



Metro Media

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

President's Message

Dear UWF Sisters,

I'm a collector--not a hoarder, but over the years I've collected a few things. I'm in several book clubs, so often, members bring back bookmarks from trips and other adventures. It only took a few bookmarks for me to start collecting them. I now have a shoebox full of bookmarks representing all sorts of geographical places and historical events and personages. For the past decade or so, I've been collecting North Carolina pottery, more specifically pottery from Catawba Valley. Even more specifically, I collect pitchers by the Catawba Valley potters. One or two pitchers from the Seagrove potters and some other potters sneaked into the collection, but basically, I've focused on those potters who live near Lincolnton, NC.

I thought about my collections while I was at the Western North Carolina Conference UWF Annual Service in Lake Junaluska recently. After the Saturday evening service, there was a time of sharing when each district updated the audience on "all things UWF" in each district. In addition to being lots of fun, a great deal of information was shared that evening. After looking at some of the projects that are supported by UWF circles and units across each conference, I got the urge to collect again! This time, I'd like to collect all of the mission activities that go on in the Metro District. Would a representative from each circle/unit send me a list of the group's mission activities? No activity is too small to include on the list. Eventually, it would be nice to publish our list, so we can see how our UWF sisters are supporting missions through local activities. If the title of the activity is not self-explanatory, please add a couple of sentences describing it. You can email your list to me at dback@carolina.rr.com or mail it to me at the following address:

Diann P. Back
9301 Whitethorn Drive
Charlotte, NC 28277

I look forward to collecting a wonderful list of UWF creative endeavors!

Diann

Diann P. Back
Metro District President
dback@carolina.rr.com
704-846-8875

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United
Women
in Faith

Treasurer

Your continued faithfulness in support of the mission work of United Women in Faith is making a difference in the lives of others, both locally and globally. I deeply appreciate your support of me during my first year as the Metro District treasurer. I look forward to seeing you on November 5th to provide treasurer training and procedures. There is additional information on the training in this newsletter.

The Metro District continues to give generously to the mission work of United Women in Faith. Here's a breakdown of what we reported to the conference for the third quarter:

Undesignated Gifts	
Pledge to Missions	\$ 8,017.25
Special Mission Recognition	250.00
Gift to Mission	1,101.75
Gift in Memory	520.00
World Thank Offering	65.00
Walk for Mission	280.00
Total Undesignated Gifts	\$ 10,234.00
Designated Gifts	
Call to Prayer and Self-Denial	\$ 126.00
Alliance Center For Education	350.00
Legacy Fund	723.65
Total Designated Gifts	\$ 1,199.65

GREAT JOB METRO!!! THANK-YOU!!!

Please continue to stay strong and committed to UWF as we strive to return to our pre-pandemic routines and connections. Remember our 2023 Conference goal is to increase gifts to missions through the World Thank Offerings. I ask that you give spiritually to support the United Women in Faith Legacy Fund as well. The Legacy Fund is our highway to the next 150 years of service and mission work. We can take great pride in being fiscally responsible and being a volunteer community of women in Christ.

Sylvia Casey, Treasurer
sillcasey@gmail.com

Social Action

One of our Social Justice Priorities for this Quadrennium is Climate Justice, with a particular focus on the Just Energy for All campaign, which highlights the links between climate change and

social justice. The following quote speaks to the United Women in Faith's position on this critical issue.

“The adverse impacts of global climate change disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions. We therefore support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and call on individuals, congregations, businesses, industries, and communities to reduce their emissions.”

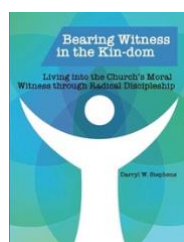
(UMC Social Principles 2016 General Conference). As you can see the United Methodist Church also focuses on climate change.

I'd like to make you aware of the work of Ilka Vega, Executive for Economic and Environmental Justice for United Women in Faith. She holds regular webinars on Just Energy for All which help to explain the impacts of rising temperature on our environment and our most vulnerable citizens. Her presentations are both enlightening and informative. Please use the link below to view Ilka Vega's webinars: <https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/just-energy-4-all/>

Blessings,
 Loretta Wilson
 Social Action Officer
 704-906-8252
rettaorwilson@yahoo.com

Metro Mission Study 2024

Highlight March 2, 2024, on your calendars for the Metro Mission Study featuring Rev. Amy Coles, Assistant to the Bishop for the Western



North Carolina Conference. As the study facilitator, Amy will be using the book **Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship**.



You don't want to miss Amy's insights and depth of knowledge on this book. The Mission Study will be held at the Pineville UMC, 110

Spiritual Growth

Wisdom in Proverbs

In ancient times the Greeks valued wisdom in the sciences and philosophy, while the Hebrews sought wisdom from God. The book of Proverbs is one of several wisdom texts in the Bible, which also include Job, Song of Songs and Ecclesiastes. The practical maxims of Proverbs remind us that true wisdom, the wisdom we need to righteously navigate the relationships of our daily lives, comes from God. Proverbs encourages us to see the world through God eyes as we do God's will.

Proverbs is not a book we traditionally read from during our regular spiritual experiences. It doesn't tell us what to believe nor does it outline the evils of idolatry. Instead, it serves to instruct, to be a guide to gaining practical wisdom and avoiding fools and foolish behavior. It is much like when a parent provides guidance to a growing child so that they may grow into a productive, God-fearing adult. Like a parent, Proverbs often repeats itself, saying the same things over and over in different ways until it becomes engrained. Let's not confuse knowledge and wisdom. Both of these words are used many times in Proverbs. The difference is that knowledge is the ability to acquire facts while wisdom is the ability to rightfully apply those facts.

According to Dr. Harold Wilmington of Liberty University, a proverb is "a short sentence drawn from long experience." To say it another way, each proverb takes the hard lessons learned over the course of an entire life and condenses it down into a single line or two of poetry. As with all scripture that may present new meaning each time we read it, so it is true for Proverbs. The verses may appear to be concise with self-evident meaning so that we read them quickly, moving to the next and the next. However, upon further reading, rereading, and contemplation, we begin to see the deeper wisdom God is offering to us. Take time with Proverbs. Let the

sage wisdom come to you through thoughtful reading and perspective.

Popular Proverb Verses

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. 3:5

The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. 1.7

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. 4.23

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger 15.1

One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless 14.6

End of Year Reports

End of year reports are an account of each unit's annual activities. This information is used for the district Annual Celebration to recognize the unit accomplishments and to track membership patterns. With the email of this newsletter are the six EOY forms for 2023, plus the 2024 officer list:

1. Justice Today Report
2. Membership Report
3. Mission Today Report
4. Mission Study Report
5. Reading Program Report
6. Local Hands-on Mission Report
7. 2024 Local Officer Report

Seven forms may feel overwhelming, however the amount of information requested is not extensive. When you receive these forms, take time to review each to assure you understand the instructions and identify the right person within the unit to complete the form. If you have questions regarding what is needed in the form, contact Diann Back, dback@carolina.rr.com who will help assure that the right information is submitted.

Metro District Spotlight: Providence United Methodist Church

Inspiration is an external creative impulse that gives us both confidence and the desire to take on a new idea or challenge. Inspiration can come from unexpected places, at unexpected times. That's what happened to the ladies at Providence UMC who were inspired by the Dahlonega UMC "Sewing Hearts Circle".

It started with a *response* moment during the Providence UMC UWF general meeting. The subject was the Dahlonega, GA Circle's mission to make and distribute heart shaped pillows. In the past three years, the Georgia Circle stitched, stuffed, and shared hundreds of heart-shaped pillows as a way to remind people they are loved. At the time of the article, more than 230 pillows had been given to each child in the church, plus others who attend church services. The Sewing Heart Circle also gave pillows to children's centers, homeless shelters, transitional housing for victims of abuse and a church in El Salvador. Pillows are free to anyone who asks and include a sewed-on pocket with a bookmark, Bible verse, or message of hope. What a meaningful mission from a dedicated group of ladies.

That single article showing the reach and impact of this Georgia Circle inspired Providence to start their own Heart Pillow program. Caroline Hare, who presented the original *response* moment contacted Kara Martina from Dahlonega to get the pattern and instructions. With that, the Charlotte group was off and running. Ladies from several Circles, plus members of the Stitching Diva's, Providence's small group for those who like, or want to learn how to crochet or knit, came forward to assist. Not all of those volunteers knew how to sew or crochet, however they showed up to help. And there was a job for everyone. Those who knew how to sew, did the sewing. Non-sewers could participate by cutting, stuffing, and packing. Heart Pillows brought UWF members of different ages and talents together with a common goal of sharing joy and comfort to those in need. It was also fun as the Providence group enjoyed fellowship and laughter working through the process of creating those initial pillows.



First batch of Providence's Heart Pillows

The team made over two dozen pillows which are now being given to shut-ins and those who are hospitalized. The Heart Pillows are a soft, cozy reminder that their church family's hearts and prayers are with them while they are unable to attend Providence in person. Extra pillows are available to the church ministers to distribute as needed, with more on the way.

Feeling inspired? Ready to transcend the ordinary and tackle a new challenge? You can start your own Heart Pillow mission by getting the heart pillow pattern from Kara Martina, from Dahlonega UMC at karamartina45@gmail.com. If you have questions about starting your own Heart Pillow group, contact Caroline Hare at cadhare@att.net.

Providence Cookie Walk

One of Providence's longest standing missions is their annual Cookie Walk. This event sells baked goods and craft items to raise funds for both UMAR, and their Haiti Medical Mission. In addition to raising money for missions, Cookie Walk is an opportunity for all the Providence Circles to work together while being an outreach to the community. This year the Cookie Walk is on Saturday, December 2, 2023, from at 9 am to 12 pm at PUMC, 2801 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211



Metro District and Western NC Conference UWF Calendar

2023 Calendar of Events

Oct. 7, 14, 28	Ubuntu Days of Service (various locations) All UWFaith members
Nov. 5	Metro District Local Officer Training (Virtual)
Dec 15	End of Year Reports Due – Metro District

2024 Calendar of Events

Mar. 2	Metro Mission Study, Pineville UMC
April 19-21	SEJ event, Chattanooga, TN All UWFaith Members
April 23-May 3	UMC General Conference, Charlotte, NC
April 27	Metro District Prayer Breakfast, North Davidson UMC
June 13-15	Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska All UWFaith Members
June 20-23	Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska
Aug. 2-3	Mission u, Catholic Conference Center, All UWFaith Members
Aug 24	Metro District Annual Celebration, Davidson UMC
Sept. 6-8	Annual Celebration, Lake Junaluska, All UWFaith Members
Oct. 19	Leadership Development Day, LDD All District Officers (Virtual)
Oct. 5,12, 26	Ubuntu Days of Service (various locations) All UWFaith Members

Quick Notes

Metro District Opportunities

There are unfilled positions on the 2024 Metro District Mission Council which the Nominations committee is seeking to fill. The first is Spiritual Growth Coordinator. This role provides spiritual inspiration to the district, coordinates with the Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator and is responsible for planning the annual Metro District Praise, Worship and Memorial service. There are also openings on the Nominating Committee. If you are interested or know someone who would be a good fit for either of these positions, contact Linda Davidson at lad6201@gmail.com for additional information and a full position description.

Local Officer Training for 2024

The annual Local Officer training for new and returning unit officers will be held on Sunday, November 5 from 2 to 4 pm. via Zoom. All unit officers should make plans to attend this afternoon session. Watch for additional information about the training as well as the Zoom link which will be sent to unit presidents for distribution to the local officers and mission coordinators. The training helps assure that Metro District local officers have the tools and information to be successful in their roles, as well as providing an opportunity for officers to meet others who have the same role at other churches.

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
METRO DISTRICT 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



New and returning Metro District committee members beginning January 2024

Office	Name	Address	Phone No.	E-mail Address
President	Diann P. Back (St. Stephen)	9301 Whitethorn Dr. Charlotte, NC 28277	704-846-8875 h 704-517-5436 c	dback@carolina.rr.com
Vice President	Earonita Strong (Simpson-Gillespie)	1929 Crestdale Dr. Charlotte, NC 28216	704-534-4387	stronge@carolina.rr.com
Secretary	Debbie Eudy (Memorial/Charlotte)	806 Eaglewood Ave. Charlotte, NC 28212	704-563-7195 h 704-759-4477 c	snakcak3655@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sylvia Casey (Simpson-Gillespie)	700 Summer Pl. Charlotte, NC 28213	704-596-3578	sil1casey@gmail.com
ME&I	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh (Hickory Grove)	212 Hunslet Circle Charlotte, NC 28206	704-606-5557	dueh1409@gmail.com
Spiritual Growth	OPEN			
Social Action	Loretta Wilson (Hickory Grove)	4221 Chatterleigh Dr. Monroe, NC 28110	704-906-8252	rettaorwilson2yahoo.com
MN&O	Martha Hyler (Harrisburg)	910 Lamar Rd. Concord, NC 28025	704-781-5505	mkyler@gmail.com
Program Resources	Donna Varner (St. Stephen)	1708 Nantuckett Ln. Apt. 105 Charlotte, NC 28270	704-779-9798	donnak1130@yahoo.com
Communications	Delta Sonderman (Providence)	4308 Emory Ln. Charlotte, NC 28211	704-302-3600	deltasson@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Lynda Morris (St. Stephen)	737 Pavilion View Dr. Apt. F305 Matthews, NC 28105	704-847-2521 h 704-619-2013 c	lfmorrisap@aol.com
Historian	Clifflena Tiah (North Davidson)	6725 Ridge Lane Road Charlotte, NC 28262	704-608-3564	clifflenatiah@gmail.com
Nominations	Linda Davidson, Ch. (Simpson-Gillespie)	6201 Spring Garden Ln. Charlotte, NC 28213	704-281-9565	lad6201@gmail.com
Member-at-Large	Sybil Long (Central/Charlotte)	8238 Terra Linda Ln. Charlotte, NC 28215	704-773-8678	sibyl.long@gmail.com
Member-at-Large	Louise Woods (Central/Charlotte)	1327 Cedarwood Ln. Charlotte, NC 28212	704-536-0335	lwoods@BellSouth.net
Member-at-Large	Judy Cline (Royal Oaks)	5215 Club View Dr. Concord, NC 28025	704-785-8027	jblacline@gmail.com
Member-at-Large	OPEN			
Conference Advisor	TBA			

2023 Metro District Officer

President (2022-23)

Diann Back
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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
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704-596-3578
sil1casey@gmail.com

ME&I (2022-23)

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

Spiritual Growth (2022-23)

OPEN

Social Action (2022-23)

Loretta Wilson
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MN&O (2023-24)

Martha Hyler
910 Lamar Rd.
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Communications (2023-24)

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Parliamentarian

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(St. Stephen)
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Historian

Loretta Wilson
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704-906-8252
rettaorrrwilson@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 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.