

On the Western Front...

The women of Clusters A and B, which include churches located west and south of D.C., have been busy as usual—though most of them might claim otherwise, perhaps reflecting the doldrums of this drawn-out winter. In all cases, women are “salted” throughout the activities of their churches, something we are familiar with.

At Leesburg PC, the Circles continue to meet regularly, and they report liking the Horizons Bible study very much—though they are not fans of the study’s artwork. According to Shirley Pearson, the women of Leesburg serve on the missions and witness committee, sing in the choir, and help in the church’s administrative office. Dottie Stewart of St. Andrew PC reports that the women there are also using and liking the Horizons Bible study—but in fact they like the artwork better than that included in last year’s study. This difference between the PW groups at Leesburg and St. Andrew reminds us that God’s diversity is everywhere, including in reactions to Bible study art.

Kristin Yost of Trinity PC in Herndon, which of course is hosting this year’s Spring Gathering, advises that Trinity’s PW women held their annual January Retreat, with the theme of “From Brokenness to Beauty.” Pastor Becca Messman led them on this journey, and, as Kristin said, “we always love it when she leads our retreats!” About 32 women attended on a Sunday after worship, each painting two tiles with specific themes and then breaking the tiles to make a beautiful mosaic cross. “It was very cool.” The Trinity women are now helping to support the church’s youth mission projects and will have their annual PW Birthday Celebration/Luncheon/BibleStudy wrap up on May 18, when they will also announce the new 2014-15 PW Coordinating Team.

Bealeton PC’s Hazel Settle says that they have 7-8 women who meet faithfully once a month to participate in a Bible study led by their Pastor’s wife. The women also participate in a number of missions-type project, including taking cookies and drinks to a neighboring nursing home, sending Christmas cards to women in a local prison, and taking donated items to a transition center in Warrenton that collects household goods for families who have lost their homes due to foreclosures and other disasters.

At Christ PC, the Evening and Morning Circles continue to meet monthly, using the Horizons Bible study which provokes lively discussions. The PW-sponsored quilt group has completed another quilt, which is currently being raffled off, the proceeds going to local and/or international charities—and they’ve already started on the next quilt! The annual Fall Retreat was well-attended and very inspiring, focused on diversity and inclusiveness, and plans are in the works for a Spring Retreat, as well as the PW Birthday Celebration and yearly Flea Market to benefit the local community.