

Trinity Ave. Presbyterian Church  
Durham, NC  
Presbyterian Women History 2005

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HISTORY

2005

The year 2005 was an active year for Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church. Our staff remained the same: Donovan Drake, Pastor; Mary Seeger, Associate Pastor; Graham McChesney, Parish Associate; Harry James, Director of Music Ministry; Carrie Finch, Director of Youth. Dr. McChesney was honored for serving fifty years in the ministry. He is an honorary life member of Presbyterian Women.

Forty-eight new members were welcomed. PW was part of new member orientation. Cindy Kinney spoke to the class about circles and PW in general and gave each family a TAPC welcome bag.

Presbyterian Women and its four circles were very active in 2005. The organization was led by Mary Z. Martin from January through May. Becky Nichols succeeded her in August.

### Our Officers

Terms of office run from June to May of each year. Those on the Coordinating Team were as follows.

	2004-05	2005-06
Moderator	Mary Z. Martin	Becky Nichols
Vice-Moderator	Becky Nichols	Cindy Kenny
Immediate Past Mod.	Lynette Williams	Mary Z. Martin
Treasurer	Marie Grauerholz	Victoria Herring
Secretary	Judy May	Judy May
Historian	04 – Dott Faulkenbury	05 – Dutton Moore
Moderator for Search	Corlis Wood	Corlis Wood

### Circle Moderators

Circle of Fellowship	Virginia Barrett	Virginia Barrett
----------------------	------------------	------------------

Trinity Ave. Presbyterian Church  
Durham, NC  
Presbyterian Women History 2005

Circle of Faith	Jo Deckard	Jo Deckard
Friendship Circle	Dutton Moore	Dutton Moore
Circle of Hope	Cindy Kinney	Susan Bryan

The Coordinating Team met on the third Wednesday of each month, except for June, July, and December. We began each meeting with the lighting of the Christ candle, to remind us to keep Christ as the purpose and center of our meeting. Prayer remembering those with special needs and asking for guidance followed. Our agendas included minutes, a treasurer's report, circle activity reports and planning for PW activities.

### PW Directories

Mary Martin and Becky Nichols compiled PW directories. They contain information about the PW Purpose and Symbol, descriptions of the Birthday Offering, the Thank Offering, and The Fellowship of the Least Coin. Also listed are: Coordinating Team members, Honorary Life Members, and circle members.

### PW Activities and Events

An ongoing project of PW is the presentation of a "baby" Bible to each child when baptized.

On January 29, a New Leaf Baby Shower and Luncheon was held in the Carr Narthex. It was a joint project with PW of Covenant Presbyterian Church. Forty women attended. The speaker was Regina Barbee from Housing for New Hope. She talked about the New Leaf House program for homeless, expectant mothers. The shower gifts were given to New Leaf House.

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, PW held a pancake breakfast in the Sloan Fellowship Hall from 8 to 10 am. Becky Nichols and Cindy Kinney organized the breakfast. All who supported this fundraiser enjoyed delicious pancakes and sausage, juice and coffee.

The service on April 3<sup>rd</sup> was a joint celebration for PW Sunday and Blanket Sunday. Mary Seeger preached at both the 9 am service and the 11 am service. Women were responsible for all parts of the service. Flowers were placed in the sanctuary to honor those women who had received life memberships in PW.

Also on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, a **life membership** was awarded to Corlis Wood. Corlis has been a Trinity Ave. Presbyterian Church member for 35 years. She has

Trinity Ave. Presbyterian Church  
Durham, NC  
Presbyterian Women History 2005

been involved with almost every activity at the church: PW, Vacation Bible School, a volunteer with Housing for New Hope, new member classes, new member orientation, cooking for Prime Timers - to name just a few. The text of the presentation is included in this report. A reception in her honor followed the service.

The PW Retreat was held April 8-9 at Camp Oak Hill in Oxford. The theme of the weekend was "Come to the well to wash away your concerns and to be refreshed by God." The women who attended were excited by the experience.

PW Hits the Road has become a favorite activity for members. On May 20<sup>th</sup> a group went to Barium Springs for a tour of the facilities and to take a carload of supplies that had been collected by the circles.

On August 21, the officers for 2005 – 2006 were installed by Lynette Williams, PW enabler for our region, in an outdoor ceremony at the Maple View Farm In Hillsborough. Maple View ice cream was enjoyed after the ceremony.

Rally Day was held on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Pictures of PW activities were displayed.

Trinity Avenue hosted the PW Fall Gathering on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers from all circles helped with this event. Dr. Graham McChesney, our Parish Associate and an honorary life member of PW, was the keynote speaker.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, PW hosted a reception to celebrate Mary Seeger's first year at TAPC. Mary's many talents (including musical comedy) have added much to our church and all her contributions are appreciated.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, PW hosted the annual Christmas reception held after the cantata at the 11 am service. Mary Martin was chairman of this project, and she was helped by all the circles and well as other members of the church. The special guests were the choir and the musicians who preformed the cantata.

PW also collected out-of-date Bible study guides to donate for use at the women's prison in Raleigh. Lynette Williams delivered these to the prison.

## PW Finances

A treasurer's report was presented at each PW Coordinating council meeting. Marie Grauerholz and Victoria Herring were treasurers in 2005. This year's benevolence funds were given to: Housing for New Hope (\$200), Barium

Trinity Ave. Presbyterian Church  
Durham, NC  
Presbyterian Women History 2005

Springs (\$200), PharmAssist (\$200), TAPC Youth (\$200), Urban Ministries (\$200), and Family Support at the Duke Bone Marrow Clinic (\$100). All circles contributed to the Least Coin collection (\$77.33), The Birthday Offering (\$257.25) and the Thank Offering (\$297).

### PW Circles

In 2004, a Peace x Peace Circle (virtual global circle) was formed with 6 members. The goal was to establish a connection with a circle in the Republic of Congo. This did not work out, but Mary Martin is attempting to find a new partner in Belize.

Our church has 4 active circles, which meet monthly September through June. (The Circle of Faith also meets for dinner in the summer.) Each used the Horizons' Bible Study Guide for 2004-05 (*What She Said: Quotable Women in Scripture*) and three circles used the 2005-06 study of the liturgical calendar. The Friendship Circle began a study of the Book of Matthew using the Interpretation Bible Studies series.

The Circle of Faith is made up of mainly younger working women. This circle has been in charge of the collection of labels donated by our congregation to benefit Barium Springs. This year they used their Outreach money for kitchen supplies at the Good Samaritan Inn (a Rescue Mission project for homeless women and children). They hosted a dinner for the youth group and donated items to Barium Springs.

The Circle of Fellowship and Study is a circle of many long time members of the church. Their main projects of the year were donations to: Share the Warmth, the Rescue Mission, and the Salvation Army (food items). They provided gifts for a child adopted from the Angel Tree.

The Friendship Circle has a good mixture of long-time members and newer ones. This year they welcomed a former member, Mary Gunderson and a transfer from another circle, Linda Braddock. The first project of the year was to make 25 blankets and quilts for the Linus Project. They made casseroles for McDonald House, collected items for Barium Springs, collected money to help Lynette Williams pay for gas for the trip she and Carrie Finch made to Louisiana to take items to hurricane victims, contributed money to Meals on Wheels, and collected books and games for a reading room at Dove House.

The Circle of Hope is the newest circle. Cindy Kinney and Susan Bryan have been moderators this year. They bought items for kitchen at the Good Samaritan Inn and honored their homebound members with Easter lilies.

Trinity Ave. Presbyterian Church  
Durham, NC  
Presbyterian Women History 2005

## Home Circle Members

Each circle has assigned to them three or four women who are in a nursing home or at home, but not able to participate in church activities. These women are remembered with visits, cards, phone calls and small gifts.

## PW Service to Trinity Avenue

The following women serve as elected leaders: Elders; Susan Peek, Jane Porter, Amy Daniels, Ann Kirkland, Mary Z. Martin, and Lynette Williams; Deacons: Caroline Elkins, Judy May, Margaret Reece, Joan Austin, Anne Kern Carpenter, Jo Deckard, Lisa Drummond, Mary Gunderson, and Cathy Perry.

Women serve on virtually every committee of the church. They serve on the Sanctuary Guild, teach Sunday School, participate in the choir, serve as ushers and greeters, help with youth and children's activities and volunteer in the office. They take part in preparing meals at the Shelter for Hope (homeless shelter), the CROP walk, Habitat House construction, A Helping Hand (respite care and light housework for families with someone who is ill or incapacitated), Red Cross blood drives and gleaning.

## Deaths

This year four of our Presbyterian Women died: Polly McLeod, Dottie Wilkinson, Dorothy Schoenhut and Cynthia McCaskill, who was an active member and Bible Study leader of the Friendship Circle. We are thankful for the lives of these women and their participation at TAPC.

## Future Plans

Plans for 2006 include A PW Hits the Road to a Duke women's basketball game in January, a retreat to Camp Oak Hill in April, and serving dinner to the women and children at the Good Samaritan Inn in January.

We are grateful for all the women who work in the many projects mentioned. These projects are successful because of their talents and service given by many women.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dutton Moore*

Dutton Moore, Historian