



# Metro Media

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

## President’s Message

### Dear UWF Friends

Former National Geographic photographer Dewitt Jones remembers that his mother always told him to start each day with “a full cup”. Following his mother’s advice, Jones urges us to start each day by being thankful for our small blessings—a parking space, a crackling fire, a great meal, a glorious sunset, the melody of our favorite hymn, hot soup, cool shade, the distant peal of church bells, and so many other small gifts that we often take for granted.

United Women in Faith are thankful for small blessings, but we see the bigger picture as well. At the end of our proverbial days, it’s not our glasses that are full but our buckets! UWF members use their voices, energy, and giving to address huge issues facing society and the world at large. As Harriet Jane Olson, UWF General Secretary gets ready to retire, she looks back over the past 15 years, and describes UWF actions as, “Countless meals served, marches attended, workshops and of course meetings, touching hundreds of thousands and maybe millions of people around the world” (*response Magazine* March/April 39).

Let’s continue to work on the big projects, so that when we look into our buckets, we see all of our hard work reflecting not ourselves but Christ!

*Diann*

Diann P. Back  
Metro District President  
[dback@carolina.rr.com](mailto:dback@carolina.rr.com)  
704-846-8875



United  
Women  
in Faith

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**We believe love in action can change the world.**

Driven by God’s love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. Every day, we show up.

We take action. We get it done. **United Women in Faith.**

# 2023 Praise, Worship and Memorial Service

**Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church, 3445  
Beatties Ford Road Charlotte, NC 28216**

**Saturday, April 29, 2023,**

**Registration begins at 8:30 am, breakfast at 8:45 am and  
the worship service about 9:30 am.**

**Continental Breakfast** served at \$4.50 per person



In our ever-changing world, it takes a few moments of discernment to separate exhilarating, positive and beneficial transformations from those changes that could be more accurately considered revolutions. Through it all, God is always beside us to guide us. **Reverend, Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand** will bring us a message of “**United in Faith**” as we honor our sisters who have gone on to their heavenly reward and make sense of the many changes in our earthly world. **Reverend, Dr. Hand** is one of the Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Church Vitality Strategists.

Complete the Registration Form below to provide an attendance count for Communion packets as well as for the breakfast. The bishop’s guidelines will be followed for both distribution of the Fellowship Cups and collection of the Love Offering.

## 2023 Praise, Worship and Memorial Service

Registration should be **postmarked by April 20, 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church

\_\_\_\_\_  
Total Number Attending

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Number Attending Breakfast

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email and/or Cell Number

**Hands-on-Mission Project: 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

## Treasurer

Below is a summary of our 2022 Metro District giving.

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/ Designated Giving	6,492.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$83,427.67</b>

Our Western NC UWF Conference financial goal in 2023 is for each unit to increase their Mission Giving through the World Thank Offering channel by 10%. There are several suggested strategies for doing this. If you are interested in these suggestions, please contact me.

For those of you who make Love Offerings, the Western NC UWF 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. Your Gifts to Mission are making a difference for thousands of children, youth and women who depend on UWF for support! 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  
[silcasey@gmail.com](mailto:silcasey@gmail.com)

## Social Action

You can make a difference in a child's life whose mother is incarcerated while supporting the UWF initiative of Ending Mass Incarceration. The center for Mothers and Their

Children (MATCH) is a North Carolina organization that coordinates children visits with their mothers in a homelike setting, rather than a stark, crowded prison visitor's room. Participants often call the meeting location "Mom's apartment" because of the comfort it provides. MATCH Program Moms may have one three-hour visit with their children each month.

Visit the website below and learn how you can serve, advocate, and make a difference in a MATCH Mom and child's life.

<http://mothersandtheirchildren.org/>



Blessings,  
Loretta Wilson  
Metro District Social Action Officer  
[rettaorwilson@yahoo.com](mailto:rettaorwilson@yahoo.com)  
704-906-8252

## Mission Education & Interpretation

The 2023 Metro District Mission Study was held on Saturday March 4, at St. Stephen UMC. Martha Efird facilitated a lively discussion on the 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.

There was an excellent turnout with many positive comments from the attendees along with ideas on how to make future events more meaningful, enjoyable, and accommodating.

Thanks to all who attended and thank you St. Stephen, and their United Women in Faith for hosting the event and making us all feel very welcome.

Sylvia Sekle-Dueh  
Metro District MEI  
[Duch1409@gmail.com](mailto:Duch1409@gmail.com)

## Program Resources



The United Women in Faith Reading program is a cherished tradition for our organization. It brings members together to explore, discuss and share books. The books from the

UWF Reading Program Catalog are selected to expand our knowledge and to grow our appreciation and understanding of God and the world in which we live. According to the Reading Catalog the list of qualifying readings include:

*“captivating mysteries and heartfelt biographies to urgent messages about issues like immigration, racism, and mental healthcare, there’s something for everyone”*

Adults, youth and children will discover books on enlightening subjects in diverse genres including:

- Education for Mission
- Leadership Development
- Nurturing for Community
- Social Action
- Spiritual Growth

We are reminded that reading is not a solitary activity, especially in regard to the UWF Reading Program. These books, movies and podcasts are meant to be discussed, debated, and



explored to uncover their deeper meaning. They are also meant to be shared. Here are a few ways to expand the love of reading and learning, some of which you may already be doing:

**Start a Reading Program Book Club.** Meeting monthly or quarterly or on whatever schedule suits your group. Follow the traditional path where everyone reads the same book. Or try an alternative approach where members read different books from the list, then share what they read during the meeting.

**Read to others.** Reading a book from the reading list to a child or an older person provides

a double share of reading love as both the reader and the listener benefit. If this is of interest to you, Alliance Center for Education (AC4Ed) is looking for volunteers to read to the children served at their 12 sites in Charlotte. They would love to have our United Women in Faith volunteers read to the children and use the children's books that are part of the UWF Reading Program. If the children hear at least 5 books from the reading list, they are eligible to receive a certificate--and the volunteer reader also gets credit towards completing the 2023 Reading Program. If you are interested in volunteering, contact:

**Katie Wayne**

Director of Development  
Alliance Center for Education  
704-371-7401

[katie@ac4ed.org](mailto:katie@ac4ed.org)

### Give a Book, Take a

**Book:** If you have UWF Reading Program books that you have read and don't want to keep, bring them to any Metro

District event. There will

be a **Program Resource** table where you can give a book and take a book. Through the book exchange we share books with others, keep costs down and clear out the clutter all in one activity. The books must be part of the UWF Reading Program to qualify for the swap.



The Reading Program features books, movies, and podcasts. Here's the website address for the 2023 Reading Catalogue <https://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ReadingProgramCatalog2023.pdf>.

Contact me with your Reading Program questions as well as your ideas for sharing the love of reading and expanding the UWF Reading Program.

Donna Varner

Metro District Program Resources Coordinator

[Donnak1130@yahoo.com](mailto:Donnak1130@yahoo.com)

# 2023 Conference Events



## Spiritual Growth Retreat

Thursday, June 8 thru Saturday, June 10, 2023

Lake Junaluska

With Live Streaming

### Theme: Women Coming to Christ

Retreat Leader: Rev. Jan Brittain

Music Leaders: Rev. Mark Barden and Catherine Ritch

*Housing Reservations open for scheduling*

Check [Spiritual Growth Retreat 2023 | WNCC United Women in Faith \(wncumw.org\)](https://wncumw.org) for registration and program information.

Hands-on-Mission Project: UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kits, [UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kit - Global Ministries \(umcmmission.org\)](https://umcmmission.org)

## Mission u

July 13 -15, 2023

Pfeiffer University, Misenheimer, North Carolina

Passionate about missions?

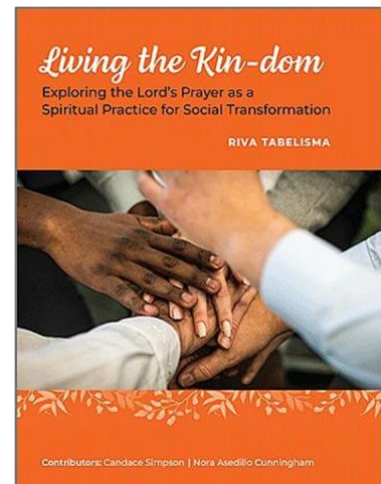
Love to learn?

Want to engage with others who are passionate about missions and learning?

**Then Mission u is right for you!**

Check <https://wncumw.org/> for registration and additional information on the event

Hands-on-Mission Project: TBD





## 2023 Metro District and WNCC UWF Events Calendar

### April 29

Metro District Praise, Worship and  
Memorial Service  
Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church  
3545 Beatties Ford Rd  
Charlotte, NC 28216  
*Hands on Project: Diapers & Wipes for AC4Ed*

### May 13 or Any Day Your Unit Chooses

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

### 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  
*Hands on Project: To be determine*

### 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

### October 1, 8, or 15

UBUNTU Days of Service  
Various Locations TBD

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## Walk for Missions – 2023



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Anytime is a wonderful time to gather with members of your unit for healthy recreation while supporting our mission projects. The annual Metro UWF Walk for Mission is fun for everyone, and you are encouraged to invite other ladies, men, youth, and children to join in the fun.

This year units have the flexibility to set the date, time, and location of their walks. With busy schedules, finding a convenient time for a district-wide event is tricky. Now units can pick a Walk for Missions date that works best for their members. Find a walking path in the church's neighborhood, or a local park that's around 2 to 3 miles, then promote your event and start recruiting walkers and sponsors.

Use the sponsor form on the next page to solicit and collect funds from your friends, family, and neighbors. Send your collected funds to District Treasurer, **Sylvia Casey, 7009 Summer Pl., Charlotte, NC 28213**. Make check payable to **Metro District UWF**.

Every dollar raised in the Walk for Mission is used to support the mission and ministries of The United Women in Faith of the Metro District.

### ***Have questions or need additional Sponsor Forms?***

Contact Martha Hyler [mkhyler@gmail.com](mailto:mkhyler@gmail.com) or 704-781-5505

# Walk for Mission 2023 Western North Carolina Conference United Women in Faith



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District Name.  Metro District

(Please print all information)

Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_

Walker's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Office use only

Total Pledge \$
# of Sponsors
Initial
Date

(Please print and make additional copies of this form as needed)

SPONSOR'S NAME	E-MAIL ADDRESS	\$ PLEDGED	\$ PAID

Send checks for the money collected to: District Treasurer, **Sylvia Casey, 7009 Summer Pl., Charlotte, NC 28213**. Make checks payable to Metro District UWF.

# 2023 Metro District Officers

## **President (2022-23)**

Diann Back  
9301 Whitethorn Dr.  
Charlotte, NC 28277  
(St. Stephen)  
704-846-8875  
[dback@carolina.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:snakcak3655@gmail.com)

## **Treasurer (2023-24)**

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

## **ME&I (2022-23)**

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

## **Spiritual Growth (2022-23)**

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

## **Social Action (2022-23)**

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

## **MN&O (2023-24)**

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

## **Program Resources (2023-24)**

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

## **Communications (2023-24)**

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

## **Parliamentarian**

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

## **Historian**

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

## **Nominations**

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

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

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

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

Earonita Strong (2026)  
1929 Crestdale Dr.  
Charlotte, NC 28216  
704-534-4387  
(Simpson-Gillespie)  
[stronge@carolina.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 point of contact and liaison with our local churches. Please welcome them when they contact you. Even with a designated Nurture Partner, the entire team is here to support you. Contact your Partner or any Metro Mission Team Officer with your questions, ideas, or concerns.