

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

TRINITY AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

President's Annual Report

1978-1979

I have no great accomplishments to report to you as the 1978-79 WOC year comes to a close. Our purpose as an organization is concerned with the Christian growth and witness of every woman in our congregation, and Christian growth is not something that lends itself to statistical or other secular reports. But we certainly hope that Christian growth has been fostered during the year.

A count of the women of our congregation done in May of this year showed 367, with 230, or approximately 63 per cent, listed on the rosters of the eight circles. However, many of the other 37 per cent are active in the Church's program in other ways. During the year we have presented two honorary life memberships and have seen nine of our members cross over the river of life to be greeted by friends and relatives on the other side. Many of our members are new to this church, and even to the Presbyterian Church as a whole. The responsibility of one of our officers is to contact every new woman member and inform her of what the WOC organization has to offer her.

Our circles have met every month but July, usually the first Monday or Tuesday, except, of course, the Home Circle. Each circle welcomes women of different ages and interests into its fold, so there is something for every one. Attendance at circle meetings has been excellent. All circles but one have used the prescribed Study Book, "Courage for Commitment", based on the gospel of Mark. A baby sitter has been regularly provided for the two circles whose membership includes quite a number of mothers of young children. This expense is covered in our budget. All circles have had their own service projects, but some have also regularly contributed to the Food Closet and/or the Elizabeth Andrews Outreach Fund. All participated in dressing dolls for the Salvation Army for Christmas, and all assisted in hostessing the annual meeting of District IV of the Women of the Church of Orange Presbytery.

The WOC organization finances its work through regular pledges and voluntary offerings. Our budget for 1978-79 was based on an estimated income of \$2,500, which was fully subscribed through the circles, and has been paid in full. 44% goes to operating expenses--speakers, baby sitters, delegates to the N.C. Women's Conference, new books for the library, literature, limited repairs and replacement of church property, etc. Our greatest local expense during the year was for the redecoration of the nursery which was directed and largely done by members of Circle 3 and their husbands. Just about 10% of our budget goes to the Women of the Church of Orange Presbytery, at the rate of 71 cents per member, as assessed by the Presbyterian treasurer. Most of this goes for contributions to the upkeep of Mission Court in Richmond, and Glade Valley School here in our North Carolina mountains, also for two or three scholarships each year for young people of our Presbytery who need financial help to continue their education. 46% goes to other benevolences--some local, some outside this area--and to several Presbyterian concerns such as the Presbyterian Retirement Home, Barium Springs Home for Children, national and international missions, Friends of the Seminary, White Cross, and so forth. The offering for the annual Birthday Objective of the Women of the Presbyterian Church U.S. is not included in our budget.

We departed this year from former days when a council meeting and a general meeting were held every month except the summer months; rather, we alternated between these groups. Excellent programs were presented at the general meetings by our program chairmen. Esther Krigbaum, chairman of Christian Community Action, brought us Mrs. Sam Hope to tell us about the Host Home project to provide housing for relatives of patients at Duke Hospital. Jerri Swanson, chairman of Personal Faith and Family Life, brought us a panel of members of Circle 3 who discussed "The Difference Christ Makes in our Friendships." Anne Maynard, chairman of Ecumenical Mission and Relations, brought us Wilford Wong, an interne student at the University of North Carolina, who told us about the many, even drastic, changes in the lives of the women of modern China. Jean Brumley, chairman of Leadership

and Resources, sponsored the annual Birthday Supper to which families were invited, and brought us Mrs. Katherine Savage, who told us about the objectives and program of "A Woman's Place", a supportive service for women in Chapel Hill. And as usual, the WOC sponsored the annual Christmas reception for new members of the church.

It is the policy of the Women of the Church as an organization to recognize that they are first members of the Church, then members of the Women of the Church. To this end, our officers and chairmen serve ex officio on various appropriate sessional committees. Many serve as appointees on sessional committees, and many others serve in active capacities in other phases of the Church's program. I, and Betty Henderson, incoming president, represented the WOC on the Search Committee to find and employ an associate minister. We believe that within and outside the WOC organization, the women of Trinity Avenue Church are contributing significantly to its program. Which isn't to say that more women are not greatly needed in more capacities!

We have not had the number of members to attend local general meetings, or out-of-town meetings, as could be desired, but six or eight did attend Presbyterial in High Point in April, at which a member, Dorothy Brock, was elected and installed as recording secretary of the Women of the Church of Orange Presbytery. Our incoming president has attended all such meetings. We are indeed fortunate, and should benefit greatly, because she has the time, the interest, and the dedication, to prepare herself so fully for the responsibilities she is undertaking.