

'Women of the Word' 2015 Annual Report

* 2015, Second Semester of our 16th year:

- On 1/15 we continued our study of I Corinthians by WOW founder, Lois Lindley, finishing the year with a two week study on Spiritual Gifts. About 65 women were registered with a few new members, and 4-6 children in our Children's Program.
- Our theme this year was 'Faith, HOPE and Love.' Our KEY verse is found in I Corinthians 13:13, "Faith, hope, love... but the greatest of these is Love."
- We had a Praise & Worship/Testimony Day in March as well as hearing from Cindy Noll and Gail, Tiffany & Kelly [former Children's Program teacher/helpers] York about their S. African Mission Trip with Pastor Solomon Kepkey.
- Several WOW women attended the 3/14 Women's Retreat at First Baptist Church, Geneva. Inspirational speaker Vicki Courtney spoke on "Ever After: When the Fairy Tale Ends and a Better Story Begins".
- On 3/26, 13 WOW members and 3 teens served the 17 women and 13 children at Lifespring Women's Shelter, Aurora. This was our 7th visit and we brought many collected items collected along with lunch, and a gift bag for each of the women. Ten Lifespring women and several of their children were in attendance that day. For the "INSIDE SPA", there was sharing by several WOW gals, faith stories, and group singing. We connected and encouraged the Lifespring gals who also opened up and shared some of their stories/prayer requests. The afternoon 'OUTSIDE SPA' included manicures, pedicures, massages and hair cuts. We were privileged to hear the sweet and heartfelt words of our WOW sisters and to see the Spirit at work in the Lifespring women... and children!!
- 4/9 was our last meeting and we shared Praises and Testimonies with a Potluck Salad Lunch in the ME and appetizers for our EE group.
- Perfect Attendance was awarded to 9 members for 2nd Semester and 7 members for the Full Year!
- April 16th was our outreach event, 'Walking With God in the Desert', with speaker and former member, Kathy Medema, Polo, IL. She shared how the Lord has met her needs as she walked through some of her life's deserts! We sold Samaritan Creations jewelry made by rescued girls in Thailand, and also sent support to Abolition International and The Tvrdivs/Cup of Cold Water, missionaries in Mongolia. There were about 50 women and men in attendance.
- For our 4/23/15 Mystery Meetings, our ME 'Core Leadership' traveled to More Polish Pottery with lunch afterwardds at South Moon, Hinckley. EE had a walking Progressive Supper ending at WPC. We are so grateful for how the Lord brings unity to such a diverse group of women!

* 2015, Summer:

- June 18, 14 EE Members gathered at Francesca's in Earlville for supper and visiting.
- Teresa Burks led a short study on Spiritual Gifts in Hinckley.
- Our annual picnic on July 16th was switched to WPC because of the heat. Many women attended for a fun evening of food, fun and fellowship!
- Our Administration Team worked hard this summer to plan an exciting new year for our area women! Cindy Noll is our Head Teaching Leader, Julie Ness is our Secretary, Morning Edition Directors are Esther Fay and Lisa Karlsson. Evening Edition Directors are Pam Gaston and LeAnn Baie.
- Registration was held August 27th along with our evening 'Growing in Godliness' Kick-Off Seminar featuring guest speaker, Patricia Solveson, Spooner, Wisconsin. Patty shared her life story and her painting of the 'Jerusalem Wall of Life' mural, a mural of epic proportions depicting the story of the

Bible and witnessing to many in Israel. About 30 women and men attended this annual evening event which is for anyone in the community, whether they plan to attend WOW or not.

*** 2015, First Semester of Our 17th Year!!**

- This year's Bible study began September 24th using Beth Moore's video study, "Children of the Day: I & II Thessalonians." Our THEME is: 'We are Children of the Light, walking and living in His Light'. We are taking a slow walk along with Beach by taking two weeks per lesson. Our focus VERSE: I Thess. 5:5, "You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness." There are 4 levels of participation.
- There are about 65 women registered from 30 different churches and 10 different towns! We have 15 new members, and 3-5 children in our Children's Program.
- Lisa Karlsson designed and ordered WOW t-shirts and many bought them.
- In December we collected many gift items and visited our blind WOW sister, Nancy, who had a stroke and is now in a nursing home in Eau Claire, WI.
- Eleven women had perfect attendance for the first semester ~ God IS FAITHful!!!
- On 12/17 a few of us [and a couple children] went caroling again at Shabbona Nursing Home, the Assisted Living and ended at the Garden Apartments for fellowship and refreshments. It's always an evening of blessing in both directions!
- Other general things we are doing this year include:
 - Supplying monthly newsletters from 'Intercessors for America' [IFA] to help us grow in the area of prayer for our country and community. **You may see some in the Narthex- Help yourself and find out how to PRAY for our country!**
 - We offer two monthly Prayer gatherings- one in the morning and one in the evening.
 - We promoted Pastor Appreciation Month in October through prayer prompts and fliers listing ways to encourage our pastors and their spouses.
 - We promoted the WPC mission opportunities as well as the Thankoffering Dinner.
 - We also promoted the Stamp Ministry through Sisters of the Holy Cross- Notre Dame, IN. The proceeds from selling these stamps support many different ministries to the poor around the world! **WPC-- Please save your stamps with 1/4" or more around the edge and put them in the box for canceled stamps in the Narthex- or, just save your envelopes and we will cut off the stamps!**

As always, we depend solely on the Lord's provision for WOW. THANK YOU for being a part of that!

Our Admin Team and POW-WOW groups [Prayers of Women for Women of the Word] pray for you and the church!! Let us know if there are any specific prayer requests. All of you [and men as well -- if you don't mind being out numbered!!] are always welcome to visit or join us for any of our meetings, ministry, or events.

Again- we are so thankful for WPC and each of you on Session and Deacons who serve our Lord.

May many blessings be yours in this new year!!

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[WOW Administrator]