

Spring Lake Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Women: 2004 Annual Report

This has been a stressful year for Presbyterian Women and the state of Florida with four hurricanes within 2 months' time. Until they struck, we were meeting monthly from January to May. May is our birthday celebration of Presbyterian Women and we are, nationwide, 239 years old!

As you may know, there have been a lot of changes in that many years. About 10 years ago, we joined with our sisters in the North. We now have a moderator, vice moderator, secretary, and treasurer with various committee members who make up the Coordinating Team for planning. Along with this change, the National Coordinating Team drafted a Creed which we use during our meetings. It is as follows: "Forgive and Freed by God in Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves: to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for Justice and Peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church, USA worldwide and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom."

Then the hurricanes hit and we had a scattered congregation. Our first meeting of autumn was held in October. Our Bible study was given by Ilene Stephey. In November, we had a speaker, Mrs. Leanne Curry who is a nurse with the American Red Cross. She gave a fascinating account of the many disasters she had worked with in addition to hurricanes. In December, Fay Phair opened our Bible study "What She Said" was an insight to Sarah and Hagar's lives. The women's lives we will be studying are given to us in letters from the Old and New Testaments.

While we did not meet during the summer months, our Mission requests were being filled. Materials were gathered, heart pillows were sewn up and stuffed for Highlands Regional Medical Center cardiac unit. Socks and underwear were collected for the Immokolee Friendship House and has been sent off. There were 12 Missions which we sponsored. The budget this year was set up to support many Central Presbytery items such as scholarships for women attending Seminary, as the Columbia Friendship Circle which helps other Seminary students. In addition, we also have locally the Potter's House for Girls, the Women & Children Safe House and many more. Mission Haven has

a thrift shop for returning missionary families. Three boxes of very beautiful clothes were culled from the outpouring of clothes at the Flea Market. Many thanks to the congregation for such lovely donations of clothing.

Due to our late start this season and with the holidays starting too, we did not have a slate of officers to vote on for the coming year. The slate will be presented at the January 20th gathering. The Annual Gathering of P.W. is always held the last Saturday of January, which is the 29th this year. We will be represented at this meeting and the names of deceased women from our congregation will be remembered.

Submitted by:
Alice Koster