

## 2008 MEMORIAL SERVICE “Called Home”

*Happy are those who keep my ways...For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord. Proverbs 8:32-35*

Throughout our Conference, God has called all of us to share our gifts and service to Him by serving others. Our members of United Methodist Women answered His call and served in a variety of areas. Examples of this service include: parents in the home, teachers in the public schools, and preachers of the good news of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. They stand in solidarity with the least among us. Whatever vocation to which one was called, they served in humble obedience.

Today, we celebrate the lives of our sisters in Christ who have been called home to be with God. We remember the work and the names of these women who have served Christ well during their lives. Now they are remembered with love as they stand in presence of God who called them and all the saints who have gone before. We participate in this celebration of life with ringing of the chimes and the flames of the Holy Spirit in the lighting of candles.

Each district representative will light a candle in memory of the ladies in their districts who are no longer with us. The Conference President will light the Christ candle. (President lights Christ candle and stands with lighter to help light candles that are in jars, etc.)

(As the names of the Districts are called, each district representative comes to altar, lights the candle they brought [all different], and places it on the altar. One chime is played. Then the next district is called. Districts: Albemarle, Asheville, Charlotte, Gastonia, Greensboro, High Point, Lexington, Marion, Northeast, North Wilkesboro, Salisbury, Statesville, Waynesville, Winston Salem)

We, like the anointing woman, praise Jesus for all He has done.  
We remember our loved ones who are now truly home.  
We remember these women and all women who have served well.

Amen.