

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY
BAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

1975

(Women of the Church)

Another year has closed and God has indeed blessed Bayside Presbyterian Church, especially with so many, many dedicated women. Our Church has moved forward and our Community has been strengthened by being an integral part of Christianity in ACTION. It has been an exciting and successful year! Let me tell you about it.

Mrs. John E. Reed (Peggy), our WOC President, has been a forceful leader and much has been accomplished under her leadership. In addition to presiding over our Council and General Meetings, she represented WOC at Orientation Classes in February, June and November. Participated in World Day of Prayer. Attended Church Women United Forum--attended practice of and participated in their May Day Fellowship Program. Participated in both sessions of Presbyterian Annual Meeting at First Church, Norfolk, Virginia. She presided at Women of the Church Birthday Celebration--served on Nominating Committee to elect Elders--shared in the 13 week Lenten Study "Edge of Adventure"--which not only opened new vistas to her but enabled her to bring to others a better understanding of Christian Love in Action.

She, Peggy, was responsible for "After Church Luncheon" for John and Jane Skelly (Assistant Pastor consideration) and assisted in preparing reception for John and Jane Skelly after his Ordination Service. Met and assisted both Budget and Directory Committees and with our beloved Minister and President Elect of WOC to review the goals for 1976. Attended Moderators Classes and visited a different Circle each month and was present at monthly Prayer Breakfasts at Bayside Methodist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

She attended District Conference of Presbytery and turned in President's report to Presbyterian President. Held a World Community Day practice and participated in World Day Community Program, November 7, 1975, at United Methodist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia, as did our Minister, Reverend Fletcher Hutcheson, and Jane Skelly, wife of our Assistant Minister. She also participated in Joint Bayside Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service; attended Presbyterian Council, also Church Women United Program, "Let's Keep Christmas," and met with Finance Committee of CWU to prepare budget for coming year.

Mrs. Reed is everything to everyone - she visits Nursing Homes comforting the frightened and lonely--sings hymns--sends cards--writes notes--takes food and gifts to those who are bereaved or need her loving presence. She sang with our Choir for special Christmas music and helped trim trees in Sanctuary.

She is always available - never too busy to give of her love and time. She is in close contact with our beloved Ministers, Reverend Fletcher Hutcheson and Dr. John Skelly, on any and all programs; is receptive to suggestions--always busy doing His Work and is truly an inspiration to all who are fortunate enough to know her.

Under such Leadership it is readily understood why our Church is so active!!

Dayside Presbyterian Church
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Mrs. Morris Bell (Ellen), Vice President from October 1974 to October 1975, has truly been an avid and dedicated worker; attending all monthly Council Meetings and helping in the planning of the Women's work, compiling and distributing the monthly Newsletter to the Circle Chairmen and keeping the WOC Directory up to date--being certain all Circles were informed of changes. Mrs. Bell was a delegate to the week-long conference at Massanetta Springs and returned much refreshed and inspired. She attended the WOC Presidents of Elizabeth River District I on behalf of our President, and found this experience most enlightening and enjoyable. She kept in close contact with and visited all Circles during the year--bringing to these Circles an awareness of needs in our Church and Community and suggesting ways of helping with these needs, which suggestions were received with much enthusiasm, and I might add, carried out soon as possible.

Our incoming Vice President, Mrs. Daniel Kahn (Phyllis), is young and enthusiastic. She went directly to work learning her duties and has been very busy. She attends Council Meetings, edits reports for the Newsletter and has it ready for distribution in good time. She schedules the months when certain Circles will hostess one of the many functions of the Church--takes care of any changes by members from one Circle to another and welcomes all new members by calling and inviting them to join a Circle. She works as a weekly volunteer with Cerebral Palsy School, which meets at our Church daily. She sets up programs and arranges field trips for them and also for the STOP Program, which too meets at our Church. She does visitation for the group, CONCERN, and is the contact person for this program at our Church. She is ever busy striving to bring the WOC closer by her well prepared Newsletter and is always available for that "little extra job."

Our outgoing Secretary, Mrs. Roy Brun (Audrey) attended and wrote Minutes of the General Meeting in April and all Council Meetings, except February. When instructed, she would write the Session of the Church. She worked closely with her fellow officers and was always available to assist in any capacity.

Our incoming Secretary, Mrs. John Richards, (Frances) reports that from October 1975 through December 29, 1975, she attended all except two of the Council Meetings and recorded the Minutes. A suggestion had been made to purchase pew cushions and a letter to this effect was written to Mr. Robert Kays. He replied, stating a decision has not as yet been reached concerning the matter.

Our outgoing Treasurer, Mrs. William Welch (Lenora), completed her tenure of office in October. She has served in this office most faithfully and we give her our thanks. She reported a balance as of October 1, 1975 in amount of \$235.05. Our proposed budget was accepted for the year.

Our incoming Treasurer, Mrs. Jay Hugh Casper (Matielee), reports that all disbursements were made on time and we have a balance on hand of \$456.58 as of December 29, 1975.

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Mrs. William Tucker (Betty), our Personal Faith and Family Life Chairman, has indeed had an active year, as always! She was devotional Circle Leader eleven times for various Circles having no volunteer to serve during a particular month, and conducted eleven Moderator Classes. On January 20, 1975 she began a Bible Class for children ages 6 to 13 years and has taught this Bible Class each week during the year. She has contributed "Spiritual Thoughts" for WOC Newsletter--given devotionals for Circle Council and General Meeting, had special service and prayer of dedication for offerings collected for "The Circle of Prayer and the 'least coin' Fellowship."

She visits in the hospitals and is a hospital Volunteer worker. She is a member of CONCERN, visiting the lonely people in the area. She helped with the Cerebral Palsy Children's Christmas program and also in taking them Christmas shopping and to lunch. She is devout and devoted. She is never too busy to lead the devotional, teach, answer questions, visit the sick and lonely, but most of all, never too busy for a kind word and a loving smile.

Our outgoing Leadership and Resource Chairman, Mrs. Eldon Grace (Betty), worked diligently to bring a dedicated slate of Officers for nomination at April General Meeting. Five delegates went to Massanetta in June for the week conference and she assisted in having a workshop in September 1975 for new Officers. She was most active, willing and brought much to her office.

Our incoming Leadership and Resources Chairman, Mrs. Benjamin Felts, (Jean) has been a most active member of our Church and Circles and is now an active Chairwoman. She attended the District Conference at Coleman Place Church, Norfolk, Virginia, which she found both helpful and inspiring. Attended the meetings of four Circles and will be working on the Makemie Woods and Massanetta Springs summer schedule, and anything else that needs her help. She organized the Coffee Hour on December 28, 1975, for our College and Seminary students, home for the holidays, bringing together the youth and giving them the opportunity to visit and exchange ideas, facts and impressions.

Our Christian Community Action Leader, Mrs. T. S. Williams (Glenda), attended the WOC Council Meetings and was always on call to "pinch hit" for other chores. The projects for which she is responsible are listed on Page 4.

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- (1) SHORE DRIVE CONVALESCENT HOME: - Our Circles are responsible each month for visiting the home, taking along small gifts as well as fruit and magazines.
- (2) STOP: - Our Circles provided thirty children with gifts and birthday cakes during the year, bringing a ray of sunshine into small lives that very possibly never had a birthday gift or cake before.
- (3) LYNCHBURG PRESBYTERIAN HOME: - \$240.00 was sent to this Home to cover Stormy Kinzer's needs for this year as well as an additional \$16.00 given by Circles to fill his Christmas wishes. Stormy is the boy whom we have accepted responsibility for. \$240.00 has been added to our WOC Budget to support Stormy in the coming year.
- (4) ALUMINUM: - Our women were asked to accumulate and turn in as much of this material as possible for recycling to help the Cerebral Palsy budget.
- (5) T.V. QUALITY: - Our Circles were informed on how and where to write to express their displeasure over implicit and explicit sex and violence shown during the hours when young children are watching.
- (6) FOOD PANTRY: - This has really turned into a fulfilling project. Our Church has joined with three other area churches to form a food bank to serve the Bayside area. One week a month our Church will furnish food to those who have been sent to us by a selected Agency. Members are now asked to bring food one particular Sunday and all Circle members are requested to continue to bring food to Circle meetings. Our Special Communion offering will be used to buy those perishables needed and which we are unable to stock. We are most enthusiastic about this as we feel the long range plan of helping will be more beneficial the year round instead of only at holiday time.

Our Ecumenical Missions and Relations Chairwoman, Mrs. Gaston Aycock (Lillian), is ever on the job reminding us there is work to be done. Our work with the Sample Drug Program continues by sending volunteers from the Circles to pack sample medicine the first Wednesday of each month. Our Witness Season theme this year was "The Earth is our Neighborhood--Take My Hand." The offering was used for International Mission Programs and projects including support of the 400 missionaries of our Presbyterian Church.

Our Fifty Third WOC Birthday was celebrated in May--the focus being on Asia and preparing Christian leaders in Korea and Japan; with special emphasis on the Seiwa Girl's School, Kochi, Japan - Hanil Women's Seminary, Chunju, Korea and Honam Theological Seminary, Kwangju, Korea. As our White Cross quota \$25.00 was sent to buy laboratory coats and material in Zaire, Africa. Articles were collected for Wilson Leprosy Center in Korea. World Community Day was held November 7, 1975 at United Methodist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia, which is with Church Women United. The Witness Committee of Session has begun work on the Season of Christian Witness for January through March, 1976.

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We had eight active Circles until recently, now only seven in our Church; six meeting during the day and one at evening---this includes our Cancer Bandage, Task Force and Daytime Nursery Circles. Our women have a preference as to which Circle they join, if they so wish. We have many Church women who work and who are unable to attend any Circle Meetings and they are placed in what is termed "Unenlisted Circles" of which there are four. These unenlisted circles are constantly contacted by their Chairwomen and when they can, move into an active Circle.

Our Circles are well attended with the average monthly attendance for the combined Circles being 81. In addition to the Bible study, all Circles viewed the filmstrip on Micah. As always the main emphasis for the Circles is prayer for each other as we serve our Lord. The many, many ways in which our WOC served their Lord, in addition to active participation in all the projects previously mentioned in this report under the Chairwoman Program reports, were various and are as follows:

- (1) Least Coin Fellowship monthly
- (2) Contribution to Student Aid Seminary Fund monthly
- (3) Contribution towards the purchase of permanent palms for the Fellowship Hall stage.
- (4) Donation to Norfolk Joy Fund - which fund is sponsored by our Newspapers and assures that every child under age 15 will receive food, clothing and toys--making a Joyous Christmas!
- (5) Donated to Church Choir bells.
- (6) Donated hymnals as Memorial gifts.
- (7) Donated clothes to the Cerebral Palsy School.
- (8) Donated men's pajama tops for Shore Drive Convalescent Home
- (9) Assisted weekly at Bayside Health Clinic.
- (10) Purchased two Bible Moderator books by Barclay for our library and to be used by the Circles.
- (11) Provided daily refreshments for Bible School children.
- (12) Donated two commentaries on the Book of John by Barclay to the library in memory of Mrs. Julia Sampson.
- (13) Contributed to the Day Care Center-Operation Friendship in the Seatack area.
- (14) Contributed to the Davis Stewart School in West Virginia.

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- (15) Served as Hostesses for WOC General Meeting and May Birthday celebration--Mission Season's International Dinner and all other dinners during the year.
- (16) Provided teachers for Nursery #2 during Church hour.
- (17) Volunteered drivers for "Meals-On-Wheels" Program for the elderly and ill.
- (18) Visited absent members and shut-ins--taking gifts and treats.
- (19) Collected coupons for Crossnore School.
- (20) Placed Easter Lilies and Christmas Poinsettias on the front platform during these seasons and after service took them to shut-ins.

Our Cancer Bandage Circle tore sheets and made approximately 242 bed-pads for American Cancer Society.

Our Task Force Circle covered 75 Christmas boxes and delivered these with 5 tote bags and 5 head scarves to Tidewater Mental Health Center.

A Flower Calendar is kept by WOC whereby anyone wishing to place flowers in the sanctuary on Sundays or other occasions may place their name under the month and Sunday they wish to give. We are grateful for the beautiful flowers given, as expressions of love, by the congregation.

Mrs. Alfred Duncan (Ruby), our faithful Card Chairwoman, sent 308 cards this year to shut-ins, sick and bereaved.

Our Scrap Book Historian reports the book is being kept up to date.

In addition to the above list of accomplishments, the WOC contributed cookies, food, coffee, tea and soft drinks for all occasions--held a very successful Plum Pudding festival, baking the puddings themselves, cleaned the kitchen-made and hung the Christmas wreaths-participated in Special Advent and Christmas Services, sang in the choir-transported those who were unable to drive or had no transportation for shopping, doctors and church. The above are the tangibles--but the intangibles are too numerous to try and list--the hundreds and hundreds of phone calls to let someone know they were thought about - a "stick your head in to say 'hi' " when you didn't have time for a visit - the smiles on faces and the touch of a hand--the prayers sent upward constantly for one another--all of this was a part of 1975 and it was Christianity at work - not with fanfare and publicity - but quietly and lovingly.

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The year took three of our beloved women members, Mrs. Sallie Clark, (Miss Sallie to all of us) who was an Honorary Lifetime Member, Mrs. Julia Sampson and Mrs. Gerda Chapman. These women were dedicated, offering themselves completely to God; using their abilities to the best advantage and the good of others - always willing to take time to help and to advise those of us who had not their experience. We miss them, but the memory of their strong faith is ever with us. The WOC Council served as Honor Guard at the funeral of "Miss Sallie."

God took, but He also gave - in the form of three charming, intelligent young Vietnamese refugees, Tran Tuan, Tran Thanh and Phung Tuan, who were sponsored by our church. They came to us during the joyous Advent Season. This is a church undertaking but as you guessed, the women rallied 'round and were assigned many tasks. Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Felts were co-Chairpersons of the Refugee Committee, with the following WOC as Sub-Committee Chairpersons - Mary Holland, Community Orientation; Sandy Warden, Support and Service; Margaret Bobst and Sue Hughes, Household Furnishings; Glenda Williams, Food, and Mr. and Mrs. Edmonds (Margaret) were in charge of clothing. Every woman pitched in and helped, furnishing the apartment, filling the pantry, making certain clothes were available, but when things were not going smoothly and questions had to be answered, it was the above group of women who had the problems put on them, and who always came up with the answers. We WOC are proud of the part we played in this project and we deeply thank all who gave so generously of their time, talent and money.

We had what we believe to be a very unique and sad experience in November and December. Dr. and Mrs. Edgar Lineken, members of our Church family, had major surgery--were confined to different hospitals and their two children live out of State and no relatives nearby. Our beloved Ministers, Fletcher Hutcheson and John Skelly, were at the hospital many, many hours and on the phone to their children, but it was necessary that each day someone visit Miriam and Edgar - not only for our satisfaction but to report to their children. Mrs. Cary Stone organized a "Visiting Schedule Service" - she contacted members, learned what day would be convenient for them to visit the hospitals and placed their name on her schedule. She would have this set up a week in advance. We know there were snags, but Mrs. Stone never let them be known and the operation went beautifully. It was supported by both WOC and their husbands and it was truly LOVE in Action. The Linekens have now been moved to the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area to be near their daughter, but our prayers, notes, calls and love are with them every minute.

This is the end of the written history of Women of the Church for 1975, but the unwritten goes on and on. Love-Service-Time-Talent and "What can I Do" will never cease - we will be there "on the lines" today as we were yesterday and will be tomorrow.

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As Historian for WOC - October, 1975 - October, 1976, the preceding seven pages tell much of what the women were during this year. Bayside Presbyterian Church is grateful for the achievements they reached and it was all done with CHRISTIAN LOVE.

Mrs. James D. Bender (Martha)
Martha H. Bender
(Mrs. James D. Bender)
Historian
1975

Term of Office: - October, 1975 to October, 1976.