

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Presbyterian Women of Bayside Presbyterian Church

Virginia Beach, Virginia

2008

OVERVIEW:

Pastors: The Rev. Dr. Richard Keever, Pastor (January to May)

The Rev. Dr. Harry Daniel, Interim Pastor (since June)

The Rev. Dan D. Dickenson, Interim Associate Pastor

The Rev. Benjamin Skidmore, Associate Pastor for Outreach

Presbyterian Women of Bayside works under the leadership of a Coordinating Committee consisting of the officers, program chairpersons, and chairpersons 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 602 women in the church membership of 1,028, with 97 active in 7 circles. We have two general gatherings in the fall and spring, and install officers in May. Nineteen women were on session, all of whom headed or served on session committees, along with PWC members who were not currently on session.

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

The Coordinating Committee for January, 2008 through May, 2008 was as follows:

Officers:

Moderator	Peggy Damuth
Vice Moderator	Michele Parker
Secretary	Angela Marcotte
Treasurer	Suzanne Hanley
Historian	Libby Nybakken Graves

Program Chairpersons:

Food Pantry	Audre Cannell & Lynne Owen
Spiritual Nurture	Cathleen Ritzo
Ecumenical Missions	Diane Towler

Circle Chairpersons:

Circle #2	Peggy Reed & Judy Crossman
Circle #3	Libby Nybakken Graves & Virginia Hill
Circle #4	Michele Parker
Circle #6	Jean Reid & Linda Allen
Circle #7	Chris Pascuzzi & Becky Wheeler
Circle #8	Marie Parr & Paula Jesberg
Circle #10	Sue Channel & Jane Copeland

The Coordinating Committee for September 2008-December 2008 was as follows:

Officers:

Moderator	Peggy Damuth
Vice Moderator	Michele Parker
Secretary	Angela Marcotte
Treasurer	Suzanne Hanley
Historian	Libby Nybakken Graves

Program Chairpersons:

Food Pantry	Audre Cannell & Lynne Owen
Spiritual Nurture	Cathleen Ritzo
Ecumenical Missions	Diane Towler

Circle Chairpersons:

Circle #2	Peggy Reed & Judy Crossman
Circle #3	Libby Nybakken Graves & Virginia Hill
Circle #4	Michele Parker
Circle #6	Jean Reid & Betsy Thigpen
Circle #7	Chris Pascuzzi & Peggy Damuth
Circle #8	Marie Parr & Paula Jesberg
Circle #10	Jane Copeland

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

Coordinating Team: The coordinating team meets the last Monday of the month, August through April, approximately 2 weeks before the circles meet. It consists of officers, program chairpersons, and circle chairpersons. The meeting opens with a devotion from the Spiritual Nurture Chairperson. Each officer and program chairperson gives a report, followed by reports from chairpersons 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 reports of each program and circle chairperson, and prepares a monthly newsletter that includes the devotion and all reports and announcements of upcoming events. This is distributed to all circle members at their monthly meetings and available to all women in the church. The devotion is always so timely and sensitive (with some gentle chuckles) that it is published in the *Bayside Binnacle*, the monthly church newsletter.

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

member homes. Circle #6 has added a second Bible Study group meeting at the Westminster Canterbury Retirement Center on the Wednesday afternoon after their regular Tuesday meeting in order to provide Christian women at the Center and surrounding areas regular access to the spiritual nurture and study that circles provide.

The Horizons Bible Study used for the January-May 2008 period was "Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth". At first, it seemed an unlikely combination of books of the Old Testament, and yet it worked. The Bible Study from September through December was the Horizons, "Jubilee!: Luke's Gospel for the Poor," which seemed to be almost everyone's favorite New Testament Gospel. We all welcomed the chance to get into some depth into this short Gospel.

Our pastors rotated leadership of a monthly class for the Bible Study moderators of each circle until this fall when, Rev. Daniel assumed that responsibility and opened the class to the entire congregation. Bible study is such an important part of our lives that we are very grateful to our ministers for sharing their knowledge and insights into the Scriptures, which we can bring to our circles.

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.

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 brunch in a beautifully decorated setting, provided by the Coordinating Committee under the direction of Diane Towler, Ecumenical Missions coordinator. The women were able to just come, eat, learn, and socialize without having to cook or clean. The Spring Gathering is a wonderful get-together for everyone as an ending to our PW year with the installation of officers for the coming year. This year it was held on 31 May at 10:00 a.m. The date had to be changed to accommodate other events, as was the time so that the Presbyterian Men would have time to clean up after their breakfast. The men were such efficient cleaners that we could have met at our usual time. A special

honoree was Judy Crossman, our 2008 recipient of the Woman of Faith Award. The 48 women present donated \$528.00 to the Birthday Offering.

The Fall Gathering was held on 27 September at our usual time of 9:30 a.m. and lived up to the expected quality of food and decorations. The 37 members present welcomed the opportunity to reconnect with each other, sharing news of their summer activities and plans for the next year. The Rev. Ben Skidmore gave an excellent overview on our 2008-09 Bible study books, "Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor", which were on hand for sale and distribution. The "Thank Offering" amounted to \$352.00.

Moderator Peggy Damuth represented Bayside at the PW of PEVA meeting on the morning of 13 September at Virginia Beach Grace Covenant Church. They were celebrating 20 years of the existence of Presbyterian Women. PWC maintains its active involvement with Christian women of all denominations in the area, at formal events sponsored by the various churches and in the informal contact in neighborhood and school functions. Church Women United is quite active, and PWC hosts and attends as many of their meetings as is possible. Moderator Peggy Damuth and Vice Moderator, Michele Parker were honored as "Outstanding Young Church Members" by the Church Women United at their meeting and pot luck dinner at the Foundry United Methodist Church in Virginia Beach on May 2. Alas, the three PWC members who had signed up to attend the CWU Human Rights Celebration on September 20th at the Salem United Methodist Church (two of whom, Cathy Ritzo and Angela Marcotte were nominated to receive recognition), could not do so. In view of the theme, "God's Wisdom Honors Children," it is rather ironic that every nominee had to help with a boy scouts camping trip that weekend!

PWC also works with CWU and their churches in other ecumenical activities in spiritual and community development. There are too many of these to list or even mention. Four women (Lynne Owen, Lucy Page, Marie Parr, and Rose Ann Wehr) participated in the Women's Retreat on "Sacred Spaces—Finding God in All the Right Places" hosted by Haygood United Methodist Church on February 1-2. Three members (Lynne Owen, Marie Parr, and Connie Zuidema) joined others at the Thalia Lynn Baptist Church Women's Conference/Retreat, "Splash the Living Water," February 22-23. Nancy Hamilton and Marie Parr returned to Thalia

Lynn Baptist Church on August 11-12 to attend the Beth Moore Living Proof Live Simulcast. Bayside hosted the St Columbia's Silent Auction and Benefit Dinner on April 19 at 6:30 p.m. Few PWC members could attend, but Em Chapman reported that it was a great success.

PWC Contributions to the Church. A new tradition, the "Woman of Faith" award was established last year to honor at least one of our many outstanding women who provide a model of faith and service to which all Christians aspire. Judy Crossman was the recipient in 2008 and was honored at our Spring Gathering. (A brief biography was included in the Historian's Report for 2007).

One of the major charities at our church is the Food Pantry, which is run expertly by our Food Pantry Chairpersons, Audre Cannell and Lynne Owen. They train and coordinate volunteer shoppers to work Monday through Friday throughout the year. These women are called on to shop for 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 general congregation. Given the current economic situation and the increasing numbers of families who have to choose between paying rent or obtaining food, the Food Pantry is in need of more support. So PW members publicly reminded the congregants in our three services of the need for more donations and privately contacted an "angel" or two who are strong supporters of this mission.

There were many other events in 2008 in which all circles participated. The Lenten dinners were held each Wednesday at our church from February 6 through March 12. At each dinner, one or two circles assumed the responsibility for selling tickets, setting up tables, serving dinner, and cleaning up after the dinner. We expect a slightly different arrangement next year.

The PWC circles rotate the responsibility of tidying, updating, and replacing materials in the pew racks throughout the year. We were buying simple black pens to replace the motley collection of advertising utensils until the worship committee purchased proper PCUSA pens, which are much more attractive. The PWC brochure is updated and printed every year to keep that information current and is placed in the pew racks, the boxes at the entrance of the new

contemporary service, "Sail On," the informational kiosk in the atrium, and sent to potential church members with other material. Each circle provides a brief description of itself and meeting times and places to give women some details on each circle and the unique ways it fulfills the general mission of the PWC.

Every September, each circle adopts a first year college student who is a member or friend of our church. Our Spiritual Nurture Chairperson, Cathy Ritzo, identifies those who want to be contacted and uncovers their addresses with a persistence and accuracy that Google can only aspire to. The circles then send correspondence, small gifts, and words of encouragement to these youth who are away from home, often for the first time. This is a very well received activity that helps these young people know that they have special friends who are praying for and thinking of them. This year, most circles "adopted" two college students and employed a wide variety of creative ways to establish and maintain contact. We promised to nurture them when they were baptized and this is one time in their lives when they really need it.

Another activity enjoyed by all the circles is the Angel Tree Gift Tags at Christmas. Each Christmas, our church buys hundreds of gifts for people of all ages who, otherwise, might not receive any. Each circle purchased several gifts, in addition to those that their individual members provided. This is why we actively recruit shoppers and women with children who know what all these requests are and how best to meet them. eg: Question, "Should I buy a cute Mickey Mouse watch for a 13 year old girl?" Answer, "NO"!

Any un- or gently-used study guides for 2008, plus the accompanying Horizon Bible Studies were sent to circles at a Presbyterian Church that could ill afford to purchase the current study guides. Because these scriptures and the issues they address do not go out of date, they can be used at any time. This past year, the guides were sent to PW at Oakdale Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, who will be using this material for their 2009 Bible Studies.

A group of PWC members have been crocheting both baby blankets and prayer shawls to be given to those in need. When a number of the blankets were donated to The Dwelling Place, for its on-line auction fund raiser, this quiet mission work received more exposure. Buyers

snapped up these soft, lovely, non-chemical blankets for whatever new-born they knew. Blankets were offered to other groups who care for babies and toddlers. The prayer shawls crocheted by "Sisters in Stitches," are also becoming more popular. They come in their own bag, with a prayer and a card signed by all who crocheted them. Comfort is often a very physical thing, when words do not suffice.

Rather than asking only the PWC to purchase the greens and wreaths to decorate the church for the Christmas season, this year the request was extended to all members of the congregation. PWC had already taken up a second collection in each circle to make up for an unforeseen shortfall in the total cost of last year's decorations, but the circles cheerfully contributed the cost of a wreath, poinsettia, or scholarship in honor of, or memorial to, an outstanding woman of the church.

PWC members anticipated a delightful time during the Deck the Halls Christmas decorating effort on November 29 for they were also asked to scoop up any wayward children who might venture into the aisles and sanctuary when a wedding ceremony was taking place at the same time. Alas, the children were very well behaved and supervised; the wedding was beautiful and dignified; the Christmas decorating went on as scheduled; and PWC had to make their own, quiet fun.

In their culinary capacity, all circles contributed snacks or covered dishes whenever requested for receptions, funerals, and the fond farewell to the Rev. Richard J. Keever, our pastor for over 26 years.

Individual Circles; All circles provide love, nurturing, and support of their members, which is a very important part of our ministry. Often we call on members of different circles as we visit those who are home or hospital bound and their families; providing meals, transportation, errand running, and just plain visiting. In addition to the activities noted elsewhere, each circle buys Easter lilies, Christmas poinsettias, flowers, cards, and gifts for members. They also host receptions for funerals of circle members and their families.

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. Members of Circle #6 assemble the monthly church newsletter, *The Binnacle*; Circle #10 purchases educational equipment and supplies for the preschool at the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center. Some, such as Circle #2, send money to area disaster victims.

All Circles send memorial gifts to Bayside and to Sunnyside Links, supplement the PWC's 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 the area. All of these benevolences are in addition to the collective PWC financial support of local, regional, national, and international offerings and causes listed below as an addendum.

We have many members of Presbyterian Women in our church who are nurturing and effective leaders in all of the missions of Bayside. One member from Presbyterian Women each year serves on the Search Committee for new elders. Nineteen are 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 its internal and external missions. They volunteer in all areas of the church: serving on ministries and as receptionists in the church office; participating in the vocal and bell choirs; preparing and serving food to the homeless; teaching Sunday school; orchestrating our successful vacation Bible schools; volunteering in the nursery; working with our youth groups; decorating the church at Christmas; providing food for Habitat for Humanity workers; visiting shut-; tidying up the church and its grounds; and just filling in wherever they are needed. Ms. Emma Chapman is perhaps the most obvious example of these “worker bees”, but we could list so many more--all Presbyterian women of our church; none seeking earthy acknowledgement or acclaim.

All of this work goes forward, secure in the leadership of our Moderator Peggy Damuth and her equally energetic team: featuring Vice Moderator Michelle Parker and Secretary Angela Marcotte—all so involved, all with young children; most enrolled in advanced degree programs. Luckily, Suzanne Hanley, of an earlier, but equally as energetic generation, is willing to work with them to maintain our finances in the correct columns and proper order.

Special Events and Congregational Changes.

Perhaps nowhere was the PWC more important than in this transition time from one settled pastor to the identification of another and the restructuring of our worship services. The Rev. Dr. Richard Keever retired after 25 years of service to Bayside, in order to minister to the residents of the nearby Westminster Canterbury Retirement Community. PWC helped in the celebration of his 25 years of service in 2007 and the hosting of a Fond Farewell luncheon on the church grounds on May 18th. Many contributed to the Bayside Church Union Theological Seminary PSCE Intern Student Program in his honor.

Two PWC members, Annette Conley and Jean Reid, served on the 5-person Transitional Task Force charged with overseeing the transition. At the invitation of the session, The Rev. Dr. Harry Daniel came on board in an interim capacity in early June and set in place small group sessions to discuss the state and future of the church, the division of responsibilities among the pastoral team, and other practices to bring the congregation together to join in a common effort to clarify our priorities and identity as a church.

Our Saturday evening contemporary service was moved to Sunday morning at 9 a.m. to complement the 8:30 and 11:00 traditional services without radically altering the scheduling of Sunday School classes. The new service, “Sail On,” was designed to appeal to those who preferred a more informal setting and modern music in the fellowship hall, with folding chairs, banners, and some multi-media background. The Membership class was also changed from a series of one hour classes to a “Dropping Anchor” class for four hours on a Sunday afternoon every three months. PWC women have been helping in this transition and continue to provide light fare to both those in the 9:00 service and the membership classes. Every three months,

a “combined” communion service, incorporating elements of the traditional and contemporary practices, is held to remind ourselves that we are all “one” church family.

As a part of this transition, the pastoral team has also distributed a very lengthy questionnaire to all members and friends of Bayside, to help direct the leadership in assessing the state of the church and its members and in framing a call to a new pastor. PWC is encouraging everyone to join in this effort and will assist anyone who needs help. This is our future, and PWC is committed to our Christian Community.

This PWC success at outreach and mission efforts is due partially to the fact that the circles also make time to socialize and connect spiritually with each other at lunches, dinners, retreats, and other outings, both throughout the year and during the summer. 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.

Although we present no formal awards to them, we are very grateful for our Pastors, The Rev. Dr. Richard J. Keever, Ret, the Rev. Dr. Harry Daniel, the Rev. Daniel Dickensen; and the Rev. Benjamin Skidmore, for their leadership. We could never have done our work this year without the help and office support from Ms. Rita Candrilli and Ms. Marty Rich and from the creative and dedicated leadership of Mr. Daniel Wiard of Educational Ministries.

We remain a wonderful group of active and caring women who join together and with others to enrich the lives of many in our organization, church and community.

YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT: 2008

January, 2008 Beginning Balance		\$4,308.34
I. General Offerings		\$1,711.32
Least Coin	\$143.32	
Thank Offering	\$352.00	
Sunnyside Links	\$118.00	
Birthday Offering	\$528.00	
Mission Pledge	\$570.00	
II. Benevolences		\$2,279.00
Bayside Minister's Benevolent Fund	\$200.00	
Bayside Church Youth Mission Project	\$250.00	
Church World Service	\$100.00	
The Dwelling Place	\$200.00	
Edmarc Hospice for Children	\$200.00	
Union Theological Seminary-School of Christian Ed.	\$200.00	
Union Theological Seminary-Student Aid/Scholarships	\$100.00	
Keim Center for Pregnancy Crises	\$100.00	
Makemie Woods	\$200.00	
Migrant Ministry	\$100.00	
Virginia Beach Christian Women United	\$100.00	
Zuni Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands	\$200.00	
Zuni Presbyterian Training Center	\$100.00	
Banner Stand for Sail-On Service	\$229.00	
III. Operating Expenses		\$1,330.55
Horizon Magazine	\$18.00	
Bible Study Books	\$604.00	

Spring Gathering	\$156.13	
Fall Gathering	\$357.02	
Wreathes	\$65.00	
Paper for Pew Brochures	\$97.00	
Gift for 2007 auditor	\$25.00	
Postage	\$8.40	
December 31, 2008 Ending Balance		\$3.787.88

PWC SESSION LEADERSHIP (8 officers: 11 members)

Clerk of Session.....Helen Spore
Assistant Treasurers.....Barrie Jeffcoat
 Caroline Rawls
Administrative Support:.....Moderator, Ernestine Middleton
 Members: Betsy Kennedy & Mary Opitz
Community Service..... Moderator, Penny Brown
 Member: Lynn Owen
Congregational Care..... Moderator, Sandra Ronan
 Members: Susan Hudgins & Terri Wilkins
Education:..... Moderator, Bobbie Brenton
 Members: Margaret Bobst & Melissa Ludwick
Evangelism..... Moderator, Christine Pascuzzi
 Members: Carolyn Graham & Ruth Anderson
Witness
 Member: Mary Jo Kennedy
Worship..... Moderator, Berny Wallace
 Members: Judy Crossman & Ashley McLeod

PWC ELDERS (19)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class of</u>
Ruth Anderson	2010
Margaret Bobst	2009
Bobbie Brenton	2008
Penny Brown	2008
Judy Crossman	2009
Carolyn Graham	2009
Susan Hudgins	2010
Barrie Jeffcoat	2008

Betsy Kennedy	2010
Mary Jo Kennedy	2010
Melissa Ludwick	2010
Ashley McLeod	2010
Ernestine Middleton	2010
Mary Opitz	2009
Lynne Owen	2010
Christine Pascuzzi	2008
Sandra Ronan	2009
Berny Wallace	2008
Terri Wilkins	2008

PWC MEMBERS CHAIRING NON-SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

Nominating Committee (4)

Emily Rudiger

Kristyn Taylor

P.D. White

Peggy Damuth

Berny Wallace

Gifts and Furnishings Committee:

Chair: P.C. White

Music Ministries:

Chair: Catherine M. Grant

NECROLOGY 2008

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Death Date</u>	<u>Church</u>
Virginia Callahan	9/29/19	1/6/2008	Bayside Presbyterian, Church, Va. Beach
<p>Virginia Rogers was a charter member of Circle #6, which started out as a “work day” group making bed pads out of sheets folded over newspapers and secured. She was a registered nurse, but devoted much of her time to her family and church. She also was a Girl Scout leader for 25 years and joined her husband, James Callahan, in the Sentara Choral Group.</p>			
Sarah Cummings	11/29/25	3/23/2008	“
<p>Emma Adelia [Sarah] Cummings was 16 when she met and married 19 year old Harry Cummings in Richmond, VA. Even Harry didn’t know that her given name was Emma until they were about to be married. It must not have been important, for they were a happy couple for 65 years. They lived in north Caronia, western Virginia, DC, Bay Island and finally Norfolk, settling here in 1959. All the time Sarah was keeping house and raising children, she still found time to volunteer at Bayside, for the Red Cross, and for the King’s Daughters Children Hospital. In her later years, she and Harry moved to Suffolk, but stayed in touch with Dr. Keever and their friends at Bayside.</p>			
Gertrude Edmonds	10/8/16	9/12/2008	“
<p>This busy woman raised her two daughters and one son, even as she worked as a service representative in a local department store, was a mainstay of Circle #6, and still managed to keep her golf skills honed. She jokingly referred to herself as a “Texas widow,” when her husband, Fred, was working long hours at Texaco (when it was The Texas Company). The same lightheartedness surfaced when, at one stage of her life, she explained why she went grocery shopping about every day--“My teen-age son cleans out the refrigerator every night”</p>			
Martha Miracle	12/14/09	2/26/2008	“
<p>Martha Angelucci, born in Yale, Virginia, was a devoted voice and piano teacher, and a founder of the Newport News Operatic Society, which later evolved into the Virginia Opera</p>			

Company. Her artistic talents also extended to drawing, painting, and writing. She was very active in the PWC circles and celebrated for her insightful Bible studies.

Georgia Tucker 12/28/10 8/03/2008 “

Georgia Gregory was born and educated in Norfolk, She received a BS Degree in Secondary Education, English and French at Hampton Institute, became a social worker in New York City, married Alexander Tucker, and completed her MS degree at Columbia University. In New York, she helped to develop the early home-dialysis programs, published nationally, traveled extensively, photographed constantly, was a life member of the NAACP, and served as a Presbyterian elder. She retired in 1966 and moved back to Virginia Beach in 1988, where she was active in the Golden Circle at Bayside.

Vera Williams 11/9/31 10/29/ 2008 “

Vera Norton left Union County Tennessee, married John Williams and went to work in civil Service positions in the U.S. navy. After 20 years, she retired, but continued to volunteer at Bayside and sing in the choir, when she and her husband, John Williams, were not camping. She and John were also lovers of pugs, long before they became popular dogs.

Lydia Gladys Wright 9/27/16 10/27/2008 “

Lydia Gladys Swanson was born in Ducktown, Tennessee, but spent most of her mature life in Virginia. She graduated from Burie College as a registered nurse and followed that career until her retirement in 1978. She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Kirby Wright. She was a long time member of Bayside and PWC, volunteering in the church office and actively engaged in all church and circle activities. Her gardening skills, love of animals, and humor were legendary.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth [Libby] Nybakken Graves, Historian, 1 February 2008

Note for our records only not submitted as part of the report)

Recipients of Life Memberships as of December 2008

Ellen Bell

Catherine Cook

Louise Gordon

Debra O'Connell

Peggy Reed

Cathy Rtizo

Wanda Smith

Linda Wallace

Carolyn Walsh

Rose Anne Wehr