



UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS FEBRUARY 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

UWF circles have had interesting programs and productive discussions as 2025 begins. Sisters in Mission have been busy with a Super Bowl Chili fundraiser for our mission funds. A program book is available in the library for all circles who would like additional ideas for meetings.

Thoughts and ideas by all circles are centered around different fundraising ideas. There is not a Mission Fundraising committee this year so we must all work together. As stated in the UWF purpose, support of missions is a high priority. We have our first local restaurant dinner planned for February 18, from 2-8PM at Sal's by Victor.

The United Methodist Day at General Assembly in Richmond was held January 30. Susan Sallwasser, Gayle Justice, Linda Upshaw, Rev Megan Roth Clayton and Zach Griggs all attended and thoroughly enjoyed the day worshipping with other Methodists from all over Virginia and interacting with our District Representatives/Senators.

Mark your calendars for Call to Prayer and Self-Denial on February 22 at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall and our UWF Blood Drive March 19 9:00AM-2:00PM also in the Fellowship Hall.

For 2025, member donations in support of the budget remain at \$50 per member. If possible, early donations are appreciated.

Brrr...Yes, welcome February. Remember this is the month of love and kindness, truly a month of sharing all the love and kindness possible!

Linda

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

Carol Scott



Due to the weather, our Circle did not meet.

Heritage



Heritage Circle met on Tuesday, February 11. Eight ladies braved the elements to attend. Virginia did a wonderful program that included a quiz about famous couples in the Bible. During the business meeting we discussed plans for a breakfast for the shelter and a dinner for the Wesley Foundation.

Ruth Simpson



Ruth Simpson Circle met on Wednesday, February 5th with 8 members present. Circle member Elaine Howell read a heart-warming short story entitled *The Man Who Planted Hope and Grew Happiness* by Jean Giono. The story is about a man who planted pinecones and seedlings in a remote dry and desolate area that over the years blossomed into a beautiful forest that was being enjoyed by many people. As the forest expanded, the once desolate area began to thrive with families and commerce.

The story showed that one person with an idea can make a difference in the lives of many. After the program, we discussed holding another collection for Avalon and inviting the other Circles and the congregation to join us in this activity.

Sisters in Grace



Sisters in Grace met on Tuesday, February 11, with 13 members and 2 guests present. The ladies participated in a “Get-To-Know You” opening activity followed by our business meeting. Business items covered included Sal’s “Dining Out” date change, the March Blood Drive, our Winter Shelter breakfast plans, UWF directory changes, and our March program. The program presenters for this month were Marty and Diane from Blooms That Brighten, a local flower therapy organization. After their presentation we went down to Respite Care and helped the clients arrange flower bouquets to take home with them.

Sisters in Mission



Due to the weather, we did not meet.

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.