



United
Women
in Faith

Western North Carolina

Blue Ridge District Newsletter United Women in Faith

Purpose: UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and 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.

Leadership Development Day November 2nd, 2024 – Zoom

To register, go to wncumw.org, click on Districts and then District Events 2024, find the Blue Ridge pink box, click on Zoom LDD (Leadership Development Day) and then Zoom Registration Link.

Book Study (Rescheduled) November 16th, 2024 – Zoom

To register, go to wncumw.org, click on Districts and then District Events 2024, find the Blue Ridge pink box, click on Zoom Book Study and then Zoom Registration Link.



2024 Blue Ridge District Leadership Team

Blue Ridge District United Women in Faith 2024 OFFICERS

<p><u>President:</u> Gwen Harris (Windom) 215 Grand View Lane Burnsville, NC 28714 (828) 682-4589 gwenaharris68@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Vice President:</u> Lucy Earls (Oak Grove) 913 Race Path Church Rd. Ellenboro, NC 28040 (828) 453-8566 jlearls@att.net</p>	<p><u>Secretary:</u> Glenda Fuhrmann (Central) 10 Dustin Drive Swannanoa, NC 28778 (828) 337-2617 glendafuhrmann@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Treasurer:</u> Martha Phillips (Pine Grove) P. O. Box 49, Linville Falls, NC 28647 (828) 467-3167, mcwphillips@gmail.com</p>
<p><u>MC, Spiritual Growth:</u> Jennie Greenway (Oak Grove) 164 Emma Drive Ellenboro, NC 28040 (828) 453-9637 or (828) 289-1642 jengreenway@bellsouth.net</p>	<p><u>MC, Education & Interpretation:</u> Tracey Owens (Marion First) 310 S. Garden Street Marion, NC 28752 (828) 246-6006 traceybhh@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>MC, Social Action:</u> Leith Tate (Black Mountain) PO Box 208 Montreat, NC 28757 (828) 301-6028 tateleith@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>MC, Membership Nurture & Outreach:</u> Stephanie Goudreau (Marion First) 320 S. Garden Street Marion, NC 28752 (828)460-2463 segoudreau@yahoo.com</p>
<p><u>Secretary of Program Resources:</u> Jeannette Byrd (St. Paul's) 203 Aurora Dr. Asheville, NC 28805 (828) 230-5308 jbyrdasheville@aol.com</p>	<p><u>Communications Coordinator:</u> Kathy Woods 11 Azalea Road Arden, 28704 (828) 777-8617 mysumcemail@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Data Processing:</u> Carol Bryson (Grace) 14 Buckner Road Leicester, NC 28748 (828) 776-0678 csbryson64@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Parliamentarian:</u> Betty J. Letzig (St. Paul's) 266 Merrimon Ave. Asheville, NC 28801 (828) 225-0414 letzigbettyj@gmail.com</p>
<p><u>Historian:</u> Barbara E. Campbell (St. Paul's) 266 Merrimon Ave. Asheville, NC 28801 (828) 225-0414 ernestm1138@outlook.com</p>			
<u>Committee On Nominations</u>			
<p>Jackie Rio, Co-chair (Black Mountain) 101 Second Street Black Mountain, NC 28711 (828) 669-2885 jackierio@charter.net Class of 2025</p>	<p>Karen Anderson, Co-chair (Skyland) 9 Chestnut Mtn. Ridge Asheville, NC 28803 (828) 628-9385 kanderson95@gmail.com Class of 2025</p>	<p>Carol Bryson (Grace) 14 Buckner Road Leicester, NC 28748 (828) 776-0678 csbryson64@gmail.com Class of 2025</p>	<p>Susan Snell (Central) 30 Sunflower Lane Fletcher, NC 28732 (828) 551-0736 ssnell123@bellsouth.net Class of 2023</p>
<p>Eva Farren (Piney Mountain) 14 St. Matthews Drive Candler, NC 28715-6207 (828) 231-3820 evafarren@icloud.com Class of 2025</p>			
<p>Members at Large Dixie Liggett, (Skyland), 8 Springside Park, Asheville, NC 28803, (828) 684-1831, liggett3@charter.net Martha Phillips, (Pine Grove) P. O. Box 49, Linville Falls, NC 28647 (828) 467-3167, mcwphillips@gmail.com Conference Advisor Joanie Strohm (Weaverville), 111Collins Road, Marshall, NC 28753, (828) 707-8928, ssjsmars@charter.net</p>			

2024 NURTURING PARTNERS for BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT
 - PLEASE ASK YOUR NURTURING PARTNER TO COME VISIT

Nurturing Partner	Church	Nurturing Partner	Church
Carol Byson (828) 776-0678	Biltmore	Jeannette Byrd (828) 230-5308	Central Mills River
Stephanie Goudreau (828) 460-2463	First Rutherfordton Gilkey Pleasant Hill-Marion Concord Clinchfield Pleasant Grove	Gwen Harris (828) 682-4589	Bald Creek Mars Hill Weaverville Addie's Chapel Thermal City Asbury Memorial
Lucy Earls (828) 453-8566 (828) 223-1325	First Forest City Saluda Spindale	Leith Tate (828) 301-6028	Skyland Salem
Glenda Fuhrmann (828) 337-2617	Montmorenci	Jackie Rio (828) 669-2885	Groce
Tracey Owens (828) 246-6006	Black Mountain Oak Grove	Martha Phillips (828) 467-3167	Spruce Pine Windom East Marion Marion First
Joanie Strohm (828) 707-8928	Piney Mountain	Karen Anderson (828) 628-9385	St. Paul's Abernethy
Jennie Greenway (828) 453-9637	Edneyville Hendersonville First Moore's Grove	Eva Farren (828) 231-3820	Grace Balfour
Susan Snell (828) 551-0736	Sardis S.O.W. in Faith (Oakley/Sardis)	Kathy Woods (828) 777-8617	Fletcher



2025 Calendar of Events

- Jan. 11 District Executive Committee Meeting-9:30 AM (Location TBD)
- Jan. 18 Conference Treasurers and Presidents LDD (location TBD)
- Feb. 8 Conference Finance Committee Meeting (location TBD)
- Feb. 9 Conference Executive Committee Meeting (location TBD)
- Feb. 22 Zoom BR District Book Study-10:00 AM-11:30 AM
- March 8, 10 Zoom District Mission Study with Smoky Mountain
- March 15 District Executive Committee Meeting-9:30 AM (Location TBD)
- March 15 Conference Scholarship Committee Meeting at 1:00pm (Virtual)
- March 23 Giving Day All UWFaith Members
- April 12 District Prayer Breakfast, Skyland UMC 9:30 AM
- May 24 Zoom BR District Book Study-10:00 AM-11:30 AM
- June 12-14 Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska All UMFaith Members
- June 20-22 UMC Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska
- June 28 District Executive Committee Meeting-9:30 AM (Location TBA)
- July 18-19 Mission u, Catholic Conference Center, All UWFaith Members
- Aug. 2 Zoom BR District Book Club-10:00 AM-11:30 AM
- Aug. 9 Conference Finance Committee (Virtual)
- Aug. 10 Conference Executive Committee (Virtual)
- Aug. 16 District Annual Celebration 9:30 AM (TBD)
- Sept. 5-7 Conference Annual Celebration, Lake Junaluska, All UWFaith Members
- Sept. 13 Zoom BR District Book Club-10:00 AM-11:30 AM
- Sept. 27 District Executive Committee Meeting (TBD)
- Oct. 18 Conference Leadership Development Day, LDD All District Officers (Virtual)
- Oct.11, 25 Ubuntu Days of Service (various locations) All UWFaith Members
- Nov. 1 District Leadership Development Day (TBA)
- Nov. 7 Orientation for new Conference Officers (location TBD)
- Nov. 8 Conference Committee Meetings (location TBD)
- Nov. 9 Conference Executive Committee meeting (location TBD)

Message from Your President

I apologize that our fourth quarter newsletter is coming out later than it should. Unfortunately, Hurricane Helene happened, and many of us didn't have power or internet service, which prevented us from getting articles to Kathy Woods in a timely fashion. I pray for all of our individuals/communities who suffered and continue to suffer as a result of this terrible disaster.

During October and November, we in North America celebrate the harvest. Monday, October 14 was Canada's Thanksgiving Day; ours is just around the corner. In a sense, October and November are harvest months for United Women in Faith (UW Faith). We wrap up our District and Conference activities by mid-November, and all of our District financial obligations and gifts must be sent to Martha Phillips by December 1.

Most of us take our World Thank Offering in October. I urge you to be as generous as you can be with this year's offering. I also urge you to exceed your pledge, which is also due by December 1. If you haven't done a Move 4 Mission event, you still have time. If you don't want to walk, just give an offering in memory of someone or in honor for someone.

I know I often ask for money, but I'm not ashamed to: We are a mission organization and most of what you and I do to support our UW Faith national and international mission projects is done through the money we give and the prayers we pray. Two of my favorite ministries are Scott's Run in West Virginia and Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville, Texas. I haven't visited either of these, but I support them through my gifts to United Women in Faith, as do all of our members who make gifts to undesignated giving.

Don't forget our final *two* District events: Our Leadership Training on November 2 will be a Zoom event. See front page for more information about registration. Also, we will do our final Zoom book study on November 16. Check out Jeannette Byrd's article and the front page for more information.

Since this is my final article as your president, I want to thank you for all your support during the past 4 1/2 years. I've been privileged to meet and work with many of you that I didn't know before. I appreciate that you have always been receptive and supportive.

Most importantly, I thank you for all you do for United Women in Faith in the service of Christ. My favorite part of the End-of-Year reports is the very last item on the Mission Today form where you list your United Women in Faith activities during the prior year. I'm overwhelmed, proud, and humbled by all you do.

I've certainly had an eventful tenure—a pandemic, the disaffiliation of many United Methodist churches, and Hurricane Helene—but you, your units, and the work you do have inspired me and made me happy to serve.

Thank you so very much.

Gwen Harris

Nominations Committee

Slate of Officers 2025

Below is the slate of officers who were elected at Annual Celebration and whose terms will begin in January 2025. They will serve 2-year terms unless otherwise specified. The people whose names are highlighted in red are new to the office.

President: Lucy Earls

Vice President: Stephanie Goudreau

Secretary: Glenda Fuhrmann

Treasurer: Martha Phillips

Mission Coordinator for Mission Education & Interpretation: Sandra Wells

Mission Coordinator for Social Action: Beverly Hill

Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach: Tracey Owens

Secretary for Program Resources: Jennie Greenway

Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth: Gwen Harris

Communications Coordinator: Kathy Woods

The new president will appoint the historian and parliamentarian.



Committee on Nominations (all Class of 2025)

Jackie Rio

Karen Anderson

Jeannette Byrd (class of 2028)

Eva Farren

Susan Snell

Thank you to all those who stepped up and said “yes” to serving on the district board for 2025. We are especially grateful to those who completed service in one position and agreed to serve in a new position. If you are interested in serving in this important way, please contact the nominating committee for more information.

Jackie Rio

Karen Anderson

Co-chairs

Spiritual Growth

Hello all. Hard to believe that this will be my last news article as the Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Blue Ridge District. I have truly enjoyed my time serving in this position and am excited for the future. During my time as Spiritual Growth Coordinator I have certainly faced challenges. From planning the first Virtual Prayer Breakfast to facing many ups and downs in my personal life, I have been very thankful that I can turn to God and I pray that you do the same.

We are now facing the monumental task of rebuilding our communities after the catastrophic damage left by Hurricane Helene. This is a time for us to come together and, if able, to help those in need. If there ever was a time to draw closer to God, it is now. Rest in the knowledge that God is our salvation and that the God on the mountain is still the God in the valley.

Please take care of yourselves. I truly pray for all of you that have been affected by the hurricane and hope that you get the help you need.

One final thought I want to share with you is how truly blessed I have felt to be a part of the United Women in Faith. All the ladies I have worked with and come in contact with so far have been such a blessing to me, and I always look forward to our times together.

"Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation." Psalm 62:5

In Christ,
Jennie Greenway, Coordinator

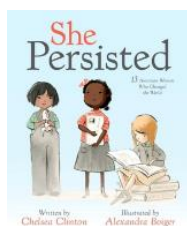


Mission u Choir 2024

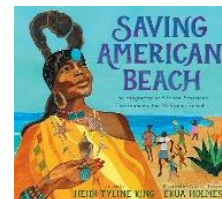
Program Resources

*“Thank you God for books and the ability to read.”
(even when having to read with a flashlight!)*

I don't know about you, but reading has helped me greatly in getting through the past few weeks. I hope each of you is beginning to feel a little normalcy in your life. We pray for all those who have suffered loss.



A special “thank you” to all our book club presenters and to those who planned to work on the last session planned for the day after Helene hit. We had to cancel but plan to revisit these books with a Book Club Meeting on Saturday, November 16 at 10:00 am on zoom. The books are Saving American Beach (social action) and She Persisted – 13 American Women Who Changed the World (leadership).



See front page for registration information.

Being your Secretary of Program Resources for the past several years has been a blessing, especially as we began a new adventure, with our Blue Ridge Book Club.

Your new Secretary of Program Resources for 2025, Jennie Greenway, is librarian in a middle school in Ellenboro. She comes to this job with a wealth of knowledge in reading and in teaching about books. Jennie has already chosen the first book for the February 22, 2025 “Book Club Meeting.” It is The Lucky Ones by Linda Williams Jackson.



Reminder: the 2025 Reading Programs list is on the United Women in Faith website and will also be printed near the back of the November-December issue of **response** magazine.

Happy Reading! Happy Fall! Take Care!

Jeannette Byrd, Secretary of Program Resources

Social Action!



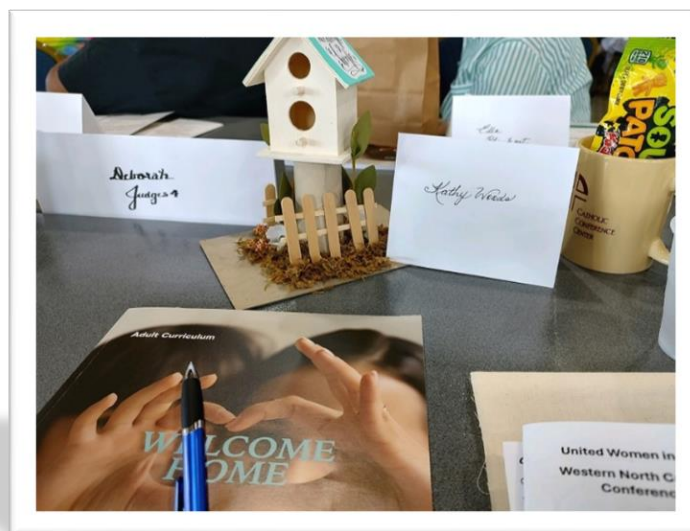
Membership Nurture and Outreach

Fall is here, although we did not expect it to arrive in the dramatic form of Hurricane Helene. The devastation is not something we will soon forget, and many of you may still be in a state of flux. However, it certainly has been amazing and heartwarming to see so many people from around the United States and Canada step up to help out Western North Carolina with resources and volunteers. The United Women in Faith are all about missions—we just did not expect our region to become a recipient of mission funds this fall.

This is a crucial time to check on your nurturing partners. Some of the United Methodist church buildings in the Blue Ridge District suffered severe damage from flooding and downed trees. I saw firsthand the destruction left behind at Old Fort United Methodist Church when as much as four feet of water filled the church, dumping as much as twelve inches of silt in the sanctuary. It was heartbreaking for me to see, and even more so for that congregation.

By now you probably have checked on the members in your unit to be sure everyone is safe and that they have what they need. If you have extra funds in your treasury, it is also a great time to pull your unit together and see where you can best help with local needs. For instance, so many schools in western North Carolina were flooded—can you donate classroom supplies to a nearby school? There are still so many employees here from other areas working on power lines and water systems—can your unit organize a meal for them? This is a momentous time for your unit to reach out to help our shaken but strong region.

Stephanie Goudreau, Coordinator



Treasurer

Greetings Ladies,

Thank you for your generous donations to our Pledge to Mission and all other undesignated giving in the 3rd Quarter of 2024. Total undesignated Mission Giving was \$20,917.50. This included \$4,135.00 raised through Walk for Mission. Remember undesignated giving all goes toward our 2024 District Pledge to Mission.

Year to date we have given \$46,510.55 toward our pledge of \$82,100.00. This is 57 percent of our pledge for the year. Normally we expect the 4th quarter to be our biggest in giving. This will be a real challenge this year.

Reading **response** magazine is an excellent way to learn about United Women in Faith mission projects around the world.



It is important to keep reminding ourselves
why we give to our Pledge,
why we purchase Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory Cards,
why we honor people with Special Mission Recognitions Pins,
why we give to World Thank Offering,
why we Walk for Mission.

It is all to help our sisters and their children around the world. We don't give to win a prize or recognition, but because this is what we are called to do in our Purpose and in our gratitude. Thank you all!

Martha Phillips

Useful Links:

UWF Reading Program: [Reading Program | United Women in Faith](#)

response Magazine: [response magazine | United Women in Faith](#)

WNC Conference Newsletter: [Conference Gram | WNCC United Women in Faith](#)

Brookes Howell Connection: [Brooks-Howell Serendipitor | WNCC United Women in Faith](#)

Resources: [United Women in Faith - Shop](#)

Blue Ridge District United Women in Faith
Kathy Woods
11 Azalea Rd
Arden, NC 28704

Mark Your Calendars for 2024

November

- 2 [District Leadership Development Day \(Zoom\) *](#)
- 8 Conference Orientation for new Officers (location TBD)
- 9 Conference Finance Committee meeting (location TBD)
- 10 Conference Executive Committee meeting (location TBD)
- 16 [Book study \(Zoom\) *](#)

To register for zoom events, go to wncumw.org, click on Districts and then District Events 2024, find the Blue Ridge pink box, click on Zoom choice and then Zoom Registration Link.