

# HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Presbyterian Women of Bayside Presbyterian Church

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Presbytery of Eastern Virginia

Synod of the Mid Atlantic

2013

## OVERVIEW:

**Pastors:** The Rev. Dr. David Rollins: Pastor  
The Rev. Jenny McDevitt: Associate Pastor (January-August)  
The Rev. Kate Roscoe: Associate Pastor (September-December)

<b>Sunday Worship Services:</b>	Contemporary	9:00 a.m.
	Discipleship Classes	10:00 a.m.
	Traditional	11:00 a.m.
	Combined Service:	11:00 a.m. First Sunday of Month

Presbyterian Women of Bayside work 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 90 active members in 7 circles. We have two general gatherings: Fall and Spring. We install officers in May.

Twelve women elders were on the session, all of whom headed or served on session committees, along with PWC members who were not currently on session. One woman serves as Treasurer and another as Assistant Treasurer. 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. Libby N. Graves serves as the PEVA PW Historian.

PWC collects and files the weekly bulletins, copies of the weekly newsletter, the Monthly newsletters, and all special publications of PWC and Bayside Church for the year. We subscribe to *Horizon* and *Presbyterian Outlook* and contribute the *Journal of Presbyterian History* to the library.

The Coordinating Committee for January, 2013 through May, 2013 was as follows:

**Officers:**

Moderator	Betsy Davis
Vice Moderator	Open
Secretary	Chris Pascuzzi
Treasurer	Jennifer Costello
Historian	Libby N. Graves

**Program Chairs:**

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

**Circle Chairs and Co-Chairs**

Circle #2	Janet Straddeck
Circle #3	Libby N. Graves & Louise Wombolt

Circle #4	Jennifer Costello & Amanda Long
Circle #6	Linda Allen & <u>Dana Williamson</u>
Circle #7	Chris Pascuzzi & Ruth Boynewicz
Circle #8	Marie Parr & Paula Jesberg
Circle #10	Jane Copeland, Diane Towler, & Rose Ann Wehr

The Coordinating Committee for September 2013-December 2013 was as follows:

**Officers:**

Moderator	Amanda Long
Vice Moderators	Janet Baker Therese Cipriano
Secretary	Chris Pascuzzi
Treasurer	Louise Gordon
Historian	Libby N. Graves

**Program Chairs**

Food Pantry	Audre Cannell & Lynne Owen
Spiritual Nurture	Cathleen Ritzo
Ecumenical Missions	Louise Gordon

**Circle Chairs and Co-Chairs**

Circle #2	Judy Crossman & Janet Straddeck
Circle #3	Libby N Graves & Louise Wombolt
Circle #4	Jennifer Costello & Amanda Long
Circle #6	Linda Allen & Dana Williamson
Circle #7	Chris Pascuzzi & Ruth Boynewicz
Circle #8	Marie Parr & Paula Jesberg
Circle #10	Jane Copeland, Diane Towler & Rose Ann Wehr

## 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 written reports of each program and circle chair, and prepares a monthly newsletter that includes the devotion, reports, and announcements of upcoming events. This is distributed to 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 often published in the *Bayside Binnacle*, the monthly church newsletter. A PW bulletin board and table also keep PWC up-to-date on area events, with posters, cartoons, and photos.

**Circle Meetings:** The circles meet once a month--four during the day and three in the evening from September through May. Four of the circles meet at the church, two in circle member homes, and one at a local restaurant.

**Bible Studies:** The Horizons Bible Study used by all circles for the January-May 2013 was "Confessing the Beatitudes". From September to December, five of the circles used "An Abiding Hope: The Presence of God In Exodus and Deuteronomy" and two adopted *An Altar to the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Study guides are available for the books.

The Revs. David Rollins, Jenny McDevitt, and Kate Roscoe, as well as Director of Christian Education, Ms. Kim Coyle conducted a monthly bible study class on the Horizons lessons for the circle Bible moderators. Many PWC members attend other Bible studies

and discipleship classes as well—during the week and Lent, on Sunday mornings, and in ecumenical settings noted below,

**Collections:** 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, and their collective generosity is charted in the financial report, which is audited yearly on a pro bono basis by a certified CPA.

**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 meal in a beautifully decorated setting provided by the Coordinating Committee and under the leadership of the Ecumenical Missions Coordinator.

The **Spring Gathering**, May 18, installed the officers for the coming year, recognized the outgoing officers and circle moderators and welcomed the new coordinating team of officers and circle moderators. Retiring Moderator, Betsy Davis was celebrated for her service and the 2013 Woman of Faith Award was presented to Jean Reid. The 45 women in attendance donated \$405 to the Birthday Offering.

The **Fall Gathering** was held on Saturday, August 24 and featured a pot-luck brunch. The 47 members in attendance donated \$500 for the Thank Offering and picked up their study books.

A third event that has become a PWC tradition is the “**Elegant Autumn Tea**,” hosted by Circle #8 to raise funds for mission projects. The 2013 “**Tea by the Sea**,” was held on October 12. Over seventy ladies and their guests were delighted by the heirloom tea service, exquisite pastries, impeccable service by tuxedoed gentlemen, and lively

entertainment by the Hammerkidz by the Bay on hammer dulcimers and the piano. The fact that they provided \$720 to the Backpack Program which provides weekend food to needy students in Virginia Beach only added to their pleasure. Presbyterian women DO have fun as they work.

A fourth event that we hope will become a PWC tradition was the “Celtic Christmas,” Created by Ms. Kim Coyle and Rev. Kate Roscoe. This quiet service of worship through scripture, prayer, music and poem in the Celtic tradition, offered women a spiritual renewal during the Advent season. It coincided nicely with the PWP endorsed sale of “Legacy Christmas,” a collection of Celtic-inspired Christmas carols, which was produced by the Synod of the Living Waters. One half of the profits from the sale of the will be given to the PWC Birthday Offering which has been supporting the mission of providing clean water to the world.

#### **PWP and PWS Events:**

Libby N. Graves, Historian, attended the PEVA Spring Gathering at Great Bridge Presbyterian Church in Chesapeake on April 13 and the Fall Gatherings at Simonsdale Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth on September 14 and at Yorkminster Presbyterian Church in Yorktown on September 21. At each gathering, she mounted a display of PWC and PWP histories and served as a leader in workshops on PWC leadership.

No one was able to attend the Synod of Eastern Virginia Gathering at Massanetta Springs, June 5-8. The funds set aside to offset expenses of those attending were distributed among existing benevolences, with \$1,000 given to upgrade our atrium and meeting rooms to make them more welcoming.

#### **Ecumenical Christian Involvement**

PWC members work closely with women of other Christian denominations. Six PWC women attended the “Women of Faith Conference” in the Washington D.C. area on August

16-17, which is the largest gathering of Christian women, featuring Biblical scholars and Christian authors, entertainers, and spiritual leaders.

More locally, Bayside hosts "Sisters in Spirit" on Tuesday mornings, Bible Study Fellowship on Monday evenings, and Moms in Prayer on Monday mornings, welcoming women of many denominations. Other PWC attend Bible Studies at neighboring churches as well. Some Bayside programs, such as "Moms with Multiples" and "Moms of Preschoolers," promote Christian values in everyday life and are open to the public.

**Contributions to the Church.** The 2013 Faith award went to Jean Reid, who provides a model of Christian faith and service to which all Bayside women aspire. Their individual and collective activities attest to their faith and determination to use their God-given talents in service to others.

PW members are so integrated into the congregation that their individual contributions are often invisible or assumed. For instance, one of Bayside's major outreach programs is the Food Pantry, which is expertly run by two PW members who recruit, train, and coordinate the volunteers who shop (and usually pay) for fresh fruits, vegetables, meat and other perishables to supplement the standard staple items. Each circle contributes staples as well.

Four or five PWC members, serve as the informal "events coordinators" for funerals, weddings, and other special events, as well as the "coordinators of the kitchen." PWC members are the first they call on to plan and provide refreshments for funerals, church-wide gatherings, and partnerships with community groups. Many other women perform duties as individual members of their ministries. Their reward is a treasure trove of humorous and heart-warming stories.

PW circles rotate the responsibility of tidying, adding, and replacing materials in the pew racks every week. They update and print the PWC brochure every year to place in the pew racks, the boxes at the entrance of the contemporary service, 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 the unique ways it fulfills the general mission of the PWC.

Circles do not lose touch with the youth. Each circle is encouraged to work with JAM (Jesus and Me) every Wednesday evening for one month. The women enjoy interacting with their younger counterparts (K-2 and 3-5) during a meal and activities. Every September, each circle adopts a first year college student who is a member or friend of Bayside. Our Spiritual Nurture Chairperson, Cathy Ritzo, identifies those students who would like to be contacted and uncovers their contact information with a persistence and accuracy that the National Security Administration should envy. The circles send cards, small gifts, and words of encouragement to these youth who are away from home, often for the first time. We promised to nurture them at their baptism and this is one time in their lives when they often need support.

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 circles first sign up for gifts for students at one school which does not want the gifts wrapped, and then selects tags offered to the general congregation.

PWC offers collective financial support of local, regional, national, and international missions but individual circles supplement them with additional benevolences. All circles send memorial gifts to Bayside and to Sunnyside Links, supplement the PWC's group 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 in the community, such as the Backpack Project, where circles provided food for classroom



teachers to quietly distribute into the backpacks of children who otherwise would have no food over the weekend.

In December, every circle contributed to the cost of a wreath, poinsettia, or scholarship in honor of an outstanding Christian woman. In the Spring they purchase Easter lilies and seasonal plants and flowers for the church beds and took responsibility for the care and weeding of some of these plots. Volunteer labor is part of our innovative solutions to lower operating costs so that we can maintain mission and outreach programs at higher levels.

Community service and mission outreach is a church-wide commitment, and PWC members contributed as both PWC and church members. A group of PWC members, "Sisters in Stiches", have been crocheting both baby blankets and prayer shawls to be given to those in need. A number of the blankets have been donated to The Dwelling Place, (an emergency shelter for homeless families) and other shelters for women with children. We donate to the Food Pantry on "Souper Bowl" Sunday, Easter Baskets for children at St. Columba's ministry, Christmas boxes for children around the world, Stop Hunger Now, the Congo Mission Project, youth collections for the Hefer Project, all fundraising projects for youth mission trips, eye glasses and supplies for medical clinics, school supplies for "School Daze"....and the list goes on.

In their culinary capacity, all circles contributed snacks or covered dishes whenever Requested for receptions, funerals, meals for the homeless, and all manner of congregational gatherings. The PWC moderator contacts each circle moderator who issues the invitation to participate to her circle. A list of all of these events will take up much too much space, but the cakes that each circle donated for the "cake walk" at the "welcome back" picnic for the congregation and community groups were so numerous, that additional "walks" had to be added; the twelve dozen home-baked cookies that each circle provided for the Community Outreach Day were appreciated by the police, emergency responders, librarians, and school staffs. Then there were meals for our "Winter Shelter"

for the homeless, quarterly dinners for the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center, etc. We seldom enter the church without a “dish”.

Often, individual circles call on other circles to provide support for those who are home-bound or in hospital, providing meals, transportation, errand running, and just plain visiting.

This year, PWC took the lead in establishing a Stephens Ministry, where individuals work one-on-one to help others through a difficult time in their lives. Fourteen PWC members undertook 50 hours of training and will continue to meet twice a month to continue their education and peer supervision. Two more qualified as H.E.R.O.S who can extend this service to military families.

Each circle, in addition to its other activities, also assumes responsibility for individual projects, many of which pass “under the radar”. One circle oversees the operation of the church library; another keeps the PWC bulletin board current. Members of Circle #6 help Em Chapman to prepare the monthly church newsletter; Circle #10 knits mittens and hats for the homeless; Circle #3 coordinates the collection of hair products designed for African American women in shelters; Circle #2 sends money to help victims of disasters; Circle #4 sends toys to “Toys for Tots” every year; Circle #7 members provide volunteers twice a month to conduct Bible studies and spiritual sessions for an elder-care program in a local hospital.

### **Christian Support**

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; others explore new areas for spiritual nurture and service; most do both.

Although we present no formal awards to them, we are very grateful for our Pastors, the Revs. Dr. David Rollins, Jenny McDevitt, and Kate Roscoe for their leadership. We could never have done our work this year without the creative and dedicated leadership of Ms. Kim Coyle, Head of Educational Ministries and Ms. Katie Grant and her Music Ministry. Ms. Linda Godoy has shouldered many responsibilities beyond those of Administrative Assistant with efficiency and aplomb.

**WOMAN OF FAITH AWARD FOR 2013**

Jean Reid

Jean has devoted her life to helping others in her career, her community, her congregation, and her church. She retired after 22 years working with children with impaired vision and other special needs. She became a member of Bayside in 1973 and has yet to retire from her leadership and behind-the-scenes activities of over 40 years. This list is long: 5 terms on Session (2 years as Clerk), teacher of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades in Sunday School, Superintendent of Church School and Director of Bible School, member of Witness, Worship, Education and Evangelism ministries, and Gifts and Furnishings committee when the Administration Music, and Education wings were expanded, and member of the Christian Education and Records committees of PEVA.

Jean is a quiet participant in every facet of our church life, serving as moderator and Bible study leader in her circle, inviting women to join a circle or a discipleship class; working as a church receptionist, a food pantry shopper, a Stephen Ministry volunteer, a deliverer of flowers and news to shut-ins; and many other helpful tasks that pass under the radar—such as folding the weekly newsletter, if need be. She is an inspiration to all. We are so blessed to have her here at Bayside.

**Recipients of Life Memberships as of December 2013**

Ellen Bell	Peggy Reed
Catherine Cook	Cathy Ritzo
Peggy Damuth	Wanda Smith
Betsy Davis	Martha Sorensen
Louise Gordon	Linda Wallace
Debra O'Connell	Carolyn Walsh
Michelle Parker	Rose Anne Wehr

## NECROLOGY 2013

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Death Date</u>
<b>Evelyn (Pete) Ander</b>	<b>3/29/1919</b>	<b>1/24/2013</b>
<p>Evelyn "Pete" B. Ander was a true Southerner, born in Wilmington N.C., where she is buried. She became a war-time bride of Capt. Robert K. Ander, Sr, had three children, Lisa, Robert J., and John. In 196 the family settled in Virginia Beach and "Pete" became an active member of Bayside, singing in the senior chorus, and using her sewing and arts and crafts skills to create gifts family and friends. She was still knitting Christmas presents for 2012 when she died.</p>		
<b>Patricia Mae Burrell</b>	<b>2/25/1939</b>	<b>6/21/2013</b>
<p>Patricia was born in Jones Mills, PA. She was the widow of Donald K. Burrell. She was an Avon Sales Representative for 45 years, and a member of the Red Hat Club. She is survived by a son David Lee Burrell, a daughter Linda Diane Salamon, and two grandchildren.</p>		
<b>Rose Hinson</b>	<b>5/2/1932</b>	<b>3/18/2013</b>
<p>Rose Barefoot Calkins Hinson was born in Four Oaks, North Carolina, one of nine children. She moved to Richmond, VA, married Frank Calkins in 1959, moved to Virginia Beach and raised their four children after his premature death. She joined Bayside soon after it was established and became an active volunteer. After her children were grown, she moved to Florida, married Elmore Hinson, and spent nine years traveling and playing golf together. After Elmore died, Rose returned to Virginia Beach in 2003 to be with her family, and resume her activities in the church. Her grandchildren have wonderful memories of this time, when she helped with yard work, drove them to special events, played with them and even took unwelcomed vegetables from their plates when parents did not notice.</p>		

**Iris James Vergakis Murdoch      1/4/1925      12/1/2013**

Iris was born in Bethel NC but spent most of her life in Virginia Beach, where she served as a dental assistant for many years. She was an active member of Bayside and prominent in Circle #6. She leaves behind her husband, James Murdock, two sisters, a brother, two daughters, a son, nine grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, as well as two stepdaughters, and two step grandchildren. She was predeceased by her first husband, George Vergakis.

**Patricia Kelly Rudiger      11/17/1935      9/7/2013**

Pat was born in Norfolk, remained a life-long resident of Hampton Roads, and was a Faithful church-goer and volunteer at Bayside all of her life. After graduating from Maury High School, she attended Mary Washington College and Richmond Polytechnic Institute (now VCU), where she studied art. In 1957, she married Jack Rudiger and they embarked on a life of raising their two boys and managing Rudy's Antiques, where Jack did the selling and refinishing, and Pat kept track of the money. They loved their "antiquing" trips throughout New England and Europe (especially Paris) and making life-long "antique" friends. When at home, their bridge club of over 50 years, formed another close circle, and their Bayside friends, yet another.

**Shirley V. Snead      11/25/1922      8/30/2013**

Shirley Young Snead was born in Norfolk. She and her husband, George, were founding members of Bayside Church and she remained active until her death.

**Betsy Moore Thigpen      11/11/1938      6/26/2013**

Betsy Moore Thigpen was an active member and volunteer at Bayside, usually working behind the scenes to make things happen and taking no credit, such as quietly preparing *The Binnacle*, the monthly newsletter, for distribution. She served as treasurer for circle #6 for many years, and was known for her beautiful, thoughtful prayers and

for her wonderful stories. Her skill at encouraging others to excel probably served her well as a principal in the public schools of Virginia Beach.

**Lois J. Moore Walsh**

**1921**

**4/2/2013**

Lois Walsh was a native of Aulander, NC. and a graduate of East Carolina Teachers College. She taught elementary while living in Guam and in Virginia Beach, and was a member of The Retired Officers Wives and The Virginia Beach Eastern Star. She remained an active volunteer and choir member at Bayside until she moved to a retirement community in Raleigh N.C.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth [Libby] Nybakken Graves, Historian, 30 January 2013