

TRINITY AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Annual Report of Women of the Church
1972/1973

The Women of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church have been united again this year in an especially meaningful study about The Church, God's Servant People. The Bible Studies were presented in the newly styled workbooks designed for responses and creativity. The cover featured the towel-basin-pitcher symbol, the image telling the servanthood aspect of our theme for the year. Our studies led us through three main objectives: 1] To recognize that God's call is one to servanthood, 2] to understand Christ as Servant Lord and to make a new commitment to be his servant people; 3] to express this commitment as obedient servants in our world, in our time.

Our ten circles were the central groups through which Bible Study, Prayer, Service and Fellowship could take place. The Home Circle was composed of five ladies, who are confined to their homes. Each was assigned to an active circle who looked after them during the year with cards, gifts, visits, and loving deeds.

An innovation this year was the beginning of the Volunteer Service Circle. Their personal services were made available to any church member who had a need. They held meetings in the Kings' Daughter's Home and Triangle Nursing Home, held two parties for retired citizens of the church, transported patients who needed doctor's care, and regularly visited a confined member to allow her parents to be away from home for brief periods.

The projects and services performed by our nine active circles were impressive. Numerous needy families were given fruit baskets, Christmas gifts of clothing, shoes, food, flowers, etc. Nursing Homes and Gravelly Sanitorium were visited to provide meetings, food, gifts, services, and companionship. Collections of clothing were gathered for Glade Valley and Crossnore, and the Nearly Nu Shop. Financial gifts and blessing box donations were made to Barium Springs, earthquake victims in Managua, Nicaragua, the food closet in our church, to send a retarded child to summer camp. Christmas dinner was provided for the men of Maynard House. The residents of Oldham Towers were given over 150 gifts for their Bingo games, and cloth scraps for quilting. All circles donated food stuffs to the church food closet, some at every meeting. Boots were made for patients in the Intensive Care Unit of the VA Hospital. Monthly birthday cakes were made and taken to the handicapped employees of Goodwill Industries. One circle sponsored a School Art Essay Contest proclaiming Human Relations Week.

Our W.O.C. Council was at work all year in its role of undergirding the work of the church, helping women grow spiritually, and enlarging their witness as God's Servant People.

The President was invited by the Moderator to attend all the session meetings as women's representative in order to enlarge the lines of communications within the church. Representatives from each area of the WOC Council were assigned to the Session and Diaconate committees to cross reference much of the church activity.

A major communication link was the beginning of the church newsletter, News On TAP, sponsored by Women of the Church. Many people contributed articles and found this source of information interesting and meaningful. Nine issues of the newspaper, each approximately six pages, were printed and mailed by WOC volunteers.

The WOC changed its constitution this year to make the 1st Vice President become President-Elect, holding a one year term, thus allowing her to come into the office as President with some experience on the Women's Council. Job descriptions were written for all the WOC Council positions and the By-Laws were up-dated, a really major undertaking.

For the first time, a baby-sitter was employed on a regular basis for all morning General Meetings of Women of the Church.

The Vice Presidents co-ordinated circle visits to all new members joining the church, and contacted all the inactive women not in circles.

The Treasurer has kept the organization on stable financial grounds with a budget of \$2,311.50 raised in excess. Benevolences have reached close to \$1,700.00. Cash gifts were made to The Elizabeth Andrews Fund, "Curious Kaleidoscope," Barium Springs, Friends of the Seminary, White Cross, Foreign Missions, the Presbyterian Scholarship Fund, the Joy Gift, the Birthday Offering, and other Presbytery and Synod Causes. The hearing aid system in the Sanctuary for those hard of hearing was also a contribution of Women of the Church.

The Leadership and Resources Committee has obtained a full slate of new officers, seen to the procurement of literature and resources, and arranged contact with each college student away at school.

The Ecumenical Mission and Relations Chairman planned an evening fellowship supper meeting with a missionary from Brazil and members brought many gifts of books, eye-glasses, and shoes for the people of his country along the Amazon. The Birthday Luncheon featured the Trans-Amazon Highway project as a topic and the offering received was \$198.23.

The Chairman of Christian Community Action arranged for 25 dolls to be dressed for the Salvation Army at Christmas and prepared a list of service projects within the community.

Through the work of our Personal Faith and Family Life Chairman, Bible Moderators were secured and all new members of the church were assigned hosts and hostesses for the Christmas Reception.

Our ladies hostessed the District Meeting in September, served two Stewardship luncheons for workers, prepared, decorated and served the Christmas Reception, and arranged a reception through the Sanctuary Guild to honor our Assistant Minister as he completed his service years in our congregation.

The Sanctuary Guild purchased two dried flower arrangements to be used in the Sanctuary, thus enabling some people to donate to the Elizabeth Andrews Fund instead of buying flowers.

The lovely white needlepoint kneelers were made and given in memory of Dr. George Cooper, early minister of the Church. Chrismon Trees were again erected and decorated for the Sanctuary at Christmas and two of our women described their symbolism on a local TV show.

Twenty-four hurricane globes were purchased for use on special occasions. Communion was lovingly prepared and acolytes trained by members of the Sanctuary Guild.

Eighteen books have been purchased for the Children's Collection of the Library and our Historian has made beautiful scrapbooks.

The Program Council arranged eight General Meetings for us during the year. The Rev. Mr. Edward Hennegar overviewed the year's Bible Study in October. Mrs. Ann Johnson, Executive Director of the Co-Ordinating Council for Senior Citizens, was our speaker in November and Mrs. Dorothy Kitchen, a musical missionary from Durham to Haiti spoke to us in January. Mr. Frank Arnold, missionary to Brazil spoke about the new highway to be built through that country with financial aid from Presbyterian Women.

Agnes and Frank Winstead gave a program on Church Music in March. We had a tour and talk about art for Easter given by Mrs. Ralph Earle in the Duke Art Museum for April. Mrs. John McQueen, author of the booklet, "Ministry of Presence," was the

speaker at the Birthday Luncheon in May, and Mr. Vernol R. Jansen, Executive Secretary of the Synod of North Carolina spoke about the newly restructured church organization at the September Annual Meeting.

Also at the Annual Meeting on September 9, 1973, two Life-Memberships were given as follows:

Mrs. J. A. Mack (Clara Belle) and to
Mrs. Lawrence E. Crabtree (Beulah)

Past Presidents were recognized.

This was our first year as a newly merged Presbytery and we were fondly known as "Big Orange." Ten of our members attended the Presbyterial Meeting in Greensboro and three went to the Synodical Training School at Montreat. Our year began with a visit from Mrs. Walter Newton, our Presbyterial President.

Our year's record certainly shows we have responded richly to the challenges of commitment. As members of the Body of Christ, we have affirmed our unity, recognized our varieties, and served the Lord joyfully.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. George W. Brumley, President
Women of the Church, 1972/73