TRINITY AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Durham, North Carolina  

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH  
Annual Report of the President  
1982-1983  

The Women of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church's love for, and loyalty to, the work of the church have made the duties of the President this year nominal. It has been a real privilege for me to have worked with such dedicated people. I want to express my sincere appreciation to the Women of the Church, the Church Staff and the entire congregation for your patience, your sense of humor, your initiative, your enthusiastic response to requests made of you and the unselfish giving of your time and your talents resulting in your many and varied activities and accomplishments in carrying on the work of the Women of the Church this past year.  
A most sincere thank you for the privilege of serving as your President.  

Circles  

In the program of the Women of the Church, prayer and the reading and studying of the Bible have always had, and continue to have a central place. The 1982/83 Study Book for the year was entitled "Christ, the Peacemaker" (Studies in Colossians) and was taught by Bible Moderators in each Circle.  
There were six very active Circles this year and one Home Circle. The Home Circle was established in 1967 by Mrs. Boardman C. Bennett who saw the need for such a Circle. The Home Circle is composed of members of our church who are ill or who are no longer physically able to attend Circle Meetings. Members of the Home Circle are visited regularly in their homes or in Nursing Homes by members of the six active Circles who show their love and concern for these ladies throughout the year with visits, cards, flowers and gifts. Being remembered means so great a deal to these ladies. Mrs. Bennett continues to take an active interest in the Home Circle.  

Circle Activities  

The work done by the six active Circles this year is impressive, and although Christian growth is not measured by statistical reports, I think that you would like to know some of the services rendered by the Circles collectively this year:  

. Helped stock closet at church each month with food to be given to those in need.  
. Improved the appearance of the outside entry to the kitchen and Refectory by replastering and painting the walls and ceiling. A planter was made, planted with greenery and placed at the entrance.  
. Helped deliver Meals on Wheels  
. Contributed financially to the Elizabeth Andrews Fund, Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army and Urban Ministries.  
. Gave new children's books to the Church Library.  

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. Visited elderly, sick and Home Circle Members in homes, Nursing Homes and hospitals. Sent cards, flowers and other remembrances.
. Helped serve Stewardship luncheon and worked on Stewardship Drive.
. Collected and delivered books, magazines and toilet articles for both adults and children to the Shelter for Battered Women.
. "Adopted" several elderly people (relatives of members of our church) while in Durham for surgery.
. Dressed 30 dolls for the Salvation Army to be given to children at Christmas.
. Helped sponsor Crop walkers.
. Sent new clothes as Christmas gifts to residents at Umstead Center.
. Sent favors to John Umstead Hospital.
. Served as hostesses for the After Church Worship Service Receptions, furnishing and serving punch and cookies for these receptions.
. Made and took "food tray favors" to residents of Hillhaven Nursing Home at Christmas.
. Helped serve "Love Feast".
. Helped cut greenery and made wreaths to decorate church at Christmas.
. Furnished all food and helped serve at Christmas Reception for new members.
. Made favors for children for Christmas Reception.
. Collected and sent "green stamps" for overseas relief.
. Made bandages from old sheets and sent to hospitals.
. Sent bars of soap to World Missions for distribution.
. Collected hundreds of small plastic bottles with tops for Orange Presbytery to send to hospitals.
. Made and filled 24 school kits for needy children.
. Sent baby blankets, sewing kits and health kits as a request from World Missions (Crop)

General Meetings

Through the capable leadership of the 1st Vice President and the four Program Chairmen, the following programs were presented at our Women of the Church General Meetings:

October: Dr. Richard Tuthill, ruling elder in our congregation, presented a very interesting and helpful overview of the Bible Study for the year: "Christ, the Peacemaker".

November: Mrs. Catherine Evans, 1983 Director of the Montreat Women's Conference spoke on "Montreat and the Women's Conference."

December: Agnes Winstead, pianist and Virginia Johnston, soloist, presented a beautiful Christmas musical program: "Reflections on Mary".

March: Mr. A. B. Craig spoke on "Churches in Russia and showed slides of churches he had filmed in Russia.

May: Mrs. Dorothy Kitchen shared her experiences in Haiti while serving as a missionary there. White Cross was the recipient of the Annual Birthday Offering collected at this meeting.

September: Annual Meeting. Installation of Officers and Chairmen for 1983/84. One Honorary Life Membership was presented.
Council Meetings

The Women of the Church Council (composed of the Officers, the four Program Chairmen, the Sanctuary Guild Chairman, the Circle Chairmen and the Special Chairmen) met five times during the year. Attendance at all Council Meetings was excellent; an average of 17 members were present at these meetings.

A Joint Council Meeting of all outgoing and incoming Officers, all Chairmen and all Bible Moderators will be held at the church on Saturday morning, September 24th, followed by a workshop for all incoming Council Members. A light lunch will follow that meeting.

Special Meetings

The Annual Women's Conference at Montreat (June 9-12) was an inspirational and enjoyable experience for the four of our church members who attended: Eileen Mitchell, Peggy Thierry, Helen Hilderman and Margaret Gilbert. Tapes of speeches made there were purchased by Peggy and Helen who will share them with next year's Bible Moderators as a help to them in preparing their Circle Bible Studies.

District IV and District VI have been combined this year and the District Meeting was held on April 19th at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Willow Springs. Five ladies from our church attended. Dr. Margaret Brand, former missionary to a leprosy colony in India and now working in the U.S. Public Health Facility in Carville (the only leprosy colony in the U.S.) was the speaker. Dr. Brand is a highly respected Ophthalmologist.

The second meeting of District IV and District VI of the Women of Orange Presbytery will be held in Oxford at the Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 25th at 2:00 P.M. Five ladies from our church plan to attend.

Officers

The 1st Vice President, Mrs. Donald H. Mitchell (Eileen) helped plan several programs for the Women of the Church General Meetings this year and introduced the speakers at those meetings. She has selected the Special Chairmen to serve during her term. She has been a tremendous help to the President this year. We look forward to the coming year under her capable and efficient leadership.

The 2nd Vice President, Mrs. Thomas Cornwall (Beth) has given unselfishly of her time and talent throughout the entire year in organizing, planning and serving virtually every luncheon and reception given at the church this year: the Stewardship Luncheon, the Christmas Reception, the Women of the Church Birthday Luncheon, the Reception for our Associate Minister and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kincaid, Jr. (Jake and Gwen) on the day of his installation, the luncheon for the Executive Board of the Women of Orange Presbytery, which was held at our church, the Reception for our Assistant Minister, upon his departure from our church, Refreshments for a Committee of Orange Presbytery (70 men) who met at our church......all of this, plus hostessing several After Church Worship Service Receptions!! All of these functions were well organized and beautifully executed by Beth in Beth's inimitable, quiet and well organized manner. She has been invaluable to the Women of the Church and the entire congregation!
The 3rd Vice President, Mrs. E. T. Rollins (Frances), contacted new members and helped place them in the circles of their choice. She also prepared the list of all Circle Members for the new Church Directory (a very time-consuming service). Frances was instrumental in having the new members who join the church each Sunday seated on a front pew so that members of the congregation could greet them after the Worship Service.

Our Secretary, Mrs. W. L. McLeod (Polly) has dutifully and efficiently recorded minutes of each Council Meeting and each General Meeting, mailed copies of the minutes to the Council members after each meeting and then filed copies of all minutes. She was responsible for having a baby-sitter available for every General Meeting, enabling Mothers of young children to attend meetings.

Our Treasurer, Mrs. Melvin Tillman (Janet) has efficiently recorded and disbursed funds as directed by the Council. (The W.O.C. budget for 1982/83 was $2,800.00). Janet served as Chairman of the Finance Committee which prepared the proposed budget for next year. Mr. B.W. Harris will audit our books as he has done throughout the years. We are grateful to him for this service.

The Immediate Past President, Mrs. Travis Porter (Jane) has helpfully advised the President during the year when requested. She has served as Chairman of the Life Membership Committee and ordered the Life Membership Certificate and pin for the one Life Membership presented this year. Jane continues her interest and help in the work of the Women of the Church in many areas.

Sanctuary Guild Chairman: Mrs. C. Eugene Phillips, Jr. (Lee Ona), Mrs. E. Judson Pickett, (Doris), 1st Vice Chairman and Mrs. Richard Draffin (Claudia) 2nd Vice Chairman have done a superb job of seeing that the Sanctuary is beautiful and ready for all occasions. Innumerable hours of quiet, dedicated work have been given by the Chairmen throughout the year and the Women of the Church are grateful to them for their devoted service. The addition of the St. Andrews Servers' program in the Worship Service by Dr. Bennett, with Mrs. J.W. Lane (Ginger) and Mrs. Mary Ann Dente as Chairmen, has added to the dignity and beauty of the service and is also meaningful to the young participants involved. The Sanctuary Guild Committees are listed in the Church Directory and the entire Sanctuary Guild deserves a verbal or written sign of appreciation from all of us.

Historian, Mrs. Marian Frazier, completed her two year term in December. The Scrap Book which she prepared is on display in the new display rack in the Narthex to the Church Parlor. A copy of the history of our church for the past two years was mailed to Montreat. Marian, as always, did a good and thorough job.

Historian (Jan. 1983-Dec. 1984): Mrs. Richard Tuthill (Sandy) and Mrs. Wynda Woods (Flora) began their terms of office in January and are collecting pictures and facts for the 1983 Scrap Book and history.
Personal faith and Family Life Chairman, Mrs. Frank Winstead (Agnes) provided special music at every Women of the Church General Meeting and planned the programs for the October and December meetings. She introduced the speaker, Dr. Tuthill, at the October meeting. Agnes, pianist, and Virginia Johnston, soloist, presented the beautiful December program "Reflections on Mary", which was so well received that it will doubtless become a tradition for our December meetings. Agnes ordered books this year that will be helpful to Circle Bible Moderators and Coordinators in the preparation of the Bible Study. She selected the Bible Moderators and Coordinators for next year. She has served as advisor to Bible Moderators and will hold an orientation session for them at the Joint Council Meeting Workshop on September 24th. Agnes also served on the Finance Committee of the Women of the Church.

Christian Community Action Chairman, Mrs. Keith Brodie (Brenda) brought from the Salvation Army 30 new dolls and distributed them to the six circles; members of the circles dressed the dolls which were given through the Salvation Army to children at Christmas.

Ecumenical Mission and Relations Chairman, Mrs. Gurney Blanchard (Betty) was the Interpreter for our W.O.C. Birthday objective at the May meeting. The Birthday offering was designated by the W.O.C. Presbytery for White Cross (a voluntary service project through which Presbyterian women provide health care supplies for use in international mission hospitals and clinics). Betty also helped organize the lovely luncheon following the meeting. At the September meeting (the Annual Meeting) Betty explained the "Least Coin Fellowship" and presented the "Least Coin" dedicatory service.

Leadership and Resources Chairman, Mrs. Laurance D. Kirkland, Jr. (Eva) served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and devoted many hours to the careful selection of the excellent slate of Officers and Chairmen for next year which she presented at the May General Meeting. The slate was approved unanimously. Eva reminded the women that college scholarships are available to high school seniors through the Women of the Church of Orange Presbytery and that applicants must apply by February of their senior year in high school. Eva also served on the Finance Committee of the Women of the Church.

Special Chairmen

Home Circle Visititation Chairman, Mrs. A.H. Hampton (Mayme) assigned two Home Circle members to be visited and remembered through the year to each of the six Circles. Mayme visited each Home Circle member on a regular basis, remembering them with cards on their birthdays and with "a little something special" that she made on other occasions, including filled Christmas stockings at Christmas. Appreciation to Mayme for her talent and time given in this service.

Nursing Home Visitation of the 10 members of our congregation in Nursing homes has been regularly and cheerfully done for the past 8 years by Mrs. Leo R. Shaw (Grace). The recipients of her visits have learned to expect her monthly visits. We thank Grace for her loyal devotion to these ladies.
Church World Service: Mrs. Lee R. Blakeley (Melanie) collected school kits, sewing kits, health kits, rolled bandages, baby blankets and bars of soap donated by the six circles and mailed them to Church World Service in February and in September. Melanie has, for three years, efficiently handled these shipments.

After Church Worship Service Receptions were capably handled by Christine Vick who found hostesses and hosts to furnish and serve punch and cookies...after the Worship Service on Sundays. There were no receptions during July and August. Our appreciation to Christine for her tireless effort and efficient organization of this service and to all in the congregation who purchased, prepared and served refreshments.

Operation Santa Claus, through the enthusiastic efforts of Mary Morris, brought cheer to many people at John Umstead Hospital. Gifts of new clothing were purchased by many people in our congregation and sent by Mary to 15 patients in the hospital. We thank Mary for her interest in this project and for her enthusiastic approach in obtaining volunteers who contributed.

New Members (Christmas): Mrs. Richard Wright III (Anne) and Mrs. L.C. Barrett (Lucille) wrote and mailed invitations to every member who joined the church during this year inviting them to the Annual Christmas Service of Lighting the Chrismons Tree and the Reception that followed.

Love Feast: Mr. and Mrs. James Henderson (Betty and Jim) efficiently and beautifully organized the traditional Love Feast, always well-attended.

We thank Dr. Bennett and Mrs. Bennett for selecting books for the children's corner in the Church Library. These books were a gift from the Women of the Church.

This year, for the first time, a lady was elected an Elder at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church: Mrs. Bertel Sparks (Martha). Mrs. William Johnson (Judy) was elected a Deacon this year. Congratulations Martha and Judy!

At the request of District IV of Orange Presbytery, a Presbyterian School of Christian Education Representative from our church was appointed by the President. Mrs. George H. Conklin (Verna) agreed to serve in this capacity.

A Memorial Service, conducted by Mrs. A. H. Hampton, was held at the Annual Women of the Church Meeting in September for the four ladies of our church who died this year: Mrs. J.C. Wilkerson (Louise) Mrs. Basil D. Rigsbee (Margaret), Mrs. S. L. Suits (Mamie) and Mrs. W. S. Wentz (Blanche).

Thank you once again for your encouragement, your support and your cooperation. What a marvelous group of ladies you are!

Respectfully submitted,

Dukie Sloan
(Mrs. Perry Sloan)

September 18, 1983
The Women of the Church of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church completed another successful year, thanks to the help and support of many women. This report, covering the brief highlights of our year, will be divided into two parts. The first part will concern activities involving us with other churches. Each year the in-coming President of our W.O.C. attends the Montreat Women's Conference in June. Last year, four of us attended from this church. When we returned, we drafted a letter that all of us signed and sent to the circles, expressing our feelings about the Montreat experience. All of us had found it to be a rewarding and inspiring experience.

Eighteen ladies from our church attended the District Meeting for Women of Orange Presbytery held in Roxboro last September. Every circle was represented.

Representatives from the churches in District 4 met at our church last March to hear the Birthday Interpreter, Mamie Snider. She explained the objective of the May Birthday Luncheon.

Four or five of us attended the Annual Meeting for W.O.C. Orange Presbytery last April at the Milner Memorial Church in Raleigh.

Most recently, we were the co-hosts for the District Meeting held Sunday, September 8, at First Church in Henderson. We provided the refreshments for that meeting. The delicious food was prepared by our church hostess, Barbara Rodgers, who is in a special category by herself as one of the big accomplishments of the W.O.C. this year. We worked long and hard to have a church hostess, and we were most pleased that it was budgeted by the church this year.

The second part of this report concerns activities within our own church. We had monthly meetings of the W.O.C. Council, consisting of twenty hard-working people: the officers, the Sanctuary Guild Chairman,
the four Program Chairmen, the Church World Service Chairman, the Nursing Home Chairman, the Home Circle Chairman, and the six regular circle chairmen. The Council handled all of the business affairs of the W.O.C., voting to spend the money allotted for benevolences in our Budget in the following manner:

- $50.00 to the Wayne Taylor Fund
- $50.00 to Meals-on-Wheels
- $100.00 to the Presbyterian Fund for Ethiopia
- $100.00 for the expansion of the Ronald McDonald House

In August, a Joint Council Meeting was held, so that the out-going officers could turn over their books and records to the in-coming officers. The meeting was followed by a lovely luncheon, supplied by those who attended.

This year we had six General meetings (seven counting the Annual meeting in September), which are open to all of the women in the church. We worked hard to improve the attendance at these meetings, and we were successful in doing so. Some of the meetings actually doubled the attendance of our first meeting.

We participated in many special projects during the year. We helped with the Love Feast; we sponsored the Christmas Family Night Reception, and a supper for the Jr.-Sr. Highs. The Sanctuary Guild kept our sanctuary looking beautiful all year, with many special arrangements for the holidays also. We collected over $1,000 on Blanket Sunday.

As an ex-officio member of all the circles, I enjoyed visiting each of our six circles. We have three morning and three evening ones. Bible study is at the heart of the circles, and the Bible Moderators of Co-ordinators work hard planning the monthly programs. The circles also participate in many special projects: They dressed dolls for the Salvation Army at Christmas. They prepared sandwiches and cookies for the Christmas Family Night Reception. They visited the sick and shut-ins and remembered their birthdays. To better understand their work, read the individual annual reports of each of the six circle chairmen.
In conclusion, those of us who worked on the W.O.C. Council this year thought that we had an enjoyable and fruitful year. Serving as President of the Women of the Church has been a rewarding experience for me this year. I have truly enjoyed getting to know the women of our church better, and I found their responsiveness to be most gratifying.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Rollins,
President, W.O.C.