

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

President: Mrs PYLLIS SPENCE

General Secretary: Mrs CAROLINE HAWTHORNE

Theme for the year: Stir us to Action

(This report should be read in conjunction with the reports of the Board of Mission in Ireland, Board of Mission Overseas and Board of Social Witness.)

1. The theme for this past year has been “Stir us to Action”. This challenged members to ‘stir up’ one another in Christ by using God’s Word, encouragement and suggesting ways of becoming actively involved in helping others. The theme verse was 1 Peter 1:13: “Prepare your minds for action.”

2. The Presbyterian Women’s (PW) office continues to be staffed by Mrs Caroline Hawthorne, General Secretary; Mrs Charlotte Stevenson, Communications & Development Officer; Miss Fiona Bingham, Senior Secretary and Miss Naomi Campbell, Receptionist/Secretary.

3. The Resources Committee continues to be commended by members for the production of the resource pack. Groups are offered this pack each year to help with their programme – it is full of useful ideas relating to the theme for the year. PW records sincere thanks to Mrs Ann Blue for convening this committee and for the valuable contribution she and committee members have made.

4. The PW website contains useful information relating to the organisation. Helpful resources and images are available on the website for members to download. The website address is www.presbyterianireland.org/pw.

5. CENTRAL COMMITTEE 2010/11

Office Bearers:

President:	Mrs Phyllis Spence (Dromore)
Home Vice President:	Mrs Valerie Tweedie (East Belfast)
Overseas Vice President:	Mrs Edna McIlwaine (Armagh)

Other Committee Members:

Mrs Margaret Stevenson (Ards)	Mrs Nan Bradford (Monaghan)
Mrs Moyra Stirling (Armagh)	Mrs Ann Blue (Newry)
Mrs Lynn Murray (Ballymena)	Mrs Jean Donald (Omagh)
Mrs Dorothy Marshall (North Belfast)	Mrs Gwen Carson (Route)
Dr Jean Shannon (South Belfast)	Mrs Edith Holmes (Templepatrick)
Mrs Winnie Moffett (East Belfast)	Mrs Anne Thompson (Tyrone)
Mrs Lynda Stothers (Carrickfergus)	Miss Anna Morrison (former YWG)
Mrs Hazel Clarke (Coleraine and Limavady)	Mrs Deborah Hyland (former YWG)

Mrs Violet Millar (Coleraine and Limavady)	Mrs Vera McLean (former YWG)
Mrs Georgina Hunter (Derry and Donegal)	Mrs Caroline Hawthorne (staff)
Mrs Sandra Stokes (Down)	Mrs Charlotte Stevenson (staff)
Mrs Vera Crawford (Dromore)	Mrs Evelyn Hamilton (Ex Officio)
Mrs Elizabeth Moffett (Iveagh)	

6. New Members of Central Committee 2011/12

Mrs Jean Annett (Iveagh) Mrs Elaine Crockett (Derry & Donegal)
Mrs Pat Martin (Monaghan) Mrs Valerie Reid (Omagh)

7. New Office Bearers effective from Annual Meeting, 26 May 2011

President 2011/12: Mrs Edna McIlwaine (Armagh)

Overseas Vice President 2011/13: Mrs Elizabeth Moffett (Iveagh)

8. The Central Committee met eight times during the year. As well as carrying the responsibility of steering the work of the organisation, the Central Committee continues to provide representatives to several committees and Boards in PCI and various other organisations and bodies.

9. Mrs Winnie Moffett represents PW at Women's Link and serves as their President.

10. Mrs Maureen Weir represents PW at Women's Forum.

11. Mrs Caroline Hawthorne represents PW on Focusfest Committee.

12. Mrs Phyllis Spence has served as President during 2010/11. During this year she has given generously of her time in attendance at meetings of Boards and Committees and has travelled extensively throughout Ireland to fulfil her many speaking engagements. Phyllis travelled to India with Caroline Hawthorne in November to visit the Church of North India in Gujarat. They were invited to speak at the Church of North India's (CNI) 40th Anniversary Women's Fellowship Conference. Central Committee deeply appreciates the contribution Phyllis has made to PW especially during her term in office.

13. PW Central Committee continues to appreciate the support and advice given by the Clerk of the General Assembly, the Rev Dr DJ Watts.

14. The Committee also records its thanks to the Rev DJ Bruce, Secretary to the Board of Mission in Ireland; the Rev WS Marrs, Secretary to the Board of Mission Overseas; and Mr L Conway, Secretary to the Board of Social Witness, for their help and expertise.

15. Events 2010/11

- The Annual Prayer Meeting was held on 15 April, 2010, in the Chapel, Church House. Prayers were led by Mrs Edna McIlwaine.
- The Annual Meetings were held on 6 May, 2010, in Church House. The guest speaker was Mrs Helen Kennedy. Helen and her husband, Maurice, are volunteers-in-mission with BMO in Blantyre, Malawi. Helen used the words of 1 Peter 1:13 to challenge everyone to "roll up your sleeves", "prepare your minds for action". She shared stories of mission life in Malawi and spoke of the overwhelming joy at seeing the change in

people's lives. She expressed gratitude to PW for the educational and medical boxes sent to Malawi. Helen challenged members to see the need in the world around and respond to it in the name of Christ.

- Prior to Central Committee in September 2010 the Rev David Bruce conducted a Communion Service.
- PW Forum was held on 11 September, 2010, in Church House, with the theme, "Stir us to Action". The Forum usually meets twice a year, when five representatives from each PW LINK (Presbytery level) are invited to join with Central Committee. Members are brought up to date with what is happening within PW and they have an opportunity to draw on each other's experiences. Caroline Hawthorne spoke on leadership, challenging members in their roles as leaders within PW. The programme also included an overview on the work of PW followed by group discussion.
- PW Forum met again on 3 February, 2011, in the Minor Hall, Church House. Phyllis Spence (President) led opening devotions and gave a short report on her trip to India with Caroline Hawthorne (General Secretary). The Resources Committee gave a flavour of what is in the 2011/2012 Resource Pack, highlighting the theme for next year; "Under His Wings". Caroline announced changes to the PW Mission Fund and the special projects that it will support during 2011/2012. She also advised that from September 2011 membership fees would no longer be collected. A presentation was given in response to queries that had been raised at the September Forum. It suggested how LINKs could become more effective in encouraging women to serve Christ through *Presbyterian Women*.

South Belfast Friendship House

16. The House is funded by PW through the PW Mission Fund.

17. PW Central Committee continues to value the partnership with the Board of Social Witness in relation to the management of South Belfast Friendship House.

18. The Management Committee is thankful to Mrs Jenny Robinson, Mrs Eunice Moore and Miss Ashley McFaul for their faithful service and commitment to the work of South Belfast Friendship House. The Committee would like to record its thanks to Miss Natalie Johnston who has served as part of the BSW Volunteer Scheme this past year, and to all the volunteers who help on a regular basis - their support is invaluable.

19. The new building is proving to be a superb facility and is being greatly used. It has enabled the work of the House to grow, with a breakfast club and youth Alpha course now running, in addition to the usual activities.

20. In August 2010 two summer teams were held at the House. One was led by Stuart Hawthorne from Woodlands Presbyterian Church and the other was led by a team from the PCI Youth and Children's Board.

21. Once again, there was a wonderful response to the Christmas Appeal. PW Groups, Congregations and individuals gave money gifts, toys and household goods, and many people were helped as a result of this generosity. It is also a huge encouragement to the staff team when personal contact is made with the House. The Management Committee would like to record its thanks to all who contributed.

Finance

22. PW Central Committee is very grateful for the ongoing support of its members which enables PW to contribute to the mission of the Church at home and overseas. Income to the Mission Fund for Home and Overseas in 2010 amounted to £547,770.

23. PW will be giving a grant of £255,000 in 2011 to the Board of Mission in Ireland to partly support 27 Deaconesses and one Probationary Deaconess, serving in Congregations, the Community, Hospitals and the Prison Service. In addition, PW are currently supporting four student Deaconesses at Union Theological College.

24. PW will be giving a grant of £190,000 in 2011 to the Board of Mission Overseas.

25. PW Central Committee acknowledges with thanks the following bequest:

Miss Edith Josephine McCausland	£3,000
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Birthday Project

26. The total amount received for the 2009/10 Birthday Project was £68,405, and this went towards the Vine Centre in Belfast and a Widows' Empowerment Programme in Nepal.

27. At the time of writing the Birthday Project (2010/11) for supporting God's work in the Synod of Livingstonia in Malawi had received £43,000.

Wider World

28. PW Central Committee records sincere thanks to the former Editor, Mrs Anthea Harrison and Miss Ruth Mitchell who compiled the children's page. Anthea served as Editor for seven years and she produced the magazine to a consistently high standard, making it an interesting and informative read. Committee would like to welcome Mrs Charlotte Stevenson to her new role as Editor, in addition to her other duties and pray that God will use her as she continues to develop the magazine for Presbyterian Women.

29. Wider World has a readership of around 19,000. The Committee continues to promote Wider World amongst the members of our Church and would encourage more members to subscribe to this excellent magazine.

30. Selected extracts from Wider World continue to be available on audio tape for those who are blind or partially sighted.

RESOLUTION

1. That the Report be received.