

## District Annual Celebration 2021: Lifting Up Our Spirits



Once again this year, the Western NC Conference is planning virtual District Annual Celebrations for 2021. **The Northern Piedmont District Annual Celebration will be on Aug. 22 from 3 to 5:30 p.m.** Please join us as we recognize our District churches' achievements, enjoy music, hear from our District Deaconesses and conduct our year-end business meeting. Registration is necessary and can be done at [wncumw.org/districtevents](http://wncumw.org/districtevents). Be sure to select the box for the Northern Piedmont District. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom.



Our theme this year is "Lifting Up Our Spirits." **We will be welcoming our three Northern Piedmont District Deaconesses: Ruth Williamson from Madison NC, Renee Hayes from Trinity NC, and Eloise Moore from Greensboro, NC.** They will be sharing specifics of their Deaconess positions and their perspectives on UMW focuses. Renee and Eloise were just commissioned at this year's Annual Conference. Come celebrate with them!



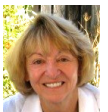
**I want to encourage everyone to check the calendar for upcoming events.** The Conference Annual Celebration will be held in September, and our District is preparing some wonderful book studies that we are offering to all District UMW members this fall.

**On November 20, we will have our end-of-year District Leadership Development Day for local unit officers** which is our last District event of 2021. The officers' training is open to all current officers as well as new officers taking positions in 2021-22. If you have ever considered taking an officer position or have been newly elected, this would be a good time to attend.

Please stay well and we will see all of you at our events.  
Blessings to all!

Top to bottom:  
Renee Hayes,  
Eloise Moore &  
Ruth Williamson

Jean Carter,  
District Vice President



## Tentative Slate of District Officers for 2022



How wonderful it is to breathe and be with family and friends. **It is an honor to recommend the following United Methodist Women for our leadership team in 2022:**

- President: Sandra Williamson
- Vice President: Jean Carter
- Secretary: Margaret Scales
- Treasurer: Constance Holland
- Mission Education and Interpretation: Rynn McGee-Pierce
- Spiritual Growth: Donna Miller
- Social Action: TBD
- Membership Nurture and Outreach: TBD
- Secretary of Program Resources: Cheryl Little
- Communications: Lily Pierce
- Nominations Committee Chair: Brenda Steadman
- Nominations Committee Members:
  - Tiffany Alston
  - Karlah Burton
  - Maxine McCormick
  - Amber Shelton
  - Irish Spencer

*Full contact info  
for current and  
proposed  
officers on pg. 6*

We need District MNO & SA coordinators for 2022. Please see nominations from the floor form on pg. 7. Due Aug. 16.

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**If you feel that you are being led at this time to continue to fulfill the mission of the United Methodist Women, TO KNOW GOD, then just let me know how you would like to serve.**

*Article cont. on pg. 3*





# Upcoming Events



All are invited, men and women

## An Evening with Clara Ester

Thursday, October 21, 2021  
7:00pm, via Zoom

For more information visit:  
[www.christgreensboro.org/umw](http://www.christgreensboro.org/umw)

- July 31, Aug. 1 *Pushout* Overview Studies; Sat. 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. or Sun. 3 to 7:30 p.m. Via Zoom; register at [wnccumw.org/events/mission-u-2021](http://wnccumw.org/events/mission-u-2021)
- Aug. 22 District Annual Celebration featuring NP District Deaconesses 3 to 5:30 p.m. via Zoom; register at [wnccumw.org/districtcelebrations2021](http://wnccumw.org/districtcelebrations2021)
- Sept. 11-12 Conference Annual Celebration: "Lift Up Our Spirits With Faith & Hope, So Love IS Action," learn more at [wnccumw.org/events/annual-celebration-2021](http://wnccumw.org/events/annual-celebration-2021)
- Oct. 2, 9 Ubuntu Day; learn more at [wnccumw.org/events/ubuntu-day-of-service-2021](http://wnccumw.org/events/ubuntu-day-of-service-2021)
- Dates TBD Virtual Book Studies: *We Are All Fast Food Workers Now* by Annelise Orleck, facilitated by Lily Pierce & *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, facilitated by Kathy FitzJefferies
- Nov. 20 Leadership Development Day for Local Unit Officers, 10 a.m. via Zoom

### 2020 UNITED METHODIST WOMEN GODWINK MOMENTS:



Send your units's 2020 story to Albertina McGirt (pg. 6).

Squire D. Rushnell, also known as Squire Rushnell, is an American author, inspirational speaker, a former television executive who led *Good Morning America* to first place for the first time, and was a father of *Schoolhouse Rock* which shared 75 Emmy's with The ABC Afterschool Specials. His books in the *When God Winks* series have appeared on the New York Times bestseller list.

**God-wink** to some is a new word and it is another way to tell of the wonderful works of God; defined, "As an event or personal experience, often identified as coincidence, so astonishing that it is seen as a sign of divine intervention, especially when perceived as the answer to a prayer."

During year 2020 there were many coincidences, interventions, answered prayers and more. March 2020 changed all our lives so alternative ways to worship; execute rituals for weddings, baptisms, funerals were different. Impact from the pandemic reflected in our meetings, education experiences, work, the acquisition of goods and services, entertainment and fitness, our dress, travel, health care, use of technology and more. United Methodist Women in the Northern Piedmont District should share God-wink moments to inspire humankind. Godwinks inspired transformations relative to our prayers and Bible study and isolation allowed us to rediscover the resilience, creativity, faith and resourcefulness within us that we were too busy to notice beforehand. Now is the time to pass on the helpful knowledge or experiences we lived in a poem, prose, short-story, testimonial, or other format. What a blessing these would be for our district and conference from its women of God.

**WHAT TO DO?** Each District-5 United Methodist Women president shall get an email. She and/or her designee would record a god-wink moment from a member or your unit, insert your name and church in the subject line then forward each Saturday to the next UMW president from a NPD alpha list attachment. This communication style is comparable to a chain letter and the responses would occur within 7 days after its receipt from the previous president. Why emails? ...electronic transmittals do not require postage, email reduces the need to paper copy or retain for record retention, and this exercise improves communication amongst district organizations sometimes not possible in 2020. The first UMW organization would receive this notification beginning **July 24** and the cycle ends **November 30, 2021**. Those without technology would mail their god-winks directly to me or Lily Pierce by Saturday October 2, 2021.

**Beginning July 24, Tag You Are It!** Reminder: when it's your turn process your moment and please keep the God-winks moving as scheduled. *Thanks, for sharing!*

Assembly 2022  
**TURN IT UP!**  
Orlando, FL  
May 20-22, 2022  
Early Registration  
Sept 1-Nov 30  
\$330  
Virtual Early  
Registration Sept  
1-Nov 30 \$199  
(More info coming soon on housing & bus trip)

Visit [wnccumw.org](http://wnccumw.org) to learn more about Conference events, and join the District email list for more info on District events; contact Lily Pierce--pg. 6.

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





## "God IS Good, All the Time!"



Summer greetings, my United Methodist Women sisters!

God IS good, all the time! It is by God's good grace that we have made it halfway through another year, still able to be in Mission on behalf of women, children and youth. **I thank God and all of you ladies in the Northern Piedmont (NP) District for all the good efforts UMW members have made so far in 2021.** Things aren't quite back to "normal," but we are moving in the right direction. As United Methodist Women, we have been flexible and creative while also carefully guarding our health. We have met online and on the phone, and some units have even begun meeting in person in socially distanced ways. Although our District and Conference events will remain online for the rest of this year, I'm hopeful that we will ease out of this pandemic and be able to meet in person next year. In the meantime, **please take the time to write up a brief description of how you, your unit and/or your church have made it through during these past pandemic months.** It doesn't have to be a long story but it will certainly be a big help in chronicling our District's UMW history. See more details in Albertina McGirt's article on page 2.

Even in this challenging year, God has allowed us to meet online to share a wonderful NP District Spiritual Renewal Gathering and a fabulous Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat. We are looking forward to coming together in several upcoming online opportunities: District Annual Celebration, Conference Annual Celebration, NP District book studies and Leadership Development Day. Look for more details on page 2 and elsewhere in this newsletter.

As we look forward to the second half of the year, I am preparing the certificates of appreciation for units which earned them during 2020. You did the good work; now the District team will send you some well-deserved recognition. Presidents, be on the lookout for mail from me! **It's also time to begin thinking about what information you will want to share in your 2021 year-end reports.** My plan is to have the forms available online by the end of the summer and in the next District newsletter.

While I may not know all the details about how your unit has successfully navigated these past few months, I do know why things are as well as they are. It's because God IS good, all the time! And all the time, God IS good!



Blessings,  
Sandra Williamson, District President

## "Let's Not Grow Complacent"

UMW sisters, it is fantastic to feel we are getting back to normal. But **let's not grow complacent as we breathe a sigh of relief.** As my mom, District MEI Rynn McGee-Pierce, points out in her article, many people's "normal" looks the same regardless of the pandemic. For the mothers in poverty who struggle to feed their children, not much has changed; for the children funneled into the school-to-prison pipeline, not much has changed; for low wage workers in America and abroad, not much has changed.

**I challenge one or more ladies in your unit to attend my upcoming book study on the last item in my list--low wage workers at home and abroad.** I plan to do an overview study via Zoom this fall and a more comprehensive study when we can meet in person. More details will be featured in our next newsletter. **I also challenge your unit to choose a need from the Step Up & Reach Out list and make a donation.**



If your unit has mission stories and/or photos I can share in the newsletter, or if a member of your unit wants to receive newsletters (in color!) and other updates via email, get in touch with me (pg. 6).



Grace & shalom,  
Lily Pierce,  
Communications



## Tent. Slate of District Officers for 2022 cont.

I realize so many United Methodist Women in our churches are being led by the Holy Spirit to know God more through serving. As women, we are always at His feet.

**Thank you for serving! We will persevere!**



Brenda Steadman,  
District Nom. Committee Chair



## What We've Given So Far in 2021

July is already here, which means we are well into our third quarter of Mission Giving this year. **As of the end of our second quarter, our District received a total of \$35,989.37.** Of this amount, \$28,739.97 was Undesignated Giving. We are, of course, a long way from meeting our District Annual Pledge of \$100,000, but hopefully your unit is now meeting in person and you're able to plan fundraising events which will help you to meet your pledge.

Many of you attended our virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat. **If you wish, you may still send your love offering to me or by making an online donation at [wncumw.org](http://wncumw.org).**

As you know, all District Love Offerings are considered Gifts to Mission in honor of our members' faithful commitment to Mission Giving, through good times and pandemic times, and will count towards our District Annual Pledge.

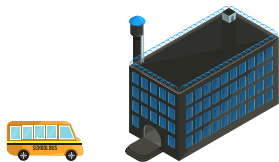
Included in this newsletter is information pertaining to our Western North Carolina Conference Annual Meeting to be held virtually September 11th and 12th. Please plan to attend this annual meeting. **All Conference Love Offerings may be mailed to our Conference Treasurer, Nancy Reigel, at 375 Troy Norris Road, Boone, NC 28607 or by making an online donation at [wncumw.org/online-mission-giving](http://wncumw.org/online-mission-giving).**

**Our financial goal this year is for each unit to make at least one Gift to Mission of at least \$5,** using any cards you have, in honor of one person in Mission listed in either the prayer calendar or a **response** magazine article. Has your unit accomplished this goal? If not, please consider doing so during this third quarter. As you read from the prayer calendar each month, consider sending a card of thanks to the person in Mission you read about and include at least a \$5 donation in your unit's third quarter remittance for that gift.

I hope each of you are having a wonderful and safe summer!

And thank you for your work as United Methodist Women!

Margaret Hepler,  
District Treasurer



## Staying Active With the School-to-Prison Pipeline

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.**

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:**

- **[Contact Congress to Stop the School-to-Prison Pipeline](#)** – a simple and easy way to advocate for your Congressional representative to address the School-to-Prison Pipeline
- **[School-to-Prison Pipeline Bible Study Series](#)** – organize a Bible study (within your local unit, church, or with a community partner) to strengthen the scriptural foundation of our call
- **[UMW Abridged Resource List, School-to-Prison Pipeline](#)** - 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



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

Kathy FitzJefferies,  
District Social Action





## 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 & washcloths

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

- Gently used baby clothes
- Maternity clothes
- Adult shampoo & toiletries



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

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

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

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



### Sew Loved, Inc. Wanda Hammock, 336-514-1166, Eden Call for details, location and times.

- SERVE by joining them to sew drawstring knapsacks for Rockingham HOPE
- DONATE travel-size toiletries & single-serve non-perishable food items



### Rockingham HOPE (faith-based food pantry; in old Red Cross building) 3692 NC Hwy 14, Reidsville, 336-623-2133

- Gently used blankets
- Toiletries
- Cleaning supplies
- Dry cereal



### 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

### Legacy Fund Information:

Visit our website at [wncumw.org/legacyfund](http://wncumw.org/legacyfund)



*Those that are new or whose needs have changed since the last newsletter are marked.*

## Reach out and touch somebody's hand. Make this world a better place, if you can.

These words from Diana Ross remind us of our duty to reach out to those in need.

As we see COVID in our rearview mirror and speed forward toward a great summer, let's not forget that we have neighbors who might be hurting. While we are all giddy about "getting back to normal," things may not be so different for some people.

**So I encourage you to review the "Step Up & Reach Out" section as well as the list of Conference Mission collections, find a couple of missions that speak to you as an individual and select some that speak to your UMW unit. Then DO it; reach out and touch somebody's hand!**

How different would the world be if we all did this every day? Let's make this world a better place; **we can!**

To see your unit featured in the newsletter, please send your mission stories and/or photos to Lily Pierce.



Last month, Rynn delivered a load of baby clothes from a UMW member to Room at the Inn.



Peace!  
Rynn McGee-Pierce,  
District MEI



### Do You Have Leftover Yarn?

I am collecting yarn, crochet hooks and knitting needles as well as sewing notions, sewing machines and material. If you have items to donate, please contact me, and I will schedule a pickup.



**President\*\*\***

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**Treasurer**

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**Nominations Committee Members**

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Karlah Burton, Class of 2025  
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**Nominations Committee Chair\***

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**Nominations Committee Members**

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jimnella@aol.com

Maxine McCormick, Class of 2025  
Bethel, Archdale  
336-884-1679  
mackiekt@yahoo.com

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Triad Native American, Greensboro  
336-965-9038  
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Molly Welch, Class of 2021  
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Constance Holland, Class of 2022  
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Irish Spencer, Class of 2023\*\*  
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**Parliamentarian\*\***

Janet Bledsoe  
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*\*Starting 2nd year of 1st term in 2022*

*\*\*Starting 2nd term in 2022*

*\*\*\*Starting 2nd year of 2nd term in 2022*

**District Deaconesses**

Eloise Moore  
4626 Village Square Court  
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Renee Hayes, 336-707-2980  
6903 Fairview Church Rd.  
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**Northern Piedmont District United Methodist Women**  
**Form for Nominations from the Floor**  
**2021 Annual Meeting**  
**Submission Deadline: August 16, 2021**

The United Methodist Women's bylaws allow for nominations from the floor. Please use this form for nominations from the floor for this year's extraordinary virtual meeting and election. If you want to nominate for more than one office you must complete a form for each.

All nominations from the floor must be received by Brenda Steadman, Northern Piedmont District Nominations Chair at [bsteadman@triad.rr.com](mailto:bsteadman@triad.rr.com), using this form by 11:59pm on Monday, August 16, 2021.

1. For which office is your nomination?

---

2. Nominee's Contact Information Name:

Address:

City/Town:

State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code:

Email Address:

Home Phone Number:

Cell Phone Number:

Work Phone Number:

3. Please identify the age range of the nominee:

18-30 years   31-40 years   41-50 years   51-65 years   66-70 years   71 years and over

4. Please identify the ethnicity/race of the nominee. Choose all that apply.

- African  African-American or Black  Asian-American or Asian  Caribbean  Caucasian or White
- Hispanic or Latina
- Native American  Pacific Islander
- Please write in your own preferred description

5. Please identify the local church to which the nominee belongs:

Local Church:

6. Nominator Contact Information Name: (Let us know who YOU are)

Address:

City/Town:

State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code:

Email Address:

Phone:



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN 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.

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Email [npdistrictunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com](mailto:npdistrictunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com) for a color copy.

*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](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/response)

**Order by Phone:** 1-877-881-2385

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

### Connect with United Methodist Women on Social Media



[www.facebook.com/UMWomen](http://www.facebook.com/UMWomen)  
[www.facebook.com/northernpiedmontumw](http://www.facebook.com/northernpiedmontumw)



[www.instagram.com/UMWomen](http://www.instagram.com/UMWomen)



[www.youtube.com/UMWomen](http://www.youtube.com/UMWomen)



[www.pinterest.com/UMWomen](http://www.pinterest.com/UMWomen)



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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](http://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)