

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Presbyterian Women of Bayside Presbyterian Church

Virginia Beach, Virginia

2009

OVERVIEW:

Pastors: The Rev. Dr. Harry Daniel, Interim Pastor (January- August 31)
The Rev. Dr. George Fitzgerald, Temporary Supply Pastor (Sept. 1-January)
The Rev. Benjamin Skidmore, Associate Pastor for Outreach
The Rev Dr. Daniel Dickenson, Interim Associate Pastor

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 128 active members in 7 circles. We have two general gatherings in the fall and spring, and install officers in May. Twenty women were on the session, all of whom headed or served on session committees, along with PWC members who were not currently on session. PWC is also heavily represented on all of the major standing and ad hoc committees and representatives to other church councils, which attest to the regard in which these women are held by the congregation.

PWC collects and files the weekly bulletins, copies of the weekly newsletter, the 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 *Horizons Bible Study Guide* in all circles.

The Coordinating Committee for January, 2009 through May, 2009 was as follows:

Officers:

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

Program Chairs:

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

Circle Chairs and Co-Chairs

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	Diane Towler & Jane Copeland

The Coordinating Committee for September 2009-December 2009 was as follows:

Officers:

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

Program Chairs

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

Circle Chairs and Co-Chairs

Circle #2	Judy Crossman & Janet Straddeck
Circle #3	Libby Nybakken Gravesl
Circle #4	AnnaLisa Michalski & Jennifer Costello
Circle #6	Jean Reid & Betsy Thigpen
Circle #7	Peggy Damuth & Chris Pascuzzi
Circle #8	Marie Parr & Paula Jesberg
Circle #10	Diane Towler & 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 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 reports of each program and circle chairs, 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 is 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. This has proven to be very popular.

The Horizons Bible Study used for the January-May 2000 period was "Jubilee: Luke's Gospel for the Poor," which was very popular and sparked some lively discussions on matters ancient, contemporary, and universal. The Bible Study for September-December 2009 was "Joshua: A Journey of Faith". This was less well received initially. It took some careful consideration of the context of the period and the time in which it was written to enable us to fully comprehend its message.

Our pastors rotated leadership of a monthly class for the Bible Study moderators of each circle and any other members of the congregation who might like to attend. Bible study is such an important part of our lives that we are very grateful to our ministers for sharing their knowledge and insights, 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 leadership of Diane Towler, Ecumenical Missions Coordinator. The women are able to just come, eat, learn, and socialize without having to cook or clean. The Spring Gathering ends our PWC year with the installation of officers for the coming year. This year it was held on 30 May from 9:30-11:00 a.m. A special honoree was Lynne Owen, our 2009 recipient of the Woman of Faith Award. One woman from each table won the cute pail, with garden gloves, so she might dig in the flowering plant in a corner of her garden. The fifty women present donated \$521.00 to the Birthday Offering.

The Fall Gathering was held on 26 September from 9:30-11:00 a.m. and lived up to the expected quality of food and decorations. This time, Diane Towler had filled birch bark planters with spring bulbs as centerpieces to be given away. The thirty one members present welcomed the opportunity to reconnect with each other, sharing news of their summer activities and plans for the next year. In the absence of the Rev. Ben Skidmore, Peggy Damuth, PWC moderator, provided an overview of our 2009-10 Bible study of "Joshua." The study books were available for purchase. The "Thank Offering" amounted to \$476.00.

Moderator Peggy Damuth represented Bayside at the PW of PEVA meeting on the morning of 13 September at Virginia Beach Grace Covenant Church. 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 attended the Church Women United at their May Friendship Day Celebration Dinner meeting at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia Beach on May 1. Chris Pascuzzi represented Bayside as the Outstanding Young Church Woman of the Year. Peggy Damuth also attended the Church Women United World Community Day on November 6th. Jean Reid joined others from Bayside for the Spirit Lecture at Union Seminary on May 7. Betsy Thigpen and Ashley McLeod were delegates to the PEVA meeting on 28 July and had such a stimulating time of renewal that they energized CT members to enlist their circles to attend. Helen Spore was an alternate.

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. Three members (Lynne Owen, Marie Parr, and Pat Hughes) joined others at the Thalia Lynn Baptist Church Women's Conference/Retreat on February 20-21. Bayside hosted the St Columba's Silent Auction and Benefit Dinner on April 25. 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 in 2008 to honor at least one of our many outstanding women who provide a model of faith and service to which all Christians aspire. Lynne Owen was the recipient in 2009 and was honored at our Spring Gathering. The award made no difference; she continues with her full-time volunteer work with the same commitment and enthusiasm.

One of the major charities at our church is the Food Pantry, which is run expertly by our Food Pantry Chairs, 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. PWC members publicly reminded the congregants in our three services of the need for more donations and privately contacted an “angel” or two who are willing donors to this mission. Circle #10 even held a “shower” to raise enough food to fill thirty-one bags for the Pantry. They had such fun that others might follow their example. Presbyterians are not dour all of the time.

There were many other events in 2009 in which all circles participated. The weekly Lenten dinners were scaled back to two which preceded the worship services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. PWC set up for the dinners and cleaned up afterward. The Bible study classes were held late afternoon, early evening, and during the Sunday School hour on Sunday to accommodate the varied schedules of the congregation.

The PWC circles rotate the responsibility of tidying, updating, and replacing materials in the pew racks throughout the year. 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 the information packet sent to potential church members. Each circle provides a brief description of itself and

meeting times and places as well as 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 even Google envies. 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 the support of their friends.

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. The need was so profound this year that most circles purchased two gifts or more gifts in addition to those that 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 set of Lincoln Logs for a 14 year old boy” 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.

Community service and mission outreach is a church-wide commitment, and PWC members contributed as both PWC and church members. Some circles purchased blankets for visitors to our winter shelter program; others purchased school and hygiene kits through Church World Services to aid flood victims in Georgia and Tennessee; two sponsored children to attend our

Kidshine program; others signed members up for the Sentara Community Care Program in answer to the call of Lynne Owen to provide two ladies twice a month to conduct 75 minute spiritual sessions for an elder care program.

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 newborns they knew. Some purchasers, when they learned of three newborns at The Dwelling Place, returned the blankets they had purchase to the shelter. "Sisters in Stitches," coordinated by Patti Carr, have crocheted prayer shawls which are also popular, as the numerous thank you notes indicate. . 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. Nonetheless, each circle cheerfully contributed the cost of a wreath, poinsettia, or scholarship in honor of, or memorial to, an outstanding woman of the church.

PWC members also took the lead in the Deck the Halls Christmas decorating effort on November. Several circles contributed money for plants and flowers and signed up for the care and weeding of plots on the church grounds. Economizing measures call for innovative solutions.

In their culinary capacity, all circles contributed snacks or covered dishes whenever requested for receptions, funerals, and farewell celebrations. These were more that is usual as 2009 was a year of multiple transitions and large funerals. The Rev. Dr. Harry Daniel finished his term as interim pastor in September and left for North Carolina. A large reception sent him on his way with the good wishes of the congregation. The Rev. Dr. George Fitzgerald replaced him in September as temporary supply minister. The computer Operator/Secretary, Marty Rich retired at the end of May after sixteen years of service, and greeted an equally large number of well-

wishers at her reception. PWC gave her a gift as a token of our appreciation of all that she had done. The church budget was too constrained to replace her. The Administrative Secretary, Rita Cantrilli, retired at the end of August and was overwhelmed by well-wishers taking her to lunch and planning a reception. PWC members contributed to present her with a farewell gift. Linda Godoy is filling her shoes and doing a great job.

These gatherings, along with potluck contribution on other occasions, such as Consecration Sunday or the shower-reception for Erica and Ben Skidmore on the birth of their son were happier events than the many funerals which PWC organized. The largest ones were for the untimely deaths of two husbands of our most active PWC members: Margaret Bobst and Cathy Ritzo. Both Larry Bobst and John Ritzo died suddenly of aggressive cancers, and the PWC called on the congregation to host what turned out to be huge receptions to commemorate the lives of these gentlemen and their life-long service to God.

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 at home or in hospital 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 and enlists other PWC ladies to assist in providing support to each other.

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. There has been renewed interest since new boards for both PWC and PMC were mounted and display notices of future events and photos of past events. 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; others, such as Circle #3 underwrite landscaping costs.

All Circles send memorial gifts to Bayside and to Sunnyside Links, supplement the PWCs 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. The clear success of PWC 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.

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. Twenty 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-ins; providing transportation to medical services; landscaping the grounds; 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.

PWC does try to document our activities, so that we might see where we have been in order to ascertain where we might go in the future. Sometimes it is not so easy. Case in point. Much of this year, we have attempted to find past PWC records which we know exist but are uncertain as to their location. In the workroom of the church office? Not now, were there, but

were moved. In the seasonal storage room? Nope, moved to make room for Christmas materials. Behind the library? Nope, only one folder, rest is stored elsewhere. And so, as do many Christians, we continue searching.

All of the PWCs 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, was willing to work with them to maintain our finances in the correct columns and proper order.

Although we present no formal awards to them, we are very grateful for our Pastors, the Rev. Dr. Harry Daniel, the Rev Dr. Daniel Dickenson; 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 follow scriptural directives to Christians and to enrich the lives of many in our organization, church, community, and world.

YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT: 2009

January, 2009 Beginning Balance		\$3,787.88
I. General Offerings		\$1678.95
Least Coin	\$142.79	
Thank Offering	\$476.00	
Sunnyside Links	\$ 53.66	
Birthday Offering	\$521.50	
Mission Pledge	\$485.00	
II. Benevolences		\$2,050.00
Union PSCE—Ministry	\$200.00	
Union PSCE—Student Aid	\$100.00	
Rural Family Development--Migrant Ministry	\$100.00	
Presbyterian Home of the Highlands	\$200.00	
Zuni Presbyterian Training Center	\$100.00	
Virginia Beach ChurchWomen United	\$100.00	
Edmarc Hospice for Children	\$200.00	
Makemie Woods	\$200.00	
Keim Center for Pregnancy Crises	\$100.00	
BPC Youth Mission Account	\$250.00	
Minister's Benevolent Fund	\$200.00	
The Dwelling Place	\$200.00	
Church World Service	\$100.00	
III. Operating Expenses		\$538.70
Horizon Magazine	\$18.00	
Spring Gathering (food & materials)	\$173.05	
Fall Gathering (food & materials)	\$206.25	
Postage	\$8.40	

Wreathes	\$16.00	
Paper for Pew Brochures	\$ 97.00	
Gift for 2009 auditor	\$30.00	
Bulletin board materials	\$75.00	
Study books for ministers	\$12.00	
December 31, 2008 Ending Balance		\$4,036.90

PWC SESSION LEADERSHIP (8 officers: 14 members)

Clerk of Session.....Helen Spore

Assistant Treasurers.....Tracy Davis, Barrie Jeffcoat

Administrative Support:.....

Members: Betsy Kennedy, Janet Baker, Ernestine Middleton

Community Service..... Moderator, Lynn Owen

Member: Betsy Thigpen

Congregational Care.....

Members: Susan Hudgins, Michelle Parker, Peggy Reed, Sandra Ronan

Education:..... Moderator, Melissa Ludwick

Members: Margaret Bobst, Lauren Wheeler

Evangelism..... Moderator, Christine Pascuzzi

Members: Paula Jesberg, Carolyn Graham

Property.....

Member, Ruth Anderson

Witness.....

Member: Mary Jo Kennedy

Worship.....Moderators, Ashley McLeod, Brenda Reid

Member: Judy Crossman

PWC ELDERS (20)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class of</u>
Ruth Anderson	2010
Janet Baker	2011
Margaret Bobst	2009
Judy Crossman	2009
Carolyn Graham	2009
Susan Hudgins	2010
Paula Jesberg	2011
Betsy Kennedy	2010

Mary Jo Kennedy	2010
Melissa Ludwick	2010
Ashley McLeod	2010
Ernestine Middleton	2010
Lynne Owen	2010
Michelle Parker	2011
Peggy Reed	2011
Brenda Reid	2011
Sandra Ronan	2009
Helen Spore	2011
Betsy Thigpen	2009
Lauren Wheeler	2011

PWC MEMBERS OF NON-SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES**Nominating Committee (5)**

Emily Rudiger
Louise Gordon
Peggy Damuth
Nancy Guy
Ashley McLeod

Pastoral Nominating Committee (4)

Virginia Hill
Lynne Owen
Jean Reid
Laura Quinn

Gifts and Furnishings Committee: Chair: P.C. White

Music Ministries: Chair: Catherine M. Grant

Coordination and Planning Council Chair: Barrie Jeffcoat

WOMAN OF FAITH AWARD FOR 2009

Lynne Owen

Lynne was born in Columbia, SC. where she grew up in the Presbyterian Church. She credits her church youth groups, Girl Scouts, and family with instilling in her that “one always needs to help others.” She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, became a Registered Nurse, and loved her years in the pediatric wards. She left the profession in 1998 to raise the three sons and one daughter that she and William have. She joined Bayside in 1994 and has enjoyed working with the youth group for the past 11 years and participating in their many different mission projects in North and South America, as well as her activity in the Sunday school program, PW circles, and vacation Bible school. She has served two terms as an Elder and several years as moderator of the Service Ministry, identifying community needs and coordinating volunteers to fill them. She continues to serve as the co-chair of the Bayside’s Food Pantry. She loves all of this and finds joy in helping others. She also is a constant volunteer in the various aspects of her children’s lives—school, scouts, Virginia Children’s Chorus, baseball and soccer teams etc. and “has loved every minute” (“well, almost every minute”). She is very thankful that “the Lord has blessed me with good health and the ability to help others...more of a blessing to the one helping!” She is a model for all ages in our church.

NECROLOGY 2009

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Death Date</u>	<u>Church</u>
Marie Albis		2/28/09	Bayside Presbyterian Church, VA Beach
<p>Marie was very active at Bayside for many years. In her later years, she resided in a nursing home in Virginia Beach, but kept up with news of her service causes provided by her visitors.</p>			
Evelyn Breeden	10/9/1930	2/02/09	Bayside Presbyterian Church, Va. Beach
<p>Evelyn was born in Roanoke, graduated from Mary Washington College. She retired after years of teaching in the Virginia Beach schools and serving in the VB public libraries. An active member of Circle #3, she responded to almost every call to volunteer, but was especially active in organizing and supervising weddings in the church.</p>			
Judith J. Long	10/23/1944	4/27/2009	Bayside Presbyterian Church, Va. Beach
<p>“Judi” was an active member of circle #10 and kept up with its members and activities until her sudden death. A long time resident of Norfolk, she attended Granby high school, graduated from Averett college, earned her master’s degree from Old Dominion University and taught elementary education for years in Norfolk. She loved the beach and was an avid fisherman.. Although active in many outreach programs, she was especially concerned with providing food and shelter to the homeless. She leaves behind two sons and two grandchildren.</p>			
Barbara Maxwell	1/03/1932	1/13/2009	Bayside Presbyterian Church, Va. Beach
<p>Barbara grew up in Norfolk, attended public schools and devoted countless hours to the church. She as an active member of circle #2, herded the little children out to “Little Church” while the sermon was going on in the “Big Church, served on many committees and held numerous offices. She served several terms as an elder. She leaves behind two children.</p>			

Elizabeth (Sue) Myer	7/24/1948	2/10/2009	Bayside Presbyterian Church, Va. Beach
Lena Pitkin	4/19/1918	8/3/2009	Bayside Presbyterian Church, Va. Beach
Betty H. Wright	10/06/1926	3/8/2009	Bayside Presbyterian Church, Va. Beach

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth [Libby] Nybakken Graves, Historian, 1 February 2009

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

Recipients of Life Memberships as of December 2009

Ellen Bell
Catherine Cook
Louise Gordon
Debra O'Connell
Peggy Reed
Cathy Ritzo
Wanda Smith
Linda Wallace
Carolyn Walsh
Rose Anne Wehr