

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Presbyterian Women of Bayside Presbyterian Church

1400 Ewell Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455

2012

OVERVIEW:

Pastors: The Rev. Dr. David Rollins: Pastor

The Rev. Jenny McDevitt: Associate Pastor (September-August)

Sunday Worship Services:

Traditional	8:15 a.m.
Contemporary	9:15 a.m.
Traditional	11:15 a.m.
Combined Service:	10:15 a.m. First Sunday of Month
Discipleship Classes	9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

Presbyterian Women of Bayside works under the leadership of a Coordinating Committee consisting of the officers, program chairs and chairs and co-chairs of the seven circles. PWC activities are coordinated and planned from a September through May time frame; the coordinating team also serves from September through May.

PWC has 103 active members in 7 circles. We have two general gatherings: Fall and Spring, when we install officers in May. Thirteen women elders served on the session, all of whom headed or served on session committees, along with PWC members who were not currently on session. One woman served as Treasurer, one as Trustee, and one as Commissioner to PEVA. PWC is also heavily represented on all of the major standing and ad hoc committees and sends representatives to other church councils, which attest to the regard in which these women are held by the congregation. Libby N. Graves serves as the PEVA PW Historian.

PWC collects and files the weekly bulletins, copies of the weekly newsletter, the monthly newsletters, and all special publications of PWC and Bayside Church for the year. We subscribe to *Horizon* and *Presbyterian Outlook*, contribute the *Journal of Presbyterian History* to the library, and follow the *Horizon's Bible Study Guide* in all circles.

The Coordinating Committee for January, 2012 through May, 2012 was as follows:

Officers

Moderator	Michele Parker
Vice Moderator	Betsy Davis
Secretary	Angela Marcotte
Treasurer	Suzanne Hanley
Historian	Libby N. Graves

Program Chairs:

Food Pantry	Audre Cannell & Lynne Owen
Spiritual Nurture	Cathleen Ritzo
Ecumenical Missions	Chris Pascuzzi

Circle Chairs and Co-Chairs

Circle #2	Judy Crossman & Janet Straddeck
Circle #3	Libby N. Graves & Louise Wombolt
Circle #4	Jennifer Costello & Angela Marcotte
Circle #6	Linda Allen & Dana Williamson
Circle #7	Chris Pascuzzi & Ruth Boynewicz
Circle #8	Marie Parr & Paula Jesberg
Circle #10	Diane Towler & Jane Copeland

The Coordinating Committee for September 2012-December 2012 was:

Officers:

Moderator	Betsy Davis
Vice Moderator	position open
Secretary	Chris Pascuzzi
Treasurer	Jennifer Costello
Historian	Libby N. Graves

Program Chairs

Food Pantry	Audre Cannell & Lynne Owen
Spiritual Nurture	Cathleen Ritzo
Ecumenical Missions	position open

Circle Chairs and Co-Chairs

Circle #2	Judy Crossman & Janet Straddeck
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Circle #4	Jennifer Costello & Amanda Long
Circle #6	Linda Allen & Dana Williamson
Circle #7	Chris Pascuzzi & Ruth Boynewicz
Circle #8	Marie Parr & Paula Jesberg
Circle #10	Jane Copeland, Diane Towler & Rose Ann Wehr

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

Coordinating Team: The coordinating team meets the last Monday of the month, September through April, approximately 2 weeks before the circles meet. It consists of officers, program chairs and circle chairs. The meeting opens with a devotion from the Spiritual Nurture Chairperson. Each officer and program chair gives a report, followed by reports from the chairs of each circle. The Moderator discusses the responsibilities of

each circle for upcoming events and the Treasurer reports on current expenses and contributions. The Secretary keeps the minutes, incorporating the written reports of each program and circle chair, and prepares a monthly newsletter that includes the devotion, reports, and announcements of upcoming events. This is distributed to circle members at their monthly meetings and is available to all women in the church. The devotion is always so timely and sensitive (with some gentle chuckles) that it is often published in the *Bayside Binnacle*, the monthly church newsletter.

Circle Meetings: The circles meet once a month, 4 during the day and 3 in the evening from September through May. Five of the circles meet at the church and two meet in circle member homes.

The Horizons Bible Study used for the January-May 2012 period was “Confessing The Beatitudes,” during which each circle composed its own creed, and “Dispatches to God’s Household: The General Epistles” for the January-May period. The Rev. David Rollins conducted a monthly bible study class for the moderators of each circle and guests; the Education Director, Dan Wiard assumed that responsibility from September-December. Many PWC members attend additional Bible studies and discipleship classes as well, during the week and on Sunday mornings.

Each circle collects money for the General Fund, the Least Coin contribution, Sunnyside, their individual Sunshine Fund, and whatever special projects they have chosen. Some of their projects will be described later in this report. Their collective generosity is charted in the financial report, which is audited every year on a pro bono basis by a certified CPA. (to be appended later).

PWC Events: Two events that include all circles each year are the Spring Gathering and the Fall Gathering, held in the Fellowship Hall over a delicious meal in a beautifully decorated setting provided by the Coordinating Committee and under the leadership of

the Ecumenical Missions Coordinator. The Spring Gathering ends our PWC year with the installation of officers for the coming year and small thank-you's for those who served.

The 2012 Spring Gathering was held on June 2 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at a brunch attended by over forty-five women. The 2012 Woman of Faith Award was presented posthumously to Carolyn Graham and received by her daughter, Amanda Long. Retiring Moderator, Michele Parker, was presented with a PW life membership. Retiring officers, Suzanne Hanley and Angela Marcotte received Lords' Prayer bracelets in recognition of their years of service. The women present donated \$443.00 to the Birthday Offering.

The Fall Gathering was held on Wednesday, August 22 at 5:30, hosted by Lydia, Circle #10. Forty one members attended this "salad pot luck". Dan Wiard gave an overview of "Dispatches to God's Household," and members picked up their study books. Because the envelopes for the "Thank Offering" were not yet available, these were distributed in the circles and returned at the Elegant Autumn Tea. The donation was \$410.00.

The "Elegant Autumn Tea" was hosted by Circle #8 and featured fancy hats, heirloom tea pots and cups, exquisite pastries, impeccable service by tuxedoed gentlemen and lively entertainment by the Silver Tappers. Presbyterians do have fun.

No one was able to attend the Synod of Eastern Virginia Gathering at Massanetta Springs, June 8-9 or the Church-wide Gathering in Orlando, Florida July 18-22. Libby N. Graves attended the PEVA Spring Gathering at First Hampton Presbyterian Church on April 21 and the two Fall Gatherings at First Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, September 8th and Community Presbyterian Church in Hampton on September 22. She also attended the PEVA Coordinating Team meetings on February 18 and November 17 at Simonsdale Church in Portsmouth.

PWC members work closely with PW women of other churches at their monthly "Sisters in Spirit" meetings at Bayside, at programs at Thalia Baptist Church, at Bible Study Fellowship International at various churches, Moms in Prayer International in churches and schools, and the PEVA-sponsored Martin Luther King Service at First Presbyterian Church in Norfolk.

PWC Contributions to the Church. The 2012 Woman of Faith award was awarded posthumously to Carolyn Graham, who exemplified the model of faith and service to which all PWC members aspire. (See addendum on Carolyn) The individual and collective activities of PWC attest to their faith and their determination to use their talents in service to others.

One of the major outreach programs is the Food Pantry, which is run expertly by our Food Pantry Chairs, Audre Cannell and Lynne Owen. They train and coordinate volunteer shoppers who work Monday through Friday throughout the year, purchasing perishables and items in short supply in the Pantry. This mission is supported by congregational donations of non-perishable items and cash. Each circle makes an additional monthly contribution of those staples not provided by the congregation. They also privately contact an "angel" or two when cash or staples run low.

Emma Chapman and Paula Jesberg serve as the informal "events coordinators" for funerals, weddings, and other special events, as well as the "coordinators of the kitchen." They reap no monetary rewards but have a treasure of humorous and heartwarming stories. PWC members are the first they call on to coordinate and provide refreshments for funerals, church-wide gatherings, youth activities, and partnerships with community groups. PWC updates and prints the PWC brochure, which is placed in the pew racks and packets sent to potential members. It contains a brief description of each circle, along with meeting schedules and contact information.

The circles also rotate the responsibility of tidying and replacing materials in the pew racks every week throughout the year.

Every September, each circle adopts a first year college student who is a member or friend of Bayside. Our Spiritual Nurture Chairperson, Cathy Ritzo, identifies those students and provides their contact information to the circles who send cards, small gifts, and encouraging words. Each Christmas, each circle selects Angel Tree Gift Tags for those who are in need, in addition to the tags they choose as individuals PWC offers collective financial support of local, regional, national, and international missions but supplement them with additional benevolences. All circles send memorial gifts to Bayside and to Sunnyside Links, supplement the PWC's group donations to Zuni, Makemie Woods, Keim Center, and The Dwelling Place, as well as providing financial support for a myriad of missions within the church and in the community.

In December, every circle purchases a wreath, poinsettia, or scholarship in honor of an outstanding Christian woman. In the Spring they buy Easter lilies and seasonal plants and flowers for the church beds which they plant and care for through the summer.

Community service and mission outreach is a church-wide commitment which PWC enthusiastically supports. "Sisters in Stiches", have been crocheting both baby blankets and prayer shawls to be given to those in need. Donations are made to the Food Pantry on "Souper Bowl" Sunday, Easter Baskets for children at St. Columba's ministry, Christmas boxes for children around the world, Stop Hunger Now, the Congo Mission Project, youth collections for the Heifer Project, all fund-raising projects for youth mission trips, eye glasses and supplies for medical clinics, school supplies for "School Daze"....and the list goes on.

In their culinary capacity, all circles arrive with snacks or covered dishes whenever the call goes out for receptions, funerals, meals for the homeless, and all manner of

congregational gatherings. Each circle has a "kitchen contact person" so that members can respond quickly to requests from our church ministries. We are noted for our efficiency as well as for our helpfulness. PWC baked so many cakes for the "cake walk" at the summer picnic that "walks" had to be added. Then there were meals for "Winter Shelter," quarterly dinners for the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center, etc. We seldom enter the church without a "dish".

Our youth are a vital segment of the Bayside family and PWC is very active in nurturing them in their Christian growth. Over twenty churchwomen served as Church School teachers and advisors throughout the year; even more orchestrated our successful summer Family Bible School and volunteered in our nursery. Others accompanied the youth on missions both in the U.S. and in Mexico.

Often, individual ministries call on circles to provide help for those who are home-bound or in hospital. A newly formed "Saint Stephen Ministry" is training them to offer spiritual and practical assistance in a caring and effective manner. Many of the same women volunteer at the reception desk to extend knowledgeable and friendly help to visitors and members alike.

Each circle also assumes responsibility for individual projects, many of which pass "under the radar". One circle oversees the operation of the church library, scheduling volunteers, updating computers, creating library procedures, soliciting donations of books and journals, and providing general upkeep. Another keeps the PWC bulletin board current, with notices of future events and photos of past events. Members of Circle #6 help assemble the monthly church newsletter; Circle #10 underwrote a micro-loan as part of the Heifer Project. Some, such as Circle #2, send money to help victims of disasters both at home and abroad; others join Circle #3 in underwriting landscaping costs. Circle #4 sends toys to "Toys for Tots" every year; Circle #7 members provide

volunteers twice a month to conduct Bible studies and spiritual sessions for an elder-care program run by a local hospital.

The clear success of PWC at outreach and mission efforts is due partially to the fact that the circles make time to socialize and connect spiritually with each other at lunches, dinners, retreats, and other outings, throughout the year. Some use these opportunities to formulate officer and circle goals for the year and then to evaluate how well they were met. In most cases, individuals and circles exceeded their expectations and felt enriched by the introspection the process required. They also have lots of fun!

We have many members of Presbyterian Women in our church who are nurturing and effective leaders in all of the ministries of Bayside. One member from PWC serves on the Search Committee for new elders. Thirteen served on session and others serve as chairs and members of congregational committees. They are listed at the end of the report. Many other individual women quietly fill the niches and needs that allow Bayside to function smoothly in other internal and external missions that have not been mentioned above--all Presbyterian women; none seeking earthly acknowledgement or acclaim.

Although we present no formal awards to them, we are very grateful for our Pastors, the Rev. David Rollins and the Rev. Jenny McDevitt for their leadership. We could never have done our work this year without the creative and dedicated leadership of Mr. Daniel Wiard, Director of Education and Ms. Katie Grant, Director of Music and their associates. Ms. Linda Godoy has shouldered many responsibilities beyond those of Administrator and done so with good humor and great efficiency.

YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT: 2011
(Because of difficulties experienced by the treasurer and auditor, this is unavailable)

WOMAN OF FAITH AWARD FOR 2012

Carolyn Davis Graham

7/14/1931

6/14/2011

Caroline Davis Graham was born and raised in Arkansas and, as an Air Force wife, lived all over the United States, as she raised three children. After the death of her husband, Freddie, she returned to Arkansas and became an active member of the Mt. Holly Presbyterian church, serving several terms as an Elder and as Clerk of the Session. She moved to Virginia Beach in 2005 to live with her daughter, Amanda Long and grandchildren. She became just as active at Bayside, as an Elder, teaching Sunday School, and working with the youth. She also led Bible studies for the elderly in the Sentara Health Care program, and was a faithful member of the ecumenical "Sisters in Spirit" bible studies class. She was active in the Evangelism ministry, with a special affection for the Living Nativity.

Carolyn always told her children, and later her grandchildren, that we awake every day with a choice in how we would live. She chose to celebrate the beautiful things in God's world as reflected in literature, food, song, dance, and piano music. Her daughter, Amanda, and grandsons, Patrick and Aaron agree that Carolyn's greatest joy was caring for her children and grandchildren, and living as a true child of God.

Carolyn left this world before she could accept this award in person. Her family, however, is carrying on in her tradition of faith, grace, and service to God as they joyfully serve as elders, teachers, choir members, evangelists, and models to for all Christians.

NECROLOGY 2012

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Death Date</u>
Kathryn Warner Brockman	1913	5/13/2012

Kathryn was long-time resident of Wytheville, Virginia, but retired to Westminster Canterbury in 1989 and joined Bayside. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Randolph-Macon College and taught in the public schools of southwest Virginia until she retired. She was a world traveler and a great supporter of the arts in the Tidewater. She was predeceased by her husband, Aubrey Stode Brockman and survived by a son and daughter, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mirian Jeter Childress	1928	9/21/2012
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“Billie” was a charter member and long-time volunteer at Bayside. She was very active in her circles and a familiar figure at the welcome desk. In spite of arthritis she remained an avid bowler. She is survived by two sons, one daughter, three grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Ruth Elizabeth Cole	3/12/1918	7/12/2012
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Ruth was born in Hart County Kentucky and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from western Kentucky University and her Master of Education degree from Old Dominion University. She taught for several years in public schools and then held an extensive tenure as an administrator in the Virginia Beach School system. Her volunteer activities increased after she retired, especially at Bayside, where she had always been active in circle #6. This diminutive, perfectly coiffured and attired lady could be seen every week, greeting church-goers with a smile and scurrying through the pews, tidying them up for the next worship service. She was predeceased by her husband, R.K.Stewart Cole and leaves behind a daughter, two grandsons, and four grandchildren.

Catherine Theodora Cook **3/16/1926** **4/19/12**

Catherine was born in Detroit, Michigan, but became a mainstay of Bayside when she moved to the area. She spent many years representing PWC in the Presbytery and Synod and serving as an Elder, first at Christ and then at Bayside churches before she moved to Westminster-Canterbury to be with her many friends.

Jane Short Curtis **11/04/34** **12/3/12**

Jane Short was raised on a tobacco farm in Henderson, North Carolina, attended secretarial school, and married William Boyd Curtis. After he received his Master's Degree from Virginia Technical University, they moved to the Norfolk/Virginia Beach area where Jane worked as a medical secretary until the couple started their family. She loved her gardens, cats and music, especially piano, and long evening walks with her husband. A long-time member of Bayside, Jane was active in her circle, choir, and handbell ringers. She was widowed after 36 years, but remained active until her unexpected death. She leaves behind Lisa, her daughter, a sister, twin brothers, and a grandson.

Molly Naismith **1921** **7/22/12**

Molly was raised in Buffalo, New York. She attended Slippery Rock State Teachers College, where she met George Naismith who became her husband of 61 years. Commander Naismith, USN (Ret) died in February 2004. Molly was a well-traveled navy wife, "trekking" with her 3 daughters throughout Europe, Canada, Alaska, and the United States. "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," as she was called by friends, was also a school teacher, avid golfer, and active member of Bayside. She loved life, fun, babies, dogs and really stylish clothes—the brighter the print, the better. Her faith was as constant as her joy in life. Daughters Laurie, Barrie, and Molly were in constant attendance in her final years. She is buried in the Bayside Columbarium.

Sondra Rose

1933

3/24/12

Sondra was born in Cambridge, Ohio, and graduated from Ohio University. She retired from Colonial Williamsburg, but continued her activities in the church. She leaves behind three sons and their families.

Shirley Irene Terry

1923

1/27/12

Shirley was born in Maumee, Ohio and died quietly in her home in Virginia Beach. She was a registered nurse, but primarily worked with her husband, Russell at their Terry's Delicatessen. She was an Elder at Bayside, a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, past president of Suburban Women's Club, and a member of the Town and Gown Club. She sang with the Beach Tones and volunteered in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools. Her husband and two sons predeceased her; she is survived by a daughter, a son, three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Recipients of Life Memberships as of December 2012

Ellen Bell

Cathy Ritzo

Catherine Cook

Wanda Smith

Peggy Damuth

Martha Sorensen

Louise Gordon

Linda Wallace

Debra O'Connell

Caroline Walsh

Michele Parker

Rose Anne Wehr

Peggy Reed

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth [Libby] Nybakken Graves, Historian, 30 January 2013