

# THE REFLECTOR

Fulfilling the Purpose of United Methodist Women in North Georgia

ngumw.org | unitedmethodistwomen.org

4th Quarter 2021



NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE  
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

## BUILDING TOGETHER THROUGH LOVE IN ACTION IN 2022



And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other.

Hebrews 10:24-25 CEB

### *Sisters in Christ,*

We have had a such as busy year as a Conference, from a virtual Spiritual Growth/Social Action Event to learning about Climate Justice, to a virtual Annual Conference Breakfast, Mission u and Annual Meeting. While meeting virtually hasn't been preferred, it has been ideal due to the pandemic. For those who have attended these events virtually, we thank you for your participation and for hanging in there with us when technology seemed to be winning. Our goal this past year was to continue doing what we have been doing while trying to remain knitted together. We will try to build on this theme for next year as we need to remain a cohesive Conference, Districts, and local units to continue to do the work we are called to do.

I truly hope and pray that you will seriously consider joining us in Orlando for Assembly May 20-22, 2022, at the Orlando Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Early bird registration is now closed, but you can still register for the Ubuntu day which will take place at the Convention Center and choose from amazing workshops to attend. We have great locations for the hotels as they connect directly to the Convention Center. If going in person is not for you, you can still attend virtually for a reduced cost. I am working on having shirts available to purchase with our NG Conference logo on them and will update you on that in January. Join us and show that North Georgia Conference turned out and Turned It Up at Assembly 2022. For additional information visit [Assembly2022.org](http://Assembly2022.org) to get updates, get excited and help promote this amazing gathering.

I hope each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to Christmas. As we enter the season of Advent, I urge you to enjoy this time of

expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and Christ's return. The first candle on the Advent wreath is Hope. With so much sickness and loss this past year, it is difficult to feel hopeful, but when I think of the image of Christ lying in a manger and his life and crucifixion on the cross, he became our only hope for redemption.



In His Service,

**Stephanie Dressler**  
**President**

North Georgia Conference  
United Methodist Women  
770-337-8461

[stephdressler@bellsouth.net](mailto:stephdressler@bellsouth.net)



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

# VP's Desk

Dear Sisters,

Like many of you, this is my favorite time of year! This season of thanks and appreciation along with the beauty and expectations of Advent, Christmas, and the New Year causes me to pause and reflect upon the past year and expectations for the upcoming year. This reflection caused me to shout with praise because **I AM SO THANKFUL!!**

Although this has been an extremely challenging year, I know that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22-23)! Mornings symbolize freshness, new beginnings, and hope. Just as each new morning brings a newness of day, we can look for the light of God's word to break through the darkness in our lives and feed hope into our souls. God grants us new mercies each day, there is so much in which to be thankful.

I am thankful for family and friends who are vaccinated, healthy, and thriving. I am thankful for the strength and resilience of moms and dads who pushed through the struggles of Covid and made it through the year with home and family intact.

I am thankful for United Methodist Women who at times are tired and overwhelmed but still continue fighting for criminal justice, environmental justice, and the rights of immigrants and

indigenous people. I am thankful for UMW units that support clothes closets, food banks, homeless shelters, and prison ministries. I am thankful for each of you for being the church to a hurting world. I am thankful for your attendance at UMW meetings and events. I am thankful for units and churches who agree to host conference and district events.

I am thankful for your encouraging words, prayers, smiles, and presence. I am thankful that you continue to cultivate relations with women and men across the diversity spectrum. I am thankful that you intentionally look for ways to bring persons from all races, cultures, and age groups to the table.

I am thankful for "random acts of kindness" and for eyes that smile behind masks. I am thankful for the special people in my life who are a source of encouragement and inspiration. For all God has provided, I am thankful.

During this season and always, may you experience the advent blessings of hope, peace, joy, love, and thankfulness!



Lovingly,

**Jessica Godfrey, Vice President**  
North Georgia Conference UMW  
[starksj@bellsouth.net](mailto:starksj@bellsouth.net)  
404-229-7214

## All good things must come to an end is the old saying

All good things must come to an end is the old saying. The last 4 years serving as your Conference Membership Nurture Outreach Coordinator has been a blessing in my life. I have been honored to serve in leadership with this wonderful dedicated team of women in this North Georgia Conference. I have loved getting to know so many of you and to call you friend. Looking forward to more in person events in 2022 as we work together to support and promote our Purpose.

This past year has been challenging for so many of our local church units and a few have been forced to become inactive for various reasons. As I have worked with them to complete closing paperwork involved when a unit becomes inactive, my prayer has been that they continue to serve in whatever Mission needs cross their path and serve in areas that continue to unite the members of their church. We have been called to serve God in many ways.

So pleased to let you know that Debora Constable will serve in the position of Membership Nurture Outreach Coordinator and while I do not know Debora personally, I look forward to getting to know her and all the excitement she will bring to this area of Service. I will be praying for her and for each of you as you work together to make 2022 the best year ever for our North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women.

Wishing each of you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Blessings,

**Nadine Lacy, Membership Nurture Outreach Coordinator**  
North Georgia Conference UMW  
770-428-3585 home, 770-366-5866 cell  
[nlacy@bellsouth.net](mailto:nlacy@bellsouth.net)





# Spiritual Growth

## *Christmas Music is in the Air*



Even before the end of October, many have probably noticed that Christmas music is often played in some department stores. Now that Thanksgiving has come and gone, we hear Christmas music—sacred and secular, classical and contemporary, naughty and nice—on the radio, television, in stores, other businesses, and just about everywhere we go. Indeed, Christmas music is in the air.

We are sometimes inclined to pay little attention to Advent as we make that journey toward the manger (or Christmas tree). Yet, in truth, for Christians, without Advent, there is no Christmas. Advent, the official beginning of the Christian year, provides time for repentance and spiritual preparation as we prepare to receive Jesus Christ anew.

During this time, let us stop and “hear” the words of Advent and Christmas hymns. As we sing “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” let us “hear” and meditate on the lyrics which proclaim that Jesus was born to set us free, to release us from our fears and sins, and to bring joy to our hearts. In the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” let us remember that Emmanuel means “God with Us” and that we ask God to deliver us from earthly strife.

The Christmas carol “Love Came Down at Christmas” reminds us that God is love, that God loves us and that we, in turn, respond to that love by loving each other. The carol “Away in a Manger” likewise speaks of God’s love made manifest through Jesus Christ: “Be near me, Lord, Jesus, I ask thee to say close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.” (Lyrics--Anonymous)

So while we listen to and sing ther Christmas music that is in the air all around us, let us stop and “hear” the lyrics of these lovely hymns. For me, one of the most lovely and fervent prayers comes from the final stanza of “O Little Town of Bethlehem”:

*“O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide in us, our Lord Emmanuel!”* (Lyrics—Phillups Brooks)

**Addie P. Shopshire-Rolle, Ph.D.**  
**Spiritual Growth Coordinator**  
North Georgia Conference UMW  
[rgamt@aol.com](mailto:rgamt@aol.com)





# Pray, Plan, Serve on our Journey to God



**Janice M. Walker, Coordinator  
Education and Interpretation**  
North Georgia Conference UMW  
[jharris342opposite@gmail.com](mailto:jharris342opposite@gmail.com)

As we go into 2022, let's boldly celebrate, serve, and advocate for women, youth and children in our communities and around the world. Plan your 2022 work and work your plan. According to United Methodist Women guidelines for Missions, here are some of the ideas to help organize your upcoming year of planning.

## PLANNING YOUR MISSION

Plan for mission events and other programs in advance.

- Consider whom you might ask to join you in this work, such as other United Methodist Women and other faith-based groups or community organizations.
- Reach out and invite them to join your group in the project or program.
- Publicize your event using the church newsletter, website, social media, etc.

## VALUING OUR MISSION

Take time to honor what you accomplish together.

- Plan at least one program each year in which you look back and honor or celebrate what you have accomplished.
- Honor the organization's leaders and members contributions. Consider honoring them with Special Mission Recognition pin.
- Remember to evaluate what you do well and what you can improve upon.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

United Methodist Women is a supportive community that builds, expands, and strengthens relationships by inviting others to participate in your work and mission.

- Explore local or district groups in churches nearby.
- Send invitations to program and events held or sponsored by your group.
- Attend programs or events held in your area or sponsored by groups in nearby churches or congregations.
- Respond to invitations sent to your organizations as well.

## BEING IN MISSION: GROWING SPIRITUALLY

Growing spiritually helps us to better understand how we can be a part of God's mission in the world.

- Organize the spiritual growth study and develop a "what it means for us" list as a result.
- Use resources in United Methodist Women's Bible to help the group see more deeply into the biblical text.

## BEING IN MISSION: SERVING AND ADVOCATING

Act on your belief by participating in ministries of service and advocacy.

- Sign up to receive Action Alerts to stay informed.
- Partner with the National Missions Institutions or community organizations where you can volunteer.
- Engage in district and conference opportunities

## BEING IN MISSION: EDUCATING FOR CHANGE

Learn about mission and how you can be part of it in new ways.

- Take advantage of opportunities through United Methodist Women such as Mission u, the Seminar Program, Reading Program, response magazine and first-time attendees.

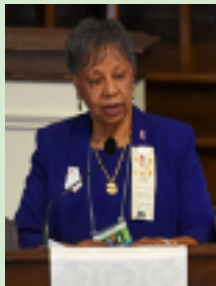
As we continue Christ's mission in ministry, let's share our stories and use the activities in the program book to move you to action in mission with women, children and youth. Please find links to our Mission u Institutions below.

- New Bethlehem <https://www.nbccaugustaga.com/>
- Murphy-Harpst <https://murphyharpst.org/>
- Paine College <https://www.paine.edu/web/mycampus/home>
- Clark Atlanta <https://www.cau.edu/>

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

# The Legacy Fund

## Inaugural Legacy Banquet



Greetings,

Are you attending  
Assembly in 2022 in  
Orlando?

If so, you will not want  
to miss the Inaugural  
Legacy Banquet on

Saturday, May 21, 2022!

It will be a special fundraising event to  
celebrate and grow The Legacy Endowment  
Fund.

Tickets are \$65 and must be purchased  
separately and in advance for each attendee.  
([Click here](#) to purchase your tickets.)

Please contact Christi Campos at  
[ccampos@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:ccampos@unitedmethodistwomen.org) if you  
have any questions.

Thank you.

In His Service,

**Eloise Sykes, Legacy Liaison**  
North Georgia Conference UMW  
[eksykes181@gmail.com](mailto:eksykes181@gmail.com)



THE LEGACY  
ENDOWMENT  
FUND

## Legacy Banquet

**Date:** Saturday, May 21, 2022

**Time:** 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

**Location:** Assembly/ Orlando Orange County  
Convention Center

A fundraising event to celebrate and grow The Legacy Endowment  
Fund!



Buy a Ticket

[Return to Calendar](#)

### GIVE TO THE LEGACY FUND:

**ONLINE:** [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150)

**PHONE:** 800-278-7771 (8 a.m.-5 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday).

**TEXT:** 41444 and enter Legacy 150 in the message area.

**PLANNED GIFT:** Call 816-286-6379

or email: [ccampos@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:ccampos@unitedmethodistwomen.org)

**LEGACY BUILDER:** [unitedmethodistwomen.org/donate/legacybuilder](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/donate/legacybuilder)

**BY CHECK TO:** United Methodist Women,  
Attn: Legacy Fund  
475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10115

## A message from our treasurer:

# Mission Needs Don't Go Away

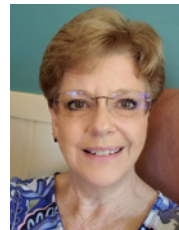
Here we are at another year end! This one feels a little more normal than last year. Most of our units have found ways to safely meet and continue mission around us and around the world, even though it might not look or feel the same. As I write this, we are learning about the omicron variant of Covid and wondering what this means going forward. I urge you to continue to think outside your "Covid bubble" because mission needs do not go away in the face of a pandemic.

- Year end remittances are due to your district treasurer no later than December 31, 2021 so that we can get our books closed out.
- I am happy to announce that beginning immediately, all Special Memorial gifts and Baby Certificates will count toward Candle Burning!
- 2022 Supplemental Giving
  - 1st Quarter – New Bethlehem Community Center
  - 2nd Quarter – Paine College
  - 3rd Quarter – Clark Atlanta University
  - 4th Quarter – Murphy-Harpst Children's Centers

Please remember these mission projects in our conference with your extra gifts as they have all felt declining revenue due to the pandemic.

- 2022 Unit Manuals and Forms will be available from your district treasurer soon.

Thank you for all you have done this year to think outside your "Covid bubble!"



**L. Susan Stroup, Deaconess**

North Georgia Conference UMW Treasurer  
[treasurerngcumw@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerngcumw@gmail.com)

## Putting Your Faith Into Action

By this time of the year, you are probably well aware that our two mission priority areas for 2021-2024 are: 1) Climate Justice and 2) Criminalization of People of Color and Mass Incarceration. However, this special emphasis does not preclude us from putting our faith into action in other areas.

Many of our North Georgia UMW circles, local units, and districts have been engaged in ongoing mission-minded social action for years, and there is no reason for you to stop doing that work just because it does not fit under the umbrella of climate justice or racial justice. Our larger mission focus is on improving the lives of women, children and youth nationally and internationally.

As UMW members, we accomplish our mission goals through financial giving, compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems. Although our financial giving is the easiest component to measure, our service and advocacy work are also important. As we learn more about the kinds of injustice experienced by women, children and youth around the world through mission education, we become more motivated to seek out places where our love for others can be manifest in service and advocacy.

Are you interested in exploring compassionate service a little farther from home? The North Georgia Conference UMW has planned a mission service trip to Red Bird Mission for September 11-16, 2022. Red Bird Mission is one of the National

Mission Institutions of the United Methodist Church. Located in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky, Red Bird helps to meet the spiritual, educational, economic, and health needs of isolated residents living in chronic poverty. (See page 7-9 for more information on this service opportunity.)

Are you wondering why United Methodist Women engage in social action? For more than 150 years, Methodist women organized for mission have worked in the name of Jesus to take positions on social issues and to change legislation, systems, structures and practices considered unjust and oppressive. Christ is calling us to "love our neighbors" as we love ourselves. One way that UMW advocates for change is to partner with other community-based organizations to expand our reach in areas such as food insecurity, child and maternal health, homelessness, and human trafficking. Find out what social issues are important in your community and connect with others who are already advocating for change. Together we can make a difference!



**Beverly Marshall-Goodell,  
Social Action Coordinator**

North Georgia Conference UMW  
[bevmarshallgoodell@yahoo.com](mailto:bevmarshallgoodell@yahoo.com)



# A Red Bird Mission Experience

What interesting Scriptures that God put on my heart as I prepared my presentation about my beautiful week serving at Red Bird Mission Work Camp in Kentucky. I think God wants me to share very clearly that I did not do anything extraordinary nor special...I simply obediently said, "Yes, Lord," when He called. And HE kept HIS promises as I followed HIS lead. Thank You, LORD!

After learning about Red Bird Mission at Mission U last summer in the Missionary

Conferences of the United Methodist Church Study, I knew God was tugging me to go. Stephanie Dressler, my dear friend and fellow classmate,

felt the same impossible-to-ignore call. Our enthusiasm and excitement was quickly caught by our friend Cindi Hicks, who became our third servant sister committed to going. We chose to make it happen during Cindi's Spring Break week from school, which was the second week of April. I offered to be our team leader and do the planning arrangements.

As I worked planning with Bob Pohli, the Word Camp Director, I had moments of disbelief that GOD had called us to such mighty work. Work Camp is providing home repair and Christ's love in this very impoverished little piece of the Appalachian Mountains. We three knew that we could absolutely handle the love part, but construction? And home repair? Isn't that work for trained and talented folks, not for three simply obedient ladies?

Bob assured us that we could do it and that we would be given a patient teaching job crew leader and would not be given more than we could handle. We chose to believe Bob and, more importantly, GOD's promises. We boldly and obediently moved forward through the planning and preparation knowing that God would equip us.

The drive up to Red Bird was uneventfully full of excited chatter and beautiful scenery. We even got to go through the Cumberland Gap tunnel from Tennessee into Kentucky. We took the time to explore the National Park a bit before completing the drive into Camp.

Check-in went smoothly, and Warbler Cabin welcomed us as our home for the week. We shared the cabin with a lady from Fayetteville who unexpectedly drove up to join our team and with four ladies on a team from Missouri. We settled in and looked at our week's assignment.

*He has shown you, O man, what is good.  
What does the Lord require of you, but to  
do justice, And to love kindness, And to  
walk humbly with our God?*

*Micah 6:8*

*Show proper respect for everyone,  
Love the family of believers,  
Fear God, Love the emperor.*

*I Peter 2:17*



What? Replacing a bedroom floor? Repairing and installing deck work? GOD does have a sense of humor!

Fortunately, when GOD laughs, so do we. We giggly knew that GOD had mighty things in store for our crew leader/teacher and soon to be dear friend and brother in CHRIST. Our dear Wallace found us soon after our arrival and expressed his confidence in us and prayerfully gave us the God confidence that we so desperately needed. He talked us through our week's work plan and supplied the courage and encouragement that



restored all of the enthusiasm that might have tried to take a tiny temporary detour. We were ready to move boldly into the unknown and un-understood!

Day 1 came and went with not only removing the

bedroom furniture, lots of treasures, and moldings from a very unsteady bedroom floor, but actually completely installation of the new sub flooring in the home of our new elderly widowed friend Miss Mary. We learned from our patient kind Wallace how to saw, drill, measure, hammer, and all the other skills needed to accomplish our tasks. We basked in his Christ like goodness and also laughed a lot with him as he encouraged, teased, and guided our work. GOD bonded us quickly and graciously with much joy and excitement.

However, the most important accomplishment of Day 1 was establishing a loving trusting relationship with Miss Mary. GOD gave us the wisdom to know that HIS loving kindness that we shared with her through our words, our ears, our hearts, and our attitude were infinitely more important than any hammered nail or drilled screw or precisely cut wood that she received. What a blessing she became to us!

The other three work days were as equally amazing as the first day. You can see from the pictures that the work that was completed to our continuous amazement, delight, and awe. I cannot begin to count the number of times we exclaimed in delight and awe how GOD really does use the least!

What you cannot see in the pictures is the love and affection that was shared among our team family, which not only included Wallace, Miss Mary, and us worker sisters, but soon included Wallace's 9-year-old granddaughter Ariel, whom we invited him to bring from the second day on. What a ray of sunshine! And what a hard working girl!

I am not sure which of us was blessed the most by our week of work, love, sharing, and prayer! Not only did Wallace join us each day for

our service work hours, he, Ariel, and his wife Diane joined us for our breakfasts and dinners, which was not the norm for the other crew leaders, who sought a bit of rest from their crews as they returned to camp each day.

And not only did we love on Miss Mary each day, she loved on us. One day as we arrived we had a scarf party to begin our work day — she insisted on giving us each a scarf from her collection. She shared her life, her history, her fears, her struggles, her joys, and many family pictures as we spent our week so graciously welcomed into her home.

The Red Bird Mission Work Camp experience is well organized and well carried out. We were fed in the Cardinal House. Each team had a turn to clean up after meals and a time to share the daily devotions with all of the other teams present from around the United States. Evening activities were scheduled for the entire camp, and then each individual team had time planned in the daily schedule for devotions together with their own group. Personally I loved as we ended each day with each other sharing GOD and our day with our own tiny team. This allowed me the quiet unhurried time each evening to bask in how we were being so tremendously blessed by being obedient to GOD' call.

I would be incomplete and unfair to Red Bird Mission if I did not share the other outreaches that are offered to this impoverished but beautiful community nestled among glorious mountains, rushing water, and the natural beauty of God's artistry. We spent our free day exploring and learning about these wonderful services.

The Red Bird International Mission School is the cornerstone of the Mission. It is a boarding and commuter school providing Christian and academic education for grades kindergarten through 12th grade. We were serenaded by the beautiful music of the school chorus and band, which were about to go out on a weeklong tour during the school's all campus service week. We explored the state of the art science lab and many of the classrooms and offerings. It is a wonderful school with much to offer.

Two tidbits that fascinated me are

- 1) 100% of the last two year's graduating classes were on to tier 1 colleges, and
- 2) the school is built on 15 foot stilts to accommodate the flash flooding from the seemingly gentle river that obviously disguised itself while we were there and is really a ferocious high rising, fast moving, powerful force to be reckoned with!

We also toured the medical facility, the dental facility, the community services

building, and the community store. There are senior services, new mother services, maternal services, food services/education, mental health services, financial services, and many other things available to the community. We also went to the Senior Center and enjoyed a wonderful bluegrass concert by the local pastor. This Center not only offers meals and entertainment for the Seniors, but also offers many classes on nutrition, health care, crafts, and other things specifically catering to the elderly. There is a quilt frame that is always set up for the ladies to work on, as well as a loom for weaving and many sewing machines. Red Bird also has a store for the locals to sell their crafts, which provides a source of income to this impoverished area.

Thank you for letting me share about Red Bird with y'all! Obviously I left a big chunk of my heart in Kentucky when we came back home! Please prayerfully consider going back with me next year on September 11 for a week of Work Camp!



## INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEMBER APPLICATION

### North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women RED BIRD MISSION WORK CAMP September 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Complete this form and return to: Kathy Cook, Team Leader  
525 Owen Glen Overlook, Blairsville, GA 30512  
Please include a \$50 non-refundable deposit payable to: North Georgia Conference UMW



**WHO:** The Red Bird Work Camp Experience is open to all women of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women whose registration and \$50 deposit are received by the deadline. **Registration deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

**WHAT:** The Team will be working on different projects throughout the week of Work Camp. These may include some simple home repair, helping at the Red Bird Senior Center, the Red Bird School, the Red Bird Community Center, the Red Bird Store, or anything else that the Mission requests. We will get to interact in the community and walk beside our brother and sisters in Christ in this beautiful little area of God's beautiful earth!

**WHEN:** Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> through Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**WHERE:** Work Camp takes place on the Campus of the Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky. Campers will stay in cabins equipped with bunk beds, bathrooms, and heat/air conditioning. Meals are provided from Sunday evening through breakfast Friday.

**HOW:** Individual participants will work out their own travel arrangements to camp. A list of all participants will be provided to help you work out carpools. If any church wants to volunteer their church vans with a driver, please let Kathy Cook know. Her email address is heykay75@gmail.com.

**COST:** The cost is \$450 per person. This includes the room and board, work supplies and fees, team handbook, team preparation devotional, and team T-shirt.

**Complete payment of \$450 (including your \$50 deposit previously received) is due by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (if you are a first time Red Bird Work Camp participant or are age 40 and under, you will receive a \$50 Conference scholarship credit off of the full amount). If you are receiving the Conference scholarship, you still need to pay this first \$50 to show your commitment. *The payment deadlines are firm deadlines.***





# Redbird Mission Application

Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name for nametag: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Local Church \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a first time Red Bird Work Camp Participant? \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no

Please rate your physical condition: \_\_\_\_ Robust \_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_ Poor

Explain your physical condition if there is anything team leader needs to know:

\_\_\_\_\_

What are you most looking forward to during this amazing mission/outreach?

Send all questions to Kathy Cook at [heykay75@gmail.com](mailto:heykay75@gmail.com) or call her 770 403 9337

**The following guidelines are recommended by the UMVIM, SEJ Board of Directors for all missionaries, both team members and individual volunteers. Volunteers in Mission are not tourists; they go at the invitation of another church or ministry as guests. It is extremely important to be willing to adjust to the expectations of the host. Therefore, in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the project described above as a volunteer, and in consideration of other obligations incurred by the mission organization, please review the following agreement and sign below:**

- I agree to share my faith in an appropriate Christian manner.
- I agree to cooperate at all times with the team leader concerning our work and life together including daily assignments, food, lodging, transportation, and to stay with the team the duration of the trip.
- I agree to abstain from offensive habits while on the mission. **(The use of alcohol and tobacco is unacceptable for Christians in many countries).**
- Further, I hereby release and discharge the mission organizations which assisted in these arrangements, their agents, employees, and officers, from all claims, demands, actions, judgments, and executions which I ever had, or now have, or may have or claim to have, against the mission organizations, their agents, employees, and officers, and their successors or assigns for all personal injuries to personal property, real or personal, caused by, or arising out of, the above described mission service. I intend to be legally bound by this statement.
- I hereby acknowledge that by engaging in this mission, I am subjecting myself to certain risks voluntarily, including and in addition to those risks which I normally face in my personal and business life, including but not limited to such things as healthy hazards due to poor food and water, diseases, pests, and poor sanitation; potential danger from lack of control over local population; potential injury while working; and inadequate medical facilities, etc.
- I agree to comply with my annual conference Safe Sanctuary policy. For further guidelines go to: [www.umvim.org](http://www.umvim.org)

The validity, construction and interpretation of this **Missioner Profile and Release of Claim** form shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the domestic laws of the state of Georgia, in which the UMVIM, SEJ office was incorporated and our insurer, the CMA Agency, Inc. is located.

In witness whereof, I have executed this agreement and this release at: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City and State)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# North Georgia Conference Mission u

## *Learning Together for the Transformation of the World*

The Conference Mission u event for 2021 is now in the books! Serving my first year as the Dean has been both challenging and rewarding. For those who attended a session, I am grateful for you and your presence. I hope you came away from your session, invigorated and excited to work on making a change in our communities and the world

### **Mission u 2021 – There's Far More Here -Than Meets the Eye**

A total of 236 persons attended the virtual sessions. We held 5 different adult sessions on the topic **Bearing Witness** which included a Hispanic and Korean Language class. Two adult class session on **PushOut** and one session on **Finding Peace in Anxious World**. A donation of \$1,000 was made to NGC Disaster Warehouse as our mission support for the 2021 event.

### **Mission u 2022 - Who Can We Be Together – Building Communities of Hope and Joy**

Mission u 2022 studies have been restructured by our National Team. The new Mission u curriculum was designed to be more flexible and intergenerational than ever- with a curricula for youth, children, and adult focus.

The hope for Mission u is that “we will all leave with a bigger and broader vision of the community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss, grief, and massive disruption”. The new curriculum was started prior to the pandemic with the goal of 2022 being the first year of implementation.

#### **Studies for 2022:**

*Who Can We Be Together (Adult)*

*Community in the Midst of Challenging Times (Youth)*

*Our Growing Tree – From Self-Love to the Beloved Community and All of God's Creation (Children)*



I hope you will join us in 2022, we are working on plans for in-person/ virtual sessions.

Happy Holidays- Tryphenia Speed, Dean Mission u  
[spee2422@bellsouth.net](mailto:spee2422@bellsouth.net)

## **Here are the Persons Who Were Willing to Lead a 2021 Study**

*(Pray about adding your name to 2022)*

### **Study: PushOut**

1. Rev. Anika Jones and Deaconess Jo Sheetz (as team)  
[ankaia@impactdcd.org](mailto:ankaia@impactdcd.org) and [josheeta@gmail.com](mailto:josheeta@gmail.com)

2. Corliss McBride [corlissm@msn.com](mailto:corlissm@msn.com)

### **Study: Bearing Witness**

1. Haejin Ban [haejiny@hotmail.com](mailto:haejiny@hotmail.com)

2. Celestine Jones [celestinejones@gmail.com](mailto:celestinejones@gmail.com)

3. Jacque Hodges [nomadgm@aol.com](mailto:nomadgm@aol.com)

4. Rev Eric Powell [black eagle930@gmail.com](mailto:black eagle930@gmail.com)

5. Mary Ann Brannon [bbrannon1940@att.net](mailto:bbrannon1940@att.net)

### **Study: Finding Peace**

1. Pamela Katz [pamelakatz104@gmail.com](mailto:pamelakatz104@gmail.com)

2. Carolyn Roper [caroly.roper@ymail.com](mailto:caroly.roper@ymail.com)

3. Bobby Solomon [bobbysolomon@windstream.net](mailto:bobbysolomon@windstream.net)

4. Bessie Brown [Bessie.brown@comcast.net](mailto:Bessie.brown@comcast.net)

5. Nancy Ricciardi [nsr1528@gmail.com](mailto:nsr1528@gmail.com)

Note: If your name is not here and you attended a 2021 Mission u study session, please email me if you are interested in leading a session for a local unit or for a district event.

Tryphenia Speed [spee2422@bellsouth.net](mailto:spee2422@bellsouth.net)





# Exercise the Gifts of Your Talents with UMW

Greetings Sisters,

The Committee of Nominations is delighted to welcome our new sisters to the Conference Executive Team. We would like to also thank those that are continuing to serve and will begin their new terms in their current role. As United Methodist Women continues to serve our purpose for women, children, and youth, we are looking for devoted women to serve with us on this journey. Over the next couple of years, we will have several open roles to fill. If you are interested in serving or know some that would like to serve, please fill out the North Georgia

Conference United Methodist Women Talent Search Form attached. We Thank you in advance and look forward to serving with you!



Wishing you Peace and Love during this Advent Season!

Tamara Askew  
Chair, Committee on Nominations  
[tla.umw@gmail.com](mailto:tla.umw@gmail.com)

## North Georgia Conference United Methodist Woman Talent Search Form

Use whatever gift you have received to serve others.



1. Which role you would like to serve in? **(Add as many officer roles as necessary)**

President \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary \_\_\_\_\_  
Communications Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Action Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Nurture & Outreach \_\_\_\_\_  
Member, Committee on Nominations \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Committee on Nominations \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Contact Information (REQUIRED)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church: \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Contact Method: \_\_\_\_\_  
When will you be ready to serve: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Tamara Askew, Chair, NGCUMW Committee on Nominations, ([tla.uwm@gmail.com](mailto:tla.uwm@gmail.com)) or reach out to any North GA Conference UMW Committee on Nominations Member

While any woman can join United Methodist Women as a member, United Methodist Women elected leaders must be laywomen who are willing to commit their talents, time, energy, and effort to serve God's mission.



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

# Climate Justice Retreat and Quilt

“The earth mourns and withers; the world languishes and withers; the highest people of the earth languish. The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant.” Isaiah 24:4-5. The earth is wounded and sad. God placed us in his creation and commanded that we care for it but we have not been good stewards.

The United Methodist Women of Andrews Chapel United Methodist Church decided it was time to truly hear earth's moans and groans and take action. They needed to learn more about climate change and climate justice. So on June 26, 2021 for three hours — 23 women came together in a virtual mini-retreat focused on the social action issue of Climate Justice. Dr. Connie Ward, the unit's Vice President and Program Chair, skillfully facilitated a retreat that made Climate Justice less abstract and complex and more simple, understandable and personal.

The retreat accomplished three objectives: 1) to define climate change, climate justice and climate injustice—explaining each concept’s importance and their interconnectedness; (2) to show why the UMW unit and why members personally should care about climate justice, and (3) to determine what they can do and what they will do to address this critical issue.

The retreat was designed to be both informative and interactive, so attendees:

- Read an article - “Why Climate Change is an Environmental Justice Issue” by Renee Cho prior to attending the retreat
- Listened to and reflected on a series of prayers with themes of Sorrow, Healing and Gratitude for God’s creation
- Completed a poll at the beginning of each section to indicate prior knowledge of the section content
- Viewed responses to climate justice from several perspectives — biblical, the United Methodist Church’s *Social Principles and Book of Resolutions*, the *Bishops’ Pastoral Letter*, 2009 and the United Methodist Women’s stated commitments
- Watched two brief videos (*Global Warming* and *Environmental Justice Explained*)
- Went on a five-minute pilgrimage to the backyard to intentionally experience God’s creation (What did we see, hear, and smell?)
- Gathered data on their quality of life as measured by “Our Energy Landscape: How Just is Your Energy?”, [AirNow.gov](#), Park Score, and AARP scores – walkability, livability, and air emission quality, county water quality and senior and recreation centers
- Asked questions, shared personal experiences and suggested changes for the church, the unit and themselves in lively discussions of the content presented, and
- Took a break to briefly line dance to celebrate the joy in learning together.

Each participant was also encouraged to design, prior to the retreat, a 12"x12" quilt square that will be joined with other



squares in a quilt to represent how the unit is knitted together around the social action issue of Climate Justice. Photos of the quilt squares were shown at the retreat.

In conclusion, the retreat participants shared and assessed what they had learned and pledged action for the church, the UMW unit, and for each of them personally. It was a successful day of learning and fellowshiping.

The retreat closed with this prayer from the 2020-2021 UMW Program Book:

*We thank you Lord for the gift of water — for rain and snow, for  
creeks and rivers, for puddles and waterfalls.*

*We thank you Lord for the gift of light — for firelight and candlelight,  
for stars at night and the sun during the day.*

*We thank you Lord for the gift of plants — for the shade of trees, for moss and grass under our feet, for the beauty of flowers, for the multitude of food and grain as fuel for our bodies.*

*We thank you Lord for the gift of living creatures — for the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, for cattle and horses, for sheep and goats, for cats and dogs, for earthworms and fireflies.*

*We thank you Lord, for the gift of humanity — for people in all the amazing diversity you have created them.*

*We thank you Lord for the gift of stewardship — Give us wisdom and courage to take bold action to care for your creation. Fill us with the power of your Spirit, make us agents of healing and hope for the earth as we go forth, trusting in your guidance. Amen.*



# It is Not Just a Pillow. It is a Bless-ed Pillow.

By Katherine Griffith

For over ten years, the United Methodist Women (UMW) at Tucker First UMC in Tucker, Georgia, has made special breast cancer pillows for patients in the community, church, and local hospitals. The handmade, heart-shaped pillows provide a soft barrier after surgery between the surgical site and things like a

seat belt strap or being bumped by someone. The group creates about 75 pillows a year, then they are dedicated and prayed for by the entire congregation. New this year, the group added a seat belt pad to provide extra comfort when traveling.

The women who make the pillows typically never see who receives them, and all the recipients typically only know that a local group of ladies made this pillow and prayed over it. The pillows are given by the UMW President to a nurse navigator who works with breast cancer patients.

This year, a local breast cancer support group, led by a retired nurse navigator, Rose McKeever, was invited to help bless the pillows.

Twenty-three breast cancer survivors, some with their families, attended Tucker First UMC on October 17. They were excited to meet and thank the women who created their special pillows and “pay it forward” by praying over a new batch of pillows.

I am a breast cancer survivor (complete with pillow) and a member of both Tucker First UMC and the breast cancer support group.

I always saw these pillows as the perfect shape post-surgery, and as a church member, I was happy to pray over the pillows. The pillows took on a new meaning when I was diagnosed with breast cancer and became the recipient of a pillow. It stood for faith, comfort, and the faithful who prayed over these pillows. I am ever grateful.

The support group wrote personal thank you notes to the UMW, and the ladies were deeply moved that these pillows provided more than comfort and stood for love, faith, and caring. The “Blessing of the Pillows” in the worship service was renamed “The Blessing of the Bless-ed Pillows” by the support group after one of their members used that phrase in their thank you note.



“Receiving these bless-ed pillows was such a blessing to my life. The labor of love was heartwarming during my recovery. Words can’t express how thankful I am for your mission to support women going through a challenging period in their life. God bless all of you. I call my pillow a bless-ed pillow (pronounced with two syllables bless-ed). I have had breast cancer twice, and each time, I had the honor of receiving a breast cancer pillow. They allow a survivor to provide a comfy cushion to a surgical or treatment area allowing relief from pain. The pillows emanate a spirit of love and caring from the church ladies, making them the cancer recipient. It is important that the hands that make these pillows know that this is an ‘act of healing.’ The pillows also provided me comfort and stability at home, traveling in the car, and visiting family and friends. I am truly blessed that I received both my pillows.” Charlene

A member of the support group, Angela Paul, spoke during the service and thanked the UMW and the church for the gift of the pillows. She also said that when she received her pillow, it made her think of Proverbs 31, where a virtuous woman helps people by making things and Acts 19, where people took handkerchiefs and scarves that had touched Paul’s skin and touched the sick, and they were made well. These pillows were more than comfort; they represented a source of healing and prayer.

“The bless-ed pillows are a boundless blessing to me. When I use my pillow, I feel like I am receiving a loving hug as the pillows provide physical and emotional support. Not only do they relieve physical pain and discomfort, but for me, the softness and unique shape of the pillows also provide a sense of comfort, relief, and peace. When I use the pillows to combat the pain, I experience a sense of relief and calmness that reminds me that God’s got me. I cannot thank you enough for letting God use you to bless me through the bless-ed pillows. These pillows are an ongoing tool in my healing process from my first surgery until now, as I still use them three years later. God bless you for blessing me and so many others. Thank you!” Syreeta

# District News Around the Conference

## Merry Christmas Ladies of the South West District of United Methodist Women

I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve you! We have had an eventful quarter and I am delighted to share with you what is happening!

First, we attended 7 cluster meetings that averaged about 20 people in attendance. We talked with you, asked questions, shared with you some history of UMW and then had fellowship together! The board and I are so impressed with the work that our local units are doing. So many people are blessed by all your efforts. Thank you for stepping up in this time of uncertainty as we are certain God has given us this work to do. I am excited about this time in UMW.

Second, our two district projects are to collect pill bottles, used Sunday School, Bible School, and youth/children literature. We have contacted UMCOR and Dr. Redmond at the UMCOR warehouse in Atlanta regarding literature. He had a request from a church in the Caribbean that needs it. We also have two organizations who will distribute the pill bottles to different clinics. Please continue to collect these items and we will pick them up at the next round of cluster meetings in the new year.

Third, in the new year, we will again schedule cluster meetings. Our purpose is to get to know our local units and stay connected to you! We want to be your servant and we need to know how to better serve you and we feel this is a great way to fellowship. We will send out the dates the first of the year when we set our calendar.

Last, we are in need of a Social Action coordinator and a Membership, Nurture and Outreach coordinator for the district team. If you are interested, please reach out to Mimi Young, our nominations chair. We are excited about our work and want to continue with your help. Please prayerfully consider joining us. We are having a great time as we serve others in God's name.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter. I pray that you and yours have a wonderful Christmas and create great plans for the new year. We know that God wants an abundant life for us and in this time of uncertainty, we can be sure He is our only constant! We will see you in the New Year! I am looking forward to being with you!!

Merry Christmas!!

In Him,

Trudy Gill

## North East District United Methodist Women

The North East District United Methodist Women had a wonderful first ever Virtual Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 13th, 2021. Those participating in the meeting met at St. Paul Washington Street UMC in Gainesville. How awesome to be together with this mighty,

but small group of women! We were honored by the hospitality of the St Paul UMW.

Lauren Breck, one of North Georgia Conference's newest Deaconesses, was our guest speaker. She did an excellent job filling our souls with words of encouragement to pray boldly. The Lord's Prayer was her source of inspiration, and she used it well!

St. Paul's choir, tech team, pastor, United Methodist Women, and musicians blessed us with their gifts and talents. Anyone who was able to watch us either live or recorded received an excellent service! And those of us who were in person participating were tremendously grateful and blessed!

As always, the North East District Executive Team gave their best serving our district's churches! We look forward to when we are all together — hopefully in early 2022!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Cook, acting President

## Central East District United Methodist Women

Central East District United Methodist Women First Annual Meeting on October 23, 2021, at Loganville First UMC which was virtual. Special thanks to Rev. Owen Skinner pastor at Loganville, and to our speaker Rev. Dr. Shannon Karafanda, executive pastor at Peachtree City UMC and professional #HolyMischief Maker. Special Mission Recognition pins were given to Joy Campbell and Rev. Tracy Sever. Ladies in attendance were from Walnut Grove UMW. Music was provided by Mary Ellen Doughty, Barbara Peck, and Michelle Jarrett, from Grayson UMC.





# Meet Your 2022 North Georgia Conference Officers



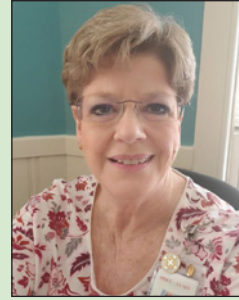
*Stephanie Dressler  
President*



*Jessica Godfrey  
Vice-President*



*Vanessa Warner  
Secretary*



*L. Susan Stroup  
Treasurer*



*Addie Shopshire-Rolle  
Spiritual Growth*



*Beverly Marshall-Goodell  
Social Action*



*Emily Grossman  
Education &  
Interpretation*



*Debora Constable  
Membership Nurture  
Outreach*



*Linda Brown  
Program Resources*



*Kellie Frissell  
Communications -  
Newsletters/Email*



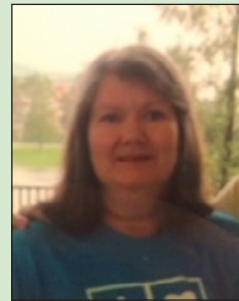
*Carla Jefferson  
Communications -  
Tech, Web/Social Media*



*Tamara Askew  
Chair, CON*



*Pauline Dominique  
Member, CON*



*Janice Gallaher  
Member, CON*



*Bernadette Hartfield  
Member, CON*



*Sue Ownbey  
Member, CON*



*Alice Smith  
Member, CON*



*Diane West  
Member, CON*



*Tryphenia Speed  
Parliamentarian,  
SEJ Treasurer*



*Sara Stillablower  
Historian*



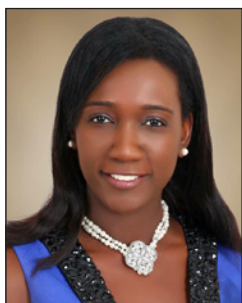
Anita Pygatt  
Registrar



Lauren Breck  
Limitless Coordinator



Mindy Hudson  
Limitless Coordinator



Isabel De Souza  
Spanish Language  
Coordinator



Delores Carhee  
National Director



Haejin Ban  
National Director



## The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women

The Purpose is adopted by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church as the official mission statement of United Methodist Women.

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Out of the Purpose are four mission foci that relate to the mission initiatives and priorities of United Methodist Women.

- To be a community of women
- To know God
- To develop a creative and supportive fellowship
- To expand concepts of mission

## 2022 North Georgia Conference Calendar of Events

Event	2022	Location
Program/CON Executive	Jan 8	Virtual
Limitless Event Lip Sync Battle	Jan 22 or Jan 29	TBD
Treasurers, E&I, Historians Meeting	Feb 5	Ousley
Faith, Fun, Everyone & Conference Ubuntu	Mar 5	Rome First with Ubuntu at Murphy Harpst
Program/CON Executive and Walk thru for Annual Mtg	Apr 2	TBD
Spiritual Growth/ Social Action Event	NA	NA
UMW Assembly	May 20-22	Orlando, FL
NGC Annual Conference	Jun 2-4	Classic Center
UMW Breakfast	Jun 3	Classic Center
Mission u	Jul	TBD
Program/CON Executive	Jul 16	Virtual
District Reports Due	Aug 1	Aug 1
Limitless Event Fall Festival	Sep 11 or Sep 18	TBD
Red Bird Mission Trip	Sep 11 thru Sep 16	Beverly, KY
Annual Meeting	Oct 1	TBD
Program Committee	Oct 6	Virtual
LDD / Executive Meeting	Nov 5	Peachtree Road
District Ubuntu Day of Service	Districts Determine	Districts Determine

### Future Reflector Deadlines

*The Reflector is designed to highlight District-wide events in the North Georgia Conference that happened in the past quarter OR are coming up in the future. Let us know your news in words and photos so we can celebrate with you! Send to [kellie@kfdp.com](mailto:kellie@kfdp.com)*

Spring 2022 articles due Feb 28 • Summer 2022 articles due May 28  
Fall 2022 articles due Aug 28 • Winter 2022 issue articles due Nov 28