send your love offering to me or you may give online at tiny.cc/npumwloveoffering and donate with PayPal, debit or credit.

Thanks for all you do, ladies! Have a blessed spring and stay safe.

Margaret Hepler, District Treasurer



Legacy Fund Information:

Visit our website at wnccumw.org/legacyfund



Keep the Legacy Alive



Greetings, United Methodist Women!

As women of God whose purpose is to know God, please take time to be aware of the differences that do exist among us. These differences can only strengthen us with our efforts to encourage women from different backgrounds to join us as we do the work we have before us. We are not alone in our efforts to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Do share your stories with women in your orbit. Let them know of the women in your life who have influenced you.

Now is our turn to reach out to women who could benefit from the many resources we have available. Do not let age deter you from sharing. Do not let a disability deter you. Do not let cultural differences deter us.

This is our challenge:

Genesis 22:13, ESV: "And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns."

Take time to look and listen. You may be the United Methodist Woman to find the United Methodist Woman who will keep the legacy alive.

Brenda Steadman,
District Nom. Committee Chair





Continue to Read, Care, Share & Pray!

Hello, welcome spring! Days are getting longer and warmer; flowers are blooming and birds are chirping. I would like to encourage local units to read, care, share and pray. A couple ideas are to start a Zoom Book Club and/or present book reports during meetings. As you read, keep track of your progress using the reporting form. Remember to pray--books often raise concerns about people, countries and issues. Bring these concerns to God during your prayer time at home and at group meetings.

Also, Lily Pierce will lead a virtual book study this fall based on *We Are All Fast Food Workers Now* by Annelise Orleck, and Kathy FitzJefferies will lead one on *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. Dates will be decided soon. Please consider reading these books or at least attending the studies to learn more on topics of economic inequality and racial justice.

Cheryl Little, District SPR







Step Up & Reach Out



Rockingham County Help for Homeless 110 N. Franklin St. Madison, 336-548-9533

- · Paper products
- Toiletries
- New or gently used towels and washcloths

Room at the Inn (shelter for pregnant women and their children), 734 Park Ave. Greensboro, 336-275-9566

- New "baby shower" items
- New shampoo and toiletries for the moms
- Gently used, clean baby clothes all sizes thru 4T

YWCA Family Shelter 1807 E. Wendover Ave. Greensboro, 336-333-0175

- Children's diapers size 4-6 & pull-ups sizes 3T and 4T
- Infant baby food
- New or gently used twin and full-sized sheets
- · Cleaning supplies

Leslie's House (homeless shelter for women) 851 W. English Rd, High Point 336-884-1039

- · Ladies underwear and socks
- Notebooks & composition books
- · Plastic spoons and forks
- · Cleaning supplies

Sew Loved, Inc. Wanda Hammock, 336-514-1166, Eden Call for details, location and times. Opportunities to serve by joining them to sew for these projects:

- Drawstring knapsacks for women and children in Uganda (so the children are able to keep their school supplies clean)
- · Lap guilts for the Cancer Center

YMCA's that need school kits:

Alex W. Spears III YMCA, 3216 Horse Pen Creek Rd, Greensboro, 27410, 336-387-9622
Hayes-Taylor Memorial YMCA, 2630 E. Florida St, Greensboro, 27401, 336-272-2131
Carl Chavis Memorial YMCA, 2757 Granville St, High Point, 27263, 336-434-4000
Hartley Drive YMCA, 150 W. Hartley Drive, High Point, 27265, 336-869-0151
Carl and Linda Grubb YMCA, 609 Trindale Road, Archdale, 27370, 336-861-7788
Reidsville YMCA, 504 S. Main St, Reidsville, 27320, 336-342-3307



Think of your fellow man. Lend him a helping hand. Put a little love in your heart. \int



This awesome song by Jackie DeShannon reminds us to reach out and share our love with others. Thank you all for your response to our call for school kits for the Y's. Remember that any response to the list in the "Step Up and Reach Out" portion of the newsletter can be counted and reported to me, giving credit to your unit of United Methodist Women for a hands-on mission project. While I try to find a variety of needs in our District for every newsletter, these opportunities do not have a time limit; you may respond any time during the year. For instance, if you collected some clothing for the Women's Resource Center (listed in the first quarter newsletter), donate them and report it to me. Find a mission that speaks to you. And if you have local ministries which you would like to see listed here, let me know. Ladies, share your love and lend a helping hand!

Also, I am still collecting yarn and crochet hooks for a potential sewing class this fall. Please contact me if you have any!

Peace! Rynn McGee-Pierce, District MEI

And the world will be a better place/And the world will be a better place/For you and me/ You just wait and see. Put a little love in your heart!

Local Unit Spotlight: Hopewell

Submitted by Janet Bledsoe, Hopewell Unit President

Our UMW came together with Hopewell's Girl Scouts, pre-schoolers and congregation for a CEREAL CHALLENGE. The goal was 150 boxes of cereal to line up domino-style from the altar rail into the narthex and back up the aisle to the altar. The end date arrived, and pre-school kids and others came to watch; the video of the boxes toppling was shared church-wide. Among the giggles and squeals, we heard, "That was awesome!" as 171 boxes of cereal came down in a chain reaction. When delivered to C.O.A.T. (Community Outreach of Archdale-Trinity) the donation was received with thanks and amazement. Their cereal shelves had been bare for quite awhile. It is always important to "be the Church" even when we are not in church.









SEC

President

Sandrea Williamson Bass Chapel, Greensboro 336-681-7258 stbw1948@gmail.com

Vice President

Jean Carter Christ, Greensboro 336-668-7916 jeancarter@triad.rr.com

Secretary

Margaret Scales Wesley Chapel, Reidsville 336-273-1485

Treasurer

Margaret Hepler Prospect, Archdale 336-472-6180 mlandcbh@northstate.net

Education & Interpretation

Rynn McGee-Pierce Gideon Grove, Stokesdale 336-706-9116 rynn@hottan.com

Spiritual Growth

Donna Miller Muir's Chapel, Greensboro 336-681-8559 dmmiller94@yahoo.com

Social Action

Kathy FitzJefferies St. Matthews, Greensboro 704-267-9039 myfaithjourney@icloud.com

Membership Nurture & Outreach

Tiffany Alston Liberty Grove, Trinity 336-434-4303 tiffa56@yahoo.com

Secretary of Program Resources

Cheryl Little St. Matthews, Greensboro 336-852-0872, 336-338-1958 ccarrington001@triad.rr.com

Communications

Lily Pierce Gideon Grove, Stokesdale 336-280-1187 npdistrictunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com

Nominations Committee Chair

Brenda Steadman Celia Phelps, Greensboro 336-509-4043 bsteadman@triad.rr.com

Nominations Committee Members

Eloise Moore, Class of 2021 Memorial, High Point 336-686-4811 jimnella@aol.com Meshell Sigmon, Class of 2021 Triad Native American, Greensboro 336-965-9038

meshell_sigmon@yahoo.com

Molly Welch, Class of 2021 Trinity Memorial, Trinity 336-803-1214 molly.welch9311@gmail.com

Constance Holland, Class of 2022 (Finishing Dixie Holland's term) Bethel, Archdale looney814@gmail.com

Irish Spencer, Class of 2023 Memorial, High Point 336-674-0332 irish@spencergroup.us

Jenny Fitzpatrick, Class of 2024 Mt. Pisgah, Greensboro 828-242-7478 jennyfitz86@gmail.com

Historian

Albertina McGirt St. Matthews, Greensboro 336-855-3024 hefavorsme7@triad.rr.com

Parliamentarian

Janet Bledsoe Hopewell, Trinity 336-847-7296 ggbledsoe@northstate.net

Fairfield Unit's 2020 Story Continued

How would we carry on and expand our missions?

Just one way – fall on our knees and appeal...

To our God who is our strength and refuge!

New forms of connecting were discovered:

The NPD officers and Western NC team worked diligently To offer meetings and biblical studies that gave us hope and kept us connected and moving forward.

Through email, text, virtual gatherings via ZOOM
We began to feel we were not alone, but connected with our
Sisters of faith in the same ROOM!

*** And to think it happened at Hwy 62 and Harlow ***

ending on pg. 7

Our women continued to pray and developed creative ways To serve - blood drive volunteers, monthly food pantry and open door ministries...

This time together with social distancing and masks meant more to us than we could have ever imagined!

> District Deaconesses

Ruth Williamson, 336-613-1607 1610 Lindsay Bridge Rd. Madison, NC 27025 rwilliamson@wnccumc.net

Eloise Moore 4626 Village Square Court Greensboro, NC 27409 (contact info above) Renee Hayes, 336-707-2980 6903 Fairview Church Rd. Trinity, NC 27370

renee.hayes1956@gmail.com







Continuing to Put Our Faith Into Social Action

The Charter for Racial Justice* outlines our beliefs that racism is the antithesis of God's love and Jesus's teachings. United Methodist Women are called to dismantle racism, with our focus on the criminalization of persons of color. In response, the Northern Piedmont and Uwharrie Districts offered a joint mission study--A Call to Action: Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline. It was a powerful experience that offered participants the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the vicious nature of systemic racism, how it perpetuates the school-to-prison pipeline and the harm that is inflicted on students of color.

As faith without works is dead, we all must commit to take the necessary action to interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline. For those who attended our joint mission study, please share what you have learned with your local unit, church, neighbors and friends. Local unit Social Action Coordinators may consider facilitating an educational workshop or book study on this topic (see contact information on pg. 6 if you need assistance).

Other suggested actions and resources include:

- <u>Contact Congress to Stop the School-to-Prison Pipeline</u> a simple and easy way to advocate for your Congressional representative to address the School-to-Prison Pipeline
- <u>School-to-Prison Pipeline Bible Study Series</u> organize a Bible study (within your local unit, church, or with a community partner) to strengthen the scriptural foundation of our call
- <u>UMW Abridged Resource List, School-to-Prison Pipeline</u> this provides a wealth of resources, including a
 suggested reading list that can be used for a book study
- Connect with your local school ask the school how your local UMW unit can best support them
- 2021 Mission u: PUSHOUT participate in a powerful study on the criminalization of Black girls in school
- Speak out/Advocate against school policies and practices that contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline



A word of thanks is extended to all who participated in our March 2021 District Mission Study: Rynn McGee-Pierce (NP District MEI) for the coordination of our mission project, those who collected and delivered school kits, and co-facilitators Carol Ann Moye of St. Matthews UMC and Victoria Brown, Uwharrie District MEI.

*Everything underlined is an active web link you can click.

Kathy FitzJefferies, District Social Action

Fairfield Unit's 2020 Story Ending

Spring and Summer 2020 meant even more

When we could safely gather with all precautions outdoors. Worshipping in the presence of God and a community of

believers, even though we could not touch...

Had never meant so MUCH!

As fall approached we planned "A Walk for Mission' at our church track,

Women, men, youth and children walked and prayed For healing and peace throughout our land.

God blessed us with a church family that gave so willingly - \$1,000 collected

With grateful hearts we shared these blessings with community outreach in Archdale and Trinity.

*** And to think it happened on Hwy 62 and Harlow *** Since our Annual Fall Bazaar was a cherished memory for 2020.

We moved on with a drive-thru bake sale...

Once again, God blessed our efforts, allowing us to share our profits with others:

Triad Ladder of Hope, Bethlehem Center, Fairfield Pre-School Scholarship.

The virtual Mission u, Finding Peace in An Anxious World, was just what I needed as our unit president.

We were reminded that God offers us peace in all situations if we seek his presence and "Lean on His Everlasting Arms."

In the July/August **response** magazine, the Bible Study 'Let Go' reminded us, as we navigate our present and hope for our future, we know the only constant in change is God!

As 2020 came to a close, the UMW board gathered in December with hopeful hearts

No one knew what was ahead,

But we knew God is our strength and refuge Through our journey as we strive together To put our faith, hope and love into action.







Our Purpose

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.

Please recycle this newsletter.

Email npdistrictunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com for a color copy.

NONPROFIT ORG US POSTAGE PAID GREENSBORO, NC PERMIT NO 420

232 Brassie Ln Summerfield, NC 27358

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



response, the magazine for United Methodist Women, includes Bible studies, opportunities for spiritual growth, mission and outreach stories, and more. It will touch your heart, stir your spirit and challenge your mind. A one year digital subscription costs \$20 for 6 issues, a one year print subscription costs \$24 for 6 issues and a one year audio subscription costs \$24 for 6 issues.

Order Online: unitedmethodistwomen.org/response

Order by Phone: 1-877-881-2385

Order by Mail: Send check with subscriber name and address toresponse: Magazines With a Mission, PO Box 395, Congers, NY 10920

Connect with United Methodist Women on Social Media



www.facebook.com/UMWomen www.facebook.com/northernpiedmontumw



www.instagram.com/UMWomen



www.youtube.com/UMWomen



www.pinterest.com/UMWomen



www.twitter.com/UMWomen



www.flickr.com/UMWomen



Are you willing to receive your quarterly newsletter via email, reducing our carbon footprint and allowing more money to go to mission work? If so, please email our District Communications Coordinator, Lily Pierce.



UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) provides cleaning, hygiene and school kits in response to disasters and other needs in the United States. They work with international partners to help them address needs in their countries. You can help them restock their kits by going to umcor.org, hovering the mouse over "Serve" in the menu at the top, clicking "Relief Supply Network" and scrolling down to "Kit Assembly." From there, you can download instructions for each kit. You can also make a monetary donation to help buy supplies for kits by hovering over "Give." (Photo borrowed from website)