

May 2024

# Sparkling Hearts

Notes from the Heart

Camp Meeting 2024

**W.H.A.T.S. UP!**

Women's Health And Tip Section

Palmetto Gathering

General Assembly

Girls Day Out

  
**Women's**  
*Ministries*  
SOUTH CAROLINA

"Don't Let Anyone Dull Your Sparkle"

Quarterly Publication





Wanda Rabon  
Women's Ministries  
Director



# Note from the Heart

*Spring greetings,*

*I hope you are enjoying this beautiful season. I love all the seasons, but I think Spring is my favorite, seeing all the new growth, the longer days, the birds chirping, the beautiful flowers blooming and the warmer days.*

*Today, I want to share my heart with you. God created us and made every little detail of our being. He knew us before we were born and equipped us to be strong but also have a gentle spirit.*

*Being a woman is not an easy task; so many depend on us, and our jobs seem never-ending. However, God has chosen us to be His daughters. Many years ago, a mentor told me not to be afraid to be myself; they also told me that I might as well be myself because everyone else was taken, and God instilled things in me that no one else had. So, I decided to be myself and trust God to direct my steps. It's not always easy, and I have often felt inadequate and isolated by those around me.*

*But here's the beautiful thing about God: He created us the way we are for a reason and a purpose. He has been molding and preparing you for Kingdom work all your life, regardless of whether you are single, married, have a full-time job, or a stay-at-home mom. So, don't worry, be happy with who you are, and don't be afraid to be yourself. God is faithful and will direct your path as you follow Him.*

*As we enter the month of May, we will celebrate Mother's Day and the beauty God intended for us women to be. Today, I am praying that God will allow you to get a glimpse of how valuable you are to your family, your church, and, most of all, to Him!*

*I want to express my love and appreciation to you and let you know that I love serving the beautiful ladies of this state. Thank you for your love, support, and, most of all, your prayers. As many of you know, this is assembly year, and only God knows the plans He has for us in the future. Please know that, regardless of what happens, I am so thankful that our paths crossed and that you were responsible for adding a little sparkle to my life. So, keep sparkling and be the light to those around you.*

*Remember: "Don't let anyone dull your Sparkle."*

*Wanda Rabon*



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Quarterly Publication  
August  
November  
February  
May





# Celebration 2024



Fernanda Ramirez



Peggy Culpepper



Paula Hill



Kaci Stewart



Lori Lewis

79th INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY • INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024

9:30 A.M. • INDIANA CONVENTION CENTER, SAGAMORE BALLROOM

*Special Music by*



*Geron Davis  
& Kindred Souls*



*Kelly Crabb  
& the Bowling Sisters*



*Angela Primm*



*Jonathan Sawyer*



# PRICELESS!

*Being You....PRICELESS!*

*If you are like me, there are moments when we need to step back and look at ourselves through someone else's eyes. I am my own worst critic. So, today, I invite you to be encouraged and uplifted, as you see yourself from a different perspective.*

*When we look into a mirror, we tend to notice every blemish. We see physical and inward scars and are reminded of the pain we have experienced. Our thoughts go to foolish decisions, mistakes, and misspoken words from our past experiences. Slowly, we degrade and devalue ourselves. Moments like this are, for many, a frequent occurrence. We begin to feel discouraged and hopeless when outside pressures are added to such inward judgments. We must see ourselves for who we truly are and our priceless value.*

*Are the outward pressures causing your inward perspectives to be skewed? If so, then remind yourself of the AMAZINGLY TIME-ENDURING TRUTH! You are God's daughters! He values you! You are more precious to Him than you can ever imagine! He has purchased you for a purpose out of His great LOVE FOR YOU! "He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for you, will He not also graciously give you all things (Rom.8:32)?" He looks past the surface scars, mistakes, and poor decisions and commands you to do so, as well, "Forgetting what is behind... (Phil.3:13)." He looks into your future. Do you know what you are to Him? You are PRICELESS!*

*So, the next time someone asks, "What's it like being you?" You can emphatically answer,  
"PRICELESS!"*





**SOUTH CAROLINA CHURCH OF GOD  
GIRLS' MINISTRIES PRESENTS...**

**LET'S  
RODEO**

*Girls' Day Out*

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2024  
MAULDIN CAMPGROUND  
1815 NE MAIN STREET  
SIMPSONVILLE, SC 29681**

**SAVE THE DATE**





## The Train of Life

By Jean d'Ormesson

**At birth, we boarded the Train of Life and met our parents,  
And we believed that they would always travel by our side.  
However, at some stations, our parents would step down from the Train,  
Leaving us on life's journey alone.**

**As time goes by, some significant people will board the Train:  
siblings, other children, friends, and even the love of our life.**

**Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum.  
Others will go so unnoticed that we won't realize that they vacated their seats!  
This train ride has been a mixture of joy, sorrow, fantasy,  
expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.**

**A successful journey consists of having a good relationship with all passengers,  
requiring that we give the best of ourselves.  
The mystery that prevails is that we do not know at  
which station we ourselves will step down.  
Thus, we must try to travel along the track of life in the best possible  
way -loving, forgiving, giving, and sharing.**

**When the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we  
should leave behind beautiful memories for those who continue to travel  
on the Train of life. Let's remember to thank our Creator for giving us life to  
participate in this journey.**





The Journey of Life continued.....



Forest Gump's famous saying: Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get.

Ecclesiastes chapter 3 states, "To everything *there is* a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck *what is* planted; A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.

At my age, the things that seemed important in my younger years have drastically changed, and the material things seem less important as I cherish my time with family and friends.

God has placed godly women in my life who have walked beside me and have been a source of strength and inspiration. The many years I have been on this journey have helped shape the stages of my life, the good, the bad, the ugly, and the blessed. I am amazed today, as I look back and see how God took this shy, timid girl in the middle of nowhere and started opening doors of opportunity that allowed me to step into roles for which I had no formal training or experience and placed me in the places that helped develop and train me for such a time as this.

My sight today is set on making it to my heavenly home and having a pure heart absent of bitterness, jealousy, hate, and unforgiveness. Nothing in this life is worth missing heaven. I am thankful for my church roots, and I love some of the new praise and worship music. However, I am an ole soul at heart and love the old songs of the church, and I will end with this one, "I Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now."

### (I Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now)

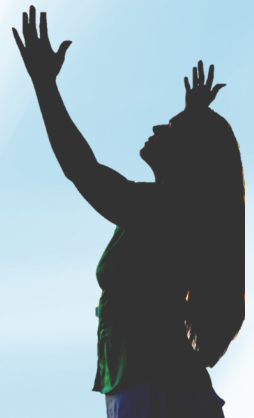
Well, I started out travelin' for the Lord many years ago. I've had a lot of heartaches had a lot of trouble and woe. And when I would stumble, then I would humble down. I'd say, "thank the Lord, I wouldn't take nothing for my journey now."

Well, I wouldn't take nothing for my journey now. I'm gonna make it to heaven somehow Though the devil tempts me and tries to turn me around. He's offered everything that's got a name, all the wealth I want and worldly fame. If I could still I wouldn't take nothin' for my journey now.

There's nothing in the world that'll ever take the place of God's love. All the silver and gold could never buy a mighty touch from above. When my soul needs a healin' and I begin to feelin' his power. I can say thank the Lord I wouldn't take nothing for my journey now.

All the wealth I want and worldly fame. If I could, still I wouldn't take nothin' for my journey now.

Wanda Rabon



# Tuesdays To Triumph

FASTING & PRAYER



**Women**  
With A Mission

Church of God  
**Women's**  
Ministries

UKRAINE...  
THE JOURNEY  
**Home**

# UKRAINE: THE JOURNEY HOME


WWAM 2022-2024 PROJECT #020-8203

*We need your help!*

**LAST CHANCE**

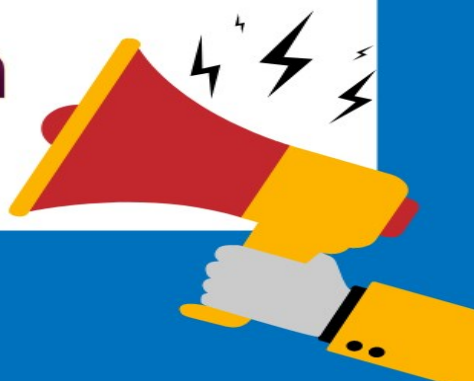
**TO GIVE**

**WWAM**

HELP THE  **UKRAINE CHILDREN**

**Women**  
With A Mission

Please send ASAP  
The deadline was April 30, 2024





2024  
**Palmetto  
Gathering**  
SENIOR ADULT RETREAT | FOR AGES 50+

**MAY 24 - 25, 2024**

**SCCOG CONVENTION CENTER**

306 MONROE DR, SIMPSONVILLE, SC 29681



**TIM LOVELACE**  
FRIDAY AFTERNOON



**JOSEPH HABEDANK**  
FRIDAY EVENING



**TRIUMPHANT QUARTET**  
SATURDAY MORNING

***COST***      ***EARLY BIRD***      ***\$40 PER PERSON***  
***MAY 1-15***      ***\$50 PER PERSON***  
***\*\*\*DEADLINE MAY 15\*\*\****  
***WALK-IN***      ***\$60 PER PERSON***

**REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.SCCOG.COM/EVENTS](http://WWW.SCCOG.COM/EVENTS)**

# Come to Pass

I want to tell you a story that happened long ago. There is a takeaway that may (may not) be helpful during times when we forget our purpose in this life we have accepted a calling into. During the year of 1997, David and I accepted our first full-time role in ministry as a couple. We had been working in training for years, both being called before we even met and decided to love each other forever.

Once we received and accepted the job offer, we packed up and moved from our home state to arrive in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, with stars in our eyes. Just as all other ministers do, we gave all we had to our youth pastor job, taking the responsibility to God, our pastor, and our church seriously. David began to garner some attention from the state and received placement onto the state Music Committee. As we were settling in for a great future in ministry, I discovered I was pregnant.

We had been trying to have a baby, so this was no surprise. What was unexpected for me was the emotional trauma of the postpartum weeks that turned into months of anguish for all three of us. I don't remember being warned about it, so when I began to have destructive thoughts toward myself and our infant, the terror was consuming. Like anyone who struggles with this, I fought each morning just to get out of bed and couldn't leave the house, except for required pediatrician visits. I found reasons to skip Sunday Worship and spent that time staring out the back window of our parsonage, crying and wishing I could go see church friends. I became unreasonably angry toward my husband, cutting him with words that I never had even thought to utter before. Our love story was one that many had envied, so this change in home life was drastic for both of us. I knew I was struggling, but I had no idea of the stress and grief I was causing our little family.

David remained faithful to the ministry that we both loved so much, but worrying about me became a job in itself. I could no longer help him with church responsibilities and didn't even realize I was deteriorating. There came a time when he knew I needed more support and decided to get me closer to home so I could rely on my family. Neither of us wanted to leave Moncks Corner, but there was no other obvious choice. We left our job and his state role and we moved back to NC in 2000. During that time, God sent wonderful friends and family my way who understood more than I did what was happening. As a matter of fact, within the first couple of months of being in our new little town, an evangelist came through whose message resonated so deeply with me that I was supernaturally healed through an experience with the Holy Spirit that remains a significant part of my testimony to this day.

After I was healed, we spent some years working in the church we had moved to in 2000, but our hearts had never left South Carolina. We had a couple of opportunities and interviews that could have brought us back, but nothing ever felt right to both of us until in 2006, when we were hired at River of Life in Anderson, SC. We packed up our boys (two of them by this time) and relocated and have been in SC since. Both of our boys experienced growing up in this great state and worshiping with some wonderful people. David has enjoyed his role as pastor, and I have loved working beside him in ministry.

During our time back here, I have earned a Master of Education in Giftedness and am currently earning a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision. I have been teaching for 20 years and serving with David as pastor and district overseer. I have seen miracles in the lives of my boys and have been blessed with a beautiful daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. I am thankful for so many blessings, but I have regrets.

I regret that I did not know that it was ok to struggle and need help and that my inexperience with common issues kept me from speaking about my needs. My lack of voice cost us time in ministry that took real effort to reclaim. I have never heard a word of blame toward me but have been loved unconditionally and with great tenderness all these years.

As a result of our perseverance together, we have learned valuable skills. David has been led by God to be a support for other pastors. He has built genuine, loving friendships with other men of God so that they all have a confidant for dealing with life issues. He adores this aspect of his ministry and is thankful for the friends who have connected with him.

The lesson for all of us: As leaders, we must pay attention and be intentional in reaching out to those who need help, especially if they are not reaching out to us first. We have been around long enough to know the issues that almost everyone faces, and we must be present in order to help those around us navigate those seasons of life. Women of God, be attentive to your colleagues and fellow servants of Christ. Edify, pray, support, and let them lean on you. Don't let the things that "come to pass" cause our Sisters in Christ to walk away from their calling and jeopardize their future ministries. We need each other always.



**Wendy Byrd**  
York Church of God Pastors Wife



**THE BROWDERS  
TIM LOVELACE  
JEFF + SHERI EASTER  
SHANNON SMITH  
TIM HILL  
CRYSTAL RUSSELL**

# **SMOKEY**

## **2024**



**TALENT SHOWCASE WITH THE ADDITION OF DRAMA DIVISION CATEGORY  
SPIRITCARE BANQUET                      MINISTRY TO THE MILITARY BREAKFAST**

.....

# **APRIL 23-25, 2024**

**GATLINBURG CONVENTION CENTER // REGISTRATION COST: \$85  
WWW.SMOKEYMOUNTAINGATHERING.COM**



# Beauty Becomes You!



## Growing Older With Grace

Have you ever thought: "I'm fat." "I'm old." "I'm not enough." I was young once.

To all females from 40 years and up, Most of us are going through the next phase of our lives. We're at that age where we see wrinkles, gray hair, and extra pounds.

We see the cute 25-year-olds and reminisce. But we were also 25, just as they will one day be our age. We aren't the "girls in their summer clothes" anymore. What they bring to the table with their youth and zest, we bring our wisdom and experience. We have raised families, run households, paid the bills, and dealt with disease, sadness, and everything else life has assigned us.

Some of us have lost those who were nearest and dearest to us. We are survivors. We are warriors in the quiet. We are women who learn from our past experiences and get better with age.

Even if our bodies aren't what they once were, they carry our souls, courage, and strength. We shall all enter this chapter of our lives with humility, grace and pride over everything we have been through, and we should never feel bad about getting older. It's a privilege that is denied to so many.



# W.H.A.T.S. UP!

Women's Health And Tip Section

## 20 Benefits of Walking

- ◆ Burns calories
- ◆ Improves mood
- ◆ Accessible to everyone
- ◆ Reduces stress
- ◆ Lowers blood pressure
- ◆ Low-impact exercise
- ◆ Tones muscles
- ◆ One of the easiest ways to get active
- ◆ Lowers (LDL) cholesterol (the bad cholesterol)
- ◆ Raises (HDL) cholesterol (The Good Cholesterol)
- ◆ Reduces symptoms of depressions and anxiety
- ◆ Reduces the risks of some cancers
- ◆ Helps maintain strong bones
- ◆ No special equipment required
- ◆ Builds aerobic fitness
- ◆ Helps maintain lean muscle tissue
- ◆ Reduces the risk of heart disease
- ◆ Reduces risk and management of type 2 diabetes
- ◆ Improves heart and cardiovascular health
- ◆ Its free



# KEEP MOVING



# Home For Children Project Update

Warm Greetings!

On behalf of the Women's Ministries Department, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generous contribution to the Home For Children. Your charitable and financial involvement enables us to come together as a group and achieve a transformative impact on the lives of these children.

## Here is a list of projects you have helped with over the past two years:

**Phase I:** Remodeled Kitchen area with new floor, new counter tops, cabinets, and new appliances

**Phase II:** Remodeled bathrooms, large activity room, library/conference room, and foyer area

**Phase III:** New freezers, new stoves, kitchen floors, and new countertops in cottages with the greatest need.

We are still working on providing items that are needed to bring these cottages up to date with new carpet in kids bedrooms and new chest of drawers with nightstands.

Money is not a problem for God. He has the power to meet the needs of the HFC in many ways, yet God chooses to use people just like you and me!

It has often been said that "children are the church of the future." While that may be true to an extent, I would choose to differ with that idea as an absolute. The Women's Ministries Department believes they are vital to the church "now!" So, I am happy that women from across this state see the value of reaching the next generation for Jesus and see the value of our children not having to worry about having a healthy and safe environment.

If you want to help with this project, please send your donations to the Women's Ministries Department, and designate it for the Home for Children. to the Women's Ministries Department and mark it HFC.



## Find 10 Differences





Camp (July 1-5) // Mauldin Mini Camp (June 19-22) // Mauldin Senior

Camp (June 24-28) // Mauldin Junior Camp (July 1-5) // Mauldin Inter Camp (July 16-19)

Pee Dee Mini Camp (June 18-21) // Pee Dee Senior Camp (June 24-28) // Pee Dee Junior



**SOUTH CAROLINA CHURCH OF GOD**  
*Throwback*  
**YOUTH CAMP 2024**



# CHURCH OF GOD 79TH INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JULY 8-12 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Registration Is Now Open  
For the 79th General Assembly

Register and find more info at [www.ga24.info](http://www.ga24.info)

To be held at the  
Indiana Convention Center





2024 SOUTH CAROLINA

# Camp Meeting

**JUNE 9-12, 2024**

**CHURCH OF GOD CONVENTION CENTER**  
306 MONROE DR, SIMPSONVILLE, SC 29681



**GARY LEWIS**  
SUNDAY EVENING



**TOMMY BATES**  
MONDAY EVENING



**DEREK WOOTEN**  
TUESDAY EVENING



**JAMIE BARFIELD**  
WEDNESDAY EVENING



**MICHAEL BALL**  
MON-TUE MORNING



**TIM HILL**  
WEDNESDAY MORNING

**DARE TO**  
*dream*  
ISAIAH 54:2



**BISHOP BRUCE & WANDA RABON**  
ADMINISTRATIVE BISHOP & FIRST LADY

### Service Times

Sunday Evening	6:00 p.m.
Monday - Wednesday Evenings	6:30 p.m.
Monday - Wednesday Mornings	10:00 a.m.

[www.sccog.com](http://www.sccog.com) | 864.963.4751