

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY
BAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

1978

(Women of the Church)

Another exciting year has passed with the women of Bayside Presbyterian Church working hard. We try to give service to our Lord not only within the Tidewater Community but also in a farther reaching scope beyond our immediate area. We believe such service provides personal fulfillment and God's using us to be of help to others.

The Women of the Church Council meets monthly, usually the last Monday morning of the month. The Board is also frequently asked to assist the ministers and church programs in various activities arising during the year. Two general meetings were held. In April our guest speaker was Mrs. Barbara Almond, an outstanding teacher from First Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach. Nominations were placed for the 1978 - 1979 WOC officers. An honorary life membership was presented to Mrs. N. P. Krippendorf, a past president of WOC in the early years of our congregation, who had recently rejoined Bayside Church.

At the September general meeting, all circles also met together at the church. Mrs. William Anderson, a gifted teacher in our congregation, led the Bible study. New WOC officers were installed by our minister, Mr. Fletcher Hutcheson. An honorary life membership was presented to outgoing WOC president, Mrs. Morris Bell.

At two additional occasions all circles met at church in lieu of individual meetings. In February the Bible lesson was taught by Mrs. Conoly Phillips, Christian Faith and Family Life Chairman for Norfolk Presbytery. Over eighty women attended and our WOC Council served as hostesses. A short business meeting was followed by a delightful performance by the Women's Chorus, directed by our Minister of Music, Mrs. Hugh Sisson.

All circles again met together one evening in July for Bible study under the leadership of Mrs. Fletcher Hutcheson.

There were several community meetings in which our church had a part. World Day of Prayer, March 3rd, was held at Thalia United Methodist Church with fourteen churches participating. Our president, Mrs. Bell, had a part in the program.

April 3rd and 4th were the annual WOC Presbyterial meetings at First Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth, with Mrs. Bell attending.

The three Elizabeth River Districts combined for a training workshop for all WOC officers and Bible moderators September 24th at Coleman Place

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Presbyterian Church, Norfolk. Five women from Bayside attended.

On October 29th was the annual District Conference, held at Bow Creek Presbyterian Church, the theme being "Courage and Commitment". Bayside sent six representatives.

The 25th anniversary of the founding of Bayside Presbyterian Church was celebrated October 22nd. This was a pleasant occasion for the remaining charter members and present congregation to have the privilege of reviewing the heritage of the past. Our current pastors, Fletcher C. Hutcheson and John J. Skelly, and pastor emeritus John E. Johnson conducted the special anniversary service. At noon the congregation and guests stayed for dinner and fellowship. Scrapbooks and memorabilia were displayed.

Mrs. Morris Bell (Ellen) finished her second year as President of WOC in September. She presided over all Council and general meetings and attended all Presbytery meetings expected of her. In addition to her regular duties, she has been actively involved in the following activities:

1. Attended all Church Women United forums and celebration days.
2. Participated in the program of World Day of Prayer.
3. Attended the annual meeting of the Women of the Church, Norfolk Presbytery.
4. Participated in Meals-on-Wheels monthly.
5. Attended Bible study regularly.
6. Helped plan and coordinate the WOC Birthday Celebration.
7. Met with other presidents of Elizabeth River District I to help plan the program for the annual District Meeting.
8. Coordinated and helped prepare a dinner for the elders and their spouses during their weekend of training in the Fall.
9. Attended Norfolk Presbytery's WOC prayer retreat at Wakemans Woods.

Ellen states, "For the past few months I have periodically accompanied a handicapped lady to the Rehabilitation Center for a day out with other handicapped people. This has been a very rewarding experience for me and my life has been richly blessed by being associated with such a courageous lady who is determined to not let her handicap interfere with her life and keep her out of touch with other people."

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"My final year as president has been a good one and it has been a joy to work with such a dedicated group of ladies. Everyone has been most cooperative and done her job well. I have benefitted and grown in many ways during these last two years."

We are greatly indebted to Ellen for a demanding job beautifully executed and she endeared herself to all.

In October, Mrs. Jack Tefft (Drum) started her term of office as president. Her activities during the Christmas season were probably the most rewarding of this first quarter. As she worked with the Food Bank so that we might share with the needy at this time, the love among our members could be felt. Our Plum Pudding Festival on the second Sunday in Advent was truly a fun time for all. The WOC made the puddings and cakes, and served as hostesses for the evening.

Mrs. Tefft met with Women's Council once a month during this period, planning the women's work. She met with orientation class explaining our organization and purpose to new members. She also prepared and served coffee after the 11:00 A.M. service November 19th as new members from this class were welcomed. Also included in her activities were the following: attending meetings of WOC for Norfolk Presbytery and participating in World Community Day - a program of Church Women United Forum. She reports both events as being most informative and richly rewarding spiritually. In community projects she has contributed time in serving as a volunteer to the Meals-on-Wheels program and is an American Red Cross volunteer weekly at the Boone Clinic (a part of local armed services).

As Vice President of WOC Mrs. Oscar Edwards (Aundrea) contacted each woman new to the church, inviting her to join a circle. She published the monthly circle newsletter and, along with the President, assigned circles to serve as hostesses for church suppers, general meetings, and joint circle meetings. She attended circle meetings regularly. In September she helped cook and serve dinner to Session members and their spouses during a training weekend. She also compiled the 1978-1979 WOC Directory, making changes when necessary and helped to assemble some one hundred fifty copies. In addition to these official duties, Mrs. Edwards is a chairmember, and sings with the Church's Women's Chorus. She attended Church School regularly, helped teach a class with her husband during the summer, and has sponsored several Youth Group parties in her home. During November, our Vice President attended a Symposium on "Perspectives on Sex Education" at Eastern Virginia Medical School along with our Associate Minister, Dr. John Skelly in the hopes of starting a class for young people at Bayside Church in the near future. In December, Mrs. Edwards was actively involved in collecting \$90 towards the payment for 250 red carnations given to the Medic Center Hospital patients at Christmas time.

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Mrs. Joseph Clark (Dot) finished her term in September as Secretary of WOC. She recorded the minutes of the Board and general meetings and wrote correspondence as requested by the President. Her other church activities included serving as secretary for the Worship Committee, playing in the Bell Choir, and delivering for Meals-on-Wheels. In October, Mrs. Ben Felts (Jean) started her term as Secretary. She, too, attended and recorded minutes of the WOC Council meetings. Her additional church activities were: attending the Elizabeth River District meeting in October; the Bayside Presbyterian General meeting in September; assisting with the Plum Pudding Festival and coffee hour for college students in December; teaching Church School grades five and six; and driving for the Meals-on-Wheels program.

WOC Treasurer Mrs. Charles Hickey (Francis) reports a balance on hand as of December 31, 1978 in the amount of \$968.95, out of which much of our WOC expenses will be paid during the ensuing months. Benevolences expended during the year came to \$1359.61. Mrs. Hickey is now serving on the Commitment Committee of the Church and taught on Adult Church School class in the summer of 1978. She also is a regular substitute Church School teacher.

Mrs. Franklin B. Stewart (Jeanne) completed her term of office in September as Chairman of Personal Faith and Family Life. Her main responsibilities included:

1. Provided liaison with pastor teaching moderators' classes for Church Bible study.
2. Studied and recommended reference material for Bible moderators.
3. Assisted in securing moderators when this service was needed for the development of Bible studies in the Circles.
4. Participated in such Presbytery programs as church conferences, (b) prayer workshops, and (c) prayer retreats. (Coordinated September 1978 Presbytery prayer retreat.)
5. Provided liaison with the Worship Committee of Bayside Church.
6. Presented devotionals at Council meetings and General meetings of the Women of the Church.

In October, this office was resumed by Mrs. John Hamilton (Nancy). Her duties included: presentation of devotionals at WOC Council meetings; preparation of monthly devotionals for WOC newsletters; and attending the area workshop. In addition to these activities, Mrs. Hamilton has served as Vice President of the Couples Club; served as Co-chairman of the Parents'

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Support Group for Youth; coordinated four and five year old church nurseries; and served on the Church School Council as Adult Division Leader.

Through September, the chairman of Christian Community Action was Mrs. David Peckens (Mary) who reports her following activities:

1. Shore Drive Convalescent Home: The Circles take turns making a monthly visit.
2. Food Pantry: Our church has been responsible for six weeks of the rotating food bank. This has been kept well stocked through the generous giving of church members.
3. Stormy Kinzer: Although we no longer directly support Stormy, birthday cards were sent by individual members and Circles.
4. S.T.O.P: We remembered each child in the program with a small gift and a cake. One large party was given in May for the nine children who had birthdays during the summer vacation.

Mrs. Duane Wombolt (Louise) assumed this office in October and continued with the same duties. In addition, during the Christmas season we donated all the left over food from the Food Bank to St. Columba Church. Through a generous donation of a couple of our members we gave money to fill three Christmas stockings for patients at the Southampton Correctional Center.

Ecumenical Missions and Relations Chairman through September was Mrs. Charles Speight (Francis). The high light of this period was the annual WOC Birthday celebration held April 30, 1978 in the form of a family night supper with all the Congregation invited. Speakers were Caroline Leach and Nibs Stroup, ~~co~~-pastors of St. Columba Church. A film strip was shown in connection with their work at this small church in Norfolk; a question and answer period followed. Bayside Church was proud to have \$574.34 collected for the birthday offering, which was divided between St. Columba and Mexican Americans. Our yearly donation of \$25.00 was sent to White Cross.

In October, Mrs. Fletcher Manning (Carol) started her new term as chairman of Ecumenical Missions and Relations. She reports the following activities for these first three months:

1. Attended meeting of Church Women United. Received poster for clothing drive which was posted in Bayside Church.
2. Contacted circle chairperson of Women of the Church and encouraged attendance at World Community Day which was held at the Open Door Chapel on November 3, 1978.
3. Announced World Wide Clothing Drive in the Church Bulletin and the Newsletter, which was scheduled for November 18-27, 1978.

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4. Posters and containers for the clothing drive were placed in the Fellowship Hall during the period November 18-27, 1978.
5. On November 27, 1978, picked up, packed and delivered 113 pounds of donated clothing to the Lynnhaven Colony United Church of Christ.
6. Assisted in the organization and planning of the 25th Church anniversary dinner held on October 22, 1978. This and other anniversary activities were held under the auspices of the planning committee of the Session.

Leadership and Resources Chairman Mrs. Larry Bobst (Margaret) reports that in January the search was begun for officers and chairmen for the coming year. These included Secretary, Personal Faith and Family Life, Christian Community Action, Ecumenical Missions and Relations and Circles Two, Four, Six, and Seven. In March names were turned into the Session for approval and were accepted. At the April combined WOC meeting the names were placed in nomination, were voted upon and accepted.

The WOC study books were ordered and Presbyterian Woman was ordered for all new officers and chairmen.

In August all outgoing officers and chairmen were asked to meet with the incoming officers and chairmen and in September the new officers were installed at the WOC meeting.

There were no representatives to Massaneta this year because the women who had attended the year before were not happy with the program. However, we have received excellent reports on this year's program and we will again have a number of people going next summer.

Books were purchased and placed in the library for circle study helps.

On December 30th, during the Church School hour, Mrs. Bobst was responsible for a reception for college students home for the holidays. Sixteen young people attended and enjoyed a pleasant hour of food and fellowship.

We have seven active circles which are well attended with an average monthly attendance of eighty five for the combined circles. Through the September circle year we studied "Women of the Bible" and in October started our studies from the Gospel of Mark. Below are listed some of the many ways our seven circles have served the Lord and their fellowman during the year:

1. Clothing Sponsor to the Lynchburg Presbyterian Home.
2. Birthday cakes and gifts for S.T.O.P.
3. Least Coin Fellowship monthly.

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- 4. Monthly contributions to Student Aid Seminary Fund.**
- 5. Visits to Shore Drive Convalescent Home taking gifts for the patients such as clothing, gum, and fruit.**
- 6. Served as hostesses for Church suppers, WOC Birthday Party, and decorated tables.**
- 7. Helped and co-ordinated Coffee with the Pastors.**
- 8. Bought Lilies for the Church at Easter and delivered to the sick and shut-in after the service.**
- 9. Volunteered as drivers for "Meals-on Wheels" program for elderly and ill.**
- 10. Assisted weekly as Red Cross volunteers at Boone Clinic.**
- 11. Helped collect and store food in Food Pantry.**
- 12. Served as members of Sessional Committees.**
- 13. Served as Elders.**
- 14. Participated in Bible Study Classes.**
- 15. Visited absent members and shut-ins, taking fruit, flowers, plants, and cards to ill members and often took a complete meal during prolonged illnesses.**
- 16. Prepared birthday baskets for circle members.**
- 17. Contributed to the School for Retarded children.**
- 18. Collected and mended underwear for local elementary schools in need.**
- 19. Participated in different church musical programs such as the Choir, hand-bell choir, and the Women's Choral Group.**
- 20. Served as Sunday School teachers and Bible School leaders and helpers and donated cookies.**
- 21. Compiled and assembled WOC Directory.**
- 22. Donated to assorted Memorial Funds.**
- 23. Contributed to the WOC General Fund and each circle's own Sunshine Fund.**

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24. Contacted the Virginia Commission for the Blind and secured monthly records and a record player for a blind patient of Shore Drive Convalescent Home.
25. Supplied nursery attendants during the church hour.
26. Donated time in helping with Blood Mobile Drive at the Church.
27. Donated to the Bayside Presbyterian Robe Fund.
28. Contributed to the Massanetta Springs Camp Fund.
29. Provided six pitchers and four cookie sheets for the church kitchen.
30. Thoroughly cleaned and inventoried the Church kitchen.
31. Volunteered to drive an elderly stroke victim to the Rehabilitation Center each week for therapy.
32. Contributed to a flower fund in order for the 250 patients at the Medic Center in Virginia Beach to receive a red carnation at Christmas time.
33. Thoroughly cleaned the choir loft and filed all unused music.
34. Attended District Conference, World Day of Prayer, and a Workshop for officers.
35. Contributed cancelled postage stamps to the Crossnore School to buy equipment.
36. Collected clothing for the Church Women United.
37. Baked Plum Puddings for one of our Advent Services and provided cakes and cookies for two of the other services.
38. Checked and repaired the Chrismons which decorated the two Christmas trees in the sanctuary.
39. Helped decorate the church at Christmas and furnished poinsettias for the altar.
40. Helped plan and cook for our church's 25th birthday celebration in October.
41. Contributed money and cards to our card chairman.
42. Gave fruit baskets to ill members at Thanksgiving.

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43. Enjoyed the closeness felt by having a prayer partner.

Our Cancer Bandage Circle No. 6 tore sheets and made 198 bedpads for the American Cancer Society.

The Task Force Circle No. 5 made and delivered twelve lap robes and fifteen pairs of adult knitted slippers to Shore Drive Convalescent Home. In addition to this, eleven crib quilts, seventeen children's slippers, twelve terry cloth bibs, and a sweater were made for St. Mary's Infant Home.

It is through the circles that our women especially feel closeness. As women of a very active church we feel obligated to do our very best and want to serve God to the best of our abilities. We also enjoy the friendship and closeness we feel for fellow Christians trying hard to treasure whom God lends us to help prepare our eyes, heart, mind and soul for the glories He has prepared for us.

In addition to the aforementioned, the women in our congregation serve in many other capacities including the following:

Mrs. Edna Etheridge and Mrs. Fred Edmonds (Margaret) are in charge of the church library. A much needed improvement this year was accomplished with the work of Mr. Fred Edmonds, Mrs. Laurence Edmonds, Mrs. Alice Edmonds, in addition to Edna and Margaret. They built beautiful new book shelf units which greatly improve the attractiveness and function of the library.

Our Flower Calendar continued to be maintained by Mrs. Lawrence Edmonds whereupon sign-ups for weekly altar flowers were received. The Greeters calendar was arranged by Mrs. Edna Etheridge, followed by Mrs. Maxwell Stone (Gary). Greeters for the 11:00 AM service were obtained in this manner.

Our faithful card chairman, Mrs. Alfred Duncan (Ruby) for several years has been in charge of sending messages from our church to the shut-ins, sick, and bereaved. In 1978 she reported sending four hundred and eighty three cards.

Scrapbook Historian, Mrs. Joe Wyatt (Ruth) has beautifully recorded our picture history and printed information of people and events at Bayside.

Sunday School Superintendent, Mrs. Marvin Clements, Jr. (Gaye) has supervised the Church School, obtained and trained teachers, arranged for classes and materials, and spent many hours in this responsible position.

Mrs. Charles Brake (Martha) was in charge of the Cradle Roll, staying in contact with the infants coming into our congregation.

In 1978 we welcomed thirty three women into our congregation as new members, including the young girls in the communicants class. They first

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attended orientation or training classes to acquaint them with doctrine and practices of our Presbyterian Church. We were saddened by the death of one church woman during the year.

The Adult Fellowship, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Lealie Parr, met monthly for good fellowship, varied programs, and some church service programs.

Highest praise is due our faithful church staff. Our two ministers, Mr. Fletcher C. Hutcheson and Mr. John Skelly spend hours far too numerous to mention, serving our church and community in neverending tasks. They are ably assisted by our gracious Church Secretary, Mrs. Clenton Shanks (Margaret). During the year two part time student secretaries, Miss Cherly Procter, followed by Miss Diane Kelly, assisted Mrs. Shanks. Our custodian, Mr. Chester Jannette, kept our church building clean and assisted with some work on the grounds.

Our fine Minister of Music, Mrs. Hugh Sisson, Jr. (Frances) devotes many hours with our choirs. She directs and trains the Adult Choir, Hand Bell Choir, and Women's Chorus. Both the Bell Choir and Women's Chorus presented many concerts during the year, especially during the Christmas season. They brought special joy to our area's nursing homes, besides performing at various church and community functions. These concerts required many hours of practice for Mrs. Sisson and the members.

Our two ministers' wives, Mary Hutcheson and Jane Skelly, not only gave loving support and encouragement to their husbands but provided valuable service to the church in teaching and many other ways far too many to mention.

It has been a busy and fulfilling year. As Bayside has passed the 25th year - a milestone in its founding - we will continue to press forward. We have found great joy and comradeship in working together. Good fellowship is found not only in Christian love for each other but in trying to serve others as we are part of God's instruments in this world.

Mary Jane Borchers

Mary Jane Borchers (Mrs. E. A.)
Historian, Women of the Church