

1953

During 1952, the attendance at the monthly meetings was from ten to sixteen. In January, 1953, there were thirteen; February, ten; and March, seventeen. The members caught the vision of wider and more effective service. Our enlarging interest, local and missionary, presented opportunities for giving; and there was always some money in the small but growing treasury. We participated more and more in the activities of the Presbyterial, and observed designated seasons in the Church calendar: World Missions, Church Extension, Annuities and Relief, Survey Week, and so forth. We were growing spiritually, educationally, socially, and financially.

The Spiritual Growth Chairman prepared prayer objectives and distributed these at the monthly meetings. Often she wrote out all twenty copies by hand! Gradually, through the months, we took on the full stature of a separate Women of the Church organization. What other Church women were doing -- we were doing -- And in addition, we were doing some extras!

From local-minded women we were becoming world-minded; Korea, Greece, Japan, the Birthday objectives, were in our hearts and on our lips. From community areas of thought and activity, we were becoming ecumenical-minded. The Princess Anne Council of Church Women was in our hearts, and we participated in their stated meetings, and we subscribed to "The Church Woman". We attended all the Group Conferences, Annual Meetings and Special meetings as members of the Presbyterial. In February, we joined with Haygood Memorial Methodist and Old Donation Episcopal Churches in a joint World Mission Study on

Africa. There were three sessions held, one in each Church, and the program and fellowship were mutually helpful. There were thirty-seven present at the meeting in our Church on February 24.

In order to conform more closely to the Constitution and By-laws for local Women of the Church organizations, it was decided that Group I - elected to serve until April 1, 1952 - continue in office; and Group II be elected in February to take office April 1, 1953. This was to be the "short" Church year and both groups would thus serve from April 1 through December 31, 1953. Group I consisted of:

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| President: | Mrs. S. K. Emurian |
| Historian: | Mrs. H. J. Greer |
| Chairman World Missions: | Mrs. William Graham, Jr. |
| Chairman Education: | Mrs. L. W. Starks |
| Chairman Spiritual Growth: | Mrs. Sam J. Layne |
| Chairman Assembly's Special Causes: | Mrs. E. L. Sherwood |

Group II was elected as follows:

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| Vice-President: | Mrs. N. F. Krippendorf |
| Treasurer: | Mrs. Ernest D. Ney |
| Recording Secretary: | Mrs. George Goodman |
| Chairman Church Extension: | Mrs. Ernest D. Ney |
| Chairman Annuities and Relief: | Mrs. J. W. Bohner |
| Chairman Stewardship: | Mrs. George L. Guthrie, Jr. |

Mrs. A. H. Young, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. S. E. McMillan, Treasurer Circle Fund; Mrs. J. A. Holland, Librarian; Chairman, Standing Committees: Mrs. J. A. Duvall, Flowers for the Sanctuary; and Mrs. N. F. Krippendorf, Social Activities,

were appointed to their respective offices by the President. These officers were duly installed by the Pastor, Rev. S. K. Emurian.

Five of our members attended May Fellowship Day observance at Charity Methodist Church, May 1, 1953. On November 7, eight members attended the Annual Meeting of the Princess Anne Council of Church Women at Virginia Beach. May 6, following the monthly Council meeting, about fifty members of the congregation gathered in the Sanctuary to honor the Pastor on his 79th birthday (May 3). It was a real surprise -- and all who were there attested to this fact. The first budget for the Circle was made and adopted at the meeting in May. These were the items:

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| Current expenses | \$115.00 | | |
| Local Church work | 60.00 | | |
| Benevolences | 25.00 | Total: | \$200.00 |

"Welcome to the New Baby", "Thinking of You" and "Sympathy" cards were ordered, the corresponding secretary mailing them out when necessary. Blessing-Boxes were brought in every six months; one-half of these gifts were used for designated Benevolences, among these being: Home Mission Committee, Norfolk Presbytery, in appreciation for their continued help; Presbyterian Home, Lynchburg; Sunnyside Presbyterian Home (now at Massanetta); Overseas Relief and Inter-Church Aid; World Missions; Campaign for the new Negro Church, Norfolk, \$50.00.

For ourselves, such items: Massanetta fund; \$50.00 local building fund; dishes for the kitchen; and new books for the library.

The delegates to Massanetta in July were Mrs. Ernest D. Ney and Mrs. A. H. Young. Their reports were interesting, and through the year the Women of the Church were benefited by their information and inspiration.

The women bought and presented a Silver Baptismal Font to the Church. A Scrap Book was bought for the safe-keeping of valuable historical data.

Vacation Bible School was held July 6 - 10, the Women being leaders and teachers. What would the Vacation School and Sunday School be without the faithful women, who worked, not counting the hours!

Our growth was such that the attendance increased at the monthly meetings; sometimes we had from 20 to 24 present. The Survey subscribers increased to 20, and each quarter 25 Day-by-Days were ordered. The Church family grew; the spirit of God working in the Church was a uniting force. Perfect strangers became close friends, creating new Christian ties. The newcomers became members of this enlarging Church family.

We did lose by removal some valued members; they went with our good wishes and a gift booklet, "Moments With the Master". The quarterly Church Family Nights, with pot-luck supper, became a looked-forward-to event in the life of the Church. Wednesday, September 29, the first such observance was held in the Fellowship Hall of the "Emurian Building". Our eyes were wide open -- we were thrilled at the sight of a room full of happy Church people. Only His Spirit in a Church can perform such a miracle!

In the fall, Mrs. Emurian presented a framed photograph of Rev. Mr. Emurian, organizer and first pastor, to the Women of

the Church. This picture will hang permanently in the Church study, in keeping with the established custom of preserving the photographs of those pastors who serve the Church after its organization.

The Church bulletin, January 4, 1953, carries "Our Objectives for 1953" prepared by the pastor. Item 4 reads: "Thirty active women in two circles". The officers began to work toward making this a reality. There were 30 names on roll and many of these were active.

The Nominating Committee began its work with prayer; the members were: Mesdames Sam J. Layne, William Graham, Jr., George L. Guthrie, Jr. In November their report was presented and adopted. Group I -- for two years:

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| President: | Mrs. Ernest D. Ney |
| Historian: | Mrs. N. F. Krippendorf |
| Chairman World Missions: | Mrs. Charles Hill |
| Chairman Christian Education: | Mrs. Z. L. Davis |
| Chairman Spiritual Growth: | Mrs. Frank Harrington, Jr. |
| Chairman General Fund Agencies: | Mrs. F. H. Tubbs |

Group II -- for one year:

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| Vice-President: | Mrs. J. A. Holland |
| Treasurer: | Mrs. A. H. Young |
| Recording Secretary: | Mrs. Pauline Duncan |
| Chairman Church Extension: | Mrs. H. J. Greer |
| Chairman Annuities and Relief: | Mrs. H. F. Newsome |
| Chairman Stewardship: | Mrs. J. Folk Young |

Chairmen for the two circles were Mrs. L. W. Starks and Mrs. George Goodman. These officers were elected unanimously

according to the Constitution and By-laws for the local Women of the Church organizations. They were installed in December and were ready to take office January 1, 1954. Annual Report Blanks were filled out on time and mailed to the Presbyterial officers.

At the December meeting, the Circle chaimen drew names, active and inactive, for the membership of their Circles. Thus began the recommended plan of Circles in the Women of the Church, and shifting of circles annually. There were 28 present at this Christmas meeting held at the home of Mrs. Krippendorf.

Mrs. Emurian, out-going President, presented to Mrs. Ney, the new President, a leather notebook for her records as presiding officer, as a personal gift. Early in 1954, Mrs. Emurian also presented a gavel to Mrs. Ney as a symbol of the office of President, this to be used by succeeding Presidents.

In her closing message, Mrs. Emurian said, "The time has come for me, as your friend, advisor and leader, to pass the leadership to you as a Women of the Church organization. Your new President will be from among you, and she has been elected. Thank you for your love, confidence and willingness to be led by me during my term of office. Some of you were not familiar with the Women of the Church organizational procedure, but you were appreciative of what I was trying to do. Follow your new President and guard her leadership! I will continue to be your friend, and, as others have done in years past, so in the years ahead, you will warm my heart by inviting me to visit you".

Mrs. Emurian announced that, beginning in January, there

would be a Circle meeting and a general meeting each month. The new officers and Circle chairmen would meet and make the necessary arrangements for the two monthly meetings.