

TRINITY AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Durham, North Carolina

Annual Report By The President  
1981-1982

I am most grateful for your assistance this year as president of the Women of the Church. My thanks to Dr. Bennett, Mrs. Florence Bivens and Mrs. Gail Murray for your time and effort in supporting this organization.

W. O. C. Activities

The Refugee resettlement ministry needed sponsors for families from approximately fifteen countries. Although most refugees receive temporary help and eventually return home, these cannot go home and will resettle in this country. TAP helped a Loatian family of four, two parents and two children, to begin a new life in Durham. Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Conklin, Mrs. Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. Wright and the W. O. C. helped by contributing money, household goods, food, clothes, housing and transportation to English speaking classes.

By-Laws

It was suggested that the By-Laws should be up-dated with special emphasis on the Sanctuary Guild. This was completed after many meetings. There were one hundred copies printed at no cost by the Presbyterian Resource Center in Durham. A letter of appreciation was sent to Joyce Bauer for her help.

By-Laws Committee:

Mrs. Travis Porter  
Mrs. Perry Sloan  
Mrs. William Johnson  
Miss Christine Vick

Special Receptions

The W. O. C. organized a "Bell Tower Reception" to welcome our new organist, Miss Sharon Simons, and to show appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Cole for their years with us. Punch, fresh fruit, cookies, lemon squares and orange blossoms were enjoyed by several hundred church members.

We also joined with members of the Week Day School to plan a special reception in honor of Mrs. Florence Bivens, our church secretary. She has worked here faithfully for twenty-five years. We appreciate her many years of loyal service. A gift of silver was presented by Dr. Bennett during the church service and a reception followed in the parlor. Punch, cake, cookies, cheese biscuits, nuts and mints were served.

As always, everyone was eager and willing to help. Special piano selections were played by Miss Sharon Simons.

A lovely reception and candlelight dinner was served in the refectory by Mrs. Thomas Cornwall to welcome our new organist, Miss Sharon Simons. Those families assisting in this festive occasion were Mrs. Jo Powe, Mrs. William Maynard, Mrs. Louis Wade, Mrs. Carl Bishop and Mrs. Dennis Chapman.



## Circle Activity

Beginning last October there were six circles and one Home Circle. Members of the Home Circle are remembered with gifts, cards and visits during the year.

The Bible Study Book used was Called by Grace to a Life of Love by William H. Chalker.

Our circles met every month except July and August. There were three morning circles and three that met in the evenings. These active women participated in an extensive list of activities: Church World Service, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army, Food Closet, Elizabeth Andrews Fund, Operation Santa Claus, Hillhaven Nursing Home, (Provided meals to families of deceased), Bingo prizes for John Umstead Hospital, Toilet items for Coalition for Battered Women, Baby clothes for Women's Prison in Raleigh, Laotian family; New Member Reception, Special Receptions, CROP Walk, Christmas favors for family night, Cleaned and furnished Parlor Kitchen.

The part I enjoyed the most this year as President was being asked to visit each circle and getting to hear each study coordinator. They all did a marvelous job teaching the lesson. It was my pleasure getting to see many of my former circle friends again. Since we are not changing the members each year I think it would be nice to have one joint meeting during the year.

## General Meetings

Rev. Wilson Gunn presented an overview of the Bible Study. He also held several helpshops for the study coordinators. In April he presented another follow-up study session for all women in the Church.

Our speakers for our March meeting were Jean Johnson and Jean Wilson, coordinators of Host Homes Program. They gave an interesting talk and film on this program. As a response to this need the Chaplains Service at Duke Medical Center and churches in Durham are co-sponsoring this program.

The guest speaker for our May General Meeting was Mrs. Nancy Anderson who gave an interesting and informative talk on her trip to the Holy Land. She also showed slides. Mrs. Robert Yowell was our Birthday interpreter.

## Special Meetings

The joint council meeting was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Laurance Kirkland. This gave everyone the opportunity to discuss and ask last minute questions about their new job. There were beautiful roses everywhere, lots of good food and a novice photographer, Mr. Kirkland, who did a superlative job of picture taking.

The Annual Orange Presbyterial meeting was held in Greensboro at Alamance Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Colleen Evans spoke on the inner city ministry in Washington, D. C. Five attended from our church and enjoyed a long but inspirational talk. The members of Alamance Church did a beautiful job decorating and planning for this event.



Mrs. Aileen Mitchell was chairman of the District IV Meeting which met in Hillsborough. After a social hour, the guest speaker, Rev. Cathy Carlson, presented an introduction to the study of Romans. Nine representatives attended from our church. A workshop for all council members was well planned and informative.

#### Officers

The First Vice President, Mrs. Perry Sloan, has dutifully served as chairman of the Program Council and has helped plan the programs. She appointed special chairmen for Church World Service, New Member Visitation, Home Circle Visitation, After Church Receptions and Operation Santa Claus to serve during her term.

We look forward to a wonderful year under her capable leadership. She has been very helpful to the President.

The Second Vice President, Mrs. Louis Wade, was responsible for planning and serving the Stewardship Luncheon in November and the Family Night Reception in December. She did a beautiful job organizing these two events.

The Third Vice President, Mrs. E. T. Rollins, contacted new members of the church and assigned them to circles. She was responsible for getting the list of circle members ready for the directory.

The Immediate Past President, Mrs. John Fletcher, has continued to advise and to help when needed. She has attended council meetings and was chairman of the Honorary Life Membership Committee.

Our Secretary, Mrs. David Ross, has recorded the business sessions of General Meetings and Council Meetings. She has arranged for sitters when needed. This year the Council decided not to put the circle information in the newspaper. We felt that our church newsletter was sufficient.

Mrs. Melvin Tillman, Treasurer, has efficiently recorded and disbursed all funds as directed by the Women's Council. She served as chairman of the Finance Committee and prepared quarterly financial reports for the Council and General Meetings.

The proposed budget for the year 1982-1983 will be \$2,800.00. Our books will be audited by Mr. Harris.

Mrs. William Johnson, Chairman, and Mrs. Jim Henderson, Vice Chairman, have done a magnificent job in planning and organizing the Sanctuary Guild. Under the direction of Mrs. Johnson, Dr. Bennett and Mrs. Carl Bishop, the Acolytes have accepted extra responsibilities in the church. It has been evident that numerous hours of dedication and hard work has kept our Sanctuary in order. The flowers have been beautiful for all special events.

#### Program Chairman (4)

Our Leadership and Resource Chairman, Mrs. Laurance Kirkland, has been very dedicated and very successful in nominating the officers for the following year. She presented the slate of officers at our May General Meeting. Mrs. Kirkland was also hostess for our joint Council meeting in August.



Personal Faith and Family Life chairman, Mrs. Robert Yowell, suggested that the circle chairmen be instrumental in getting the study coordinator. She also was the Birthday Interpreter and made suggestions for special music.

Christian Community Action chairman was Mrs. Keith Brodie. She contacted the Salvation Army and purchased 28 dolls to be dressed at Christmas. Mrs. Brodie introduced the guest speakers for the Host Homes Program.

Ecumenical Mission and Relations chairman, Mrs. Gerald Gibson, accepted this position for one year after Mrs. Peavey moved out of town. She organized a lovely Salad Bar Luncheon with a Birthday Cake for our May Birthday Celebration.

Mrs. Marian Frazier, our Historian, has completed one year of her term gathering facts and pictures for the scrap book and history. Her two-year term will end in January. A job well done!

#### Special Chairman

Mrs. Lee Blakely has been very loyal and served a number of years on the Church World Service Project. The circles send several shipments of soap and kits each year.

New Member Visitation chairman, Mrs. Noell Johnston, and Mrs. William Krigbaum worked together and arranged for all new members to be greeted and introduced at the Christmas Family Night Reception.

Home Circle Visitation chairman, Mrs. Arthur Foster, did a splendid job coordinating the circle in visiting the Home Circle Members.

Mrs. Grace Shaw continued to visit many members of the Home Circle as she has done for a number of years.

Mrs. Ed Massengill was our first chairman of the After Church Reception. Mrs. Marian Frazier was co-chairman.

They did an exceptional job in getting members to serve punch and cookies after church. There were no receptions during July and August.

Miss Mary Morris helped to cheer many patients at Camp Butner with "Operation Santa Claus". This was a tremendous success and we appreciate her fine effort.

#### Comments:

Two women have been elected to serve as deacons:

Mrs. Robert Blake  
Mrs. Bertel Sparks

Two Honorary Life Memberships were awarded at the Annual Meeting on September 19, 1981.

1. Miss Christine Vicks - <sup>awarded</sup> Sept. 19, 1981
2. Mrs. Wm. H. Johnson - <sup>awarded</sup> = Oct. 11, 1981



Three members were remembered with a memorial service at our Annual Meeting in September.

Miss Hassie C. Dunnegan  
Mrs. George T. Shellenberger  
Mrs. Richard Prentis, Sr.

Again, we thank Dr. Bennett and Mrs. Bennett for purchasing and selecting books for the Childrens' Corner in the church library.

This will be my last opportunity to thank you for the cooperation and support you have given me as your President. This year has enriched me with a wealth of relationships that I shall always cherish. I thank you.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Porter, President  
(Mrs. W. Travis Porter)  
September 19, 1982