



TEL A Woman

VOICE OF SOUTH GEORGIA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



Silent Night Oh Holy Night.

*Far away in Bethlehem, a Baby Boy was born;
Born with neither riches nor with fame,
Yet Wise Men came from all around to bring their gifts to him,
And peace was felt by all who heard His name.*

*Angels watched Him as He slept, and gently rocked His bed;
Their voices singing softly in His ear;
His Mother and His Father both gave thanks to God above
for the greatest gift of all, their Son, so dear.*

*They knew His life upon this earth would not be filled with wealth,
They also knew He would encounter strife; But most of all,
They knew He would be a loving Child
And teach the love of God throughout His life.*

*This Christmas, as we celebrate this Birth of Jesus,
Let's keep in mind the truth of Christmas Day;
For it's not the Christmas wrappings, nor the gifts that lie within,
But it's our gift of faith, hope, and love to others in every way...*

*"For unto to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior,
which is Christ the Lord"*

(Luke 2:11)



President's Article:

BY: Tara Jones, Conf President

Topsy-turvy. That's the state of the Jones' house right now. Future neighbors, Cameron, Sarah, and Candler, are living with us while their house is being completed. A wonderful change is about to happen for Opa and Oma to have our only grandson next door. This is one of my many blessings that I share with you in this season of Thanksgiving.

As we review 2023, I am thankful to God for sustaining our organization of United Women in Faith through the year. I am thankful for South Georgia's scores of local women who continue to say "Yes" as God calls them to focus on the needs of women, children, and youth. I am thankful for women who read and study about issues, and who don't stop there, but seek to make a difference using their voices and action. I am thankful for this organization that offers any woman the opportunity to inspire, influence, and impact her community. I am thankful for our women who continue to give of their funds, time, talent, and service to show God's love to so many. I am thankful for the women of South Georgia who continue to inspire me in all that they do.

We have experienced some trying circumstances this year. In spite of difficulties, we have experienced some beautiful moments - a great Spiritual Growth Retreat filled with laughter and love, a wonderful Mission u event with learning and sharing, an inspiring Social Issues Workshop culminating in working together to show love to children through gifts of school supplies, an amazing Conference Annual Meeting celebrating our involvement in mission.

These trying times have necessitated the Conference Leadership Team in cutting everywhere we could in considering the 2024 budget and pledge. We continue to give as much as possible to support women, children, and youth while continuing to offer excellent events in our districts and Conference. Of course, local, district, and Conference giving impacts what our organization is able to do on a national level. In a recent email, United Women in Faith CEO and General Secretary Sally Vonner stated that due to a decline in organizational giving, they are enacting cost-saving measure such as the elimination of five staff positions by the end of this year and another two in 2024. Sally asks that we join the staff in praying for those affected. The headquarters will be moved to the Church Center for the United Nations which is owned by United Women in Faith. They will have minimal office space and the staff will work almost fully remotely. In her email, Sally shared: "As you wrap your mind around this information, please do not lose sight of our mission. United Women in Faith is devoted to uplifting women, children, and youth. I know that in time, like generations of United Women in Faith before us, who survived church disruptions, pandemics, wars, and other societal unrest, we, too, will see brighter days ahead. We will continue to put our love into action."

It's often that trying circumstances can lead to amazing outcomes. I recently watched a couple of news segments that were great reminders of this possibility. One showed how Dr. Rory Cooper who, after becoming paralyzed at age 20, worked to make advancement in wheelchair design and technology. Another interesting segment showed how changes in fast food visits necessitated by the pandemic has led to new methods of delivering food to customers. Imagine getting your drive-thru order delivered through a tube like the one at the bank. I wonder how long it would have taken for these improvements to happen had the initial setback not happened.

United Women in Faith will continue to experience amazing outcomes. Technological advances make for so many new possibilities. Podcasts available at uwfaith.org offer exciting opportunities. **Faith Talks** explores timely themes and topics with interviews with spiritual leaders. **Voices from the Field** shares about the national and international initiatives that benefit from Mission Giving. Audio versions of some of the top articles from response magazine are also available. We also have opportunities to share with each other across the Conference with virtual events. And, of course, we look forward to being together in 2024 at Spiritual Growth Retreat, Mission u, Social Issues Workshop, and Annual Meeting. Let's stand together as we continue to put love into action.

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!

Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.

Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves.

We are His people and the sheep of His pastures.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.

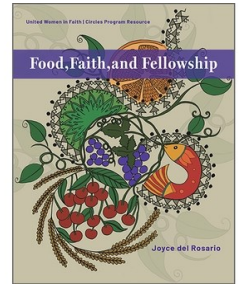
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations

Psalm 100

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH 2024 PROGRAM RESOURCES

United Women in Faith's theme for 2024 is *Food, Faith, and Fellowship*. The 2024 Program book is ready for separate pre-orders for \$14.99 or as part of the 2024 Bundle (includes Daily Prayer Guide, Program Resource Book, and Adult Curriculum for Mission u) for \$49.97, with a \$5 discount taken off when order is processed) at uwfaith.org/resources/. These items will be ready to ship in the late fall.



The **2024 United Women in Faith Program Resource** invites all to join at God's banquet table as we explore what it means to be a community – not just in our circle, but with all of creation.

Participants will embark on a journey about food, spiritual practices together, and God who dwells with us at the table. This is about us learning how to be good hosts as well as good guests at the table, in someone's home, at church, at school and work, and on the created earth.

Author Joyce del Rosario, director of Multi-Ethnic Programs at Seattle Pacific University, explores her heritage as a Filipina American and her personal experiences around food, faith, and family.

Monthly gatherings begin with a shared meal, followed by exploring Scripture, as well as hands-on activities that deepen understanding and encourage participants to look for ways to include and consider others. Take-home activities keep the learning going until you meet again.

You can also experience this resource in an online platform via Mighty Networks. Join and participate in local programs to grow in faith, participate in action, and connect with sisters!

Get your **free** Program Resource promotional poster and share the excitement and information about your upcoming program!

A bit of good news! Programs in the 2024 Program Resource begin in January unlike previous versions where they started in September.

The 2024 theme for the *Daily Prayer Guide* is “*Let us Break Bread Together.*” It calls to mind that we are created to be in community and to welcome all to God's table. The prayer guide connects us to our larger family by uplifting the work and impact of the global outreach of United Women in Faith and Global Ministries and how those who serve reflect God's desire for us to be together at God's table. Daily prayers and devotionals are reminders of the steadfast love of God and an invitation to God's table where all are welcomed and loved.



SWEET SYMBOL



A significant symbol of Christmas is the simple candy cane. Many years ago, a candy maker wanted to make a candy that would symbolize the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus.

The hard candy was shaped like a “J” to represent that Jesus is our rock of all ages. Its shape is also the crook of the shepherd. The lively peppermint flavor is the regal gift of spice. The candy was made of white to stand for the pureness of Jesus. The red represents the blood that Jesus shed to save us from our sins.

The candy cane reminds us all of how much God cares. Like His Christmas gift to us, its shape is meant to be broken and shared.

SGA CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH ANNUAL MEETING

What a delightful day we had on October 21st at Wesley Community Centers in Savannah for our conference annual meeting. It was a great time to reconnect with old friends, to make new friends, to install our new 2024 conference officers, and to learn more about Wesley Community Centers and the outstanding work they do. Tammy A.K. Mixon-Calderon, who serves as the Executive Director, welcomed all the attendees and offered tours of the facility, which is currently undergoing some much needed upgrades. Attendees were able to purchase Reading Program Books thanks to Program Resource Director Barbara Morris. We also heard words of wisdom and encouragement via video from United Women in Faith General Secretary and CEO Sally Vonner.

Tammy was the guest speaker for the conference and eagerly shared some of the many services provided by Wesley Community Centers. Wesley Community Centers is one of three National Mission Institutions within the South Georgia Conference. Since 1949, the center has been enhancing the economic, educational, and spiritual growth of women, children, and families. It's a community where social and economic justice prevail no matter what's the person's age, race, gender, ability, or personal or collective history. They work to help people exit poverty and become self-sufficient. It is located in inner-city Savannah where the Early Childhood Learning Center and The Lady Bamford Early Learning Center provide low-income children with subsidized early childhood services and homeless children with free services. A favorite of many children is the Wesley Youth Arts Camp held each summer. The J.R. Paddison Center (Crisis Intervention Program) provides services, advocacy, and referrals for single adults and families. One unique service provided is the Holiday Family "Adoption" Program which helps single mothers provide gifts for their children. They have partnered with The Royce Learning Center to offer adult education and GED classes.

During the business session, Diane James conducted the Pledge Service. The 2024 Conference Pledge to Women's Division United Women in Faith is **\$52,300**. Pledges are down for 2024 which can be attributed to the loss of a number of units. Cheryl King, 2023 Chairperson, Committee on Nominations, presented the slate of conference officers for 2024—Becky Britton, Education and Interpretation Coordinator, Paula Shaw-Powell, Chairperson, Committee on Nominations, and Jeanne Lindsey, Communication Coordinator. There were no further nominations from the floor. Agnes McKinney and Patsy Thomas were elected as nominees to National United Women in Faith Board of Directors. The above were elected unanimously. The new conference officers were installed by Sara Bankhead, former Conference President and current member of Program Advisory Group. Lynn Harper and Cheryl King were recognized as outgoing officers. In her presentation, Conference President Tara Jones provided an excellent recap of the accomplishments/events of the past year and some of the challenges facing our organization in 2024 and the out-years. She reminded us, our organization has faced many challenges in its over 150 years and always came out stronger. United Women in Faith will survive, but the road may be a little bumpy along the way. Rev. Dr. Paula Lewis, South Central/North Central District Superintendent led the holy communion service, after which we enjoyed a delicious lunch served by Wesley Community Center.

Oh, I forgot to mention, thanks to the attendees, the center's food pantry is a lot fuller. Ladies brought canned goods as well as snacks for the kids. Their food pantry has now been replenished and there are a lot of snacks for the kids.

Coastal District Attendees



“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in their midst.” (Matthew 18-20)

Annual Meeting



DISTRICT HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CONFERENCE

COASTAL DISTRICT (Connie Boole President)

Coastal District Annual Meeting: Thirty five women gathered together for the district annual meeting on Saturday, September 16th at Brunswick First United Methodist Church. The Brunswick ladies did a great job with breakfast goodies and a delicious lunch. Attendees voted on the district 2024 budget, installed officers, and remembered their United Women who have passed on. They had their Flame for Mission Giving with the lighting of candles honoring and remembering loved ones.

The 2024 Officers are:

Temporary President Connie Boole (Trinity Savannah), Secretary Mary Lee (Grace Brunswick), E&I Coordinator Michelle Hickerson-Mancy (Jesup), Nominating Committee Carolyn Fletcher (Asbury Savannah) and Leila Morgan (Nahunta). The District is looking for a new President or Co-Presidents.



August Mission Study: The district's second mission study of the year was held at Nahunta Methodist Church on Saturday, August 26th. Rev. Ron Flowers, a retired minister from the North GA Conference, led the study on "*Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13*". What does God say about creating spaces of care? About community building? About shifting boundaries and norms? And how can this be done when the entire world seems to be on fire? These are some of the questions that were answered during this unique study. The discussion inspired individuals and can inspire communities to envision ways of living that are sustainable, loving, and creative, even though there are forces that conspire to dissolve these same communities.



DISTRICT HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CONFERENCE

NORTHEAST DISTRICT (Martha Ray President)

Conference Annual Meeting: Six ladies from the district attended the annual meeting held at Wesley Community Centers in Savannah. They are shown in front of a mural at the center celebrating diversity and service at the center, which is one of 90 National Mission Institutions supported by United Women in Faith through our pledges and other mission giving. Since 1949, Wesley Community Centers of Savannah have been working to enhance economic, educational, and spiritual growth of women, children, and families through excellence in early learning care, a food pantry, summer camps and adult education classes. In addition to participating in the business meeting and a tour of the facilities, we joined attendees from other districts by bringing food to replenish the food pantry and snacks for the children.



NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT (Agnes McKinney President)

North Central District Annual Meeting: September 23, 2023 was a day filled with praise, love, remembrance, and of course, good food. The District Annual Meeting and Day Apart were held at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church. After a warm welcome by Carol Pope, Mulberry Street UWF President, and Agnes McKinney, NCD UWF President, the business session was conducted. Margaret Wheeler NCD Chairperson, Nominations Committee, presented the slate of officers. New Officers elected were: President, Lynn Harper, and E&I Coordinator, Agnes McKinney. Returning officers are Treasurer Barbara Wolfe, Chairperson, Nominations Committee Margaret Wheeler, and Tina Parks, Elaine Shierling, and Merita Evans, all members of the Committee on Nominations. They were installed by Conference President Tara Jones. The district is still seeking someone to serve as Secretary. Special music was presented by Agnes McKinney, with Dawn Sutton as the pianist. The District Day Apart Service was led by Lynn Harper, with Cheryl King, Conference Chairperson, Committee on Nominations reading an inspirational poem. A total 14 Sisters in Christ, including former NCD President Glenda Cope, were remembered during the service. Cathy Horne from Open Door Community Center was the guest speaker and did she deliver a fantastic message about Open Door Community Center. Rev. Payton Stone, Mulberry Street Associate Pastor, conducted the communion service and then everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by the UWF ladies of Mulberry Street.



DISTRICT HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST DISTRICT (Patsy Thomas President)

Northwest District Annual Meeting: On September 17th, the district held its Annual Meeting at St. Mary’s Road United Methodist Church, NW District Superintendent Rev. Doreen Smalls was the guest speaker. Rev. Smalls recounted the bold persistence of our eight founders. During the Called by Name service, the district honored the memory of the late Johnnie Brinson, M.L. Harris UMC, Kitty McMinstry, Pierce Chapel, and Barbara Stubbs, Epworth UMC. They also recognized their Quiet Disciples—Billie C. Smith, M.L. Harris, Will Hudson, Pierce Chapel, and Dr. Pamela Shaw-Grant, St. Mary’s Road.

Sara Bankhead installed Sandra Wilde, St. Peter UMC, and Karen Clemon, Pierce Chapel, as members of the Nominating Committee. Karen Hartin is continuing on as E&I Coordinator, Dr. Shaw-Grant as Treasurer, St. Mary’s Road, and Becky Britton as Nominations Chair, Epworth UMC.



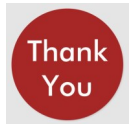
WORD OF THANKS

From Lynn Harper, Comm Coordinator

This is my last edition as Editor of Tel A Woman and I want to say **THANKS** for all the support you have given to me by submitting article and pictures. To say the least, it has been a TEAM effort.

I look back at how things have changed with the publication since I first became Communications Coordinator. Initially, you submitted articles and pictures to me and then I sent them to the publisher, who did the print layout, published the edition, and then sent it to members via the US Postal Service. That became rather expensive, so in order to save dollars, Tara challenged me to prepare an online edition that could be sent via email to members. Of course that meant I had to prepare the layout and everything. Now, I still prepare the layout and etc. and a link is sent to you to download. I call that progress!

Jeanne Lindsey is the new Communication Coordinator I feel very confident that Jeanne is going to take Tel A Woman to the next level because she is much more proficient in technology than I am.



DISTRICT HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT (Sonya Aldridge President)

“Sisterhood Reunion Picnic:” The District’s Annual Meeting was a bit different than those of the past. On Saturday, September 23, Pinson Memorial hosted the District “Sisterhood Reunion Picnic.” Reunion activities included an interactive Meet & Greet and a Bit of Business, followed by casual fun and fellowship with a photo booth, games, and an indoor picnic. Attendees enjoyed a time of entertainment with a surprise visit from Minnie Pearl (Ellen Jeter). Celebration moments were shared (births, weddings, anniversaries) and a tribute display was set up to honor the memory of their departed sisters since last fall.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT—2024

By: Sarah Faullkner, SG Coordinator

Mark March 8-10, 2024 on your calendars for the annual Spiritual Growth Retreat. The theme will be **‘Becoming More Loving’**. The retreat leader, Anne Bosarge, will take us through a series of sessions looking at our role model, Christ, who reflects the love of God and how we then let that guide our mission to love as Christ loves.



Anne Bosarge works with the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church as the Director of Leadership Strategies and Local Church Resources where she provides leadership development for clergy and laity and works in new church development. In addition to her role with the United Methodist Church, she is founder of Digital Discipleship (www.digitaldiscipleship.online), a digital discipleship organization reaching thousands around the globe through two faith communities, “The Chapel Online” and “Becoming More,” both that gather primarily on Facebook and WhatsApp. Anne is the author of many books available on Amazon, including small group curriculum for Becoming More’s seasonal online and in-person small groups. Anne lives in Brunswick, GA with her husband, Corey and two black labs. She enjoys baking, reading, writing, and spending time with her son Jacob and daughter Rosalyn and son-in-law, Drew. You can connect with Anne on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.

DISTRICT HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CONFERENCE

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT (Laurie Jo Upchurch President)

District Annual Meeting: The South Central District United Women in Faith gathered at Camp J.D. Tygart on September 16, 2023 for a memorable “Family Reunion” style annual meeting. Rev. Dr. Nita Crump was the guest speaker and as always, delivered an inspiring and challenging message! Many thanks to all who brought a covered dish (they were all delicious) and attended. Special thanks to Michael and Tara Jones (our conference president) who provided wooden fall leaves with scriptural blessing for everyone. It was a reunion to remember!



2024 READING PROGRAM

Make sure you check out the November/December **Response Magazine** and explore the listing of Reading Program books for 2024. You can read books from the 2018 list onward to be credited through December 31, 2024 for the reading plan you chose. You will note there is an expanded selection of books, thus offering you more choices. Also, there is a larger number of youth and children’s book selections, including several intentionally paired sets to facilitate inter-generational programming.

There is a new virtual page at bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith where you can browse and purchase most of the 2024 Reading Program books while earning 10% back for the organization. In addition, there will be quarterly live events (small group book discussions and author talks as well as a discussion platform group called “Reading Enthusiasts” where you can post, learn about upcoming events, and share with others about your favorite books). In addition purchasing books from the UWF bookshop, you can borrow books from the public library or purchase them from your favorite local bookstore or an online retailer, such as Amazon.

Did you know you can receive reading program credit for listening to the **Faith Talks** podcast. Listening to at least two episodes of **Faith Talks** counts as the equivalent of one credit in Spiritual Growth.



United
Women
in Faith

Get
Together!

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION QUADRENNIAL EVENT

April 19-21, 2024, Chattanooga, TN

The Countdown is On! The date is fast approaching and preparations are being made. Have you made your plans to attend? If not, it not too late! Just go to <https://sejuwf.org/> for information and to register.

What does it mean to answer the call to “love one another” (John 13:34) in 2024?

Come **GET TOGETHER!** To

FEEL the joy when faith-filled women unite

NURTURE our souls through the strength of our sisterhood

DEEPEN our relationship with God

EXPLORE the power of love to make a difference

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Rev. Janet Wolf. Rev. Wolf is an elder in the United Methodist Church and has served as a pastor of rural and urban congregations. She is a college and seminary professor, community mediator, learner, and partner for transformative justice. In July 2012, she was appointed to work with Marian Wright Edelman and the Children’s Defense Fund on nonviolent direct-action organizing to dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline. She is the author of “*To See and To Be Seen*,” “*Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*,” and numerous other writings/books. She is fantastic. She had the attendees at Assembly 2022 in awe with her presentations.

Early Registration, which is \$210, ends **December 31, 2023**. Late Registration, which is \$240, runs from January 1– March 19, 2024. So don’t delay and register today because you don’t want to miss this exciting event!

There will be opportunities to participate in Mission Giving during the event. So bring your dollar bills! Those bills have on them a “G” for God, “J” for Jesus and Jurisdiction, and “L” for Lord and Legacy.

Hope to see you in Chattanooga!

SHARING GOD'S BLESSING

By: Diane James, Conference Treasurer

Hebrews 13:16 “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices, God is pleased.”

This fourth quarter is our time to be thankful for all the blessings that have been granted each of us this year. It is through our World Thank Offering that we make sure children, youth and adults have food, medical care, day care, an education and ways to be economically independent.

As of the beginning of the fourth quarter, we have donated **\$55,167** toward our **\$100,000** pledge and **\$9,660** to supplementary missions.

May God continue to bless each woman who sacrifices to be sure that 153 years of sharing God's love through missions continues and grows. Every gift brings hope to those who are suffering and certainly pleases God!



By: Sandy Wilder, Rio Texas Conf, UWF

“These last two months of the year are usually really busy, aren't they? You may have special meals to prepare, extra shopping to do, multiple event invitations to juggle, friends and family coming to visit, sad or painful experiences from the past year to process, projects to finish before December 31, and on and on. ...

So let me invite you to take five minutes to do one or all of these things:

- Take 5 minutes to pray for mission and our mission workers. You can find their names in the “Mission Personnel” section of the **Prayer Guide**.
- Send at least one \$5 Gift to Mission card to someone. You're bound to know at least one person who'd appreciate receiving a special greeting during the season.
- Add at least \$5 to your World Thank Offering. There is indeed much for which to be thankful, isn't there?
- Add at least \$5 to your Pledge giving. If you can give more, more mission can happen!
- Take another 5 minutes to pray for your local unit and your sisters in United Women in Faith.
- Ahhhhhh ... feeling better? Take five is simply the right thing to do this time of year.

May you and your loved ones be safe and well during the rest of 2023, and may you be ready to be faith, hope, and love in action again in the new year.”

(Appeared in Nov/Dec 2023 Response Magazine)

SGC UWF LEADERSHIP TEAM—2024

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**Spiritual Growth
Retreat, Epworth**
March 8-10, 2024

**SE Jurisdiction
Quadrennial
Meeting**
Apr 19-21, 2024

**Mission u
Epworth By
the Sea**
Jul 19-21, 2024

**Social Issues
Workshop**
Aug 3, 2024

Life is like a piano.
The white keys are happy days;
The black keys are sad ones.
Remember that you need both to make music.

