

Tarheel Talk

SPRING 2023



Deeper Questions.

Deeper Relationships.

Deeper Faith.

“Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them.”

— Elisabeth Elliot

Inside Talk

Spring 2023

Inside This Issue

Editor's Note	2
Notes from Amy	3
Missions	4
Mother's Day Offering	5
Hello from Deborah	6
Women's Missions Conference & Annual Meeting	6-7
Students	8-9
Regions Recall	10-11
Heck-Jones Offering flyer	12
New Home for WMU NC	13
Summer Camp 2023	14
Ministry Partner Talk	15
Ministry Spotlight	16-17
Leadership Development	18-19
Adults & Children.....	20
Mission Projects	21
ProjectHELP: Mental Health	22
Calendar Talk.....	23
Talk Back	24

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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Funds for *Tarheel Talk* come from the Heck-Jones* Offering. Visit www.wmunc.org/heck-jones-offering or call our office for promotional materials. It is through your gifts to the Heck-Jones Offering that the missions and ministries of WMU NC are made possible.

Know Your Mission Field. Build Relationships.

When I was growing up, all I wanted was to be the next Lottie Moon. After college, circumstances led me to become a teacher, and I was actually upset that God put me in a high school classroom instead of sending me out to the nations.

One day a student asked me what my religion was. As I spoke the words "I'm a Christian," my eyes were opened, and for the first time, I truly saw my students. Kids from all around the world sat right in front of me, many of whom had never heard about Jesus. In that instant, I realized God *had* sent me to the nations without me even having to leave my hometown.

That humbling moment changed my life. I now try to remember that **wherever I am is my mission field**, and the people in my sphere of influence are the people to whom I must minister.

How can I invest in the people around me if I haven't taken the time to really see them? How can I know their needs if I haven't built relationships with them? How can I show them Jesus without them trusting I truly care for them?

Missions is so often dependent on building relationships. As you'll see in their articles, this theme has settled on the hearts of the WMU NC staff during this season. Read their experiences. Learn from their wisdom. Go out, ask deep questions, and build excellent relationships so you can let the truth and love of Jesus shine through you!

— 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!



How are you? How are you REALLY?



I love to ask questions. I love to find out where people are from and ask other questions about their lives. It bothers me when I ask someone, “how are you?” and they say, “just fine.” Sometimes I can tell they aren’t fine. We often hide our feelings from one another and even from ourselves.

Jesus asked deep questions:

“Do you love me more than these?”

“Who do you say I am?”

“Why are you so afraid?”

He wanted people to look inside their own lives and see their inmost thoughts and beliefs.

Asking questions of others is a great way to show people you care and to build relationships. It is the mark of a great leader. Asking self-reflective questions is also very helpful to see where we are and how we are doing. It is like a spiritual check-up. I don’t always like a physical check-up with the doctor, but I sure do love it when they find a new medicine for my migraines! Asking and reflecting on questions can be so helpful.

Here’s a question for you: **Did you know there are four goals of WMU?**

Learn about missions.

Pray for missions.

Give to missions.

Go on mission.



Let’s ask some deep questions to see how we are REALLY doing with these goals.

- **Am I learning** about missions? Do I have a subscription to the *Missions Mosaic*? Am I eager to learn about up-to-date missionary information? Am I learning about a specific country and its challenges and needs?
- **Am I praying** for missions? **Is my heart broken for the lost enough to pray for them?** Am I praying for the missionaries on the front line?
- **Am I giving** to missions? Do I support the Lottie Moon Offering, Heck-Jones Offering, and the Annie Armstrong Offering? Do I support local projects and mission projects across the globe?
- **Am I going** on mission? Have I prayed about where God would like me to go this year? Have I looked at the mission projects WMU NC has planned? Will I go across the street to take cookies to a sick neighbor? Will I go across the world if God calls me?



When I see you soon, I’ll look forward to getting to know you by asking questions! In the meantime, I will ask myself questions too so that I can serve our Lord with dignity and with all my might.

Amy

Amy Pardue Boone,
WMU NC Executive Director/Treasurer

Make Every Moment Missional

Did your answers to Amy's questions reveal gaps in your missional living? There are lots of resources available to help you make every moment missional. Check out some of our favorites:

LEARN

Missions Mosaic is the national WMU Magazine which features daily devotionals, prayer prompts, missionary stories, and practical, hands-on missions ideas you can use in your own church and community. Order online at <https://www.wmustore.com/missions-mosaic>

Check out the WMU Store for missions education resources for all age levels and interests

- International Mission Studies
- "Missions in a Box" kits
- Immersive Experiences

Shop today at <https://www.wmustore.com/>

Looking for free articles? Check out the great resources on these websites:

<https://baptistsonmission.org/>

<https://cbfnc.org/>

<https://ncbaptist.org/>

<https://www.imb.org/>

<https://www.namb.net/>

PRAY

Did you know that missionary-sending organizations publish lists of their missionaries by birthday? Then missionaries plan special events for their birthdays because they know Christians around the world will be praying specifically for them! You can access the IMB and NAMB list in your *Missions Mosaic* or online at <https://wmu.com/missions-discipleship/prayercalendar/>. Download the CBF prayer guide at <https://cbf.net/prayers-of-the-people>.

This year, NC Baptists have committed to praying for the unreached people groups represented in North Carolina. To commit to praying for the nations in 2023, sign up at PrayNC.org, or text "PrayNC" to (919) 925-6525. You can also download the NC Baptist mobile app and follow [@ncbaptist](https://twitter.com/ncbaptist) on social media to keep up with weekly prayer prompts and more information.

GIVE

Your generosity enables the fulfillment of the Great Commission! Choose a mission offering or organization to give to today. Here are a couple of our favorite, timely options:

The **Heck-Jones Offering** is the primary source of funding for all the missions and ministries of WMU NC. Your generosity to this offering enables us to challenge, prepare, and equip Christian believers to radically fulfill the Great Commission in North Carolina and across the world. Give today at bit.ly/GivetoWMUNC

The **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** directly benefits the missionaries sent out by the North American Missions Board to take the gospel to an estimated 281 million lost people on our continent. Give today at <https://www.anniearmstrong.com/>

GO

MONTANA – September 12-21, 2023

Come work with Native American women and their families on the Crow Indian Reservation in southern Montana. Application deadline: May 15, 2023.

WEST VIRGINIA – Ongoing- second weekend each month – Come work in an individually-owned food bank near Iaeger, WV. Help organize, pack boxes, perform maintenance, and pray with those who receive food. Check online for other opportunities to serve alongside this ministry.

VERMONT – October

Come host retreats for female college students, faculty wives, and church planter wives.

MISSIONS CAROLINA – Details coming soon!

Come do a mission project right here in NC. Check our website below for more information.

Is God calling you to GO? Apply today at <https://www.wmunc.org/mission-trip>



The Mother's Day Offering

A Mission of Health, Hope, and Healing for All

For some patients at North Carolina Baptist Hospital, the heavy burden of hospital bills is real. But so is hope—*thanks to you.*

Since 1924, patients have been receiving life-changing letters with the message—*Your medical bill has been paid by compassionate and mission-minded North Carolina Baptists in the name of Jesus Christ and His love.*

Be the hands and feet of God for patients facing the heavy burden of hospital bills. *Please consider making your tax-deductible donation today.*

"...that they may see and know, may consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it."

ISAIAH 41:20

The Mother's Day Offering in churches
Sunday, May 14, 2023

Online now at
mothersdayoffering.org

Week of Prayer
May 8 – May 14, 2023

Offering Goal
\$500,000



 **Atrium Health**
Wake Forest Baptist

mothersdayoffering.org

Are you living in Hope?



This past year I have looked at the many Scriptures with the word “hope” and studied more about the Hebrew and Greek use of the word. Dr. Wommack, a college professor in Colorado stated that “the word hope sometimes can seem less potent maybe than words like faith or love, but the three work together like powerful dynamite, and it’s as we live in love, and expect in hope that our faith can **ignite**.”

One of the Hebrew definitions for the word hope is the image of a rope and it demonstrates how waiting on God and hoping in God are similar. The Psalms are full of this idea as David speaks about God and His words being his refuge and hope. I have spent much of my life needing that “rope” of God’s hope to cling to and upon which to depend. We talk in our missional lifestyle of “holding the ropes in prayer” for missionaries and those sharing the gospel.

Much medical research has been done about the power of hope. One writer says, “You do not need to be well to hope, but you do need hope to be well.” Our brains are programmed for good and suffer structural damage when we endure things like abuse and negativity. Dutch Sheets reminds us that “we are programmed by God to keep hoping even when life and our circumstances are opposite of what we’re hoping for.”

The Greek word for hope used in Hebrews 11:1 is “elpizo”—“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” It is defined as trust or an expectation. The Creator of all gave us an imagination that can expect something that is not there—yet! This aligns with Isaiah 26:3—The Passion translation says, “Perfect, absolute peace surrounds those whose (mind) imaginations are consumed with you; they confidently (hope) trust in you.”

WMU NC wants to ignite you to live in hope—to cling to God’s Words and to then “hold the ropes in prayer” for others. We want you to have the power of hope that overcomes circumstances and to help others in circumstances that might be damaging. We want you to join us in being confident in our hope in Christ so that we can imagine, dream, and implement ways to reach every tribe, nation, language, age, and culture with the gospel. Join us in missions education and discipleship, becoming a leader and mentoring others to be leaders, and sharing hope through our compassion ministries.

I recently shared with our Executive Board these words from Hudson Taylor, missionary to China before Lottie Moon: “Depend on it. God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply. He is too wise a God to frustrate His purposes for lack of funds, and He can just as easily supply them ahead of time as afterward, and He much prefers doing so.”

Deborah Taylor

Deborah Taylor
WMU NC President

WMU NC Presents:

Ignite!

**2023 WMU NC Missions Conference
and 132nd Annual Meeting**

SAVE THE DATE:
April 28-29, 2023
Lawndale Baptist Church
Greensboro, NC

What do you need to ignite in your life?

Ignite!

MISSIONS PROJECT

**BRING BLANK JOURNALS FOR
CARENET COUNSELING CENTERS**

CareNet is a counseling organization affiliated with Wake Forest Baptist Health that offers personalized counseling with a spiritual approach in over 30 centers throughout North Carolina.

Ignite Your Missions Passion. Influence the World.

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness shall not overcome it.”

—John 1:5 (ESV)

Schedule

Friday, April 28

- 4:00 p.m. Registration begins
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner catered by Cracker Barrel
- 6:45 p.m. Ignite: Worship and Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 29

- 9:00 a.m. General Session with Praise & Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Break-out #1
- 12:00 p.m. Break-out #2 (Boxed lunches provided)
- 1:00 p.m. Break-out #3
- 2:00 p.m. General Session with Praise & Worship

Featuring

A special Youth Track including an off-site mission project. Great for missions training and service learning hours!

An exciting Kid's Camp on Saturday featuring mission study, crafts, talking with real-live missionaries, and more!

➔ **REGISTER TODAY** at wmunc.org/missions-conference

Conference Leaders



Julie Busler – Julie Busler can testify to the truth of God's promise that the darkness will not overcome the light. A former IMB missionary who dealt with mental illness, Julie spent time in a Turkish psych ward and, through her struggles, discovered that trials not only humanize us but increase our capacity to be used by God. Today Julie serves as the Oklahoma President of WMU and is active in the women's ministry at her

church. She loves to use her experiences alongside Scripture to discuss and teach how to thrive in spite of mental illness and that joy and sorrow can coexist. Julie and her husband Ryan have been married 16 years, have four children, and have served overseas in Canada, Mexico, Germany, and Turkey. Her book, *Joyful Sorrow: Breaking Through the Darkness of Mental Illness*, can be found where books are sold online, Kindle, and on Audible.



RK Praise – Husband and wife duo, Russell and Kristi Johnson, are on a mission to encourage and equip the Church. As they travel throughout the US and abroad, whether they are leading worship or a marriage

seminar, people can see their passion for Jesus and their genuine love for people.

Originally from Conway, SC, Russell and Kristi have been musicians all their lives and in ministry together for more than 20 years. Prior to the couple combining their talents, Kristi sang professionally for family variety shows including The Carolina Opry and the Alabama Theatre/Opryland USA while Russell served in multiple local churches as a worship leader and Creative Arts Pastor.

Although Russell and Kristi grew up in the same town, they didn't begin dating until college at Coastal Carolina University and were married a year later. This year they will celebrate 29 years of marriage! They have a son, Will, and a daughter, Sidney. Get to know them and you will see that they are a match made in heaven – in their marriage, their music, and their ministry.

To find out more about this couple and their ministry visit www.RussellandKristi.com

Deeper Questions. Deeper Relationships.

Reaching the next generation can be a challenge, but it's also a crucial part of fulfilling the Great Commission. Each generation is a unique and complex demographic, with its own set of beliefs, values, and experiences. To connect with people from other generations and share the gospel with them, it's important to understand their perspective and ask the right questions.

Here are some of the best questions to ask to connect with people outside your generation:

1. **What are your passions and interests?** Get to know people on a personal level and understand what drives them. You might also find common ground and earn trust.
2. **How do you see the world changing?** Learn about others' views on current events and their hopes and fears for the future. This may open discussions about the role of faith in shaping the world.
3. **What are some of the biggest challenges you face in your life?** Understanding people's struggles and how they are coping with them provides opportunities to offer support and encouragement.
4. **What do you believe is the purpose of life?** This question can help you understand others' beliefs and values. It can also provide an opportunity to share your own faith and testimony.
5. **What are your thoughts on faith and spirituality?** Take time to learn about people's past experiences with faith and how those experiences have shaped their beliefs. This makes a great introduction to sharing the gospel.
6. **What do you hope to accomplish in the future?** Once you know where people are going, you can come alongside them to offer support, encouragement, mentorship, and an example of Christ's love.

By asking these questions, you can build meaningful relationships with people from other generations, understand their perspectives, and create opportunities for gospel conversations. So be bold, be faithful, and be intentional in reaching out to those around you. You may become the friend who introduces them to Jesus.



Co-Ed Youth Missions Retreat at Ridgecrest October 20-22, 2023

Join WMU NC for a two night getaway featuring Missions projects, S'mores, Fun and Fellowship.

\$140 per person, includes meals and lodging.

Rooms sleep 6, so bring 5 friends or make new ones here!

REGISTER AT WMUNC.ORG
STARTING JULY 17TH

Being A Place Where People Belong



When I was in seminary, I worked as a church planter for the Hispanic population. I would drive around the city of Richmond searching for neighborhoods so we could begin meeting those who lived around us. During that time, I saw home Bible studies start up, people get baptized, and a Pastor get hired, but what has stuck with me through the years was when one of the women asked me, “**Why are you our friend?**” Plenty of people had knocked on their doors wanting to talk with them about their faith, but I was the only one who attended their soccer games, ate dinners with them, helped their kids with homework, etc. **I was the only one who wanted more than their conversion.**

The church is failing Generation Z (those born between 1995-2010). We want their faithfulness and their belief but we are struggling to do and hear what they need. Gen Z is called the loneliest generation. Their mental health has been spiking in dangerous ways with suicide now the third leading cause of death for this age group. A survey done in 2022 shows Gen Z saying that they are more comfortable talking to strangers about their mental health than they are teachers, grandparents, or religious leaders.

Gen Z wants to talk about what is troubling them. They want to have deep conversations about the state of the world and they are worried about their futures. Agnosticism and atheism are their belief systems. The Gospel Coalition printed an article with interviews of Campus Ministers from across the nation that said they are having more success reaching Gen Z by offering them non-religious community than if they only offered evangelical programs. Gen Z needs God, and the church can point the way by offering relationships first. Offer them a place to come and build friendships and community. Gen Z will believe your actions more than your words, so show them that you love them regardless of their beliefs. Show them that you love the world by helping and making a difference in the community around you. Be a safe place for them to talk about their mental health struggles. Then, you can begin to have those evangelical conversations that can change their worlds. Be a place they belong.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/gen-z/>
<https://www.harmonyhit.com/state-of-gen-z-mental-health/>

— Sara Lamkin

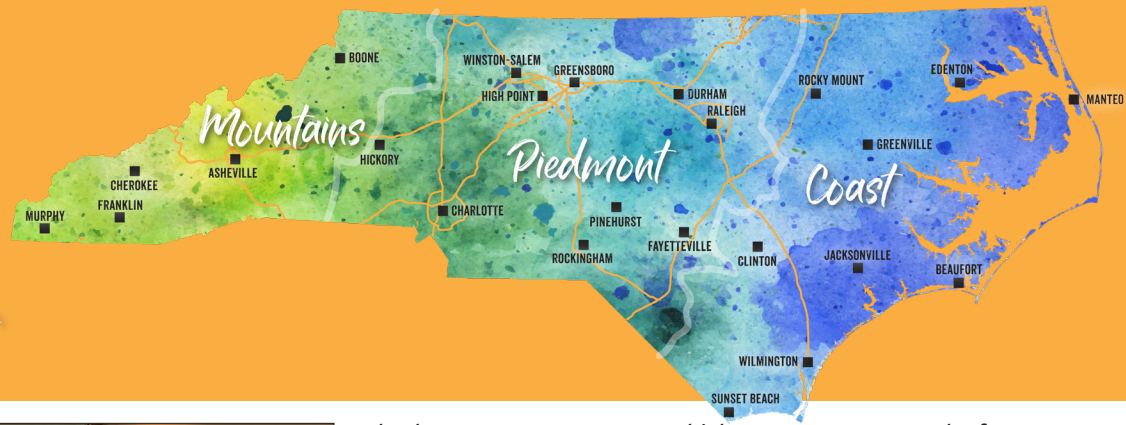
Consultant for Students and Ministry Involvement



Through Project HELP: Mental Health, WMU provides multiple avenues for churches to raise awareness of mental health as a critical issue in all of our lives and equip members to lead and champion mental health initiatives both in the church and in local communities.

For available resources please go to:
wmu.com/mentalhealth





Mountain Region

First Baptist Church of Sylva

The missions organizations are alive and well at First Baptist Church of Sylva!

Does your church host kids after school? FBC Sylva utilizes an in-house, after-school program to create the opportunity for GAs and RAs to meet each Wednesday afternoon. They



also host an Acteens group, which meets once a month after church on Sundays.

Not only are these kids meeting regularly, but they are living out the Great Commission. A year ago, the GAs and Acteens hosted a Rock-A-Thon Fundraiser to be able to donate money to missionaries working in Ukraine. The girls had the opportunity to personally give the money to the missionaries, see pictures, and learn more about Ukraine and the work being done there.

More recently, the Acteens group had a great time making pumpkin pies and delivering them to shut-ins. They even got to celebrate a church member's 105th birthday!

Showing kids they are missionaries today prepares them to live on mission in the future. We are grateful to pastors like Jeff Mathis, WMU Directors like Gaye Buchanan, and Missions Education leaders like Sandi Allen, Pearl Hall, Carrie Nelson, and Summer Burnes of First Baptist Church Sylva who invest in teaching kids about missions and their call to go!



REGIONS RECALL

MOUNTAINS TO THE COAST



Piedmont Region

Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh

On February 5, 2023, Trinity Baptist Church hosted “Women’s Ministry Luncheon Sunday” which featured fellowship, worship, and sharing about various ministries. About 150 women attended and had the opportunity to check out multiple table displays, including a large display featuring the missions and ministries of WMU NC.

Jane Dickens of Trinity commented, “We have so many missions opportunities at Trinity that it leaves my head spinning at times, but God continues to call us to step into His plan!”

Thanks, Trinity Baptist Church, for letting WMU NC be part of your awesome event!



Coastal Region

Roseboro First Baptist Church & Salemburg Baptist Church



In June 2022, Marty Caldwell and Diane Neal from Roseboro FBC, along with Carolyn Curvin from Salemburg Baptist Church, made 150 reusable, fabric sanitary napkins. Mission volunteer

Rhonda Hilliker, also from Roseboro, FBC, has been on many mission trips to Uganda and will take these to Jinja, Uganda for unwed teen moms in a nearby village.

We are thankful for this group of ladies who use their sewing skills and passion to love others and glorify God! They also recently made dresses and shorts for a Pastor to take to Guatemala.

If your group is interested in a sewing ministry or mission project, here are some steps to make it happen:

1. Enlist volunteers.
2. Collect supplies. Church members or craft stores may be willing to donate items.
3. Set a time and place to meet.
4. Identify sewing projects based on what people need and the skills of your group. The internet is full of patterns for just about anything!
5. Set specific goals for your project. Will you give to a certain organization? Do you have a representative who will deliver your product to a specific place?
6. As you sew, fellowship together, and pray over the people your projects will bless.
7. Write notes and attach them to the packages before delivering them.

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.



Living Hope

1 PETER 1:3-4

2023
HECK-JONES[®]

Offering WEEK OF PRAYER
for WMU NC
GOAL: \$325,000
www.wmunc.org

Check Out Our New Home!



Last November, WMU NC's offices moved from Raleigh to the Baptist Building in Cary. Owned by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC), this building houses multiple Baptist ministries that serve our state.

In January, we hosted an Open House for our new neighbors to get to know us better. It was a great time of fellowship and sharing our desire to challenge, prepare, and equip Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Visiting our office allows you to see what God has done in the past and what He is doing now. WMU NC has been honored to collect gifts and artifacts from missionaries who have served all over the world, and now we have a beautiful space to display them! We also have vintage artifacts from some of WMU's earliest leaders, including Ms. Fannie Heck herself.

We'd love for you to have the chance to visit us! We're happy to give tours and we often have volunteer opportunities that would allow you to visit and serve all in one day. Give us a call to plan a day with us.



FAQs

1. How do I contact WMU NC?

Physical Address:

205 Convention Drive
Cary, NC 27511

Mailing Address:

PO Box 4249
Cary, NC 27519-4249

Phone Number:

919-882-2344

2. Didn't WMU NC used to have offices in the Baptist Building in Cary?

Yes. WMU NC moved into the Baptist Building when it first opened in 1983. We were considered an auxiliary to the BSCNC and received a portion of the state missions offering to cover operational costs. Those arrangements ended in 2008 when WMU NC moved to an office in Raleigh.

3. So have things gone back to how they were before?

No. WMU NC is a completely autonomous entity working alongside the BSCNC. We do not receive any funds from the BSCNC or the state offering.

4. If you're not getting money from the BSCNC, where does your money come from?

WMU NC's funding comes from YOUR generous donations to the Heck-Jones Offering.

5. What are the benefits of the move?

The move helps us steward our resources well. Plus, working alongside NC Baptists increases our ability to partner with NC churches and allows us to partner together to fulfill the Great Commission!



SUMMER CAMP 2023


INVITE POTENTIAL STAFF AND CAMPERS USING THESE CARDS:



STAFF NEEDED!

Love Jesus? Love Kids? Love Fun?
Apply today for the
Best Summer Job you'll ever have!

Multiple positions and time commitments available.
Starting pay: \$250/week. Must be 18+ to apply.
APPLY AT CAMP CARAWAY.ORG/APPLY-NOW/



YOU'RE INVITED!

Parent-Child Camp at
Camp Caraway and Camp Mundo Vista
Multiple Dates-See Website

A Christian Camp experience for kids and their parents/mentors.
Grow Faith. Serve Others. Develop Relationships. Build Skills.
CAMP CARAWAY.ORG
CAMP MUNDOVISTA.COM



YOU'RE INVITED!

Warrior Camp for Boys
at Camp Caraway
July 10-14, 2023

A Christian Summer Camp for boys in 3rd-12th grade.
Grow Faith. Serve Others. Develop Relationships. Build Skills.
REGISTER AT CAMP CARAWAY.ORG



YOU'RE INVITED!

Horizon Camp for Girls
at Camp Mundo Vista
July 10-14, 2023

A Christian Summer Camp for girls in 3rd-12th grade.
Grow Faith. Serve Others. Develop Relationships. Build Skills.
REGISTER AT CAMP MUNDOVISTA.COM

Ministry Partner Talk

North Carolina Baptist Nursing Fellowship - Happy 40th Birthday

July 23-28: Mission Trip with WMU Virginia to Standing Rock Indian Reservation in the Dakotas. Volunteer Opportunities are available through the Baptist on Mission's Medical/Dental buses. www.baptistsonmission.org

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

Christian Women's Job Corps

CWJC is preparing to celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2024 with a tremendous expansion effort!

Here's how you can pray:

1. Pray for leaders to be raised up and trained to launch CWJC sites.
2. Pray for volunteers to join the mission and ministry of CWJC.
3. Pray for cities in our state that desperately need a CWJC presence.
4. Pray for God to transform the lives of women in CWJC programs.

Stay Tuned for training opportunities for potential site coordinators. Visit www.cwjc.org or contact Cara Lynn Vogel for more information at cwjc@gmail.com.

Hispanic WMU

April 26-May 1: Mission Trip to an orphanage in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

August 18-20: La Union Femenil la Misionera Retreat at Camp Mundo Vista.

Check wmunc.org for registration updates.

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



SISTERS WHO CARE
Spring Retreat

John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"

Hosted by: Elder Lisa Jacobs

EVANGELIST KEYA WILLIAMS - Speaker
MINISTER DIDDIA MUNFORD - Speaker
MINISTER DARLENE MINGO-MISSORAVE - Speaker
KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Elder LaShawn Green

MAY 19-20 2023
Caraway Conference Center
Sophia, NC

Registration: Investment \$135.00
Includes:
Hotel Accommodations • Guest Speaker • Workshops • Praise & Worship • Journals • Midnight Pajama Party • 4 Meals & 2 Snacks • SWAG Bag

REGISTER AT: WWW.WMUNC.ORG

Sisters Who Care

April 24: Monthly Zoom Bible Study, 7 pm*

April 30: Chosen Generation Ministries Anniversary Celebration. SWC will be donating personal hygiene and laundry products.

May 19-20: Spring Retreat at Caraway. Register Online.

May 22: Monthly Zoom Bible Study, 7 pm*

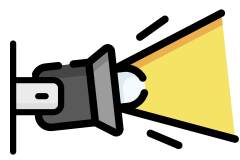
June 10: Lunch and Learn

June 26: Monthly Zoom Bible Study, 7 pm*

*Visit wmunc.org/sisters-who-care for Zoom link.

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

Check out all our ministry partners at the Missions Expo at this year's "Ignite" Missions Conference!



Ministry Spotlight:

North Carolina Baptist Ministers' Wives

Whether outspoken or reserved, in the limelight or behind the scenes, your ministers' wives play an incredibly important role in the health and ministry of your church. To be a minister's wife is a unique and valuable calling that comes with its own joys and struggles. North Carolina Baptist Ministers' Wives ministry understands the needs of these special women and seeks to support them as they support their husbands and churches. This mission is carried out through a variety of means, including an annual retreat, a prayer ministry, and a strong community on Facebook.

The annual retreat is a highlight of the year for many ministers' wives. Held in July, this retreat provides an opportunity for women to come together and be encouraged, refreshed, and equipped for ministry. This year's retreat will be July 10-12 at Caraway Conference Center and will reflect on the question, "Where's Your Path Leading?" Jodi Aiken, a pastor's wife who has served alongside her husband in full-time ministry for over 20 years, will be the keynote speaker, and worship will be led by Leah Willis of Salem Baptist Church in Lincolnton.

North Carolina Baptist Ministers' Wives is also intentional in prayer. Ministers' wives can submit prayer requests online and know their requests will be lifted up by volunteers and leaders. This prayer ministry provides a powerful source of encouragement and support for women as they navigate the joys and challenges of ministry.

The organization's Facebook community provides a space for women to share prayer requests, praises, suggestions, and encouragement. Each week, the group admins post an engaging question tagged #TipTuesday. Members of the group answer the question, offering words of support and encouragement to one another and creating a strong sense of community among women who may be separated by geography but who share a common bond.

One of the strengths of the North Carolina Baptist Ministers' Wives ministry is its recognition of the unique challenges that ministers' wives face. These women juggle the demands of ministry with the responsibilities of family life, and they can sometimes feel isolated and overwhelmed. The ministry provides a safe and supportive community where women can share their struggles and find encouragement and support.

North Carolina Baptist Ministers' Wives is a valuable community that provides meaningful support and encouragement to these amazing ministers' wives who serve and sacrifice in so many ways. By recognizing the importance of ministers' wives and providing a space for these women to connect and support one another, the ministry is making a positive impact in the lives of many women and churches across North Carolina.

Want to get involved? Contact Duronda Hood for more information: durondahood@gmail.com, 828-557-6976



Ministers Wives Group Photo: Ministers' Wives enjoyed worship, fellowship, relaxation, and fun at the 2022 Retreat at Caraway Conference Center; **Ministers Wives PJs:** The 2022 Retreat also featured a comfy Pajama Party; **Ministers Wives S'mores:** Retreats are always S'MORE fun with friends. Invite your ministers' wives to the 2023 retreat; **Ministers Wives Convention:** Ministers' Wives were treated to a special breakfast at the 2022 Baptist State Convention in Greensboro.

Seven Prayers for a Ministers' Wife

- 1. Her spiritual growth:** Her husband might be a minister, but she is growing in her faith just like every other woman. Pray for her relationship with God to deepen daily through spending time in the Word and prayer.
- 2. Her marriage:** Ministry is wonderful, and also demanding. Pray she would have a healthy, God-centered marriage full of love and good communication.
- 3. Her children:** Like it is for every mom, juggling work, ministry, and parenting is a challenge. Pray for her to have wisdom in parenting, the energy to balance her time, and grace for her kids and herself. Pray for her children's safety, health, and spiritual growth.
- 4. Her friendships:** Being a minister's wife can feel lonely, so pray that she would have deep and meaningful friendships with other women who can support and encourage her.
- 5. Her self-image:** Pray that she finds her identity in what God says of her and not in what is assumed or expected of her.
- 6. Her physical and emotional health:** Ask God to give her energy, strength, peace of mind, and good health to fulfill His calling in her life.
- 7. Her ministry:** Her first calling is to be a godly wife who points her husband to the gospel. Her ministry beyond that may be within the church or outside of it. Pray for ministers' wives to support their husbands well while having the courage to pursue their God-given callings.

Show Some Appreciation!

Take a minute today to appreciate the ministers' wives in your church with these ideas:

- **Write a good, old-fashioned "Thank You" note.** A simple thank you or words of affirmation go a long way to build up a person.
- **Give a thoughtful gift.** Whether it is something tailored to her interests and hobbies, or a small care package of hand lotion and candy, a gift says, "I was purposefully thinking of you."
- **Offer to Babysit.** Give your minister's wife a chance to take some time for herself or go on a date with her husband. Free childcare is truly a blessing!
- **Volunteer to help.** Whether at church or around the house, there always seem to be more responsibilities than volunteers.
- **Take her to lunch** or give her a gift card to a favorite restaurant so she doesn't have to deal with meal prep or clean-up.
- **Sponsor her to attend the 2023 Retreat!** Remove all hindrances that might keep your minister's wife from attending this special event.
- **Ask her questions about her.** She may be a minister's wife, but she probably has dreams, goals, and creative ideas that aren't about your church. Get to know the whole her by learning about her interests and passions.
- **Pray with her.** She may seem like Superwoman, but this lady needs prayers. It's one thing to say, "I'll pray for you." It's entirely different to put your arm around her and lift her and her concerns to Jesus on the spot.



Being an Unshakable Leader in a Shaky World

“My dear friends, stand firm and don’t be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for him is worthwhile.” — 1 Corinthians 15:58 (CEV)



Our world seems to be changing with each passing day. Did you know that with the dawn of the technology and Internet era, we have experienced more growth in the last 30 years than we had in the previous 100 years? It seems like there is always some new

technology coming out or a new way to connect with people. We don’t have to wait to read tragic headlines in the paper anymore because our phones notify us within moments of something happening.

Kids and youth today are facing tremendous stress and pressures that weren’t there years ago, church programming is different, WMU’s structure and resources are changing in a lot of ways, and many of our churches are facing hardship and the effects of an ever-changing world and culture.

Our world can feel shaky at times, but we are called to stand firm and not be shaken, especially as leaders. So how do we remain steadfast? How can we be unshakable leaders in what feels like a very shaky world?

In order to be unshakable leaders, we must pursue God first and foremost. As leaders, if we want our ministries to produce fruit and for our lives to produce a rich faith, we must keep in constant pursuit of God. Where we place God on our list of priorities affects everything in our lives.

How connected we are to our Father shows. We will have a hard time leading others to have a close relationship with Jesus if we aren’t seeking Him in prayer and communicating with Him ourselves. God is our unshakable foundation. It is essential that we seek Him first in all that we do.

Secondly, if we want to be unshakable leaders, we must step out of our comfort zones and embrace change. We are often creatures of comfort. We really don’t like to be uncomfortable, and we don’t like when things change or look different. We often don’t like God asking us to do anything that pushes us too far out of our comfort zone. But pursuing God and being an unshakable leader means stepping out of your comfort zone!

It means serving in roles you may never have dreamed of. Working with people who are vastly different from you. Doing things you never thought you would do, and trusting that God will equip you for the assignment He has called you to do.

And we must embrace change, not run from it. I heard a pastor once say, “the past isn’t really better, it’s the anxiety of an unknown future that causes people to cling to it.” We spend a lot of time focusing on the past because we are fearful of the changes that await us in the future.

Being an unshakable leader means that even when we face change, good or bad, we don’t fear the future because our future rests in the hands of an all-knowing God. If our foundation is the steadfast love and pursuit of Jesus—the winds of change won’t break us. Step out of your comfort zone, embrace change, and rest on the unchanging love of our Father.

And finally, if you want to be an unshakable leader, keep your focus on an unshakable God.

I know you feel weary at times. I know things can feel scary and everything seems to be changing, but I want to encourage you to stand firm. The truth is we may not always get to see the fruits of our labor, or the harvest from the seeds we plant, but God wastes nothing. And our work, the work we do for Him, to glorify Him, is never in vain.

You can be an unshakable leader because you love and serve an unshakable God. The world needs unshakable leaders of the faith right now. The world needs to see leaders who are passionate for seeing people come to know Christ and grow in their faith, and the world needs leaders who are relentless in their pursuit of God.

Remember, being an unshakable leader has little to do with who we are and everything to do with who Jesus is. Keep pursuing Him. Keep being on mission for Him. Remain steadfast in who He is. If you will unshakably pursue Him and stand firm, you will see Him do immeasurable things not only in you, but through you, and for generations to come.

— Amanda Martinsen

WMU NC Leadership Development Consultant and Resource Coordinator

Leadership Training

WMU NC is committed to helping leaders feel equipped to lead in their churches and communities.

We offer several training opportunities throughout the year to help equip leaders in their ministry work.



Encouraging & Equipping Leaders to Serve

At Abound You Will:

- Hear from trained speakers
- Participate in age-level workshops
- Gain fresh, new ideas
- Connect with other leaders
- Receive new resources

2023 Dates & Locations

August 12, 2023

Lighthouse Baptist Church
Sylva, NC

September 23, 2023

Dudley Shoals Baptist Church
Granite Falls, NC

September 9, 2023

First Baptist Church
Rockingham, NC

Cost: \$15

*Includes 2023-2024 Missions
Leader Planning Guide*

9 AM-12 PM

wmunc.org/leadership-development



For more information contact:

Amanda Martinsen
Leadership Development Consultant
amartinsen@wmunc.org
(919) 882-2344 ext. 208

Time to Circle Back



As an organization, WMU has created a legacy of missions support and education. I love that about us. Our WMU Heck-Jones offering is named in honor of Sallie Jones and Fannie Heck who were 16 and 24 respectively when they stepped up to WMU leadership. A BIG part of our legacy's beginning was young women who were completely passionate about missions. Women of WMU, to whom are you passing the torch? Who is hearing our story? Who is catching fire for missions in the next generation? As I travel around the state, I hear women say, "We have invited the young women but they don't seem interested." I would like to propose that they are interested in missions, but are you meeting them where they are in life? Ask yourself the following three questions to see if your group is setting itself up for success in "passing the torch."

Is your WMU an engaging group that is ACTIVELY doing missions?

Millennials and Gen Xers want to "do and experience." They don't expect to be entertained, but if your meetings are not engaging, they won't come back. Do you make your meeting a multisensory experience, or do you expect women to sit and receive? Most women never reach an age when they decide they'd rather not have fun or new experiences. If a younger woman would like an activity, chances are, everyone in your WMU will!

Are the majority of your missions projects collections or do you mix it up with "going and doing" or hands-on projects that can be accomplished within your meeting time? This might look like forgoing a speaker every few months to make time and space for hands-on projects. Check out the project ideas on the next page that can be done in an hour or less.

Is there a place for younger women to find support and belonging?

Every woman is more comfortable when surrounded by her peers. How then do we make room for young adults? Maybe it's time to break out of our comfort zones and circle back to how WMU was created. Circle back to circles of women meeting in one another's homes or

small groups, and sharing life and a passion for missions. Meeting with a small group of one's peers might be less intimidating to young women than joining a large group, but this will only happen if we open our doors first. If you know two or more young women in your church who love missions, you have a MyMission group, they just don't know it yet. The young women of your church respect you. An invitation to your home carries weight. Good, important conversations take place when we break bread together in one another's homes and those conversations will keep them coming back; In fact, it's Biblical:

"They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

— Acts 2:45-47

Is the next generation worth the change?

Like it or not, childcare is an issue. If you want mothers in your group, you must consider how to make childcare work. Are you meeting at a time when childcare is available? Perhaps working young women can only meet Wednesday or Sunday nights when there is already children's programming. If your young women are leading and serving during children's programming, could you have a rotation of women who could cover for those who are leaders in children's programming so they can attend your current meeting? This would mean that the ladies in your group need to be willing to miss a meeting once or twice a year so that young leaders can attend. There are a lot of possibilities to make it work.

Change is hard, but remember that a cocoon must break apart for a newly transformed life to emerge. Are we willing to break down some of our traditional ways of doing things so a newly transformed WMU can emerge? Are you ready to be a WMU that can pass the torch?

— Rebecca Lindhout

Consultant for Adults And Children and Ministry Involvement

MISSION PROJECT IDEAS

FOR *One Hour or Less*



Make "Laundry Bags" to give to local refugees or women's safe houses, or just to pass out locally on a Saturday. Include a few laundry tablets, at least \$1.50 for a load of laundry, and a note telling the recipient of the love of Christ.



Make freezer-friendly meals in disposable pans for a family rescue mission, so families can have an easy meal to prepare in their new homes after transitioning out of the shelter's care. Divide the ingredient list amongst your group and make the meal during your meeting time. Include the heating instructions, a note with encouragement, an invitation to your church, and a message about Jesus' love for them.



Team up with the children in your church to help people experiencing trauma or stressful situations by making "You Are Loved" bags. You will need gallon-size ziplock bags, small stuffed animals, small coloring books or paper pads, and crayons, pens, or markers. Help children write a note for each bag. Instruct them to write the words "You are loved. God loves you!" and decorate each note.



Make teacher care bags with a "berry" theme. Put handsoap, sanitizer, cherry or strawberry lip balm, berry-flavored candy or gum, and a note saying how glad you are that God "picked" them to teach the children of your local school. Thank them for all that they do.



Make "thinking of you" cards for Meals on Wheels clients or shut-ins from your church. Remind recipients that God has not forgotten about them and neither has your WMU. Include an uplifting scripture with each card.

*Remember, in order to be a true mission project, the Love of Christ must be shared, otherwise, you're doing something good, but not missional.

Capturing the Moments



PROJECT HELP: MENTAL HEALTH

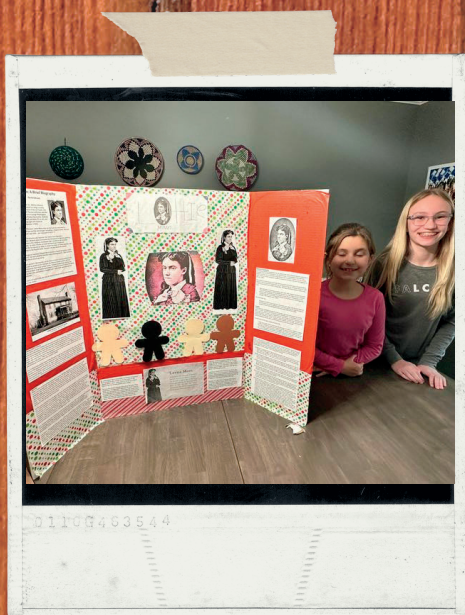
The students at Calvary Baptist in Shallotte, NC teamed up to send valentines and encouraging scripture to nursing home residents in February!



RESEARCHING MISSIONS

MISSIONARY PROJECTS

The Children of Antioch Baptist Church did research projects on Missions and Missionaries in January.



Aslan Ducker and Kennedy Yingling researched Lottie Moon. The girls "thought it was amazing that she accomplished so much in her life and how much courage she had in her missions. She was filled with persistence and hope. They also loved that she was determined to do this mission even though women were discouraged to do so."



Danielle Ducker and Isla Pfuefelder chose to focus on the mission and ministries of WMU. They were surprised how many there were!

Calendar Talk

WMU NC 2023
CALENDAR

April 2023

- 1-2 Missions on the Mountain, Camp Mundo Vista
- 4 Heritage Award, Koury Center, Greensboro
- 10 Easter Holiday observed (*Office closed*)
- 13 Book Club Zoom Call – *Women Who Risk*
by Tom Doyle, JoAnn Doyle, Greg Webster
- 14-15 NC Baptist on Mission Conference, Hickory
Grove Baptist, Charlotte*
- 14-16 Teen Mother/Daughter (8th-12th grade),
Camp Mundo Vista
- 28-29 Women's Mission Conference & Annual
Meeting, Lawndale Baptist Church, Greensboro

May 2023

- 6 Children's Mission Day, Camp Cale, Hertford, NC
- 17 Leadership Luncheon
- 19-20 Executive Board Meeting, Camp Mundo Vista
- 29 Memorial Day Holiday (*Office closed*)

June 2023

- 11-12 WMU Annual Meeting and Missions
Celebration, New Orleans*
- 13-14 Southern Baptist Convention, New Orleans*
- 19-23 International Camp, Camp Mundo Vista
- 21 Leadership Luncheon

July 2023

- 4 Independence Day Observed (*Office closed*)
- 4-9 World Missions Week, Caswell*
- 10-14 Horizons Camp for Girls, Camp Mundo Vista
- 10-14 Warrior Camp for Boys, Camp Caraway
- 10-12 NC Baptist Ministers Wives Retreat, Caraway
Conference Center
- 19 Leadership Luncheon
- 20 Book Club Zoom Call – *Joyful Sorrow*
by Julie Busler

**Not a WMU NC sponsored event*



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FOR MORE INFORMATION!

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1 PETER 1:3-4

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