

**Pine Mountain United Women of Faith Louise Miller Circle**  
**Minutes**  
**April 8, 2024**

Light refreshments were offered to all upon arrival. Winky Parker was the hostess.

President Sara Godowns called the meeting to order, followed by Mary Helen Terrell offering a prayer for the circle's meeting and mission work.

Peggy Elder, communications chair, spoke about the Murphy-Harpst 100th Year Celebration Over the past century, countless lives have been touched and transformed by Murphy-Harpst Children's Centers, a related agency of the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Peggy stated that she, Sara Godowns and Winky Parker are going up to Cedartown for the celebration and to help with serving, etc. The date is Friday, May 24th, 2024. If you are interested in going with them please contact Peggy.

The program was then turned over to our guest speaker, Barbara Moushon, Circles in Columbus Coordinator. The Circles Program is part of the Open Door Community House in Columbus, Georgia. *Circles in Columbus* is a comprehensive program for people who are willing and ready to move out of poverty. Barbara defined poverty as the lack of resources to thrive, such as food, housing, and medical resources. *Circles in Columbus* is a true community-wide initiative that invites direct involvement from the business, faith, social services, healthcare, and educational communities, as well as, local government. In the initial 18-week *Circle* Leader Training portion, participants reflect on how they came to be in their current situation and establish plans for the future with S.M.A.R.T. goals to begin their journey to self-stability. They discuss new tools and resources that can be used to secure their plan. Once participants graduate from *Circle* Leader Training, they are then matched with community volunteers known as Allies. The *Circle* Leaders and Allies form an *intentional friendship* bridging social capital designed to support one another on a dual journey. The Allies find the journey very rewarding as well and they learn about the realities of poverty and the personal determination needed to get out. The Allies are not tutors, they offer *Circle* Leaders advocacy, resources, and individual personal support as they work toward their goals of economic self-sufficiency. Many of these relationships develop into long-time friendships. *Circles* offers weekly meetings which always begin with a community meal. During this time the opportunity to network and support one another re-enforces and re-energizes the work of the individuals. *Circles* children are included each week as well with age-appropriate life lessons and fun. The adult activities are led by program-enthusiastic facilitators and a S.M.A.R.T. goals coach. *Circles* empower people to take control of their own lives! Ms. Moushon showed video clips to explain *Circles* and emphasize what her program does for their participants. At the weekly meals, there are typically around forty participants. Open Doors Ministries need at least six people to serve these meals. They begin around 5:45 pm. Our United Women of Faith circle was asked to serve on October 29th, 2024. If interested please contact Sara Godowns.

After the program Ms. Moushon was presented with paper goods (such as paper towels, toilet paper) and school supplies for the *Circles*.

The members were then asked to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024 meeting. Peggy Elder made a motion to accept these, with a second by Judy Westbrook. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Jane Logan gave the treasurer's report. Beginning balance was \$2682.33. March pledges of \$390.00 were added to this balance. Checks totalling \$439.64 were subtracted. The ending balance was \$2632.69.

September 14th, 2024 was announced as Mission U, Training. Kathie Hansen will be conducting this from 9:30 AM to 2 PM. Bring brunch items. Mark your calendar and listen for further updates.

It was announced that Laura Willoughby's mother passed away. The family asked that donations be made to PMUMC Youth Group - Team 316 in her memory. Winky Parker made a motion to donate \$100.00. This was seconded by Tricia Browne. Motion carried.

Sara Godowns asked Bobbie Tarpley to be in charge of the “Garden Party” for the May meeting. At this time we will dedicate our garden to Louise Aldridge. Bobbie will be in charge of May’s meeting and volunteers. If interested in volunteering please call Bobbie Tarpley.

Sara Godowns reminded everyone to check the bulletin board that Becky Gaar had started on the wall. It will have pictures and updates on it.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:  
Mary Helen Terrell – Secretary

