



Metro Media

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

President's Message

Dear Friends,

You may have heard me say that I think United Women in Faith never sleep! I really believe that! It's been my pleasure to visit several UWF units in the Metro District during the past year, and there are wonderful UWF things going on in our district. Each unit has its own personality, but they all have one thing in common—Action! UWF members around the district are planning winter fundraising events, getting ready for the Ubuntu Day of Service, planning additional community service projects, thinking about local nurturing events, actively seeking new members, reading books from the UWF reading program, initiating new officers, and so much more.

I'm so proud to be associated with the Metro District United Women in Faith. I would love to visit your unit for a social event, a program, a mission workday—just about anything. Contact me, and we can look at our calendars to schedule a visit. I look forward to meeting new UWF friends and reconnecting with old ones.

May God's grace surround you and your families.

Diann

Diann P. Back
Metro District President
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United
Women
in Faith

Treasurer

We believe love in action can change the world! THANK YOU for your faithful support of United Women in Faith’s mission work. Through your commitment and generosity, we have submitted the following funds to the conference treasurer for fourth quarter:

Undesignated Gifts	
Pledge to Missions	\$ 4,305.50
Special Mission Recognition	240.00
Gift to Mission	1,007.61
Gift in Memory	270.00
Total Undesignated Gifts	\$ 5,823.11
Designated Gifts	
Call to Prayer and Self-Denial	555.00
Other Designated Gifts	1,220.00
Legacy Fund	377.60
Total Designated Gifts	2,152.60

Please remember our conference financial goal for 2024 is: **Each unit will increase Mission Giving to the 2019 level.** I pray that each unit will prayerfully consider this and support the conference in meeting this goal.

In addition to giving spiritually to United Women in Faith, you are encouraged to support the United Women in Faith Legacy Fund to keep our organization strong and viable for the next 155 years. As a permanently invested endowment, The Legacy Endowment Fund will forever be a source of income for United Women in Faith, providing the assurance that United Women in Faith can provide the life-affirming, compassionate care and support that heals, restores, and empowers populations of women, children, and youth for years and decades to come.

To be a part of this mission, use the Western North Carolina Conference Legacy Commitment form, available on our conference site www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund You can also make a one-time donation to the Legacy Fund thru your unit treasurer.

I look forward to seeing you at Leadership Development Day on November 3rd (via Zoom) when the district will provide officer and treasurer training and procedures (complete information found in this newsletter).

Together in Missions,
Sylvia Casey, Metro District Treasurer
sil1casey@gmail.com

In Memoriam

We mourn the unexpected passing of Donna Varner, who was served as Secretary of Program Resources on the Metro District Mission Board this year. Many of you remember her as an avid supporter of the UWF Reading Program who created the “Take One Leave One” book swap program. In addition to her current roles, she has also served as Parliamentarian and Nominations Committee for the Metro District Board.

Here’s a bit about Donna from her obituary.

Donna was born November 30, 1950, in Knoxville, TN to David A. Varner, Jr. and Nora M. Varner. She was a graduate of Young High School in Knoxville and attended the University of Tennessee. Donna worked at ACTS Community Center for 16 years and was a member at St. Stephen United Methodist Church for 26 years where she was in the Discovery Sunday School Class, Chancel Choir, Stephen Ministry, Fellowship Dinner Group and the United Women of Faith, for which she held both local and district offices.

Donna was active in numerous charitable organizations and activity clubs. She loved singing in the choir, travel (both here and abroad), arts, crafts, music, animals and most of all her family and friends. Donna is someone who will be greatly missed.

Our prayers are with her family.

Spiritual Growth

When pulling weeds from a garden or flower bed, you may find a small oak tree popping through the soil. The shell may still be attached as the little seedling is starting to grow. Since you probably don't want an oak tree messing up your garden, you grab to pull it out. It doesn't come up easily, and when it finally comes loose, there's a very long root. The first thing an acorn does is put out a root to firmly establish its hold on the earth. That long root is the tap root. The root provides stability for the tree throughout its life. Often what is at the surface is small, but that tap root is long, deep and hard to dislodge. That root helps the growing tree survive future challenges.

Our Spiritual Growth practices should be like that oak tree, grounded with a strong tap root to feed us and help us become the people God meant us to be. Neither Christ nor the Bible provides step by step instructions on how to grow spiritually. However, in scripture we find examples of the spiritual practices to draw us closer to God and Christ:

- Prayer
- Bible Reading

- Fasting/Sacrifice
- Worship
- Fellowship
- Stewardship
- Confession
- Gratitude

This can seem an intimidating list, impossible to achieve until we remember that they are practices. These are actions we should strive to do to regularly to strengthen our connection to God and his loving support. We don't have to find perfection in all. Each time we commit to one of these practices, our tap root of faith is lengthened and stretched, to be better able to serve God and weather life's challenges. Like any type of exercise, it is important to not concentrate in only one area. We may feel more comfortable with Worship and Fellowship and want to skip Prayer and Fasting/Sacrifice or the other way around. That could leave us weak or one sided in our faith journey. At difficult times, we may feel it is impossible to have fellowship or to find time for scripture. That's when we can rely on other practices to keep us connected to God.

When we are shaken or our lives are disrupted, our strong tap root help us remain grounded in our faith.

Metro Mission Study – 2025



Highlight March 1, 2025, on your calendars for the Metro Mission Study featuring Ms. Michelene Mathew, Past President of Metro District UWF. As the study facilitator, Michelene will be using the book Welcome Home by Neomi Fletcher. The Mission Study will be held at Central UMC 6030 Albemarle Road, Charlotte, NC 28212.

Michelene Mathews – A very happy retiree who serves as the local President of the United Women in Faith at St. Mark's UMC Charlotte and the Advisor and Coordinator of the Dance Ministry – Angels of Grace and Expressions of Praise. Michelene have served her district in the past as ME&I, Program Resource Coordinator and District UMW President. She also serves as one of the Coordinators for Lay Servant classes. Additionally, she has served as Dean of our Mission u and on the Conference Nomination team. She states, "I am grateful to have this opportunity to serve at Mission u this year."

Metro District Spotlight: Memorial United Methodist Church



The United Women in Faith at Memorial in Charlotte are proving that big things come in small packages. While their churchwide UWF membership might be considered modest, their activities and mission work are engaging, energetic and far-reaching. You might say they are small but mighty and busy. They have figured out how to be highly involved UWF members without overburdening their schedules.

A great example is their Reading Program which combines participation in the Reading Program with mission outreach. When there is a 5th

Tuesday in a month, the Memorial ladies hold their Reading Program Book Exchange and Luncheon at Community Culinary School in Charlotte. They exchange books and *response* magazines. Ladies recommend books they have read and sometimes our Program Resources Coordinator will read a children's book. Community Culinary School is non-profit that provides workforce development training and job placement assistance for adults who face barriers to long-term successful employment. You can see Chef Ron is photo bombing the Memorial group.



Another aspect of their Reading Program is reading to the Memorial Preschool once a week. This read-aloud session includes a mix of UWF children's books and fun books. Our Program Resources Coordinator reads a children's book at our meetings.



Another mission project is Veterans Blankets for Recovery. Talented Memorial crafters knit, crochet and quilt blankets which are distributed through Veterans Administration to local veterans. And it's not just blankets, one member makes prayer cloths for anyone who needs them. Both the blankets and prayer cloths are blessed in a worship service prior to distribution



Memorial also holds a Gardening and Chocolate Gift basket Fundraiser for Dahlia Grove, a rescue facility for trafficked and abused women in Charlotte. They make knitted and crocheted hats, gloves and mittens for the Alliance for Education Christmas Bags and

quilts for the Memorial preschool Toddler Class. These are busy ladies with a passion for having fun while serving others.



Metro District and Western NC Conference UWF Calendar

Remaining 2024 Calendar of Events

Oct. 5, 12	Ubuntu Days of Service (various locations) All UWFaith members
Nov. 3	Metro District Local Officer Training (Virtual)
Dec. 15	End of Year Reports Due – Metro District

2025 Calendar of Events

Mar. 1	Metro District Mission Study, Central UMC (Charlotte)
April 26	Metro District Prayer Breakfast, Forest Hill UMC (Concord)
June 12-14	Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska, All UWFaith Members
June 19-22	WNCC Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska
August 8-9	Mission u, Catholic Conference Center, All UWFaith Members
August 23	Metro District Annual Celebration, St. Mark's UMC (Charlotte)
Sept. 5-7	Annual Celebration, Lake Junaluska, All UWFaith Members
Oct. 18	Leadership Development Day, LDD All District Officers (Virtual)
Nov. 2	Metro District Local Officer Training (Virtual)

Quick Notes

Metro District Opportunities

Local Officer Training for 2024

The annual Local Officer Training for new and returning unit officers will be Sunday, November 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. via Zoom. All unit officers should make plans to attend. 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 our sister churches.

End of Year Reports

End of year reports account each unit's annual activities for that year. We use these reports to recognize your unit's accomplishments and track membership. With the email of this newsletter are the six EOY forms for 2024, plus a form to report each unit's 2025 officers: Justice Today Report, Membership Report, Mission Today Report, Mission Study Report, Reading Program Report, Local Hands-on Mission Report, and 2025 Local Officer Report. If you receive this newsletter through the mail and need the forms in printed form, contact Diann Back.

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 them. 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 provided.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH METRO DISTRICT 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



New and returning Metro District committee members beginning January 2025

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	Marilyn Morris (NorthDavidson)			1circleofgrace@gmail.com
Social Action	OPEN			
MN&O	Shauna Stroud (St. Mark's)		954-329-5121	shauna.stroud@gmail.com
Program Resources	Sharon Lasher (NorthDavidson).	1836 Graybark Ave. Charlotte, NC 28205	704-661-5268	sharonllasher@gmail.com
Communications	Amanda Dryer (Forest Hill)	701 Wingard Rd Concord, NC 28025	704-201-8672	adyer0813@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	OPEN			
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	Nancy Ward (Matthews)	4003 Colton Ridge Dr. Indian Trail, NC 28212	704-681-4779	Nward001@bellsouth.net
Member-at-Large	Tonja Schult (St. Marks)	134 Oasis Dr. Mooresville, NC 28117	404-290-2690	Tonjaschult50@gmail.com
Conference Advisor	Cathy McCauley (St. Stephen)	6835-A Farmingdale Dr. Charlotte, NC 28212	704-965-6566	cathymc855@yahoo.com

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METRO DISTRICT 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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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	sillcasey@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	mkhyler@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
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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	Cathy McCauley (Hickory Grove)	6835-A Farmingdale Dr. Charlotte. NC 28212	(704) 965-6566	Cathymc855@yahoo.com

2024 Metro District Nurturing Partner List

CHURCH	PARTNER	CHURCH	PARTNER
Aldersgate	Donna Varner	Mount Olivet	Sybil Long
Bethpage	Lynda Morris	Myers Park	Loretta Wilson
Center	Martha Hyler	NorthDavidson	Loretta Wilson
Central (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson	North Kannapolis	Lynda Morris
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	Rock Grove	Sybil Long
Davidson	Judy Cline	Rocky Ridge	Delta Sonderman
Dilworth	Diann Back	Royal Oaks	Martha Hyler
Epworth	Martha Hyler	Simpson-Gillespie	Loretta Wilson
First (Charlotte)	Delta Sonderman	South Tryon	Sylvia Casey
Forest Hill	Linda Davidson	SouthPark	Donna Varner
Friendship	Lynda Morris	St Francis	Nancy Ward
Harrisburg	Diann Back	St Marks	Sylvia Casey
Hickory Grove	Debbie Eudy	St Stephen	Debbie Eudy
Hunters Chapel	Earonita Strong	Thrift	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh
Huntersville	Delta Sonderman	Trinity (Charlotte)	Sylvia Casey
Matthews	Debbie Eudy	Trinity (Kannapolis)	Delta Sonderman
Memorial (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson	Williamsons Chapel	Louise Woods
Midway	Sybil Long	Woodlawn Community	Earonita Strong

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.