

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY
BAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

1976

(Women of the Church)

1976 - What a year! The 200th Birthday of our Country, and another Birthday for Bayside Presbyterian Church. A year filled with excitement!! There were elaborate celebrations throughout the country. We seemed to be surrounded by an aura of gaiety and happiness. But nowhere in this great land of ours was there more happiness radiated than right here at 1400 Ewell Road. It was a fantastic year for us! We grew in so many ways. Let us walk back through the year and I'll tell you about it. Are you ready?

Mrs. John E. Reed, (Peggy) serving her last year as our WOC President, was our leader and mentor in many ways. She presided over the Council for nine months in 1976 and the General Meeting in April, WOC Birthday Celebration in May and the Annual Meeting in September. Attended Bible Study Classes--visited a different Circle each month, attended Prayer Breakfasts at Baylake Methodist Church. Assisted in hostessing informational meetings with Lena Clausell; one at night for families, and one daytime for WOC of all Presbyterian Churches in this area. Called Representatives from our Group V to formulate plans for World Day of Prayer. Had this group for coffee as they worked on format for Program - since Cluster Groups for Celebration Days were new to our Church Women United. Attended Mission Season supper-Church Women United Forum and rehearsal for World Day of Prayer at Our Saviour's Lutheran.

Represented President of Church Women United at World Day of Prayer, since we were meeting in Cluster Groups, and the President was attending another group. Attended both sessions of WOC Presbyterian Annual Meeting at Royster Memorial. Served as volunteer for Blood Mobile for Church and made preparations for General Meeting. With others from our Church, attended a Prayer Retreat at Makemie Woods sponsored by Personal Faith and Family Life Chairman of Presbytery. Attended May Fellowship at First Presbyterian Church at the Beach and worked on preparations for WOC Birthday Celebration Family Night Supper. Represented WOC at Orientation Class for New Members of the Church and filled in for Pastors, who were away for this meeting.

Attended with others the Bicentennial Party and family picnic at Shore Drive Convalescent Home--attended Coffee for Pastors--making arrangements for same--gave transportation to members in need of a ride. Formed Committees and worked on same for telephone appointments for new Church Directory. Attended weekend Conference at Massanetta. Met with Budget Committee in Advisory capacity and drew up 1976-1977 proposed Budget. Assisted with Council member's dinner for Officers in Training.

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At the Annual Meeting of WOC, recommended that when funds available a permanent filing cabinet be purchased to store WOC records, and followed up same by writing to Clerk of the Session requesting permission to store same in Church. Sent twenty-one personal cards, made eleven visits to Church Members and visited two prospective members. Made numerous telephone calls and endeavored to work closely with our Ministers and Church Secretary and to support as many activities sponsored by the Church as possible. Peggy has given so much of herself to all who need her. She was always available to "pitch in" and help out when that "extra hand" was needed. From this brief account, you know that your Officers are constantly studying and learning so they may serve you in the best possible manner. You may well think, or even say, "what would be left to do if Peggy was so active"; but when the gavel was turned over, it went to a dedicated and enthusiastic young woman!! Our New President:

Mrs. Morris H. Bell (Ellen) served faithfully as your Vice-President. She was always on the "front line" - she is a shining example of what is needed to carry out our Theme, "Leap Into the Third Century - Unafraid." In Ellen's three months of office she has presided over Council Meetings, visited different Circles each month, met with the President of the Elizabeth River District 1 Churches for purpose of planning the Annual District Conference. With nine others from our Church, attended the Sixty-Fourth Annual Conference of Elizabeth River District 1. Attended mid-year Council Meeting of the WOC Norfolk Presbytery and also the Church Women United Forum. Participated in the "Prayer Retreat" sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, and in the Stewardship Dinner Program, highlighting the WOC organization and their activities. Met with the Orientation Class for the purpose of explaining WOC and inviting new Church Members to join with us. She is presently a member of the Planning Committee of the Session and will so continue as a Committee Member while President.

Our Vice-President, Mrs. John Tefft (Brum) is new on the Council, but she is no stranger to the WOC or to hard work. Brum takes her duties seriously and her reports are ready when needed. She is enthusiastic and does much volunteer work in the Community as well as her work at the Church. She published the WOC Newsletter, attended every Council Meeting and contacted new women members of the Church to tell them of the various aims and projects of our Seven Active Circles, inviting them to join one. She, with the President, has assigned Hostesses for Church Suppers and other Celebrations. She has visited Circles Three, Four, Five and Seven at one of their regular meetings during her three-month tenure. With nine others she attended the Sixty-Fourth Annual Conference of Elizabeth River District 1.

Our out-going Secretary, Mrs. John A. Richards, (Frances) attended the Council Meetings--Recorded and read the Minutes and all communications pertaining to our work--recorded the Minutes of the General Meeting held in April and was always available to "lend a hand".

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Our in-coming Secretary, Mrs. Joseph C. Clark (Dorothy) recorded and read Minutes for October, November and December Council Meetings, as requested by our President, Ellen Bell. With nine other women from our Church she attended the Sixty-Fourth Annual Conference Elizabeth River District 1 on October 19 at King's Grant Presbyterian Church and World Community Day on November 5 at St. Nicholas Catholic Church. Dorothy is always ready to assume an extra task, when needed, and is now well adjusted to her office.

Our Treasurer, Mrs. J. H. Casper (Matielee) has done her work well. She has served this office most faithfully. All disbursements were made when due. Matielee keeps accurate records and can tell you at all times where our money came from and where it went. She reported a balance of \$197.82 as of December 31, 1976.

Mrs. William Tucker, (Betty) our out-going Personal Faith and Family Life Chairwoman, had an active year. Betty is a truly devoted person, and is ever busy doing the Lord's work. She placed an inspirational thought in WOC newsletter seven times and opened Council Meetings seven times with devotions. She conducted the Bible Moderator's Class six times and conducted the Bible Study Lesson for five different Circles, who found themselves without someone to bring their Lesson at meeting time. Betty was engrossed with volunteer work in the hospital and visited the sick in the hospitals many times. She was a member of "CONCERN" - a group who visit the lonely and shut-ins - with her lovely smile and serene presence we know she was like a "ray of sunshine." She attended the Presbytery Retreat at Makemie Woods - the Theme "Talking with God." She opened our General Meeting twice with devotionals and had a dedication for all coins collected throughout the year for "The Circle of Prayer and the Least Coin Fellowship." She helped decorate tables for Witness dinner -- went wherever she was needed or could help, and was truly an inspiration to all.

Our in-coming Personal Faith and Family Life Chairwoman, Mrs. Franklin B. Stewart, (Jeanne) is no newcomer to Leadership--having served on our Council in other capacities and doing much work behind the scenes at all times. Jeanne places an inspirational thought in our WOC Newsletter--opens our Council Meetings with a devotional--is in close contact with Pastor teaching Moderator's Classes for Circle Bible Study and assists in providing reference material for Moderators. She assists in securing Moderators when this service is needed, for the development of Bible Studies in the Circles. She participates in such Presbytery programs as Prayer Retreats, Prayer Workshop and World Community Day. As Jeanne will tell you, "her duty is to strive to understand and help others to understand the implications of faith for the fulfillment of the Christian Woman's distinctive role in an increasingly perplex Society."

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Our Leadership and Resources Chairwoman, Mrs. Benjamin R. Felts (Jean) is serving her second year in this capacity. She is quite active, not only in this position, but in all facets of our work. Probably the major function of this Committee is the nomination of Officers and Chairpersons for the Women of the Church; and I am sure all of us offer out heartiest congratulations to the Nominating Committee for those who have been selected in the past. All have worked hard and done their job without complaint. By now, you can readily understand that the work of WOC does not just happen--it is planned--and much time and energy is expended behind the scenes so that all of these Activities and Projects move smoothly. Cards were sent to all High School and all College Graduates in June. Bayside had three delegates to the Enrichment Week and three to the weekend Conference of the Women at Massanetta Springs in July. Arrangements were made for two members of the Presbytery Board to come to Bayside for the training of Leaders for the 1976-1977 year. These ladies held their own sessions following the General Meeting on September 21st. Materials were ordered from Atlanta for the New Church Year's activities and purchased elsewhere for Bible Moderator's use.

She attended all Board Meetings and visited with three Circles, bringing them news of projects in which other Circles were interested. She assisted other Board Members in serving dinner for Session Training Meeting and attended Sixty-Fourth Annual Conference of Elizabeth River District 1, with nine other women from our church. On December 19, she organized a Coffee Hour for all college and seminary students home for the holidays, (their friends were also invited) to bring them together for comparison of schools, studies, exchange of ideas, but to let them know in a positive manner of our interest and love in them, always.

Our out-going Christian Community Action Leader, Mrs. T. S. Williams, (Glenda) was busy, as usual, with the many demands on her time and talents, but she responded and was available when the calls came.

Our in-coming Christian Community Action Leader, Mrs. David Peckens (Mary) is an inspired young woman. She was well instructed by Glenda and had no difficulty in starting right in and carrying on the work without any "hitches." The projects for which Glenda and Mary were responsible during the year are as follows:

(1) STOP: - Our Circles provided twenty-one children with birthday cakes and gifts. There are many of us who find no particular thrill in seeing a wrapped package or a birthday cake but you cannot, for one minute, imagine the joy these items bring to the little faces of those deprived children, many of whom are experiencing the delight of their first birthday gift or their first birthday cake.

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(2) FOOD PANTRY: - This has been most fulfilling and a joy to know we are able to help people in the Bayside area. We joined with three other churches to form a "Food Bank" and one week a month our Church is responsible for furnishing food to those people sent to us by a reliable Agency. Church Members are asked to bring food on one designated Sunday, and our youth assist our Chairwoman and Committee in putting it away. The Children's Church or "Little Church" prepared a basket from our supplies at Thanksgiving to share with St. Columba Church. We have been able to help many families this year, and feel this long range plan is quite beneficial. Our Special Communion Offering is used to buy these perishables which are needed, but which cannot be stored.

(3) SHORE DRIVE CONVALESCENT HOME: - All active Circles continue to visit on a monthly basis to this Home. On May 15 we provided food, costumes and workers to help with a Bicentennial Party for the patients. We have lists of the patients, listing birthdays, likes and dislikes, and throughout the year they are remembered with cards and gifts. This is especially true during the holidays seasons when gifts are taken and parties are planned for the patients. Again, we experience that throb of love when we see the glow on the faces of these confined persons, knowing someone cares.

(4) LYNCHBURG PRESBYTERIAN HOME: - We sent \$250.00 to this Home to provide for the needs of Stormy Kinzer. He is the boy "adopted" by our WOC, in the sense we make ourselves responsible for him. At Christmas money was collected and a Calculator and Recharger were sent to him. He will be remembered on his birthday and at Easter with gifts.

(5) ALUMINUM PROJECT: - We worked on this project last year to help Cerebral Palsy's budget. However, this was discontinued in the summer. If and when it is reinstated, you may be sure we will be helping out by saving and collecting aluminum foil.

Our out-going Ecumenical Missions and Relations Chairwoman, Mrs. Gaston Aycock (Lillian) was ever busy. From February through May she guided the WOC in the Norfolk Sample Drug Program. However, this was discontinued as of July 31, 1976, bringing to an end twenty years of help to medical work in a variety of countries overseas. The reasons for this Program being discontinued were basically Economic, Political and rooted in something for which we have all hoped, that is, the self-development of underdeveloped and underprivileged countries. A major factor was the development of local pharmaceutical industries. Naturally, their Government is interested in protecting these young industries and encouraging hospitals within the country to buy locally. The Presbytery sent their "THANKS" to all who gave of their time in helping support this project. If it is reactivated, you may be sure our women will be a part of it.

In February we held a "Witness Family Dinner." Our gifts went to support Dr. and Mrs. Richard C. Brown in Zaire. Each Circle was also requested to write to the Browns telling them what we were doing here at Bayside. It was indeed a unique and rich exchange of information.

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In May we celebrated our Fifty-Fourth WOC Birthday Season with a Family Night Dinner. Gifts from this Birthday Season were used as follows:

- One-Half to Bangladesh Christian Health Care Team Ministry Project.
- One-Fourth to Kentucky to enable the Christian Service Ministry Unit of Transylvania Presbytery to locate Appalachian people.
- One-Fourth to Oklahoma to the Goodland Presbyterian Children's Home in Hugo to help Indian and other youth.

Doesn't it give you a deep, deep feeling of satisfaction to realize how far spread you are witnessing by your gifts here at Bayside? In conjunction with Church World United, we collected clothing, yard goods and soap. It was packed and delivered to Lynnhaven Colony United Church. Ten dollars was sent to cover cost of shipping.

We have Seven ACTIVE WOC Circles and two Unenlisted. All Active Circles meet either Tuesday or Wednesday morning, except Circle Number Four, which meets at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday. This Circle was created to enable those women who work to yet be able to participate in and take an active part in the life of the Church. The Unenlisted Circles are contacted frequently by their Chairwomen, and when possible, or they so desire, they move into an active Circle.

Our Circles were well attended with an average attendance per Circle of twelve. As always, the emphasis is prayer for each other as we serve the Lord. The many, many ways in which WOC served their Lord, in addition to the active participation in all the projects previously mentioned in this History, under the Chairwoman Program Reports, were varied, and as follows:

- (1) - Contribution to Student Aid Seminary Fund monthly.
- (2) - Working on Norfolk Sample Drug Program.
- (3) - Providing volunteers for "Meals-On-Wheels".
- (4) - Teaching in Vacation Bible School.
- (5) - Assisting weekly at Bayside Health Clinic.
- (6) - Providing cookies and drinks for Vacation Bible School.
- (7) - Serving as Hostesses for all Family Night Suppers as well as for May Birthday Day Celebration and General Meetings in April and September.
- (8) - Hosted the Coffee for the Women of Elizabeth River District 1 when Lena Clausell spoke.
- (9) - Collected Coupons and Stamps for some of our Church School projects.
- (10) - Participated in "CONCERN", a program of visiting with the elderly and shut-ins.
- (11) - Contributed money for necessary items in Church kitchen.

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- (12) - Contributed to Bell Choir in memory of Patty Hopkins
- (13) - Attended World Day of Prayer.
- (14) - Participated in "Least Coin Fellowship."
- (15) - Two of our women attended Annual Meeting of WOC Norfolk Presbytery.
- (16) - Remembered "Special Friends" on Valentines Day and their Birthdays.
- (17) - Gave a luncheon for one of our dear members, Coppie MacLeod, who was moving to Florida. Her husband, John MacLeod, was Presbyterian Executive of the Norfolk Presbytery. Coppie is greatly missed.
- (18) - Placed Easter lilies on the Altar for the Easter Service and Poinsettias for the Christmas season--these were later delivered to shut-ins.
- (19) - Hosted Pastor's Coffees and gave transportation to persons unable to attend otherwise.
- (20) - Donated to Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of Joe E. Wyatt, husband of our dear member, Ruth Wyatt.
- (21) - Contributed to Missionary Fund.
- (22) - Council sent seven delegates to the Massanetta Springs Enrichment Conference.
- (23) - Taught in Sunday School.
- (24) - Provided teachers for Kindergarten Class during 11:00 A.M. Service.
- (25) - Sung in Church Choir.
- (26) - Participated in Bell Choir.
- (27) - Participated in Prayer Retreat at Makemie Woods.
- (28) - Helped with Food Pantry.
- (29) - Visited shut-ins and kept in touch.
- (30) - Prayed with and for each other.

Circle Number Five is known as "Task Force" and following are some of the accomplishments this year:

Gave ten lap robes to Medic Center.
Knitted twelve caps for S.T.O.P. children.
Knitted fifteen shoulder shawls for Shore Drive Convalescent Home.
Knitted twelve shoulder shawls for Holmes Convalescent Home.
Made twelve terry cloth bibs for chair patients at Holmes Convalescent Home.
Knitted caps for both men and women at the Petersburg Mental Home.
Contributed \$15.00 to Camp Hope Haven towards camp for one girl.

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Number Six is our "Cancer Bandage" Circle and following is some of the work they accomplished:

Gave a vibrator to the Cerebral Palsy Program.
Helped as volunteers in the Cerebral Palsy Class.
Tore sheets and made 244 Bed Pads for the American Cancer Society.

Mrs. Lawrence Edmonds (Alice) continues to keep our "Flower Calendar." Anyone wishing to place flowers in the Sanctuary on Sundays or other occasions so indicates by placing their name under the month and Sunday they wish to give. This is a beautiful way for members to express their love.

We have a "Greeters Calendar" - kept by Mrs. Edward Borchers (Mary Jane). She has two couples serving each Sunday, one couple standing on either side of the doorway to greet the members as they enter the Sanctuary, and to give them a smile and word of cheer on their way out.

Our "Membership Roll" is being kept by Mrs. Charles Hicks, (Frances). She Assails this work with vigor and you may believe she keeps it up to date and knows who has been in attendance, and to contact those who have not. We feel this is an excellent innovation.

We have a "Next of Kin" record, which was originated by Mrs. Cary Stone. Members wanting to give information as to the person or persons they would want notified in case of an emergency (and who may not have other family here) may do so by contacting Mrs. Cary Stone or calling the Church Office.

Our ever faithful Card Chairwoman, Mrs. Alfred Duncan (Ruby) sent three hundred seventy four cards this year to shut-ins, the sick and bereaved. She has served in this capacity for many, many years and we are grateful and extend our thanks for her devotion.

By now you must be thinking there couldn't be any more, but there is, and that is our beautiful Music Department and the beautifully inspired Music Director, Mrs. Hugh Sisson (Frances). With her lovely music she inspires us to want to "lift our voices and make a joyful noise unto the Lord." She is in charge of our Adult Choir, Adult and Junior Bell Choir and works with the Youth Fellowship in singing. This past year Frances, with the help of many of our talented women, formed a choir known as "The Escapees." This name was given them by our beloved Pastor, Mr. Hutcheson-- he said they left all their housework and troubles at home and escaped to the Church on Monday mornings. You cannot know the joy this group has given. They have gone to Nursing Homes and performed and are so well accepted that the demands for their time and talent are greater than they can fulfill. Our December 19 Service was "The Christmas Message in Scripture and Music." All of us were awed with the beautiful music and the story of God's gift to us.

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Another gracious, lovely person in our midst is our Church Secretary, Mrs. Clenton Shanks (Margaret). She has been with us for four years and in that time we have grown to love her and to depend on her. She is never too busy to take time to answer our questions, dig out information, do some typing or offer you a cup of coffee or tea. If you have stopped by the office for more than a minute and heard the phone ringing almost constantly, and note the unruffled manner in which Margaret handles it, you can appreciate her serene character.

At this time we have seven WOC serving as Ruling Elders on our Session.

Our Scrap Book Historian, Mrs. Joe E. Wyatt (Ruth) has kept well and faithfully the picture history as well as all printed information as to what is happening here at Bayside.

On December 18, 1976, our beloved Pastor Emeritus, Dr. John E. Johnson and his lovely wife, Lila, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Fifty wonderful years together doing God's work! As they would be with their daughter on the 18th, the Church held a reception for them after services on December 12. The Session allocated the funds for this and requested Mr. and Mrs. Meijert Benschop, Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher Manning and Dr. and Mrs. Fathy Abdou to serve as the coordinating committee. They had a beautiful reception and the gift they selected was a lovely clock with which Dr. and Mrs. Johnson were delighted.

No WOC History would be complete without some mention of our Pastors. If you have read this far, you know we are not a "stand still" Church, but are on the march--so much so - that we have two very busy Pastors, Mr. Fletcher C. Hutcheson and Mr. John Skelly. To them goes the credit for the growth of our Church, (with some work from the women). Both are dedicated to having all our members involved in active commitment. Mr. Hutcheson is a native of North Carolina and Mr. Skelly of New York. They are never too busy to help with a problem, and suddenly we realize it is not a problem. We call upon them constantly for suggestions, ideas and advice. Both men are on call twenty-four hours a day, and both are strongly united in their one basic goal for the Church, to administer to the total life of the community by the involvement of their people in as much of the community as possible. At Bayside we make every human effort to "practice what we preach." Thank you, Mr. Hutcheson and Mr. Skelly.

We gratefully acknowledge also the work done by our Pastors' wives, Mary Hutcheson and Jane Skelly. It would take many pages to list all these two women do. There is a saying, "When you hire a Pastor, you get two for the price of one as the wife is equally busy in the life of the church." They are well versed in the Church's operations and are therefore always available and capable of doing any job that arises. Thank you, Mary and Jane.

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This year we welcomed twenty-six women to our congregation. Many of them are now actively involved in Circles and with Committees. God gave us these new beautiful persons, but He also took from us one who was dearly loved, Mrs. Virgil Hopkins (Patty). She was always busy doing the Lord's work and wherever she went she was a witness to His love. We miss her. Two other women who had at one time been a part of our Church life were taken, Mrs. Joan Culbertson, who was living in the Blacksburg area and Mrs. Robert Coleman (Era). Mr. and Mrs. Coleman were members of our Church from July 1959 to September 1969, when they moved to Florida. It was through their divine help that we were able to proceed with our new church building. Mr. Joe E. Wyatt and Mr. Raymond H. Kabacinski, dear members, were also taken from us. We have felt keenly the loss of these dear members. Messages of love went to their families. As one candle burns out, we are thankful another is lighted.

Last year I told you about Dr. and Mrs. Edgar Lineken (Miriam) both being ill--different hospitals and how our church responded to their needs, their family was not in this area. Miriam is now living in the Philadelphia area--occupying her own apartment. She visited with us in October. Dr. Lineken succumbed to his illness on February 10. These loving, faithful members are missed.

At the Christmas season last year our Church sponsored three young Vietnamese men. I would now like to give you some more information about them. Phung Minh Tuan has gone to New York City to be with several brothers and sisters. We are happy for him being united with some of his family. Tran Tuan and Tran Thanh are still in this area. They are becoming accustomed to our Western ways and culture, and are now self-sustaining. They know our love is with them and that we will answer their call if they need us.

You are aware the Women of the Church are ever busy. Again this year they had a huge turn out for their Plum Pudding Festival--the women baked the puddings--also baked cookies and cake for those not desiring the pudding. This affair, I am sure, will be repeated again and again by popular demand. Mrs. James Parrett (Louise) instructed the Couples Club in making wreaths and swags, and this group did a beautiful job of decorating our hallways and Sanctuary. They also trimmed our two Christmas trees and contributed money toward help for the four needy families we found during this season. Our women participated in Special Christmas and Advent Services. They also provided ways and means for many shut-ins to get out for some Christmas shopping.

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We extend deep thanks to Mrs. Edna Etheridge and Mrs. Lawrence Edmonds (Alice) who have devoted so much time and worked so diligently to make our Library such that one knows where and how to look for the material wanted. We have a fine Library and each year it is being upgraded. In most every instance Reference Material, when needed, is available. These two women are responsible for this fine facility. Thanks so much from all of us.

This is a long history, but how can it be shorter when there is so much activity and so much to tell? There are many, many acts of love taking place each minute that it would be almost impossible to list them. There is never a need for a ride--baby sitter--hot meal--trip to the doctors--store--bank or wherever that someone isn't there eager to answer the call.

How wonderful is the touch of a hand in passing--a smile--prayers--a telephone call--our presence--a "hi and how are you" when we have just a minute. I do strongly feel that WOC could be translated to "WORK OF THE CHURCH" - instead of Women of The Church - because it is total dedication by all - men, women, youth and children.

In the worship of God, we exercise our highest priority and noblest purpose. We bear one another's burdens, and because we do, we must be ready and willing to bear witness to Christ's love for us and ours for Him. "By many hands the work of God is done." (Richard LeGallienns) - so let us make certain His work is done, and that always there are enough hands. We will move forward "UNAFRAID" --- Bayside Presbyterian Church is on the MOVE!!

Respectfully submitted:

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

Historian WOC of Bayside Presbyterian Church
Virginia Beach, Va. - 23455

From 1975 to 1977