Women of the Church is an organization concerned with the Christian growth and witness of every woman in our congregation. It is an organized way for women to work together and maintain a fellowship.

CIRCLE ACTIVITY

One of the ways to achieve our goal is through the fellowship of circles. We are divided into seven active circles and one Home Circle for those unable to attend church or circles. Each member of the Home Circle is assigned to an active circle and remembered by visitation, cards, and gifts.

To further our Christian growth the circles began the year with a new Bible Study. The workbook, entitled Sing A New Song, covered Isaiah 40-55. Our Associate Minister, the Rev. Wilson Gunn, gave an overview of the study early in the Fall, 1980, and again in February, 1981.

The service projects undertaken by these circles were impressive. These included: dressing dolls for the Salvation Army, sponsor of families for "Share Your Christmas" program, Christmas favors for Hillhaven Convalescent Home and for the children at Christmas Family Night, food for Family Night reception and for after-church receptions, Church World Service Projects, Crop Walk sponsors, Food Closet, help with the Stewardship Luncheon and Love Feast; one circle did a great job of cleaning the church kitchen. These are only some of the ways our women give unselfishly of their time, money, and talents. Many of our women not active in circles are actively witnessing in other areas of the church and community.

Beginning October, 1981, there will be six active circles instead of seven. Through mutual discussion and agreement circles one and three will combine. These circles have worked together on Christmas projects for several years, and now they feel the blending of ages, knowledge, and talents will benefit them all.

GENERAL MEETINGS

Under capable leadership of the First-Vice President and the Program Council, exciting and informative programs were planned for the General Meetings. In November our speaker was a member of our church, Dr. John Giragos, Psychiatrist. In February Dr. Donald Bolton, Vice Chancellor of UNCG, spoke on the Dead Sea Scrolls. In May our women celebrated their Birthday Luncheon with Rev. Phyllis Kort who spoke on Hospice.

The W.O.C. Birthday Objective this year was "God's World, One in Christ". The 1981 Birthday Offering, $212.25, will
be used by our four theological seminaries to "arouse in faculty and students a greater concern for the church's mission".

SPECIAL MEETINGS

We had good representation at the W.O.C. Orange Presbyterial meeting in April. It was held at Vandalia Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, and gave us the chance to see our friend and former Associate Minister Frank Dew.

Four women attended the North Carolina Women's Conference at Montreat in June.

On September 13 nine women represented TAPC at the Orange Presbyterial District IV meeting in Hillsborough.

OFFICERS

The First Vice-President, Mrs. Travis Porter, met with the Program Council in early September 1980 to plan the General Meetings for the year. She has been extremely valuable in assisting the President when necessary. Her dedication and enthusiasm will make her an asset to the W.O.C. next year as our new President.

The Second Vice-President, Mrs. Louis Wade, did a tremendous job in organizing the Stewardship Luncheon in November. In December she organized the Christmas Family Night Reception with equal success. A separate reception was held for the children in the Educational Building. Favors for them were provided by one of the circles.

The Third Vice-President, Mrs. William Johnson, did a splendid job in keeping up with the new members and in assigning them to a circle. She acted as advisor to the circles and assisted in co-ordinating their work. Through her efforts and those of her committee, circle assignments were made for the next year. The new Directory will be incorporated into the Church Directory in order to save both money and duplications.

It is the Secretary's job to take minutes of all Council and General Meetings, to provide for babysitters, and to provide the news media of circle meetings. We thank our Secretary Mrs. David Ross, for a job well done!

Our Treasurer, Mrs. J. Melvin Tillman, has as always done her job faithfully and kept our W.O.C. finances financially sound. Special donations were made this year to Meals on Wheels, the Elizabeth Andrews Fund to Winona Jones deCille, Chaplain of the N.C. Correctional Center for Women in Raleigh. With the recommendation and approval of the Diaconate, the Women of the Church purchased and hung eight pair of new drapes for the Educational Building. In July the treasurer met with her finance committee to discuss and propose a budget for 1981-1982. With only minor changes in Presbyterial Askings and General Benevolences, the budget will work around the estimated income of $2,900.00.
Mrs. George Brumley, Chairman of Christian Community Action, was instrumental in working with the circles to dress thirty dolls for the Salvation Army at Christmas. She also provided a devotional for the February General Meeting and worked hard to contact a speaker for one of the meetings.

Bible Moderators were secured through the Personal Faith and Family Life Committee. Due to the resignation of the chairman early in the year, the First Vice-President worked to secure these leaders for next year's Bible study.

Mrs. Marion Peavey, chairman of Ecumenical Missions and Relations, worked very hard to provide a lovely luncheon in May for the W.O.C. Birthday celebration. Approximately fifty women were in attendance.

Leadership and Resources chairman, Mrs. Robert K. Yowell, began in January to form a Nominating Committee and seek to provide new officers and circle leaders for 1981-1982. This slate was presented and voted on at the May Birthday Luncheon. Mrs. Yowell has done a splendid job of recruiting very capable and dedicated leadership for the coming year.

Sanctuary Guild Chairman, Mrs. Gary L. Jeffrey, has done a superlative job in organizing and reorganizing this very important job. Among her many responsibilities she is to arrange for flowers in the Sanctuary each Sunday, oversee the multiple Christmas decorations, decorate for special occasions, and assist with weddings and funeral arrangements. She has maintained high standards and shown innovation in assessing her job description.

We would also like to thank Mrs. Lee Blakeley, chairman of Church World Service, for her role in working with the circles to provide blankets, kits, etc. for mission work. Since World Missions is placing more emphasis on providing people with skills, she is encouraging circles to work hard next year on making school and health kits. Donations of clothing are no longer stressed although blankets are always needed.

Home Circle Visitation was provided by Mrs. Arthur L. Foster with great care and concern. As previously reported the Home Circle members were sponsored and looked after by the active circles.

Our Historian, Mrs. Marian Frazier, has been efficiently compiling data for the scrapbook and history of the Women of the Church.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Two (2) LIFE MEMBERSHIPS were awarded this year at the Annual Meeting on September 20, 1981.

Our Women of the Church was saddened to lose two members this year through death: Mrs. Minnie Monroe and Mrs. Beulah
Black were remembered with a memorial service at the Annual Meeting in September.

Many thanks again to our senior minister, Dr. Bennett, for purchasing and selecting books for the Children's Corner in the church library.

Because of rising costs and duplication of information the Women of the Church will combine its Directory with that of the Church Directory. The amount budgeted by the Women of the Church for such publication will be combined with the Church budget for the new Directory.

The need for continued communication between the W.O.C. Council and the Women-at-Large is vital to the on-going program of our organization. This has been stressed to all circle chairmen, as their attendance at council meetings is their primary link and their chance to voice the opinions of the Women-at-Large.

It is the policy of the Women of the Church to recognize that they are first members of the Church, then members of the Women of the Church. To this end all Sessional Committees are represented by the W.O.C. I would encourage greater communication between these two groups. I would also stress that the Men of the Church are always welcome to the General Meetings. Speakers often talk on subjects relevant to all church members. Baby-sitters have been provided to stimulate attendance, but often it is thought that General Meetings are only for W.O.C. officers.

We are pleased that two women have been elected this year to serve on the Diaconate: Mrs. Jack Crumpacker and Mrs. John Hawes.

New member visitation always needs improvement. In this light two women have been appointed to work with the Session in providing better communication and continuity of the Host-Home Program.

Two of our women are serving on the Women's Council of Orange Presbytery: Mrs. Dorothy Brock, Recording Secretary, and Mrs. Eileen Mitchell, District IV Chairman. In addition Mrs. Jack Crumpacker and Mrs. Christine Vick have been serving on Presbyterial Standing Committees.

I would recommend that the current By-Laws, last revised in 1979, be re-evaluated by the Council. There are several areas needing amending or change.

This has been a year both stimulating and gratifying. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Church for your support, loyalty, and interest in the work of the Women of the Church. Words can never express the gratitude to the Council for its wonderful work and unending co-operation. To the staff of the Church, my heartfelt thanks for your smiles and words of encouragement as well as for all you have done to make my job easier.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Fletcher, President
(Mrs. John D. Fletcher)

September 20, 1981