

'Women of the Word' 2014 Annual Report

* 2014, Second Semester of our 15th year:

- Last January our annual Leader Potato Supper was canceled due to the terrible winter storms. The multiple 'polar vortexes' canceled several of our meetings last winter!
- On 1/9 we started the second semester of our 15th year of WOW, and began our study of the Gospel of Mark by WOW founder, Lois Lindley. It focused us on the many aspects of the Servanthood of Christ. About 65 women were registered with a few new members, and 6-8 children in our Children's Program. 'Unlocking the Treasure' continued as our theme, highlighting KEYS from His Word. Matthew 16:19 [Message Bible] was our theme verse: "You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, KEYS to open any and every door; no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven." We discovered that we can see our weaknesses and insufficiencies as gifts or KEYS given to us specifically and strategically by God. They are the conduits through which we unlock the treasure to go through the door of God's STRENGTH. We continued to add weekly KEY cards to our 15th Anniversary carabineer to carry with us as reminders of His promises.
- We continued with our Prayer Sisters Partners, our monthly Morning Edition Prayer times and our monthly Evening Intercessory Prayer times-- as much as the weather would allow us!
- Three more babies were added to our WOW Babies list and given 'Jesus Loves Me' lambs.
- Pastor Solomon Kepkey, Esther Fay's former pastor from South Africa, blessed us with leading worship and teaching.
- March 13 was our outreach event with Gayle Haas, Aurora, in another dramatic monologue as Grannie Carter this time. She brought us wisdom and inspiration from God's Word in 'Huntin' for Bear'. It was an old-fashioned evening of fun and laughter along with fellowship, pie and ice cream.
- Also in March, seventeen WOW women and friends attended the Women's Retreat at First Baptist Church, Geneva. Inspirational speaker Lysa Terkeurst spoke on "'What Happens When Women Say YES! to God.'"
- 4/10 was our last meeting and we shared Praises and Testimonies. As it was our last gathering, we had a Potluck Salad Lunch in the ME and appetizers for our EE group.
- Perfect Attendance was awarded to 13 members for Second Semester and 9 members for the Full Year!
- During Holy Week [4/17], we celebrated and honored Maundy Thursday by being 'servants' to the women at Lifespring Women's Shelter in Aurora. Our 'Inside/Outside SPA Day' involved 15 WOW members and two teens and we brought many items collected from

WOW along with lunch, and a gift bag for each of the women in residence there. Ten of the 15 Lifespring women along with several of their children were in attendance that day. For the "INSIDE SPA", there was sharing by several WOW gals on what they learned from our first semester Gideon study, life testimonies, a solo, and group singing. We connected and encouraged the Lifespring gals who also opened up and shared some of their stories and prayer requests. The afternoon 'OUTSIDE SPA' included manicures, pedicures 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!! Go God!!

- For our 4/24/14 Mystery Meetings, our ME 'Core Leadership' traveled to Sandwich to look for Treasures in the antique shops there and ended with Lunch at the Bull Moose to share 'treasure' photos. EE met at WPC for supper, worship and a Scavenger 'Treasure' Hunt around the church as well as board games. We are so grateful for how the Lord brings unity to such a diverse group of women!

*** 2014, Summer:**

- We held our annual picnic on July 17th at Shabbona State Park shelter. About 30 women attended for a fun evening of food, games 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 and Paulette Bowman is our Treasurer/Secretary. Our Morning Edition Directors are Esther Fay and Teresa Burks. Evening Edition Directors are Pam Gaston and LeAnn Baie. They had to work extra hard, as Sue Hipple took a sabbatical. THANK YOU Team!!
- A CD tape recorder was purchased by WPC and a CD duplicator was purchased by WOW. Both can be used by the other, and we're hoping to make use of them soon.
- Registration was held August 28th along with our evening 'Growing in Godliness' Kick-Off Seminar which featured guest speaker, Sarah Craigmyle, Big Rock. Sarah shared how she has encountered our faithful and loving God during the desert journeys of her life. About 35 women attended this annual evening event which is for anyone in the community, whether they plan to attend WOW or not.

*** 2014, First Semester of Our 16th Year!!**

- This year's Bible study began September 18th using Ray VanderLaan's video study, "Walking with God in the Desert." We were reminded that God *is* with us during our difficult desert times, and how we can experience God's amazing *faith, hope and love* through it all. About 60 women are registered from 30 different churches and 12 different towns! We have a few new members, and 4-6 children in our Children's Program.
- Our theme this year is 'Faith, HOPE and Love.' Our KEY verse is found in I Corinthians 13:13, . "Faith, hope, love... but the greatest of these is Love."

- In October, missionary Dan Fick came to ME to update us on his ministry in Bolivia. In November, Shari Tvrdik, missionary family to the Mongolia slum/ger district, spoke after ME WOW with a potluck lunch afterwards.
- 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!** [Agnes Kahle used to head up this ministry. Sue Hipple will send them now.]
- On November 7-8, several of our members traveled to the Ray VanderLaan Conference 'Follow the Rabbi' at First Christian Church in Morris, IL. Ray has traveled and studied extensively in the Bible lands and his teaching ministry is focused on understanding the Bible in light of its historical and cultural context. He challenged us to be a transforming influence on our culture today.
- On 11/20 Pastor Solomon Kepkey blessed us again with teaching and personal prayer ministry.
- We felt very blessed with our once/semester Fall offering collection. We gratefully gave an offering to WPC Thankoffering from WOW, along with other offerings from individual WOW members.
- In December we finished our 'Walking with God in the Desert' study and began our Lois Lindley study of I Corinthians. It will continue through this second semester. We also collected many gift items to bless our blind WOW sister, Nancy, who had a stroke and is now in a nursing home. She lives in Eau Claire, WI.
- Eleven women had perfect attendance for the first semester ~ including a 95 year old and, a young mom who comes from Steward! God IS FAITHful!!!
- A few of us [and a couple children] went caroling again at Shabbona Nursing Home, the Assisted Living, several individual homes, and ended at the Garden Apartments for 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.

As always, we depend solely on the Lord's provision for WOW. THANK YOU WPC 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!!

sue hipple ><>

[WOW Administrator]