REPORT TO THE SESSION
TRINITY AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 24, 1972

After a stimulating and informative week at the synodical Training School at Montreat, I came home to Trinity Avenue ready to convey my personal enthusiasm, and challenge the new council members to a year of renewed activity with deeper commitment to grow in the knowledge of Christ and His witness.

The WOC Council for 1972-73 held an initial orientation session in late August with the purpose of stimulating interest and orienting members to the responsibility of their individual jobs. It was a time to listen and learn about each other - to listen for ideas, not just facts. God's communication comes to different people in different ways. We all see His church through different filters and we must always strive to understand and meet the needs of the TOTAL congregation of women, for we are their representatives. Our aim is to continue to find that illusive spark to interest all women in God's work.

As president, I have three goals for the work of the council this year. They are:

1.) To offer some new techniques for communicating the church's ministry while not losing the values of present good programs. I do not expect to make sweeping changes in the manner in which we have operated as the WOC organization, but I do want our council to broaden the base of work to fit new needs developing in our church society. It will require creativity and experimentation.

2.) To increase our communication between each other and the congregation. Important work has been done by the WOC; but, too often many of the congregation criticize without a real understanding of what is being accomplished. We must be aware of the culture in which we communicate, listen to others, and realize that changes bring growth and prevent apathy.

3.) To develop leadership. Our church is going through a period of adjustment just as many other institutions in our society, and demands for leadership are great. Too often we shun a role as leader because we don't have answers for all the problems. Today's leaders must be able to help find solutions not always supply them. She must be willing to dedicate part of her time to becoming informed and to organizing her followers for appropriate group action. Our Presbyterian Women's study for this year is "The Church - God's Servant People." It challenges us to recognize that God calls us to study and service. We are urged to make a new and personal commitment to be his servant people.

Our WOC year will be developed around study, prayer, and action and our ultimate success will be measured by personal and group growth in our relationships to God, Family, Community, and the World. "WOC is as flexible and as challenging as the women of any local congregation want to make it."

This is our first year as a newly merged presbytery and we are fondly being referred to a "Big Orange." With this new, enlarged size we have inherited new assets; most notable is Glade Valley School. Glade Valley is a four year, coeducational College Preparatory school, located in Glade Valley, N.C. near Sparta. It specializes in motivation for under-achievers but is proud that 85% of its graduates go to college. It is supported by Orange and Winston-Salem presbyteries. An important source of revenue is the WillBarn Thrift Shop which sells anything - as one lady said, "Women have recycled for years! they just call it a bargain sale." Our women will be a principle source of saleable articles and love gifts.
Mrs. Walter Newton is the Presbyterial president and is a member of First Church, Durham. She is a delightful lady who has already been of great assistance to me, as have our own two most-recent past presidents. Our guidelines from Presbytery are that:

1) we enter another year with hunger given top priority - seeking to alleviate hunger at home and abroad.
2) and that we show love and special concern for the aging in nursing homes, rest homes, and those living alone.

In WOC organization we have five program areas forming a Program Council covering the areas of Personal Faith and Family Life
Christian Community Action
Ecumenical Mission and Relations
Leadership and Resources
Sanctuary Guild

Through these areas and our individual circles we will attempt to support the two recommendations from Presbytery.

We have organized a new type of circle - The Volunteer Service Circle-which will be aimed toward new techniques of service within our own congregation and the community.

To stress the strong uniting bond of good communication, we have planned a church newspaper to be published monthly by a WOC committee. We hope this "News on Tap" will act as a bridge of information with many church members contributing both at our request and by use of a suggestion box to be located in the library.

We have nine circles (and one home circle) ready to begin an active year of work with a Combined Joint Circle Meeting on October 2, both in the morning and evening. The Reverend Mr. Edward Henagar will provide the first of our series of Bible studies on the subject "The Church-God's servant People." Mrs. Robert Blake will give the Bible study for the evening circles.

Our WOC is eager to learn more and actively involve our church and women in the Key 73 program which is a denominational emphasis on evangelism. We will be looking to the Session for guidance in this area.

The Women of the Church have many challenges to commitment as we Affirm our Unity, Recognize our Varieties, and work toward the common good of all.

Submitted to the Session by

Mrs. George W. Brumley
President WOC 1972-73