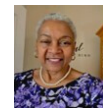


You're Invited to Leadership Development Day

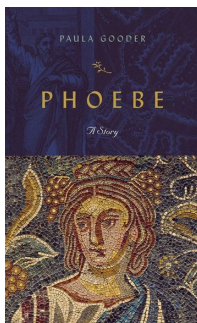
Greetings, United Women in Faith of the Northern Piedmont District. **I am elated to extend my sincere thanks to each of you for attending the District's 2023 Annual Celebration.** It was a wonderful event where we heard an inspiring message from the distinguished Dr. Irish Spencer and enjoyed the performance of "We Believe" by St. Matthews' Liturgical Art Ministry. During the business session, we received informative updates on the affairs of the Northern Piedmont District. None of this would have been possible without our gracious hosts, the ladies from St. Matthews UWF, who left no stone unturned to make us feel welcome.

Additionally, I would like to extend an invitation to all local unit leaders to attend the **Leadership Development Day on Sunday, November 5, 3 to 5 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church, 410 N. Holden Road in Greensboro.** I encourage all officers and anyone aspiring to serve in a leadership capacity to attend. We will have breakout rooms where you will receive detailed job descriptions for your leadership positions. To help us plan for your attendance, please register by [clicking here](#) or contact me (pg. 6).

Once again, thank you for your continuous support.



Your Sister in Christ,
Genevieve McCormick
District Vice President



What's Up With Acts? (Pajama Party Study on *Phoebe*)

- **Date & Time:** Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m. to 12 noon via Zoom
- **Registration:** [Click here](#) or contact Lily Pierce for a phone number to listen in on the call (pg. 6).

The hands-on mission for LDD is collecting socks, hats, gloves and scarves for those in need this fall/winter (or other needs on the Step Up & Reach Out list).

Have you ever read the Book of Acts? While many of us are at least familiar with the story behind Pentecost - when the Holy Spirit descended upon the early followers of Jesus and tongues of fire enabled them to speak different languages - I don't hear many sermons preached on Acts.

Most New Testament studies/messages focus on the Gospels OR Paul's letters. **Why is Acts often overlooked?** Maybe it's because the Gospels are rich with stories, Paul's letters are rich with theology, and Acts is rich with...well, Acts is a mixed bag. It might be loosely described as a travel log, though the book summarizes many years into less than 30 chapters. Theology comes up in the many sermons preached by Peter and Paul, which vary depending on their audience. And there are several encounters and miraculous healings that are reminiscent of the Gospels.

The book *Phoebe* by Paula Gooder is a historical fiction novel that tells the backstory of Phoebe delivering Paul's letter to the Romans and the aftermath. In this study, we will look at the Book of Acts along with the Book of Romans, exploring how these Biblical texts overlap with *Phoebe's* narrative. We'll also learn historical facts and discuss spiritual questions. **AND - IT'S A PAJAMA PARTY!** Come wearing your cutest, comfiest PJ's with coffee, tea, hot chocolate or your drink of choice.

Reading the book is not required to attend and learn something new about the Bible! Hope to see you there. (I apologize for changing the month from October to November due to Conference Zoom meeting scheduling conflicts.)

Lily Pierce
District
Communications



Table of Contents

Calendar, Bright Lights & District Celebration pics...pg. 2
Pres. & Tre. articles...pg. 3
SPR & Creation Care articles...pg. 4
Step Up & Reach Out list, MEI article & Social Action Workshop reflection...pg. 5
District contacts 2024 & important Communications note...pg. 6
Mission u reflection & former Pres. receives award...pg. 7



Conference & District Calendar 2023

- Oct. 7, 14 & 28 Conference-wide UBUNTU days
- Nov. 5 Leadership Development Day at Christ UMC, Greensboro
3 to 5 p.m. [Register here](#)
- Nov. 18 Book Study on *Phoebe: A Story* by Paula Gooder
10 a.m. to 12 noon facilitated by Lily Pierce - [Register here](#)



★ Bright Lights ★



Morehead UWF donated items to Room at the Inn (from the Step Up & Reach Out list).

St. Matthews UWF had a Women's Wellness Day in which the women participated in crafts, planting, spiritual growth, Bible bingo, skin care and line dancing. One of the components of UWF is Soul Care, so this year's theme for Women's Day was Women's Wellness.



At our **District Annual Celebration**, we celebrated last year's accomplishments and planned for next year's budget, Pledge to Mission, etc. We also heard a rousing message from Dr. Irish Spencer, ate and fellowshiped, saw a liturgical dance by ladies from St. Matthews UMC, and inducted our 2024 team of District officers. Thanks again to the St. Matthews unit for hosting us.

Gideon Grove UWF hosts a monthly free community meal called "Wonderful Wednesday." In September, the menu was spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert and drinks. Donations were accepted for Good Samaritan Ministries of Stokesdale.



Send stories & photos to npdistrictunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com

Looking Back & Looking Forward

WOW! It is hard to fathom that I am wrapping up my first year as District President!

Over the past year, we have seen challenges and we continue to embrace them to serve our purpose.

We had two book studies that have informed and enlightened us with lively discussion. We celebrated those women that have gone on before us at our Spiritual Renewal Gathering and celebrated the District's accomplishments at the Annual Meeting (District Celebration). At our Conference Annual Celebration, we showed how the ladies of the Northern Piedmont District were the hands and the feet of Jesus with our mosaic. Our former president Sandra Williamson was the honoree of the dedication for the Annual Program Booklet! (See more on pg. 7)

We have events coming up and I encourage everyone to attend. I have a milestone birthday coming up and knowing how long I have been a member of United Women in Faith (previously United Methodist Women) I still learn something new all the time, no matter if it is in my personal life or spiritual life. **One thing I know that has remained is that we as United Women in Faith continue to advocate for women, children and youth around the world.** I hope we all go into the next year with a renewed determination and focus on our passion and purpose.



Kelli Smith
District President

Overcoming Through Faith

It seems almost impossible that the fourth quarter of our 2023 United Women in Faith year has already begun. Although our third quarter was not at all as we hoped, *giving has not stopped* and we can celebrate the fact that we are still giving our Mission money to support women, children and youth around the world.

Our total amount sent to the Conference Treasurer through the third quarter was \$34,018.

Undesignated Giving totaled \$28,580, which is applied to our 2023 Pledge to Mission of \$70,000. Remember that **the United Women in Faith fiscal year ends November 30th.** Your Unit Treasurer will be sending all reports and monies to me by that date.

Fourth quarter is historically our largest quarter in Undesignated Giving. As all units seek to complete the five channels of Undesignated Giving, be in prayer that the Northern Piedmont District can meet our annual Pledge to Mission. Given the tremendous hurdle we have to climb in order to meet our pledge, **please encourage your unit to, with God's grace and mercy, meet and/or exceed their pledge this year.** God gives us difficulties to bring out the best in us!

Our District has contributed \$1,216 to the **Legacy Fund** through the third quarter. Of course, this amount does not include contributions made online directly to National Office. Let's continue to strive and ensure United Women in Faith Missions will survive to serve future generations.

We had a wonderful attendance at our **District Annual Meeting/Celebration.** The program was beautiful! We had a magnificent guest speaker, inspiring praise dancing, a detailed, informative District Treasury report, important updates from various committees, and installation of new District Officers. Many of our units may be small in the number of members, but we are all big in heart and in working for United Women in Faith. **Our undesignated love offering was \$817.02.** Thank you for your generosity! Let us remember the pennies those eight women in Boston saved to send the first two Women's Foreign Missionary Society ladies to India. If they took such action in 1869, just think what we can do in 2023! Please continue the hard work they so diligently started!

Many local units are feeling discouraged, saying member numbers are down, members are getting older, and giving has decreased. Jesus said: *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am among them."* We must think about all the lives we have touched through our many Mission gifts over the years, no matter how small.

Many women, children and youth around the world are so grateful for our efforts! **Let's continue the Legacy of United Women in Faith as we proudly carry on the tradition!** Blessings for a great fall and winter season!



Constance (Connie) Holland
District Treasurer

In 2024 We're Reading More!



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

"...for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her." Proverbs 8:1-21 "The Gifts of Wisdom"... Scriptural basis for the Reading Program.

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 grow our appreciation and understanding of God and our world!

The Reading Program features books, movies and podcasts. [Click here to see the 2024 Reading Program Catalog](#) or visit www.uwfaith.org and search "reading program." For 2024, books from 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 Reading Program lists are all eligible for Reading Program reporting credit - **visit <https://bit.ly/RPBookList> to download a spreadsheet of all eligible books.** Listening to 2+ *Faith Talks* podcast episodes gives one credit in the Spiritual Growth category. Listening to 2+ *Voices from the Field* podcast episodes gives one credit in the Education for Mission category. Reading **response** magazine for one year (six issues) gives one credit in the Nurturing for Community category. Several movies and bonus books are also eligible for credit. Remember to submit your reports to the District to be recognized for completing one of the reading plans.

New in 2024: intergenerational book pairings to encourage an adult and a youth to read about the same subject. Also, **visit www.bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith to buy almost any RP book while donating 10% of your purchase to our organization!!**

Finally, as we are winding down 2023 and gearing up for 2024, I wanted to say we have some awesome books, and **my 2024 challenge is for all of us to read one more book.** Please let me know if you have any questions.



Cheryl Little
District SPR

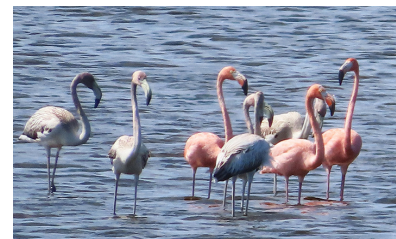
"A Play on Birds" - Creation Care Moment in Mission

Hurricane Idalia "blew in" on August 30, 2023, and "blew out" more than one dozen pink flamingos! The storm drove the birds as much as 1000 miles off course, landing at the Outer Banks of North Carolina. This was reportedly the first confirmed sighting of the tropical species in the wild in our state - a feathery milestone. The birds made their "hide out" at Pea Island Wildlife Refuge on Hatteras Island, NC (News & Record, Tickled Pink, 9/13/23).

American Flamingos breed in the Caribbean and Mexico though were once indigenous to Florida. At the turn of the 20th century, the species became virtually extinct due to hunting and habitat destruction. According to the North Carolina Audubon Society, more recently flamingos have shown up in places like Texas and Florida following storms. Idalia also sent flamingos as far north as Ohio. Researchers tracked the origin of the wind-driven flock to Cuba and the northern coast of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula where the hurricane lingered for days before moving toward Florida.

The future of the flamingo is uncertain given the era of global warming, climate change, and habitat destruction. An increase in global temperature, albeit a small amount, has made a big difference. By now some flamingos have likely headed back down south, but others may have opted to stay since food sources and habitat are available here.

Please visit the Serve and Advocate section of the UWF website, unitedwomeninfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/just-energy-4-all/, for more information on the Just Energy 4 All Campaign. The UMC Book of Social Principles, 2016 General Conference states, "The adverse impacts of global climate change disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions." As members of the organized unit of United Women in Faith, **I challenge you to walk in the way of Jesus Christ - consider and act on behalf of the least in the world community - including our wildlife.**



May the peace of Christ be with you!
Karah Y. Burton
District Nominations Committee Member
Chairperson, Creation Care Ministry/
Community Garden Project (SMUMC)
United Methodist Earthkeeper



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 & housewares
- Cleaning products
- Baby wipes
- Pull-ups size 2T-3T

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
- Large trash bags

Community Outreach of Archdale (food pantry) 10607 N. Main St, Archdale, 336-431-3663

- Soups
- Jelly
- Spaghetti sauce
- Canned food/fruit
- Any breakfast items
- Single serve snacks (for the Backpack Program)

Bennett College (UMC-supported women's college) 900 E. Washington St, Greensboro, 919-973-8457

- Microwaveable meals like Chef Boyardee
- Bottled water & juice
- Feminine hygiene products
- Body wash & lotion

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

- Help: sewing clothes for children in a South African orphanage
- Give: children's underwear

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

- Bottled water
- Juice boxes
- Pudding
- Fruit cups
- Microwaveable meals like Chef Boyardee
- Granola bars

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

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

YWCA Family Shelter 1807 E. Wendover Ave. Greensboro, 336-773-9766

- Bottled water
- Drink mix for tea or lemonade
- Laundry detergent
- 55 gal trash bags
- 13 gal trash bags
- Cleaning supplies (esp. Clorox wipes)
- Snacks
- Socks, scarves & hats

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



Much love, my sisters!
Rynn McGee-Pierce,
District MEI

“We are family/ I got all my sisters with me”

I love reunions and parties because they are a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and share that special “family love.” The District Annual Celebration did not disappoint, sisters! What a fantastic time we had together at St. Matthews UMC as we celebrated the accomplishments of our Northern Piedmont District.

We collected an assortment of items for hands-on Mission including school supplies, period kits and socks, which will be distributed along with the donations brought to Raleigh's Crossroads UMC on Sept. 30.

Fall is here, and we are already feeling a sample of the chilly weather which is coming. While we have warm cozy homes and blankets to snuggle under, let's remember those who may not have the luxuries which we so often take for granted.

Think about this: *it might be hard to believe that Jesus loves you if you are shivering and hungry.* So **check out the Step Up & Reach Out list for some suggestions on how to help in your community.** And please let me know of other Missions which we might add to our list. You know, those cold hungry folks are family, too!

Our Social Action Workshop about climate justice on Sept. 30 was awesome! We discussed the effects of climate change on our environment and how it worsens air quality on earth, leading to allergies, breathing problems, etc. We also learned about the dangers of plastic - it doesn't hurt to use regular plates! The workshop fell within the UMC's Season of Creation. Thank you to those who attended in person and/or via Zoom. We had about 40 ladies. To God be the glory for the great things He has done!

Mary Lou Webster
District Social Action



Some of the ladies who attended



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

District Officers for 2024

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

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Membership Nurture & Outreach

TBD

Secretary of Program Resources

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Patricia Holland, Class of 2025
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Brenda Mebane, Class of 2026
Mt. Tabor, Greensboro

Penny Simpson, Class of 2026
Camp Springs, Reidsville

Historian

TBD

Parliamentarian

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336-847-7296
ggbledsoe@northstate.net

A note to those on Medicare: many Medicare recipients now have a quarterly benefit to get \$75 in medical items FREE from CVS Pharmacy. Last month, I used part of mine to buy tampons and pads for Bennett College. Visit www.cvs.com/otchsplans/ or call 1-888-628-2770.



Ladies, please fill out year-end reports so we don't waste one hard-earned dime on sending newsletters to those who do not want/read them!! The easiest way for me to get your info is to send as a spreadsheet ([click here for an example](#)). You can use Google Sheets or Microsoft Xcel. Bonus: non-officers may be added to the list to receive this newsletter via email! If you can't deal with technology, contact Kelli to send physical forms. Don't hesitate to email, call or text me if you have questions!! -Lily

District Deaconesses	Ruth Williamson, 336-613-1607 1610 Lindsay Bridge Rd. Madison, NC 27025 rwilliamson@wnccumc.net
	Eloise Moore 4626 Village Square Court Greensboro, NC 27409 jimnella@aol.com
	Renee Hayes, 336-707-2980 6903 Fairview Church Rd. Trinity, NC 27370 renee.hayes1956@gmail.com



Reflections on Mission u

Submitted by Karlah Burton of St. Matthews UWF

United Women in Faith members prepare for faithful living and action by engaging in transformative educational experiences annually at Mission u events. These are centered around a curriculum that is designed to motivate, inform and enrich our commitment to global ministry. **If you have never attended, please make plans to join us at Mission u 2024** as we explore the good news of Jesus Christ and what it means for our lives.

The 2023 Mission and Retreat Study Leaders: Deaconess Renee Hayes, a previous Mission u Youth Camp Leader, also works with Gifts of Grace Ministries in Mission to Lithuania; Sherry Sink, program Advisory Group member, has led mission studies for both youth and adults and has served in various UMW/UWF Conference and District offices; Worship Leader Laurin Allred, leads youth and young adult ministries at Guilford College UMC, Greensboro - She is a band member (Champagne and Kevlar) and proud mother of two boys.

Over the course of two days participants were invited to quiet time in the Chapel, Saturday morning devotion, to donate UMCOR kits, and travel the stations of the cross! The mission study was combined with arts & crafts activities, dramatic performance/skits and other visuals. **My favorite part was the discussion of various versions of the Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13, including a King James, New International (personal choice) and Aramaic/English translation.** We learned that the Aramaic translation is most likely what Jesus taught during his Sermon on the Mount -

Abwoon d'bwashmaya
(O Birther Father-Mother of the Cosmos.)

Nethqadash shmakh
(Focus your light within us-make it useful.)

Teytey malkuthakh
(Create your reign of unity now-)

Newey tzevyananch aykanna d'bwahmaya
aph b'arha
(Your one desire then acts with ours, as in all light, so in all forms.)

Hawvlan lachma
d'sunqanan yaomana
(Grant what we need each day in bread and insight.)

Wahboqlan khaubayn
(*wakhtahayn*) *aykanna*
daph khnan shbwoqan
l'khayyabayn
(Loose the cords of mistakes binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' of guilt.)

Wela tahlan l'nesyuna
Ela patzan min bisha
(Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back.)

Metol dilakhie malkutha
wahayla wateshbukhta
l'ahlam almin. Ameyn.
(From you is born all ruling will, the power and the life to do, the song that beautifies all, from age to age, it renews. Truly-power to these statements - may they be the ground from which all my actions grow: Amen.)

A Special Moment From Conference Annual Celebration



At this year's Conference Annual Celebration, the dedication of the Annual Report Book went to former NP District President Sandra Williamson. This book is created each year to highlight activities in our UWF Conference (including each of the six Districts) and is dedicated to one woman from the Conference, selected by a committee. The recipient gets a diamond-studded Special Mission Recognition pin, and the Conference sends a \$1000 donation in her honor for Undesignated Mission Giving to the National Office.



(L to R) Lynne Gilbert, Betty Durham, Laquetta Barbee, Albertina McGirt, Renee Hayes, Karlah Burton, Sherry Sink



United Women in Faith

232 Brassie Ln
Summerfield, NC 27358

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Purpose

The organized unit of United Women in Faith 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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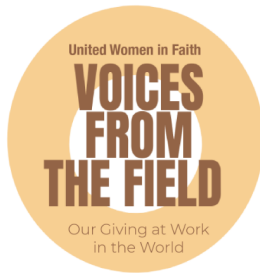


youtube.com/c/uwomenfaith



twitter.com/uwomenfaith

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.

visit uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts



response, the magazine for United Women in Faith, 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.

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



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.



UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) provides cleaning, hygiene and menstrual 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: umcmmission.org/relief-supplies. (not needed currently)

Legacy Fund Information:

Visit our website at wncumw.org/legacyfund



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).