

TRINITY AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

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WOMEN OF THE CHURCH  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT  
1979-1980

Our year began in October with each of our seven circles using our study book, Praise God-Worship Through the Year. It was an in depth study of the Christian Year. Our Bible Moderators did beautiful jobs in presenting this difficult but very interesting and informative study.

General Meetings

The general meetings are planned by the First Vice President along with the program chairmen. The Chairman of Personal Faith and Family Life planned the November meeting. The speaker was our Associate Minister, Mr. Wilson Gunn, who presented a program on church architecture. The February general meeting was planned by the Chairman of Christian Community Action. Our speaker was Mrs. Barbara Yowell, who is also our Leadership and Resources Chairman. She presented a program on the Ronald McDonald House, which is a home for the families of children being treated at Duke Medical Center. In May we celebrated our birthday with a luncheon. Fifty women were in attendance. Our program was planned by the First Vice President and was a talk on Gardens of the Bible by Mrs. Christine Ferrell.

Special Meetings

In August a meeting of incoming circle chairmen was held. It was a workshop planned and presented by our Third Vice President, Mrs. Judy Johnson. At our joint council meeting, rather than the traditional workshop, we had an inspirational talk by Mrs. Grace Hartzog of White Memorial Church in Raleigh to "stir up" our enthusiasm for the coming year. This was followed by a salad luncheon prepared by our outgoing council members for the new council. Bible Moderators and our Church Staff attended also.

Circles

All circles followed the study book this year. Each circle has its own "personality" and functions in accordance with its chairman and members. Some of the projects accomplished were: food closet, Elizabeth Andrews Outreach Fund, and dressing dolls at Christmas for the Salvation Army. One circle wrapped candles for the Moravian Love Feast. Circles #5 and #6 donated high chairs for use where needed. Circle #5 hosted the Sunday morning reception after church for a month. This Circle also gave a beautiful vase in memory of one of its members. Circle leaders find many places that help is needed. We have a very active and concerned group of women.

Our Women of the Church as a whole reached out to the community and foreign missions by contributing to the Elizabeth Andrews Outreach Fund, the new Women's Prison Chaplain in Raleigh, Barium Springs Home, White Cross, International Missions, Presbyterian Retirement Home, Friends of the Seminary, and the Joy Gift.

This year for the first time there was a woman lay reader to take part in the Sunday morning worship service. It is hoped this will continue.

Officers

Representatives of TAP Women attended the District Meeting held at Northgate Presbyterian Church in September and attended Presbyterial held at Hudson Memorial Church in Raleigh in April. Two officers and four circle members attended the North Carolina Women's Conference in Montreat in June.

The First Vice President arranged programs for the year. The Second Vice President did an outstanding job with the Christmas Reception in December. The Third Vice President coordinated circles by placing new members in circles and provided

counsel to circle leaders. The Personal Faith and Family Life Chairman secured Bible Moderators for the circles and arranged for music and devotionals for general meetings. Our Leadership and Resources Chairman obtained a new slate of officers. The Ecumenical Mission and Relations Chairman was responsible for a program at a general meeting.

Our Treasurer and Secretary have done outstanding jobs for the WOC. They have been advisors to the President and the Secretary has obtained babysitters for all meetings when needed. Mrs. Boardman Bennett and Dr. Bennett have purchased children's books for the Church Library.

The Sanctuary Guild Chairman has done an excellent job. She has maintained the standards set for TAP and created new ones.

#### Life Memberships

Two Life Memberships were awarded this year, and a special award to Mr. Arthur L. Foster.

#### Comments and Recommendations

Due to the rising costs of everything, printing being one of these, I would recommend that the WOC Directory be incorporated into the Church Directory since there are duplications. There should be a separate listing of WOC Officers and Circles. I would suggest that the undesignated benevolences and the proposed budget for the new year be presented in the late spring. This would cut down on the length of the Annual Meeting and there are no advantages in waiting until September.

From my own experience in visiting circles and asking for advice and help from experienced members of WOC, I would recommend that a concerted effort be made to change circle membership from year to year where feasible in order that new members learn from experienced members - and vice versa.

In conclusion I wish to express genuine thanks to all who were so patient with me. Their understanding and advice have sustained me. I have very special thanks for the church staff who were always available for clerical chores, counseling, advising and giving words of assurance.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Henderson