

NEW RIVER NEWS AND REVIEWS

*"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

November & December, 2010

Hello dear Ladies!

Are you running hither and thither trying to get everything done on your "To Do" list before Christmas Day? Do you feel like you spend the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas in perpetual motion? I know I often do!

Well **STOP!** Just for a few moments, and listen. Can you hear the Christmas carols and songs playing? Listen carefully to the wonderful words proclaiming the birth of our Savior! Your tiredness will melt away, your face will have a big smile on it, and your heart will be filled with **JOY!** You might even shed a tear or two, but these are tears of happiness because of what the Lord has done for you!

You will be renewed and refreshed, and ready for the next thing on that "To Do" list, and I pray that all through this hectic time of year, you will have moments when you can stop and listen and celebrate the true reason for the season!

With love and prayers and Christmas blessings, Barbara xxx



◆ PRESWIC HIGHLIGHTS ◆ FROM 2009 - 2010

This is something a little different that the PresWIC Council wanted to share with you all, so that you could see what we have been doing since last September until now. Here we go

September 25 - 26, 2009

Annual PresWIC Fall Retreat at the John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston. Our guest speaker was Debbe Mays, and her teaching was: *"Critical Spirits: Dissatisfied Hearts."* 46 women attended from 8 of our 11 churches.

November

New River News and Reviews
November & December issue.

January 23, 2010

Presbytery and PresWIC meetings were held at Winifrede PC. At this meeting, thanks to our Treasurer Cathy Appleton, we formulated a proper budget and a plan for the year! We also decided to hold our business meetings ahead of each of the Presbytery & PresWIC meetings so that we could focus more on our host WIC and spend more time in devotions or studies.

A short report of the business meeting will then be shared at the actual PresWIC meetings.

February 25 - 27

WIC Leadership Training Conference in Atlanta, GA. Attending were: Sue Parker from Providence Reformed, Janice Marsh from Redeemer, Becky Powell from Trinity, and Barbara Hudson from Faith. The focus of the training was *"Gospel Driven Discipleship."*

For more information, see the Spring & Summer issue of the New River News and Reviews.

March 27

Pastors' Wives Appreciation Tea at the Ferguson Tea Room in

Hurricane. There were 8 Pastors' Wives, 3 WIC Contacts, 3 PresWIC Council members, and 4 special guests who attended. The ladies enjoyed meeting each other, some of them for the first time. And the tea was delicious! We plan to do something like this again next year.

May 1

PresWIC Spring Event: "Women In the Church Morning of Prayer" held at Faith PC. We prayed for our local church body, for our Teaching and Ruling Elders, for our Deacons, WIC, ministry leaders, our denomination, our families, and finally for our country. We sang some beautiful hymns and songs, accompanied on the piano by Vicki Hall of Faith, and led by Brenda George of Covenant. It was a beautiful time of praises and prayers.

May 1, May 15

The PresWIC Council met for their business meeting after the Morning of Prayer on May 1, and then Presbytery & PresWIC meetings were held on May 15 at Providence Reformed PC. Our guest speaker was Roma Marshall, Missionary to Jinja, Uganda. Roma shared stories and photos of her work at The Good Shepherd's Fold Orphanage and other places.

June and July

New River News and Reviews
Spring and Summer issue.

July 23 - 24

Mid-Atlantic Regional WIC

Training, at The Church of The Good Shepherd in Durham, NC. This training was given by one of the WIC Trainers, Melanie Codgill, and the overarching theme was: "Thinking Biblically And Living Covenantally." The training covered the following: *Covenant; Church; Womanhood; Discipleship; Women's Ministries.* There was such a wealth of information to share, and those attending, Anna George, Covenant and Sue Parker, Providence Reformed, and Barbara Hudson, Faith, will be hosting a one day training next Spring to go over at least one of the areas covered. (There really was a *lot* of information, and there will be other times when we will share what we learned.)
Details to follow!

August 30, September 18
PresWIC Council meeting, and then Presbytery and PresWIC meetings at Covenant PC.
The Council went over the following items: Annual WIC Love Gift to MNA's Special Needs Ministry; the upcoming Fall Retreat; next year's Spring WIC Training event; programs for future PresWIC meetings; encouragement notes and cards for Pastors' and Pastor's Wives; the new Praying For Our Churches schedule; Woman's Choice update; Stitches of Love update; updates from Missionaries Roma Marshall and Wendy Hammond; nominations (more about that one later); and finally we worked on a budget for next year.

September 24 - 25
✿Annual PresWIC Fall Retreat✿
at the John XXIII Center.
Providence Reformed PC was our host this year, and they did a wonderful job! Thank you all!
Our Guest Speaker this year was Sandy Currin. Sandy is the WASC (Women's Advisory Sub-Committee) Representative for

the Mid-Atlantic Region, of which New River is a part. Her topic was: "Redeeming Eve - Biblical Womanhood." Sandy taught three sessions: "Uniquely Human, Uniquely Female, and Uniquely You." Here are just a few of the comments about "What was most valuable to you about Sandy's teachings?"

- Our value and worth as Covenant women.
- The wonderful reminder that we are unique!
- When we focus on the "cracks" in someone we don't see the image of God in them.
- The practical call to mentoring.
- Why are we in a Bible Study? *To pass on Biblical truths*, not just to add head knowledge!
- The importance of our impact on the lives of future generations for wisdom ... or for folly!
- Sandy explained Biblical Womanhood and our calling and purpose as woman the *best* I have ever heard, in the easiest and most concise way.

Here are some of the comments about the Retreat:

- Love this place! Love the food! So clean! So friendly!
- Loved the music by Jeanine Riggs and Nick Meriwether. It made my heart sing!
- Lots of great information.
- The retreat was *excellent* in all ways. I am spiritually nourished, encouraged, and challenged to go home and share what I have learned. I have also a burden now to teach and mentor.

We were so blessed to have 58 women from 9 churches attending the Fall Retreat this year, including our special guests from Greene Valley Presbyterian Church in Carmichaels, PA. (We are very happy to adopt these dear sisters from the Pittsburgh Presbytery into New River PresWIC!)
As more than one lady commented

on her evaluation sheet
Thank you Providence Reformed for a great job this year!

Doesn't this make you want to come and join us next year? We pray that you will, because we would love to see you there!



The PresWIC Council is most grateful ... and blown away ... with the generous response to our call for a "woman to woman" gift to help us expand our ministry support and our programs for this year. "THANK YOU" so very much to all of you who answered the call! We are so blessed!



Our next meeting will be held in Morgantown, hosted by Mercy Church, on January 22nd, 2011. Do please come and join us ... as you can see, it's not all business!



♥PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCHES ♥

For December: Winifrede PC.
For January: Trinity PC.
Presbytery & PresWIC - meeting on January 23rd at Mercy Church in Morgantown.
For February: Mercy Church Plant in Morgantown.
Missionaries supported by New River Presbytery - Roma Marshall, Jinja, Uganda; Bob and Wendy Hammond with Mustard Seeds & Mountains in McDowell County.
For March: Providence Reformed PC in Barboursville.
If you need a copy of the updated prayer schedule, just email Barbara at: bhudsonmk@aol.com and ask her for one!

* PRAYER FOR THE PCA *
It is our privilege to be in prayer for one of the agencies in the PCA

this year:
PCA Foundation (PCAF)
Please continue to pray for Randy Stair and the members of his staff through the month of February. Our new prayer assignment will be given to us after the WIC Leadership Training Conference in February.

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.” Jude 20

Have you ever received a note of thanks, or a card of encouragement, or an email saying “I’m praying for you”? And do you remember how blessed and appreciated you felt? How it brought a smile to your face and to your heart? Well, it’s just a gentle suggestion, but let’s not forget those people in our churches who serve us in so many ways, and let’s send them notes and cards and emails thanking them for all that they do. And ladies, please let’s not forget to be praying for them and for their ministries. It’s the least that we can do!

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”
1 Thessalonians 5:11



NOMINATIONS

PRESWIC NEEDS YOU!

Are you searching for something meaningful and fun to do with your spare time? Do you have a passion for women’s ministries? And for sharing the knowledge the Lord has given you with other women, not just those in your own church? If your answer is “YES”! Please prayerfully consider serving on the PresWIC Council as President or Secretary. Both of these offices need YOU, beginning on January 1st 2011.

***Listen to your heart ...
the Lord may be calling
YOU!***

***And remember, the Lord
doesn’t call the equipped
.... He equips those
He calls!***

Nominations will close on May 31st.

A MESSAGE FROM BARBARA

Dear Ladies, This has been a very difficult decision for me, but over the past few months I have become increasingly convicted that 7 years is long enough to serve as your PresWIC President ... at least for now ... and it’s time for you to have a new PresWIC President! Someone with a heart and passion for women and women’s ministries, and who can bring with her new ideas to share with you.

It has been the most incredible privilege to serve, and I have been blessed and blessed and blessed again as I’ve grown to know so many dear sister’s in Christ Jesus. It is my prayer that the Lord will bring us just the right woman for this office, and I ask you to be in prayer too.

Do please prayerfully consider serving on the PresWIC Council.

I can tell you from years of experience that it will be a wonderful and enriching time in your walk with the Lord! And let’s not forget all the fun and the fellowship! Oh the stories I have!

I most humbly thank you all for the honor of serving, and I most especially thank our most Mighty and Merciful God for bringing me here to West Virginia and to the New River Presbytery for such a time as this!

Having said all this I’m still here and so is Mary, and we will continue to serve you until the end of December 2011! And we’ll enjoy every minute of it too!

♥“WOMEN’S CHOICE” ♥ PREGNANCY OUTREACH

From Kris Rollins, Covenant PC:
“For phone and office counseling, prayers are always needed. This past month we’ve had a couple of Moms needing cribs and taking parenting classes. These classes are an opportunity to establish a relationship with the women and hopefully be an open door for further ministry. I’ve known of two abortion minded women who recently called, please pray for them, and for God’s continued wisdom for counselors.”
Update on the purchase of the building in Charleston at this time there is no new information.

Kris asks us to please pray for Doctor’s wisdom and heart health for Phil Chatting, a very vital man in the Woman’s Choice Ministry,

Update on the purchase of the building in Charleston, Dec. 2nd.
Good news! The federal tax lien on the property is about to be paid!
Following confirmation of the release Woman’s Choice will begin to collect the pledge gifts and if the amount remains sufficient, sign another contract to purchase the building.

Please continue to pray with thanksgiving for the faithfulness of our Lord.

Visit the “Woman’s Choice” web site at: www.womanschoiceprc.org



FAVORITE CHURCH RECIPES

Here are another couple of recipes for you to try and don’t forget Kathy Calhoun’s wonderful suggestion ... that each time we use one of these recipes, we pray for the woman who gave it to us!

Our next recipe was submitted by myself, and it’s adapted from one

that a dear friend gave me back in the 70's ...

"BARBARA'S OPEN HOUSE CHEESE BALL"

1 x 24 oz pkg Kraft Shredded Sharp Cheddar Cheese
6 to 8 tbsp Sweet Pickle Relish
6 tbsp Miracle Whip
Chopped Pecans

- Using a large mixing bowl, put in the shredded cheese and with a pasty cutter cut the shredded pieces into finer bits.
- Add each tbsp of the sweet pickle relish to the shredded cheese to your taste. (I use all 8 tbsp.) Blend well.
- Add each tbsp Miracle Whip and blend together until the mixture "flops" off a spoon.
- Form into 2 or more cheese balls, depending on the size you need.
- Note: These can be frozen.
- Before serving, roll the cheese ball in chopped pecans.
- Serve with crackers - delicious!



◆ MISSIONARIES ◆

Roma Marshall in Jinja, Uganda

"Greetings from Uganda. I pray all is well with you and yours. It remains warm here with some comfortable evening and night temperatures.

The majority of the children are getting on well, primary school is now on Christmas break, the campus more quiet than during school term. There are two nurses visiting from the USA through Africa Inland Missions. We were able to provide a day of "deworming" for the resident orphans and the school children the first week of November. I am very grateful for their help. Phillip and Patricia are continuing with their anti-TB medications, Eddie is fairly stable, and the other three HIV+ children are doing fine with continued high CD4 cell counts. Emmanuel has healed from the

pressure sores and has a good appetite. Thomas Luke has been placed on anti-seizure medications and is fairly stable. Molly, from the village of Buvunya, remains very well and is waiting her next physician appointment in March 2011. Praise God for His continuing mercies.

Current prayer needs:

- Healing for the HIV+ and special needs children.
- Daily travel mercies.
- Wisdom to treat the sick.
- Continued spiritual and physical wellness for self, the other Good Shepherd's Fold missionaries, short term volunteers, and staff.

May each of you and your families have the merriest Christmas and Happy New Year. Let us never forget the Reason for the Season is "The Babe" from Luke 2:11. May the Lord bless you and keep you. Love in Jesus, Roma."

Ladies, I know that Roma would love to receive mail from us! Her address is:
Roma M. Marshall
P.O. Box 354
Jinja, Uganda
East Africa

Wendy Hammond, "Mustard Seeds & Mountains"

"God has graciously answered our prayers for kids to attend our After School Bible Club! We average at least 25 kids in attendance each week, with others signing up weekly. Amazing!! We were afraid parents wouldn't want the responsibility of having to come pick up their child after club, but they have been very supportive and appreciative. We're working on a Christmas program to invite the parents to in December, so please keep this in your prayers. Pray that God will use us to reach these families for Him!"

✿ A VERSE TO PONDER ✿

"Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture."
Psalm 100:3



EVENTS TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

January 22: Presbytery and PresWIC meetings at Mercy Church, Morgantown. Bible lesson with application.

February 24-26: 2011 WIC Leadership Training Conference: *Biblical Leadership: Called to Serve, Equipped to Lead.*

Report from Sue Parker:
"The focus of this annual conference is to **teach and equip** PCA women who are WIC leaders in the local church, serve on PresWIC councils and/or lead Bible studies. There will be two workshops on Friday morning, covering such topics as Biblical Peacemaking (Tara Barthel), Single Women and the Family of Christ, Reaching The Next Generation, Women in Crisis (Debbe Mays), Disability and the Gospel (Special Needs), and "Planning Your Women's Ministry with Eeeease"! Thursday and Friday afternoons, there will also be times of fellowship and swapping information with women from our Mid-Atlantic Region and through affinity groups, specifically for Bible study leaders, PresWIC leaders, local WIC leaders and coordinators of women's ministries.

Four members of New River PresWIC attended last year - Barbara Hudson, Sue Parker, Janice Marsh and Becky Powell. Talk to them about their experiences. A good conference, it seems like the Atlanta office took

many of our comments and made the 2011 training even better!" For more information, go to the conference web site www.pcacep.org/wic/leadership

March 26: Approximate date for the 2nd Annual Pastor's Wives Appreciation Tea.

April 9: PresWIC Spring Training Event: *"Equipping Women For Covenantal Ministry."* To be held at Covenant PC. Details to follow.

Ladies, it is the prayer of the Council that at least one woman from each of our churches will attend, and that these women will then go back to their churches and share the things they have learned, *with the goal that each WIC Ministry will become more vibrant!*

May 21: Presbytery and PresWIC meetings. Bible lesson with application.

September 17: Presbytery and PresWIC meetings. Bible lesson with application.

September 30 - October 1: PresWIC Fall Retreat at the John XXIII Pastoral Center.

October 7-9: *Amazing Grace 360:* 2011 Women In the Church International Conference at the Cobb Galleria Center in Atlanta. "Come rehearse and celebrate the scope and surety of God's grace. Be refreshed in worship ... instructed in sound doctrine ... encouraged by fellowship. *Amazing Grace 360* is the full-orbed story of eternal life in Christ. Join together to trace our faith journey - past, present and future - and be challenged to live it out in transforming ways. For women 13 years and up. Gather with others across the church to delight in God's redeeming love."

For details and information, visit www.amazinggrace360.com



♥REPORTS FROM OUR CHURCHES ♥

Enjoy reading what our Sisters and their churches have been doing over the past year or do

CHRIST COMMUNITY

From Carolyn Snider:

"Christ Community Church moved into our new space this past August, in downtown Fairmont. We are on the ground floor of an office building that we're in the midst of renovating and we are happy to say that we have a new ceiling!

After our busy June and July with "Impact", MTW's Short Term Missions here in Fairmont, in August the ladies enjoyed a day of fun when we held our summer picnic at Day Spring. A good time was had by all! We formed teams and played Biblical Trivial Pursuit, but for candy prizes not money!

The WIC sponsors and everyone in the church helps out with our participation in Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child", where shoe boxes are filled with goodies and then sent to children overseas.

We held our second annual Christmas Tea, and it was lots of fun. We gift wrapped tea towels to exchange, and each of us brought our own special teacup and saucer, and we served traditional tea foods like my favorite, Cucumber & Cream Cheese Sandwiches!

From our church to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!"

COVENANT

From Anna George:

"The ladies recently started a new book for the Friday bible study entitled *"When Life and Beliefs Collide - How Knowing God Makes a Difference."* We continue to meet each Friday afternoon from 12:30 - 2 and have added some new faces to our study.

Our Thanksgiving meal was held on Sunday November 21 after Worship. We invited families from our Wednesday night Pioneer Club, our Tuesday Bible Club at Rock Branch Elementary, and our friends from Village on the Park, an assisted living home in Nitro. It was a sweet time of fellowship.

Our Wednesday night Pioneer Club continues to be the main outreach program for our church. Most of the children in attendance are from the surrounding area and are not churched. We are thankful that these children have continued to come, even after moving on to middle school. This year we decided to have a separate class for the young men and young women, which has proven to be a big hit. This provides the young people an opportunity to ask questions and discuss things that they may not have the freedom to discuss in a mixed class. We are grateful for the many volunteers each week that are willing to teach, prepare food, play games, register our students, lead music, etc. It takes many hands to have this program each week. We are also grateful to those in our congregation that donate money towards the food that is served each week. For some of those in attendance, this is all they will have had to eat in the evening; therefore we try to provide something substantial each week, such as bologna and cheese sandwiches, bagel bites, corn dogs,

etc., along with chips, dessert, sometimes fruit or vegetables.

We are looking forward to our annual Ladies Christmas Brunch. The meal is provided by the WIC Council as a gift to our ladies. We enjoy a sweet time of sharing a meal, singing, having a devotion, and a cookie exchange. Our greedy nature shows itself when we play the White Elephant Game. Somehow we come up with new rules each year!"

"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!"

FAITH, CROSS LANES

From Barbara Hudson:

"The ladies at Faith are working their way through *The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood* by Susan Hunt and Barbara Thompson ... and we are being challenged and encouraged by what we have learned so far.

We are blessed to begin supporting Roma Marshall in her missionary work in Jinja, Uganda, and we are looking forward to receiving her letters telling us of her work at The Good Shepherd's Fold Orphanage.

For Christmas last year our congregation adopted a family that is known to us. We filled a huge basket with lots of goodies for them to eat, along with a turkey and a ham. We had a lot of fun shopping for all their gifts.

We continue to enjoy good food and fellowship once a month after Worship Service ... we have some really good cooks in our congregation! Speaking of food and fellowship, the ladies got together on December 11th for a Christmas Brunch. More good food, lots of fun, fellowship, singing Christmas carols, and a rowing "Left Right" game to

exchange our gifts!
We send Christmas wishes to you all, and blessings for the coming New Year."

KANAWHA SALINES

From Cathy Proctor:

"Our ladies have adopted children from the Charleston's Children's Shelter. We had a *Mitten Tree* in the church during the holidays where people put hats, mittens, and gloves. These were given to the Children's Home. We made Easter baskets for them, and then sent school supplies when school began. We collected candy that our Kids Konnection (youth group) put together for Halloween treats for them, and Tammy Lipscomb delivered them.

Our annual yard sale was held in May. God blessed us with good weather, lots of stuff to sell, and we made over \$800.00. This goes for outreach.

We had a Bible School Kick-off in July. There were games, cotton candy, icees, and other snacks. Pastor Appleton took the young ones in to the sanctuary and spoke to them about VBS and the meaning. We had a good turn out for that and for VBS as well.

We have a Shoe Box Ministry for the Graham family oversees. We continue to supply our adopted senior Lorena, who has been with us for over two years, with her every day necessities along with gifts throughout the year. One of our ladies, Donna Casdorff, goes to pick her groceries every Monday. Our group has also been helping the food pantry that supplies Lorena each month. Another thing that Donna coordinates is the sending of cards to our shut-ins; those in hospital; those celebrating birthdays/anniversaries. Each month at our WIC meeting, Donna

has a stack of cards for the ladies to sign. Each lady always has a special message they have written to the recipients. Cathy Appleton teaches our monthly Bible lesson and does a great job."

MERCY CHURCH PLANT, MORGANTOWN

From Suzi Stapleton:

Mercy Church celebrated it's first anniversary in October. And in November, our first Covenant baby, Bella Grace, was born to very proud and very happy parents Jared and Karissa Cost. We recently held a *Diaper Shower* for another family expecting their third baby. We are blessed with all our covenant children! Earlier this year the ladies spent time together studying Philipians, and we look forward to seeing what the Lord has planned for us to study next.

We are also looking forward to hosting the Presbytery and PresWIC meetings next January, and to a time of fellowship with some of our New River Sisters in Christ."

PLINEY

From JoAnn Withers:

"RE Barry Sheets says about Pliney, "We are the little church who could!" We continue to worship together each Sunday, and following the service we have our time of food and fellowship. We are blessed with beautiful music played by RE Terry Roush's wife Leslie. Speaking of the Roush's, their eldest son Iain, who plays classical guitar, was married this August to a wonderful young lady who is continuing the Roush family musical tradition as she is an Opera singer.

RE Barry Sheets attended his first General Assembly this year, and served on the *exciting*

Overtures Committee. And he will serve as Moderator of New River Presbytery this coming year.

On a more practical note, our Session has approved a new roof for our little church, and we look forward to seeing what it will look like when it's done! And, we have a new grounds keeper! He started this past Spring, and he's doing a most wonderful job with all the mowing and trimming and cleaning up after all the storms we've been having. Come and join us one Sunday and see!"

PROVIDENCE REFORMED

From Sue Parker:

"We're growing our church "from the ground up" - four new babies at Providence this year! Sarah Lydia Gallaher was born in April; Noah Cook arrived in June; and Phoebe Roberts and Raphael Herz made their debut in July. So you can see that our main social activities this year were baby showers :-)

As with many university towns, our congregation is always coming and going - we appreciate RUF bringing college and medical school students to Providence. We get to love on them, pray for them and then send them on to minister in other churches. The WIC tries to keep in contact with our ladies by sending out birthday cards each month.

This past September, Providence Reformed hosted the annual PresWIC Fall Retreat - again many thanks to the retreat committee, to those in New River Presbytery who were praying for us, and for all of you who came!

Coming up - bad weather/icy roads have messed with our Christmas coffee for the past three years!

REDEEMER

From Janice Marsh:

"Once again the women of Redeemer have been enjoying some interesting Bible Studies this year.

Two different groups met this summer to do the updated Beth Moore study "Breaking Free." One was held in Charleston and the other met in Milton. This study was a reminder of how God really wants us to be free in Christ, and not hanging on to things like idols that control us and hold us back.

Twice this year we offered an excellent study by Kathleen Nielson, "Proverbs: The Ways of Wisdom", part of her "Living Word" Bible Studies series. This was very topical, an excellent day by day life application study.

We have just finished up a wonderful study, "The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood", by Susan Hunt and Barbara Thompson. One of the really beautiful truths emphasized in this rich study is that of God's redeeming love from Genesis through Revelation

"I will be your God and you will be My people, and I will dwell among you!"

Other happenings in our church this month are the Junior High Youth Group went caroling at the Nursing Home, and everyone enjoyed it. And some members went caroling to the homes of other members of our church ... and once again, a good time was had by all! We are looking forward to our annual Christmas Eve service at Sleepy Hollow at 7 pm ... everyone is invited and most welcome! Merry Christmas!

RIVERVIEW

From Kathy Calhoun:

"The women of Riverview have enjoyed many of God's blessings this past year, especially all of the times we are able to gather together. Monthly Circle Meetings

included our study on "Heaven" last spring, and the "Psalm 23" book by Keller this fall. Our fall kick-off luncheon in September included an interview with Julia Cost, our new pastor's wife. (We are blessed to have them!) Of course, our lunches at Shoney's and church dinners we sponsor are always sweet, maybe because of all the wonderful food we share. We try to keep everybody abreast of our activities with our bulletin board in the foyer.

But WIC is not just about us. We have always been active at Union Mission with our potato peeling brigade and yearly sponsorship of a family at Christmas. This year we have been collecting special items each quarter: food for the winter, swim items for the summer, and cold meds and house slippers for the fall. We also sponsor an active prayer chain including both e-mail and phone links. Our shut-ins receive cards and small gifts through out the year, and we had a dinner for family and friends after our beloved Deacon John White passed.

The women at Riverview are looking forward with expectation to see all that God has in store for us, if we but heed His voice."

TRINITY, NEW MARTINSVILLE

From Becky Powell:

"This year we had seven women representing our church at the PresWIC Fall Retreat. I think that's a record for us! We all had a wonderful time, and were very inspired and blessed by Sandy Currin, the speaker.

Two ladies still meet on a regular basis for prayer on Wednesday morning; unfortunately the world pushes its way in, as it does, and we miss a week here and there.

A new Bible study has been started. We are in our second

week (11/1 - 11/7) of studying God's Word from 1 Peter. Last year, a food ministry was started, and this year its "new and improved". The organizers are trying to find ways to draw people in, rather than just have them collect the groceries and leave. This is a very exciting time in the life of our congregation, and it's wonderful to see God's hand working in all we do. October 31, Reformation Day, we said goodbye to the Wildemans, as Pastor Wildeman presented the preached Word to us while Pastor Kelley was recovering from surgery. Our congregation was very blessed by the sermons God gave him to preach. As a little church, we have been thankful for the taught Word and the preached Word every Sunday. We are being fed and nourished, and for that we are grateful."

WINIFREDE

From Dianna Perdue:

"The ladies at Winifrede, through the "Stitches Of Love of WV" ministry, have been going to the Marmet Nursing Home Alzheimer Unit known as "Mary's Garden". Once a month, beginning in March we provide a hot served lunch for the 22-24 patients and the 4-9 care givers. Each month we have a different menu and various people of the church provide the cooked food. We have also made large adult bibs, wheelchair bags, lap quilts and other items to give as door prizes, gifts, and birthday presents. We also have singing and lots of fellowship each visit, which is usually two hours long. Several men, always Sam Perdue and sometimes Frank Armentrout, go with the group to sing, and sometimes all of us sing when we have a piano player with us. The homemade foods, especially the desserts (blackberry cobbler,

fudges and cookies) along with fresh fruit and ice cream are favorite dishes. For our Christmas visit, we're going to make up gift boxes of homemade candies.

On Tuesday September 7th the ladies had a luncheon in the church activity building for all the men workers on the sewer project throughout the community of Winifrede. The ladies group also held an appreciation dinner to thank and honor all of our elders and deacons on Sunday October 31st after church service.

The ladies hosted a coat drive and a food drive this fall, and we got together the first Tuesday in December to do the cookie gift boxes for the shut-ins and the sick in our community and the neighboring area. Then we went to the Texas Streakhouse for lunch after the cookie boxes were delivered.

Our group meets each month on the second Tuesday for Bible study, and to conduct business, and to make plans for upcoming showers, weddings, dinners, and other activities at the church."

GREENE VALLEY

From Cindy Beatty:

"Greetings from Greene Valley PCA WIC in Carmichaels, PA. We have had a busy Fall season in our WIC Ministry. One of the highlights of the season was being invited to attend the Fall Retreat of the New River PresWIC. Four of our ladies attended this wonderful retreat. We came home challenged and inspired by the awesome teaching and time of fellowship. We are so blessed that New River has adopted us and we look forward to being together again.

We celebrated the gifts and talents that God blessed our women with as we had a Cook-Off and Tablescape event in October. An evening of Thanksgiving and Praise was our November Fellowship. Our ladies have written and put together an Advent Devotional Book, which was given to our church members on the first Sunday in Advent. An Old Fashioned Christmas Gathering is planned for December. Our Christmas program is always a fun and joyful time when we celebrate the birth of Christ, and also reveal our Secret Sisters from that year. It isn't too early to be looking forward to the New Year either as we nominate, elect, and fill some of the WIC Officer positions for 2011.

All of us here at GVPC send our sisters in the New River PresWIC our prayers and best wishes for a blessed Christmas season."



Thanks to Dave Fry of Covenant for all the work he has done for us on the New River Presbytery web site. Check out this and past newsletters at www.newriverpca.org Just click on "PresWIC Activities" and you will find the link there.



Barbara, Sue, Mary and Cathy wish each and every one of you a joyful Christmas and a new year filled with God's blessings!

