

UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS MARCH 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Spring is eagerly anticipated as everyone yearns for warmer weather

Fundraising efforts continued; March 18 was a successful restaurant night at Sal's Pizza. Remember that a portion of the proceeds from each dinner is donated to UWF's mission fund, supporting our impactful initiatives. Stay tune for more dining opportunities soon. The Sisters in Mission Circle held an extremely successful chili fundraiser last month. We thank all who participated. The Blood Drive March 1 brought in many donors who after donating their blood enjoyed a delicious array of homemade goodies. Thanks to all who contributed.

April will be a quiet month as all circles will have their meetings. A possible goal for the month could be to invite a visitor to your circle. Many in our congregation have no idea the fun all our circles have each month.

May will be a busy month for our WUWF unit. All details will be in the May Message from the President. Some of the events will be: WUWF Sunday (May 11), Hands on Mission Week (May 17-23) and the Carol Brinkley Memorial Book Club (May 12) will be discussing the book *Solito: A Memoir* by Javier Zamora.

Linda

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

Carol Scott



There were only six members at our March 11 meeting, illness took a toll. Linda Graham filled in for the program and gave the devotional. Connie McGruader reviewed an interesting article from the Response magazine. Members will bring items next month to assist Ruth Simpson Circle with their collecting items for Avalon.

Heritage



The Heritage Circle met on Tuesday, March 11. There were 13 members and 2 guests in attendance, Barbara Feagin was in charge of the program and had invited Carol Schuster to present information about the Stephen Ministry. Carol's wonderful presentation gave the ladies history of the program at WUMC as well as information about how to access the ministry. Following the business meeting, the ladies had lunch at the 2nd Street Bistro.

Ruth Simpson



Ruth Simpson Circle met on March 5 and had 8 members present. Guest speaker, Susan Sallwasser, spoke on her recent trip to Richmond for United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. Pastor Meghan Roth Clayton, Zach Griggs, Linda Upshaw and Gayle Justice were also on the trip. They met with one state senator and aides to the other senators and delegates and had the opportunity to express the views of the United Methodist Church on issues such as additional employee paid sick days and additional allowable days for late rent payment. Along with their scheduled appointments, they attended a presentation by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. It was a very interesting trip and Susan encouraged us to attend next year.

THANK YOU!



We were able to deliver the donated items to Avalon Tuesday afternoon. The Avalon staff was amazed at the amount of the items donated and were very grateful! They shared that they have been overflowing with children. **Thank you to everyone who helped make this donation possible!**

Sisters in Grace



Sisters in Grace met on Tuesday, March 11th. with 18 members and 2 guests present. Linda Weaver gave a very inspirational opening devotion and

prayer. Amy Kuzemka, the marketing development manager for Edmarc, presented a program about Edmarc which began in 1978 and provides support for families with children dealing with life-threatening illness. SIG members donated monies and purchased items from Edmarc's bereavement program needs list and presented them to Amy. Wendy Geiger reminded members about their pledge dues and a sheet with items Avalon needs was passed around so members could help support the Ruth Simpson Circle. For a good laugh and to get to know one another more we played, "What's in Your Purse." The closing prayer was given by Anne Hardister.

Sisters in Mission

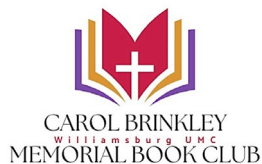


SIM met on March 11 with 10 members present. Bill Herman gave an informative presentation on the Abukloi Foundation in South Sudan. Due to lack of schools only 70% of the youth can attend school, with only one-third being female since parents want their daughters to get married instead of getting an education. Currently there are 600 students enrolled. Bill promoted student sponsorships to help support the program. Connie suggested our Circle consider sponsoring a student through the 4-year school program. After his presentation we began our study on woman in the Bible.

Joys & Concerns:

Prayers for Connie's son James, who is experiencing complications from surgery. Sharon Short and her family on the death of her husband, Rick.

CAROL BRINKLEY MEMORIAL BOOK CLUB



The book club will meet on Monday, May 12, at 7:00p.m. via ZOOM. They will be discussing the book, *Solito: A Memoir*, by Javier Zamora. This is a true story about a young boy's 3,000-mile journey from his small town in El Salvador across the US border to reunite with a mother who left 4 years earlier and a father he barely remembers.

A NOTE FROM SOCIAL ACTION



The March/April issue of Response magazine's Bible study reminds us that, like Ezekiel, we are a part of co-creating resurrection with God. It's a blessing to live in a country where we are able to share our thoughts and/or concern with our representatives. An easy way to contact your representatives is to utilize the website <https://5calls.org> where you simply put in your zip code, then click on the issue you'd like to discuss and a brief background/update on the issue will appear along with a sample script (if you choose to use it), and the phone numbers for your Senators and representative.