



# 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,

My pastor sent the following message, and I'd like to share it with you.

I Am A Period...

I may be small, but I am significant.

Sentences are brought to a halt by my presence.

I abbreviate words. Leave me out, and English teachers make you pay.

I make huge differences in the size of dollar amounts.

Question marks need me, and exclamation points are nothing without me.

I even mark the difference between a colon and a semicolon.

Parents use me all the time when they are finished, as in "You're not going, period!"

I like you, may be small, but without me—and you—the world would not function very well. That's God's truth, period.

We may think of ourselves as small pieces of God's creation; however, we are significant. Just look at David, a young shepherd boy who was at the bottom of the ladder in seniority in his family. He used a small, insignificant stone to take down a giant among men! Surely, God has something big planned for us as United Women in Faith!

Peace,

*Diann*

Diann P. Back  
President, Metro District UWF  
Email: [diann.back@carolina.rr.com](mailto:diann.back@carolina.rr.com)



United  
Women  
in Faith

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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

### **Metro District 2025 Annual Celebration What Practices Grow Your Faith?**

Saturday, August 23, 8:30 – 11:30 am  
St. Mark's UM Church  
917 Clanton Rd., Charlotte, NC 28217

Featured Speaker: Reverend Stephanie M. Hand, WNCC Evangelist, Full Connectional Deacon, and author.

The Celebration will be recorded and emailed to the unit presidents.

Join us for a morning of fellowship, collective worship, inspirational music, and an uplifting message. Again, breakfast is optional for in-person attendees this year. Attendees may select in-person or in-person with breakfast. Breakfast will be a treat!

#### Registration Fees:

\$4.50 – In person with no breakfast.  
\$10.50 – In person with breakfast.

Masks are optional, and social distancing measures will be available.

Grace and peace,  
Earonita F. Strong  
Metro District Vice President  
[stronge@carolina.rr.com](mailto:stronge@carolina.rr.com)

## Social Action

*"We believe that all children and youth are sacred, deeply beloved by God, and deserving of an education that nurtures their God-given gifts and encourages their growth."*

- Join other United Women in Faith to live out the belief that we are called to love and advocate for all children! You can:
- Join the End the School to Prison Pipeline campaign! Share the accompanying 2-page flyer with your unit, your church, your friends and neighbors!
- Attend the August 2nd screening of the film Pushout at Davidson United Methodist Church. Come as a unit, bring friends, invite others and RSVP! Printable invitation on p. 8, or you may [RSVPhere](#):
- Take action by contacting Congress to Ban Corporal Punishment and Ask your Representative to co-sponsor the [Protecting Our Students in Schools Act \(HR 3265\)](#):
- The Gospel calls us to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline. The federal government can do this by passing The Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act: [New/Mode | Make your voice impossible to ignore](#)

Lisa Delano (Davidson UMC)  
Metro District Social Action Chair  
[mybrowneyedgirls@msn.com](mailto:mybrowneyedgirls@msn.com)



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## Annual Celebration Hands-on Project

Here is a partial list of supplies that Alliance Center for Education (AC4Ed) is requesting, a longer list can be found at [Sign-up Genius link](#). Please use the link to indicate what items your unit will be purchasing. All items will be collected at Annual Celebration.

BEGINNERS PENCILS - 12/BX	COLORED PENCILS - 12/BX	MULTICULTURAL CRAYONS - 24/BX
SIDEWALK CHALK - 52/CT	LG CHART TABLET - RULED 24 X 32	SM CHART TABLET - RULED 24 X 16
LAMINATING POUCHES - 200 CT 3MIL	WASHABLE MARKERS - 200/BX	JUMBO CRAYONS - 200/BX
9 X 12 CONSTRUCTION PAPER - 50PK	12 X 18 CONSTRUCTION PAPER - 50/PK	9 X 12 MANILA DRAWING PAPER - 500/PK
GORILLA TAPE - DOUBLE SIDED - 140/CT	GLUE DOT DISPENSER-3ct - W/200 dots	JUMBO PIPE CLEANERS - ASSTD 200/PK
COTTON BALLS - 1000/CT	POM POMS - ASSTD - 1" 300/CT	WIGGLY EYES - 500/CT
PRIMARY PLAY DOUGH - 6ct - 1lb tub	WASHABLE MARKERS - 200 BX	JUMBO CRAYONS - 200/BX



**Alliance Center  
for Education**

Please make note of the number and value of items donated from the Hands-On Project to add to your Unit's project expenditures for end-of-year mission dollar reporting.



United  
Women  
in Faith

METRO DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH ANNUAL CELEBRATION REGISTRATION

Saturday, August 23, 2025

Hosted by St. Mark's United Methodist Church United Women in Faith  
917 Clanton Rd., Charlotte, NC 28217

Church\_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending = Participants choosing NO BRKFST + Participants choosing BRKFST  
For each participant, indicate NO BRKFST. \$4.50 each or BRKFST. \$10.50 each.

**The NAME column will provide the total number of attendees.**

**The total amount in the NO BRKFST and BRKFST columns combined will equal the check amount.**

Registration and Breakfast – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Program 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Name	No Brkfst	Brkfst	Office Held	Email	Dietary Restrictions
<b>Totals</b>					

Complete the **Registration Form** ([you can access an editable/printable form here](#)) and mail it with **one check per unit**, payable to "Metro District UWF." Send to **Sylvia Casey, 7009 Summer Pl. Charlotte, NC 28213**, **postmarked by August 11th**. The registration fee contributes to the expenses of the Annual Celebration. *Please note any dietary restrictions.*

## Treasurer

Peace in Christ to you, and THANK YOU for faithfully supporting the mission work of United Women in Faith. Once again, we have successfully demonstrated our dedication to others through our second-quarter remittance giving. These funds have a significant positive effect on women, children, and youth. Sign up for the WNCCUWF e-news to learn more about the Mission Institutions we support. In addition to giving spiritually to the UWF, you are encouraged to also support the Legacy Fund, which helps keep our organization strong and viable for many years to come.

Here's a breakdown of what we reported to the conference for the second quarter:

Pledge to Mission	\$ 5,754.00
Special Mission Recognition	\$ 1,360.00
Gift to Mission	\$ 1,318.00
Gift in Memory	\$ 525.00
World Thank Offering	\$ 30.00
Walk for Mission	\$ 905.00
The Legacy Fund	\$ 628.65
Call to Prayer and Self-Denial	\$ 1,073.55
Other Designated Gifts	\$ 200.00

Remember, the Metro District Annual Celebration will be in August; more details can be found in this newsletter. The deadline for me to receive the list of attending names and registration is August 11th. Make the check payable to Metro District UWF. My mailing address is: Sylvia Casey, 7009 Summer Place, Charlotte, NC 28213.

The WNCC Annual Celebration will be September 6, 2025, at Williamson's Chapel in Mooresville, NC. More details forthcoming.

Thank you for all you do to help United Women in Faith support women, children, and youth who need help! FAITH-HOPE-LOVE in ACTION!! We can Make It Happen!

Sylvia Casey, District Treasurer  
[sil1casey@gmail.com](mailto:sil1casey@gmail.com)



## Membership Nurture and Outreach

“Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.”

The Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska was amazing –spirit-filled. Sisters in Christ seeing old friends and making new friends. Hugs, smiles, with laughter filling the restaurant, hotel lobby, and meeting spaces.

My wish is to take this infectious love of Christ to everyone you meet this month and beyond.

May the Holy Spirit fill you with joy so that when others see you, they can't help but wonder who you are.

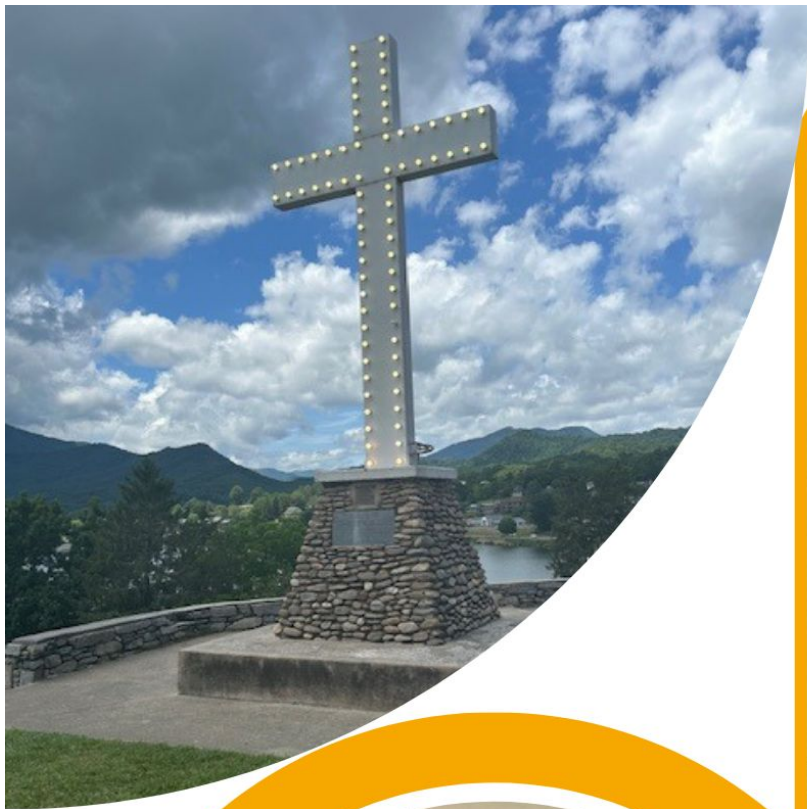
You are God's child and so very loved.

Shauna Stroud  
Metro District Membership Nurture and Outreach  
[Shauna.stroud@gmail.com](mailto:Shauna.stroud@gmail.com)



### Metro District at Spiritual Growth





"My Name Is God": A Spiritual Journey in Pictures

## Around the District

DAVIDSON  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH



Dear United Women in Faith Sisters,

The unit of United Women in Faith at Davidson United Methodist Church invites you to a screening of the documentary film, [Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools](#), on Saturday, August 2, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. followed by a salad lunch and discussion. We are honored to have been rewarded one of thirty licenses to screen the film. For planning purposes, [please click here to register](#).

"PUSHOUT: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF BLACK GIRLS IN SCHOOLS is a feature length documentary which takes a close look at the educational, judicial and societal disparities facing Black Girls. Inspired by the groundbreaking book of the same name by renowned scholar, Monique W. Morris, Ed.D. The documentary confronts the ways in which the misunderstanding of Black girlhood has led to excessive punitive discipline which in turn disrupts one of the most important factors in their lives, their education." [Pushout - The criminalization of Black Girls in Schools](#).

United Women in Faith have a long history of advocating for justice, particularly for women and children. Our current justice campaigns are [Just Energy 4 All](#) and [Ending Mass Incarceration](#) and Criminalization of Communities of Color. The book [Pushout](#) is a United Women in Faith Reading Program selection ([Reading Program | United Women in Faith](#)).

Through awareness, education, prayer and advocacy, may we help all children reach their full potential! We hope that you can join us on August 2nd!

Sincerely,

Patty Gruce  
United Women in Faith President  
Davidson United Methodist Church

Lisa Delano  
United Women in Faith Social Action Chair  
Davidson United Methodist Church



United  
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in Faith

POST OFFICE BOX 718 | 233 SOUTH MAIN STREET | DAVIDSON, NC 28036  
704-892-8277 | [WWW.DAVIDSONUMC.ORG](http://WWW.DAVIDSONUMC.ORG)

## Around the District



### Sizzling Summer Fun for a Good Cause Mt. Olivet UMC – August 2!

Looking for a delicious way to beat the heat and support a great cause? Swing by Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church Saturday, August 2 from 11:00-2:00 for our quarterly Hot Dog Sale and Vendor Sale you won't want to miss!

Hosted by the UWF with help from the UMM, this event is about more than just tasty food—it's about fellowship, service, and supporting meaningful outreach. Grab a hot, juicy hot dog and top it your way, then satisfy your sweet tooth with some mouthwatering homemade desserts—baked with love by talented local hands.

But that's not all! The Girl Scouts will be on-site hosting a lively Craft and Vendor Sale, showcasing unique handmade goods, gifts, and local treasures. Whether you're shopping, snacking, or just soaking in the friendly vibe, there's something for everyone.

All proceeds support missions, helping make a real difference both locally and beyond.

Mark your calendars, bring your appetite, and come be a part of something truly meaningful. We can't wait to see you there!

Mt. Olivet UMC, 301 Mt. Olivet Rd, Concord  
Saturday, Aug 2. 11:00-2:00

## Save the Date

Annual Celebration - Celebrate Change!  
September 6, 10 AM - 5 PM  
Williamson's Chapel UMC, Mooresville

### Program highlights:

- Election of officers and approval of 2026 budget
- Afternoon workshops
- Hands-on mission: items for The Bethlehem Center of Winston-Salem



Keynote Speaker:  
Sally Vonner  
UWFaith  
General Secretary  
& CEO





## District and WNCC UWF Events Calendar

### **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**

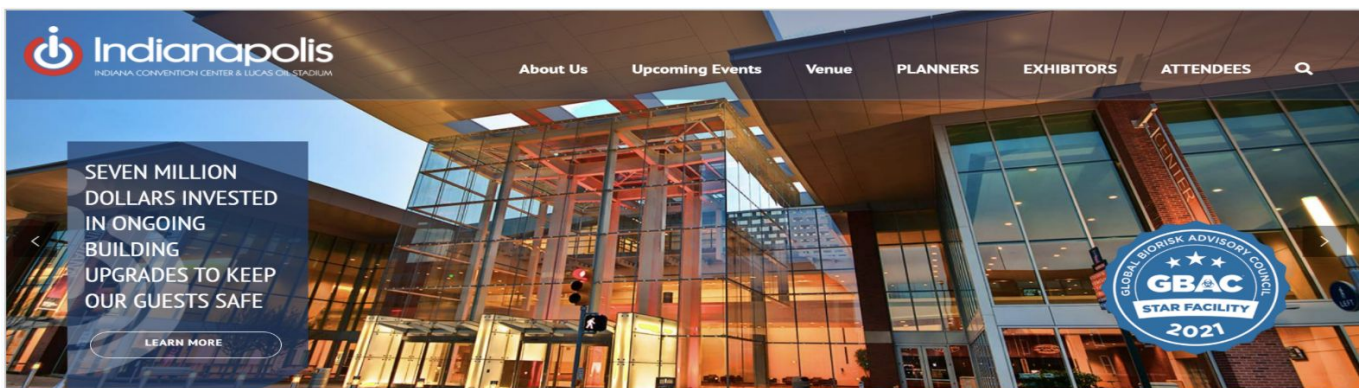
WNCC UWF Annual Celebration  
Williamson's Chapel  
575 Brawley School Rd  
 Mooresville, NC 28117

### **October 11 & 25**

UBUNTU Days of Service  
Various Locations TBD

### **October 18**

Leadership Development Day  
LDD All District Officers (Virtual)



Assembly 2026  
Indianapolis, IN  
May 15 – 17<sup>th</sup>

First break-even Assembly – pays for itself at no cost to  
National Office.





## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH METRO DISTRICT 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

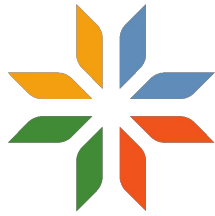
Office	Name	Address	Phone	Email
President	Diann P. Back (St. Stephen)	9301 Whitethorn Dr. Charlotte, NC 28277	704-846-8875 h 704-517-5436 c	dback@carolina.rr.com
Vice President	Earonita Strong (Simpson-Gillespie)	1929 Crestdale Dr. Charlotte, NC 28216	704-534-4387	stronge@carolina.rr.com
Secretary	Debbie Eudy (Memorial/Charlotte)	806 Eaglewood Ave. Charlotte, NC 28212	704-759-4477	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	(704) 807-5551	1circleofgrace@gmail.com
Social Action	Lisa Delano (Davidson UMC)	116 Webbed Foot Rd Mooresville NC 28117	704-957-8035	mybrowneyedgirls@msn.com
MN&O	Shauna Stroud (St. Mark's)	7711 Park Vista Circle Charlotte NC 28226	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	Nancy Ward	4003 Colton Ridge Drive Indian Trail, NC 28079	704-681-4779	Nward001@carolina.rr.com
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 (Concord)	Louise Woods	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	Lynda Morris	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	Earonita Strong	Trinity (Charlotte)	Sylvia Casey
Indian Trail	Nancy Ward	Trinity (Kannapolis)	Amanda Dyer
Matthews	Louise Woods	Woodlawn Community	Earonita Strong
Memorial (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson		

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



United  
Women  
in Faith



## 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.