

PRESBYTERY III

BAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

1988

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

1987-1988

OFFICERS

President.....Martha Sorensen (Mrs. Douglas)
First Vice President.....Marian Merchant (Mrs. Donald)
Second Vice President.....Peggy Reed (Mrs. John)
Secretary.....Jan Hansen (Mrs. John)
Treasurer.....Jane Marvin (Mrs. Nels)
Historian.....Lucia Bushway (Mrs. Jeff)

PROGRAM CHAIRS

Personal Faith & Family Life.....Frances Hicks (Mrs. Charles)
Christian Community Action.....Jennifer Brinkley (Mrs. David)
Ecumenical Missions & Relations...Bernice Damuth (Mrs. Donald)
Leadership & Resources.....Louise Wombolt (Mrs. Duane)

CIRCLE LEADERS

Circle #1.....Judy Crossman (Mrs. Gary)
Circle #2.....Annie Mae Brickhouse (Mrs. Everett)
Circle #3.....Margaret Bobst (Mrs. Larry)
Circle #4.....Nitta Carson (Mrs. Richard)
Circle #5.....Cynthia Ballew (Mrs. Richard)
Circle #6.....Em Chapman (Mrs. William)
Circle #7.....Barbara Borson (Mrs. Alan)
Circle #8.....Nancy Hamilton (Mrs. Jack)
Circle #9.....Betty Steere (Mrs. Lucius)
Circle #10.....Dianne House (Mrs. Thomas)

Bayside Presbyterian Church
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Presbyterian Women
1988

Presbyterian Women
Coordinating Team

OFFICERS
1988-1989

Moderator.....Louise Wombolt (Mrs. Duane)
First Vice Moderator.....Marian Merchant (Mrs. Donald)
Second Vice Moderator.....Peggy Reed (Mrs. John)
Secretary.....Dorothy Andrews (Mrs. Leroy)
Treasurer.....Sandi Warden (Mrs. William)
P. W. Historian.....Isabel Pflueger (Mrs. Paul)
Search Committee Moderator.....Carolyn Walsh (Mrs. Robert)

PROGRAM CHAIRS

Food Pantry Chair.....Jennifer Brinkley (Mrs. David)
Personal Faith & Family Life.....Becky Rawls (Mrs. Robert)
Ecumenical Missions.....Bernice Damuth (Mrs. Donald)

CIRCLE LEADERS

Circle #1.....Louise Robinson (Mrs. Raymond)
Circle #2.....Martha Miracle (Mrs. James)
Circle #3.....Margaret Bobst (Mrs. Larry)
Circle #4.....Lucy Walter (Mrs. Robert E.) &
Henrietta MacLeod (Mrs. Kenneth)
Circle #5.....Peggy Koball
Circle #6.....Martha Le Roy, Mary Lehr (Mrs.
Charles) & Dorothy Norrington
(Mrs. Charles)
Circle #7.....Barbara Borson (Mrs. Alan)
Circle #8.....Representative
Circle #9.....Betty Steere (Mrs. Lucius) &
Eve Skinner (Mrs. Glenn)
Circle #10.....Claire Schopen (Mrs. Joseph)

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This was an exciting year for the Women of the Church at Bayside Presbyterian. As a result of the reunion of the PCUS and UPCUSA to form Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), many changes were made in the Women of the Church. The changes are listed in The Manual For Presbyterian Women, a copy of which is found in the PW file in the church office. This reunion was two groups coming together, each with strengths and weaknesses, making decisions and setting goals for a more diverse and flexible group of women. New by-laws will be written to be more open in our concept of what Circles are and can be.

To assist PW in the congregations in making these changes, a new kind of volunteer leadership in the PW of the Presbytery is identified as an Enabler. Two members of Bayside PW are the Enablers for the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, Presbytery III, Group 7. This group consists of 13 churches in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake. They are Jean Felts and Nitta Carson. Peggy Reed, our Second Vice-Moderator, served on the Search Committee for Presbytery, and is to be commended for a job well done. The Enablers are trained to be resource persons, to advise and help the PW in the congregations and to be the liaison with the Presbytery Coordinating Team. Jean Felts attended the "Church Wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women" at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, in July, 1988. The organizing meeting of PW took place during the Gathering. Another Bayside PW member on the Presbytery III Coordinating Team is Dorothy Jones, who is the Treasurer.

The Presbyterian Women of Bayside Church consists of ten Circles. There are approximately 200 active members, who have chosen to participate in or be supportive of PW. Auxiliary members are listed for each Circle, until the Congregational Care Ministry has a program to include them in their care. Each Circle is a group that gathers monthly to provide an inclusive, caring community for the women. The Circles of this church do provide such care. Circle members assist the members of their Circle when help is needed, and assist with so many activities of the church. It is safe to say, "They could not get along without us".

The Circles have different schedules to fit the need of their memberships. The Coordinating Team meets the last Monday of the month, except during June and July.

The spiritual growth of the members of the Circles is an integral part of its mission. The Circles have the Bible Study Book and generally from this Book the Bible Moderator gives the lesson each month. To assist the Bible Moderators, a preparation session is given by one of the Pastors the first Thursday of the month.

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The Circles collected money for their Sunshine Fund. From this they helped pay for child care for Circle #7 mothers when Circle #7 had a meeting, helped the Food Pantry buy food, paid \$10.00 for a Christmas gift for a local International Student, bought flowers for the Sanctuary at Christmas and Easter and bought Christmas presents for foster children. Names were given by Social Services. Money is also used to support members of the Circle who are sick or bereaved.

This Fall, we had the Thank Offering. This is an offering that was taken in the UPC (USA) Church. Each PW member was asked to make an offering over and above other contributions as a thank offering for the many blessings we have received this past year. The total collected was \$102.65.

Our Birthday Offering on May 24, 1988, was the last one in the tradition of annual Women of the Church Birthday Celebrations. PW will continue the tradition. The Birthday Celebration was held as part of the General Meeting with its election of new officers for Women of the Church. Our own PW member, Alice Taylor, was the Interpreter for Presbytery. The offering was for Stillman College, Ministries with Women in Prison and Volunteer Emergency Foster Care. The total collected was \$684.03.

Each Circle sponsored a Freshman college student from the membership of the Church. Cards were sent, cookies were baked and birthdays remembered.

Women of the Circles saved Campbell Soup labels. Mrs. Odina Dahlman, an active member of 89 years of age, collected and trimmed them. The labels were sent to Davis-Stuart Presbyterian Home and were redeemed for school equipment.

Women of the Church helped with the following: Ecumenical Service Reception held in the Fellowship Hall, January 17, 1988; Seder meal on March 31, 1988; Bayside Presbyterian Church 35th Anniversary, October 22-23, 1988. They also worked in the kitchen and helped set up on October 25, 1988, when Bayside was host for the Presbytery meeting.

The First Annual Gathering of PW of Bayside Presbyterian Church was a pot luck brunch held September 10, 1988. Our two Enablers, Nitta Carson and Jean Felts, participated, explaining to the members, the new Symbol, the PW Purpose and the Celebration Giving Patterns. The pastor, Dr. Richard Keever, gave the lesson. Mrs. Mary Hutcheson installed the new Coordinating Team, who are elected for a one year term from September to August. During this meeting Carolyn Walsh was elected Search Committee Moderator and Julie Simpson and Dianne House were elected Committee Members.

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The Presbyterian Women are very active during Lent and Advent with activities in the church. During Advent, the women helped trim and take down the Christmas trees, made and served plum puddings and cookies at the new member reception and served refreshments for the cast of the Living Nativity. The women in each Circle made Christmas tree ornaments, at the request of the Congregational Care Ministry, for the tree in the Fellowship Hall. The ornaments were made of squares of plastic with white yarn woven in. They looked like big snowflakes.

During the special time of Lent, the Church had a dinner catered the six Wednesday nights of Lent. The dinner was preceded by a worship service and was followed by study groups. The Circles set tables, sliced meats, heated rolls and vegetables, prepared salads and cleaned up.

The Coordinating Team of Bayside PW is a fine tuned group. Each member did a fine job.

Mrs. Martha Sorensen, President of WOC and/or Moderator of the Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women of Bayside Church, guided us expertly through the changes from Women of the Church to Presbyterian Women. Having had much experience in leadership positions in the Women of the Church, she had the know how to be a good leader during the transition. She was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women during the church service on Sunday, January 22, 1989.

Mrs. Marian Merchant, First Vice Moderator, is in charge of assembling the news and printing the monthly Presbyterian Women Newsletter for Bayside. The Newsletter is printed to inform members of the activities of the Circles, the decisions of the PW Coordinating Council and the reports of the members of the Council. A membership directory is also printed once a year. This lists the Circle membership, the members of the Coordinating Team, the proposed budget for that year, the Standing Rules, calendar of events and informative details of the proposed benevolences of the PW of Bayside.

Mrs. Peggy Reed, Second Vice Moderator, contacts new members of the Church about joining a Circle and notes changes in the membership of a circle as requested.

Mrs. Jan Hansen, Secretary, prepares the minutes of the Coordinating Team meetings.

Mrs. Lucia Bushway was the Historian, but moved to Florida October 1, 1988. Mrs. Isabel Pflueger is filling in for her.

Mrs. Jane Marvin resigned in February, 1988 as Treasurer because of the many demands of her regular job. Mrs. Sandi

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Warden volunteered to replace her. Sandi keeps our finances straight,, including our benevolences. The benevolences include:

- Presbyterian Contingency Fee (Quota) and White Cross Assessment
- White Cross Supplies
- Circle of Prayer and the Least Coin Fellowship
- Sunnyside Links
- Student Aid for Union Theological Seminary
- Blanket Fund - Church World Service
- Sponsor a child at the Presbyterian Home of the Highlands
- Friends of the Seminary
- Migrant Ministry (Virginia Council of Churches)
- Mission Court in Richmond, Virginia
- Zuni Presbyterian Center
- Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia
- Ministers' Special Benevolence Fund - discretionary funds used for rent, medicine, heat, etc. as the need arises

Mrs. Frances Hicks, as Personal Faith and Family Life Chair, gave us suggested Bible verses to read, inspirational poems and bits of wisdom from her own deep faith to challenge us to let God use us for his work.

Mrs. Jennifer Brinkley and Mrs. Colleen Switts co-chair the Food Pantry ministry, one of the most important and active ministries of the Church. The need increases each year. Approximately 40 persons were helped each month. The requests for food come by referral from Social Services or by direct request. Our Church is on call certain weeks during the year as scheduled by Social Services of Virginia Beach. The congregation is generous throughout the year, both with staple goods and money for the Food Pantry. Volunteer help is also given to select, bag and shop for the groceries. Jennifer holds a volunteer orientation for shoppers. About thirty five dollars each six weeks, from the Food Pantry account, is used to buy food, such as rolls, to supplement the food members of the congregation bring in to serve dinners to the homeless at the Fire Escape in Virginia Beach. This is done through the Virginia Beach Christian Outreach Group.

Mrs. Bernice Damuth, Ecumenical Missions Chair, coordinates the Birthday Offering Program, maintains relationships with Church Women United, and with other women's constituencies of the denomination. She, along with other PW members, attends May Fellowship Day, World Day of Prayer and World Community Day activities. Bernice keeps us informed of the dates of conferences and retreats for the Church women. She even supplied 5 stewed chickens and 5 pints of broth for an African dinner at Royster Memorial Church in November, 1988, commemorating the African Mission in Zaire.

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Mrs. Louise Wombolt, Leadership and Resources Chair, had the task of nominating women for the vacancies on the Coordinating Team. This is no small job and Louise covered it well. Louise and a group of PW from Bayside attended a meeting on Becoming Presbyterian Women, Saturday, March 19, 1988 at Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, Virginia to celebrate the beginning of PW in the Norfolk area.

Mrs. Marie Ellis, Card Chair, sent Get Well cards to the sick and Sympathy cards to the bereaved in the congregation. This is very time consuming and many thanks go to Marie. The position of Card Chair will now be a part of the Congregational Care Ministry of the Session.

A big thank you to all the Circle Chairs who have their hands full "taking care" of the members of their Circle.

Listed are some of the Circle activities:

Circle #1 has taken under their care Mr. Michael Simpson, a former member of our Church choir, who now attends Union Theological Seminary. In the Fall, the members traveled to Williamsburg to have their meeting in the home of a former member, Mrs. Edith Cassell.

Circle #2 filled baskets with little goodies and gifts, called them Sunshine Baskets and gave them to their shut-ins.

Circle #5 gave a \$25.00 memorial gift to the Church in memory of Eleanor Fetherston, who died July 6, 1988.

Circle #6 for years has been known as the Cancer Bandage Circle. Approximately 25 bedpads were sewn at each meeting and then delivered to the Cancer Society.

Circle #7 is known as the "Young Mothers" Circle. Nursery is provided and there have been as many as twenty children present. A retreat was held for their members, Mothers' Day weekend, May 1988, at a cottage in Sandbridge, Virginia. Their moderator was Mrs. Billie Cash, mother of Miss America 1987. Mrs. Cash had drawn up a format for a retreat of this type. The Circle members met twice during the summer, once with husbands for social events. As part of their ministry, they provide a member of our Church, Christine West, with transportation to church each Sunday. They also requested the women in other Circles send her cards on her 90th birthday..she received 100 cards.

Circle #7 also sponsored a drive for the women of the Circles to make Christmas Shoe Boxes to be shipped to Friends of the Americas for delivery to needy children in Latin America. Directions were given in the Newsletter. Individual shoe boxes were filled with suggested items for a child of a specific sex

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and age, gift wrapped and sent to Louisiana to be sent on. The Circle received 20 boxes and paid \$30.00 in postage to send them.

In summary, it can be seen by our activities, dedication and concern as Presbyterian Women, our goal is to serve the Lord by helping and caring for our congregation and our community. We do this with humble thanks to God for his blessings and for our supportive leadership and members.

Respectfully Submitted

Isabel Pflueger
Isabel Pflueger
Presbyterian Women
Historian