



# Church Women United in North Carolina

*Agreed to differ, resolved to love, united to serve*

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## A Message from the President

**Emily Sprague**

*But God has so composed the body, that there may be no division, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*  
*II Corinthians 12:24-26*

On World Community Day, we learn from other faiths and cultures. Here is a parable from the Jewish faith reminding us that we are all part of one body, with actions of one impacting all, for good or bad.



A group of people were travelling in a boat. One of them took a drill and began to drill a hole beneath himself. His companions said to him "Why are you doing this?" Replied the man "What concern is it of yours? Am I not drilling under my own place?" Said they to him "But you will flood the boat for us all!"  
*Midrash Rabbah, Vayikra 4:6*

## World Community Day

focuses on the first phrase of our motto: "Resolved to Love". As women of faith we have a responsibility to reach beyond Christian denominations to brothers and sisters who are Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, and many others. It is a move from ecumenical to interfaith orientation. Let us, through mutual respect, create an inclusive community that is just, caring, and supportive. Let us resolve to love *all* our neighbors.

World Community Day has been celebrated since 1943, uniting women across the country on the first Friday in November to study peace. Check with you Unit President for the date and place for your Unit's Celebration. All offerings are sent to the national office to support the work of the CWU national movement.

The **Human Rights Celebration** is scheduled at varying times during the year. Check with your Unit President for the date and place.

  
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED  
2019 World Community Day

**THE  
TIME IS  
NOW!**  
  
"Resolve to Love"

## CWU in NC Executive Board

### President

Emily Sprague

### President Elect

Crystal Rook

### Vice President

Claire Robinson

### Secretary

Doris Boyd-Brown

### Treasurer

Nancy Bumgardner

### Action

Brenda Wills

### Celebrations

Annie Purcell

### Development

Juanita Staples

### Communications

Dinah Pettigrew

### Finance

Ellen Williamson

### Nominations

Leona Whichard

### Area Chairs

I – Dorothy Funderburke

II – Maxine Baxter

III – Barbara Vought

IV - Susie Heath

V – Doris Hutcherson

### Parliamentarian

Myrtle Garlington

### Farmworker Advocate

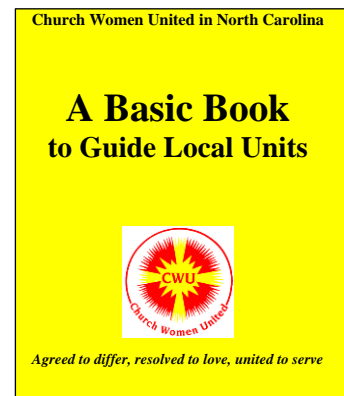
Connie Gates

## State Assembly and Leaders Council

The 2019 State Assembly and Leaders Council will be held on **Saturday, October 19** at the **Church of the Holy Family in Chapel Hill**. The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Unit has been carefully planning each detail to make it the best gathering ever, one you will not want to miss!

### Schedule

- 8:30 Registration, light breakfast
- 9:15 Parade of Banners. 15 banners expected this year!
- 9:45 **Worship Service** under the direction of VP Crystal Rook
  - Keynote Speaker – Rev. Love' Lemon
- 11:00 **General Meeting** – The latest news from Young CWU, NC Council of Churches, Farmworkers, Celebrations
- 12:00 **Lunch** lovingly prepared by Chapel Hill-Carrboro women
- 1:00 **Leadership Training**
  - Presidents and Vice Presidents
  - Secretaries, Communication Chairs and Newsletter Editors
  - Treasurers and Finance Chairs
  - Celebrations and Development Chairs
  - Action Chairs and all who are committed to social justiceAll Unit officers are urged to attend the Leadership Training sessions. You will receive valuable resources and get lots of ideas to help you do an outstanding job.
- 2:00 **Leaders' Council Business Meeting**
  - Approval of 2020 Budget
  - Election and Installation of 2020 Officers
  - Some surprises!



The annual State Assembly is for *all* CWU, not just “leaders”. It is a chance to renew friendships with women across the state, to make new connections, to appreciate who CWU is and be inspired about our potential to make a positive difference in our world.

A block of rooms has been reserved for Friday, October 18 at **Chapel Hill University Inn**, 1301 N. Fordham Blvd. about a mile from the host church. To book a room, call 1-888-452-5765 and mention “Women’s Conference”. The Registration Form for the State Assembly is attached to this Newsletter. Register by **September 30** to save \$10, paying only \$35. Better yet, register *today* so you do not forget.

## National News

The 2020 Quadrennial Assembly of National CWU will be June 11-14, 2020 in Atlanta, GA. Since it is fairly close, we hope North Carolina will be well-represented. Keep abreast of plans as they develop through the national website [www.churchwomenunited.net](http://www.churchwomenunited.net).

## Area Meetings

Women across the state meet with sister Units in Area Meetings. These provide opportunities for a larger gathering to hear excellent speakers on stimulating topics often based on the Quadrennial Priorities.

**Area 1** – August 3, Soldiers Memorial AME Zion Church in Salisbury. Guest speakers: Edna Gillespie, RN, BSN who spoke on Women’s Health and Heart Health; A.W. Burgess who spoke on Eradicating Domestic Violence/Child Abuse/Bullying.

**Area 3** – Will be on September 14 at Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville.

**Area 4** – August 24, St. Giles Presbyterian in Raleigh. Guest speaker Jennifer Bremer on *Everything Electoral* including a proposal for Fair Districts, Voter ID, and the importance of the 2020 Census.

**Area 5** – June 14, Calvary Presbyterian, Wilson. Guest speaker Emily Sprague on Public Education.



### Church Women United 2019 Dates to Remember

#### October 18

CWU in NC Board Meeting,  
Chapel Hill

#### October 19

State Assembly  
Chapel Hill

#### November 1

World Community Day

#### Church Women United

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[www.churchwomen  
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212-870-2347

#### Church Women United in North Carolina

[www.cwunc.org](http://www.cwunc.org)

#### Send Celebration Reports to:

#### Annie Purcell

1802 Eastwood Ave.  
Greensboro, NC  
27401



## Education Petition to the NC General Assembly

Sheryl Forbis, President, Chapel Hill-Carrboro

In April 2018, the State CWU initiated a petition supporting increasing public education funding in North Carolina. By April 2019, we had collected more than 700 signatures at our meetings and on-line. On May 1, 2019, Emily Sprague and Sheryl Forbis sent a respectful electronic letter to each individual member of the NC General Assembly stating the points on our petition and asking for their support. The letter ended: “Education, affordable housing, health care, and food security all intersect in our children’s lives. It takes all of us collectively to see that we care for them responsibly. We depend upon and expect you to do your part.” We got responses from ten legislators, most of them supportive of our position.

Thanks to all of you in our state units for signing and supporting this petition on behalf of the children of NC!

Send contributions to the *Farmworker Fund*, and subscribe to a hard copy of the *CWU in NC Newsletter* by sending a check to *CWU in NC* to:

**Nancy Bumgardner**  
Treasurer  
1203 N. Gregson St.  
Durham, NC 27701

**Send news to the  
Newsletter Editor**

**Emily Sprague**  
600 Stacy Street  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
[esprague@nc.rr.com](mailto:esprague@nc.rr.com)  
919-828-1269

## **Migrant Farmworker Ministry**     **Connie Gates, Farmworker Advocate**

With deep appreciation to the denominational groups and Units across the state who continue to send in monetary support to our Farmworker Ministry, CWU in NC has been able to contribute to FLOC (Farm Labor Organizing Committee) and to Manos Unidas, a farmworker health program which partners with the Black River Health Center to care for farmworkers in Bladen, Pender, South Duplin, South Sampson counties.

## **Nationwide Bell Ringing Ceremony**

**Brenda Wills**

Sunday, August 25, 2019 is the 400th anniversary of the first landing of enslaved Africans in English-occupied North America at Point Comfort in Hampton, Virginia, now part of Fort Monroe National Monument, a unit of the National Park System. The anniversary will be commemorated at Fort Monroe as a day of healing and reconciliation. The park and its partners are inviting all 419 national parks, NPS programs, community partners, and the public to **ring bells simultaneously across the nation** for four minutes--one for each century--to honor the first Africans who landed in 1619 at Point Comfort and 400 years of African American history

Bells are symbols of freedom, rung for joy, sorrow, alarm, and celebration. This symbolic gesture will enable Americans from all walks of life to participate in this historic moment from wherever they are--to capture the spirit of healing and reconciliation while honoring 400 years of African American history and culture.

The first step to engage in this moment is to find a bell, one that is big, small, old, or new.

It could be lots of little bells, one church bell, or a carillon. Create a moment that has meaning, power, and resonance for you and your group. The nationwide bell ringing will take place at **3:00 p.m. EDT on August 25, 2019**, the 400th anniversary. Choose a location that accommodates your audience comfortably and, ideally, is a place that has a connection to your group or community's unique story.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/partnerships/bell-ringing-for-400th.htm>



## **North Carolina Council of Churches**

**Emily Sprague, President**



As the President of CWU in NC, I have filled the CWU seat on the Executive Board of the NC Council of Churches. Through that role, I have been exposed to social justice issues in a whole new way. I have met a man living in a sanctuary church. I have heard from victims of the opioid crisis. I have been inspired by those fighting for sensible gun control, working to improve public education, advocating for Medicaid expansion, and sounding the alarm about climate change. The Council has vast knowledge and resources to offer people of faith who are concerned about what is happening around us. Sign up for their weekly electronic news. Attend their events. Ask your church to host an event. As Church Women United, we seek to learn more about the needs in our world, follow the leading of God's spirit, and work together for the common good. On the Council's boat, we have a better chance of all staying afloat! [www.ncchurches.org](http://www.ncchurches.org)