

Presbyterian Women Women of Faith Awards for 2010 Emma Chapman

"Em" is easily recognizable as the svelte, stately woman in impeccable attire, who presides over all details of the 8:30 service, funerals, marriages and congregational gatherings, even as she coordinates the kitchen, the accolades, the elders serving communion and most outreach projects. On occasion, she must shed her heels for athletic shoes which allow her to be in all places, at all times, simultaneously. She claims that she does "not 'do' windows," but many suspect that she may have done so, when the church required it. She makes herself available for both the ordinary and the special needs of Bayside and its people, and seems to have great fun doing so. She is a woman of many talents, with a faith that directs them into Christian service. Much of this service is simply the quiet assumption of small tasks—opening the church for workers, inspecting the choir loft, taking in the mail for an ailing neighbor

Em graduated from the University of Virginia in 1956, with a degree in nursing and married soon after. She practiced her profession for 5 years, until their son was born in. She joined Bayside in 1968 and quickly became a production manager for the church newsletter, a labor of love she continues to this day. Em seldom gives up jobs; she simply acquires more of them. When she and some friends gathered monthly to roll bandages for the Cancer Society, they evolved into PWC Circle #6 and continue to undertake many service projects, often under her leadership.

The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia has recognized her for her outstanding service and commitment to the church, and for her work in the ministry team, Christian Education, and Equipping the Saints Task Force. In 1979, Em and Bill supported the Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of their son Will, who died of leukemia at an early age.

Em relaxes by keeping up with her many friends, reading, and doing crossword and word-find puzzles. She also "loves to just watch people"—not surprising, for she genuinely likes others and wants to make their lives easier.

"So with faith; if it does not lead to action, it is in itself a lifeless thing." (James 2:17)

The PWC at Bayside, celebrate the deep faith and vibrant life of Emma Chapman.

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