

# UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

## JANUARY 2025

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all! I am feeling colder days approaching, yet this newsletter brings warm greetings. Working together in 2025, Williamsburg United Women in Faith will strive to truly make a difference!

WUWF board meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month, except for June, July, and December when we do not meet.

**Please note the starting time for our meetings is 6:30.** Meetings will also be available on ZOOM.

As 2025 begins, please note upcoming activities and meetings. These dates are already on the church calendar:

#### January

13 - Carol Brinkley Memorial Book Club, 7:00PM  
Zoom

27 - WUWF Board 6:30

30 - United Methodist Day at General Assembly  
7:00am-3:30pm

#### February

22 - Call to Prayer and Self Denial 10:00am

24 - WUWF Board 6:30

As Circles begin meeting for the year, please share these dates which are opportunities for fellowship with other Circle members. Don't forget to encourage members to invite friends.

Our Mission projects this year will be a full group effort. We have been successful for many years raising money to support our missions. Let's work together.

After careful consideration, a budget has been prepared for this year and is printed in the 2025 directory.

I am looking forward to seeing and working with everyone throughout the year.

Linda

### CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

#### Carol Scott

Carol Scott circle met on January 14, 2024: Seven members were present with no guests or visitors. Linda Graham presented the program "God's Footprints in The Snow" and in our lives.

Circle members decided to continue to collect contributions each month in order to make a donation to The Salvation Army at Christmas.

New year books were distributed and members were reminded of the \$50 suggested amount for pledges

#### Heritage



The ladies in Heritage Circle met on Tuesday, January 7. There were 6 ladies present due to the cold weather and several ladies who were under the weather. Barbara Stanley invited Bill Herman as our speaker. Bill presented a wonderful video about Abukloi and we "met" the young lady we are sponsoring in South Sudan. Ester's picture is on display in Room 303. We will be communicating with Ester through Bill so we can get to know her better and she can know our ladies. Following our business meeting several of us had lunch at Rocco's.

## Ruth Simpson



Six ladies were present as Circle member Carolyn Munro gave a very interesting presentation on the restoration of the Notre Dame Cathedral in France after the April 2019 fire. She discussed possible causes of the fire, how the fire was contained that saved the building, and the efforts that went into the restoration. The President of France vowed the restoration would be completed in five years and it was in December 2024. Carolyn supplemented her presentation with pictures of the fire damage and how the magnificent cathedral now looks today.

## Sisters in Grace



Sisters in Grace welcomed Nella Griffin as a new member at our meeting on January 14. Fifteen members were present to experience a new way of praying called, Praying in Color, which was led by Linda Upshaw. Jeannie Niebel shared an inspiring devotion while sharing her musical talents with us. A thank you card from Lida Sayeed, expressing her overwhelming gratitude for the December "Love Offering" from WUWF, was read. We discussed plans for providing a breakfast for the Winter Shelter and plans for our Circle's fall fundraiser. Monies were collected for the annual dues and directories were distributed.

## Sisters in Mission

Twelve Sisters in Mission met on Tuesday evening, January 14. Susan Griffin gave a Mission Moment sharing about her connection to the 700 Club's work with sharing lanterns to areas without electricity, relating to sharing Jesus's light in many small ways that make differences throughout the world. Grace

Holloway gave a devotion from "Hope for a Woman's Soul" concerning how to be hospitable even when we don't have much.

Our membership voted to use funds from our Sunshine Fund to purchase mugs with special scripture as gifts to be given to our guest program speakers. We continue to have wonderful monthly experiences shared with our Edgeworth and Patriots Colony residents. Plans were discussed for the **Chili fundraiser** and Blood Mobile that we will be supporting in February and March. Sisters spent the remainder of the meeting selecting names of women in the Bible that we will be researching for small presentations at the next several meetings, as part of our monthly programs. UWF Directories were given out and additions/corrections were shared.

## Joys/Concerns

**Joys:** celebrating 10 years of our Messy Church program and news that Fran Lane and Dotti Carns are doing well in their recovery from health issues.

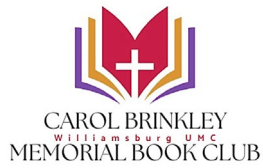


This is Lida Sayeed seconds after being given the December "Love Offering" for her children from WUWF. She said, "I don't have words to express my thankfulness." Sisters helping sisters who are going through hard times is shared joy. Thank you to all who donated.

## Prayers for:

- Renee Goode as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.
- Connie Bland's son, James, as he recovers from stomach surgery.
- Friends of Virginia Price who are dealing with cancer and other medical surgeries.
- Friends of Patty Benesh affected by CA wildfires.
- Laura Viancour's brother-in-law who is receiving chemo treatments.

## CAROL BRINKLEY MEMORIAL BOOK CLUB



The book club will meet on Monday, March 10, at 7:00p.m. via ZOOM. They will be discussing the book, *The Girls in the Wild Fig Tree*, by Nice Leng'ete. This is a true story about how a young girl from Kenya went from "heartbroken child and community outcast to a leader of the Maasai.