**Pine Mountain United Women in Faith Louise Miller Circle Minutes**
**April 14, 2025**

Light refreshments of lemon bars, M & M’s, nuts, and apple slices were served as the women arrived for the meeting.  Our hostess was Winky Parker.

President Sara Godowns called our April meeting to order.  The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the  March meeting.  A motion was made by Tricia Browne and seconded by Judy Westbrook.  Motion carried.

Jane Logan gave the treasurer's report.  We have a $1,739.59 balance at the end of March.

President Godowns reminded us that we have 5 high school graduates this year, and our group gives $100 and a card to each graduate. Mary Helen Terrell made a motion to honor this year's graduates in this way and Dale King seconded the motion.  The motion carried.

It was brought to the circle’s attention that South West District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas, has been in contact with Bishop Mande Muyambo, Bishop of the North Katanga Episcopal Area in Africa. Bishop Muyambo has shared exciting news about the growth of the UMC in his area. Many new churches are being built, but they need financial assistance to complete this important work. According to the Bishop, the elevated price of building materials such as cement and roofing sheets often becomes an insurmountable barrier to complete construction projects. So our circle was asked to consider a donation to this project.  Jane Logan made a motion that $200 be given to the Congo Church Construction Project.  Judy Westbrook seconded the motion and it was carried.

Sara Godowns then introduced Reverend Keya Hillman, our guest speaker.  She is the Regional Developer for the South West District of the North Georgia United Methodist Conference.  She shared with us information about the Black Methodists for Church Renewal.  She shared that on Saturday, August 19, 1967, the all-Black, segregated Central Jurisdiction of the Methodist Episcopal Church elected its 14th and final Episcopal leader, Bishop L. Scott Allen. This election and the ensuring service of consecration were the final acts to be performed by the jurisdiction.  At midnight, that Saturday night, the Central Jurisdiction ceased to be, ending the period of open segregation of the races in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1967, many members of the now defunct Central Jurisdiction felt uncertainty about the status of Black Methodists in this new United Methodist Church. Groups of Black Methodists met frequently to discuss the problem of racial equality in their new denomination.  Such a group was convened in Detroit at the East Grand Boulevard Methodist Church on Nov. 20-21, 1967. For this group of clergy and lay persons, the issue at hand was the question, “How do we ensure that there will be a permanent place for Blacks in the new United Methodist Church?”  In Cincinnati, Ohio on February 6, 1968, a meeting was convened of Black Methodists from around the nation to answer this question.  This group developed a plan for lobbying and presenting resolutions to facilitate the creation of a Commission on Religion and Race at the 1968 General Conference. Out of this critical meeting, BMCR—Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc.—was formed. The charge of BMCR, titled “Findings of the Black Methodists for Church Renewal” was submitted to the General Conference later that February of **1968** . A central component of this document was a section titled, “The Black Paper.” In this powerful section, the BMCR confessed their filings as Black Methodists and defined a new direction for themselves. To this day they have continued to define and refine directions for themselves and this denomination that have brought respect, growth, and renewed commitment to God and God’s purpose for The United Methodist Church.  BMCR continues to be a necessary force for change and accountability in the United Methodist Church today.

President Godowns reminded everyone about ongoing and upcoming circle projects.   Everyone was reminded to recycle plastic bags for Focus in the collection container in the Narthex.  She shared her experience reading to Noah’s Ark children and told us to sign up for the few days still available.  She shared that two more people were needed to provide cookies for Graduation Sunday on May 11th.  Sally Cobb and Marion Milliron volunteered.

Members in attendance were as follows:  Tricia Browne, Sally Cobb, Sara Godowns, Dale King, Jane Logan, Marion Milliron, Winky Parker, MaryHelen Terrell, and Judy Westbrook.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Helen Terrell, Secretary