



# The Word

Vol. XXIII No. 1  
April 2024

United Women in Faith  
Monroe District Newsletter

Greetings Monroe District UWF friends!

Your district leadership team has been hard at work planning our April 20, 2024 Social Action event, on human trafficking. It's shaping up to be an exciting and informative day. Ellen Breed has arranged for speakers from Monroe and Ruston to inform us of the scope of the local problem, as well as what we as Christians and citizens can do to help the victims of human trafficking.

One concern that I'd like to bring to everyone's attention is that in the last year, pledges have decreased dramatically. Your unit's pledge does make a difference. Local UWF units, as well as districts and the conference, also need to consider fundraisers, if we are to continue our mission to help women and children around the world. If your unit has an idea for a fundraiser that has worked for you, please share.

Lyn Murphy, District President

Editors Note:

For those who may not be aware, we are sad to have said goodbye to two former faithful and active members of the district team. Janet Dawson, our recent co-president and past vice-president passed away on Jan 30.

Betty Simmons, a member at McGuire, who was our district treasurer several years ago, passed away in March.

I feel sure you will want to lift their families in your prayers.

Marcia McNeill, Editor

**See information on Page 7**

**District Social Action Event**

**Saturday**

**April 20, 2024**

**St. Pauls UMC**

**1901 Lexington Ave.**

**Monroe, LA 71201**

# District Annual Meeting November 2023

Trinity UWF was host to the members of Monroe District United Women in Faith for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Mary Ann Adams announced The Louisiana Conference “Woman of the Year in Missions” to the District members as Laura Salguero looked on.



Marcia McNeill was presented with the certificate for “Woman of the Year in Missions” at the Monroe District Annual Meeting.



Members of UWF enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Linda and Sam Wallace and the festive decorations at Trinity Methodist Church on November 4, 2023

# DISTRICT WOMEN IN ACTION

## UWF Trinity Methodist Church, Ruston

By Susan Boothe, President

Trinity UWF continues to enjoy a robust renewal of participation in unit meetings in the new year, with 45 active members on the roll and an average of 35 attendees at each meeting so far. Sharing a meal and fellowshiping with one another entice members to attend, of course, but the opportunity to worship and serve our Lord Jesus Christ through missions is the real draw.

In 2024, Trinity UWF has been blessed by devotional messages delivered by members of Trinity's pastoral team and will hear from other members of the team later this spring. Our goal is to nurture a closer connection between Trinity UWF and Trinity clergy and, by so doing, enhance our capacity to identify and support local needs.

Also, in February, the Executive Director of MedCamps of Louisiana presented an overview of the camping experiences that they provide year-round for special-needs individuals and their families. Through a love offering and a supply drive, Trinity UWF met some of this bighearted organization's immediate needs. MedCamps may not call itself a Christian institution, but they truly are doing God's work.

At our March meeting, Trinity UWF heard from members of the Louisiana Tech Wesley Foundation Missions Team about their upcoming return to Ethiopia on a work mission. Again, we received a love offering for a worthy cause. Our missions guest at the April UWF meeting is scheduled to be a representative of the "5 Loaves, 2 Fish" food truck ministry that provides free meals in underserved areas of Ruston, a missions project already near and dear to Trinity UWF.

The generosity of Trinity UWF members, through pledges and through donations to local missions, continues to benefit men, women, and children both close to home and around the world. We pray that our contributions bring glory to God and blessings to his people.



## 2024 Monroe District Officers

We are continuing our year with former Co-President, Lyn Murphy as President. She accepted the responsibility following the death of Janet Dawson.

President Lyn Murphy

Vice-President

Secretary Kathy Wells

Treasurer Ann Ford

Assistant /Acting Treas. Laura Salguero

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Social Action Coordinator  
&  
Membership Nurture  
and Outreach Ellen Breed

Education and Interpretation  
&  
Sec. Program Resources Becky Ham

Committee on Nominations, Chair

Committee on Nominations Members  
Doret Gilbert-Wilson

Janette Taunton

Need one or two more

Newsletter Editor Marcia McNeill

Contact information has been removed for safety.  
Available in printed version.





# TREASURER NOTES

From Our Assistant/Temporarily Acting Treasurer

I would like to thank all those who gave generously this past quarter. We were able to send in \$1,120 with our last Quarterly report.

Also, our love offering at the last District Annual Meeting at Trinity was *fantastic*. We were able to send \$674 to Dulac Community Center in south Louisiana. This is one of our three UWF mission institutions in Louisiana.

I would like to give a big shout-out to the Trinity Unit in Ruston for their *extreme* hospitality while hosting the 2023 District Annual Meeting!

As decided at our last District Leadership Meeting, our love offering at the upcoming Social Action Event will go to UWF missions. Our conference as a whole fell way short of meeting our pledge last year, and any money we can raise will be greatly needed and appreciated as we fulfill our original purpose of helping needy women, children, and youth. One of the things I like about UWF missions is they give people a “hand up”, not just a “hand out.” I heartily recommend Response Magazine. In it, you can read about and see pictures of our many projects. It will make you proud, but *to God goes the glory!*

Our Social Action Coordinator, Ellen Breed has found several knowledgeable people to speak at our Social Action Event on human trafficking on April 20. Most of them will be bring brochures about their organizations in case you find one or more of them to be worthwhile organizations to which you might want to contribute on your own.

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to *do justice*, and to *love kindness*, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8

Thanks, Laura Salguero—xxx-xxx-xxxx

## Thoughts from a former Conference Treasurer

(The article was originally offered in the midst of the Covid isolation period & edited.)

Many of you may feel as I do. During the Covid crisis I really missed the fellowship and wonderful programs that took place during our meetings. It is in these meetings that we learned of people next door and across the globe. We often found out about the difficulties of others who so desperately try to manage on day to day basis. We put our heads and hearts together to find ways to relieve their suffering and bring better lives to them. For over 150 years women like us have sought to make the lives of women and children better through our missions.

Unique that it was the month of March that the first group of women were made aware of the crisis that the women and children in India faced. They put their heads together and organized a mission focused on the needs of women and children. Saving from their household budgets, penny by penny, they were able to send Dr. Clara Swain and teacher Isabella Thoburn to India as missionaries. It was in March that the virus crisis so abruptly changed our lives as we knew them. May we remember in our own concerns, the United Women in Faith’s missions are still out there needing our funds in order to operate. In our isolation perhaps we forgot that their needs continue. You may send your pledges and anything else you might want to contribute to your unit treasurer. She will see that your gift goes through the proper channels to reach our UWF missions.

May the peace and grace of God be with you,

Sandie Webb *Louisiana Conference United Methodist Women Treasurer (Retired)*

You Are Invited!!



**St. Paul's Women in Faith  
Chicken Salad Luncheon and Silent Auction  
Tuesday, May 7  
11:30-1:00**

Tickets are \$12.00 and will be available after April 10.  
Carry outs available  
All proceeds will be donated to local charities.



## DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Submitted by Kathy Wells, District Secretary

*As believers, we all have a light to shine.*

**Let Your Light Shine** (based on Matthew 5:16)

Believing and trusting in Christ makes you light up in such a way that's noticeable to others around you. This light is something you can't extinguish, and no one else can either. It's just there.

You shouldn't try to hide this special light in order to fit into the world. Instead, let your light shine before all the people around you. It's a good thing you're different! Whatever situations you find yourself in, let your light drive away the darkness of this world. Your light might be as simple as showing kindness to someone you meet. Or it could be as deep as telling someone how Jesus changed your life. As you let your light shine brightly, others will notice the good that you do. They'll notice you're different. And they'll glorify God because of you.

(From 180 Devotions for When Life is Overwhelming by Hilary Bernstein)



**United Women in Faith  
Social Action Event**

**Join Us**

**Saturday, April 20**

**9:00am–12:30pm**

**St. Paul's UMC  
Fellowship Hall  
1901 Lexington Avenue, Monroe**

**9:00 am**

**Registration and coffee time**

**9:30 am-12:30 pm**

**Informative program and mission project**

**Hear from Ouachita Parish Sheriff Deputies,  
Freedom 13 Ministries in Ruston,  
The Wesley Foundation  
and**

**Sharon Pleasant with “Louisiana Love”  
to learn how you can help.**

**Place your boxed lunch order (\$10)  
by Monday, April 15 by calling 322-4454.**

## **Dates to Remember**

**Mission U, July 19-20, 2024  
Wesley Center, Woodworth, LA**

**Conference Annual Meeting  
October 12, 2024  
First United Methodist Church  
Natchitoches, La.**

**District Annual Meeting  
November 2, 2024**

United Women in Faith  
Monroe District  
Trinity Methodist Church  
1000 West Woodward Avenue  
Ruston, LA 71270

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