

Tarheel Talk

SPRING 2024



Fan the Flames

A WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLICATION

Inside Talk

Spring 2024

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Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina is a missions organization whose purpose is to challenge, prepare and equip Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Tarheel Talk is a newsmagazine produced by Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina for **all church WMU leadership in North Carolina**. Allison Markwood, editor, allisonmarkwood@gmail.com; Angie Dickinson, graphic design, angiedesign@me.com; RR Donnelley publisher, rrdonnelley.com

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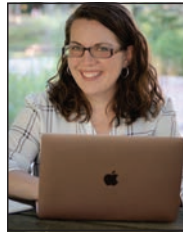
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Fan the Flames

*"...I remind you to **fan into flame** the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."*

—2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NIV)



In my six summers working at WMU NC's Camp Mundo Vista, I became an expert at building campfires. I learned to arrange the small, dry tinder to catch the first sparks, to nurture and cultivate the tiny flame by slowly adding fuel, and to fan the flames to life before building a larger, sturdier structure to burn brightly while our campers roasted their marshmallows. Starting a fire was fun, but I also learned the joy of restarting a roaring bonfire from just a few embers of a flame that had all but died.

It turns out, WMU NC didn't just teach me how to fan real flames. My experiences in WMU NC have fanned into flame the gift of God that is in me and helped me to do the same for others.

This issue of *Tarheel Talk* explores churches and leaders in all phases of "fire-building." Some are gathering the kindling for missions in their churches by opening discussions about Missions Education programs (p.5). Some are initiating that first spark of missions through children's missions groups (pp. 4, 6-7). Some are fanning the flames of missions through special services and activities designed to promote interest and involvement (pp. 4, 10). Some are celebrating a roaring fire of missions in their leaders and churches that has transformed lives (pp. 6-8, 13-16, 18-22). Others are looking at embers, wondering how to stir them up to create a new passion for missions in their churches (p. 17)

In whatever phase of fire-building you find yourself, WMU NC is here for you. We are excited to come alongside you to offer resources, training, missions opportunities, and mentorship as you fan into flames the gifts of God that are in you and your churches. We are praying for you as read these pages and can't wait to see how God uses you to shine His light by sharing the hope of the gospel with the world.

—Allison Markwood, Editor

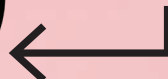
New podcast episodes available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Google Podcasts!



CREATING A
MISSIONAL
LIFESTYLE IN
THE MIDST OF
EVERYDAY
MOMENTS



SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE!



What's New at WMU?

Welcome Kimberly Stauffacher:

New Office Manager and Human Resources Catalyst for WMU NC



Kimberly grew up in Asheboro and before coming to WMU NC, she worked as the Accounting Services Assistant at the Baptist State Convention for seven years. She is a graduate of UNC Wilmington with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. She then graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership. She and her family (husband Wilson, and daughters Nora and Nataleigh) live in Durham. They attend Bayleaf Baptist Church in Raleigh.

Kimberly was a GA as a child and attended GA camp at Camp Mundo Vista. She traveled to Poland three times during seminary and has a great heart for the Polish people. When asked about taking the job with WMU she said, *"I want to flourish in my career and continue to be challenged in my job while working for an organization whose mission I believe in."*

Kimberly started in the fall of 2023 and has already been such a blessing to us. She is kind, hard-working, and efficient.

We welcome you, Kimberly, and pray you will have a long, fulfilling employment with WMU NC! Thank you for letting God use your gifts to help fulfill the Great Commission.

Embracing the Digital Age: Tarheel Talk Goes Digital this Fall

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement, adaptation is not merely an option but a necessity. We are thrilled to announce a monumental shift: our beloved *Tarheel Talk* is transitioning to a digital format this fall!

The decision to embrace digitalization is not about abandoning tradition; rather, it is about embracing the future into which God is leading us while staying true to our purpose: "to challenge, prepare, and equip Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission."

The digital transition opens up a world of possibilities, allowing us to reach a wider audience and engage with readers in ways never before possible. With the click of a button, our content will be accessible to anyone, anywhere, at any time. Whether you're leading in your church, serving your community, or taking the gospel to unreached people groups, *Tarheel Talk* will be right at your fingertips, ready to inspire, inform, and encourage.

Of course, embracing digitalization also comes with its unique set of challenges. We understand that change can be daunting, and we are committed to ensuring a seamless transition for our readers. In the coming months, we will unveil more details. Stay tuned as we embark on this adventure together.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our readers, contributors, and partners. Together, we are writing the next chapter of *Tarheel Talk's* legacy—one that will inspire believers to live on mission every day of their lives.



We Love To Hear From You!



While we are in our offices praying, planning, traveling to the churches, and preparing events and retreats, we know many of you are doing great work with WMU in your churches. **We love to hear what God is doing in His church.**

It is a huge joy to me to know that children and youth still participate in these learning activities and get rewarded for them. Some of the award patches children can receive are for:

These pictures really make me happy! These pictures are from First Baptist Church, Eden. This is their kick-off event from fall 2023 for the new school year for Mission Friends, Children in Action, and Youth on Mission. This church makes it their priority to reach unchurched children. In this group, more kids come to these mission programs that aren't members of the church, than are. And they are welcome. Many of their parents do not come to this church.



Why do these pictures make me so happy?

1. They are celebrating the new church year in August. They are celebrating Christmas in August where we collect items needed by North American Mission Board Missionaries. The picture below is of David and Kathy Parsons, North American Mission Board missionaries receiving the school supplies the children brought. They will give the supplies to the multi-housing site where they have "God Loves You" clubs.
2. They are making it FUN! They had a Christian clown, fun circus food, relay games, and many cute decorations. They had props to dress themselves up as those working in a circus. They took many pictures and kids love to be in pictures!
3. The pastor is involved! He comes to their missions education classes each Wednesday night. If your pastor is unable to come because he is leading the church in a prayer meeting or a Bible study, that is okay; but it is a blessing that this pastor is faithful to get to know the kids and help with their activities.
4. All races of children and adults are here! They are welcome and treated equally. We must never turn anyone away from church because of their race, religion, or economic status. Jesus never turns anyone away.
5. They use WMU ideas and material from National WMU. They used the "Building on Faith" planning kit for the opening of the new church year. They had real toys and play toys around the room to remind them we must build up our faith.
6. They have lots of adults! In some churches, it is hard to get volunteers to serve, but they are blessed with many volunteers. Do not feel like you have to have this many to have a group. But I know each of them is blessed as they work with children.

We are counting on you to keep us posted on what you are doing at your church. Your ideas could help another church that needs new ideas. You are always welcome to send them to me at aboone@wmunc.org and we will share them across the state.

Amy

Amy Pardue Boone,

WMU NC Executive Director/Treasurer

Mission Friends the "Right Way"

On Saturday, February 10, the Mission Friends of Roberts Chapel in Pendleton, NC went to the rest home near their church to share handmade Valentines and cookies with all the residents.

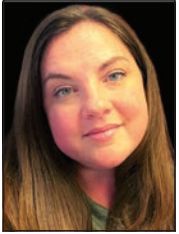
This Mission Friends group is brand new, and this was their first mission project! One Sunday each month, a Women on Mission member takes the children to "Children's Church," which is actually Mission Friends. This is a very creative use of the Mission Friends material since they don't have Wednesday or Sunday night services.

There is no "right way" to do WMU. As long as you are teaching about missions, you are doing it the right way!

Pray for this new group and that the congregation continues to train their children to have a heart for the lost, sad, bereaved, and lonely. Thank you Roberts Chapel!



Three-Legged Stools and Finding Our Voice



I work with the two and three-year-old class in our Sunday night programming at my church. I love this little group for so many reasons but especially because I can see their faith and cognitive development grow by leaps and bounds simultaneously. So much of what we do follows a routine. We sing our “Welcome” puppet song, then the “Color Song” and finally our “Quiet Song” of prayer. I always cherish the moment when we sing the color song and I ask (for the umpteenth time), “Who made everything (in nature) with a color?” and they can finally answer “God!!”. This connection and recognition usually happens around January each year. This past week, one of the four-year-olds in Children’s Choir, began quietly singing one of our Easter Songs as we transitioned to Sunday School time. It was such a sweet little sound that I had never heard before over the louder “big kids”. She had found her voice and felt safe to share it at church!

The early years of faith formation are so important. Did you know that by the age of four, children identify as churchgoers? How do I know? Well, because there have been numerous faith development studies on the topic, but also because when my girls were between the ages of three and four, they would shout “There’s my church!” as we drove by anytime during the week. Identifying themselves as churchgoers is critically important in faith development for children, and it is at these critical faith development ages that children are the perfect age for Missions Friends.

Preschoolers are also BIG helpers. They want to experience everything

and get their hands dirty in the process. They can also tell you with great gusto that Jesus loves them. Missions Friends comes alongside and shows them that they can be BIG helpers by loving others and sharing Jesus’ love just like missionaries are doing around the world. This is missions in its purest and simplest form. Missions Friends is not babysitting, it is important missional formation and faith foundation laying. It helps children to find their voice in missions.

In an article on the IMB website called “Your Church’s Children Can (and Should) Be Involved in Missions”, Taylor Johnson describes ministry as a three-legged stool. “The three legs represent worship, discipleship, and missions—the three big buckets of ministry. Most everything we do in our churches flows from one of these three ministry areas. In my experience as a children’s minister, I’ve found that many children’s ministries are successful in discipleship and maybe even worship, but oftentimes, missions seems to be the missing leg. And a two-legged stool won’t stand on its own.”

Children’s Missions Education and opportunities are that critically important third leg and WMU does it so well. So perhaps conversations with our church leadership shouldn’t start with, “Why aren’t we doing Missions Friends or Children in Action?” but rather by asking the question, “Is our church trying to sit on a two-

legged stool?” Leadership might say no to new programming offhand, but perhaps the right question could lead them on a path of self-evaluation which could lead to missions education action. Could you be the one to help your children’s program “find its voice” in missions?

— Rebecca Lindhout
*Consultant for Adults
and Children and Ministry
Involvement*





Mountain Region

Ranger Baptist WMU, Murphy



Ranger Baptist WMU in far western Murphy has two successful ongoing mission and ministry projects: Prayer Quilt Ministry and Fall Mission Bazaar.

In the Prayer Quilt Ministry, WMU sewing members donate materials, time, and talents to sew and quilt prayer quilts with Bible verses on them and to pray for the critically ill recipients. To date, the members have made and given over 500 of the prayer quilts in the past ten years! The WMU has

recently honored two members for spearheading the effort: Peg Willis and Pat Dodson.

In December the WMU honored member Virginia Burgess whose family gave the land for Ranger Baptist Church back in 1938 and whose mother started WMU in the church in 1950. Virginia has remained active in WMU all her adult life teaching GAs and Acteens and serving in WMU office capacities. She recently retired from her role as WMU Treasurer. She helps with the Fall Annual Mission Bazaar where members sell sewn, crafted, and baked or canned goods, and 100% of proceeds go to the Lottie Moon Mission Offering. The WMU ladies, through this one-day event, raise over \$3,000 each year for the Lottie Moon Mission Offering. Last year the church, with under 100 regularly attending members, gave over \$22,000 to the Lottie Moon Mission Offering through donations and Mission Bazaar proceeds. Of course, having one of its own serve as a missionary with the International Mission Board with Central Asian People Group helps keep missions alive in the small, rural church.

Mountain photos: WMU Director Heidi Wendt honors Virginia Burgess for her family's contributions to Ranger Baptist Church through giving land, starting WMU and her service for many years in various WMU roles; WMU past directors Jayne Smith, Jean Graham and Jeanette Hedrick present plaques to Peg Willis and Pat Dodson for spearheading the Prayer Quilt Ministry that has given over 500 prayer quilts to critically ill recipients



Piedmont Region

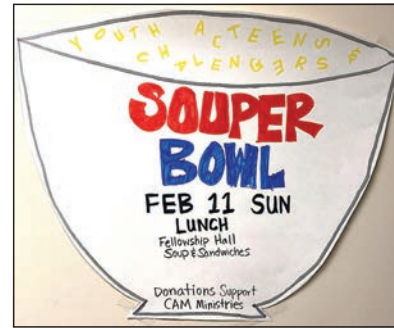
First Baptist Church, Clayton

Hello folks! The exhilarating events at First Baptist Church of Clayton on February 11th were nothing short of spectacular.

The action-packed morning kicked off with a bang as the congregation rallied together for the WMU Focus service, celebrating missions with gusto! But the excitement didn't stop there, folks!

The Acteens and Challengers stepped onto the stage, ready to tackle an important mission: fundraising for their local food pantry, Clayton Area Ministries.

Dressed to the nines in their football gear, this dynamic squad of students became the real MVPs of the day, rallying the crowd with their infectious enthusiasm! Their mission?



REGIONS RECALL MOUNTAINS TO THE COAST



To host a SOUPER Bowl lunch like no other, right in the heart of the fellowship hall.

Guests were given the ultimate choice: ‘eat in’ or ‘take out’ their savory soup and sandwich lunches. And let me tell you, folks, the taste buds were on fire! The food? A touchdown of flavor!

But it wasn’t just about the food, ladies and gentlemen. Oh no! These young champions had their eyes set on a higher goal, showing up with hearts as big as the stadium itself, all for the love of missions. They poured their passion and dedication into every moment, leaving it all on the field.

And there you have it, folks, a day to remember at First Baptist Church of Clayton! From the thrilling WMU Focus service to the heartwarming SOUPER Bowl lunch, it’s clear: when this team comes together, there’s nothing they can’t accomplish!

Coastal Region

Long Branch Baptist Church, Lumberton



The Children in Action group at Long Branch Baptist Church in Lumberton, NC got creative in January as they studied Minnesota missionaries. The kids made bird feeders as a reminder of how cold January is in Minnesota. It is so cold, it can sometimes be challenging for birds to find food! The project also had a meaningful

connection to the Bible stories they were learning of God’s faithfulness to the Israelites in Exodus.

Children in Action blends mission study, prayer for missionaries, Bible study, and hands-on projects into a perfect package that fosters discipleship in elementary-aged students. If you’re interested in starting a Children in Action group at your church, please contact Amanda Martinsen.

We’d love to help you access resources and support you in jump-starting this phenomenal program.



Is God moving through your church WMU? We’d love to share it with others! Send pictures and descriptions of your events or ministries to allisonmarkwood@gmail.com.

WMU NC Represented on National Acteens Panel



WMU NC is proud to announce that Gracie Stamey, one of our 2023-24 Youth Advisory Panelists, was selected as a 2024 National Acteens Panelist!

Each year, National WMU selects a group of young women who are passionate about missions to serve in this role. These high school juniors and seniors from across the United States serve for an entire year, developing their leadership skills, participating in National WMU events, contributing ideas and content, and growing spiritually. The recognition also comes with a \$1500 scholarship. Congratulations, Gracie! We can't wait to see how God uses you!

Gracie's Story



I grew up at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and I am still an active member there now. When I was little I asked a lot of questions, so I was very curious about a lot of things. Around the time the first "God's not Dead" movie came out, I was 7. One night, we watched the movie and there were scriptures throughout the movie. I was very interested in what the scriptures meant. All the scriptures mentioned were on my mind the entire movie. After the movie, I went to my room, got my Bible, and asked my mom and dad to help me look the scriptures up. I told them that I wanted to know more about this infinite love being offered to me. The next Sunday, I went in front of the church and told them that I had accepted Christ. The week after, I got baptized as a public display of my salvation in front of the church.

I have been very blessed my whole life even through the hard times. Over the past year, I have felt a call to ministry. I have a full heart for traveling and telling others about Christ. I have always admired my aunt April, who has been overseas as an IMB missionary. This summer at Fort Caswell during the message, they asked if those of us who felt called to missions would come and speak with some of the staff members. It was very helpful to know that there were other people my age going through the same things as I was. Later that week, there was an opportunity for juniors and seniors in high school to meet and talk to some people from Southeastern Theological Seminary. This was very helpful to hear from someone who goes to seminary.

Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.

I'm still waiting for God to show me where he has called me to go to college. As of now, all I know is that I want to share the gospel overseas and live a life on mission. At the call to the ministry meeting, they gave out these books called "NOW!" It is a monthly devotional to help me learn more about my calling. My favorite quote from this book is, "God sees you and your life as an invaluable resource, a powerful force of influence capable of dramatically impacting the world around you, all for the glory of God." Also, a verse that has helped me through my walk with Christ and my spiritual battles is Psalm 37:4, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." This has affected my life by influencing me to do mission work and grow in my walk with Christ.

—Sara Lamkin, WMU NC Consultant for Students and Ministry Involvement

If you know a high school student who loves missions, nominate her or him for our Youth Advisory Council! Nominations are due by the end of June. Visit our website for more information! www.wmunc.org/youth

WHERE IS GOD CALLING YOU?



WMU NC 2024 Mission Trips

MISSIONS CAROLINA WNC SUMMER 2024

COST: APPROX. \$300/PERSON
EMAIL KNBURNETTE@YAHOO.COM FOR DATES

FBC MARLBOROUGH, MA JULY 13-19, 2024

COST: APPROX. \$750/PERSON
APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 1

GUATEMALA SEPTEMBER 7-13, 2024

COST: APPROX. \$1430/PERSON
APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 1

www.wmunc.org/mission-trip
for more information or to apply



Sign up on our website today for the opportunity of a lifetime! Space is limited.

Missions Carolina: Partner with Destination 828 Ministries to minister to the millions of visitors to the Great Smoky Mountains this summer. Email knburnette@yahoo.com for available dates.

Massachusetts: Join Mission and Student Catalyst Sara Lamkin at FBC Marlborough to host a VBS this July. Applications are due on May 1.

Guatemala: Join Executive Director/Treasurer Amy Boone and One More Child® to make a life-changing difference for vulnerable children and struggling families in Guatemala. Applications are due on June 1.

Mission Trips for 2025

We are already praying about places and people to serve in 2025. Please pray for us as we discern what types of mission trips and to which places God is calling us.

If God lays something on your heart, reach out to Sara Lamkin! We'd love to work with you to plan and host a mission trip to where you feel called.

Red Box Sign Ups Available in April



Sign up early for your church to start collecting items for WMU NC Red Boxes! These Christmas gifts, sent to incarcerated women in North Carolina, are a yearly symbol of love and hope to many.

Check our website for information about needed items and specifications. Then, sign up online to donate a particular item. It is first come, first serve.

www.wmunc.org/prison-ministry

Christmas IN AUGUST

Support NAMB missionaries by gifting ministry supplies in August.

Visit WMU.com/ChristmasInAugust to choose a missionary and download their wishlist



WMU NC Focus Month Shares Hope across the State

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” — Romans 15:13 (NIV)

February is an exciting month for WMU NC as churches across the state celebrate the many ways God moves through the missions and ministries of WMU. This year, churches from the majestic mountains to the coastal plains embraced this opportunity to shine a spotlight on missions, community engagement, and giving.

Throughout the month, churches hosted special services uniquely tailored to honor the mission and vision of WMU NC. Congregations reflected on the impact of missions both locally and globally while highlighting the impact of WMU in their own churches through age-level mission groups.

Churches invited WMU NC staff, Executive Board members, and former WMU Leadership to attend services throughout the month as guest speakers. These women’s passion for missions shone through their powerful testimonies, illuminating how God transforms lives through missions efforts and emphasizing the importance of missions discipleship.

WMU Members within the churches planned, practiced, and presented various aspects of these special services. From the youngest members of the congregation to seasoned seniors, individuals of all ages actively participated by providing special music, reading scripture, praying for missionaries, giving testimonies, and collecting offerings among other acts of service.

Central to WMU NC Focus Month is the collection of the Heck-Jones® Offering—a tangible expression of love, compassion, and support for missions. All of the missions and ministries of WMU NC are fully supported by gifts to the Heck-Jones Offering.

While Focus on WMU Month officially takes place in February, missions is year-round. Just because some churches have already hosted their WMU Focus services for 2024 doesn’t mean your church is too late. **Any Sunday is a good Sunday to focus on WMU NC!** Our staff, Executive Board members, and former leaders are available throughout the year for speaking engagements.

We would love to visit your church, see how God is working through your congregation, and share opportunities available through WMU NC.

Thank you to all who have participated in this year’s celebrations so far. Your unwavering support and dedication are Sharing Hope through the missions and ministries of WMU NC.



Photo captions: **1**-Staff member Rebecca Lindhout speaks at Buies Creek First Baptist Church in Harnett County; **2**-GAs from Fairview Baptist Church in Statesville set out to collect 100 quarters (one for each NC county) to donate to the Heck-Jones Offering by selling hot chocolate, cookies, and cupcakes on their WMU NC Focus Sunday. They ended up earning \$500 for missions!; **3, 4**-Ladies of all ages participated in WMU NC Focus Sunday at FBC Clayton; **5, 6, 7**-Executive Board Officer Kim Bounds spoke at Olive Chapel in Apex. The church hosted a Women’s Breakfast and Women’s Volunteer Chorus as part of their celebration; **8, 9**-This year, FBC Eden’s WMU celebrated its 138th birthday just a few days after WMU Focus Sunday. It is one of the oldest WMU groups in the state, and still going strong!

These center pages are a condensed flyer with exciting WMU NC news and opportunities! Remove the center fold to share with your church, family, community, and friends.

Sharing Hope

ROMANS 15:13 (NIV)



2024
HECK-JONES[®]

Offering

WEEK OF PRAYER
for WMUNC
GOAL: \$325,000
www.wmunc.org

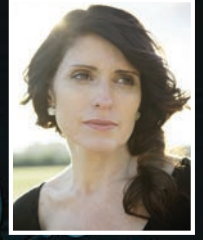


Speaker



Holly Myers

Music & Worship



Cindy Morgan

Light of the World

IGNITE Missions Conference and the 133rd Annual Meeting



April 19-20, 2024
Parkwood Baptist Church
Concord, NC



Don't miss out!

Registration for Ignite closes on April 10.

Friday Night Only (includes dinner) - \$45

Saturday Only (includes lunch) - \$55

Full Conference (Friday night, Saturday, and meals) - \$85



Scan to register
and to find out more.



Due to family health issues, Nicki Koziarz will no longer be available to be our keynote speaker. Please be praying for Nicki and her family.

However, we are excited to be joined by Holly Myers! Holly was an inspiration at Mom Camp last fall and we can't wait to hear what God has placed on her heart for us at Ignite.

Holly Myers calls North Carolina home. She is passionate about seeing girls and women embrace freedom. Her heart for missions began when she was only eight years old. Her love for Honduras and Haiti has grown over the last 10 years and she travels yearly to visit and minister there. Holly and her husband Richard lead Revolution Church where Richard is the lead pastor.

Holly is the president and founder of Unbound Ministry. Unbound was founded out of her own life experiences of pain and personal bondage. Holly Wants every woman and girl to know their worth, walk in freedom and share in the light of Jesus all over the world.

While Holly is passionate about seeing freedom in the lives of each and every girl and woman, she also loves a good coffee date, a trip to Disney, anything with a bear on it and a good road trip. She is a true crime junkie and Dateline is her favorite show.

Learn more about Holly at www.hollyhmyers.com

Ignite Conference Schedule

Friday, April 19th

2:30 pm	Doors Open for Food Packing Mission Project
4:00 pm	Registration Opens
4:00-5:45 pm	Missions Expo Displays, Bookstore, Hands on Mission Projects
5:45-6:45 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	General Session
8:30 pm	Ignite Commitment
8:45 pm	Conclude

Saturday, April 20th

8:00 am	Doors Open
9:00 am	General Session
11:00-11:45 am	Breakout #1
12:00 pm	Lunch
1-1:45 pm	Breakout #2
2:00 pm	General Session
3:30 pm	Send Out

Pack Bags for Raceway Ministries

Raceway Ministries engages the race-going community through guest services, chapel experiences, chaplain assistance, and relational evangelism. Get involved in hands-on missions at Ignite! Bring the following items when you register, and then spend a few minutes packing and praying over bags to be handed out at this year's races.

- Individual packages of crackers (eg. Lance brand)
- Granola bars
- Soft peppermints
- Fireball candy
- Individually wrapped bubble gum
- Chapstick
- Small toiletry items

MISSIONS JOURNEY Kids

Got kids? God has called them too!

K-6th grade students can join us for Missions Journey Kids Day on Saturday. While you worship and learn, your kids will spend a whole day enjoying music, crafts, games, lunch, and time spent with real, live missionaries! \$15 per child or \$40 for families of three or more!

7th-12th grade students can join the Youth Track including Friday night dinner and special programming on Saturday. Students will interact with missionaries, complete a service project, and learn ways they can be missionaries right where they are, all for \$25.

God has called you to lead. You don't have to do it alone.

Women's Leadership Cohort



Join the next 5-week virtual women's leadership cohort to **grow your leadership skills, gain clarity about your purpose, and learn how to be on mission with God right where you are.**

The cohort is held virtually via

Zoom (Join live or watch on demand!) **Cost:** \$40.00

Next Cohort Begins:

AUGUST 2024



DO YOU...

- **Want more clarity** about your purpose and calling?
- **Feel God is calling you to lead** but are unsure of your direction?
- **Desire to know more** about your strengths, spiritual gifts, and leadership skills?
- **Want to connect** with other women with similar passions?
- **Want to be better equipped** for your leadership role?

*Clarify your calling.
Connect with your community.
Cultivate your leadership skills.*

VISIT WMUNC.ORG/LEADERSHIP-COHORT FOR DETAILS

Challenge, Prepare, Equip

Every believer is called to make disciples. That means every believer is called to be a leader.

Whether you are leading a large group or mentoring one disciple, WMU NC desires to support you!

WMU NC offers a host of opportunities for Leadership Development throughout the year:

- **Ignite** features multiple breakout sessions designed for ministry leaders.
- **The Leadership Cohort** (see above) **creates a close-knit community** in which to explore God's calling in your life and develop your leadership skills.
- **Monthly Virtual Leadership Luncheons** feature speakers who address various leadership topics relevant to where you are serving. Sign up online at www.wmunc.org/leadership-luncheons. You can join us live or watch on demand.
- **A partnership** between WMU NC and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary will soon allow women to participate in a brand-new Certificate study program. Stay tuned to our website for more information!

If God is calling you to be a leader, know you don't have to do it alone. We are excited to come alongside you, pray for you, and provide opportunities and resources to challenge, prepare, and equip you to radically fulfill the Great Commission!



The Dylan Jones Academy: *Empowering Futures through International Missions in Kenya*

The Dylan Jones Academy, established in 2017, is dedicated to transforming lives in Kambirwa, Kenya through education and empowerment.

In 2008, several members of Fairview Baptist Church in Statesville, NC traveled to Kenya on a visioning trip. In 2009, the church established a partnership with Muranga Mission Station, an organization that had been helping an IMB church plant from the mid-1950s engage the local Kambirwa community in Bible study and prayer. The goal of the partnership was a long-term relationship where holistic ministries would be developed to reach this rural African community with the gospel of Christ.

The first step was to establish a church building, as the people had been worshipping under a shade tree with about 12 people attending each week. This building allowed them to meet even when the weather was not suitable for outdoor worship. Today the church has about 200 people in attendance for their weekly worship gatherings on Sunday.

In 2017, the Dylan Jones Academy was established in response to the fact that many children in the Kambirwa area were not attending school due to financial hardship.

The vision of the academy is to break the cycle of generational poverty through education. The Dylan Jones Academy focuses on providing a holistic learning experience. From primary to secondary education, the academy aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate life beyond the classroom.

As students receive quality education, they become catalysts for transformation within their communities, breaking the chains of poverty and inspiring future generations.

The Head Teacher states, *"The Dylan Jones Academy is changing our community through these students. We have seen a significant decrease in domestic violence in the homes and our crime rate has decreased tremendously."*

The Dylan Jones Academy is funded through individual donors and child sponsorships.

Financial support is crucial for the Dylan Jones Academy to maintain and enhance its educational programs. This support allows the academy to cover operational costs, invest in quality teaching resources, provide scholarships, and invest in two daily nutritious meals and annual health assessments for the students.

If you or one of your mission groups would like to sponsor one of our students for \$50.00 per month, you can scan the QR code below and our child sponsorship coordinator will get in touch with you.

The Dylan Jones Academy stands as a testament to the transformative power of education. You are invited to join us and actively participate in shaping a brighter future for the students of Kenya. Together, we can make education a beacon of hope that reaches far beyond the walls of the academy, touching the lives of countless individuals and communities.

For More Information Contact: Paul Hill - Associate Pastor of Fairview Baptist Church - Statesville, NC - 704-872-4246 - email: fairview@fairviewbaptist.net



SUMMER

prayer calendar

This summer, many will choose to leverage their lives and their time for missions. Join us in praying for those who will go and for specific WMU NC missions opportunities.

June 2-8

Pray for health and energy for camp staff and summer missionaries as they prepare to serve this summer.

June 9-15

Pray for the National WMU Annual Meeting and the Southern Baptist Convention happening this week.

June 16-22

Pray for children attending Horizons Camp at Camp Mundo Vista and Warrior Camp at Camp Caraway.

June 24-28

Pray for the leaders, volunteers, and children attending International Camp at Camp Mundo Vista.

June 30-
July 6

Pray for the safety of Christians around the world who do not have religious freedom.

July 7-13

Pray that women find rest and connection at the Baptist Ministers Wives Conference at Camp Caraway.

July 14-20

Pray for safe travels and successful ministry for those going on the WMU NC Mission Trip to Massachusetts.

July 21-27

Pray for WMU NC Staff, missionaries, and church personnel to find time to rest during the summer.

July 28-
Aug. 3

Pray for camp staff, summer missionaries, and college students as they return to "real life."

Aug. 4-10

Pray for teachers, administrators, school personnel, and students as they return to school.

Have You Ever
Dreamed of
Being A
Foreign
Missionary?



International
Children's
Camp

June 24-28
Camp Mundo Vista

Register to
Volunteer



Unshakeable Hope: *Holding On When Your Church or Small Group Faces Hardship*



I get phone calls and emails almost weekly from leaders who are discouraged about the state of their churches and WMU groups. Across the state we see churches that are struggling with attendance and retention, struggling to implement changes to church programming, and

struggling to reach new people. In fact, many churches are still trying to get back to the place they were before COVID, if they can get back to that place at all. .

I hear the discouragement in people's voices when they call and say to me, "We have tried all we know to try. What can we do?" And while we work together on coming up with practical steps they can take with their groups, more than anything I think those leaders need encouragement to keep going themselves.

Maybe today you are in a similar place. Your passion for missions, for loving people, and sharing the gospel is still very present, but current circumstances have hindered your hope. Let me encourage you with these reminders today:

- Your work for the Lord never goes to waste. Never. Not one thing you do for the Kingdom is wasted by Him.
- God sees how hard you are trying. He sees your heart and your desire to see others know Him.
- Growth can happen. Although not always in the way you think it will. Be open to the ways God may be working.
- Trust God in the process of this challenging time. He has a plan in it all.
- Relationships draw people in and keep them coming back. It doesn't have to reach hundreds of people for a ministry to matter.

- Struggles within a church or small group are not necessarily a sign to give up, but can be an invitation to grow and evolve.

It's easy to lose hope when we look at our current circumstances, but now is not the time to shrink back. Now is the time for hope. Unshakeable hope.

The Church, the Body of Christ, still has a purpose and a mission. There is work to be done for the Kingdom. I know as leaders you get discouraged at times. You may feel like what you do doesn't matter, that it's not worth it, or that at times it's too hard. But take heart.

God is still on the throne. He is still working and moving and using people like you to bring others to Him. He has a plan for you. He has a unique way for you to serve Him, and to make a Kingdom impact. He has plans for the Church, the Body of Christ to bring others to Him.

“This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary”

— Hebrews 6:19 (NLT)

In times of great difficulty, hope is the beacon that guides us forward. It is our hope in Christ that helps us remain steadfast in times of great hardship and trials. It is our hope in Christ that helps us respond to people in love, to show kindness and mercy, and it is our hope in Christ that anchors us to Him at all times (Hebrews 6:19), no matter what life may throw our way.

God never leaves us. He is always with us. He is always working. Move forward in hope.

— Amanda Martinsen

*WMU NC Leadership Development Consultant and
Resource Coordinator*

Celebrating Deborah Taylor's Presidency 2020-2024

By Allison Markwood

Deborah Taylor's heart for missions was shaped at a young age through her family and church in rural Mississippi. "My mom was the VBS person, Ms. Ella May led missions, and Ms. Nelly led Bible studies," Deborah reminisced.

Today, many (including this author) would name "Ms. Deborah" as one of the formative women who challenged, prepared, and equipped them for missions and ministry.

Deborah participated in GAs and Acteens and later received a WMU scholarship to attend seminary in New Orleans. WMU women prayed for her and encouraged her through her schooling. After graduating, Deborah went to work with the Georgia WMU, overseeing Mission Friends. In 1991, Deborah and her family moved to Charlotte, NC where she became an integral part of WMU and Acteens at University Hills Baptist Church. She also quickly got connected with WMU NC on the state level, leading mission opportunities and trainings, and serving in numerous roles.

The whole time, God was preparing Deborah for a great and challenging calling: presiding over WMU NC through a pandemic and a time of long-awaited reconciliation.

A few weeks before the 2020 Missions Extravaganza Conference, COVID-19 shut down the whole world. Deborah Taylor was to be elected president during the conference. As part of the first-ever, virtual Executive Board Meeting that May, the Board appointed Deborah and the other 2020 officers to their positions, though they would not be "official" until the WMU body approved their election at the next conference.

Deborah came into office in a time of great uncertainty, which, while challenging, also provided growth opportunities for her and the organization. "I thought I was a prayer warrior, but I really dug deeper into prayer," Deborah reflected. "When there was a decision to be made and we didn't know what to do, we could come together in prayer." And God honored those prayers. WMU NC survived the pandemic, staying connected to members and hosting live-streamed conferences in 2021 and 2022. It has been thriving ever since. We've hired new staff, started new ministries, seen growth in giving, and tapped into creativity and innovation in multiple areas.

Also during Deborah's presidency, she and Executive Director/Treasurer Amy Boone prayed together, developed meaningful relationships, sought wisdom from previous WMU leaders, and ultimately celebrated a unanimous Executive Board decision to move WMU NC offices back into the Baptist Building in 2022. While still an autonomous organization, WMU proudly partners with CBFNC and is "on mission together" with NC Baptists.

We are so grateful for what God has done through Deborah Taylor's leadership in the past four years, and we look forward to what He has in store for WMU NC in the future. May Deborah's vision for WMU become a reality and lead to more people hearing the Gospel:

"When people think of missions, I want them to think of WMU. I want their first thought to be, 'You know what? WMU knows missions.

'They're going to pray for you.

'They're going to support you.

'They're going to get you what you need.

'They're going to think long thoughts and train the next generation.'

I want it to keep going for another 200 years!"



Photo captions: 1-Deborah leading a student mission trip to Pittsburgh; 2-Deborah's Acteens at Carolina Girls in Myrtle Beach; 3-Deborah and daughter, Cassie, at CMV Mother Daughter Camp; 4-2023 Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans; 5-State Presidents at National WMU

Keep Fanning the Flames of Missions



As I write my final assignment as President, my mind is racing with many reflections. I am so honored that you elected me to serve with our talented WMU NC staff and our faithful, multi-gifted officers and Executive Board. I treasure

the memories of meeting many of you fellow mission leaders across the state and seeing how God is using your churches to make a difference in the lives of people in your communities, as well as the state and world.

I have read many mission biographies and I always feel that my words are so inadequate compared to theirs. We always make sure that as we speak, we share WMU NC's mission statement—"to challenge, prepare, and equip Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission." Four years ago, God called me to accept this opportunity to serve while reading about Moses' call at the burning bush. I want to encourage you to use every opportunity God gives you to continue to fan the flames of missions in your family, church, community, and circles of influence.

"Fan the flames" means to intensify or stir up emotions. Other synonyms include **ignite**, **heighten**, **excite**, and **increase**. I hope that you are excited and stirred up to lead in missions even more than you were four years ago. If we learned anything from the pandemic, it should be the urgency of sharing the gospel when we have the opportunity. In 2 Timothy 1:6, Paul encourages Timothy to make this a goal—"I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you."

Fanning a flame provides more oxygen for a fire to react with and increases burning while blowing can cause the small flame to cool and not be able to continue burning. So it is with us as Christians—if we want others to come to faith in Christ, if we want there to be more missionaries serving unreached people groups, if we want the legacy of Fannie Heck and Sallie Bailey Jones to continue for WMU NC, then we must actively fan these flames of missions education, missions discipleship, training leaders, and showing compassion. Blowing on the small fire in front of us with words that lament how churches are different now, how people are not interested in serving, how much things cost, or how we have never done that before, then our fire will extinguish quickly. We must truly fan the flames with future thinking creativity, commitment, and encouragement as we seek to bring others to serve alongside us.

I have enjoyed sharing my stories of those who invested in me and the opportunities God has given me. I am thankful for those who truly have been my Aarons and Miriams to help me be the Moses leader for this time. I remind us all that the first step in fanning the flames of faith and missions is prayer. I am grateful for those who have supported and continue to support me in prayer. I join with you in praying for our missionaries and leaders and look forward to where God will lead WMU NC and those He will call to keep fanning the flames of faith and missions!

Deborah Taylor

Deborah Taylor
WMU NC President

Ministry Partner Talk



centered in
CHRIST

You have encircled me behind and in front,
And placed Your hand upon me.
Psalm 139:5

NC BAPTIST MINISTERS' WIVES RETREAT
JULY 8-10, 2024 | CARAWAY CONFERENCE CENTER



SHARIE KING
Sharie is passionate about seeing people fully become who God has made them to be.



<https://ncbminwives.wixsite.com/ncbmw>
ncbminwives@gmail.com
Ncb Min Wives

North Carolina Baptist Ministers' Wives

Our next meeting will be July 8-10 for our Annual NC Baptist Ministers' Wives Retreat at Caraway Conference Center. This is always a great time of Bible study, fellowship, games, and food. This is a great time to get away, get renewed, and get ready to hit the real world again. I encourage all pastors' wives to make plans to attend this retreat. Ask your church, WMU group or friends to help with the cost if needed.

Visit the NCBMW website:

<https://ncbminwives.wixsite.com/ncbmw>

Connect on Facebook with other ministers' wives, stay updated on events and opportunities, and pray for one another:

<https://www.facebook.com/NCBMW>

— Duronda Hood, WMU NC Liason to
NC Baptist Ministers Wives

North Carolina Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF)

BNF hosted its annual meeting on March 1-2, 2024 at Camp Caraway.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship is open to any nursing or health-care professionals interested in Christian professional fellowship; who want to promote continuing education and growth for members and nurse missionaries; as well as encouraging nursing service projects evolving from a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

BNF has scholarships available for Student Nurses. Applications are due by May 1 each year. If interested, please send a request to Rowena Mante at rowenamante@yahoo.com or Penny Jones at penjones@wakehealth.edu

Are you a Nurse or Medical Professional? **Join** online at www.wmunc.org/nc-baptist-nursing-fellowship or contact Penny Jones for more information. penjones@wakehealth.edu



Baptist Nursing Fellowship exists to **empower, educate,** and **encourage** nurses & medical workers to be on mission for Christ.

La Union Feminil de Misionera (UFM) Hispanic WMU

The UFM, along with Pastor Jairo Contreras of Compassion Connections, went on a mission trip to Costa Rica in January. They visited two beautiful places: Costa Pajaros and Puerto Viejo. In both places, they helped host Vacation Bible School for children, met with youth and women, and participated in evangelism.

Costa Pajaros is a fishing village where most people are believers; however, today's generation is far from God. The UFM donated an offering of \$1,300 to the Tierra Nueva Church to help the brothers buy a car to transport the children.

60 children attended the VBS there! See photos below:



The UFM visited two churches in Puerto Viejo. The Tierra Nueva Church and Primera Iglesia Bautista de Manzanillo. Over 45 children attended VBS! See photos below:



August 23-25: UFM Retreat at Fort Caswell. Sister Libo Krieg will join as the keynote speaker. The theme will be: **"Called to Share the Hope of Christ to the Nations."** Colossians 1:27.

Contact Raquel Garcia for more information at raquelgarcia.09121975@gmail.com

(Ministry Partner Talk continued)



Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)

Happy 25th Anniversary, CWJC!

New CWJC/CMJC Sites in Uganda

Last November, Cara Lynn Vogel, NC State Coordinator for CWJC, traveled to Kampala, Uganda to provide Level I Training for Amani



Sasa, a ministry to refugees, whose name translates to "Peace Now." Their ten years in ministry have created a safe place for

young mothers and their children, young women, men, and families.

After Patricia Ihlenfeldt, National Trainer and Executive Director of The Women's Department of the Baptist Union of South Africa, and Cara Lynn completed the training, Amani Sasa registered their intent to begin both CWJC and CMJC.

CWJC NC is grateful for WMU NC's financial grants to help with this training as it was not a budgeted expense.

If you are interested in hearing more about Amani Sasa or sharing this partnership with your congregation, please visit their website <https://www.amanisasa.org/> or contact Cara Lynn Vogel at cwjcgmail.com.



Sisters Who Care (SWC)

As of January of this year, SWC is celebrating having 480 online members and a footprint in 31 counties in NC!

May 31-June 1 – Annual Spring Retreat at Caraway Conference Center

August 3-4 – Women in Ministry Retreat at Caraway Conference Center

Pray alongside Sisters Who Care for God to move in these areas in 2024:

- 1,000 online members
- 50% participation for all events.
- 5 women to serve on a mission trip with WMU
- 500 churches actively partnered with SWC NC
- Online discipleship academy and training center established and operational.
- Families returned to God.

Contact Elder Lisa D. Jacobs for more information or to get involved! ljsevent@gmail.com

I am Her
SPRING RETREAT
 HEALED • EMPOWERED • RESTORED
 JOHN 5:6 ESV

HOSTED BY:
 ELDER LISA D. JACOBS
 Sisters Who Care

REGISTER TODAY

DR. STEPHANIE STRATFORD
 Brentwood, MA

DR. VALERIE CARTER-SMITH
 Richmond, Va

DR. TAMMIE HARRIS
 Durham, NC

DR. BECKY BELL
 Wake Forest, NC

MAY 31-JUNE 1

CARAWAY CONFERENCE CENTER
 4756 CARAWAY MOUNTAIN RD,
 SOPHIA, NC 27350
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
 CALL: 919-432-3442
 EMAIL: LISEVENT@GMAIL.COM

COST:
 SINGLE ROOM: \$165.00 PP
 DBLE ROOM: \$140.00 PP
 REGISTRATION INCLUDES:
 HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS,
 MEALS/SNACKS, WORKSHOPS, PAJAMA
 PARTY, H.E.R SWAG BAGS

SCAN AND REGISTER HERE

Calendar Talk

WMU NC 2024
CALENDAR

April 2024

- 1 Easter Monday (*Office closed*)
- 4 Book Club Zoom Call
- 5-6 NC Baptist on Mission Conference, Hickory Grove Baptist, Charlotte*
- 19-20 Ignite Conference and Annual Meeting, Parkwood Baptist, Concord
- 24 Leadership Luncheon

May 2024

- 15 Leadership Luncheon
- 17-18 Executive Board Meeting, Baptist Building, Cary, NC
- 27 Memorial Day Holiday (*Office closed*)
- 31-June 1 Sisters Who Care retreat

June 2024

- 9-10 WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration, Indianapolis*
- 11-12 Southern Baptist Convention, Indianapolis*
- 17-21 Camp Horizons for Girls, Warrior Camp for Boys*
- 24-28 International Camp, Camp Mundo Vista

July 2024

- 4 Independence Day Observed (*Office closed*)
- 8-10 NC Baptist Ministers Wives Retreat, Caraway
- 13-19 Mission Trip, FBC Marlborough, MA

*Not a WMU NC sponsored event

**PROJECT HELP:
MENTAL HEALTH**
And the Church

Invite WMU NC's Sara Lamkin to speak with your church about:
What is mental health?
How can the church respond?
What's going on with youth and mental health?

Contact slamkin@wmunc.org for more information.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.wmunc.org

TO GET CONNECTED



Woman's Missionary Union NC

205 Convention Dr | Cary NC 27511

PO Box 4249 | Cary NC 27519-4249

Tarheel Talk

Woman's Missionary Union

(866) 210-8602 • (919) 882-2344

www.wmunc.org

Staff

Amy Pardue Boone

Executive Director/Treasurer

ext. 201, aboone@wmunc.org

Ashley Abernathy

Administrative Assistant

ext. 200, aabernathy@wmunc.org

Sara Lamkin

Mission and Student Catalyst

ext. 205, slamkin@wmunc.org

Rebecca Lindhout

Adult and Children's Ministry Catalyst

ext. 209, rlindhout@wmunc.org

Amanda Martinsen

Leadership Development Catalyst

ext. 208, amartinsen@wmunc.org

Kimberly Stauffacher

Office Manager and Human Resources Catalyst

ext. 202, kstauffacher@wmunc.org

CAMP MUNDO VISTA

REGISTRATIONS:

(336) 521-9210

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