

July 2024

Women Talk



United
Women
in Faith

Smoky Mountain District † United Methodist Women † Western North Carolina Conference



Smoky Mountain District United Women in Faith
Annual Celebration
Living Water: Joy Like a Fountain
Virtual via Zoom
August 17 — 10:00 AM



Preparing for 2025

Election of District Leadership
Approval of our Pledge to Mission
Approval of our Administrative and Membership Development Funds
Updates from General Conference

Celebrating 2023

Summary of Mission Giving
Putting Faith into Action: Local Units

What comes to mind when you think of “Living Water”? A mountain stream flowing over rocks? A bubbling spring, cold and refreshing? Christ promises in John 7:38 that rivers of living water will flow from within those who believe in Him.

Sisters in faith, we have that living water within us, and there is a thirsty world crying out for a drink. Jesus didn't say living water would trickle from within us. Jesus said rivers will flow. Do we believe Him?

Ephesians 2:10 tells us we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works prepared for us in advance by God. We have steps to take so we can do those good works. We have officers to elect and a budget to approve.

We will also discuss updates from General Conference and their impact on United Women in Faith.

Registration is free but required. The registration link is found below.

Peace and all good things,
Lisa Bacon, SMD President

lisabacon304@gmail.com / 828-586-8399 (home) / 828-226-2433 (cell)

Registration link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctceirrDgiHNy5ltFberOk_mgmWdf2kC05

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER THAT I'D BE INTERESTED IN?

- Page 1—Smoky Mountain District UWFaith Annual Celebration on August 17th (virtual).
- Page 2—A Table of Contents...so you can find the things you really want to find first!...plus our Mission Statement and a special thought.
- Page 3—Greetings from your District Treasurer and Ways to Give to the Legacy Fund.
- Page 4—United Women in Faith News and Free Money for First-Timers.
- Page 5—Report of the District Committee on Nominations.
- Page 6—Proposed Budget for 2025 and 2023 Five Channels of Giving Summary
- Page 7—Reading List Books Available!
- Page 8—Western North Carolina Conference Mission u Retreat, August 2 + 3.
- Page 9—Highlights of Day Apart: Living Water: Peace Like a River
- Page 10—The 2024 SMD UWFaith Executive Team and PAG Listing.
- Page 11—Nurturing Partners for 2024, District Love Offering, and communications tips.
- Page 12—SMD & WNCC Calendar of Events

MISSION STATEMENT OF UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

**Sometimes the Lord calms the storm; sometimes
He lets the storm rage and calms His child.**

* * * * *

*“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

-- Philippians 4:7 NIV

Greetings from your District Treasurer:

Thank you for giving to United Women in Faith. Our total giving for Quarter 2 was \$8,307.62. Included in that giving is \$400 received for Love Offering and \$77 for Program Resources received at the Fantastic Smoky Mountain Day Apart District meeting. Giving is a privilege – a gift of God’s grace. ...from United Women in Faith in Mission. Our Conference Love Offering theme is A Gift of Mission in honor of future generations of women, children, and youth. You can give the Love Offering at the 2024 Annual Celebration in September or send to our Conference Treasurer, Bess Redmond. The deadline for your remittance for Quarter 3 will be August 27th. It is a pleasure to be on the Smoky Mountain team!

Kim Shafer, SMD District Treasurer
281 Valley View Terrace
Waynesville, NC 28786-4531
kimshaferuwfsm@outlook.com
Phone: (704) 965-2022



We are apart BUT STILL TOGETHER! JOIN US for our Smoky Mountain District Annual Celebration on Saturday, August 17th at 10:00am via Zoom. It's really not difficult, and you can find details on page 1,5+6 of this newsletter. If Zoom is not your thing, call one or two of your friends and see if you can get together to participate via one computer screen. We Need YOU!

Ways to Give to the Legacy Fund

- ◇ Make a gift to the Legacy Fund through your local unit United Women in Faith treasurer.
- ◇ Make a one time donation or consider becoming a Legacy Builder by giving a monthly gift of \$18.69 or more.
- ◇ Use our Western North Carolina Conference Legacy Commitment Form, available on our website at www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund.
- ◇ Online on the national office website at <https://uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund/>
- ◇ **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 am—6 pm EST, M-F)
- ◇ **By check:** note “Legacy Fund” in memo line & mail to: United Women in Faith, Attn: Legacy, Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10017.
- ◇ **Other methods** include gifts of stock, life insurance, bequests, and other forms of planned giving. If you are interested in making a gift like this, contact the national office at 800-278-7771.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS:

It was a joy to learn that 18 of the 19 resolutions presented by United Women in Faith at General Conference were approved. These resolutions included calls to action on racial and climate justice, gender equality, protecting the girl child and supporting deaconesses and home missionaries.

We celebrate that the bans on gay clergy and same sex wedding ceremonies were lifted and that the anti-gay language was removed. It was also made clear that no church or clergy would be asked to serve against their convictions.

The voting members show that the United Methodist Church is no longer divided. Those who attended shared at Annual Conference about the willingness to listen to each other and to move the church forward. We will all seek to live out Jesus' command to love one another and to love God as scripture tells us.

We have faith and we offer hope to women, children and youth at home and around the world but are we putting love into action? Are we letting the world know what Women in Faith are about and how we support women? How are we acting on the resolutions we support? If you want to know more about the resolutions, check out the March/April issue of *response* magazine.

Debbie Ray, Past District President
Phone: 828-400-3499



Free Money for First-Timers!

Yes, you read that correctly. **A woman who attends a Conference United Women in Faith event for the first time can apply for a stipend to cover expenses.** Eligible events include the Spiritual Growth Retreat (Lake Junaluska), Mission u (in Hickory this year), and Annual Celebration (Lake Junaluska). A first-time attendee can apply to be reimbursed for such fees as registration fee, mileage, and lodging. These stipends often go unclaimed because a potential applicant thinks, "Oh, I can only attend part of the meeting." Or "What if I register and then am not able to attend?" Apply anyway! Come for as much of the event as you can and don't worry about the rest. If you register and then are not able to attend, the registration fee will still be covered.

We really want to encourage first-timers because first-time attendees often become regular attendees.

For Mission u, apply for the stipend by July 20. For Annual Celebration, apply by August 30.

To request an application form, contact Lisa Bacon at

lisabacon304@gmail.com / 828-586-8399 (home) / 828-226-2433 (cell)

Report of the District Committee on Nominations

The District Committee on Nominations regrets to report there are no nominees for any vacant office for 2025. Obviously, this raises serious concerns, and all prayers are covered. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at our virtual Annual Celebration on August 17, 2024.

Offices to be voted on at the meeting are **bolded** with an asterisk. Vacancies are listed in **red**. Continuing officers are listed in black.

***President – Lisa Bacon (Cullowhee) (2025-2026, 2nd term)**

Vice President –

Secretary – Nancy Jo Willis (Murphy First) (2024-2025, 1st term)

Treasurer – Kim Shafer (Waynesville First) (2024-2025, 1st term)

Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth –

Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach –

Mission Coordinator for Social Action – Kim Shafer (Waynesville First) (2024-2025, 1st term)

Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation -

Secretary for Program Resources –

Communications Coordinator -

Committee on Nominations

***Chairperson – Esther Manchester (Murphy 1st) (Class of 2025)**

Class of 2025 – Velma Zeek (District at Large)

Class of 2026 –

Class of 2026 –

Class of 2027 –

Class of 2028 –

**“Be brave and don’ t lose heart,
Because your work will be rewarded!
-- 2 Chronicles 15:7**

United Women in Faith Smoky Mountain District
PROPOSED BUDGET 2025

PLEDGE TO MISSION

\$ 30,000.00

ADMINISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (A & M D)

OFFICER EXPENSES:

Postage	\$	100	
Supplies		200	
Telephone		0	
Travel (mileage)		50	
Printing (letters, handouts, etc.)		0	
Total Officer Expenses			\$ <u>350</u>

MEETING EXPENSES:

District Annual Meeting	\$		
District Prayer Breakfast		300	
District Officer Training		500	
Other District Events & GTM Cards			
Total Meeting Expenses			\$ <u>800</u>

OTHER EXPENSES:

Newsletter 1) Printing & Postage	\$	150	
Newsletter 2) Postage		40	
Resources and Literature		400	
SMR, GTM, & GIM		200	
Local Women Stipend (3) <small>(3 first-timers to Conference events)</small>		450	
Miscellaneous		50	
Total Other Expenses			\$ <u>1,290</u>

TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES – A & M D

\$ 2,440

FYI: Smoky Mountain District 2023 Five Channels of Giving

1. Pledge to Mission	\$ 27,007.60
2. Special Mission Recognition	\$ 800.00
3. Gift to Mission	\$ 1,009.71
4. Gift in Memory	\$ 1,435.00
5. World Thank Offering	\$ 1,780.70
6. <u>Walk for Mission</u>	\$ 1,587.84
Total Undesignated Gifts	\$ 33,620.85

READING PROGRAM BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE!!

A number of books from the current reading plan are available for purchase. To obtain a copy from the list below, please email me at nmhwatkins@gmail.com. First come, first serve! We will work out pickup/delivery or shipping, depending on your location.

Nancy Watkins, District Program Resource Coordinator (Phone: 828-550-5927)



Reading List Books Available!

The following books from our reading program are available for purchase by contacting Nancy Watkins at nmhwatkins@gmail.com. First come, first serve! Delivery/pickup or shipping can be arranged.

More information on each title can be found at <https://uwfaithresources.org/>.

Education for Mission

Born on the Water by Hannah Jones-Nikole - \$10.00 (2024) Suitable for children

Let Your Light Shine by Ali Smith - \$15.00 (2024)

Gum Moon by Jeffery Staley - \$10.00 (2021)

Leadership Development

Fierce Love by Dr. Jacqui Lewis - \$13.00 (2024)

Cinderella Liberator by Rebecca Solnit - \$10.00 (2021-22) Suitable for older children

Which way Lord? by Rob Fuquay - \$5.00 (2020)

Vital Voices by Alyse Nelson - \$14.00 (2020)

Nurturing for Community

The Loneliness Epidemic by Susan Mettes - \$10.00 (2024)

The ABCs of Diversity by Carolyn Helsel - \$15.00 (2024)

Becoming Grandma by Lesley Stahl - \$8.00 (2022)

The Boy Who Delivered Joy by Marvin Bartlett - \$7.00 (2022)

The Bird Boys by Lisa Sandlin - \$5.00 (2021)

#RU Hooked: Teens and Social Media by Jonathan Smith - \$3.00 (2020)

The Life and Ministry of Mary Webster edited by Anne Mathews-Younes - \$9.00 (2020)

Spiritual Growth

Glory in the Margins by Nikki Grimes - \$20.00 (2024)

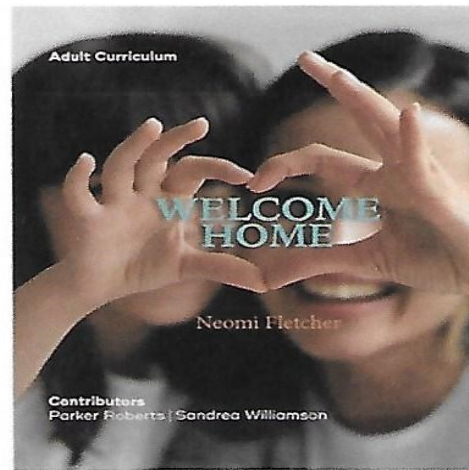
Why Do I Feel Like This? by Peace Amadi - \$10.00 (2024)

The Cure for Sorrow by Jan Richardson - \$16.00 (2024)

Until Unity by Francis Chan - FREE

*The Kin-dom
is among you*

**Drawing Closer to God
and One Another**



Western North Carolina Conference Mission u 2024 Retreat

August 2-3, 2024

**The Catholic Conference Center
Hickory, North Carolina**

[Click for Registration & Complete Information](#)

Online registration is OPEN thru July 25th

Join us for Mission u 2024!

Adult Mission Study:

(Resident & Nonresident Participants)

Welcome Home

Meet our Study Leaders

[Read more on our website!](#)

Nancy Litton

Assistant Dean, and Study Leader



Martha Efird

Study Leader



Sylvia Sekle-Dueh

Study Leader



Micheline Mathews

Study Leader



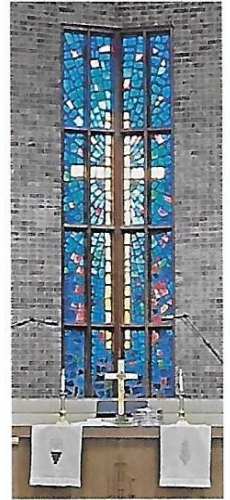
Highlights of Day Apart: Living Water: Peace Like a River



Make & Take Prayer Beads



Speaker Dr. Pati Graham



Lectio Divina



Pray & Color



My Body in Prayer



Hands-on Mission: Food Pantry Items

May 4, hosted by Robbinsville UW Faith

SMD United Women in Faith
Nurturing Partners 2024

Nurturing Partner	NP Contact Info	UW Faith Unit
Lisa Bacon	lisabacon304@gmail.com 828-226-2433	Bryson City, Love's Chapel, Sylva First, Webster
Debbie Ray	wrray@charter.net 828-400-3499	Beaverdam, Canton First, Canton Central, Fincher's Chapel, Rockwood, Shady Grove
Laurel Bevill	laurelbev@icloud.com 828-456-5528	Clyde Central, Maple Grove
Velma Zeek	vzeek56@frontier.com 828-369-5782	Andrews, Franklin First
Esther Manchester	ehm1@yahoo.com 828-226-7481	Oak Forest, Ranger, Robbinsville, Tomotla
Ellynn Stonebraker	jumperlady21@gmail.com 828-524-8787	Cullowhee, Hayesville First, Murphy First
Julie Leatherwood	leatherwoodjulie@gmail.com 828-926-1641	Maggie Valley, Waynesville First
Judy Starnes	starnes.judy@gmail.com 828-452-3548	Cruso, Elizabeth Chapel
Nancy Watkins	nmhwatkins@gmail.com 828-550-5927	Crabtree

1. *Have you changed your email address recently? If Yes, please let us know at smdcommcoor@gmail.com.*
2. *Have you added email to your list of communication tools? If Yes, please let us know.*
3. *Why? So you won't miss any important SMD UMW info and we can save on postage! THANKS!*

District Love Offerings:

We invite you to give generously to your district love offering. Your Mission Giving continues the work of United Women in Faith, making a difference, every day, in the lives of women, children and youth around the world. **Thank you for your support of Mission Giving!** Every single dollar makes a difference!

You may give to your district love offering in a couple of ways:

- ♦ **Make an online donation using the special link for your district found on the District Events 2024 page at wnccumw.org.** Each district has a unique link so that we can give your district credit for your gift.
- ♦ **Mail a check to your District Treasurer (Kim Shafer),** made payable to United Women in Faith, and designated as District Love Offering. We will share those addresses during the meetings, and you will also be able to find them in a recent newsletter for your district on your district's page of our website.

DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT US IF YOU NEED ANYTHING!

United Women in Faith 2024 Smoky Mtn. District Exec. Team & Program Advisory Group

President:

Lisa Bacon (Cullowhee)
1028 Old Cullowhee Road
Sylva, NC 28779
Phone: 828-226-2433
Email: lisabacon304@gmail.com

Vice President:

[Open]

Secretary:

Nancy Jo Willis (Murphy First)
310 Cassady Lane
Murphy, NC 28906
Cell Phone: 850-428-3636
Email: smdcommcoor@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Kim Shafer (District)
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Kim Shafer (District)
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Email:
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Education & Interpretation:

[Open]

Spiritual Growth:

[Open]

Membership, Nurture & Outreach:

[Open]

Program Resources:

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Communications Coordinator:

[Open]

Parliamentarian:

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Franklin, NC 28734
Phone: 828-524-8787
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Historian:

[Open]

Newsletter Editor

[see N J Willis under Secretary]

Nurturing Partner Coordinator & Conference Liaison

Debbie Ray (Waynesville 1st)
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Phone: 828-400-3499
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Nominations Chairperson:

Velma Zeek (South Macon)
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Otto, NC 28763
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Nominations:

Esther Manchester (Murphy First)
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Brasstown, NC 28902
Phone: 828-226-7481
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Gail Powell (Elizabeth Chapel)

129 Paige Lane
Clyde, NC 28721
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Legacy Liaison:

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Program Advisory Group

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Carol Harper (South Macon)

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Sondra Shepherd (Waynesville 1st)

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Fannie Watson (Oak Forest)

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fanniewatson313@yahoo.com

1/27/2024

Nancy Jo Willis
Secretary & Newsletter Editor, SMD
310 Cassady Lane
Murphy, NC 28906

TO:



United
Women
in Faith

2024 UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CONFERENCE & DISTRICT EVENTS

WNCC UWF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 2-3	Mission u, Catholic Conference Center, Hickory, NC
Sept. 6-8	Annual Celebration, Lake Junaluska
Oct. 5, 19, 26	Ubuntu Days of Service—multiple locations
Oct. 19	District Leadership Development—Virtual at 10:00 am

SMD UWF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 17	SMD Annual Celebration (virtual)
November 2	SMD Missions Festival (Crabtree UMC)