

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY  
BAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

1977

(Women of the Church)

We have been blessed another year with many opportunities to serve the Lord both within our community and in a farther reaching way. There are many challenges for our church women to not only provide valuable service but to receive personal fulfillment.

Women's Council continues to meet once a month. The Board is also frequently called upon to assist the ministers and church programs in various activities which arise throughout the year. General meetings were held twice during the year. In April our guest speaker was Mrs. Kathleen Ober, well known to church groups in our area, who touched us with beautiful thoughts in her talk, "Remembrance Lights Candles". Past WOC President, Mrs. John E. Reed, was presented with a Life Membership in WOC. The September general meeting traditionally is installation of new officers by our ministers Mr. Fletcher Hutcheson and Mr. John Skelly. The Bell Choir also performed, under the able leadership of our dedicated Minister of Music, Mrs. Hugh Sisson.

Mrs. Morris Bell (Ellen) serves most graciously and efficiently as President of WOC. She presided over all monthly Council meetings and together with the Council planned the work and activities of the women's work. She also presided over the two general meetings and the combined circle meetings in July and August. Not only is she involved in obvious responsibilities but in the many unseen efforts which constantly come up in our large and active organization. Among her many 1977 activities are included the following:

1. Coordinating the "Stork" Shower the WOC gave for our associate minister's wife, Mrs. John Skelly.
2. Working with the Ecumenical Missions and Relations Chairman in planning the WOC birthday celebration in May.
3. Giving blood when the bloodmobile was at our church in April and September.
4. Serving on the planning committee of the Session.
5. Attending the orientation classes to tell new church members about WOC.
6. Helping with meals-on-wheels, carrying food to sick and shut-ins once a month.

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7. Participating with her family in a special Easter Lenten service.
8. Providing dessert during the training weekend for the elders.
9. Attending a meeting with representatives from the Presbyterian churches in Norfolk Presbytery to get help for Providence Presbyterian Church in canvassing their neighborhood.
10. Meeting with other WOC presidents in Elizabeth River District I to plan Annual Conference in October.
11. Serving on nominating committee to nominate elders.
12. During the Advent and Christmas seasons she participated in a number of activities: coordinated, obtained volunteers and served as hostess for the Plum Pudding Festival and baked one of the puddings; helped with the coffee for the college students given by WOC.
13. Once a year the local presidents of Norfolk Presbytery are invited to attend the annual council meeting of the WOC of Norfolk Presbytery. Ellen attended this meeting and learned much valuable information which she was able to share with our Council.

In addition, Ellen has been active in the Church Women United. She attended the forums in January and April and the May Fellowship. She was a participant in the World Day of Prayer. By attending a different circle each month she has been able to keep in close contact with all the circles and their members.

As Vice President of WOC from January through September, Mrs. John Tefft (Brum) has published a newsletter each month except July and August. She compiled the WOC roster and contacted many of the members concerning their desires as to circle membership. She made an attempt to contact all new women members of the church and give them information concerning our activities. She also visited most all the circles during the year.

In July Mrs. Tefft drove to Massanetta Springs with three of our church women to attend the weekend Enrichment Conference for WOC. The theme was "The Word and Women" and it proved to be most interesting and enlightening.

Mrs. Oscar Edwards (Aundrea) ably continued the work during the beginning of her Vice President's term October through December, publishing the monthly newsletter, attending each council meeting, and contacting new members. She assigns circles their various monthly responsibilities.



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attended the District Conference, and monthly circle meetings. In addition to her officer duties, Mrs. Edwards is also a choir member, attends Sunday School, sings with the ladies' choral group at Bayside, visiting many nursing homes in the area, and helped provide refreshments for the Mission Briefing of the Norfolk Presbytery held at our church in November.

Mrs. Joseph Clark (Dot) was most faithful and proficient in performing as Secretary of WOC. In addition to attending and recording minutes at council and general meetings, she conducts council correspondence as directed by the President. Mrs. Clark also attended May Fellowship Day and the October District Meeting.

Mrs. J. H. Casper (Mattielee) served as Treasurer from January through September and Mrs. Charles Hicks (Frances) started her new term in October. She reports a balance on hand as of December 31, 1977, in the amount of \$483.95.

Besides our regular expenses, during the year WOC contributed to the following: Salvation Army, Memorial tower's purchasing handbells, mastectomy bra, Heart Fund, least coin, birthday offering, support for Stormy Kinner, Zuni training School, Friends of the Seminary, Union Theological Seminary, St. Columba Church in Norfolk, and Presbyterian Home in Lynchburg.

As Chairmen of Personal Faith and Family Life, Mrs. Franklin B. Stewart (Jeanne) attempts to assist the church women in the effort of each to understand the implications of faith for the fulfillment of her distinctive role as a Christian woman. She most conscientiously has served in the following areas:

1. Provides liason with Pastor teaching Moderators' classes for circle Bible study.
2. Studies and recommends to the Council, reference material for Bible moderators.
3. Assists in securing moderators when this service is needed for the development of Bible studies in the circles.
4. Participates in such Presbytery programs as church conferences, prayer retreats, and prayer workshops.
5. Provides liason with the Worship Committee.
6. Presents devotionals at council meetings of the WOC and general meetings of WOC.

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7. Submits suggestions to the council for approval and coordination with the total program for the WOC.

8. Serves on special committees, such as the Budget Committee.

Christian Community Action Chairman Mrs. David Peckens (Mary) has ably coordinated the following endeavors:

1. Shore Drive Convalescent Home - Each circle takes a turn visiting the home once a month.

2. Food Pantry - We continue to participate with five other churches in our area to provide food and a small cash donation to those requiring our help, mainly through Social Services.

3. S.T.O.P. - We provided cakes and presents for twenty-four children. The summer children were honored at a group party in May.

4. Stormy Kinger - A camera and flashbulbs (\$23.00) were sent to Stormy for his birthday and a check (\$6.00) and small box of candy for Easter. A \$25.00 contribution was sent him at Christmas. The program will change at the end of 1977 and we shall no longer support Stormy. We shall sponsor a \$250.00 clothing allowance fund.

5. Crosswars School - Trading stamps were sent.

6. Vacation Church School - Circles provided juice mixes and cookies for six days of classes.

Ecumenical Missions and Relations Chairman Mrs. Charles Speight (Frances), reports a highlight of the year was our birthday month in May with visits from our missionaries in Zaire, Dr. and Mrs. Richard C. Brown. Dr. Brown preached at a Sunday church service. We were privileged to have Mrs. Brown as guest speaker at our birthday celebration - a family night dinner. She shared insights and answered questions concerning the people, places they have lived, and work of the church at their mission station. A film strip was also shown.

The gifts from the birthday offerring was divided into three parts:

One-third for evangelistic outreach in Africa.

One-third toward helping establish a Center for Ministry with the aging.

One-third toward helping establish a fund for local churches and presbyteries become involved in the criminal justice issue.



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Other areas overseen by Mrs. Speight were:

1. Fall clothing drive for Church World Service was held the week of November 20. She packed the clothing in boxes and delivered it to Lynnhaven Presbyterian Church. Ten dollars was sent to cover shipping.
2. A check for \$25.00 was donated for White Cross.

Leadership and Resources Chairman from January through September was Mrs. Benjamin Felts (Jean). During the winter she diligently headed the nominating committee to secure a slate of officers for WOC. This was presented to the council and session in March and placed in nomination at the April general meeting of WOC. In March she took part in the C.W.U. program at Haygood Methodist Church and attended the Presbytery meeting in Hampton. In July Mrs. Felts attended the weekend conference at Massanetta and ordered materials from Atlanta for the incoming officers.

Mrs. Larry Bobst (Margaret) took over as Leadership and Resources Chairman in October. At that time she purchased two books for the church library to be used as enrichment and resource material for circles in their Bible study. The books are God Speaks to Women Today and All the Women of the Bible.

During the Christmas holidays, Mrs. Bobst planned and carried out a reception for college students of our church who were home for the holidays. The reception was held during the 9:45 - 10:45 A.M. Sunday School hour. The fourteen young people present seemed to enjoy this coffee hour and the fellowship of getting together again.

We have seven active WOC circles and two unenlisted. All active circles meet either the second Tuesday or Wednesday morning of the month except Circle number Four, which meets at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday. Our circles have been well attended with an average monthly attendance of about eighty-five for the combined active circles. The unenlisted circle women are contacted by their chairman to keep in touch, and when possible or they desire, they move into an active circle. Circles emphasize Bible study, prayer, and active participation in church and worthwhile community projects. They also encourage warm fellowship together and caring for each other.

During January through September circles continued with the book of Ephesians for monthly Bible studies. In October we started studying Women of the Bible. In July, all circles met at the church for a joint evening meeting and in August for a picnic at a local park.

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Circles worked together in the following projects which brought us closer together and gave us the feeling that we are really "One in Christ":

1. Birthday cakes and gifts for S.T.O.P.
2. Contribution to Student Aid Seminary fund monthly.
3. Collected food for Food Pantry.
4. Prayer group.
5. Visits to Shore Drive Convalescent Home, providing fellowship, gifts, and often music and recreation for patients.
6. Visited sick and shut-ins, taking gifts and food, providing transportation when needed.
7. Attended World Day of Prayer and District Conference.
8. Attended Annual Presbyterial Meeting.
9. Least Coin Fellowship monthly.
10. Shower for Jane Skelly.
11. Donations to Stormy Kinzer for support and birthday, Easter and Christmas gifts.
12. Sent cards to the sick.
13. Volunteered drivers for Meals-on-Wheels community program for the elderly and ill.
14. Provided cookies and drink mix for Vacation Church School.
15. Provided cookies for bus trip for Cerebral Palsy group which meets at church.
16. Hymnals presented to church as memorials for circle members.
17. Donated money to Salvation Army.
18. Served as hostesses for church suppers, birthday dinner, Plum Pudding Festival, and general meetings of WOC.



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19. Donated to Heart Fund and other organizations.
20. Assisted weekly as Red Cross volunteers at Boone Clinic and helped in Blood Bank drives whenever they were held at the church.
21. Coordinated and assisted coffee with the Pastors.
22. Bought poinsettias for church altar at Christmas.
23. Donated clothing to Church World Service Clothing Appeal.
24. Participated in Bible study classes.
25. Prepared birthday baskets for circle members.
26. Contributed to the School for Retarded Children.
27. Contributed to LINK program at Sunnyside Presbyterian Home.
28. Contributed cancelled postage stamps to Crossnore School.
29. Supported and contributed money to family (widow with two teenage children) at Robin Hood Apartments in Norfolk at Christmas time.
30. Collected four station wagons full of clothing and toys for Christmas distribution at St. Columba Church.
31. Eight women served as elders.
32. Attended Enrichment Conference at Massanetta Springs.
33. Many women served as members of Sessional committees, teachers for Sunday School and during church hour, and worked with the Youth Groups.
34. Participated in the church's musical programs such as choir, hand bell choir, and Women's Chorus.

Our "Task Force" circle number five lists the following year's accomplishments:

Six dresses for White Cross.  
Four bibs for Convalescent Home.  
Nine laprobes, twelve scarves, twelve bibs, and five booties  
for Holmes Nursery.  
Twelve laprobes, six booties, and magazines for Medic Health  
Center.

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Covered and delivered thirty shoe boxes to be used as gift boxes by the Tidewater Mental Health Center.  
Knitted and delivered eight pairs of slippers and thirty-three caps to nursing homes.

"Cancer Bandage" circle number six tore sheets and made two-hundred and nine bed pads for the American Cancer Society.

In addition to the aforementioned, our women serve in many capacities too numerous on which to elaborate. I shall attempt to mention a few.

Mrs. Edna Etheridge, assisted by Mrs. Fred Edmonds (Margaret) devote much time in the church library. This past year new resource materials were acquired and they are hoping to replace the book shelves with new ones to give more needed shelf space.

Mrs. Lawrence Edmonds (Alice) maintained our "Flower" calendar where-upon sign-ups for weekly altar flowers are received. Mrs. Edward Borchers (Mary Jane) was responsible for the "Greeters" calendar in obtaining greeters at the door for each Sunday 11:00 A.M. service.

Our faithful Card Chairman, Mrs. Alfred Duncan (Ruby) sent three-hundred and sixty-two cards from the congregation to shut-ins, sick, and bereaved.

Scrapbook Historian Mrs. Joe Wyatt (Ruth) has carefully kept the picture history and printed information of people and events at Bayside.

Sunday School Superintendent Mrs. Marvin S. Clements, Jr. (Caye) spends untold hours overseeing the church school in the teaching and guidance of our youth and adult classes.

In 1977 we welcomed thirty-six women into our congregation as new members. They attended orientation classes prior to joining, and every attempt was made to assimilate them into the work and fellowship of the church. We were saddened by the death of three of our women: Mrs. T. F. May (Louise) in January; Mrs. Jacques Zaneveld (Angelina) in October; and Mrs. William A. Oden (Sarah) in December.

The Cradle Roll was kept by Mrs. Everett Brickhouse (Annie Mae), followed by Mrs. Charles Brake (Martha). They worked with the Sunday School in a watch-care program, staying in contact with the newborn to two year old children of our church and church school.

Lavish praise is rightfully due our church staff. Our two ministers, Mr. Fletcher C. Hutcheson and Mr. John Skelly, spend never-ending hours



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in seen and unseen church duties -- the extent of which are far too many to list. They are most ably assisted by our gracious church Secretary, Mrs. Clenton Shanks (Margaret). During the year, Miss Cheryl Proctor joined the staff part time to assist Mrs. Shanks.

Our fine Minister of Music, Mrs. Hugh Sisson, Jr. (Frances), devotes many hours working with our music groups. She directs and trains the Adult Choir, Adult and Junior Hand Bells Choirs, and the Monday Morning Womens' Chorus. This last group brings much joy through music and caring to our area's nursing homes, besides performing at various church and community functions.

Couples Club, under the direction of Dr. and Mrs. Duane G. Wombolt, met monthly for good fellowship and varied programs. An outstanding contribution of this group was decorating the church for Christmas. They also trimmed our two Christmas trees in the sanctuary.

We must not fail to mention the valuable assistance of our ministers' wives, Mary Hutcheson and Jane Skelly. Besides the loving support given their husbands in their ministry, these two women minister themselves personally in many widespread areas of our church program.

The year 1977 was busy and fulfilling. It was exciting to see so many different people and groups working together with one goal -- the expanding of God's Kingdom on earth, as helped to be made possible by our hands. With God's continuing guidance, we move forward in better serving Him in the coming year.

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