

2010 School of Christian Mission
United Methodist Women – Western North Carolina Conference
Study Leaders & Music Leaders – Photos & Bios



Rev. Dana McKim, Southmont, NC – Dana is Minister to Pfeiffer University and Pastor of the Village Church at Pfeiffer. Pfeiffer is one of only thirteen schools remaining in the world that is still owned by the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries and home to the only undergraduate degree in Missions. Rev. McKim has served multiple appointments in the annual conference, including serving as founding pastor of the multi-campus Christ Church in Hickory. He is the Supervisor of Field Work, Field Education and Internships for the undergraduate and graduate students in Christian Education, Youth Ministry and Missions for Pfeiffer. Dana also serves as Chaplain and Public Information Officer to the NC-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team, a field hospital unit based in Winston-Salem that is a part of the National Disaster Medical System. His

wife Pat, a Christian Educator since 1985 and their two children live on High Rock Lake in Southmont, NC.



Reverend Mark Barden, Charlotte, NC - Mark was born into a Methodist parsonage family and lived throughout Western North Carolina as a child. Following his college graduation, he was accepted as a Fellow for graduate study at The University of Mississippi. In 1982, he accepted a position teaching broadcast journalism, television production and newspaper editing at Murray State University in Kentucky where he met his future spouse, Barbara Shores. During his teaching career, Mark accepted the call to ordained ministry, returned to North Carolina and completed ministerial studies at Duke University. Mark was ordained deacon in 1986 and elder in 1990. He has served several churches in the Western North Carolina Conference. In 2000, Mark was appointed

Bishop Director of Mission/Outreach for the Western North Carolina Conference. In this capacity, he traveled extensively worldwide on behalf on the Conference. In June 2006, Mark was appointed Director of Communication and Coordinator for Lay Ministries and Special Projects for the conference. Mark’s wife, Barbara, currently serves as Minister of Education at Myers Park UMC in Charlotte. Their son, Christopher is a senior at Providence Day School in Charlotte.



Lynn Sloan Barnes, Elkin, NC - Lynn received a degree in Spanish and Secondary Education at Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC in 1975. After 29 years of teaching, mostly at East Wilkes High School, she was commissioned a deaconess in 2005 and established the Tri-County Health Resource Center in Elkin, a nonprofit ministry serving the uninsured community by funding medications and treatment and by acting as a health care advocate. HRC evolved into Grace Clinic, a free clinic for the uninsured community. Lynn’s current appointment is to Yadkin Christian Ministries as a Circles Coach. The mission of the Circles Initiative is to end poverty in a community one family at a time. A devoted member of United Methodist Women, Lynn serves as the local UMW

president at First United Methodist Church where she is a member and is president of a the Barbara Heck UMW(which is a district unit) as well. Lynn has held various offices on the district level, including UMW president of the North Wilkesboro District. On the conference level she has led various mission studies at the School of Christian Mission and in many districts in addition to serving as music leader at several Western NC Conference UMW events. At First UMC, Lynn currently serves on the Evangelism and Spiritual Formation Committees, leads a Sunday School class, and sings in the choir. She is a member of the SEJ Leadership Team Nominations Committee. She and her husband Wayne reside in Elkin.



Mike Collins, Greensboro, NC - Mike Collins served as a missionary in a refugee camp in the Philippines in 1980-82. There, he met and married Ariel. Upon returning to America, he has served churches in Manteo, NC, the Northeast District, Greensboro District and Albemarle District. In 2000, Ariel and Mike left for three years where they served as missionaries under the General Board of Global Ministries in Cambodia where Mike was the Country Superintendent for the United Methodist Church. Upon return to America, Mike has served six years as the Coordinator of Mission/Outreach, Volunteer Response, and Disaster Response Ministries for the WNCC. In July 2010 he will be taking a new church appointment in the Greensboro District. Mike and Ariel have no children of their own. They have two adopted children in Cambodia, Saphoarn and Sophear as well as two God-children, Nikki and Francine in the Philippines. They have a small Shih-tzu dog, Dinky, who takes up their free time. Mike enjoys NASCAR and reading.



Brenda Connelly, Hickory, NC - Brenda Connelly is a Home Missionary, who served as the Executive Secretary for Church and Community Ministries, Red Bird, and Red Bird Associates In Mission Service (A.I.M.S.) with the Mission Personnel Program Area of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church until her retirement last fall. Brenda has served as a Church and Community Worker with Global Ministries in three previous assignments: (1) Executive Director of Older Adult Ministries, a mission resource and development agency for North Alabama churches; (2) Executive Director of Robeson County Church and Community Center in Lumberton, NC, a tri-racial county with no majority race of Native Americans, African Americans and Euro Americans. Issues being addressed through the center are high unemployment, adult illiteracy and substandard housing; and (3) Associate Director of Creative Ministries for the Missouri Area United Methodist Churches working primarily with prison ministries and was instrumental in the formation of Prison PATCH (Parents And Their Children), a model program for prison inmates and their children. As an active member of United Methodist Women, Brenda has been a study leader for regional, conference, district and local mission studies. She has written the mission study guides for *Restorative Justice* and *Giving Our Hearts Away, Native American Survival*. In her free time, Brenda enjoys quilting and painting with watercolors. Brenda, and her husband, Rick, a retired Church and Community Worker, live in Hickory, North Carolina. They are the parents of two sons and a daughter.



Elizabeth (Betty) L. Swarthout, Lake Junaluska, NC - Betty is a retired Deaconess/Diaconal Minister of The United Methodist Church and an active volunteer. Betty's experiences include Church and Community Worker with rural cooperative parishes, UMCOR Disaster Response Consultant, Mission Personnel Department of the General Board of Global Ministries, dietitian, high school teacher, County Extension Agent, continuing adult public education and Program Coordinator for Adult Continuing Education. She has taught in local, district, conference and 3 regional Schools of Christian Missions since 1959. She is married to retired pastor, Arthur W. Swarthout. They have three grown children and twin granddaughters. Betty enjoys family, people, teaching, wood carving, reading, the outdoors, and gardening.



Philip Wingeier-Rayo, Ph.D., Misenheimer, NC - Dr. Philip Wingeier-Rayo was born into a missionary family. His great grandparents, Charles and Emily Buchanan, were missionaries in Singapore and Java, where they started a hospital. Philip's parents, Doug and Carol Wingeier, were missionaries in Singapore during the 1960s. After college Philip felt the call to missionary service himself beginning as a Mission Intern in Nicaragua and the Rio Grande Valley, and then became a standard support missionary in Cuba and later in Mexico for a total of 15 years of service. In 2003 he was assigned as Missionary-in-Residence at Pfeiffer University and stayed on to start an undergraduate major in missions and currently is Associate Professor of Religion. Philip earned his Ph.D. in

Theology, Ethics and Culture from Chicago Theological Seminary and has a MTS from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and a Master's in Theology at the Seminario Evangelico de Teologia en Matanzas, Cuba. Philip did his undergraduate work at Earlham College in Richmond, IN. Philip is married to Diana, an elder in the Western North Carolina Conference who serves on the staff at Matthews UMC with responsibilities for Hispanic Ministries. They have three children ages 25, 24 and 11.



Martha Phillips, Linville, NC - Martha graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy. She is retired and lives in Linville Falls, NC with her daughter, son-in-law and 3 grandsons. She is a member of Pine Grove UMC where she is the lay leader and choir director. She is active in Marion District UMW and currently serves as WNCC UMW Mission Coordinator for Social Action. Martha enjoys traveling and has traveled in Europe, China (including Tibet), Peru, Egypt and Russia. She traveled to Cambodia on an Ubuntu Journey in 2006 and to Palestine/Israel in 2008. In March 2009, she traveled to Sudan on a GBGM sponsored Mission Travel Study. The group of 20 included clergy and laity. They visited churches, schools, vocational training

centers and UMCOR projects in Southern Sudan and Uganda. Martha's other daughter and son-in-law are ordained elders and pastor churches in the Lexington District. They have a daughter and son.



Sandra Williamson, Greensboro NC - Sandra is a lifelong Methodist and a native of Columbia, S.C. where she attended the local Bethlehem Center as a preschooler. She graduated magna cum laude from Johnson C. Smith University in 1969. She received her Master's degree in History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1972 and taught there. In 1978 she & her husband accepted faculty appointments at NC A&T State University. She is presently the Assistant Director of the Honors Program. In 1995 she was a participant in a Fulbright Study Tour of China. She has accompanied groups of Honors students to London and Moscow and she serves as the Head Coach for the A&T

Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Academic Team. She is the Secretary of the Board of the Guilford Battleground Company. Sandra is married to Dr. Alex Williamson, and they have two sons.



Janet Turner, Kernersville, NC - Janet was born in Statesville, North Carolina, and has lived in Charlotte and Knoxville, Tennessee, before moving to the Winston-Salem area where she has lived for forty-seven year. She is a member of Main Street United Methodist Church and a member of the Chancel Choir, in Circle #2 and is Social Action coordinator in the Main Street United Methodist Women. Janet is currently in a Disciple IV class having completed three Disciple classes and has been a facilitator. In the past, she has served tenure in the Winston-Salem District United Methodist Women in various offices including president for four years. She is currently serving on the Conference Committee on Nominations where she holds the office of Chair. Janet was married to

William D. Turner for 48 years until his death in 2001 and they have one daughter, two sons, and five grandchildren. Janet enjoys her family, friends, exercising, and her church and community projects.



Jo Pyatt, Morganton, NC - Jo Pyatt is a retired Registered Nurse who for many years was the nurse for the School of Mission. She has served her tenure on the district level of UMW and presently is on the UMW Conference Nominating Committee. She is a certified Lay Speaker and has served on many levels in her local church where she developed and directs The Lambs Ministry. This is a ministry that helps to feed the hungry children from the neighborhood school each weekend. She has served on the Hospice Board of Directors and at present is a volunteer at Hospice and McDowell Arts Council Association. She has been married to Cline for 41 years. They have an adult son, daughter, a daughter of their heart (daughter-in-law), and two wonderful grandsons.



Janice Lentz, Taylorsville, NC - Janice is currently serving as our Conference Communications Coordinator. After retiring as a school librarian, her new passion is VIM mission trips where she has traveled to Armenia, Africa, Lithuania and Guatemala. Janice is married to Danny and they have 4 grown daughters and 2 grandsons.



Ann Aldridge, Morganton, NC – Ann is a life-long Methodist and a member of Oak Hill United Methodist Church. She is a graduate of Appalachian State University and the University of Tennessee. She is retired from the North Carolina School for the Deaf where she worked as a classroom teacher, education director, principal of elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as testing coordinator and educational evaluator. She has served as an adjunct instructor for Appalachian State University, Lenoir-Rhyne College, and Western Piedmont Community College. She has held numerous offices in her local church and is currently trustee chair, a member of the choir, and organist. She has served United Methodist Women at the local and district levels and is currently the WNC Conference UMW secretary. She has served as vice-chair of the Brooks-Howell

Home Board of Directors, is a member of the Board of Directors for Givens Estates, Marion District delegate at large to Annual Conference, secretary of the North Carolina School for the Deaf Foundation, and was a lay delegate to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. She taught the “I Believe in Jesus” study as a one-day overview in the School of Christian Mission 2008 and at districts in the Western North Carolina Conference in 2009. Ann works part time as a community sign language interpreter and is licensed by the State of North Carolina. She loves to travel, and is an avid reader. She is married to Wade, and they have two sons, Richard and Brandon.



Sandy Hieronymus, Charlotte, NC - Sandy is a native of Kentucky and a life-long Methodist. For over twenty years, Sandy was a Pre-K teacher at a United Methodist church. She is a certified lay speaker. She has held various offices in the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women on the local, district and conference levels. Before taking her current position as the WNCU Scholarship Chair, Sandy served four years as the Charlotte District Lay Leader, four years as the Charlotte District UMW President, four years as the Conference UMW Vice President and eight years on the Conference Ministries Advisory Council (CMAC). She currently serves on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Sandy enjoys teaching all ages. In her free time,

she likes reading, arts and crafts, and being a “beach bum”. She believes the greatest gift we can give our children is to give them God. She and her husband, Gerry, have three grown sons.



Sherry Sink, High Point, NC - Sherry is currently serving as the conference Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach. She previously served 4 years as the High Point District Mission Coordinator for Mission Education and Interpretation. During this time, she was also the youth director in her local church. She has served on the Conference team as Mission Education and Interpretation for four years and the chairperson of the Public Education Committee. Sherry has taught the teen class at the School of Christian Mission the past three years. She is married to David Sink and has two grown daughters, Stacy and Britney. Stacy is a graduate of NC State and currently the County Extension Agent for Livestock and Small Grains in Halifax, NC, and Britney is a

senior at UNC-Chapel Hill. Sherry is an amateur photographer, loves basketball, nature, drama, music, and the UMW.



Amy Johnson, Tobaccoville, NC - Amy, with her husband Paul of 36 years, live in Tobaccoville which is north of Winston-Salem. They have one daughter, Jill, who is married and is a second grade teacher. Amy and Paul are the proud grandparents of a grandson, Dylan. They are members of Faith United Methodist Church in Rural Hall where Amy serves as Chair of the Finance Committee and President of the United Methodist Women. Amy is the Administrative Assistant to the Winston-Salem District Superintendent of The United Methodist Church and has been employed there 13 years. Working in the District Office has allowed Amy to merge her love of secretarial work with her love for the Church. Amy has a passion for the work of United Methodist Women.

She has served in several capacities on the district level: Committee on Nominations, Secretary, Membership, and District President. On the Conference Level, she served as Spiritual Growth Coordinator, member of the Committee on Nominations, and Treasurer. Amy served as Conference President for the years 2006-2009.

Donna Ireland, Lewisville, NC - Donna Ireland, married to Jacky for 36 years, lives in Davie County. They have two children, Amanda, who teaches Spanish at Garner High School, and John, who is married and a self employed landscaper. They have two grandchildren, Landon, age 10, and Riley, age 6. Donna is a member of Harmony Grove United Methodist Church in Lewisville where she serves as the Youth coordinator and organist. She has been the organist since 1968. Donna is employed as a part-time Administrative Assistant at Harmony Grove UMC and has held this position for 6 years. Before becoming the Administrative Assistant, she taught Physical Education and Health for 30 years in Davie County (16 years) and Forsyth County (14 years). Donna also serves as the District Treasurer for the Winston-Salem District UMW and serves on the District Laity Council. At the local level, she is chairperson of nominations for the UMW. Since retiring from teaching, Donna has participated in mission trips to Arizona (Navajo Indians) and South Dakota (Lakota Indians). In Arizona, the mission team did home improvement projects and taught Bible School. Donna was the games leader and helped with music. In South Dakota, she has done home repair/construction on the Rosebud Reservation and worked in the Warm Welcome at the Tree of Life Ministry.