GRACE CONNECTION HOLINESS

2023 Journal



Volume II



Western North Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

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Bennett College for Women

900 E Washington St, Greensboro, NC 27401 | 336.517.2100

Brevard College www.brevard.edu

One Brevard College Dr, Brevard, NC 28712 | 828.641.0641

Greensboro College www.greensboro.edu

815 W Market St, Greensboro, NC 27401 | 336.272.7102

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Main Campus: 48380 US Hwy 52 (PO Box 960), Misenheimer, NC 28109 | 800.338.2060

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Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community

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1240 Arbor Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27104 | 336.724.7921; Toll Free 866.658.2724

Chrysalis Counseling and Consultation Center, Inc.
Greensboro Office: 4469 Rehobeth Church Rd, Greensboro, NC 27406 | 336.852.0626

High Point Office: Covenant UMC, 1526 Skeet Club Rd, High Point, NC 27265

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Givens United Methodist Communities

www.givenscommunities.org

www.bennett.edu

www.highpoint.edu

www.aldersgateliving.org

www.chrysaliscenters.org

www.arboracres.org

Givens Estates (Asheville) | Givens Highland Farms (Black Mountain) | Givens Gerber Park (Asheville) | Givens Great Laurels (Waynesville) | 2360 Sweeten Creek Rd. Asheville, NC 28803 | 828.274.4800

Sanctuary Counseling Group

www.sanctuarycounselinggroup.org

With locations in Charlotte, Boone, Cornelius, Davidson, Harrisburg, High Point, Huntersville, Monroe, Pineville, Salisbury, Winston-Salem 2129 E 7th St, Charlotte, NC 28204 | 704.375.5354 | info@scgnc.org

UMAR Services, Inc. umarnc.org

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THIS IS OUR STORY; HOPE

As we gather once As we gather once again in the pages of pur annual magazine, I under a magazine, I ind myself reflecting acak to the incredible pirit of unity, onnection, and orship that enveloped or during the Western during the Western annual inference in June, It is certainly a powerful tament to the english and resilience angth and resilience

community!

CONNECTION

In this year's magazine, we utilize the theme of 2023 Annual Conference. In the theme 'of connection. Holiness," we find not just words but a reflection of the iourney we've but a reflection of the journey we've collectively undertaken collectively undertaken throughout the year. 2023 has brought its share of challenges and heartaches, but in the midst of it all, the light

of God's gra has shone bi through the our Conferen ministries of c churches. The commitment of United Method make disciples Christ for the transformation world, has never more evident to than it has been through all

OUR CHURCH HAS

finds renewed purpose BY MATT GARFIELD UMF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

United Methodist Church.

COME BACK TOGET From the rubble, Franklinvil

mething remarkable is happening at Frar

Six months after a wall collapse left the san ruins, the 100-year-old congregation finds i most unlikely season of revival.

Members have found new energy in makin rebuild. Former regulars have returned – n' the first time in years - to support a comm which they remain loyal.

And newcomers are showing up on Sunda mornings, filling the chairs in a temporary space in the fellowship building. There, the new pastor is preaching about hope and to a flock that doesn't have to look far for

Jesse Enniss and Kim Ingram talk with Rev. Dr. Myer Dahn about Rediscovering the Evangelistic Power of Personal Redemptive Storytelling, the title of his Doctor of Ministry dissertation. Myer talks about how he used storytelling as primary foundation for empowering laity as to share their faith and start a Dinner Church. In this podcast, Myer also shares is story and how it has shaped his call and leadership.

"Creativity, innovation, and co are at the heart of rural churr in this episode of the Means, podcast, Rev. Dr. Nicole Jone Kim and Jesse about her Yitz Storytelling initiative that is-connections and amplifying rural churches and commun learning from her Doctro of limited to rural churches. As stories bring "shared deligh



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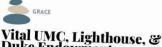
Vitality Through Story





STORIES

of Faith



Duke Endowment BY AIMEE YEAGER DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

In 2023, the Western North Carolina Conference faced In 2023, the Western North Carolina Conference faced the challenges of disaffiliations and a changing climate with loads of innovative ministries! Two of the most exciting new ministries to come from this year were the commissioning of 118 Lighthouse Congregations and 18 Emerging Community Pastors.

"The Lighthouse churches are safe places, literally sanctuaries for those who may have lost their churches through votes of disaffiliation or been harmed by previous experience of church," shared Bishop Ken Carter, resident bishop for the Western North Carolina Conference.

During Annual Conference 2023, we celebrated a <u>Duke</u> Endowment grant of \$5.25 million over the next five years to reinvest in areas of disaffiliation with a commitment not to abandon our members in these

> will be left without a United Methodist nearby, we sent forth a new cadre of community pastors who will serve them ging community pastors who will serve them. ging community pastors are appointed not churches, but to a community or geographic ew initiative harkens back to the origins of nodist movement in the United States and "circuit riders."

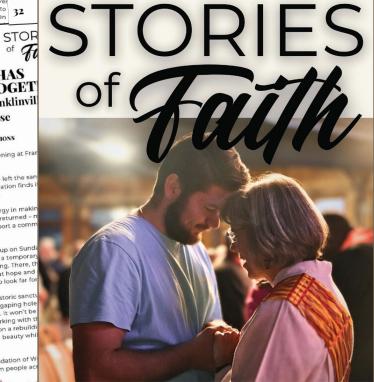
STORIES of Faith



BY REV. LUKE EDWARDS B4 REV. LURE EDWARDS
WNCC ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT



Photo by Picn'c Table Productionss





klinville UMC after the fire

LGBTQ+ rights.

gible way to live out these values and demonstrate that faith is not incompatible with supporting

"A safe place, love, support, inclusion,

and grace - that's why we serve."

Healing and Reconciliation: For LCBTQ+ individuals who have experienced rejection or discrimination from religious communities, the presence of welcoming churches is often a source of healing and reconciliation. It offers a chance for them to see that there are faith communities that embrace them for who they are.

Visibility and Representation: The participation of these churches in the Pride parade provided visible epresentation of the diversity within he religious landscape. They roclaimed that there are clergy nembers and congregants who

actively stand up for

Overall, the presence neighborhood church Parade was a powerfu that being persons of I supporting LGBTQ+ ric mutually exclusive. It c stereotypes, fostered d contributed to a more compassionate society.

In the end, the 2023 Ch Parade became more the procession; it became a for the churches involved testament to the power and love by eight church together to make this po UMC Charlotte, Dilworth Matthews UMC, Light Of Inclusion Community, Ha Lane UMC, Calvary UMC,

Western North Carolina Conference

On October 21, individuals from the WNCC and the NCC convened in Greensboro for jubilant commemoration of 30 years of Project ACAPE. It was a time of sharing men vibrant Armenian dance lessons, delicious food, and compelling narratives highlight profound impact of Project ACAPE in Armenia throughout its three-decade journey



Learn more about Project AGAPE

university. During has a some of the first Bennett in 1957 was one of the first

black colleges to

2023 In Review

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60, Bennett and A sted for trespassi

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broke the story of

entering the back of thout any help from rrounding it. It report

police were surprised

ett Belles' had protested onsidered refined young

'elitist finishing school

with front-page icture of well-dress

here else in

including extreme heat. The churches will also serve as host sites for future eco-mission teams.

"I'm happy to share with anyone willing to listen," Jarrod says. "Id love an opportunity to speak at your church, small group, Bible study, whatever it is. I want to help Christians and help churches love their neighbor better by taking care of this place we call home." "I'm happy to share with anyone of this place we call home."



to used with permis from Jarrod Davis





STORIES



Learn More About reation Care Ministry

-Rev. Michelle Cl. **Read** these stories, watch videos in the digital magazine, and learn at https://wnccumc.org/SoF23

MOG STORYTELLING SERIES BY REV. KIM INGRAM ℰ REV. JESSE EN

Check out the

MOG Podcast

The Power of Storytelling

Western North Carolina Conf





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For now, what's left of the historic sanctu-protected behind a fence. A gaping hole where the pulpit once stood. It won't be long. Church leaders are working with North Carolina Conference on a rebuildi that will restore the original beauty whi to modern needs. The United Methodist Foundation of W Carolina collected gifts from people act

Western North