



Metro Media

The voice for the United Women in Faith of the Metro District,
Western North Carolina Conference

President's Message

Happy New Year! What do you think is the number one New Year's resolution in the United States? If you said, "to live a healthier life," you're absolutely correct. For many of us that involves a regular exercise regime, healthy and balanced meals, more sleep, and less stress. Realistically, we know that we may not stick to our resolution for very long—life sometimes gets in the way. I totally support getting healthier, but what if we resolved to live a healthier spiritual life this year? What would that look like? It might include daily devotions, daily prayer, service to others, regular church attendance, and open mind and heart. Most of you will say, "I'm already doing all these things. What more can I do?" Sometimes, it's not necessarily doing more but putting more into what we're already doing. Often, we put our spiritual lives on "automatic pilot." We go through the motions of being faithful stewards of God's gifts, but do we thoughtfully and prayerfully enter those activities expecting to be a blessing to someone and to receive a blessing? There's nothing wrong in doing things that need to be done, but let's reach deeper into our minds and hearts to glean a worthwhile learning experience for ourselves.

Will you resolve to put more into your United Women in Faith (UWF) experiences in 2023? When you read one of the books on our reading list, will you think about how it relates to your life? Have you had a similar experience and how did you handle it? What advice would you give to someone going through the same experience? Or, when you take part in any UWF meeting, will you think about how your part affects others in the meeting? Will they be encouraged to give more time, money, and energy to local, district, conference, and national projects? Will you prayerfully ask God's guidance before giving your report or part of a program or project? Will you join me in working to put more of ourselves into our UWF experiences and thereby deepening our spiritual growth as we turn faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth.

Having quickly moved into the presidency of the Metro District, I look forward to working with the UWF board, units, and circles during this year. It is an honor to be able to interact with the wonderful women who have a history of reaching out to others in service and love.

Diann

Diann P. Back
Metro District President
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704-846-8875



United
Women
in Faith

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Vice President



I trust each of you had a blessed holiday season. Now it is time to look to the work of 2023.

First, let me thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your Metro District President

for 2022. As I traveled the district, I marveled at the incredible women dedicated to creatively fulfilling our United Women in Faith mission, vision, and goals.

While I planned to continue as Metro District president through 2023, life intervened. In early December my younger daughter was diagnosed with lung cancer. Diann graciously consented to changing Mission Team positions with me by taking on the President's role a year early to allow me more time to focus on my family. My support of Diann and the Metro District Mission Team will continue throughout the year as much as possible. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Blessings,
Nancy Ward
Metro District Vice President
nward001@carolina.rr.com
704-681-4779

Treasurer

Metro District giving to the UWF Western NC Conference (WNCC) in 2022 was:

Pledge to Mission	\$54,659.11
Special Mission Recognition	2,155.00
Gift to Mission	6,009.01
Gift in Memory	2,631.00
World Thank Offering	7,124.33
Walk for Mission	1,197.50
The Legacy Fund	3,159.22
Call to Prayer and Self-Denial/	6,492.50

The Western NC UWF Conference is asking each unit to increase Mission Giving through the World Thank Offering channel by 10% in 2023. If you are interested in learning about strategies for raising your Unit's Mission giving, please contact me. For those of you who make Love Offerings, the WNCC UWF Love Offering is a Gift to Mission in honor of the faithful servant leadership of our conference, district, and local United Women in Faith.

I look forward to serving as your district treasurer this year and to working with you to benefit the thousands of children, youth and women who depend on us! Please remember them as you spiritually give to United Women in Faith.

THANK YOU all for continuing to be faithful in support of the mission work of United Women in Faith.

Sylvia Casey,
Metro District Treasurer
sil1casey@gmail.com

Planning Ahead

**2023 Metro District Prayer Breakfast, April 29,
Simpson-Gillespie UMC, 8:30 – 11:00 am**

Look for details and registration information in the Quarter 2 newsletter. In the meantime, please begin collecting for our Hands-on-Mission: Diapers and Wipes for Alliance Center for Education (AC4Ed) Diaper sizes: 1 – 5; 2T – 3T Boys; 2T – 3T Girls; 4T – 5T Boys; 4T – 5T Girls and Baby Wipes

Metro District Mission Study

The 2023 Metro District Mission Study, Saturday March 4, 2023, features Martha Efird as speaker and facilitator. The study book, **Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship**, by Darryl W. Stephens, **United Women in Faith**, is available from bookstores, Amazon, or local libraries. Thank you to St. Stephen, and their United Women in Faith for hosting this year's Mission Study. The registration form and Hands on Mission details follow.

Blessings,

Sylvia Sekle-Dueh, Deaconess, Metro District Mission, Education, and Interpretation Coordinator
dueh1409@gmail.com; 704-606-5557

Metro District Mission Study Registration
Saturday, March 4, 2023, 9:15 am to 2:00 pm
St. Stephen United Methodist Church, 6800 Sardis Rd., Charlotte, NC 28270

Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship.

Check-in begins at 8:45 am; the program starts at 9:15 am; the cost is \$2.50 per person. Coffee/tea will be provided. Attendees should bring their own lunch, refillable water container and/or lunch beverage.

A Love Offering for Mission Giving will be collected.

Name of Church _____ City _____

Please print the attendee's names:

Number of persons _____ X \$2.50 = \$ _____

Registration should be **postmarked by February 23, 2023**. **Please send one check per unit/church**. Make checks payable to "Metro District UMW" and mail to Sylvia Casey, 7009 Summer Pl., Charlotte, NC 28213

Hands-on-Mission Project

Hygiene Kit Materials

- One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches) (no kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels) • One washcloth (no kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels) • One comb (must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth, no pocket combs or pick, rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth)
- One toenail or fingernail clipper (no emery boards or metal nail files) • Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger, no Ivory or Jergen's soap, do not remove from packaging) • One adult toothbrush (do not remove from packaging, personal advertising not acceptable) • 10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches, common household bandages acceptable) • One two and one-half gallon size re-sealable bag, *Do not add toothpaste when assembling kits.

Assembly Instructions

- Lay hand towel flat on a table. • Lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel. • Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth (except the plastic bag). • Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items. • Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel. • Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

Important Notes

- All items must be new. • Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new. • Do not include any personal notes, money, or additional materials in the kits. • Contents of kits or the containers of kits should **not** be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

Packing Instructions • Complete two packing lists, one for the box and one for your records. • Place the shipping label/packing list on the outside of the box. • Please send a check to Sager Brown for the total amount of hygiene kits times \$2 per kit for the cost of toothpaste and shipping. One check may be written for all the kits.

Social Action

Social Action within the United Women in Faith involves advocacy.

Advocacy—Every four years United Women in Faith identify a specific focus for our advocacy in addition to our ongoing work for gender and racial justice and for oppressed and dispossessed communities, with special attention to the needs of women, children, and youth.

*Our current justice campaigns are **Just Energy 4 All** and **Ending Mass Incarceration** (Criminalization of Communities of Color).*

To learn more about how you can serve, advocate, and make a difference, review the website below, and join the mailing list to receive resources on our priorities.

[Serve & Advocate | United Women in Faith \(uwfaith.org\)](http://www.uwfaith.org)

Blessings,
Loretta Wilson
Metro District Social Action Coordinator
rettaorwilson@yahoo.com
704-906-8252

Program Resources



Do you have UWF books from the Reading Program that you have read and don't know what to do with them?

Here's a solution:

Beginning with the Mission Study in March, there will be a Program Resource table where you can bring a book and take a book. Through the book exchange we can share the love of

reading, keep costs down and clear out the clutter in one activity. The books must be part of the UWF Reading Program to qualify for the swap.

Donna Varner
Metro District Program Resources Coordinator
Donnak1130@yahoo.com

WNCC United Women in Faith Scholarship Program

The United Women in Faith Western NC Conference Scholarship Program offers qualifying students financial support to attend one of the Conference's institutions of higher learning: Bennett College, Brevard College, Greensboro College, Highpoint University or Pfeiffer University.

Applicants must be a member of a WNCC United Methodist Church and reside within the bounds of the Western NC Conference. For the 2023 program, request an application by contacting Jatana Royster at 704-451-3816, jatanaroyster@gmail.com

Applications are due by March 1, 2023, with interviews on Saturday March 25.

Support this program by referring students, praying for the students and conference institutions, and contributing to the general scholarship fund as districts, units, circles, and individuals.

Please contact me if your need additional information.

Blessings,
Jatana Royster
WNCC United Women in Faith Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Historian

In February we celebrate Black History Month. As stated on the United Methodist Church (UMC) website, “too often, the accomplishments of African Americans have not received adequate notice in United States (U.S). history books and classrooms. That is why historian Carter Woodson first proposed a weeklong focus on black history in 1926. The first U.S. celebration of Black History Month happened decades later.”

What do you know about African American history in the U.S and the United Methodist Church? United Methodist Church website has a short quiz to test your knowledge.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-black-history-quiz>

Each March we celebrate Women’s History Month. The United Methodist Church also has a quiz about the female pioneers in the United States and the United Methodist Church.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-womens-quiz>

You can enjoy these quizzes with your church, family, and friends by sharing the links or by downloading and printing copies.

Each UWF unit has its own fascinating history. If you would like to share yours with the wider audience of the Metro District, please contact me via phone or email. I would love to hear your story.

Loretta Wilson-
Metro District Historian
rettaorwilson@yahoo.com
704-906-8252

Membership Nurturing and Outreach

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope everyone is enjoying a blessed 2023. I pray it will be a wonderful year for you all. As you plan for 2023, please remember that the United Women

in Faith believe that “Love in action can change the world”. Each one of you can make a difference in the lives of others.

As your unit or circles hold events, please invite your Nurturing Partner or other District Team Member to join you. We look forward to visiting with you and love meeting your members. Your unit president should soon hear from your Nurturing Partner. As reference, the Partner list and contact information are in this newsletter.

The Walk for Missions is moving to the spring this year. I hope you plan to participate. Each church should hold its own “Walk” scheduled at a convenient time this spring. Last year the district raised a little over \$1,000 for missions through this event. I thank each unit and each walker. Let’s have another great Walk for Missions this year.

Martha Hyler
Metro District Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator
mkhyler@gmail.com

Spiritual Growth

A year of service has come and gone! What a busy first year I had as your District Spiritual Growth Coordinator.

What is Spiritual Growth?

“We defined soul care a self-care and spiritual nourishment. So, our Soul Care events are about nurturing your mind, body, and spirit while deepening our faith through spiritual practice and creating bonds of sisterhood.”

-Khia Shaw, Director of United Women of Faith’s Membership and Engagement Work

I look forward to a new year and with a better understanding of my position, and a continued spiritual growth. We will grow together.

Jo T. Boyd
Metro District Spiritual Growth Coordinator
number3grammy@yahoo.com

2023 Metro District and WNCC UWF Events Calendar

2023 Metro District and WNCC UWF Events Calendar

March 4

Metro District Mission Study
St. Stephen United Methodist Church,
6800 Sardis Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28270
Hands on Project: Hygiene Kits

April 29

Metro District Prayer Breakfast
Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church,
3545 Beatties Ford Rd
Charlotte, NC 28216
Hands on Project: Diapers & Wipes for AC4Ed

June 8– June 10

WNCC UWF Spiritual Growth Retreat
91 North Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

July 13-15

WNCC UWF Mission u
Pfeiffer University
48380 U.S.-52
Misenheimer, NC 28109

August 26

Metro District Annual Celebration
Matthews United Methodist Church
801 S. Trade St.
Matthews, NC 28105
Hands on Project: School Supplies for AC4Ed

September 8-10

WNCC UWF Annual Celebration
91 North Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

May 13 or Any Day Your Unit Chooses

Walk for Mission: Single Units or Groups
Various Locations Across the District

October 1, 8, or 15

UBUNTU Days of Service
Various Locations TBD

2023 Metro District Annual Celebration, August 26, Matthews UMC 8:30 – 11:30 am

Planning Ahead: Watch for details and registration information in the Q3 Newsletter. In the meantime, please begin collecting for the Hands-on-Mission: School Supplies for AC4Ed

- Gorilla Tape – Double sided
- Glue Dots – 300 Pk
- Beginners Pencils – 12/Bx
- Sidewalk Chalk – 20 Ct
- Primary pencils – 12/Bx
- Colored Pencils – 12/Bx
- Washable Markers – 8/Pk
- Jumbo Crayons – 8/Pk
- Large – Multicultural Crayons – 8 Pk
- Chalk – White 12/Bx
- Jumbo Craft Sticks – 500/Bx
- Craft Sticks – 1000/Bx
- Felt sheets – 12 Pk
- 22 X 28 Poster Board/Assorted Primary Colors 5 Pk
- Tissue paper – Assorted 50/Pk
- Cotton Balls
- Pom Poms – Assorted
- Feathers – Assorted
- Jumbo Pipe Cleaners – Assorted 100/Pk
- Wiggly Eyes – 100/Pk Yarn
- Bubbles – 3Pk 4oz Bottles
- Glue bottle – 4 oz
- Glue Stick
- Wood Glue – 4 oz
- Sentence Strips – 100/Pk
- 5 X 8 Index Cards – Unruled 100/Pk

2023 Metro District Officers

President (2022-23)

Diann Back
9301 Whitethorn Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28277
(St. Stephen)
704-846-8875
dback@carolina.rr.com

Vice President (2023)

Nancy Ward
4003 Colton Ridge Dr.
Indian Trail, NC 28079
(Matthews)
704-681-4779
nward001@carolina.rr.com

Secretary (2023-24)

Debbie Eudy
806 Eaglewood Ave.
Charlotte, NC 28212
(Memorial-Charlotte)
704-563-7195/704-759-4477
snakcak3655@gmail.com

Treasurer (2023-24)

Sylvia Casey
7009 Summer Pl.
Charlotte, NC 28213
(Simpson-Gillespie)
704-596-3578
sil1casey@gmail.com

ME&I (2022-23)

Sylvia Sekle-Dueh
212 Hunslet Circle
Charlotte, NC 28206
(Hickory Grove)
704-606-5557
dueh1409@gmail.com

Spiritual Growth (2022-23)

Jo Boyd
4132 Dunwoody Dr.
Charlotte, NC
(Simpson-Gillespie)
704-877-8914
number3grammy@yahoo.com

Social Action (2022-23)

Loretta Wilson
4221 Chatterleigh Dr.
Monroe, NC 28110
(Hickory Gove)
704-906-8252
rettaorwilson@yahoo.com

MN&O (2023-24)

Martha Hyler
910 Lamar Rd.
Concord, NC 28025
(Harrisburg)
704-781-5505
mkhyler@gmail.com

Program Resources (2023-24)

Donna Varner
4105-B Bannockburn Pl.
Charlotte, NC 28211
(St. Stephen)
704-779-9798
donnak1130@yahoo.com

Communications (2023-24)

Delta Sonderman
4308 Emory Ln.
Charlotte, NC 28211
(Providence)
704-302-3600
deltasson@gmail.com

Parliamentarian

Donna Varner
4105-B Bannockburn Pl.
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Historian

Loretta Wilson
4221 Chatterleigh Dr.
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(Hickory Gove)
704-906-8252
rettaorwilson@yahoo.com

Nominations

Linda Davidson, Chair (2024)
6201 Spring Garden Ln.
Charlotte, NC 28213
(Simpson-Gillespie)
704- 281-9565
lad6201@gmail.com

Sybil Long (2023)
8238 Terra Linda Lane
Charlotte, NC 28215
(Central, Charlotte)
704-773-8678
sibyl.long@gmail.com

Louise Woods (2024)
1327 Cedarwood Lane
Charlotte, NC 28212
(Central, Charlotte)
704-536-0335
lwoods@BellSouth.net

Judy Cline (2024)
5215 Club View Dr.
Concord, NC 28025
(Royal Oaks)
704-785-8027
jblacline@gmail.com

Earonita Strong (2026)
1929 Crestdale Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28216
704-534-4387
(Simpson-Gillespie)
stronge@carolina.rr.com

Conference Advisor

Lynda Morris
737 Pavilion View Dr.,
Apt F305
Matthews, NC 28105
(St Stephen)
704-847-2521/704-619-2013
lfmorrisap@aol.com

2023 Metro District Nurturing Partner List

CHURCH	PARTNER	CHURCH	PARTNER
Aldersgate	Donna Varner	Morrows Chapel	Judy Cline
Assurance	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh	Mount Mitchell	Sybil Long
Bethpage	Lynda Morris	Mount Olivet	Sybil Long
Broad Street	Delta Sonderman	Mount Pleasant	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh
Calvary	Donna Varner	Myers Park	Loretta Wilson
Centenary	Nancy Ward	North Davidson	Loretta Wilson
Center	Martha Hyler	North Kannapolis	Lynda Morris
Central (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson	Oak Grove (Char)	Loretta Wilson
Central (Concord)	Judy Cline	Oak Grove (CG)	Delta Sonderman
Central (Mooresville)	Louise Woods	Pineville	Diann Back
Christ	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh	Pleasant Grove	Linda Davidson
Cokesbury	Diann Back	Providence	Debbie Eudy
Commonwealth	Earonita Strong	Roberta	Earonita Strong
Covenant	Delta Sonderman	Rock Grove	Sybil Long
Davidson	Judy Cline	Rocky Mount	Delta Sonderman
Dilworth	Diann Back	Rocky Ridge	Jo Boyd
Epworth	Martha Hyler	Royal Oaks	Martha Hyler
Faith (Mooresville)	Louise Woods	Simpson-Gillespie	Loretta Wilson
First (China Grove)	Jo Boyd	South Tryon	Sylvia Casey
First Hmong	Nancy Ward	SouthPark	Donna Varner
Forest Hill	Linda Davidson	St Andrews	Donna Varner
Friendship	Lynda Morris	St Francis	Nancy Ward
Harrisburg	Diann Back	St Marks	Sylvia Casey
Hickory Grove	Debbie Eudy	St. Paul (Mooresville)	Louise Woods
Hunters Chapel	Earonita Strong	St Stephen	Debbie Eudy
Huntersville	Jo Boyd	Thrift	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh
Indian Trail	Nancy Ward	Trinity (Charlotte)	Sylvia Casey
Jackson Park	Lynda Morris	Trinity (Kannapolis)	Jo Boyd
Matthews	Debbie Eudy	Westford	Martha Hyler
Memorial (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson	Williamsons Chapel	Louise Woods
Memorial (Kannapolis)	Judy Cline	Woodlawn Community	Earonita Strong
Midway	Sybil Long	Zion	Nancy Ward
Mill Grove	Nancy Ward		

Your Metro Nurturing Partner is the first point of contact and liaison with our local churches. Please welcome them when they call or visit. While each unit has a designated Nurture Partner, we are all here to support you. Contact your Partner or any Metro Mission Team Officer with your questions, ideas, or concerns.