

THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRY REPORT

To the One Hundred Thirty-Sixth Council of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic of the Reformed Episcopal Church:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There are three things that the committee would like to see encouraged in the churches of our diocese this year. The use of the Bible studies in our 2016-2017 devotional booklet titled "***Consolation and Good Hope Through Grace***" by Deaconess Teresa Johnson, attendance and participation of our women in Women's Day, to be held the first Friday in May (May 5, 2017), and the attendance at the Spiritual Enrichment Conference to be held in Williamsburg, VA, Friday, September 29th through Sunday, October 1, 2017.

On Friday, May 6, 2016 the Women's Day Project Luncheon was held at St. Paul's in Oreland, PA. The speaker at Women's Day was Sora Colvin wife of Rev. Matt Colvin, missionaries on furlough from the Philippines. Sora asked us to pray about their next assignment to Indonesia.

The 2016 project offering collected at Women's Day and throughout the few months after totaled \$6,756 and was sent to assist Holy Trinity Anglican Church and Retreat in Silver Spring, New Mexico, to refurbish their retreat center.

The 2017 project is to study how we can encourage our women of the diocese to meet together to study the word and encourage one another in the Lord Jesus. Any donations will go towards the cost of the meeting, the conference room, or any other expenses in this venture. This project will be further discussed at the Friday, May 5, 2017 Combined Women's Day Meeting and Luncheon at St. Paul's Church in Oreland, PA.

At the May 5, 2016 luncheon there were 68 adults and four children for a total of 72 attendees. There was rain and there were several traffic accidents on I-495 and I-95 which delayed many attendees and caused them to be late. We would like to express our thanks to Susan Higham, Beverly Reese (St. Luke's Bishop Hoffman, PA) and Nancy Fleischer (St Paul, PA) for the luncheon.

Our **60th** - Spiritual Enrichment Conference was held Friday, September 30th through October 2, 2016, at the Doubletree Hilton Williamsburg Conference Center. Mrs. Gale Hill, chairperson of COWM, with Leola Johnson, chairperson of the SE Diocese and Alice "Bobbie" Lepson, chairperson of the NE, Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canada were the committee. We held several conference calls in coordinating the SE Conference.

The committee was pleased that the author of our current Devotional, would be our speaker, Deaconess Teresa R. Johnson, St. James Anglican Church, Memphis, TN, would be the speaker. The theme was "Consolation and Good Hope through Grace":

"Now may our **Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God even our Father**, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope **by Grace** comfort your hearts..."

This year we had a woman from each church represented stand and share something about her church and their ladies activities. This year we had a designated "Prayer Room". There were several prayer requests that were shared during our Sunday worship service and some of the ladies took a prayer request with them to continue to pray about these requests. There were 78 adults and one(4 weeks old) baby named "Sparrow" in attendance. Special Certificates were distributed to those whose attendance to SEC were greater then 40 years all the way down to the first attendance by "Sparrow"

Mrs. Gale Hill gave those women who had husbands in attendance Sugar Daddy bars and chocolate kisses for their many years of attendance.

We had a jazz trio for entertainment. A slide show of the many past SEC attendees was shown during our dinnertime.

It is the committee's desire for our women to reach out and touch someone in another church. We need prayer for the decisions that will be facing us in 2017. This coming May, 2017 will be the last **COMBINED** Women's Day meeting. We would like to create an alternative meeting for the diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canada.

As chairperson, I ask you to be in prayer for the 2017 Combined Women's Day regarding the speaker, weather, attendance, participation and luncheon.

We request prayer for the committee members for suggestions and ideas of how we can continue to meet, encourage our women and most of all, know their needs so we can pray for them. Please forward any suggestions regarding the 2017 Spiritual Enrichment Conference in Williamsburg Friday, September 29-October 1, 2017 to Alice "Bobbie" Lepson.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice "Bobbie" Lepson
Chairperson of the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast and Eastern Canada.
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