

UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS JUNE 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Summer has officially arrived and United Women in Faith can reflect back on a successful first half of the year. Most recently a successful Candle Burning ceremony was held June 7th. The guest speaker was our favorite choir director Lou Ann Smith. Thank you, Susan for organizing this event.

As the month of May was coming to a close Hands on Mission Week was in full swing. We had over 30 members of UWF busy in many areas such as sorting and stocking donations at the Habitat Restore, a group working in our church kitchen diligently cleaned Christmas Eve candleholders, at Grove Community Outreach Center a group helped organize donated items and assisted shoppers, at our own church we enjoyed a lunch with several of the residents of Latisha's House, lastly a group played games and enjoyed crafting at the Arc of Abilities. Grace, we are sure going to miss you and your faithful leadership over the last several years as you organized Hands on Mission week. We now wish you and Wayne a time of joy as you relocate close to family.

Thanks, again to all who have made the yearly financial donation. If you haven't done that yet, perhaps you can bring it to your next circle meeting.

Have a GREAT summer!

LINDA

CIRCLE HAPPENINGS

Carol Scott

Carol Scott Circle does not meet in June, July or August. Their next meeting will be in September.

Heritage



The Heritage Circle met on Tuesday, June 10th. Eight ladies attended. Nancy Parsons presented a wonderful program on the connected church. Following the meeting several ladies adjourned to the Carrot Tree for lunch. The next meeting is in September.

Ruth Simpson



Ruth Simpson Circle met on Wednesday, June 4, with 6 members and 1 guest present. At the start of the meeting, guest Patty Benesh gave a brief talk about the church Capital Campaign and encouraged all of the ladies to support this fundraising activity. The regular business meeting followed. After the meeting, we all traveled to Tuscany Ristorante for a delightful lunch and enjoyable fellowship time together. We were very excited that Circle member Fran Lane was able to attend our meeting and accompany us to the restaurant after her long health related absence.

Sisters in Grace



The Sisters in Grace Circle met on June 10th. with twelve members present. Everyone brought their lunch and while we ate several shared their Hands on Mission Week experiences. Susan Miller led us in a devotional followed by a Response Moment by Susan Sallwasser. Our outreach mission was writing notes to everyone on the Shepherd's Fold list – 37 in all. We also spent time learning more about each other thru a "Who Am I" game. Linda Logerwell confirmed plans for our UWF Circle fundraiser event which will be chairing a night at the Wagsters Magic Show in October. For our closing prayer, Susan Sallwasser read a pray that Pope Francis wrote while in the hospital during his last days . We will not meet in July, but will be back together in August.

Sisters in Mission



14 members attended our June Sisters in Mission meeting. Bonnie read the prayer, " Learning Christ, " which spoke about putting others first and practicing the fruits of the spirit in our daily lives. Laura Viancour gave a Power Point presentation on "Plants for Health and Well-Being." Our last 5 reports on Women of the Bible were given, covering the Shulamite woman, Ruth, Hannah, Rebekkah, and Sarah. Monthly sessions with our memory care residents continue to brighten their days. Patty Benesh spoke on the importance of maintaining our church for future generations and encouraged all who had not already committed to support the "Lighting the Way" financial campaign to do so. Deborah Hewitt shared about the planned Respite Care annual luncheon to be held in September. We all wished Grace Holloway well as she and her family move to Knoxville, TN. Our July meeting will be a dinner at Sal's, with an earlier meeting time of 5:30, instead of 6:30.

SOCIAL ACTION: CREATION CARE TEAM NEWS

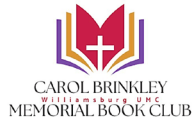
The Virginia United Methodist Conference held a workshop earlier this year to promote the Green Church Initiative and members of WUMC were in attendance. This workshop has provided a revival of early Green Team efforts. This program that empowers the local church to live out its faith by focusing on creation, justice and stewardship in five areas. These areas are: Worship, Discipleship, Stewardship, Evangelism and Mission. The Creation Care Team aims to equip our congregation with education and encouragement to become more responsible stewards of God's creation. Hopefully, you have noticed that the team has begun including a creation care tip in our weekly bulletin! Stay tuned for more information and actions our circles and congregations can take part in for this wonderful social action focus.

HANDS ON MISSION WEEK REPORT



During Hands on Mission week, over 30 United Women in Faith participated in 7 mission ministries throughout Williamsburg and beyond. UWF members folded sheets at the ReStore and polished candleholders used in our Christmas Eve candlelight service. Shucking corn and delivering groceries for neighbors of Grove Christian Outreach Center were the tasks for Tuesday. On a cold rainy Wednesday, ten ladies quickly pivoted to provide an indoor garden picnic for residents of Latisha's House. While there, the group learned about the Kairos Prison Ministry and colored placemats for participants in the next Kairos weekend. The week ended on Thursday with crafting and bingo with the energetic students at the Arc of Abilities. Those that were unable to participate in person sent greetings to a dozen of our global missionaries.

CAROL BRINKLEY MEMORIAL BOOK CLUB



The book club will meet on Monday, July 8, at 7:00p.m. via ZOOM. They will be discussing the book, *The Book Woman's Daughter*. This is a sequel to *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*. The book tells the story of Honey Lovett, daughter of the famed, blue-skinned Troublesome Creek packhorse librarian.