



Church Women United in North Carolina

Agreed to differ, resolved to love, united to serve

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In this Issue:

Message from the President
CWU - NC Leader's Council
Southeast Regional Assembly
Ecumenical Action
NCCC Events
Fair Maps for Fair Elections
NC Council of Churches
Addresses the Opioid Crisis
Local Meetings, Celebrations
and Events
News from Across the State
Year End Tasks

Message from the President

Emily Sprague

We pray "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven". As Church Women United, we have a vision, shaped by the Gospel, of what God's Kingdom on earth looks like. The lowly will be lifted up, the hungry will be filled, all will live in harmony with one another, there will be no more war. This vision pulls us into the future, guiding us as we do the hard work of confronting injustice. Be assured that each act of love makes a difference. During Advent stay alert, support one another, and keep the vision of heaven on earth always before you.

2018 CWU in NC Leaders' Council

Haymount UMC – Fayetteville, October 20, 2018



The women of Fayetteville did an outstanding job of hosting the 2018 Leader's Council. We celebrated 75 years as CWU in NC with a processional of Unit banners, recognition of past and present leaders, a brief history, and an anniversary cake. Lena Johnson, 2nd VP of Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of NC highlighted our history during her keynote address. A thoughtful memorial lifted those who have passed away in the last year. During concurrent sessions, officers were trained for their roles and responsibilities and enjoyed time to share ideas with others across the state. The 2019 budget was approved and new 2019 state officers were installed at the annual Business Meeting. William Munn from the NC Justice Center spoke on the Six Amendments which NC voters considered on Election Day and Dave Austin shared current information on farmworkers in NC. All went home with renewed inspiration to continue the work of Church Women United!

Southeast Regional Assembly Jacksonville, FL, September 20-22, 2018

Sowing Seeds of Love and Justice He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.” (CEB) Micah 6:8

The Regional Assembly is held every four years, alternating even years with the National Assembly. This one was at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jacksonville, FL, located conveniently to the airport. The Florida ladies under the direction of President Betty Brady



NC Delegation with President Patti Polk

did an outstanding job of hosting and organizing the meeting, making all feel welcome. Just over 100 women registered. We had two representatives of the National CWU—President Patti Polk and Nominations Chair Margaret Rushing. Each brought updates from the national office and helped us better understand the national structure. North Carolina was represented by ten members, most having some part in the program. Women from other states were impressed we made it despite the devastation and flooding of Hurricane Florence immediately before the meeting. Their concerns lifted our spirits. Brenda Wills, the Southeast Regional Coordinator, was a natural at facilitating the gathering.

The music leader, Dr. Barbara McNeely-Bouie, was outstanding, inviting God’s Spirit to fill the room and encouraging us all to sing with conviction from our hearts at the opening of each session. Several times throughout the Assembly, we divided into small groups for Table Talk, using a list of questions to help us reflect



Doris Yeattes

on our own experiences with CWU and to be inspired by what other women are doing across the Southeast. One memorable speaker was Joy Casino, a 94-year-old lady from Jacksonville who began at the age of 89 sewing T shirt dresses for girls, making each one cute and attractive with trim, and sending them overseas to Africa. She has made thousands of them! There were three nonagenarians present who were recognized, including our own Doris Yeattes who celebrated her 94th birthday on Saturday of the meeting. Roberta Perry brought us up to date about farmworker needs. NC’s Crystal Rook led us in worship on Friday evening with a thought-provoking message relating our theme to her experience with urban gardening. We had a memorial service for all those who departed in the last year. The Assembly ended on a high note as D-5, a family of gospel singers, inspired us with their music.

We left better informed about the work of CWU at all levels, aware of the need to involve younger women, fresh ideas gleaned from our sisters in other states, and re-committed to carrying on the work of uniting women from all churches to address needs around us and around the world.

CWU in NC Executive Board

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Emily Sprague

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Brenda Wills

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Nominations

Jean Lowery

Area Chairs

I – Dorothy Funderburke

II – Maxine Baxter

III – Barbara Vought

IV – Leona Whichard
and Susie Heath

V – Juanita Staples

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Myrtle Garlington

Farmworker Advocate

Connie Gates

Sign the [electronic petition](#) in support of our state's children:

Mail paper petitions to:

Sheryl Forbis
117 W. Carr St.
Carrboro, NC 27510

Ecumenical Action

Brenda Wills, Action Chair

Immigration

With the caravan of migrants on their way to the US border, Brenda Wills offers some ways our congregations can get involved with immigration issues.

1. Sign up for updates from the North Carolina Council of Churches. Ask for free copies of their new Bible study entitled *Becoming the Church Together*. Participate in the *Neighbors Together* dinner-dialogue program.
2. Host a community dialogue event focusing on immigration.
3. Host a film screening of *Gospel Without Borders*.
4. Teach a Sunday School or small group class on immigration.
5. Form a congregational or community partnership with a local Latino center, immigrant rights group, or other organization.
6. Volunteer to teach an English as a Second Language class.
7. Sponsor a refugee family through a local refugee resettlement organization.

Campaign for Fair Food

In 2001, farmworkers in Immokalee, FL launched an ambitious Campaign for Fair Food to educate consumers on the labor conditions behind the food they eat. Through the campaign, farmworkers and consumers built an alliance to encourage retail food companies to use their enormous purchasing power to require higher labor standards for farmworkers who harvest the produce they buy. Since its inception in 2010, the Fair Food Program added \$15 million to Florida tomato farms' payrolls.



Four major fast food corporations in the country are doing the right thing by participating in the Fair Food Program: McDonald's, Burger King, Taco Bell, and Subway. Wendy's refuses to participate. The National Farmworkers Ministry endorsed a boycott of Wendy's in 2016. To support the boycott, do not eat at Wendy's; ask others to avoid Wendy's; deliver letters to store managers at local Wendy's urging them to be fair to [farmworkers](#).

Fair Maps for Fair Elections

Every ten years, the party in control of the legislature draws electoral maps, naturally drawing maps to their party's advantage. Taken to an extreme, this can undermine democracy and cause deep divisions in society. The non-partisan League of Women Voters has established five principles to establish a reasonable [redistricting commission](#).

1. Include a role for the legislature in the commission, naming some members.
2. Include citizens and/or impartial experts as commission members.
3. Set strict rules for the commission's work that
 - a. Apply essential redistricting standards: districts that are compact, contiguous, comply with the Voting Rights Act, and keep towns, counties, and communities of interest whole
 - b. Do not allow the use of political data or partisan objectives
 - c. Use voting rules requiring support from both parties & independents
4. Provide for extensive citizen participation and transparency
5. Make the maps final on the commission's vote alone

NC Council of Churches Addresses Opioid Crisis

Recovering Hope Conference

Thursday, March 7, 8 a.m. -5 p.m.
Butler Chapel at Campbell University
116 T.T. Lanier St, Buies Creek

Join us for this one-day conference to discuss the possibilities for a faith-driven response to the opioid crisis. This event will help to empower faith leaders to mobilize their communities to better respond to the epidemic. NC Attorney General Josh Stein will be one of the plenary speakers for this event. The cost is \$30 to attend. [Click here](#) for the schedule of events and a discount code to register. For questions, contact Kate Thomas at kthomas@campbell.edu.

Local Meetings, Celebrations and Events

Emily Sprague

What a privilege it has been to visit Units across the state this year, being inspired by the amazing things women are doing. Recurring traditions become routine but when viewed through fresh eyes, these Unit practices are remarkable. Below is a list of when Units are meeting and on the following page, what they are doing. Feel free to visit any gathering.

Asheville	January 26	Brooks Howell Chapel, Asheville
Chapel Hill/Carrboro	March 1	World Day of Prayer
Charlotte	Dec. 13	Antioch Missionary Baptist, Charlotte
Fayetteville	March 1	World Day of Prayer
Greensboro	January 18	Hinshaw UMC, Greensboro
Hickory/Catawba	March 1	World Day of Prayer
High Point	March 1	World Day of Prayer
Jacksonville/Onslow	March 1	Northwoods UMC, Jacksonville
Kinston/Lenoir	March 1	World Day of Prayer
Martin County	January 25	The Patriot House Coffee Shop, Williamston
Raleigh/Wake	January 26	White Memorial Presbyterian, Raleigh
Salisbury/Rowan	March 1	World Day of Prayer
Wilmington	January 4	Ebenezer Missionary Baptist, Wilmington
Wilson	March 1	Forest Hills Baptist, Wilson
Winston-Salem Forsyth County	March 1	World Day of Prayer

**Church Women United
Dates to Remember**

2019

January 5

CWU in NC Board Meeting
Greensboro

January 31

Deadline to get Annual
Reports to State President

March 1

World Day of Prayer

May 3

May Friendship Day

News from Across the State

Asheville is collecting coloring books and stationery for 350 inmates at the Swannanoa Correctional Center for Christmas. One member provides regular updates from the United Nations Association, summarizing UN activities around the world. The Unit will sponsor their second annual Rise Against Hunger event in January, inviting a large cross section of the community to help package meals.

Charlotte/Mecklenburg, at its WCD Celebration, honored Roye Buck for her commitment to her community, her church and to Church Women United.

Chapel Hill/Carrboro presented the Human Rights Award to the Orange County Justice Center at its celebration on November 2 at Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church. They continue to collect items for the Diaper Bank.

Greensboro honored Bess Lansom with the Valiant Woman Award at its WCD celebration. They had their annual silent auction to raise funds for the Unit.

Hickory had 68 attendees for World Community Day at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The Praise and Worship Team from Greater Shekinah Glory Church led all to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit through their music.

Jacksonville/Onslow Co. had a missionary from Israel as a guest speaker at its November meeting.



Kinston/Lenoir celebrated World Community Day at historic White Rock Presbyterian Church. They presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Karl Grant, pastor of the Queen Street Church, for his role in Kinston's InterChurch OutReach (ICOR), a hands-on mission project of the Unit. The 17 women present enjoyed an interactive Bible Study.

Martin County celebrated WCD at Weeping Mary Missionary Baptist in Jamesville.

Raleigh-Wake County presented six Human Rights Awards to those who saw a need and gave selflessly to



address the need at the combined Human Rights and World Community Day Celebration in November at Wilson Temple UMC. The meeting ended with lunch catered by A Place at the Table, a pay what you can restaurant in Raleigh.

Wilmington honored Monnie Flat-Swetson as a Valiant Woman at its World Community Day. They assembled over 300 hygiene kits, shirts and suits for migrant farmworkers at the Telemon Center. The value of the donation came to \$10,300!

Wilson celebrated WCD with Alice Freeman describing how the Gentleman's Agreement helps young boys to be young men. The Unit donated funds to the that organization, along with hurricane relief contributions to the Baptist Mission Disaster Feeding Team and St. John's AME Zion Church.

Winston Salem/Forsyth County celebrated World Community Day on November 2 at Bethania AME Zion Church with Brenda Wills as the speaker.

Contact Information for Year End Tasks

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Send news to the Newsletter Editor
Emily Sprague
esprague@nc.rr.com

Year End Tasks

Annual Reports - completed by **each Unit** and sent to the State President and the National Office by **January 31**. Either regular mail or email is fine.

The report includes an up to date list of 2019 officers, statistics about each 2018 Celebration, an annual Financial Report, and a concise description of special projects and activities of the Unit. For good record keeping by the State, include CWU awards bestowed, with the awardee's name and type award. The Unit President is responsible for pulling the report together, gathering information from other officers as needed.

The Annual Report will be used by our State Secretary, Doris Boyd-Brown to produce the 2019 State Directory and Local Reports.

Finances - A reminder of how offerings are disbursed.

Event	Where Money Goes
Annual Meeting	100% Stays in Unit
World Day of Prayer	100% to World Day of Prayer - USA
May Friendship Day	50% Unit; 50% State
World Community Day	100% to National
Human Rights Celebration	100% to National
Other Events	Determined by Unit

Migrant Fund - CWU in NC's Migrant Fund provides annual support for farm workers through contributions to FLOC (Farm Labor Organizing Committee), SAF (Student Action for Farmworkers) and the Farmworker Institute. Combining resources from Units and denominational women's groups provides greater impact on these programs. Be generous in contributing to the Migrant Fund, so we might continue our long-standing support of NC farm workers.

Our Farmworker Advocate, Connie Gates, would like to form a Migrant Farm Worker Team of interested women from across the state. Contact her if you are involved with or interested in farm worker ministries.

Celebration Reports – Following each Celebration, complete the Report Form and send to Annie Purcell, the state Celebrations Chair. She combines all reports into a master report and presents them at CWU - NC Board Meetings. Include details which describe what your Unit is doing. It is OK to toot your own horn!

Newsletter Subscriptions – This Newsletter is published quarterly (Feb, May, Aug. and November). To receive a paper copy, send your name and address along with \$3 to cover postage to Nancy Bumgardner, Treasurer (address in sidebar).

The Newsletter is sent via email to all Unit and State Officers listed in the State Directory. It is sent by postal mail to Presidents and Communication Chairs who do not use email. Presidents are urged to share the Newsletter with their women. Also share it with your church women's groups and anyone else who may like to join our Church Women United movement.

