

Testimonies
of
2010 WIC Nominees

Janet Russ

President

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as WIC president for 2010. It is amazing to watch the many ways God uses the women in the church to advance His Kingdom and encourage the body here at LPC. As a young girl I was taught much about how God desires us to be His servants. I knew very little about my need for a Savior at that time and for many years served out of a sense of duty. Years later, I realized my great need for His saving grace as I struggled in my roles as a wife and first time mother. I am thankful that God gave me a wonderfully understanding husband as I walked through a difficult season of life! God changed my heart completely and for the first time I understood that by His grace alone I could trust in Christ as my Savior. Since that time in 1978, we have been through other difficult times and other wonderful times. Our three sons, their wives and our four granddaughters continue to teach us much about God's love, grace, and mercy. It is such a difference to trust in Him rather than in myself! Bill and I served together for years in ministries for children and youth. Now we are privileged to serve here among our friends at LPC with children and in other ways. We are learning with all of you that the truth of the Gospel is the only means of change and growth. Sinclair Ferguson once said that "*grace changes duty into the joy of serving*" so it is by grace that I will joyfully serve in this office.

***"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen."* 1Peter 5:10-11**

Miriam Scogin

WIC Treasurer

I am excited for the opportunity to serve the Women of the Church with the gifts God has given me. I have spent most of my life in Augusta, GA attending First Presbyterian Church. Although attending church every Sunday and looking good, my family was very broken, but God in all His grace saved me at a Christian summer camp when I was in Elementary school. I was able to get very involved in youth group when I reached middle school and had the opportunity to serve as a student leader with the junior-high when I got to high school. Through my high school years I struggled very much with understanding God's grace and sovereignty considering my family situation. Once in college God put some very godly women in my life to shepherd me through my struggles that is when God taught me and I first really understood His grace and that I can do nothing. Understanding this and continuing to learn about God's grace, has been great as I have been very involved in volunteering with the youth. I am comforted to know that He is in control. I hope to continue to learn, grow, and serve you as treasurer of WIC.

Raluca Liles

Historian

The Lord is faithful to me in many ways. I was raised in a Christian home with parents that showed me every day what it meant to follow Christ. I don't remember a time of not knowing about Jesus Christ or God's word. From an early age I remember praying with my parents and reading the Bible, as well as attending church regularly. When I was about eleven years old, I realized that I was a sinner and understood that Christ was the only way to salvation. Although I had been raised in a good, Christian home this was not going to save me, I needed a personal savior to change my heart which was sinful. At the age of thirteen I was baptized in the church where I grew up. From that time-on, there have been specific points in my life where I can look back and see God being faithful to me and causing me to grow in sanctification.

When I was fifteen, I was at a summer camp and I remember God really pulling on my heart to walk with Him more faithfully. This was a key time in my life as I was entering high school and I needed to be walking with the Lord. He drew me closer and I stayed very involved with my church. I also became more diligent in reading God's word and spending time in prayer. With the perspective of time I can see that the Lord used these means of grace to keep me secure in my salvation. My father consistently encouraged our development of spiritual discipline, as he consistently asked us about our time with the Lord. This was a crucial time of growth for me, as I learned more about what I believed and how to express that to others.

In college, the Lord continued to be faithful to me even when I was not faithful to Him. Although I remained active in my church, reading the Word and prayer, I began dating an unbeliever, which I knew was not what God or my parents wanted me to do. Despite my disobedience, the Lord was faithful. That guy is now my husband, and the Lord used my sin to accomplish his good purpose and drew us both closer to Him. Throughout our eight years of marriage, God has shown mercy and grace to us when neither of us deserved it. He turned Justin into a true Spiritual leader for our family. I pray that He will continue to show His grace and faithfulness to me as he is teaching me how to become a gentle wife and a godly mother every day.

Frances Molten
Decorating Chair

One of my favorite daily devotional books is Charles H. Spurgeon and this is a portion of one of the devotionals which sums up my testimony: "My hope lives not because I am not a sinner, but because I am a sinner for whom CHRIST died; my trust is not that I am holy, but that being unholy, HE is my righteousness. My faith rests not upon what I am, or shall be, or feel, or know, but in what CHRIST is, in what HE has done, and in what HE is now doing for me..." My daily prayer is to become stronger in the Christian faith and to be an example for family and friends. I have indeed been blessed.

Pat Reedy
Special Events Chair

I was born into a family of believers and my mom came from a family that worshiped in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. My father's family came from the Evangelical view and I had an uncle that was a Baptist Preacher and two cousins that are Presbyterian Ministers. My parents worshiped in an Evangelical United Brethren Church, which later became a United Methodist Church.

Even with many different views on the elements of a worship service, everyone agreed on the Trinity and that God was in charge and knew what would be the best for our church. "Amazing Grace" is a hymn that we all needed to know!

The words of the following verse are very important to me in my walk: "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10.

As you can see God, my Father has been the main stay in my life. Gifts from God have been numerous and great. A husband with love and strengths was given to me, two precious sons and two grandsons were given to me. A daughter (in-law) was given to me and soon another daughter (in-law) will be given to me. With these gifts of family, God has given me friends who loved me, prayed for me and encouraged me when needed. What great precious gifts God has given to me!

Rachel Caldwell

Circle 1

Being raised in a Christian home has been a blessing in my life. My parents were strong believers, raising the family to trust God daily for guidance. I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior at a young age. In 1978, I married my husband Paul in Morgantown, WV and moved to SC in 1978. We are blessed to have four children, three married sons and a daughter. My trust in Christ has grown stronger over the years while raising our children. Paul and I know God has been with us throughout our marriage as we prayed for wisdom while raising our family. In addition to our children and spouses, we now have the privilege of praying for a 4 month old granddaughter and another granddaughter who will arrive in January.

I have been nominated to chair Circle One. Being a member of Circle One has meant a lot to me as I have gotten to know many ladies who have been prayer warriors numerous years. Their example of leaning on Christ during difficult times has been a wonderful example to me. These ladies have taught me how God has always been faithful even through extremely difficult times. It has been a hard year for Circle One as we miss three dear members of our circle who have gone home to be with our Savior.

If you desire to meet some wonderful ladies in our church, hear some great teaching, enjoy some fun laughs, then please attend Circle One meetings and you, too, will be blessed.

Please pray for the WIC officers as we seek to serve the body with our gifts.

