



The Metro Messenger

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

President's Message

Dear United Women in Faith Sisters,

A new year is here, and like me, you probably made a few resolutions. This year, I resolved to respond quickly to UWF requests for information. When Debbie Eudy, our Metro District Secretary, asked me to share an announcement with you, this newsletter seemed the perfect vehicle to share her news. As some of you know, the Metro District is responsible for hosting Mission U and the UWF Annual Celebration this year. A portion of these responsibilities is preparing welcome bags for the attendees at both events. Debbie is organizing a workshop to make prayer cloths for the welcome bags at Mission U. There are squares of fabric sewn together with a bit of filling between the top and bottom layers. They are small and can be carried in a pocket, a purse, and even used as a bookmark. Since we will need approximately 150 prayer cloths, Debbie has scheduled a workshop at Memorial UMC located at 4012 Central Avenue, Charlotte on Saturday, February 22, from 10 AM to noon to work on this project. Attendees will meet in Munday Hall. Bring a sewing machine if you have one, scissors, pins, and needles. For a complete list of items to bring, please see the article on page 7. Let's get together and have fun while we start filling our welcome bags.

Peace,

Diann

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




United
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response Podcast

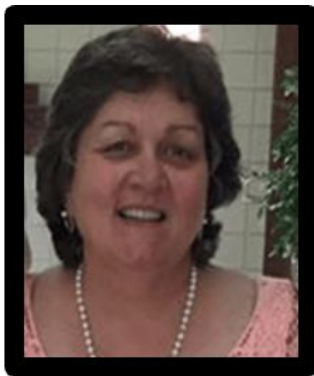
 Tune in to audio versions of some of the top articles from each issue of **response** magazine, the award-winning official magazine of United Women in Faith. Topics cover everything from spiritual growth and living our faith to reports on local, national and international work.

<https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts>

Vice President

We are well into 2025! Hallelujah! I pray all of you are doing well.

Save the date...Plans are underway for our District Prayer Breakfast, scheduled for April 26th at Forest Hill UMC - 265 Union Street, North - Concord, NC 28025. Renée Hayes, UM Deaconess, will be our speaker. Renée is a member of Trinity UMC in Trinity, NC. Among Renée's many obligations, she serves as a UWFaith National Director. We look forward to having Renée with us and hearing her inspiring message.



The hands-on project for the Prayer Breakfast will be collecting diapers and wipes for the Alliance Center for Education. The Q2 Metro Newsletter will provide additional details.

Grace and peace,
Earonita F. Strong
Metro District Vice President
stronge@carolina.rr.com
704-534-4387



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WNCC United Women in Faith Scholarship Program

Do you know a student who is a member of one of the WNCC United Methodist Churches?

Will they attend one of the United Methodist supported institutions in our conference (**Bennett College, Brevard College, Greensboro College, High Point University, Pfeiffer University**) for the fall semester 2025?

Then they are eligible to apply for a WNCC United Women in Faith scholarship!

Applications should be requested by contacting the scholarship committee chairperson:

Jatana Royster

8227 Laurel Oak Court Harrisburg, NC 28075

704-451-3816 (cell)

Email: jatanaroyster@gmail.com

Applications are due by **March 1, 2025**. Interviews will be conducted on March 15, 2025 via Zoom.

YOU can support our scholarship program by:

- Referring students.
- Praying for our students and UM supported institutions.
- Contributing to the general scholarship fund as districts, units, circles and individuals.

Please contact me if you need additional information.

Blessings,

Jatana Royster

WNCC United Women in Faith Scholarship Committee Chairperson

*a printable flier is on page 11

Treasurer

Happy New Year to all! I pray you are keeping warm and dry during these extremely cold days. I look forward to working with you as your district treasurer in 2025 to benefit children, youth, and women. Please remember them as you spiritually give to United Women in Faith.

We have submitted the following amounts for Metro District giving in 2024:

The WNCC UWF financial goal for 2025 is: Increase Gift in Memory donations by 10%. I pray that each of you will prayerfully consider this and support the conference in meeting this goal.

Pledge to Mission	\$ 34,806.00
Special Mission Recognition	\$ 2,360.00
Gift to Mission	\$ 3,358.61
Gift in Memory	\$ 1,735.00
World Thank Offering	\$ 5,705.79
Walk for Mission	\$ 1,361.00
The Legacy Fund	\$ 2,036.36
Call to Prayer and Self-Denial	\$ 2,976.50
Designated Supplementary Giving	\$ 4,680.00

The Love Offering Theme for 2025 is Gift to Missions, a celebration of our vibrant future as United Women in Faith. Brochures will be available at district events.

By uniting our hearts and hands, we are building a future filled with hope and support for women, children, and youth. Every gift you make, regardless of size, will impact generations to come. Give to The Legacy Endowment on the Day of Giving, March 23rd.

When giving online, please do so through the conference website: www.wnccumw.org. The conference treasurer receives weekly reports. She will send me a report so that I can credit your giving to your unit.

THANK YOU for continuing to be faithful in support of the mission work of United Women in Faith.

Sylvia Casey, Metro District Treasurer
sil1casey@gmail.com

Mission Education and Interpretation

Happy New Year, my UWF sisters!

With this first newsletter of 2025, I will share our upcoming Mission Study, which will take place on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Central UMC, 16030 Albemarle Rd, Charlotte, NC 28212. The registration form is included in this newsletter.



The book for the study is **Welcome Home** by Naomi Fletcher, with contributions by Parker Roberts and Sandra Williamson.

Michelene Matthews is the speaker and facilitator. She serves as the local President of 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 has served her district as ME&I, Program Resource Coordinator, and District UMW President. She also coordinates Lay Servant classes. Additionally, she has served as Dean of our Mission and on the Conference Nomination team.



Mission Study Hands-On Mission Project – Hygiene Kits

one hand towel, one washcloth, one sturdy comb with at least 6 inches of teeth, one pair of metal nail clippers, one bath-size bar soap, one adult toothbrush in original packaging and no advertising, six adhesive bandages, 1-gallon resealable plastic bag. No Ivory or Jergens soap and no emery boards or metal files.

Assembly Directions: Lay the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth. Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover all the items. Fold one end of the hand towel to cover all the items. Starting at the unfolded end, grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag. Important - All items must be new, unwashed, and without imprinted cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols. Packing Instructions: Complete two packing lists, one for the box and one for your records. Place the shipping label/packing list on the outside of the box. Include in a separate envelope a check for the total amount of hygiene kits times \$2 per kit for the cost of toothpaste and shipping

It is a joy to be continuing as the Mission Education and Interpretation Coordinator.

Blessings,

Sylvia Sekle-Dueh, Deaconess
Mission, Education, and Interpretation
Coordinator

dueh1409@gmail.com

704-606-5557

Metro District Mission Study 2025

March 1, Central UMC, 630 Albemarle Rd., Charlotte, NC 28212

Michelene Mathews, Director for the Lay Servant Ministry of the Metro District



As the study facilitator, Michelene will be using the book: **Welcome Home** by Neomi Fletcher and contributors: Parker Roberts and Sandra Williamson. The book is available for purchase from bookstores, Amazon or it can be borrowed from your local library. You don't want to miss Michelene's insights and message on this topic.

Metro District Mission Study Registration Form for Saturday, March 1, 2025,

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Check-in begins at 8:30 am: the study begins at 9:00 am with lunch at 11:30 am.
Bring your own lunch. Coffee, iced tea, water, snacks, and dessert will be provided.

A Love Offering for Mission Giving will be collected for UMCOR.

Name of Church:		
NAME	OFFICE	EMAIL

Number of persons _____ x \$5.00 = \$_____ (Use an additional Registration Form or a sheet of lined paper for additional participants.)

Registrations should be postmarked by February 17, 2025. Please send one check per unit/church. Make checks payable to "Metro District UWF" and mail to Sylvia Casey, 7009 Summer Pl., Charlotte, NC 28213.

Hands-on-Mission Project: UMCOR Hygiene Kit. Kit items with assembly instructions can be found at UMCOR Hygiene Kit - Global Ministries (umcmmission.org), or on the next page.

2025 Hands-on-Mission Projects

Mission Study – March 1, 2025: Hygiene Kits

Hygiene Kit Materials

- One hand towel (15 x 25 -17 x 27 inches) o No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One washcloth o No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One comb o Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth o No pocket combs or picks o Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth
- One toenail or fingernail clipper o No emery boards or metal nail files
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger) No Ivory or Jergen's soap o Do not remove from packaging
- One adult toothbrush o Do not remove from packaging o Personal advertising not acceptable
- 10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches) o Common household bandages acceptable
- One one-gallon size re-sealable bag

*Do not add toothpaste when assembling kits

Assembly Instructions

- Lay hand towel flat on a table.
- Lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel.
- Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth (except the plastic bag).
- Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items.
- Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel.
- Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

Important Notes

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should **not** be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols

Packing Instructions

- Complete two packing lists, one for the box and one for your records.
- Place the shipping label/packing list on the outside of the box.
- Please send a check to Sager Brown for the total amount of hygiene kits times \$2 per kit for the cost of toothpaste and shipping. One check may be written for all of the kits.

Prayer Breakfast – April 26, 2025: Diapers and Wipes for AC4Ed

Sizes: 1 – 5; 2T – 3T Boys; 2T – 3T Girls; 4T – 5T Boys; 4T – 5T Girls; Baby Wipes



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What is a Prayer Cloth? And, Is It Biblical?

Excerpts from an article by Melissa Henderson (12 April 2021)

Have you heard about prayer cloths? Have you seen prayer cloths distributed at church? Maybe a local church group is meeting to create the special prayer cloths for someone in need of extra prayers. Possibly someone with an illness or difficult life situation will be given prayer cloths. The reason for needed prayer may or may not be known. Or perhaps prayer cloths are being sewn to send with missionaries to a foreign land. Those prayer cloths created for the missionaries may be given to believers and non-believers in hopes of sharing the love of Christ.

What is a prayer cloth, and is it Biblical? Using a prayer cloth while praying can be comforting for some people. Remembering that God is the only one who heals can allow the person praying to focus on prayer and not the cloth. Materials do not hold special healing powers. God is the only one who can provide healing.

A prayer cloth can be handmade with special material. Also, the cloth can be handed down from generation to generation. When we hold the special prayer cloth, as Christians we are not worshipping the material. These special items remind us of the power of prayer and the hope found in God.

A prayer cloth can be created from inexpensive material or created from the finest fabric. The prayer cloths may be solid in color or multi-colored. Various sizes and shapes can be found when looking for or creating prayer cloths. Perhaps you have heard of a prayer cloth or prayer shawl ministry. Some churches have groups of people who gather to sew the prayer cloths, shawls, or pockets, and then distribute them to those people who need extra prayers.

Scripture shares a memorable story about a woman who had been afflicted with a blood issue for 12 years (Matthew 9:20-22). The powerful story of this desperate woman coming behind Jesus, and reaching to touch the hem of His garment is powerful. Can you picture the scene? Crowds of people, dust filling the air from the dry ground, and here was a woman whose faith was so strong, she felt that if she could simply touch the hem of His garment, healing would occur, and her years-long affliction would be gone. Songs have been penned about that story in the Bible. Imagine touching the hem of Jesus' garment and being healed. Powerful.

Jesus instantly knew the woman had touched his garment. He did not become angry. Scripture tells how Jesus turned and saw her and shared how she would be made whole because of her faith. This woman who believed, trusted, and obeyed, was healed within the hour, according to Scripture.

Was the healing truly due to her touching the garment of Jesus? Her strong faith is what brought the healing. God provided healing for that woman.

Join UWF volunteers on Saturday, February 22, from 10 AM to noon at Memorial UMC in Charlotte to learn how to make prayer cloths. No sewing experience is required—just your enthusiasm! There are things for everyone to do—cutting and pressing. Please bring the following items:

- 1 yard each of coordinating 100% cotton fabric (solid and print)
- 1 yard of white or beige 100% cotton fabric for the back
- 1-yard white flannel
- White thread
- Scissors regular or rotary
- Cutting mat if you have one (optional)
- Pins
- Needles
- Paper or notebook to take notes

This list can be shared among the members of a group



District and WNCC UWF Events Calendar

March 1

Metro District Mission Study
Central UMC, Charlotte
630 Albemarle Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28212
Hands on Project: Hygiene Kits

April 26

Metro District Prayer Breakfast
Forest Hill UMC, Concord
265 Union St., N
Concord, NC 28025
*Hands on Project: Diapers & Wipes for
AC4Ed*

Springtime

Walk for Mission: Single Units or Groups
Various Locations Across the District

June 12- 14

WNCC UWF Spiritual Growth Retreat
91 North Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

June 20 - 22

Annual Conference
91 North Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

July 18-19

WNCC UWF Mission u
Catholic Conference Center
1551 Trinity Lane
Hickory, NC 28602

August 23

Metro District Annual Celebration
St. Mark's UMC
917 Clanton Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28217
*Hands on Project: School Supplies for
AC4Ed*

September 6

WNCC UWF Annual Celebration
TBD

October 11 & 25

UBUNTU Days of Service
Various Locations TBD

October 18

Leadership Development Day
LDD All District Officers (Virtual)



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH METRO DISTRICT 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office	Name	Address	Phone	Email
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 (North Davidson)	3400 Winterfield Pl. Charlotte, NC 28205		1circleofgrace@gmail.com
Social Action	OPEN			
MN&O	Shauna Stroud (St. Mark's)		954-329-5121	shauna.stroud@gmail.com
Program Resources	Sharon Lasher (Memorial, Charlotte)	1836 Graybark Ave. Charlotte, NC 28205	704-661-5268	sharonllasher@gmail.com
Communications	Amanda Dyer (Forest Hill)	701 Wingard Rd. Concord, NC 28023	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	nward1001@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 Farmington Dr. Charlotte, NC 28212	704-965-6566	cathymc855@yahoo.com

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 Team Officer with your questions, ideas, or concerns

2025 Metro District Nurturing Partner List

CHURCH	PARTNER	CHURCH	PARTNER
Aldersgate	Sylvia Casey	Memorial (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson
Bethpage	Lynda Morris	Midway	Sybil Long
Center		Mount Olivet	Sybil Long
Central (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson	Myers Park	Nancy Ward
Central (Concord)	Amanda Dyer	North Davidson	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh
Christ	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh	Pineville	Diann Back
Cokesbury	Diann Back	Pleasant Grove	Linda Davidson
Commonwealth	Earonita Strong	Providence	Debbie Eudy
Davidson		Rocky Ridge	Sharon Lasher
Dilworth	Diann Back	Simpson-Gillespie	Sharon Lasher
Epworth	Amanda Dyer	South Tryon	Sylvia Casey
First (Charlotte)	Shauna Stroud	SouthPark	Shauna Stroud
Forest Hill	Linda Davidson	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		Trinity (Charlotte)	Sylvia Casey
Indian Trail	Nancy Ward	Trinity (Kannapolis)	Amanda Dyer
Matthews		Woodlawn Community	Earonita Strong
Memorial (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson		



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WNCC United Women in Faith SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Do you know a student who is a member of one of the WNCC United Methodist Churches?

Will they attend one of the United Methodist supported institutions in our conference (**Bennett College, Brevard College, Greensboro College, High Point University, Pfeiffer University**) for the fall semester 2025?

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Jatana Royster

8227 Laurel Oak Court Harrisburg, NC 28075

704-451-3816 (cell) Email: jatanaroyster@gmail.com

Applications are due by **March 1, 2025**. Interviews will be conducted on March 15, 2025 via Zoom.

YOU can support our scholarship program by:

Referring students.

Praying for our students and UM supported institutions.

Contributing to the general scholarship fund as districts, units, circles and individuals.

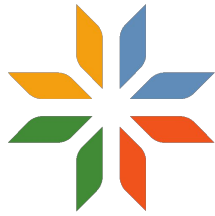
Please contact me if you need additional information.

Blessings,

Jatana Royster

WNCC United Women in Faith Scholarship Committee Chairperson

United Women in Faith
Metro District of the WNCC UMW
701 Wingard Rd.
Concord, NC 28025



United
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United Women in Faith

Vision

Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Mission

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.

Purpose

To 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.