

UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS MAY 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



On Saturday, May 2nd, thirty-three ladies attended the Membership Tea. It was a great turnout. Thanks to all who came and participated as we learned more about the seventeen tea events that led up to the American Revolution. Special thanks to the ladies who prepared the wonderful sandwiches, cookies and scones. We were so pleased to have three ladies from the Mission Rivers District as our guests!

Be sure to have UWF Sunday on your calendar. The date for that is June 7! Bonnie has recruited volunteers to participate in the service that day. Add August 29th to your calendars as well! On that Saturday, UWF will be sponsoring a Vendor Fair. Circle leaders will be in touch with you over the summer about the Bake Sale we will be holding as part of this. We may also need a few volunteers to act as way finders on that Saturday. Plan to attend and shop!

Have a blessed and restful summer for those of you in circles that take respite during the summer months!

If you haven't already made your pledge for 2026, consider doing so at your next Circle meeting. The funds we collect support our local programs and contribute to district efforts. The pledge for this year is again \$50.

Janet

"END OF SUMMER" FUNDRAISER COMING!!



"End of Summer" vendor craft fair August 29th.
Ask you Circle leader all about it!!

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

Heritage Scott



Heritage Scott Circle met on Tuesday, May 5th. We had 14 members and 3 guests present for the meeting. Vice President Bonnie Knizatko asked for volunteers for WUWF Sunday and Rick Hilyer, Chair of Global Outreach, shared information about some of the many programs Global Outreach supports. Following our business meeting, several ladies went to lunch at Rocco's new location on Richmond Road.

Ruth Simpson



Ruth Simpson Circle met on Wednesday, May 6 with 7 members present. Our program was on how American lacemakers supported the American Revolution. Circle member Carolyn Munro presented a program on her hobby of lacemaking and how it relates with her interest in the American Revolution. Leading up to the American Revolution, colonists imported a great many everyday items in addition to tea and that included lace. Embargoes on tea and lace as well as other items began in 1767. We learned how lacemakers in Ipswich, MA responded to the embargo.

Sisters in Grace



Sisters in Grace Circle met on Tuesday, May 12 at CDR with 12 members and 2 guests present. We were amazed at the multitude of support programs they provide for fathers, mothers, families, and preschool children along with all that their new facilities provided. Bonnie reported on the UWF Sunday, how to support the upcoming "End of Summer" fundraiser, and the plans for our Arc of Abilities partnership day for May. Cheryl Cogswell provided our devotion and opening prayer and Nella Griffin closed out meeting in prayer.

Sisters in Mission



Sisters In Mission Circle met on May 19th with 12 members plus 3 guests present. Our focus for the evening was Philanthropy with Faith; which challenged us to reflect on whether we are each truly being a channel of God's blessing. Joni Stevens was our guest speaker and gave a delightful presentation entitled "Rockefellers, Religion, and Restoration" about John and Abby Aldridge Rockefeller and the restoration of colonial Williamsburg. She provided us with photos from the Aldridge Museum collection of our church when it was located on Duke of Gloucester Street when the military used our bell tower to scan for planes during WWII, and also some insider info about Queen Elizabeth's visits to the Williamsburg Inn. May 19th birthday cards were sent to 17 UMC missionaries, deaconesses, and staff; many of whom responded with thanks.

SOCIAL ACTION

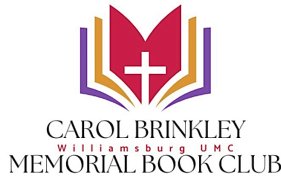
Plant Virginia Natives



One emphasis for our Creation Care team is the planting of Virginia native plants. Native plants are great for our environment and support birds, bees, butterflies and other creatures so important for cultivation. Recently, Laura Viancour gave a talk on native plants which really inspired me. I set out to get some native plants for a planter box in my yard. The reward was that Tuesday night coming home from our circle meeting I was greeted by a beautiful Swallowtail butterfly enjoying the pretty orange milkweed I had just planted. I encourage all

gardeners (even container gardeners) to explore planting native plants. Creation Care has a bulletin board and we will be asking for pictures later this summer!

CAROL BRINKLEY MEMORIAL BOOK CLUB



Here is the wonderful book that will be read for our next meeting:

July: *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder

WORLD THANK OFFERING CHALLENGE



The challenge for May's World Thank Offering will be a WET one. Let's hope we get some showers during this month of May. Your challenge will be to "hunt" down all the umbrellas and rain coats/jackets in your home. That will be 50 cents for each. Place your contribution into your World Thank Offering "jar". NOW remember to at least stay dry!