



Join Us for a Joint-District Book Study on a Few Bold Women Who Changed History

On Saturday morning, February 4, 2023, join us for a District-wide book study as we discuss *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. You may have seen this excellent movie already, but this study will give us a chance to share more insights and personal perspectives on this important story. Sandra Williamson will be the study leader.

"Before a computer became an inanimate object and before Sputnik changed the course of history, before the Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education* established that separate was in fact not equal, and before the poetry of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech rang out over the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, a group of black women working at the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory in Hampton, Virginia were helping America dominate aeronautics, space research, and computer technology, carving out a place for themselves as female mathematicians who were also black, black mathematicians who were also female. *Hidden Figures* is their story." (Quoted from Hiddenfigures.com)



As I was reading the brochure for the 2023 Reading Program for United Women in Faith, one particular statement pulled me in. "I invite you to open your mind and your heart to experiences of both profound resonance and deep difference. Learn from our authors. Stop and wonder, lingering with perspectives and experiences outside your usual go-to list. Pause and journal on what moves your soul. Read the books that seem right up your alley – and perhaps one or two that are beyond your comfort zone." – Emily A Jones, UWF Executive for Racial Justice

This book study is indeed designed to cause you to open your mind and your heart. Come spend some time exploring what is familiar and that which may cause you to stretch a bit. **Come spend some rewarding time learning and growing with your sisters in United Women in Faith. [Click here to register.](#)**

Sandra Williamson
Former District
President

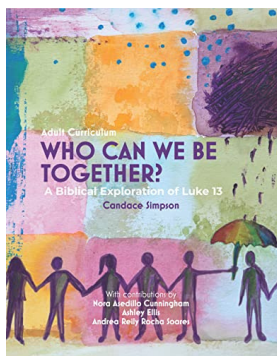


Mission Study for Three Districts - NP, SM & BR

You are invited to learn more about how to be a supportive community at our District Mission Study on Saturday March 18, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and Monday March 20, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. [Click here to register.](#) This will be a joint study with both the Smoky Mountain and Blue Ridge District. Each session will begin with a few introductory activities from District officers, then the study will commence.

Our text, *Who Can We Be Together?* by Candace Simpson, is a biblical exploration of Luke 13 on what God says about creating spaces of care and community-building. This study will feature small and large group discussions with the use of graphics and song with the focus primarily on the text.

According to the UWF national website, this book "brings participants deeper into Jesus' teachings in this chapter of Luke to explore what it means to be in community...we are called to act on the most ethical principles of our faith so we can witness the kin-dom of God on earth." We will examine "stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities in challenging times for over two millennia."



Thank you for allowing me to lean on you.

Kim Eller
Northern
Piedmont
District Lay
Leader



Try downloading the Libby app to check out these books from the library virtually!

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Tentative Conference & District Calendar 2023

Feb. 4 10 a.m. to 12 noon	Book Study - <i>Hidden Figures: The American Dream and The Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians who Helped Win the Space Race</i> facilitated by Sandra Williamson Click here to register	
March 18, 10 a.m. to 12 noon & March 20, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	District Mission Study via Zoom- <i>Who Can We Be Together?</i> facilitated by Kim Eller. Click here to register	FYI Every link in this newsletter is clickable from the PDF version!
May 6 9 a.m. to 12 noon	District Spiritual Renewal Gathering at Gideon Grove UMC, 2865 Gideon Grove Church Road, Stokesdale, NC 27357. Cost: \$6/person. Click here to register	
June 3	Book Study - <i>A Knock at Midnight</i> facilitated by Kelli Smith	
June 8-10	Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat - Lake Junaluska	
July 13-15	Conference-wide Mission u - Pfeiffer University	
Date TBD	District Annual Celebration	
Sept. 8-10	Conference Annual Celebration - Lake Junaluska	
Sept. 30	Social Action Workshop on Climate Justice	
Oct. 7, 14 & 28	Conference-wide UBUNTU days	
Date TBD	Book Study (Book TBD) facilitated by Lily Pierce	
Date TBD	Local Unit Officers Training - Location TBD	

Bright Lights



Please send your unit stories/photos to Lily Pierce (pg. 6).

This is a picture of Peggy J. Hill, Bass Chapel UWF President, looking at the bounty from just 4 of the 20 UWF World Thank banks we received, and we got additional donations from the congregation! (One fella turned in a gallon pickle jar full of change.) We must have a lot of thankful people in our church. It will take us a while to count it all.
-Sandra Williamson

Welcome to 2023!

Here we are again in a new year, set for new ideas and new beginnings. It gives us a chance to look to a new horizon with a path filled with hopes and dreams for what this year can become.

We are now more familiar with our new name of United Women in Faith and more comfortable with what it entails with new programs and resources. We even have leadership changes and younger women joining us with new initiatives at the national office. Now we have to do our part and become as familiar as we can with this new path and our new direction. It's not difficult and it will feel like breathing fresh air early on a summer morning. I think you will like what you see but you must go out and check it out. There is so much being offered to share with our members.

Remind yourselves that we are the women of the church who love God, love our neighbor and love ourselves.

We have taken leadership roles for many reasons but I believe initially it's because we want to contribute and we believe we can make a difference and have an impact. Here is our opportunity to impart new ideas and more creative ways of moving forward...that bit of fresh air.

I'm going to share with you a list of things that I would like you to do:

- If you haven't already, visit the new website at uwfaith.org. Spend some time moving through the site.
- Provide information to your unit members on the new digital resources available i.e. Faith Talks, Voices from the Field and Daily Digest. Be sure you are registered to receive the notices of the next online events. Have your members register also as we all have different interests that we follow.

cont. on pg. 3

Welcome to 2023! (cont.)

- Start marking your calendars for the District and Conference events as they are announced for 2023. There are first-timer scholarships available for the events at Lake Junaluska but you need to apply early for them. Check this with your Unit Treasurer who can contact our District Treasurer, Connie Holland. Larger churches can also set aside scholarships for members to use in their local budget as another option.
- Make use of our new Daily Prayer Guide at your meetings. There is available this year, a bundled offer which includes the Daily Prayer Guide, digital 2023 Program Book, and other materials for your meetings. You have the option to purchase a hard copy of the Program Book if you prefer. Visit umwmmissionresources.org. Orders can be placed now and should be arriving in early January.
- And the last is to spend time in prayer for our organization. We have a new motto:



Now to what else is changing, after much prayer, thoughtful consideration and after having written the above article, I have decided to step down from the position of incoming District President for the Northern Piedmont District. It has been a very difficult decision for me to make after five years of serving with such a wonderful group of women which included also a year on the nominations committee. I have been fighting Long Covid on a daily basis now for almost six months and it does not seem to be improving. The fatigue can be overpowering and the brain fog comes and goes. Unfortunately, doctors do not have any answers for those of us with this at this time.



May God bless
all your days!
Jean Carter

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your District Vice President for the past four years. I have truly enjoyed working with the local churches and seeing all of you at our events.

Kelli Smith has agreed to step into the position for our District. I know that you will enjoy her energy and talents. Please welcome her at our events this year. I'm sure I will see you there.

Thank you, Jean! Your talents have certainly not gone unnoticed. We wish you well and will certainly keep you within our thoughts and prayers.

Having been a part of the United Methodist Women (now United Women in Faith) since I was 12-years-old, I am eager and honored to see what the new changes bring.

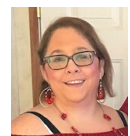
I have attended Old Union United Methodist for almost twenty years. My original background with the Methodist church comes from Glenwood United Methodist which is now Christ United. In those years, I had the privilege of participating in the youth where I served as President of the youth group and had the wonderful opportunity to go on various mission trips. As part of the youth, we would take trips up to Lake Junaluska in October to get to see the Junaluska Singers in concert.

In my church now, I have served on the PPR committee and help assist in song-leading when the song leader, which is my husband, is unable to. I have helped a lot with the youth and have been the director of our Vacation Bible School. I am the Vice President of the local unit.

Years ago, I took a trip to Assembly without knowing anyone so to speak. The passion and conviction that I have seen in the women I have met along the way have inspired me more than anyone will ever know. Since that trip, I have become a part of the District team having served as the Secretary of Program Resources and the Spiritual Growth coordinator. I have previously served on the Conference level as the Business Manager for Mission u.

Join me as we embark on this journey together as our purpose states "We are a COMMUNITY of women." May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May He turn His face toward you and give you upmost peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

Kelli Smith
District President



Greetings From the New Vice President!

Hello, wonderful ladies of the United Women in Faith Northern Piedmont District. I hope each of you experienced a wonderful and blessed holiday season. I would like to share some information about myself being the newly-elected Vice President for the Northern Piedmont District. I am elated to serve in this capacity. **I am a member of the Mt. Tabor UMC - Greensboro unit where I currently serve as the Local Unit Treasurer.**

Since joining the unit over ten years ago, I have had the opportunity to participate in many activities that infused in me the continuous desire to serve and support the UWF programs. I have attended several events at Lake Junaluska, district prayer breakfasts and trainings. I feel attending these events and programs enriched my life and my desire to serve. **I am excited to have the opportunity to work with the different units and support your programs in 2023.** Please feel free to contact me if I can assist you in any way (contact info is on pg. 6). May each of you continue to be blessed.



Your Sister in Christ,
Genevieve
McCormick
District Vice
President

Let's Meet & Exceed Our Financial Goals This Year

Happy New Year to all of you! As my second year as your District Treasurer gets under way, **I am excited and very hopeful that we will meet and possibly exceed our 2023 goal of \$70,000!** Unfortunately, we fell short in 2022, but with prayer, perseverance and spreading the word as to where our Mission dollars go, we can meet our challenge in this new year.

Our 2023 Conference Financial Goal is for each local unit to increase their Mission giving through the World Thank Offering channel by 10%, and our Conference Love Offering will be "A Gift to Mission in honor of the faithful servant leadership of our Conference, District and local United Women in Faith!" It is important that we interpret where the money goes at every opportunity and educate our members in our local unit about Mission dollars. **The importance of the five channels of undesignated MISSION GIVING should be stressed.** Giving within these channels allows United Women in Faith to react quickly to emergency needs as well as form new projects or support existing ones that can aid women, children and youth.

If your unit HAS sent in the **2023 Pledge Form**, THANK YOU!! If your unit has not sent the 2023 Pledge Form indicating your unit's pledge for this year along with address/e-mail/phone information for your Unit President and Treasurer, please do so soon. Unit Treasurers are responsible for sending this completed form to me – even if the information is the same as last year. I want to make sure that all unit treasurers receive my quarterly letters, so it is very important that I update my records each year.

Unit Treasurers - When sending a check to the District Treasurer, always complete a "Remittance Form" even if you are sending an SMR pin order or a Gift to Mission card order. Checks should always be written to the Northern Piedmont District UWF or Northern Piedmont District UMW. If at any time you need a Remittance form, SMR pin order form, Gift to Mission card order form or Legacy Form, please let me know. You may also download these forms from wncumw.org/treasurer-form.

Thanks to all of you who work so hard to support your unit and our District with your generous contributions!



Connie Holland
District Treasurer

What's New With District Communications?

Happy New Year's! Now, let's get down to brass tacks. We are still striving to improve inner-District communication while also cutting costs. Despite inflation, **we have reduced our newsletter printing costs by \$1,550 from our 2018 budget to our 2023 budget** (\$3,250 to \$1,700). I need your help to keep going in this direction.

Firstly, it is crucial for all units to send in **year-end reports to keep the database updated**. Secondly, opting to receive this newsletter via email only helps, too. If any officer or member of your unit wishes to be added to our District email list to receive in-color newsletters and other reminders, contact me (pg. 6) OR fill out the form mentioned below.

Here's what's new in 2023: #1, Lynne Gilbert has created a form Unit Presidents can use to update their unit info (or, each lady can fill it out herself) for units who haven't sent in 2023 contact info (though you can still do it even if your unit already sent in contact info). Check it out: <http://tiny.cc/NPLocalOfficers2023>.



Step Up & Reach Out



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

- Gently used baby clothes
- Maternity clothes
- Body wash, shampoo & deodorant
- Gently used dishes & towels
- Cleaning products
- Gently used housewares
- Baby wipes

YWCA Family Shelter (All NEW list) 1807 E. Wendover Ave. Greensboro, 336-333-0175

- Paper towels & paper products
- Gallon food storage bags such as Zip-loc
- Hand soap
- Haircare products for people of color

Castaways Thrift (supports substance abuse programs for women), 727 Highway St. Suite A, Madison, 336-644-4185

- Gently used clothing, shoes & housewares
- Kids clothes
- Jewelry & purses

Rockingham HOPE (in old Red Cross building) 3692 NC Hwy 14, Reidsville, 336-623-2133

- Gently used blankets
- Hygiene products & toiletries
- Cleaning supplies
- Canned food
- Gently used towels
- Plastic grocery bags

Family Service of the Piedmont (assist victims of domestic violence), 315 E. Washington St, Greensboro, call to set up a delivery, 336-707-2834

- Feminine hygiene pads of various sizes
- Baby wipes
- Paper plates/bowls
- Plastic eating utensils & cups

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

- Making children's clothes for an orphanage in Africa - need 3/4" or 1" elastic

Community Outreach of Archdale 10607 N. Main St, Archdale, 336-431-3663

- Cereal
- Microwavable spaghetti bowls
- Ramen noodles- chicken or beef
- Pudding cups
- 6 pk crackers
- Juice boxes/pouches

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

- Ladies underwear & socks of all sizes
- Paper products
- Plastic spoons & forks
- Cleaning supplies
- New dish towels
- Bottled water

"Faithful God, Come Lead Us, Onward in New Ways"

By definition, a **New Year's resolution is a promise to do something differently in the coming year.** For over 4000 years, people have considered the New Year as a good time to make a fresh start. Early Christians were no different as this was a time for thinking about past mistakes and **RESOLVING** to do better in the future. So, what **RESOLUTIONS** have you made for 2023?

I urge your unit to resolve together to take on a new mission this year!

There are plenty of opportunities at home and abroad, so find something that speaks to you as a team, such as helping a place mentioned above or making UMCOR kits - visit umcmission.org/relief-supplies). This is also a great way to get other women involved. When we get excited about our ministry, our sisters may join us in our efforts. And United Women in Faith welcomes everyone to participate. "The need is great, the laborers are few." *Matt 9:37.* As the new year dawns, Lord, come lead us in new ways!

Peace!
Rynn McGee-Pierce,
District MEI



"As the Old Year Passes" (can be sung to the tune of "In the Bleak Midwinter")

V. 4 As the New Year dawns now, we would give you praise.

Faithful God, come lead us onward in new ways.

We will love and serve you in the faith of Christ.

In your spirit's future, people of new life.

What's New With District Communications? (cont.)

#2, **we have tried to iron out many of the details of our tentative calendar this year** (pg. 2), and we're trying to send the quarterly newsletters in a more timely fashion. With so much officer turnover, it's been a little tough, but my goal is to have all the details for our 2024 calendar ready to go with our first quarter newsletter next year. The District team is striving to get the rest of this year's calendar figured out ASAP. #3, I'd like to have a goal this year of having our in-person events be **hybrid events, meaning you can attend in-person OR via Zoom**, which will enable more ladies to participate.

I'm eager for another wonderful year! Hope to see you virtually or in-person soon!



Lily Pierce
District
Communications



If you or someone you know is willing to serve as MNO, Historian, or the Nominations Committee Chair or just a member, please let us know!

District Officers for 2023

Visit wnccumw.org to learn more about Conference & District events.

President

Kelli White Smith
Old Union, Sophia
336-799-1129 - home
336-301-6872 - cell
kelliwhitesmith@gmail.com

Vice President

Genevieve McCormick
Mt. Tabor, Greensboro
336-681-1907
zetag@triad.rr.com

Secretary

Margaret Scales
Wesley Chapel, Reidsville
336-273-1485

Treasurer

Constance Holland
Bethel, Archdale
313-310-8680
looney814@gmail.com

Mission 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

Mary Lou Webster
Raleigh's Crossroads, Greensboro
336-456-7106
mrsmarylouwebster@gmail.com

Membership Nurture & Outreach

TBD

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

Visit

<http://tiny.cc/NPLocalOfficers2023> to update you or your unit's contact info!

Nominations Committee Chair

TBD

Nominations Committee Members

Karlah Burton, Class of 2025
St. Matthews, Greensboro
karlah_k@yahoo.com

Maxine McCormick, Class of 2025

Bethel, Archdale
336-884-1679
mackie2kt@yahoo.com

Patricia Holland, Class of 2025

Bethel, Archdale
336-687-0232

September Neal Locklear, Class of 2026

Triad Native American, Greensboro
336-901-1502
pilove30@gmail.com

Historian

TBD

Parliamentarian

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

Legacy Fund Information:

Visit our website at wnccumw.org/legacyfund



Do You Have Leftover Yarn?

Rynn is 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. The director of the YWCA is very interested in crochet lessons for their clients!

District Deaconesses

Eloise Moore
4626 Village Square Court
Greensboro, NC 27409
jimnella@aol.com

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

Renee Hayes, 336-707-2980
6903 Fairview Church Rd.
Trinity, NC 27370
renee.hayes1956@gmail.com



Let's Get Reading in 2023!

Happy New UWF Year! Thank you to those who attended our November 2022 book study on *We Are All Fast-Food Workers Now*. A special thanks goes to Lily Pierce, District Communication Coordinator, who did an excellent job leading our discussion.

You're invited to our next book discussion Saturday, February 4, 2023 10 a.m. to 12 noon. We will discuss *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. Our leader will be Sandra Williamson. Blue Ridge District will join us. One of these remarkable women graduated from Allen High School in Asheville. I understand that there is also a connection of the women to Bennett College in Greensboro, a United Methodist-related college.



I'd like for you to take a look at our 2023 Reading Program - and please remember listening to Faith Talks podcast and subscribing to *response* magazine also counts in the reading program! I'm excited and looking forward to our UWF year - are you?



Cheryl Little
District SPR

United Women in Faith & Climate Justice - A Mission Moment

Protecting God's creation and those who are disproportionately affected by global climate change is not just *our* belief (<https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/climate-justice/>). All creation belongs to God. We are responsible as stewards of the earth and have an obligation to meet these duties through acts of loving care and respect.

As a United Methodist, I have a dual role - commissioned General Board of Global Ministries' Earthkeeper and member of the organized unit of United Women in Faith. I currently serve as the Social Action coordinator on behalf of my local unit. As such, **in 2023, I implore you to consider our call to assist those who are less fortunate yet are being significantly affected by a changing climate.**

Opting for alternative sources of energy is a reasonable choice given the dangers resulting from the atmospheric build up of greenhouse gases emitted by fossil fuel usage. However, is it just as reasonable if low-income households may not be able to afford the switch to 100% solar energy or afford an electric car, for example?

As Christians, we are called to care for even the least of these (Matt 40:31-40) not to exclude the act of caring for God's creation. **Human consumption is estimated to cause approximately 45% of greenhouse emissions based solely on the production of things we use and buy every day** (article, State of the Planet, Renee Cho, December 16, 2020). Think about smaller, less wealthy countries that are subject to the detrimental effects of worldwide global warming yet are the least responsible.

Wildlife (Genesis 1:24) is being so seriously affected by warming temperatures which precipitate changes in habitat and can lead to eventual extinction. The polar bear population has continued to dwindle due to loss of sea ice with changes in weather. The giraffe population has been affected in Eastern Africa due to death by drought.

As a North Carolina Earthkeeper and member of United Women in Faith, I urge you to be kind and love the environment. Love as Jesus did by paying attention to the manner to how we care for our changing world. Share the good news!

If only 3% of the planet moves to continuously combat climate change it will begin to make a difference! (2019 United Methodist Creation Justice Summit, Nashville, TN) May our actions be an invitation to people of all genders, cultures, races - without discrimination - as we vow "to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church" and into the arena of creation care.

Pictures of Karlah are from planting trees in Greensboro & at Lake Junaluska last year. The sunflowers are from the Community Garden. Contact her to learn more & get involved (pg. 6).



Karlah Burton
District Nominations
Committee Member &
Chairperson of the Creation
Care Ministry/
Community Garden Project



United Women in Faith

232 Brassie Ln
Summerfield, NC 27358

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Purpose

The organized unit of United Methodist Women (UWF) 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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More Ways to Connect



Come learn about the national and international initiatives that benefit from Mission Giving, directly through the voices "from the field." In this interactive format, you'll hear firsthand from program leaders about their work, daily challenges, hopes and dreams.



Join us for monthly conversations with United Women in Faith, hosted by Jennifer R Farmer. Each month, we'll explore timely themes and resources, from expert insights on ways to live your faith to inspiring interviews with spiritual leaders.



Tune in to audio versions of some of the top articles from each issue of **response** magazine. Topics cover everything from spiritual growth and living our faith to reports on local, national and international work.



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: uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine

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



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 [clicking this link](#).



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, email Lily Pierce (pg. 6).

Joint District United Women in Faith Book Study #1

Saturday, February 4, 2023

10:00-11:30 am via Zoom!

HIDDEN FIGURES

By Margot Lee Shetterly



"Before a computer became an inanimate object and before Sputnik changed the course of history, before the Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education established that separate was in fact not equal, and before the poetry of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech rang out over the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, a group of black women working at the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory in Hampton, Virginia were helping America dominate aeronautics, space research, and computer technology, carving out a place for themselves as female mathematicians who were also black, black mathematicians who were also female. Hidden Figures is their story."

(Quoted from Hiddenfigures.com)

Hosted by the Northern Piedmont District and the Blue Ridge District Book Club, the facilitator for this study will be Sandra Williamson, past president of the Northern Piedmont District.

To register: Go to wnccumw.org/districtevents and scroll down to the Northern Piedmont or Blue Ridge box. You'll see the link to register for the book study there. Or just [click here](#).