

UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS JANUARY 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all!! Colder days approach yet this newsletter brings warm greetings. Working together in 2024, Williamsburg UWF will strive to truly make a difference.

UWF board meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month except June, July, and December. **Please note the starting time this year is 6:30 p.m.** Meetings will also be available on Zoom.

As 2024 begins, please note upcoming activities and meetings. These dates are already on the church calendar:

- Call to Prayer and Self Denial - February 24.
- Hands on Mission Day – May 11.
- Candle Burning - June 8.

As circles begin meetings for the year, please share these dates which are opportunities for fellowship with other circle members. Invite friends.

This past year the Fall Festival required much planning, but the day was most successful, raising over \$5,000 to be used for missions.

After careful consideration, a budget has been prepared for this year and is printed in the 2024 directory which will be available at January circle meetings.

Looking forward to seeing and working with everyone throughout the year,

Linda

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2024

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

Carol Scott enjoyed lunch at Opus 9 for their December meeting. They made a donation to the Salvation Army Christmas Fund.

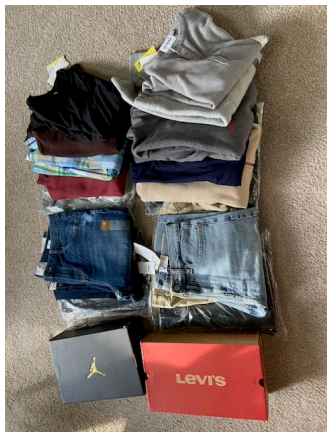
Heritage met on December 5. Gloria Daniel led the group in a Christmas tea and gifts were exchanged. Following the meeting, the group went to lunch at 2nd Street.

Friendship met December 12 for a potluck luncheon when 9 members enjoyed sharing a meal and Christmas memories. They wrote cards to those who could not attend and donated food to the FISH pantry.

Ruth Simpson met on December 6 with 7 in attendance. After a short business meeting which included a Fall Festival debriefing and program plans for the new year, they enjoyed a covered dish brunch at the home of Elaine Howell. The food, the fellowship, and the conversation were delightful. Members brought an annual Christmas clothing donation for FISH and decided upon this year's recipient for the Rada fundraising profit. All signed Christmas cards to be sent to Golden Friends, to circle member Fran Lane who is experiencing medical issues, and to former member Joanne Sutlive. A contribution of \$100 was given to WUMC Respite Care.

Sisters in Grace met on December 12 with 17 members present. Nathalie Bacskey gave the opening devotion, a reading of the Christmas story from Luke. Sisters were then informed about the Virginia Assembly United Methodist Day this coming February 1 and were urged to consider attending. Linda Upshaw shared the local and global charities that received 2023 financial donations from UWF. SIG's December service project was working through House of Mercy and supporting a family (two

teenage boys and mom) who are currently homeless. Sisters felt good giving new clothes, shoes, and a gift card to help make this family's Christmas a little merrier. Biddie Whitt closed the meeting in prayer. Members then traveled to the Williamsburg Winery and enjoyed fellowship with a delicious Christmas lunch.



SIG Christmas gift donations

Sisters in Mission met on December 12 for a holiday Cookie Swap. A devotion was shared by Deborah Hewitt, sharing the gifts of blessings that several of the SIM team receive each month when visiting Patriots Colony and Edgeworth Memory Care units. The December program for each of the facilities was presented by Lou-Anne Smith and 3 members of the church orchestra strings, playing and leading singing of Christmas carols. Gratitude was expressed for church musicians that spread such joy to the residents. Grace Hallaway spoke about Red Bird Mission school for the Mission Moment, sharing history and programs that are present within the Red Bird Mission. Before the cookie swap, members shared briefly about the special treats and memories from past holidays. Sisters got to take delicious samples home and shared tastings with warm cider to close out the evening.

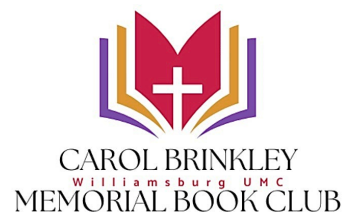


SIM cookies at the "swap"

WORLD THANK Each year United Women in Faith have the opportunity to show their gratitude for God's blessings through the World Thank Offering, one of the 5 channels of UWF Mission Giving. The goal for this offering is that members of the UWF will "discover creative ways to raise funds... so that the lives of women, children and youth will be impacted beyond measure." Offerings honor God and can become part of the good work that God is doing in the world—even an answer to the prayers of vulnerable women and children.

Thank you for the support in 2023. Last year the Williamsburg UWF collected \$1,295.77, using creative monthly challenges. These funds were submitted to the Mission Rivers District for mission work.

Now that January has come, a New Year's Resolution List should be readily at hand and undoubtedly being reviewed daily. Look it over and drop a quarter into your World Thank container for every resolution on that list.



When: Monday, January 8, at 7:00 pm
Where: via Zoom. Contact the church office for the link. The book to be discussed will be Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate, in the Nurturing for Community category from the 2022 catalog. Copies are available in the UWF library (Room 208) and at the public library.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Continue to pray for Fran Lane at Windsor Meade and add Vivian Golding to your prayer list. Vivian will be moving to Commonwealth Senior Living this month.