

Presbyterian Women Report 2016 - 2017

Presbyterian Women had its First Gathering and Salad Supper on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the FPC Fellowship Hall. A great celebration, which also included a welcome to **Jean Wolverton, our new Treasurer.**

Members enjoyed the stunningly beautiful décor of the Fellowship Hall, the fellowship and camaraderie, the unique Bible and Logo quizzes, the delicious supper, the welcome attendance of **Pastor Billy Wade** and his staff and up-dated announcements of PW and First Presbyterian Church's contributions to communities near and far. The program continued against a video back-drop of happy Thornwell children at play on Lake Jackson, all made possible by the generous members of FPC.

The Evening's Speaker

The Rev. Louly Fowler Hay's speech that evening, "**Reflections and Reminiscings**", brought back fond memories to many, and was very well received.

Distinguished Life Members

Another highlight of the evening was the Celebration of Service given by two recent PW Chairs: **Jean Blair and Carol Dundas.** Bestowed upon these two ladies was the **Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership**, a distinction they both richly deserve. Two of PW's Honorary Life Membership Alumnae, Alice Walker and Jeanie Liem, presented the awards amid cheers.



Life-Membership Recipients: Carol Dunbar and Jean Blair (2016)

Short-Term Bible Study

In addition to the Horizon Bible Study, *Who is Jesus?* by Judy Yates Siker, PW also included this year a short-term Bible Study from the book, *The Lord's Prayer for Today* by PCUSA minister, William J. Carl, III. This study was added for the benefit of all interested women at FPC, their neighbors and friends.

Change the World Day 2016

This year, PW Members spear-headed the FPC effort to join the Change the World Day with Churches and other organizations in Covington, serving the community in yet another capacity. On that day,

Saturday, October 2016, PW's basket of goodies became part of the fun and activities hosted by First United Methodist Church, Covington. Members of the community benefited.

Baskets Galore

On November 6, our PW joined with other Presbyterian Women across Georgia to create themed baskets for The Caring Hands auction at the Atlanta Athletic Club in John's Creek, Georgia. This is a benefit and a distinct blessing for widowed residents of Presbyterian Homes of Georgia who have outlived their financial resources. Once again, members of our congregation answered the PW call and contributed beautifully to this worthy cause.

A Visiting Presenter

Elizabeth Martin Pope, daughter of FPC members, Chris and Barbara Martin, offered PW members and friends an excellent presentation on Judaism, Islam, and Christianity in the FPC Sanctuary on January 3, 2017. Elizabeth, who grew up at FPC, fully involved her listeners in the way Jesus is viewed in the other two religious traditions—Judaism and Islam—as once more the question was raised and answered, “Who is Jesus?”



Elizabeth presenting to PW members

The Camp Calvin Retreat

Members of our Circles happily took advantage of this wonderful Retreat on February 17 and 18, 2017, as a result of an earlier decision to alternate our own FPC PW retreats annually with those of the Atlanta PW. The Work-shops were energizing and spiritually up-lifting. They also offered great opportunities for amazing member interaction and group creativity.

Short-Term Bible Study

In addition to the Horizon Bible Study this year a short-term Bible Study from the book, *The Lord's Prayer for Today* by PCUSA minister, William J. Carl, III was added for the benefit of all women at FPC, their neighbors and friends. These sessions were all well attended.

Women's Day Worship Service

Our Presbyterian Women Circles made history when a Women's Day Worship Service was held on Sunday, March 12, 2017, inviting The Rev. Dr. Leanne Van Dyk, President and Professor of Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary to be Guest Preacher. Members of the Circles were happily involved throughout the service, taking active parts in providing The Greeting, The Call to Worship, Call to

Confession, Word for the Children, and the delightful, musical sounds from an All-Ladies Choir singing the Introit, the Anthem, “A New Name in Glory” arranged by Greg Skipper and Russell Mauldin, and the Choral Response after the Benediction.



Rev. Dr. Leanne Van Dyke delivering a “Tale of Two Tales”

After the service, a Celebratory Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall was enjoyed by all FPC members and guests. Among the guests was the Moderator of the Greater Atlanta Presbyterian Women, Debra Foster Durden. This was an occasion well supported by our Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Billy Wade and a keen and enthusiastic PW membership.



Members and Guests after the luncheon

End-of-Year Gathering and Salad Supper

Presbyterian Women Circles of our Church came to the end of another year (2016 – 2017). It was a year during which members were both proud of their achievements, and saddened by the loss of stalwart members within our Circles. To honor these ladies, a Memorial Table was beautifully decorated and their portraits added. They were: Ann Bouchillon, enthusiastic Leader of Elizabeth Circle; Ursula Kaminsky and Margaret Wallace, devoted Circle members.

An Interesting Program

Against a video back-drop of the recent Women’s Day Service, members witnessed the blessing of the renamed Elizabeth Circle, now, Elizabeth Ann by **The Rev. Dr. William Wade. Jr.** They listened to, and watched with interest Cheryl Gibson’s interesting speech: **“A Way to Pray, Praise and Give Thanks”**

using beautiful Prayer Beads. Then came Alice Walker and Becky Ramsey's beautiful rendition of "There's a New Name Written down in Glory", followed by The Treasurer's Report and Reports on Thornwell and Least Coin.

Installation of New Officers

The new Officers and Leaders for the years 2017 – 2019 were installed by Alice Walker. They are:

Janann Giles- Moderator

Eleanor Scarborough- Vice Moderator

Carol McGiboney- Secretary

Jean Wolverton- Treasurer

Barbara Martin, Joyce Ashworth-- Co-Leaders of Elizabeth Ann Circle

After tokens of appreciation to officers and leaders, the 2015 – 2017 PW term came to a fitting end with the hymn: "May the God of Hope go with us every day".

Janet Carmichael

2015-2017