



ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2022 – AUGUST 2023

South Carolina WMU
God's mission. Our passion.

HOPE IN CHRIST

The 2022–2024 WMU® emphasis is Hope in Christ. Because of our hope in Christ, we will seek to be: genuine in love; patient in tribulation; constant in prayer; and compassionate to all.

The Scripture passage is Romans 12:9–16. The watchword is:

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”
(Romans 12:12)

MISSIONS discipleship

Children's Missions Day

Two Children's Missions Day events were planned and promoted by national WMU to encourage our local children's groups to participate in missions discipleship in their communities. We had several groups in South Carolina participate in each of these events.



The theme for the September 17, 2022, event was "Trusting All the Way."

The theme for the August 24, 2023, event was "Operation Education." Girls and boys across South Carolina served their local schools and communities as they demonstrated the love of God. A few churches that participated were: First Baptist, Honea Path; Oolenoy Baptist, Pickens; Fairview Baptist, Spartanburg; Deer Park, Charleston, and more! Other groups are planning a Children's Missions Day project later this year.



Cleaning up the playground.



GAs & RAs packed care packets to give out.



GA/CA Day in South Carolina

On April 22, 2023, 100 children and leaders with Girls in Action® and Children in Action® gathered in two locations for GA/CA Day in South Carolina. Our focus was Sharing God's Love as we ministered with residents at both of our SC Baptist Retirement Communities. Various activities were planned to help us know about Bethea (Darlington) and Martha Franks (Laurens) Retirement Communities. Several residents at each location helped lead and shared with the children. We toured the facilities and enjoyed songs, games, and crafts. We also prayed for these communities. Children participated in hands-on learning about Disaster Relief from teams representing PeeDee and Laurens Associations. It was a special day to hang out with our senior friends, eat a great lunch, and learn so much about different ministries around our state that are funded and fueled by our state missions offering named after Janie Chapman. The Retirement Communities staff, Camp La VidaSM staff, Disaster Relief Teams, and SC WMUSM helped plan and implement our day. An ice cream treat was enjoyed ending our time on a sweet note!



Visiting with residents in their rooms.



Ministry to residents through crafts.



Learning about Disaster Relief.

MISSIONS discipleship

2023 Summer Camp – June 5-July 28

Camp Sessions:

- 5 week camps
- 3 overnight camps
- 3 minicamps
- 1.5 weeks of coed camps
- 1.5 weeks of GA Leader track

227 Total Decisions Made at Camp:

- 76 professions of faith
- 57 rededications
- 5 commitments to Christian service
- 36 commitments to mission service
- 12 that want to talk to a pastor
- 41 other decisions



The theme was “All Day, Every Day.” We had 1,407 campers. The campers gave \$3,834.50 through the Cooperative Program. Our campers came from 6 states. We had 49 program guests and 18 missionary/volunteer kids. We had about 40 volunteers. We had 26 female staff and 5 male staff.



Coed games on a hot summer night!



Girls just wanna have fun!



Mother/Daughter bonding time at Camp La Vida!



Make new friends and bring all your other friends too!



Friends building a stronger relationship with the Lord and each other.



Pool time – cool down fun!



Coed staff for 2023.

Full time female staff for the Summer of 2023.



COMPASSION ministries



Christian Women's Job Corps

Christian Women's Job Corps equips women, in a Christian context, for life and employment. Our CWJC site in York provides women with tools to be self-sufficient and live an abundant Christian life. They also provide programmed transitional housing.

Christmas Backpacks

4,201

Backpacks

5

Drop Off Locations:

Aiken Association Office, Edgefield Association Office, Marion Association Office, Screven Association Office, and Spartanburg County Network (Central Location)

27

Associations Donating

\$9,360

Financial Contributions

29

on Kentucky Missions Trip from 4 Associations: Spartanburg County Network, North Spartan, Screven, and Kershaw

Backpacks were distributed to Dawson, GA, different parts of Kentucky, and in SC to Pacolet, Taylors, Downtown Spartanburg, Union, and Enoree. Around 2,000 backpacks were taken to the Jenkins and Blaine areas of Kentucky.

For the fourth year, Thomas Ragan of Ragan Orchards in Inman donated the use of a box truck and fuel for the trip. In addition to the backpacks, several churches and associations donated quilts, knitted items, clothes, extra hygiene kits, Bibles, books, puzzles, school supplies, stuffed animals, and extra items for backpacks. Several women from churches in the Network and North Spartan Association volunteered many hours of their time to process the backpacks.



Christmas Backpacks are prayed over before distributing them.

COMPASSION ministries

Prisoner Packets

Each year the South Carolina Baptist Convention and South Carolina WMU partner to provide Christmas packets to every inmate in the South Carolina prison system. On December 5, 2022, 130 volunteers met at Shandon Baptist Church in Columbia to process over 23,000 packets to be distributed to inmates throughout the state during the Christmas season. Baptist churches and associations across the state collected and donated the packets. These simple gifts provide hope and show love to those incarcerated. It is a reminder that they are not forgotten.



Each packet has to be checked to ensure proper items are included.



Bags full of packets ready for distribution.

Project HELP: Mental Health

South Carolina WMU supports national WMU's focus on mental health. Through Project HELP: Mental Health, WMU provides multiple avenues for churches to raise awareness of mental health as a critical issue in all our lives and equip members to lead and champion mental health initiatives both in the church and in local communities.

On May 24, 2023, SC WMU held a Mental Health First Aid training in Columbia. Twenty-one participants from across the state attended an eight-hour certification course to learn how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges. Through this training, participants became more educated and equipped to help those in their churches and communities who may be experiencing mental health challenges.



Participants worked together to research and present signs and symptoms of different mental health challenges throughout the training.



The course instructor taught the participants how to recognize and respond to various mental health challenges individuals may face.

COMPASSION ministries

South Carolina Baptist Nursing Fellowship



South Carolina BNF met for their Annual Meeting at Riverland Hills Baptist Church in Irmo on March 24, 2023. Marilyn Graves, BNF executive director-treasurer, was the featured speaker and shared about BNF beginnings in South Carolina. There was an increase in attendance of about 25.

This year was busy as the regions participated in Blessing of the Hands with student nurses, recognizing nurses during Nurses Week, classes for CNA's, providing Sandra's bags for chemo patients and many other individual activities, such as camps, missions trips etc.



Pam Parker, leader of Region 1, as they prepare for the Blessing of the Hands for Student Nurses.



Region 2 leader, Jane Burrus, with nurses at Martha Franks after CNA's training.



Region 3 leader, Darlene Lovette, with other nurses sharing with students about BNF.

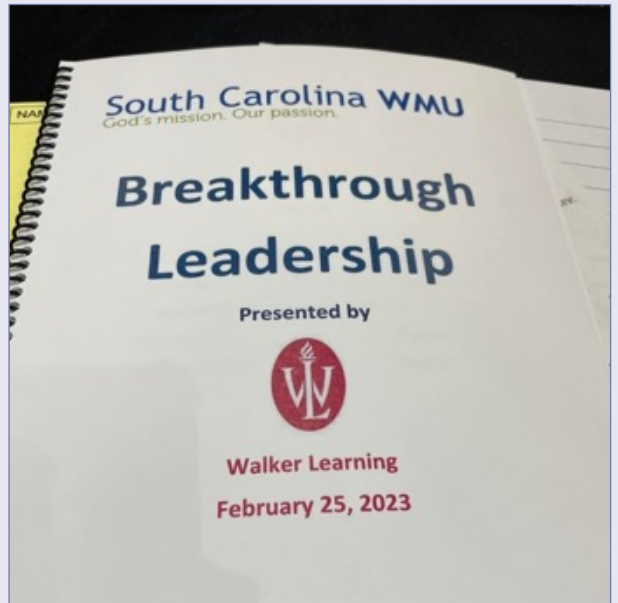


Pam Allsbrook, Region 4 leader, and members prepare to share Sandra's Bags with chemo patients in their region.

LEADERSHIP development

Associational Directors/Specialists Training

We had a wonderful time at our WMU Associational Directors/Specialists Training on February 25, 2023, at the South Carolina Baptist Convention building. Al Walker joined us for a session on Breakthrough Leadership. We debriefed, had great dialogue, and opened the microphone to all participants to hear great ideas!



We had a great group of attendees.

2023 Spring Meetings

We had a wonderful time visiting 37 of our associations for their WMU Spring Meetings. The purpose of gathering at these meetings is to inform everyone about missions education in the association, increase awareness of Southern Baptist missions, strengthen fellowship, and conduct associational WMU business. It was good seeing most of our associations holding spring meetings this year.



Most of our meetings were held in churches in each association.

LEADERSHIP development

Missions Encounter & Annual Meeting

Seek FIRST MATTHEW 6:33



Gary Hollingsworth, executive director-Treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC), shared about the work of SCBC.



Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director-treasurer of national WMU, and Jess Archer.

THEME – Seek First

DATE – March 24-25, 2023

LOCATION – Riverland Hills Baptist Church, Irmo

ATTENDANCE – 370

Opportunities for attendees to:

- Learn about missions work in South Carolina, North America, and around the world
- Attend break-out sessions
- Visit vendor exhibits
- Attend a reception for the new executive director-treasurer, Jess Archer

Business conducted:

1. Cindy Burns, Jones Avenue Church, Easley, was elected to her fourth term as South Carolina WMU president.
2. The 2023-2024 Executive Board was elected.
3. The site and date for the 2026 Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church, Florence, was approved.
4. Triple A association and church recipients were recognized.

This meeting would not have been possible without the work of the host church committees.

LEADERSHIP development

Associational Leadership Development

Associational Leadership Development was held at St. Andrews Baptist Church, Columbia, on April 29, 2023. The focus of the main session was mental health and the church's response. To assist in their associational work, participants also attended conferences covering a variety of topics. There were 44 in attendance plus 3 guests and 3 staff.



Ben Peele, director of emergency services at the Lexington County Community Mental Health Center, shared with participants about proper responses to mental health challenges and emergencies.



Donna Peele, director of Pastoral Care at Lexington Medical Center, shared stories about the realities of mental health challenges.

Church Leadership Development

Church Leadership Development was held at Camp La Vida on August 18-19, 2023. For this weekend, 61 people gathered for times of worship, fellowship, and training in how to serve believers of all ages within their churches. In addition to age-level leadership training, attendees enjoyed break-out sessions focused on how to make disciples and live on mission in their contexts.



Attendees were led in worship prior to each session by three of our Camp La Vida staffers.



Jess led a break-out session training our leaders in best practices for discipling the next generation in our churches.

MISSION support

Missionary Gift Checks

Gift checks are sent when missionaries are appointed or commissioned, to current and retired missionaries at Christmas, and twice a year to Third Culture Kids (TCKs) of South Carolina missionaries attending college/university and to any TCK attending a college/university in South Carolina. 244 gift checks were provided to South Carolina missionaries and TCKs through the Janie Chapman OfferingSM. These funds are provided through the Hephzibah Jenkins Townsend and Ruth Provence Funds.

2023 Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions, Missions Education, and Kingdom ADVANCE in South Carolina – From January 1-December 31, 2023

\$1,998,602.67 was given to the Janie Chapman OfferingSM. This represents a .4% increase or \$8,041 more than 2022 receipts. A check for \$1,259,119.68 was sent to the South Carolina Baptist Convention to support the Convention initiatives of Serve, Share, Send, Start, and Strengthen, as well as associational ministries and the Advance Strategy Premiere Learning Event. WMU received \$739,482.99 for Camp La Vida and WMU ministries/work. When the WMU Executive Board meets in March 2024, the interest earned, less account fees, will be allocated. We did fall short of our goal of \$2,100,000, however, thanks to South Carolina Baptists we received one of the largest offerings ever!



The 2022 Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions, Missions Education, and Kingdom ADVANCE in South Carolina goal was \$2,100,000. The theme was “connect” and the scripture focus was Colossians 2:2. Areas of ministry focus were: BoysToMen, the Finish Initiative and Reaching the Unreached in Europe, Neighboring, Bi-Vocational Ministry, and Revitalization of Churches. Zoom calls with ministry representatives continued to be offered.

MISSION support

Season of Prayer Free Materials

Each year, free materials are provided to all churches in South Carolina who request them. These materials—including posters, envelopes, and prayer guides—are used by the churches to encourage prayer and giving to missions. The Janie Chapman OfferingSM is for state missions, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering[®] is for international missions, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering[®] is for North American missions. The totals mailed out to encourage prayer and giving to missions during this reporting period were:

	Janie Chapman (State)	Lottie Moon (International)	Annie Armstrong (North America)
Posters	1,844	2,040	1,905
Prayer Guides	61,336	70,853	65,013
Envelopes	64,319	81,093	69,013



WMU staff packing the materials to send to the churches.



Buckets and buckets of orders waiting to be mailed out.



Prayer guides and envelopes.

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer



Since the 1950s, each year on the first Monday of November, women around the world are encouraged to meet and pray together for our world. Several associations in South Carolina planned a time for the churches in their association to gather together for the specific purpose of prayer.

Columbia Metro Baptist Association's WMU and Gethsemane Association cohosted the 2022 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer at St Andrews Baptist Church in Columbia. About 60 people attended this evening of fellowship, worship, and prayer. Ralphetta Davis organized the event, and she serves as the associational WMU director for the Columbia Metro Baptist Association and volunteer for Sisters Who Care.

MISSION support

Missionary Day

Each year WMU staff enjoy meeting and fellowshiping with retired and stateside missionaries who can join us at Camp La Vida for Missionary Day. On September 22, 2022, there were 17 missionaries, 1 guest, and 9 staff present. We enjoyed a day of fellowship, playing games, working puzzles, and a great meal.



Some enjoy working on puzzles and playing games.

Visiting together is the focus of this day.

Missionary Parents Fellowship

Missionary Parents Fellowship is for all parents of missionaries. They meet twice a year to spend time with others who understand what it means to have children on the missions field. This is a time of sharing, prayer, and fellowship. On October 1, 2022, we had 14 missionary parents and 1 staff gather at the South Carolina Baptist Convention building in Columbia. On March 25, 2023, we had 23 parents and 1 staff gathered at the home of Chuck and Ashlie Williams in Chapin.



Missionary parents at their fall meeting.



Missionary parents at their spring meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

South Carolina WMU Executive Board

The work of South Carolina Woman's Missionary UnionSM is under the direction of the Executive Board. Our Board consists of women involved in WMU in their local association and/or church. They are elected at our Annual Meeting held in March of each year.

Full Board meetings are held three times per year in October, March, and May. In addition to serving on the Board, each Board member serves on one of the four standing committees: Finance Committee, Policy Committee, Personnel Committee, and Camp La Vida Committee.

Triple A

Triple A serves as a guide for both church and associational WMU groups as they plan and evaluate their missional involvement each year. This resource is a great help in keeping our church groups focused on our four missional characteristics and we love to celebrate our groups that work hard to reach Triple A status! This year we had 44 churches and 3 associations complete the requirements to receive Triple A recognition.

The Allendale-Hampton Baptist Associational WMU was presented their certificate for achieving Triple A status at their annual Spring Meeting.



Communication

Communication is a strategic part of the work of South Carolina WMU. Through our publications, email blasts, and online presence on websites and social media, we strive to make sure everyone has the information they need to be involved in missions.

NEWSLETTERS

Missions Link
Associational Missions Link

WEBSITES

www.scwmu.org
www.janiechapmanoffering.org
www.camplavida.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

 South Carolina WMU
Camp La Vida

 @scwmu
@camplavida

 scwmu

MISCELLANEOUS

CLV Workdays

In April of 2023, we had two workday events. The first was a one-day event on April 1. We had 23 including 3 staff that participated. The second was an overnight event, April 14-15. We had 34 including 2 staff that participated in this event.

Some of the projects were: recovering 3 decks on the back of cabins, building a dock down at the lake, cleaning out the Administration Building and World Mission Center, clearing the trails around camp, and preparing the Store for camping season.



Some of our former staff came to volunteer.



A few moments of rest.



Stocking the Store for summer camps.



Feeding our volunteers.



Repairs made on cabin decks.



New dock at the lake.

Forty years of wear and tear on the Multipurpose Building floor had taken its toll and needed replacing. We were able to purchase a beautiful new floor because of generous giving from attendees at our WMU Missions Encounter and Annual Meeting and South Carolina Baptists. The Multipurpose Building has many uses during camping season, including daily worship services, camp activities, and Bible studies. During the off-season, the Multipurpose Building is also used for meetings and activities by groups.



New floors in the Multipurpose Building.

MISCELLANEOUS

Staff Changes

During this reporting period, we had several staff changes that included two staff retiring and hiring three new staff members.

BECKA MOORE served as our Student associate and the South Carolina Baptist Nursing Fellowship executive director, from March 2014 through December 2022.

LAURIE REGISTER began her work for South Carolina WMU in 1994, serving as a consultant with our student organizations. Then in 2000, she began working with our adult organizations and as executive director for South Carolina Baptist Nursing Fellowship. In 2009, she became our executive director-treasurer and served in this position for 13 years. Laurie retired in December 2022 after serving a total of 29 years with South Carolina WMU.



1994



2023



JESS ARCHER joined our staff in October 2022 and served as executive director elect before becoming the executive director-treasurer on January 1, 2023. Jess has served on the Louisiana Baptist Convention staff since 2013, serving as Children and Youth Missions Education Strategist. She is a graduate of Nicholls State University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She comes to us from Alexandria, Louisiana, and is loving her job and living in South Carolina.

LAUREN MORRIS and **HANNAH SMITH** joined our staff on February 27, 2023. Lauren serves as Student consultant and Hannah serves as Adult consultant.



Lauren has eight years of missions experience with the International Mission Board (IMB) and the North American Mission Board (NAMB). She graduated from North Greenville University with a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies and a Master of Divinity in Missiology from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Hannah Smith has over four years of leadership experience with Worldsong Missions Adventure Camp and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS). She served one year with NAMB in their Leadership Pipeline Training. She graduated from Jacksonville State University with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Elementary Education and a Master of Divinity in Christian Education from NOBTS.

The Financial Report for January–December 2023
which is part of this Annual Report is not included in the web version.
Inquiries may be directed to South Carolina WMU office at 803-227-6205.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION
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Jess Archer, Executive Director-Treasurer

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South Carolina WMU



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*This resource is possible through the Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions,
Missions Education, and Kingdom ADVANCE in South Carolina.*