

TRINITY AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA
1978

The Women of the Church started the year of 1978 with a general meeting on January 9th, when Mrs. E.H. McFarland, Jr., of Oxford, Presbyterian Chairman of Ecumenical Mission and Relations, presented the 1978 Christian Witness Season emphasis "The Caribbean Crescent" in a truly interesting manner. At this meeting, Mrs. George W. Brumley reported on the plans the Long Range Planning Committee had for the improvement of the kitchen and dining room areas of the church, and asked for contributions, memorials or bequests.

The Annual World Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was announced for January 18-25. The city-wide service was held on January 23, when Bishop Joseph Goss-men was the speaker.

The appeal was given again for good but used clothing for the Church World Service. Mrs. Fred Bersebach is chairman of this project and has reported that 13 large boxes of clothing were packed for pick-up, and \$314.00 was contributed by the church at large, for the purchase of 78 blankets. The lower Sunday School grades brought items for kits, and handiwork, baby blankets and socks were made and contributed by several circles.

In February, the general meeting was held at night on the 19th. An open invitation was given to the men and youth of our church to hear the Rev. Mr. Steven R. Shoemaker, Presbyterian Minister at N.C. State University, speak on "Sects, Cults and the Church's Response." This talk was very enlightening and appreciated by all attending.

March 13th was the date of the next general meeting of W.O.C. This was a morning meeting when Cathy Carlson of 'Curious Kaleidoscope' spoke on a serious subject, especially for young mothers: "Who's in charge at your house, the TV or YOU?"

Many announcements were made concerning the preparation for the coming Lenten Season. This month, the President, Mrs. W.H. Johnson, began preparing the women in realizing their responsibilities for our church's hosting of the Eighty-First Annual Meeting of the Women of the Church of Orange Presbytery in April. At the same time, pressure was put upon those responsible for making the needed improvements in the basement area. I am happy to report that all was finished in plenty of time and the results were much appreciated by those who had the food serving to do as well as those who were served.

April was the BIG month for Trinity Avenue's W.O.C. Mrs. Laurance D. Kirkland was the General Chairman for the Orange Presbytery Meeting, April 5th and 6th. The weather cooperated, many roses and other spring flowers were blooming, the whole church was 'HOUSE-CLEANED' and the floral arrangements in the sanctuary, dining-halls, tables, parlor and even the restrooms added to the beauty and happiness of those attending. It was the largest attendance for a Presbyterian meeting in the history of Granville-Orange. A total of 565 persons registered for the two days. A dinner, a morning coffee and a luncheon were served and much appreciation was voiced. W.O.C. of Trinity Avenue appreciated the cooperation of the Church Staff, the Ministers, the Choir, the men of the Church, the sextons and all who helped to make this a success.

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Our W.O.C. was invited to share the May birthday luncheon with W.O.C. from the First Presbyterian Church of Durham on May 8th. We met in their sanctuary for devotions and the message from the couple, Caroline Leach and 'Nibbs' Stroupe, the husband-wife team who minister at St. Columba Church in Norfolk, Va. A delicious lunch was served following the meeting by our hosts. The offering amounted to \$125.75.

No general meetings were scheduled for June, July or August, but the Council met in June and information concerning conferences and workshops during the summer months was printed, advertised and members were urged to attend.

In July, Mrs. George W. Brumley, chairman of Leadership and Resources, began making plans for a retreat at Quail Roost Farm. Both outgoing and incoming officers and council members were invited. Duties, responsibilities and encouragement were well covered by the leaders when we met on August 28th. Those attending registered, received their materials, chatted over a cup of coffee, then went to their various workshops. Mrs. Richard Tuthill (Sandra) showed the pictures (slides) she had taken throughout the year of the church, its groups and activities. Lunch was then served on the lawn. Quail Roost is such a beautiful and restful spot of North Carolina that we all left refreshed and ready to take on the year's work, beginning in September.

As the final meeting of the year is in September, the meeting is always well attended, for there is anticipation for reuniting with friends, the installation of officers and the presentation of the Honorary Life Member. All of this took place on the evening of September 10th. Our Honoree this year was Mrs. Laurance D. Kirkland, Jr. (Eva Miller Kirkland), whose life and work are to be found in another part of this report. Mrs. Pansie Evers from Orange Presbytery was the speaker and she chose as her subject "Where Are You?: Circle #6 served homemade ice cream and cake under Japanese lanterns in the Cloister Garden after the meeting, and it was a happy affair.

The newly formed circles began their year's study of the Book of Mark in October. On the 9th of this month, our Assistant Minister, the Rev. Frank Dew, gave an overview of this New Testament Book at our general meeting. Miss Christine E. Vick announced that there would be a Retreat for the Women of the Church at Camp New Hope October 6-7 sponsored by Orange Presbytery. The theme this year is "Understanding Our Ministry with the Single, Divorced and Widowed."

The announcement that we were to host the first woman Moderator of our denomination, Mrs. Sara Bernice Moseley, on October 10th was very exciting. All the Presbyterian Churches in the city and vicinity were invited to share this evening with us. Mrs. Moseley spoke on the 'State of Our Church' for about 20 minutes, then the floor was opened for a question and answer period. We felt privileged to have this honor.

On Monday, November 13th, Mrs. Sam Hope, Organizer of the "Host Home Program" at Duke Medical Center, was the speaker for the general meeting. Mrs. Hope explained this service which is staffed by volunteers who make arrangements for housing and other needs for families of out-of-town patients at Duke Hospital.

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The well-established custom of a reception for all those who have joined the church in 1978 was again held after the service of Christmas Carols and the lighting of the Chrismon Tree. The new furniture and drapes added greatly to the beauty of the scene as we entered the Refectory. Pyramids of fruit and candelabra in reds and greens were on each table, along with silver services for coffee and silver bowls for punch, cookies, nuts and mints a' plenty made for much laughter and fellowship. The W.O.C. plans, prepares and manages this occasion every year. Mrs. Marie Grauerholz was the chairman this year. It is quite a large undertaking and is appreciated by all facets of our church. 92 persons joined Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church in 1978, representing 53 families. There were 26 recorded births and 14 deaths. There were 44 baptisms and 7 marriages. The record of transferrals is not available to me at the time of this writing, but I must add that our church, being situated as it is in the midst of Duke University, has many turnovers; however, we maintain a steady growth.

The church has benefitted from the generosity of many people in various ways. I will list the donors and their gifts:

MEMORIAL GIFTS FOR FURNISHINGS FOR THE REFECTORY

Mr. Laurence E. Crabtree
Mr. Speed Gray
Mrs. Ann Webster Johnson
Mr. Mebane Johnson

Mrs. Macie Johnson
Mrs. George F. Kirkland
Mr. Harry Markley
Mr. Frank O. Satterfield

SPECIAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

Mrs. Bess Pickard Boone
Mr. & Mrs. Boyd White Harris Jr.

Mrs. Agnes C. Watkins
Women of the Church

Mrs. Henry C. Carr (Mary Lou Williams Carr) presented the church with an antiphonal organ which was dedicated with a recital on October 29, 1978.

Mr. Gaines C. Lloyd made a contribution to the Elizabeth Andrews Fund in memory of his wife, Kathleen.

A gift was made to the Cloister Garden on October 15th in memory of the mother of Mrs. Martha Bell LeClerc.

Before I end this report, I want to thank Mrs. W.H. Johnson (Judy) and her committee for furnishing all the women on the church roll a Directory telling the goals of the Women's work, the committees, the programs, all calendar events, circles (including the Home Circle) and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of every woman. This Directory has been most helpful and has been needed.

Again, I repeat that it has been a year of exciting events in our church's life and we appreciate having been a part of it.