

Tarheel Talk

WINTER 2022/2023

Ignite!

*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.*
John 1:5 (ESV)

**WMU NC Missions
Conference and 132nd
Annual Meeting**
(formerly ME)

April 28-29, 2023
Lawndale Baptist Church
Greensboro, NC

Speaker



Julie Busler

Music & Worship



Russell & Kristi Johnson
RK Praise

Inside Talk

Winter 2022/2023

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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**. Meredith Wilson, editor, mwilson@wmunc.org; Angie Dickinson, graphic design, angiedesign@me.com; RR Donnelley publisher, rddonnelley.com

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Theme: Seeking Wisdom

Theme Verse for Winter 2022/2023: Proverbs 10:7

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."



We could all use a little wisdom and understanding, right? I think a lot of believers, including myself, sometimes feel that wisdom is some enchanting gift that will magically come upon you and audibly tell you the direction to go. However, that is not how it works.

Truthfully, we can discover God's wisdom in the little moments throughout our day. When we actively seek Him and recognize His total authority, we form a profound respect and trust in His plan for our lives. We then began to understand the importance of seeking Him daily, which allows Him to be present in our lives. Wisdom also allows us to see the world through God's perspectives which helps us witness to others.

Many blessings,

Meredith Wilson

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS!



Ashley Abernathy is our new administrative assistant and started this past August. She is a student at Southeastern Seminary studying. She was previously in Turkey for two years as a Journeyman. Ashley has always been interested in WMU and our ministries. We are so glad to have Ashley a part of WMU NC.

Stephanie Arnold is our new Accountant/Human Resources Representative who started this past July. This is her first job in nonprofit ministry and we are thankful to have her knowledge and perspective on our team! She lives with her husband, Mike, and her four children in Garner.





an initiative of WMU

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



What's Your Story?



I have a WMU story. I grew up in GA's and Acteens and these groups made me into the person I am today. I went to mission's camp in the summers. I went to National Acteens conferences. As a missionary, I benefited from the prayers of faithful WMUers that prayed for my family. I have been on mission trips with WMU NC. I have been in Women on Mission. I love WorldCrafts. I have a WMU story. Some boys and girls and women have not started their WMU story yet, so let's help them begin to write their WMU story.

Many times when I show this graphic of all the ministries WMU participates in, I hear this comment over and over: "I had no idea that WMU did so much." We want people in our churches to know of the many missions and ministries of WMU NC. When it comes time to give to the Heck Jones Offering, this graphic helps people to know what all their money supports. If you haven't had your Focus on WMU yet this year, plan a Sunday in the coming months of 2022. Coordinate the date with the pastor and the church calendar. What are some ways to share the missions and ministries of WMU NC?

- Honor your leaders—show appreciation for the WMU leaders in your church. Thank God for their dedication to the various age-level groups in your church. They commit to leading each week and this requires a very special calling and dedication. Have a special prayer of thanks for them and then pray for their work.

- Share some of the things WMU has done in your church throughout the year. Remind people of how much was collected for the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offering. Let some of the WMU leaders or members share about their favorite mission project during the past months of 2022. Get the children to participate.
- Have a speaker come to your church. They can challenge those in your church to remember the Great Commission and how God's love is needed and available to all people. WMU NC has a speaker team, and each of these ladies are willing to come to your church to share what WMU NC is doing and to present a challenge to your church. If you haven't had someone come to your church, remember no church is too small and no church is too big. No church is too far- we have team members all across the state. Go to the website and look at the speaker team and see the person's biography and pick who you would like to come to your church. They are waiting for your call!
- We haven't reached our Heck-Jones offering in several years. Our goal is \$375,000 and it is my desire to reach our state goal in 2022! Pray about what you can give toward the ministries below. Let's reach our goal! With God's help we can do it!

Remember we are writing WMU stories for those that come after us as we continue to be faithful to the call of God upon our lives. Continue writing your WMU story!

Amy

Amy Pardue Boone,
WMU NC Executive Director/Treasurer

WMU NC Missions & Ministries

MISSIONS EDUCATION

Education for Preschoolers, Children,
Youth & Adults
Children's Missions Day
Prayer Partnerships
Bible Study Lending Library
Missionary Support
Monthly Resources
Tarheel Talk

COMPASSION MINISTRIES

Pure Water, Pure Love
WorldCrafts
Mission Trips
Prison Ministry
Military Ministry
Christian Women's Job Corps*
Baptist Nursing Fellowship
ProjectHELP: Mental Health

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

WMU NC Missions Conference
ABOUND Leadership Training
Monthly Leadership Luncheons
Christian Women's Leadership Center
Carolina Women
Youth Mission Conference
Hispanic WMU
Sisters Who Care

Reflecting God's Wisdom Moments



One of the reflective questions we often ask in small groups is “Where did you see God today?” In this issue, Meredith has challenged us to discover God’s wisdom in the little moments throughout our day. Many moments

reflected God’s wisdom for me throughout my WMU opportunities recently.

Proverbs and James use the visual image of Wisdom building a house with 7 pillars. The foundation pillar in Proverbs 9:10 refers to being in awe of God rather than being afraid of God—to have a sense of reverence for God’s wondrous power. Two reflective moments for me were seeing the work of God throughout our SBC, especially through the WMU tour of mission sites in Anaheim, CA and the appointment of 52 new missionaries at the convention meeting.

James 3:17 describes the next pillar as purity—making holiness a top priority in our lives. God gave me a strong awareness moment during the Hispanic Network retreat at Caswell with the 44 Acteens attending being challenged by their leaders to use God’s standard to structure their lives.

Another pillar is loving peace—focusing on getting along well with other people in relationships. God answered many years of prayers as our WMU NC Executive Board unanimously approved a move of our office space into the Baptist State Convention of NC offices in Cary and a renewed sense of working together on mission to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

James continues with the pillar of being considerate, respectful and gentle with the words and actions we choose. The Military Wives Retreat reinforced how important this wisdom trait is in family relationships dealing with transitions, health challenges, and social media influences.

James says wisdom is submissiv—being humble

and sensible. Often this is seen as a dichotomy—if we have wisdom, should we not share that knowledge with others? Yet we must learn to share our knowledge at the right time, without desiring recognition. Mrs. Lola, my prayer warrior friend I met through the hurricane recovery, continues to humbly follow Christ and seek His wisdom in sharing resources. I hope you had a chance to read our story in the July issue of *Missions Mosaic*.

Another pillar is being full of mercy and good fruit, kind and compassionate, taking action so that good happens in the world because of us. This was demonstrated by the Sisters Who Care mission trip to my area where 3 different associations and races (Robeson, Burnt Swamp, and Lumber River) came together to prayer walk, distribute feminine hygiene items, and share resources with Our House Pregnancy Care Center.

I have seen our staff, WMU leaders and members across our state demonstrate the genuine faith wisdom trait throughout VBS, Camp, and mission trips; supporting schools, Internationals and Refugees; collecting Christmas in August and Red Box supplies.

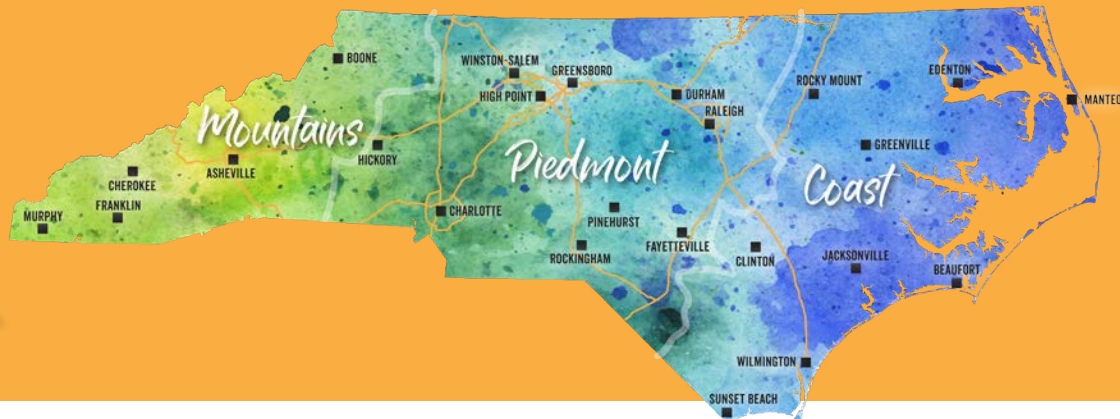
God has really challenged me with the 7th wisdom trait—being sincere—in my work with Christian Women’s Job Corps. Sincerity means caring about the truth, living with integrity, and being without pretense. Our participants ask hard questions, and can spot any form of hypocrisy. They keep me on my toes and I am trying to be authentic with each of them and our mentors.

I am grateful for the privilege to serve with you through WMU and to have these moments to learn and reflect. I urge you to take advantage of the many ministries and opportunities you see in this edition and throughout the year to fulfill the Great Commission as we grow in our wisdom so we can more effectively share God’s love.

Deborah Taylor

Deborah Taylor

WMU NC President



Mountain Region

First Baptist Weaverville, Weaverville, NC

First Baptist Weaverville working their shift at the Mountain State Fair Ministry tent. The goal is to share the Gospel with the fair workers and fair goers through food, teddy bears, prayer, and conversation. They had a wonderful time and one of the volunteers shares her experience below.

“You get to talk to people you have never met. I think it’s important because it’s God’s work. I have been doing this since I was a youth. And I just love being with people of different ages handing out things every year. It’s a great community! And that our church does it every year is awesome! My heart is full when I go. I just love it. That I get to do it with my church family is even better.”

— Jess Spruill



Piedmont Region

Abbott’s Creek Missionary Baptist Church, High Point, NC

Abbott’s Creek Missionary Baptist Church in High Point, NC honored 10 Children in Action with a meal and reception. Our pastor Dr. Steve Livegood had an encouraging message to the children and focused a lot on prayer. It was wonderful to see the younger generation being honored and motivated to continue to live on mission.



REGIONS RECALL

MOUNTAINS TO THE COAST



Coastal Region

Palmyra Missionary Baptist Church, Whiteville NC

WMU group in Palmyra Missionary Baptist Church, in Whiteville NC, put together bags for a domestic violence crisis center in Whiteville, NC. They created 10 hygiene bags for women and six bags for children as well as toys.

WMU group started the idea, but the church donated items. There was a good response and many people participated! The WMU group learned about Domestic Violence Awareness Month, from an article in *In Missions Mosaic*, which prompted them to do something. They found two churches to step in and help on a weekly basis, and they have 20-30 women/children per week. In the program, they have to report what has happened to them and then they are sent over to the shelter where they are given information about the shelter.





BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES

Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina (BRH) is committed to providing our seniors with quality care and excellent services. It is through the BRH Foundation that we can support organizations and missions to ensure all seniors receive care and housing.

The BRH Foundation works with donors to create gifts such as wills, named endowments, charitable trusts, and charitable gift annuities. We ask donors to keep this in mind as they make planned gifts that benefit the benevolent care ministry of BRH.

Together, we can ensure our seniors are taken care of!

“The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”

Deuteronomy 33:27a KJV



LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

Our Seniors Deserve Our Support



2023 Week of Prayer and North Carolina Offering for Older Adults

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 5, 2023

This year's goal is **\$650,000** and 100% of the funds will provide quality care for Older Adults who cannot afford the care they need and deserve!

Online contributions accepted at
BRH.ORG/FOUNDATION

BROOKRIDGE - WINSTON-SALEM / TAYLOR GLEN - CONCORD
TAYLOR HOUSE - ALBEMARLE / WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA - ASHEVILLE





2023 Medicine from the Heart

Baptist Retirement Homes is initiating what it calls the “Medicine from the Heart Medication Vial Campaign”. This program helps older adults across North Carolina receive their medications more cost effectively.

FILL A
VIAL
TODAY!



If you would like to become a partner today, email Keith Dixon at kdixon@brh.org and let us know the number of vials you would like.

You also can make an online donation today by visiting BRH.ORG/FOUNDATION.

“I would like to thank Baptist Retirement Homes for helping with my medication costs—this program has been a blessing to my family. Thank you, and I hope this program can continue to provide help for those in need!” – Marshall W.

Support the **Medicine from the Heart** program.
It will be good for your *heart!*



CALL (336) 725-0202 FOR MORE INFORMATION

BROOKRIDGE - WINSTON-SALEM / TAYLOR GLEN - CONCORD

TAYLOR HOUSE - ALBEMARLE / WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA - ASHEVILLE

Needing Wisdom

Honestly, I am not a huge fan of cleaning my room. The main reason is because I have a shopping addiction, which makes the laundry portion even more dreadful.

I know it needs to be done and I would feel better if I did it, but it can be a lot of work. My schedule is busy and when I come home, I am too tired to clean.

It then piles up. My mess. It sometimes gets to the point where I don't know where to begin. I then become too overwhelmed that I push off cleaning even more. It turns into a cycle.

When trying to organize areas of our lives and not become overwhelmed when facing tough decisions, how do we discover God's wisdom?

For most, this is a hard question. There are common misinterpretations of wisdom which include that it is far out of their reach or only certain people can receive that from God. However, wisdom is closer to each of us than you may think. We just may need to clear a few distractions first.

Proverbs 15:33 states:

“Wisdom’s instruction is to fear the LORD, and humility comes before honor.”

What if the first step to receiving wisdom is to admit we need it in the first place?

Our lives are too overwhelming and we face too

many burdens to carry them alone.

It may be time for us to swallow our pride and let God take those burdens off of us. Humbling ourselves before Jesus will clear our mind and heart in order to make room for Him to work in our lives.

When we start removing the clutter, the distractions and the in-between—that is when we can be open to experiencing the wisdom and understanding God has for our lives.

This is also a process that will just not magically happen. I now give myself 10-15 minutes to clean a day. I work on one area and that helps me organize and keep my area decluttered.

What if you gave 15 minutes to God each day? Imagine taking a few minutes to sit in God's presence daily. That could be listening to a few worship songs or reading a couple of chapters in the Bible. That is allowing God to be a part of your day and help take the burdens off of your shoulder.

That, my friends, is where we can discover God's love and care for us. It is where we can seek His presence and receive the wisdom we are searching for in other distractions in our life.

So, let's take steps to declutter our lives by seeking God's wisdom and purpose for our lives.

— Meredith Wilson



Fear of the Unknown

Rebecca Lindhout
 Consultant for Adults, Children, and Ministry
 Involvement



I like to think of myself as a person who's up for a good adventure. "Prone to wander, Lord I feel it," yep, that's me. My traveling motto is "You're not lost until you're out of gas."

For some reason, however, when God put one of my latest adventures in front of me, instead of the excitement over new possibilities in ministry, I had that sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach. The Prisoner's Retreat brought up such anxiety for me that by the time the first day of the retreat arrived, I was a nervous wreck. So many steps along the journey to WMU's Prison Retreat seemed like missteps. I found myself second-guessing everything: Had I checked all the right boxes? Had I followed prison protocol? Had I communicated well enough with the volunteers? Was there something I missed, something that would cause the whole ministry to implode and the retreat to be canceled forevermore? Would they call it the "Great Beca Debacle of 2022"?

All of this worry and questioning boiled down to one thing: **Fear of the unknown**

What I should have done is trust God. Trusted that

***"for the first time in my life,
 in this place, I feel like
 I can breathe and let my
 guard down."***

what He ordained to happen couldn't be sidetracked by my inexperience. Trusted that the volunteers would be some of the kindest, most affirming women I have ever met.

Trusted that the combined experience of all of the women ministering together would more than compensate for the list of things I had put in my "unknown" category. Trusted that the "guests" would be humble, grateful women who valued every effort in making the retreat happen. They weren't there to judge, they were there to taste freedom for three short days.

Trusted that it wasn't about me at all and that, instead, it was all about God using moments of quiet, moments of laughter, and moments of reflection on the mountain to reveal himself in true and powerful ways.

Trusted that Jesus would use every minute of our time together for the good.

We are all the woman at the well in need of living water; the crooked tax collector struggling for a glimpse of the savior; the thief on the cross begging to be remembered by Jesus. **We all need hope.**

One guest summed up the retreat spot on, when she said, "for the first time in my life, in this place, I feel like I can breathe and let my guard down." Making a place to breathe and for grace and hope to flow...that is what the Prison Retreat is all about.

Next year will you face the unknown, trust God, and join the volunteers at the 2023 Prison Retreat?

2022

Military Wives Retreat

Reflection

As a former military wife, the ladies who come to the Military Wives Retreat are close to my heart. It is a joy to see them having fun, swimming, ziplining, getting haircuts, getting facials, their nails painted, making crafts, eating snacks, resting and bonding together. This past one was so special; there was a sweet spirit there with the speaker. At the outdoor chapel we gave our concerns and problems to Jesus by putting them on the cross and picking up a rock with a cross on it. This was to remind us that we gave the problem to Jesus. I am so thankful to be a part of this ministry serving with Beca and all the volunteers. I am so happy to see each person being refreshed and renewed to go back and serve their families and especially our precious Lord.



2022/2023 Student Advisory Panel



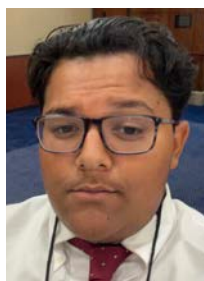
Sara Lamkin
WMU NC Consultant for Students and Ministry Involvement

Each year, Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina chooses outstanding young women to be our State Acteen panelists. For the 2022-23 year, three Acteens have been chosen to represent North Carolina. They each show the qualities of serving hearts, open minds, the desire to lead, a solid relationship with Christ, and a love of missions. I, Sara Lamkin, look forward to working with them as they are role models to our children and ambassadors to our state.



Hannah Klingenberg
Church: Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Willow Spring
Bible Verse for 2022-23: Jeremiah 33:3
Favorite Food: Steak

What Hannah had to say about serving others: *“As I was giving plates and serving the people, it warmed my heart to be used by the Lord to meet their needs and help spread His love to them.”*



Andrew “Brice” Chavis
Church: Mt. Airy Baptist Church, Pembroke
Bible Verse for 2022-23: Isaiah 46:4
Favorite Food: Steak

What Brice had to say about serving on the Panel: *“I believe this is a great opportunity to do something great for the LORD. I want to spread the gospel in more places than just my hometown.”*



Laken Callahan
Church: Fairmont First Baptist, Fairmont
Bible Verse for 2022-23: Romans 8:28
Favorite Food: Spaghetti

What Laken had to say about a recent World Changers trip: *“This mission trip really opened my eyes and made me realize how much God has taken care of me. I always enjoy being able to spread God’s Word into these broken communities and seeing Him work through so many young people.”*

Edna Harris Scholarship Presented

WMU NC presented scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year to **Madison Johnson** and **MeKenna Boswell**. The scholarship is named after Edna R. Harris who served as the Executive Director of WMU NC from 1926-until her untimely death in 1939. The scholarship was established in her honor in 1940.



Madison Johnson is in her second year of studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She has a love to share the gospel with all, but especially with families and children. In addition to her studies, she is currently working as Children’s Director at Helen Street Church in Fort Worth, Texas. She grew up in Stanley, NC and is a graduate of Western Carolina University. She shares that “the closer that I walk with God, the more He validates the direction I should go. This scholarship will help me fulfill my calling to pour into the Church’s future, especially here with unreached families, so that the gospel and compassion is shared with these generations of children.”



MeKenna Boswell is a student at Gardner Webb Divinity School. She graduated from Gardner Webb University in 2021 with a B.A. in Missiology and is currently serving as the Worship/Music Minister at Sandy Plains Baptist Church in Shelby, NC. After a mission trip to England, she felt God calling her to change her major studies from music to missiology. She has also been on other mission trips to work with the Greater Europe Mission in Kosovo. She states that she “hopes to use her gifts to mobilize university students and church members alike to find their way to help fulfill the Great Commission to pass on the light God has given them, to fill the void for those who have not heard the gospel.”



Living Hope

1 PETER 1:3-4

2023
HECK-JONES[®]

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

HELPING PASTORS THRIVE

A Ministry of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

PASTOR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

 **IS NOW**
Accepting Applications

Helping Pastors Thrive is now accepting applications for the four-week Pastor-in-Residence/ Study Leave programs that take place at the divinity schools of Campbell, Duke, Gardner-Webb and Wake Forest Universities.

All expenses for the residency, including food, transportation and housing are paid for by the Helping Pastors Thrive program. In addition, churches are provided funding for securing supply preaching and leadership during the pastor's time away.

While in residence, pastors participate in a wide range of educational, spiritual, artistic and cultural opportunities while on campus. These may include auditing courses, participating in spiritual direction and vocational coaching, engagement in community worship and other campus activities. Pastors may also be given opportunities to interact and mentor enrolled students as they prepare for the transition from school to first-time ministry settings.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
and to access the application,
visit helpingpastorsthrive.org/campaign-3.

Or contact Scott Hudgins
at shudgins@cbfnc.org.



Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship North Carolina

ANNOUNCING..

WMU NC MISSIONS CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL MEETING

Formerly known as Missions
Extravaganza (ME)

*Same Purpose
Same Mission
New Name*

WMU NC Presents:

Ignite!

2023 WMU NC Missions Conference
and 132nd Annual Meeting

What do
you need to
ignite in your
life?

SAVE THE DATE:

April 28-29, 2023

Lawndale Baptist Church
Greensboro, NC



3 WAYS TO HAVE AN INCREDIBLE SUMMER



on the Mighty Mountain of Faith



APPLY FOR THE BEST JOB EVER

We need college age men and women who love Jesus, people, and the outdoors. Join us for a summer job with eternal impact. Competitive salary depending on experience and certifications with lodging and most meals included.

LOCAL PART TIME LIFEGUARDS

Are you looking for a meaningful job, but need something flexible? Camp Caraway is located near Asheboro, NC and we are looking for Part-Time Lifeguards. Must be at least a rising senior in High School to apply. We will train and certify in first aid, CPR, and lifeguarding!



JOIN THE TIMOTHY PROGRAM

The Timothy Program is a high school leadership development program for teenagers ages 15-18 for 2 or 3 week sessions with weekends off. Our mission is to introduce high school students to camp ministry and challenge them to grow in team work and servant leadership while encouraging growth in their faith.

More info at: WWW.CAMPCARAWAY.ORG

Rest is Essential for Leaders

Amanda Martinsen
WMU NC Leadership Development Consultant and
Resource Coordinator



As a leader, you may have a lot of different roles you play in your life. Many of you are parents or grandparents, friends, employees, caregivers, the list goes on. You spend time managing all sorts of details, plus you give of your time leading in your church and serving where you can. I'm willing to bet that you spend a lot of time always trying to juggle everything, and you probably don't leave much time for yourself to rest.

Did you know studies show that one third of the population feels worn out because of overbooked lives, and that 97% of us state we feel tired most of the time? Those statistics may be alarming, but they are probably not surprising to you.

If you're like me, rest can often be a struggle to incorporate into your already busy life. But what happens when we don't rest? What happens when we continue burning our candles at both ends? We're left feeling worn out, depleted, and burned out.

Part of being a wise and strong leader is knowing when and how to rest. The problem lies with how many of us view rest. We often see rest as a chance to sit around and do nothing all day. But rest, true soul rest, is so much more than that.

God created rest. He designed our bodies and minds to need it. He created a time for Sabbath, which is an appointed time of rest. In Exodus 31:14: it says "*Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you.*"

Creating a time for rest, for Sabbath, is important because it honors God. It is a holy commitment. When we Sabbath, we are honoring God and in that, we allow ourselves to be rejuvenated and refreshed by His presence.

Jesus understood the importance of rest and exhibited this as a leader to his disciples. After ministering to people, He would often withdraw from the crowds and sometimes His disciples, to go and rest and replenish so that He would be ready to go and serve the next group of people He would encounter. Jesus modeled rest for us. He modeled what it was like to have time with the Father.

Rest is something we must actively seek and continue to seek. Just like prayer or reading our Bibles, rest is a spiritual discipline. Rest is a commitment.

Rest is something we must actively seek and continue to seek. Just like prayer or reading our Bibles, rest is a spiritual discipline. Rest is a commitment.

I want you to see rest as something holy, something that enriches your life and your faith. This isn't an overnight change, but a step in acknowledging how much we need our Savior. We often view rest as a reward for all the things we have done, but rest is a need. It is a physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual need.

Are you in need of rest? Do you need to set aside a time to reconnect with God so He can replenish you?

Remember, it's not the amount of time you spend resting, it's the intentionality behind it. There will always be something that needs to be done. It's up to us to be intentional about laying those things down for a time so we can rest our minds, our hearts, and our bodies so that we can better serve God and the people around us.

Abound WMU Leadership Training

In the months of August and September, WMU NC hosted our annual Abound leadership trainings in Hayesville, NC at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, and in Salisbury, NC at First Baptist Church of Salisbury. Abound is a day devoted to encouraging missions leaders, and a day that we as WMU of North Carolina get to come alongside them and help equip them for the work they are doing in their churches and communities.

The name Abound comes from 1 Corinthians 15:58 which says *“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”* To abound in something means for something to be plentiful, for it to be abundant, for something to thrive and flourish, and that’s what we want the missions leaders who attend Abound to be. We want them to be leaders who flourish and thrive in the places and with the people God has called them to serve. It was a joy to get to connect with leaders from across the state at Abound this year. If you didn’t get a chance to attend an Abound training this year, we want to see you at one next year! Don’t miss it!



About & NC Baptist Ministers' Wives



What an exciting day we had at Abound Training on August 13 in western North Carolina. We were excited to be in person as we learned more about how to do missions.

During the Leader Fast Pass we heard from three former IMB Missionaries (one was from North Georgia) and Mother of a present IMB Missionary. One volunteer spoke of her mission trips and she speaks 4 languages so that was neat.

We had Age Level Conferences, Conferences on How to Do Jail Ministry, Creative Ideas for Quiet Time and How to Lead a Child to Christ. Mrs. Amy Boone was our guest speaker who spoke on different avenues to help people in need especially with Mental Health issues. Mrs. Amanda Martinsen was present (by video!) and brought us a message of Hope from Romans 12:12.

During the 60th annual North Carolina Baptist Minister's Wives Retreat, more than 70 wives enjoyed a wonderful, relaxing, inspirational and fun time. The Minister's Wives Retreat was on July 11-13 at Camp Caraway.

Those attending were encouraged to Walk Worthy in their calling. The retreat theme was based on 1 Thessalonians 2:12 in which the Apostle Paul encourages believers to *"walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory."* Mrs. Beth Greer (MK and Bible Study Leader) encouraged attendees to walk worthy by focusing on their walk with the Lord. Danielle and Matthew Kelly led the group in worship in song.

The Retreat is held each year during the month of July at Caraway Camp and all Minister's Wives are invited. Churches, this would be a great retreat for you to sponsor your Minister's Wives.

NC Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference also met on

November 7 in conjunction with the Pastors' Conference and Baptist Annual Meeting. There were over 150 who attended the breakfast for fellowship and encouragement

Sincerely,
Duronda Hood



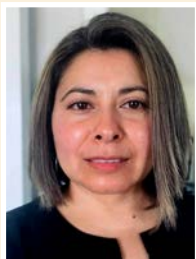


JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY LEADERSHIP LUNCHEONS!

Our luncheons aim to encourage, inspire, and renew leaders. Each month we host a FREE online luncheon where we cover different leadership topics that will help you grow as a leader.

For upcoming dates and topics visit:
wmunc.org/leadership-luncheons

Seeking the Wisdom of God In Our Daily Lives Is Not So Easy To Do.



The Hispanic WMU had their annual retreat this past August 12-14, with the theme: *“Ancladas en la Esperanza”* (Anchor in Hope). 244 women, children and youth attended. There were 40 Acteens! The messages challenged us on how to use your GPS.

- G:** Genuine in love
- P:** Patience in difficulties
- S:** Be constant in prayer

In order to achieve these three things, we have to look to Jesus to make a difference in our lives. Being anchored in the hope that is Christ, we have to be grateful, see the potential in others and love honestly. *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is intelligence.”* – Proverbs 9:10

We have to depend completely on God, to have wisdom and thus know how to conduct ourselves towards the people around us, so we can love them wisely.

It is not by magic that we wake up one day and we already have wisdom, no! It is only when we daily seek His face through reading His Word, praying, and submitting our wishes to Him. God knows our weaknesses and gives wisdom to those who ask for it, “And if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him. James 1:5”

It all depends on us, if we want to be wise in order to be able to conduct ourselves wisely or be foolish. God has left the decision to us to choose what we are going to do.



— Darbelia A. Saucedo

Former Hispanic President WMU/UFM

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WMU
NC
La Unión Femenil
Misionera



A Season of Change

God does not change: if He did, how could we rely on His promises? How could we embrace hope or pursue a fearless devotion to our Savior? We rely on Him to be the unchanging center of our chaotic world.

Change is one of the most difficult things that we all face but change is inevitable. One reason we don't like change is we get comfortable where we are. We get used to our friends, our job, the place we live. And even if it's not perfect we accept it because it's familiar.

Whether change is expected or not, it can still be unsettling. It doesn't matter whether the cause of a change is our fault or not, or whether a change is good or bad, it's normal to feel anxious.

The women of Sisters Who Care NC are on a journey of change. We have restructured the ministry to better serve our communities, and to expand our reach. Our logo has changed, our social media presence has been unified and we have streamlined our leadership team. And as we enter into the new year even more changes will be made.

Genesis 8:22 reminds us that even when seasons change some things will always remain the same. So shall it be with SWC NC.

Our commitment will not change. Our community involvement will not change. Our love of God's people will not change and we will continue to share this good news of the Gospel.

For more information contact:
Elder Lisa D Jacobs, 919-432-3442,
LisaDJacobs.SWC@wmunc.org





Pivot Ministry

By Grace Thornton, *The Baptist Paper*

Kim McDermott had been unemployed for six months, steadily interviewing for jobs with no success, when a friend told her about the classes offered at Pivot.

“I heard about this and thought, What’s it going to hurt? I’ll give it a try,” McDermott said.

What is Pivot?

Pivot, a ministry that uses the Christian Women’s Job Corps classroom model with one-on-one mentors, has served women in the Winston-Salem area since 2018.

Carol Polk, Pivot’s executive director, said it opened after two years of research, during which time they found that women with no dependents were often turned away by agencies.

“So that’s what we focused on,” she said. “We just had our fifth graduation.”

So far Pivot has a graduation rate of 75%, more than double what was predicted, Polk said. The women who come through the program learn life skills and job readiness, take part in regular Bible studies and have a personal Christian mentor.



“It’s an incredible ministry,” she said.

McDermott agrees. She said her experience as a participant at Pivot in 2019 was “amazing.

“I thoroughly enjoyed every session,” she

said. “I was beginning to think I was unemployable...Pivot helped me get my confidence back.”

And a few months ago, McDermott became a part of Pivot in a new way. She’s serving in a part-time role as administrative coordinator. “I’m loving what I do here,” she said.

Her role is supported by a site grant from the CWJC/CMJC Endowment that the WMU Foundation recently awarded to Pivot, a gift Polk said they were “blown away” to receive.

Staying connected

The grant also supports Pivot’s new alumnae association, Pivot Plus, which offers graduates a chance to stay connected and participate in Bible study and further professional development. Two volunteers have taken ownership of that new effort and run with it, Polk said.

She hopes it will help Pivot continue to come alongside women like McDermott over the long haul and offer support and community.

McDermott’s story has highlighted God’s faithfulness, and she has been a great asset for the Pivot team too, Polk said. She said McDermott’s computer skills are strong, and she’s a great researcher and support person with a cheerful demeanor and positive approach.

“She turned her life back around and now has two part-time jobs and is faithful and dedicated and a joy to work with,” Polk said.

Photo: Kim McDermott serves as administrative coordinator for Pivot Ministry, a role supported by a recent site grant from the WMU Foundation. (Photo courtesy of Pivot)

Article reprinted with permission from *The Baptist Paper*, September 18, 2022.

If you are interested in learning more about CWJC/CMJC, please contact Cara Lynn Vogel at cwjnc@gmail.com or visit www.cwjnc.org.



NC Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Proverbs 10:7 rings out “*wisdom begins with fear of the lord, but understanding is knowing the Holy One.*”

Having faith in God and fearing him as the Almighty is wise. This belief helps

us to set a standard on future decisions. Our understanding of who God is, and His will in our lives, allows us to seek Him first, and leads to less disappointments down the road.

In healthcare, making wise decisions is imperative. Understanding patients’ needs and helping them at their level of understanding can be challenging at times. The one thing I believe we all learned in nursing school was adapting and improvising to our present surroundings. It is with wisdom that we can educate patients and families on making healthy choices in their lives. It is with wisdom we create learning opportunities to guide decisions on preventive care, managing care and even future care. Patients need to understand their disease in order to change habits and improve health. I know of situations where God

has provided wisdom to me as I am sure all of us can attest. God is wise, God is knowledgeable and God is almighty. I am so thankful that in my daily work, He is there to guide me in all wisdom and knowledge.

Five members were able to attend the national BNF meeting in October and be a part of a local mission outreach. NC BNF is excited to be a part of WMU NC. We have been busy getting ready for our upcoming annual meeting. It is not too late to sign up. Please consider being a part of our time together to learn, fellowship and relax. If you are a nurse or know a nurse who would like to be a part, please go to the NC BNF website to sign up. The dates are March 10-11, 2023, at Camp Caraway in Sophia NC. The 2023 theme is “*Salt of the Earth.*”

Prayerfully Submitted,

— Penny Jones, FNP-C

President, NC BNF 336-884-2624,

tkapsbug@northstate.net | pjones@wakehealth.edu

Calendar Talk

WMU NC 2022/23
CALENDAR

November 2022

23, 24 Thanksgiving Holidays (*Office closed*)

27 - Dec 4 International Missions Emphasis and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

December 2022

1 Book Club Zoom Call - "*Because of Hope*"

23 - Jan 3 Christmas Holiday (*Office closed*)

January 2023

2 New Year's Day observed (*Office closed*)

2-4 Here and Now 2023, Shelby Mission Camp

7-10 National WMU Board Meeting, Birmingham, AL

20-21 Executive Board Meeting, BSCNC

February 2023

12-19 WMU NC Heck-Jones Offering & Week of Prayer

19 Focus on WMU

2 Presidents' Day (*Office closed*)

March 2023

5-12 North American Missions Emphasis & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

10-11 NC Baptist Nursing Fellowship

23-24 CBFNC General Assembly, Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston-Salem

April 2023

1-2 Missions on the Mountain, Camp Mundo Vista

4 Heritage Award, Koury Center, Greensboro

TBD MyMission Spring Host-A-Hunt

10 Easter Holiday observed (*Office closed*)

13 Book Club Zoom Call - "*Women Who Risk*"

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

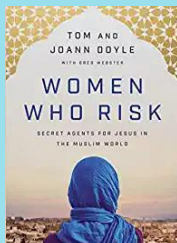
6 Children's Mission Day, Camp Cale, Hertford, NC

29 Memorial Day Holiday (*Office closed*)

WMU NC Quarterly Book Club

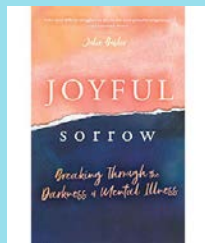
[JANUARY-APRIL 2023](#)

[APRIL-JULY 2023](#)



Despite enormous risks to themselves and their families, former Muslim women are now influencing their husbands & children and bringing others to faith in Jesus Christ, even though the oppression they face under Islam is unfathomable. *Women Who Risk* takes readers into Muslim homes in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran, and other spots to see the power of Christ at work.

REGISTER: WMUNC.ORG



Depression & suicide cases are rising at an alarming rate, and for Christians, there is a stigma around mental illness & health. Julie Bustler invites us into her own journey where a mental breakdown took her from being a missionary to a suicidal patient in a Turkish psychiatric hospital. Julie shows us how to find help & hope and illustrates that even in the sorrow of mental illness, joy can coexist. Julie will be our speaker for ME this year.

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

CREATING A MISSIONAL LIFESTYLE IN THE MIDST OF EVERYDAY MOMENTS



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Tarheel Talk

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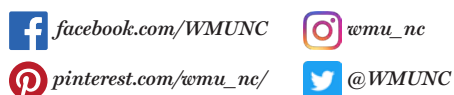
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