



Church Women United in North Carolina

Agreed to differ, resolved to love, united to serve

APRIL 28, 2019

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 2

A Message from the President

Emily Sprague

These pictures help answer the question "What is CWU?" Women from all denominations gather together several times a year to learn about needs in the world. At right, ladies from Hickory area churches spent months learning about Slovenia and preparing for their World Day of Prayer observance on March 1.



CWU recognizes women who go the extra mile in advancing its mission. In January, two ladies in Salisbury were presented with the Valiant Woman Award—Dorothy Gill Smith in center and Twanda Mitchell at right. Also pictured are Doris Brown, Jean Kennedy and Vickie Kotlarz.



In this Issue:

Message from the President

May Friendship Day

Migrant Farmworker Ministry

News from the
NC Council of Churches

Final Thoughts



CWU is passionate about bringing communities together in mission, as the Asheville Unit did on April 27 when they sponsored a Rise Against Hunger event. Around 50 members of the community from all denominations, representing all ages and races pulled together to package 10,150 meals in a two-hour block of time. Hungry people will receive needed nutrition. Those who packed the meals will treasure the sense of community they felt as diverse people worked together to make a difference.

In all we do, we strive to follow Jesus' command to "Love your neighbor".

2019 May Friendship Day



May Friendship Day focuses on the first phrase of our motto: “Agreed to Differ”. We are united in spirit to do God’s work, despite our differences. This is the time of year we bring coins collected for the **Fellowship of the Least Coin** offering. Although each country’s least coin is different, women around the world unite in this act of reconciling prayer.

May Friendship Day has been celebrated since 1933 when it focused on children’s health and the children of migrant families. Today this celebration includes opportunities for women to cultivate friendships they have developed within CWU, often including fellowship over a meal. Remember that half of the offering stays with the Unit and the other half is sent to the State treasurer.

Note below how many different denominations are represented in the host churches for this Celebration!

May Friendship Day Celebrations

Asheville	May 4, 9:30	St. Paul’s UMC, Asheville
Chapel Hill/Carrboro	May 3, 10:30	First Baptist Church, Chapel Hill
Charlotte	May 3, 10:30	Church of Jesus Christ of LDS, Charlotte
Fayetteville	May 3, 9:00	St. Luke AME, Fayetteville
Greensboro	May 3, 10 AM	Emmanuel UCC, Greensboro
High Point	May 3, 11:00	New Bethel Baptist, High Point
Jacksonville/Onslow	May 3, 11:30	Lutheran Church of Our Savior Jacksonville
Martin County	May 3, 11:30	Mt. Shiloh Baptist Church, Williamston
Raleigh/Wake	May 4, 10:00	Pullen Memorial Baptist
Salisbury/Rowan	May 3, 12 noon	Trinity Presbyterian, Salisbury
Wilmington	May 3, 10:00	St. Stephen AME, Wilmington
Wilson	May 3, 12 noon	First Christian, Wilson
Winston-Salem Forsyth County	May 3, 6 PM	St. John CME, Winston-Salem

CWU in NC Executive Board

President

Emily Sprague

President Elect

Crystal Rook

Vice President

Claire Robinson

Secretary

Doris Boyd-Brown

Treasurer

Nancy Bumgardner

Action

Brenda Wills

Celebrations

Annie Purcell

Development

Juanita Staples

Communications

Dinah Pettigrew

Finance

Ellen Williamson

Nominations

Leona Whichard

Area Chairs

I – Dorothy Funderburke

II – Maxine Baxter

III – Barbara Vought

IV - Susie Heath

V – Doris Hutcherson

Parliamentarian

Myrtle Garlington

Farmworker Advocate

Connie Gates

**Church Women
United 2019 Dates
to Remember**

May 3 and 4
May Friendship Day

August 3
CWU-NC Board
Salisbury

October 19
State Assembly
Chapel Hill

Connie Gates
CWU Farmworker
Advocate
conniegates@hotmail.com

National Farm Worker
Ministry
www.nfwm.org

Farm Labor Organizing
Committee
www.floc.com/wordpress/boycottvuse/

Student Action with
Farmworkers
www.asf-unite.org

Farmworker Advocacy
Network
www.Ncfan.org
includes the "Harvest of
Dignity" campaign

**Send contributions
to the Farmworker
Fund to:**

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

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

Since the beginning of CWU, concern and work for migrant farmworker justice has been an important aspect of our ministry. Connie Gates is our Farmworker Advocate, serving as an ex officio member of the CWU in NC Board. The State has a Migrant Fund with income generated from local units and denominational partners.

In March, **Local Units** received a letter from Connie which: encouraged engagement with farmworker issues and organizations; requested information about what the local unit is doing so she can support efforts and share ideas with other units to inspire them; and urged units to contribute to the Migrant Fund.



A year ago, CWUnc endorsed FLOC's effort in requesting **RJ Reynolds** to discuss improvement of conditions of tobacco workers. FLOC's current priority is to impact the supply chain by having **Circle-K** remove VUSE e-cigarettes, a product with high profit margin, from their shelves. CWUnc has

participated in monthly rallies at Circle-K in the Triangle and in Goldsboro, including a letter to the manager. Since the local stores have become more unwelcoming to rally participants and dismiss the letter, FLOC rallied at the Coastal Carolinas Circle-K corporate office in Raleigh on March 28. The office door was locked, and staff refused to talk with FLOC and CWU representatives. They instead referred them to the parent company in Canada! FLOC's current plan is to meet with a relevant person at the regional Circle-K and to have supporters call the national Circle K office.

We are fortunate to have the **National Farm Workers Ministry (NFWM)** national office in Raleigh. They support farmworker labor groups throughout the US, as does national CWU. CWUnc supports efforts in other states as farmworker issues are similar everywhere.

In March, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) from the tomato fields of southwest Florida had a nationwide tour, with a rally on March 5 in Carrboro and a march at the UNC-CH Wendy's. Women from our Chapel Hill/Carrboro Unit participated. You can help by **boycotting Wendy's** until they sign the Fair Food Agreement www.allianceforfairfood.org which among other things would give workers 1 cent more per pound of tomatoes.

CWU was a co-sponsor for the **NC Farmworker Institute** on April 25 in Chapel Hill.

At the CWU table, Connie Gates and Emily Sprague talked to numerous people about ways to collaborate. Sessions included Immigration Options, Issues Affecting Poultry Workers, Creating a Database of Labor Camps, and Emergency Preparedness. The funds CWU provides for FLOC, SAF, and the Institute itself are both appreciated and well used.



Church Women United
National Office
475 Riverside Dr
Suite 1926
New York, NY 10115
cwu@churchwomen.org
www.churchwomenunited.net
212-870-2347

Church Women United in North Carolina
www.cwunc.org

Send Celebration Reports to:

Annie Purcell
1802 Eastwood Ave.
Greensboro, NC
27401

Subscribe to this Newsletter by sending \$3 to:

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

Send news to the Newsletter Editor

Emily Sprague
600 Stacy Street
Raleigh, NC 27607
esprague@nc.rr.com
919-828-1269

North Carolina Council of Churches Events

Clergy Breakfasts for the Opioid Crisis: The Faith Community Responds is an informational session for clergy and church leaders who are interested in learning more about the state of our state when it comes to opioids. At these breakfasts, you will learn about overdoses in North Carolina, what harm reduction means, and what congregations can do to get involved. These events happen across the state:

- May 7- [Chapel Hill](#)
- May 8- [Durham](#)
- May 9- [Wilmington](#)
- May 21- [Waynesville](#)
- May 22- [Boone](#)
- May 23- [Hickory](#)
- June 5- [Louisburg](#)
- June 6- [Winston-Salem](#)



Please sign up by clicking on the name of the city you are interested in attending. More cities and dates will be added. For more information, contact Elizabeth Brewington, Opioid Response Program Coordinator, at elizabeth@ncchurches.org.

May 1st March for Public Schools

The NC Council of Churches endorses school system closings for the May 1st March in Raleigh. Local congregations can support the effort by providing lunches, childcare, and moral support to teachers. Please offer your endorsement as well.

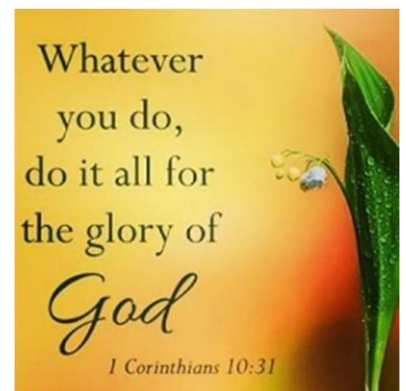
Key Issues:

- Hire enough social workers, counselors, nurses, psychologists, and librarians to meet the national standards.
- \$15 minimum wage for all employees. 5% raise for educators and retirees.
- Expand Medicaid to cover the 500,000 North Carolinians who don't have access to healthcare.
- Reinstate retirement benefits for educators joining the profession after 2021.
- Reinstate Master's and advance degree pay.

For more information about this march, contact Allison Mahaley, the Council's Public Education Committee Chair, at allison.mahaley@gmail.com.

Final Thoughts

As two of Jesus' followers were walking on the road to Emmaus, feeling distraught about Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus joined them on their journey. We know people who are walking through a dark time of grief or disappointment or hardship. Jesus gave us an example of being present, walking beside those confronted with life's uncertainties, instilling hope and peace. Walk with your CWU friends who are grieving. Show compassion to farmworkers, to those caught in the opioid epidemic, to your local teachers. This is who we are as Church Women United.



Save the Date! CWU-NC State Assembly and Leadership Training
Saturday, October 19 ~ Church of the Holy Family ~ Chapel Hill ~ Be there!