

# Gleanings

September Issue

## Columbia District



Keynote Speaker  
Rev. Mary L. Johnson  
Retired Elder - SCC UMC

### 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting

## Sisters in strength



Sisters should spur one another toward love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together  
(Hebrews 10:24-25).

**September 21, 2024 10:00AM**  
**Washington Street UMC**  
**1401 Washington St, Columbia, SC 29201**

# Columbia District



## 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting

September 21, 2024

Washington Street UMC

1401 Washington St, Columbia, SC 29201

# Sisters in Strength

Sisters should spur one another toward love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together (Hebrews 10:24-25).

**Registration: 9:00AM-9:55AM \*\*\*\*\* Program: 10:00AM-2:00PM**

.....Cut along dotted line.....

## Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Special Guest: Check all that apply.

District Superintendant   
  Past District President   
  Conference Officer   
  Woman of the Year  
 Missionary                     
  Deaconess                     
  Other

**Registration: \$15.00**

**Registration Deadline: September 10, 2024**

**Late Registration: \$20.00**

Make check payable to: Columbia District United Women in Faith (UW Faith)

Mail check and registration form to:

Tiffany Phillips

2336 Hard Scrabble Road

Columbia, SC 29223

803-543-9405

Dietary Restrictions:  No                       Yes (List: \_\_\_\_\_)

Suggested Attire: Shades of **Yellow**

## *News From The President...*

As we enter the last quarter of the year, let's celebrate all we have done this year.

We held our Day Apart in March, and it was truly a "soul care" day. Participants could pick from classes on meditation, chair yoga, coloring, vision boarding and aerobics. We had 80 participants, and everyone felt their soul was good when they left. The reviews were excellent.

Many of us went to Chattanooga for SEJ and we were all inspired and excited. There were classes, gatherings, a comedian, and several panel discussions. The panel discussion I attended exposed how racism is still impacting our sisters. I felt challenged and inspired to work on ending this kind of injustice harming my sisters. All of us left feeling energized to work for our United Women in Faith and continue to serve the women and children in our world.

Several of our members attended the Come Together Be Together presented by the Conference UWF. The theme was "God the Sower of Love and Mercy and the speaker was Rev. Katherine Crimm. After hearing her inspirational talk, we moved to our breakout classes. Several of our ladies attended the class on leading a Bible study or a meeting. Very informative and helpful to us as we lead in our roles in UWF and in our churches.

In July, many of our ladies attend Mission u and learned more about living together in God's "Kin-dom". The teachers guided everyone in this powerful study but left us time for fellowship and fun. We are thankful for all the work by the Committee that made this Mission u meaningful.

What a powerful year this has been so far! **But wait, there is more to come:**

The **52<sup>nd</sup> Columbia District Annual Meeting** will be held at **Washington Street UMC on September 21**. The theme is "**Sisters in Strength**", and our Keynote speaker will be Rev. Mary Johnson. The program committee hopes this will be uplifting and help provide ways for us to connect and support each other. **We pray all our Columbia District sisters will attend this important meeting.**

The Conference Annual Meeting will be October 25-26 at Woodland UMC in Rock Hill. The theme is “Praise the Lord, Justice for All” and we will learn about the Catawba Indian Reservation from Assistant Chief Patricia Leah from the Catawba Nation located in Rock Hill.

Please remember to make your pledges and contribute to our UWF so we can continue our work of supporting women and children. Our giving is down from last year as some of our units have left, so it is **very important to give, give and give**. We need everyone’s help in meeting our pledge goal this year.

While many churches are leaving us, we will not let that stop us. We need to do things differently and connect in new ways. We are positive that we will continue to be a great district of women serving God and our vulnerable women and children. Let’s make our District strong and step up to the task of growing our numbers as we go forward. We can make this happen if we **work together in the name of Christ our Lord**.

**I pray God will bless each of you this fall.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Debra Schooler,*

President  
Columbia District United Women in Faith



*Notes from the Vice President  
Greetings United Women in Faith!*

Philippians 4:13 says “I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength.” I can personally attest to this verse of scripture.

As my local unit members and I got together during a Zoom meeting to fill out district forms in preparation for our Columbia District Annual Meeting and for reporting to SCCUW Faith, I was both surprised and overjoyed - no, deliriously happy!! - with the number of activities and events our local unit of UW Faith attended and participated in on the local, district, conference, jurisdictional and national levels. In addition, the numerous mission sites and social agencies to which we donated food, clothing and monetary gifts to support women, children and youth was absolutely phenomenal.

How did we do it? I am reminded of the lyrics from Myra Summer’s song “We’re Gonna Make It”: With Jesus on our side / Things will work out fine / We’re gonna make it. God was (and is) on our side. Thanks to God’s help and support, we made things happen.

Columbia District is about to make things happen in a big way! We will host our 52nd Annual Meeting, September 21, 2024 at Washington St. UMC with registration beginning at 9:00am. The theme is “Sisters in Strength,” and is based on Hebrews 10:24-25: *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

We will emphasize the need for sisters to meet together and support each other by assembling together for a time of spiritual formation; listening to a message from keynote speaker, Rev. Mary Johnson; giving to mission; participating in the decision-making process during the business session; receiving individual and unit recognitions; participating in the communion service; and coming together for a fellowship luncheon.

We invite all United Women in Faith members and supporters to join us at our Annual Meeting.

An announcement flyer and a registration form are included in this edition of *Gleanings*.

In the spirit of Sisterly Love and Togetherness,

*Carrie R. Murray*

Vice President

Columbia District United Women in Faith



## Secretary's Desk

The Columbia District United Women in Faith Executive Committee met June 18, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:11 by President Schooler. She welcomed everyone to Washington Street United Methodist Church and thanked everyone for coming.

In attendance were Debra Schooler, Carrie Murray, Diann Selph, Tiffany Phillips, Rhonda Washington, Sharee Washington, Sandra Love, Lexie Chatham, Stella Chisholm, Pat Hoesly, Becky Travis, Vikki Hill, Vanessa Key, Flo Johnson and Linda Kennedy.

Members absent: Heidi Ankeny, Vilma Cobb, Betty Void, and Faye Love.

Devotion and Prayer were conducted by Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Sandra Love. The meditation focused on "Here I am Lord. I could have followed Jesus, but I didn't. Jesus is a commitment" and ended with a prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting by Secretary Diann Selph, appeared in the June Gleanings. And were adopted by the Executive Board.

### **Reports were given from the following officers:**

#### **President Debra Schooler**

The Columbia District has been busy this year. We held our Day Apart in March, and it was truly a "soul care" day. Participants could pick from classes on meditation, chair yoga, coloring, vision boarding and aerobics. We had 80 participants, and everyone felt their soul was good when they left. The reviews were excellent.

Many of us went to Chattanooga for SEJ and we were all inspired and excited. There were classes, gatherings, a comedian, and several panel discussions. The panel discussion I attended exposed how racism is still impacting our sisters. I felt challenged and inspired to work on ending this kind of injustice harming my sisters. We left feeling energized to work for our United Women in Faith and continue to serve the women and children in our world. Wow, it was awesome

In May several of our members attended the Come Together Be Together and we shared and learned together. The speaker was excellent, and everyone enjoyed the breakout classes. Several of our ladies attended the class on leading a Bible study or a meeting. Very informative and helpful to us as we lead in our roles in UWF and in our churches.

In June, we had our executive meeting and began planning our annual meeting. The meeting will be held at Washington Street UMC on Saturday, September 21, and the theme is "Sisters in Strength". The Keynote speaker is Rev. Mary Johnson. The program committee hopes this will be uplifting and will help provide ways for us to connect and support each other. We pray many will attend this important meeting.

In July, many of our ladies attend Mission u and learned more about living in God's "Kin-dom". There was time for fellowship and fun. We are thankful for all the work by the Committee that made this Mission u meaningful. While many churches are leaving us, we will not let that stop us. We need to do things differently and connect in new ways. We are positive that we will continue to be a great district of women serving God and our vulnerable women in children.

**Vice President Carrie Murray**  
**Columbia District UWFaith**

As Vice President of the Columbia District, United Women in Faith (UWF), I seek opportunities to attend /participate in forums or information sessions that advocate for social justice for the underprivileged. I participate in in-person and Zoom meetings hosted by Nancy Whittle, chair of the Racial Justice Action Team at Washington Street UMC.

In addition, I recently attended and participated in a discussion on a Potential Centralized Service Center for the Chronically Unsheltered, an initiative spearheaded by Mayor Richerman and the City of Columbia.

At the June 18<sup>th</sup> Columbia District Executive Meeting, I submitted plans for our 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting that will be held September 21, 2024 at Washington St. UMC. The theme, *Sisters in Strength* will be expounded upon through the morning plenary and guest speaker, Rev. Mary Johnson. See flyer and registration form in the June and September issues of *Gleanings*.

**SCCUWFaith**

As the conference representative for Columbia Bethlehem Community Center (CBCC), I participated in a Zoom meeting with director, Kara Simmons re: up-coming activities at CBCC to get a feel for the operations of the organization. Summer plans include partnering with Francis Burns UMC to provide complementary breakfast and lunch meals for youth and seniors. The center will also partner with Black Girls Clubhouse, Inc. to focus on personal growth, mentoring, academic readiness, character development, social-emotional competencies and self-confidence.

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, I served as a volunteer to help bag fresh fruits and vegetables to be delivered to persons throughout the CBCC community and neighboring areas. A second food distribution was held Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

**Local Unit UWFaith**

During our May meeting, I joined the ladies at Francis Burns UMC who partner with Power in Changing, Inc. to sponsor a huge baby Shower. Generous supplies of baby and infant clothes, diapers and wipes as well as an assortment of personal hygiene items were donated to Power in Changing, Inc. a local non-profit organization that provides needed items for babies and their mothers in need.

I attended Vacation Bible School with several of our UWFaith ladies and participated in activities that addressed ways to advocate for others to include women, children and youth.

We have also invited ladies from all denominations to participate in our *Women's Soul Care Retreat* August 24<sup>th</sup> at FBUMC.

**National UWFaith**

I continue to read books from the UWFaith Reading Program. I am currently reading *The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth* by Kristin Henning. It is heart-breaking to see how society corrals our black youth into the prison pipeline.

Also, I found articles of interest in *response* magazine. The May-June issue spotlighted the November 9, 2023 Killingsworth Gala. Featured in the article was an extensive interview with Killingsworth's Executive Director Susan Simons. Also pictured were UWFaith ladies from the Columbia District and surrounding areas.

**Church Women United (CWU)**

CWU Columbia Board Meeting was held June 7<sup>th</sup>. I submitted my report as UMC Denomination Coordinator. We will break for the summer and reconvene in September. Information re: State Assembly is coming soon.

**Treasurer Tiffany Phillips**

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Remittance Sent: \$18,724.50

Pledge: \$8,672.50

SMR Special Mission Recognition: \$370.00

Gift to Missions: \$140.00

Gift in Memory: \$165.00

**(Pledge to Mission Amount: \$9,347.50**

(1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Pledge to mission Amount \$ 19,434.00

Columbia BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY CENTER: \$1,497.50

Spartanburg BETHLEHEM CENTER: \$2,794.50

Killingsworth: \$2,400.00

Wallace Family Life: \$1,998.00

Call to Prayer and Self Denial: \$486.00

Legacy Fund: \$200.00

**Money Received:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter5 AMD Money Received: \$1,081.95

***Other Expenses:***

June Gleaning Printing: \$85.98

June Gleaning Mailing: \$271.12

SEJ Registration Reimbursement: \$660

**Communication Coordinator Sharee Washington**

The next issue of the Gleanings will be in September. Articles and reports will be due on Friday, August 16.

**Spiritual Growth Coordination Sandra Love**

**Read the report on page 11**

**Social Action Lexie Chatham**

I've been extremely busy since we last met in March. An interfaith group of which I'm a member, the Jubilant Singers, performed in 9 nursing homes and 2 churches (one of which was Whaley St UMC) during April and May. Both the residents and our singers were blessed tremendously by this!

I'm also on the Methodist Student Network board at USC. Rev Tom Wall chose to leave his position there after serving for more than 30 years, and we were deep in the process of finding a new leader for that vastly important transitional place of worship and mission. A farewell reception was held for Tom on April 28th, and Rev Jad Tylor was chosen to start MSN's new leadership beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

As the Native American Council Coordinator for my church, I arranged for Tracy Pender, the SC UMC Native American Coordinator, to speak at Mt Hebron UMC on April 21st. Tracy told Native American spiritual tales and explained how they reflect parables in the Bible. We are planning to have a drum circle come this fall to present Native American spiritual songs and traditional hymns that have been adapted into their culture.

I've also helped fill in for our president at Mt Hebron's General Unit of Circles during Kathy Hornsby's illness and death. We've lost a lot of church and thus circle members since the failed UMC separation vote in January. We're still trying to get our footing back, but slowly are getting back to our dedication to missions. Last week Mary Nell Trussell and I delivered to Killingsworth a basket of paper goods and cleaning supplies that our church had collected. We had just returned from attending the SCCUMC Annual Conference, which felt like a revival blessing in our souls. While



there, I also attended the breakfast sponsored by the Reconciling Ministries Network to hear about the actions taken by the General Conference and challenges still faced by RMN.

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, I attended an advocacy program at Brookland UMC for caregivers of those with dementia. This disease is being addressed in various ways at other UMC churches as well. Washington St UMC has a brief half hour service for these individuals on the third Thursday of each month which I attend. Also, Mt Hebron UMC is holding a planning meeting this Thursday to discuss programs concerning dementia to be held there. All are welcome and I plan to attend.

Finally, I'm participating with the Racial Justice Action Team at Washington St UMC along with Debra Schooler and Carrie Murray. Last night we heard from representatives of the non-profit advocacy group, More Justice. Each year this multi-racial, interfaith organization addresses an issue challenging Midlands' residents by bringing together the parties involved to seek ways to alleviate or improve conditions. I've been asked to get more information about More Justice and present it to our Columbia District UMW for consideration about participation. This sounds like it will tie in and supplement this Saturday's Zoom meeting concerning protecting traditionally African America communities from developers.

### **Membership Nurture & Outreach Heidi Ankeny-No Report**

### **Education & Interpretation Rhonda Washington**

Killingsworth Annual Golf Tournament will be held Monday, July 22 at Windermere Golf Club, Blythewood, SC.

### **Program Resource Stella Chisholm-No Report**

### **Committee on Nominations Vilma Cobb-No Report.**

### **Historian Pat Hoesley**

Everyone is encouraged to continue to send pictures of unit events and activities. Group pictures are most appreciated.

### **Cluster reports were received from the following leaders:**

**Cluster 1:** Vikki Hill, **Cluster 2:** Vanessa Key, **Cluster 3:** Becky Travis, **Cluster 4:** Faye Love, **Cluster 5:** Flo Johnson and **Cluster 6:** Linda Kennedy.

Dismissal prayer was given by Sandra Love.

Respectfully submitted,

***Diann Selph***

Columbia District Secretary  
selphdiann@yahoo.com



If you have not done so already, please join the mailchimp newsletter service to receive your future issues of Gleanings.

[Signup Today](#)

<https://gmail.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f09a24a6320556032f6993578&id=0b1b1b6d1b>

**United Women in Faith Website:** <https://www.umcsc.org/women>  
**Gleanings Newsletters:** <https://www.umcsc.org/uwfnewsletters/>

Rhonda Washington/Sharee Washington  
Communication Chairs

## A Note From Our Treasurer:

**"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16, ESV)**

Thank you so much for your contributions to help the missions we support as United Women in Faith. Your Contributions really make a difference at the missions we support.

4th Quarter remittances reporting period 09/01/2024 – 11/30/2024  
Remittance Form due by **12/5/2024**.

If Remittance Form is received after 12/5/2024 it will be counted as 1st Quarter Remittance.  
1st Quarter remittances reporting period 12/01/2025- 02/28/2025. Remittance Form due by **03/05/2025**.

Pledge to Mission for Columbia District: \$50,000.00

1st and 2nd Quarter Total Mission Giving: **\$19,434.00**

Pledge to Missions \$17,910.00

Special Mission Recognition \$500.00

Gift to Missions \$270.00

Gift in Memory \$190.00

World Thank \$564.00

The South Carolina Conference is asking local units to increase their pledge to missions to help meet our Conference Pledge to Mission. Local Units are encouraged to give to the South Carolina Presidential Scholarship Fund.

### **Mission Special Emphasis Months:**

February-Wallace Family Life

April- Bethlehem Center Columbia

September- Killingsworth. Home

November- Bethlehem Center Spartanburg

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

*Tiffany Phillips*

Columbia District Treasurer

2336 Hard Scrabble Rd

Columbia, SC 29223

803 543-9405

Tiffphillips2014@yahoo.com

## *Spiritual Growth Coordinator Report*

I attended Southeastern Jurisdiction 2024 Conference in Chattanooga, TN. The theme was “Get Together”. I attended a Soul Care workshop. Also had an opportunity to share about how we planned and implemented our District workshop. I am happy to say that we were right on track with the ideas the SEJ instructors share on how they should be done. Yay to our planning committee.

May 10 Platt Springs UMC Attended Mother Daughter and Friend Tea.

May 11 Lexington UMC Attended Festival of Tables Tea

Submitted three articles to *Response* magazine for our District. Let's hope that they get selected for the next issue of *Response*.

*Sandra Love*

Columbia District Spiritual Growth Coordinator

## *Social Action Coordinator Report*

Back to school has come again, even for college students. Columbia's Methodist Student Network (MSN) located on the University of South Carolina campus invites you and your church groups to get involved in their mission to support students as they continue both in their studies and their journey with God. Prayers are always encouraged to uplift the students during this transition in life. That takes not just spiritual but also physical food for nourishment. If there's one thing the students really appreciate, it's having a good home cooked meal served after Sunday night's worship service. Precious relationships can be formed with the students while praising God together. But if being at MSN in person is not possible, monetary donations or contributions toward purchases of food are helpful also. To help, contact [msnatusc.com/support](http://msnatusc.com/support). This link also includes MSN's Amazon Wish List.

More Justice of Columbia is an interfaith based organization that started in 2017. Inspired by Micah 6:8, the ministry strives to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." This organization is guided by the Prophet Nehemiah's emphasis on more than "mercy ministry" that addresses individual needs. They focus on "justice ministry" to advocate for social changes. For example, More Justice recently led a successful campaign to promote mental health education. Meetings with local law enforcement agencies led to increased Crisis Intervention Training for their officers. Other social issues examined included gun violence prevention, lack of fair housing, and the growing problem of food deserts. Churches are invited to participate in More Justice's activities by forming small groups to identify and prioritize the injustices that impact their communities. Research is gathered to suggest measurable action steps to present to community leaders for consideration of adoption. Additional information is available at [morejusticecolumbia.org](http://morejusticecolumbia.org).

*Lexie Chatham*

Columbia District Social Action Coordinator  
[LexieChatham@yahoo.com](mailto:LexieChatham@yahoo.com)

**PARTNER WITH THE**



**Methodist  
Student  
Network**



Commit to praying regularly.



Add your church's information to our resource page for students.



Provide a home-cooked meal.



Give a one time or recurring gift.



Learn more about partnering at  
[www.msnatusc.com/support](http://www.msnatusc.com/support)

## Provide a meal for the Methodist Student Network's Sunday Worship



### What

Offer hospitality by providing a home-cooked meal for students.

### Who

We have around 40 students.  
Your group is welcome to join  
and get to know them!

### Where

Deliver to 728 Pickens St. or  
drop off at Washington St. UMC.

### When

Worship starts at 6 pm and  
dinner follows.

Sign up to provide a meal at  
[www.msnatusc.com/support](http://www.msnatusc.com/support)  
or by scanning the QR code.



## Secretary, Program Resource

**WOW!!! Thank you for participating in the Reading Program** ❤️

**Hope** you had a wonderful time reading this year....

**Hope** the books have been a source of inspiration, educational and thought provoking...

**Hope** you continue to be a part of the Reading Program....

**Hope** if you were not a part of the Reading Program this year, you will consider being a member next year....

The Reading Program is one way we can be an active participant with United Women in Faith. The program provides opportunities for us to come together, to make connections, discuss issues that affect our communities and the world. To **Pray** for those issues.

The program is open to everyone, children, youth and adults.

Books are available at the libraries, read-aloud on YouTube, kindle, Audible, Amazon, bookstores.... Everywhere...

Some books/podcasts on my list that were inspirational, educational, and thought-provoking to me.

\**Response Magazine*

\*Faith Talk

\***THE BOOK WOMAN OF TROUBLESOME CREEK** (2023 Education for Mission)

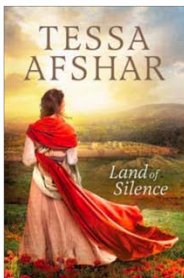


THE BOOK WOMAN OF TROUBLESOME CREEK  
- NOVEL

KIM MICHELE RICHARDSON  
SOURCEBOOKS LANDMARK (2019)

Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, this best-selling historical novel follows packhorse librarian Cussy Mary Carter and her quest to bring books to Troublesome Creek. The last of her kind, her skin a shade of blue unlike most anyone else, Cussy has to confront prejudice as old as the Appalachians and suspicion as deep as the holler to bring the joy of books to the hill folks. *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* is a story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere—even back home.

\***LAND OF SILENCE** (2024 Spiritual Growth)

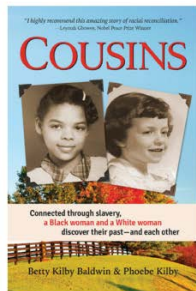


LAND OF SILENCE

TESSA AFSHAR  
TYNDALE HOUSE PUBLISHERS (2016)

Before she stole healing by touching the hem of his garment, Elianna was a young girl crushed by guilt. After her only brother is killed in her care, Elianna tries to earn forgiveness by working for her father's textile trade and caring for her family. When another tragedy places Elianna in sole charge of the business, her talent for design brings enormous success, but never absolution. Then illness strikes, isolating Elianna from everyone and stripping everything she has left. No physician can cure her—until she hears whispers of a man whose mere touch can heal.

**\*COUSINS (2023 Social Action)**

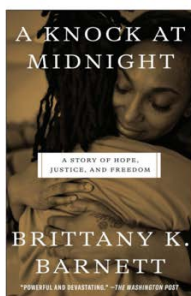


**COUSINS: CONNECTED THROUGH SLAVERY, A BLACK WOMAN AND A WHITE WOMAN DISCOVER THEIR PAST – AND EACH OTHER**

BETTY KILBY BALDWIN AND PHOEBE KILBY  
WALNUT STREET BOOKS (2021)

What happens when a White woman, Phoebe, contacts a Black woman, Betty, saying she suspects they are connected through slavery? Revealed to be cousins, they commit to a path of reconciliation. In alternating chapters, each tells her dramatic story, from Betty's experience as one of the first Black children to attend her desegregated school to Phoebe's eventual question to Betty: "How do I begin to repair the harms?" Piercingly honest, the book includes a working reparations project that the women conceived together.

**\*A KNOCK AT MIDNIGHT: A STORY OF HOPE, JUSTICE, AND FREEDOM (2023 Leadership Development)**

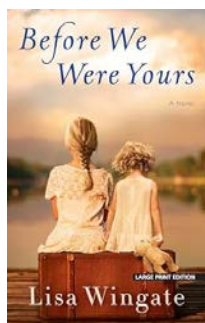


**A KNOCK AT MIDNIGHT: A STORY OF HOPE, JUSTICE AND FREEDOM**

BRITTANY K. BARNETT  
CROWN (2021)

Brittany K. Barnett was a law student when she came across the case that would change her life forever—that of Sharanda Jones, single mother, businessowner, and, like her, Black daughter of the rural South. A victim of America's war on drugs, Sharanda had been separated from her young daughter and was serving a life sentence without parole for a first-time drug offense. As Barnett studied this case, a system came into focus with widespread racial injustice at the core of America's addiction to incarceration. Moved, Barnett set to work to gain Sharanda's freedom. The memoir is at once Barnett's coming-of-age story and a powerful evocation of what it takes to bring hope and justice to a system built to resist them.

**\*BEFORE WE WERE YOURS (2022 Nurturing For Community)**



**"Before We Were Yours"** by Lisa Wingate is a historical fiction novel that alternates between two timelines. The story is inspired by the real-life scandal involving the Tennessee Children's Home Society, where poor children were kidnapped and sold to wealthy families from the 1920s to 1950.

The novel follows the lives of the Foss siblings in 1939 Memphis, who are taken from their parents and placed in the orphanage. The main narrative is centered around Rill Foss, the eldest of the siblings, who tries to keep her family together despite the harsh conditions and abuse they endure. In the modern-day storyline, the novel follows Avery Stafford, a successful lawyer who stumbles upon a family secret that links her to the Foss children.

As Avery uncovers the truth, the novel explores themes of family, identity, loss, and the complexities of the adoption system. "Before We Were Yours" is a poignant tale that delves into the dark history of child trafficking in America while also highlighting the resilience and enduring bonds of family.

Now is a god time to start reading for next year. Select books from the 2024, 2023, 2022, and 2021

Thank you for allowing me to be the Secretary of Program Resources this past year. I am looking forward to the next year and I **PRAY** you will be with me...

**Come aboard and read with us!!!**

*Stella J. Chisholm*

Secretary, Program Resources  
starrjackson8@yahoo.com



# Education and Interpretation Report



## Greetings

### *South Carolina Conference United Women in Faith!*

Kara Simmons, Executive Director, expresses her gratitude for the support and commitment she has received for Columbia Bethlehem Community Center. Because of SCCUW Faith and the surrounding community, the Center has successfully sponsored several programs / events.

During Spring Break, high school youths participated in an Acting/Filmmaking Masterclass where they produced an original film.

During the month of April, several children participated in a Sow and Grow activity. Each child decorated flower pots, filled them with small plants, and watched them grow. The children presented the potted plants to their moms on the Saturday before Mother's Day at the Mommies and Movies event.

In June, CBCC partnered with Richland School District One's Summer Café and Francis Burns UMC to sponsor a Summer Feeding Program. An average of 30 children received free breakfast and lunch daily.

The **Ready! Set! Read!** Literacy Initiative afforded students an opportunity to enhance reading and comprehension skills, and receive free books. An added bonus was the appearance of Dr. Aaron Bishop, Chair of the Richland School District 1 Board of School Commissioners, and his wife, who read aloud to the children and expressed the importance of reading to succeed.

Local South Carolina farmers in conjunction with the Columbia Housing Authority continue to donate fresh fruits and vegetables to CBCC. Board members and volunteers gather monthly to assemble eighty to one hundred bags that are distributed to residents near CBCC and to those throughout the Columbia Area.

The Center partnered with **Discover ME Academy 2024: Black Girls' Clubhouse, Inc.** The focus of this event was to provide a safe space for black girls to develop meaningful relationships; discover their talents; and experience healthy emotional and social aspects of child development. Attendance was very good.

Recently, I delivered items from the SCCUW Faith Mission u Craft Room to CBCC. The items were well received and will be available for give away at the August 10<sup>th</sup> Back to School Event and prizes at the BINGO event for kids.

Upcoming Events include the following:

- August 10, 2024: Back to School Give Away 12:00pm
- September 16, 2024: Community Appreciation Day 12:00pm – 4:00pm
- October 7, 2024: Fall Festival 12:00pm – 4:00pm
- November 18, 2024: Give Thanks Dinner
- Hiring: Child Care Center Director (See facebook page for qualifications [cbccinfo@umcsc.org](mailto:cbccinfo@umcsc.org).)

The current Newsletter is attached.

Carrie R. Murray  
 SCCUW Faith Representative  
 Columbia Bethlehem Community Center



SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2024 AT THE COLUMBIA BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY CENTER

Dear Community Members,

We are thrilled to share that we are having a fantastic summer at the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center! Our Summer Feeding Program is in full swing, offering delicious meals and a time of community and connection from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday to Friday. It's been wonderful seeing so many familiar faces and welcoming new ones.

This summer, we've also hosted an inspiring Discover Me Academy and the monthly Webb's Love Bag. Both events have been a great success, bringing joy, learning, and healthy habits to our community.

As we look forward to the new school year, we are excited to announce our upcoming back-to-school activities. Stay tuned for more details!

Thank you for your continued support and participation. Let's make the rest of the summer just as amazing!

Kara Simmons, CBCC Executive Director

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Summer Events • P.2

308 McRae Street
Columbia, SC 29203

Facebook.com/CBCCServes

## EVENTS

### DISCOVER ME ACADEMY

We were very excited to have partnered with Discover Me Academy for a transformative 7-week camp that served 30 amazing girls here at CBCC this summer. Under the passionate leadership of Monique Bing, the founder and executive director, this camp offered a safe and dynamic environment where girls could uncover their purpose, express their joys, and thrive like never before.



## FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION: WEBB'S LOVE BAG



In honor of Mrs. Julian Webb, founder of CBCC, we are proud to host a monthly initiative providing essential produce to those in need. Each month, CBCC distributes bags filled with fresh fruits and vegetables. This summer, we've distributed over 250 bags of fresh produce, generously sponsored by Diane's Garden, and fed over 300 seniors in partnership with Columbia Housing Authority, ensuring our community has access to nutritious food.

## UPCOMING EVENT



Join us on August 10th for our **Back to School Giveaway**, featuring food, fun, and games! Bring your family and get ready for an exciting day as we prepare for the new school year. Don't miss out on the chance to gather supplies and enjoy a fantastic community event. The event begins at 12 p.m.

We can't wait to see you there!

# Columbia Bethlehem Community Center Wish List

- + Stamps
- + Gift Cards (\$5 increments)
- + Cleaning Supplies: bathroom, kitchen, bleach etc.
- + Trash Bags
- + Toilet Paper
- + Paper Towels
- + Planting Flower Seeds
- + New Desktop Computer
- + Outside picnic table/ sitting chairs
- + Van
- + Toiletries
- + Socks
- + Children size underwear

## **Gift cards to the following:**

Walmart / Target  
 Dollar General  
 Lowe's/ Home Depot  
 Grocery Stores  
 Movies  
 Ross

## Killingsworth Wish List

Killingsworth is a vital nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting women in transition. Since its establishment, Killingsworth has been a beacon of hope for women recovering from various life challenges, such as substance abuse, domestic violence, or homelessness. The organization provides a structured, nurturing environment that empowers women to rebuild their lives, offering resources that range from emotional support to practical life skills training.

At Killingsworth, the focus is on fostering independence and self-sufficiency, with programs designed to help residents secure employment, pursue educational opportunities, and reintegrate into the community with renewed confidence.

The organization relies heavily on community support to continue its mission. Currently, Killingsworth has a wishlist that includes the following items: stamps, gift cards from Food Lion, Walmart, Visa, and Uber, paper products, cleaning supplies, standard pillows, and twin-size sheets. Donations of these items help sustain the essential services that Killingsworth provides to the women in its care.

Through the generous contributions of individuals and businesses, Killingsworth remains a crucial resource for women seeking a fresh start and a brighter future.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Samoria Session

# KILLINGSWORTH



## ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

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SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

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**Windermere Golf Club**

1101 Longtown Road E  
Blythewood, SC 29016



Your  
Sponsorships  
are needed  
to help  
serve the  
need of  
others.

## ***KILLINGSWORTH 2024 GOLF TOURNAMENT***

Monday, September 30, 2024  
8:00AM - 4:00PM

Join us for Killingsworth's Annual Golf Tournament. The proceeds from this event will be very instrumental in helping support the needs of the women at Killingsworth. Killingsworth provides a place of safety and fresh start for women in need. You can help by agreeing to participate in this event. Check-in will begin at 8 AM and Shotgun at 9 AM. Click the following link to become a sponsor or register for the golf tournament :  
[https://killingsworthhome.networkforgood.com/events/70208-annual-charity-golf-tournament?utm\\_campaign=dms\\_email\\_blast\\_3390442](https://killingsworthhome.networkforgood.com/events/70208-annual-charity-golf-tournament?utm_campaign=dms_email_blast_3390442)



This year marks the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wallace Family Life Center. To commemorate this special occasion, Wallace Family Life Center is planning to celebrate its accomplishments and remember those who assisted with its growth. The celebration will take place on September 28, 2024, at 1:00 pm. The planning committee is asking for all in the South Carolina Conference to buy an ad for the Program booklet. The price for a full-page ad is \$100.00, ½ page ad is \$50.00, and a ¼ page ad is \$25.00. Parton list of \$25.00 and under will be listed as well. Please send your information for your ad to Lind Sanders, Director at **Wallace Family Life Center, PO Box 56, Wallace, SC 29596 by September 15, 2024**. If you like to attend this event RSVP by email: [wflc574@gmail.com](mailto:wflc574@gmail.com) with the number of attendees by September 15, 2024.

United Women in Faith all across the state has given their support over the years and we pray that they will continue giving with their prayers as well as their monetary support. God has been in control of Wallace Family Life Center for 45 years and we look forward to many more years to come.

**Linda Sanders,  
Executive Director**



## Wallace Family Life Center, Inc. 2024 Wish List

1. Letter-size file folders
2. 8.5"x11" copy paper
3. 33-gallon-size trash bags (drawstring)
4. Tall kitchen-size trash bags (drawstring)
5. Bottled water (small and large)
6. Paper towels and toilet paper
7. Cleaning supplies
8. Postage stamps
9. Gift cards

**\*\*\* WFLC needs a reliable minibus to transport our participants to various programs. Our present minibus is on its last leg.**

## November 18-22, 2024 Pop Tabs Collection Dates



Thank you to the following churches for your May 2024 donation of the pop tabs: **Bethel Columbia, Francis Burns, Northeast, and Virginia Wingard Memorial**

*Rhonda Washington*

Columbia District E & I Coordinator

## RECOMMENDATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Conference		Date	
District			

I recommend:

Name:							
Address:							
Phone home:				Phone mobile:			
E-mail:							
Age:	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	70s	80s+
Race/ Ethnicity:				Employed:	Yes	No	

Why I think you should consider this person (attach extra sheet if necessary):

Position(s) I would recommend this person for:

Signed:	Phone:
Mailing address or e-mail:	



Please return to: \_\_\_\_\_



## *Membership, Nurture and Outreach Report*

Greetings Sisters in Christ,

I hope you have enjoyed the summer months and had time for picnics, vacations, relaxation, and fun with family and friends. My end of summer fun culminated in a family reunion in Pennsylvania where I connected with some folks I had not seen in 50 years!

As our next meeting is just around the corner, have you decided and submitted your nominations to honor and recognize someone who has gone above and beyond to help make your unit successful? The Woman of the Year awards will be presented in our meeting at Washington Street United Methodist Church on September 21st.

In addition, I look forward to getting to know you this year as we work together on the 2024 census. I will send information on the census as soon as it's available by our national office.

Respectfully submitted,

*Heidi Aukeny, WNO Coordinator*

[hankeny60@hotmail.com](mailto:hankeny60@hotmail.com)

803-840-0204



## 2024 Church Women United Calendar

**Celebrations: Registration and refreshments begin at 10:30 A.M. with the program beginning at 11:00 A.M. for Bible Study, World Day of Prayer, May Friendship Day and World Community Day. Registration for Human Rights Celebration will begin at 11:30 A.M. followed by the program at 12:00 noon. Registration for our Annual Meeting will begin at 11:30 A.M. followed by lunch and our business meeting and program.**

January 5, 2024	Executive Board Meeting	Zoom
February 2, 2024	Bible Study Executive Meeting	Bethel United Methodist 4600 Daniel Dr. Columbia, SC 29205
February 23, 2024	Annual Luncheon/Meeting	Brookland Baptist Banquet Center 1066 Sunset Blvd. West Columbia, SC 29205
March 8, 2024	World Day of Prayer	Trinity Episcopal Cathedral 1100 Sumter Street Columbia, SC 29201
April 5, 2024	Executive Board Meeting	Zoom
May 3, 2024	May Friendship Day	Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church 530 St. Andrews Road Columbia, SC 29210
June 7, 2024	Executive Board Meeting	Zoom
July & August	No Meetings	
September 6, 2024	Executive Board Meeting	Zoom
October 4, 2024	Human Rights Celebration	St. Paul AME Church 835 Kennerly Road Irmo, SC 29063
November 1, 2024	World Community Day	Francis Burns UMC 5616 Farrow Road Columbia, SC 29203
December 6, 2024	Executive Board Meeting	Zoom
January 3, 2025	Executive Board Meeting	Zoom

*Church Women United of South Carolina 2024 State  
Assembly*



*Theme: All Things New ~ "New Beginnings, New Perspectives"*

**Brookland Banquet and Conference Center  
1046 Sunset Boulevard  
West Columbia, SC 29169**

**Friday, November 15, 2024 ~ 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
*(Registration begins at 10:30 AM)*

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**\$30.00 per person by 10/11/2024 \* (\$35.00 after 10/11/2024) \* NO WALK-INS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

CWU Local Unit: (Please circle one) Columbia Orangeburg Sumter

Special Assistance: Yes or No (Please list services needed):

Any Additional Services/ Requests:

Please send registration forms and monies to address below.  
Make checks payable to CWU State Unit... Thanks!

Joann Grant, Treasurer or [ejgrant58@gmail.com](mailto:ejgrant58@gmail.com)  
9190 Windsor Lake Blvd. Columbia, SC 29223

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please contact:  
Cynthia M. Jamison, Host Coordinator  
803-937-9343 or [cmjamison54@gmail.com](mailto:cmjamison54@gmail.com)

Debra Schooler, State President Elect  
803-351-6969 or [debrajschooler@gmail.com](mailto:debrajschooler@gmail.com)

## 2024 South Carolina Conference United Women in Faith Calendar of Events

### SEPTEMBER

<i>Killingsworth Special Emphasis Month</i> <i>Mission Echo published</i>				
Various	Various	District Annual Meetings	Virtual & In Person	

### OCTOBER

<i>Bethlehem Center – Spartanburg Special Emphasis Month</i>				
Thursday –24	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Woodland UMC	Rock Hill District
Friday – 25	9:00 am – 11:30 am	Executive Committee Meeting	Woodland UMC	Rock Hill District
Friday – Saturday, 25-26	12:30 pm – 3:00 pm	SCCUWF 52 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting	Woodland UMC	Rock Hill District

### NOVEMBER

Saturday – 9	9:00 am	District Officers Training	TBD	Columbia District
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### DECEMBER

<i>Mission Echo published</i>				
Saturday – 7	10:00 am	Limitless Event	In-Person	

## Columbia District United Women in Faith Slate of Officers 2024

- President.....Debra Schooler (Washington Street)  
 (H) 803-353-9827 (C) 803-351-6969 Email: [debrajschooler@gmail.com](mailto:debrajschooler@gmail.com)  
 113 Meadow Lane, Eastover SC 29044
- Vice President .....Carrie Murray (Francis Burns)  
 (H) 803-754-1895 (C) 803-521-9521 Email: [cmmurra@bellsouth.net](mailto:cmmurra@bellsouth.net)  
 6509 David Street, Columbia SC 29203
- Secretary.....Diann Selph (I. DeQuincey Newman)  
 (C) 803-354-6760 Email: [Selphdiann@yahoo.com](mailto:Selphdiann@yahoo.com)  
 117 Summerhill Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
- Treasurer.....Tiffany Phillips (Rehoboth/Columbia)  
 803-543-9405 Email: [tiffphillips2014@yahoo.com](mailto:tiffphillips2014@yahoo.com)  
 2336 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223
- Communications Coordinator.....Rhonda & Sharee Washington (Francis Burns)  
 Rhonda: (C) 803-629-4503 Email: [rhondawashington@hotmail.com](mailto:rhondawashington@hotmail.com)  
 Sharee: (C) 803-414-4232 Email: [shareewash@hotmail.com](mailto:shareewash@hotmail.com)  
 131 Hawks Nest Court, Columbia SC 29212
- Spiritual Growth Coordinator.....Sandra Love (Grace)  
 (H) 803-781-0986 (W) 803-476-8253 (C) 803-414-7323 Email: [slgtar@aol.com](mailto:slgtar@aol.com)  
 107 Hexham Circle, Irmo SC 29063
- Social Action Coordinator.....Lexie Chatham (Mt. Hebron)  
 (C) 803-212-8350 Email: [lexiechatham@yahoo.com](mailto:lexiechatham@yahoo.com)  
 301 Sortwell Street, West Columbia, SC. 29169
- Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator..... Heidi Ankeny (Washington Street)  
 (C) 803-840-0204 Email: [Hanken60@hotmail.com](mailto:Hanken60@hotmail.com)  
 205 Meadow Lane, Eastover, SC 29044
- Education & Interpretation Coordinator.....Rhonda Washington (Francis Burns)  
 Rhonda: (C) 803-629-4503 Email: [rhondawashington@hotmail.com](mailto:rhondawashington@hotmail.com)  
 131 Hawks Nest Court, Columbia, SC 29212
- Secretary, Program Resources..... Stella Chisholm (Francis Burns)  
 (H) 803-708-2682 (C) 803-446-5660 Email: [starrjackson8@yahoo.com](mailto:starrjackson8@yahoo.com)  
 400 Valley Springs Road, Columbia, SC 29223
- Historian.....Pat Hoesly (Northeast)  
 (H) 803-736-5507 (C) 803-608-4905 Email: [pathoesly@yahoo.com](mailto:pathoesly@yahoo.com)  
 225 Great North Road, Columbia SC 29223

## Committee on Nominations

Class of 2024 –Chairperson.....Wilma Cobb (Rehoboth/Columbia)

(H) 803-814-2743 (C) 803-463-3085 Email: [Wilma29223@live.com](mailto:Wilma29223@live.com)  
609 Trader Mill Road, Columbia, SC 29223

Class of 2024 –Vice Chairperson.....Stella Chisholm (Francis Burns)

(H) 803-708-2682 (C) 803-446-5660 Email: [starrjackson8@yahoo.com](mailto:starrjackson8@yahoo.com)  
400 Valley Springs Road, Columbia, SC 29223

Class of 2024.....Becky Travis (Union)

803-463-1542 Email: [mail@bobtravis.com](mailto:mail@bobtravis.com)  
64 Lawrin Court, Irmo, SC 29063

Class of 2025.....Betty Void (Wesley)

803 447-0626 Email: [bjvoid0629.bv@gmail.com](mailto:bjvoid0629.bv@gmail.com)  
149 Havenwood Drive, Gaston, SC 29053

Class of 2026.....Marlene Sipes (Heyward Street UMC)

(C) 803-318-0895 Email: [marlenesipes@yahoo.com](mailto:marlenesipes@yahoo.com)  
1001 Wanda Street, Columbia, SC 29205

Class of 2026.....Rosemary Wilds (I. DeQuincey Newman)

(C) 803-960-9230. Email: [wilds.rosemary@gmail.com](mailto:wilds.rosemary@gmail.com)  
2 Clearwell Court, Columbia, SC 29229

## Cluster Leaders

Cluster 1.....Vikki Hill (Brookland)

803-206-9534 Email: vhill13103@gmail.com  
518A Oak Drive, Lexington, SC 29073

Cluster 2.....Vanessa Key (Brookland)

803-917-4803 Email: vangekey1@aol.com  
4006 Bachman Road, West Columbia, SC 29172

Cluster 3..... Becky Travis (Union)

803-463-1542 Email: mail@bobtravis.com  
64 Lawrin Court, Irmo, SC 29063

Cluster 4.....Faye Love (Bluff Road)

(H) 803-356-4496 (C) 803-477-5875 Email: [nfayelove@aol.com](mailto:nfayelove@aol.com)  
101 Merryfield Lane, West Columbia SC 29170

Cluster 5.....Flo Johnson (Platt Springs)

803-609-4510 flojo2@bellsouth.net  
1125 Tarrytown Lane, West Columbia, SC. 29170

Cluster 6.....Linda Kennedy (Francis Burns)

(H) 803-786-7671 Email: lhkhhome@sc.rr.com  
608 Wilmette Road, Columbia SC 29203

## COLUMBIA DISTRICT CHURCHES BY CLUSTER

### CLUSTER 1 - Vikki Hill

[vhill13103@gmail.com](mailto:vhill13103@gmail.com)

Beulah (Gilbert)  
Boiling Springs  
Faith  
Gilbert  
Lexington  
Red Bank  
Rehoboth (Gilbert)  
Shiloh (Gilbert)

### CLUSTER 2 – Vanessa Key

[Vangekey1@aol.com](mailto:Vangekey1@aol.com)

Brookland  
Cayce  
Mt. Hebron  
Platt Springs  
Washington Street  
Wesley

### CLUSTER 3 - Becky Travis

[mail@bobtravis.com](mailto:mail@bobtravis.com)

Ashland  
Grace  
I.DeQuincey Newman  
Salem (Ballentine)  
Shady Grove  
St. John  
Union  
Virginia Wingard

### CLUSTER 4 - Faye Love

[nfayelove@aol.com](mailto:nfayelove@aol.com)

Bluff Road  
Heyward Street UMC  
Mill Creek  
Shandon  
Suber Marshall  
Trenholm Road  
Whaley Street

### CLUSTER 5 - Flo Johnson

[flojo2@bellsouth.net](mailto:flojo2@bellsouth.net)

Bethel (Columbia)  
Francis Burns  
Northeast  
Rehoboth (Columbia)  
Windsor

### CLUSTER 6- Linda Kennedy

[lhkhome@sc.rr.com](mailto:lhkhome@sc.rr.com)

Fairlawn  
First  
Greenbrier  
Gordon Memorial



# Columbia District



## Calendar of Events 2024



January 1

*Happy New Year!*

January 13

Columbia District Local Unit Officer Training      Host: Northeast UMC  
Columbia District Executive Committee Meeting

February:

**Wallace Family Life Center Special Emphasis Month**

March 2

Columbia District Day-Apart Retreat      Host: Brookland UMC

March 31

**Easter - Christ Is Risen Today!**

April:

**Columbia Bethlehem Community Center Special Emphasis Month**

April 16

Columbia District Executive Committee Meeting      Host: Francis Burns UMC

June 18

Columbia District Executive Committee Meeting      Host: Washington Street UMC

September:

**Killingsworth Home Special Emphasis Month**

September 21

Columbia District 52<sup>nd</sup> UWF Annual Meeting      Host: Washington Street UMC

October:

**Bethlehem Community Center Spartanburg Special Emphasis Month**

October 15

Columbia District Executive Committee Meeting      Host: I. D. Newman UMC

November 9

**\*SCCUWF** District Officers Training      Host: Columbia District

December 25

*Merry Christmas!*





**Columbia District UMC**  
Rhonda & Sharee Washington  
4908 Colonial Drive  
Columbia, SC 29203

Non Profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Columbia, SC  
Permit No 163

equenc\*\*\*0 pk  
FIRST LAST  
TITLE  
COMPANY  
ADDRESS  
CITY, st zip

*Rhonda & Sharee Washington, Columbia District United Women in Faith Communications*

**1 Corinthians 16:13-14:** *“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.”*