



## NEWSLETTER

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST  
OF SPECIAL INTEREST  
TO SOUTHEASTERN WOMEN

SEP 29 1983

September/October, 1983  
SEMINARY LIBRARY

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"To this we've come..." and so begins Magda's Aria from Menotti's opera, "The Consul".

"To this we've come, that men withhold the world from men....That man be born a stranger upon God's earth...To this we've come -- and you, you too shall weep!"

To know the terror of strangers shot from a peaceful sky, to know the hatred/fear of strangers hurling destruction in the form of missiles...words, to know the gut-wrenching hunger of strangers starving while farmers are paid to reduce their yields, to know "...and you too shall weep."

"To this we've come...."

Is there anyone behind those closed doors, to whom the heart can still be explained? Is there one, anyone who still may hear?....Papers! Papers, papers! But don't you understand?! What shall I tell you to make you understand?! My child is dead. John's mother is dying. My own life is in danger. I ask you for help. And all you give me is - papers! ....What is your name? Magda Sorel. Age? 33. What will your papers do?....What is your name? Magda Sorel. Age? 33. What does it matter?....What is your name? This is my answer:

My name.... is woman.

Age..... still young.

Color of hair....grey.

Color of eyes....the color of tears.

Occupation.....WAITING!"

How much longer do we wait? To this we've come: to know and do, each of us, brothers and sisters.

(Brenda Kneece, Residence Life Counselor, SEBTS)

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### PRE-CONVENTION MEETING OF SBC WOMEN IN MINISTRY (PITTS.)

On Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday morning prior to the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburg, sixty-five to seventy (65-70) persons in support of women in ministry met. The Southeastern Seminary family was well represented. Those who participated were Christine Gregory, Debra Griffis-Woodberry, Brenda Kneece, Ethel Lee, Marilyn Mayse, Anne Neil, Elmo Scoggin and Hannah Scoggin. Three of these made major presentations (Gregory, Griffis-Woodberry, Neil).

In a business session the group adopted the following as its statement of purpose: "To provide support for the woman whose call from God defines her vocation as that of minister or as that of woman in ministry within the Southern Baptist Convention and to encourage and affirm her call to be a servant of God."

The steering committee of the SBC for women in ministry was enlarged from eight to sixteen (the original committee being the outgrowth of a convention appointed task force). This committee is now making plans for the next pre-convention meeting scheduled for next June in Kansas City.

### WOMEN IN MINISTRY RESOURCE CENTER

As Southern Baptist Women in Ministry have begun to communicate with one another more effectively, one note has been sounded over and over again: the need for a place, a center, through which to keep in touch and, thereby, better support one another. Many women have suggested regional centers rather than one center serving the entire convention. Our seminaries seemed apt places to begin such centers.

In late spring of this year, Randall Lolley (SEBTS President) was approached about a possible center here at Southeastern. This center would lend support to women presently enrolled as students, women who by other roles are part of the seminary family, and alumnae. His response was positive and enthusiastic. The seminary has provided space in the Women's Dormitory, a telephone, a mailbox and a filing cabinet. The center will be staffed by volunteers from the outset and will assume total responsibility for its program costs. (Continued next page)

(Resource Center-Continued)

Our immediate goals are to support women presently involved in the seminary experience, to get in touch with as many Southeastern alumnae as possible (as well as other women in ministry in the area), to hear from you, and thus work together in creating the kind of support base that will help all of us in fulfilling our God-called ministries.

by Anne Neil, SEBTS Pastoral Counselor; Member SBC Steering Committee for Women in Ministry; Missionary Emerita (Africa).

### THE WOMEN'S FORUM

June: Presentation of reports from pre-convention meeting of SBC Women in Church Related Vocations and from Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburg. (Ethel Lee, Anne Neil, Brenda Kneece, presenters.)

July: "Old Testament Interpretation and Women In Ministry." Presentation and discussion led by John I Durham (Prof. SEBTS).

Sept.: "The Servant Model." Presentation of paper presented in Pittsburg at pre-convention meeting made by Anne Neil. After presentation a discussion about women and the role of servant was led by Ms. Neil.

Tapes of these forums and all preceeding forums are available from Brenda Kneece -- on a loan basis only.

COMING FORUM GUESTS AND TOPICS (1st Thurs., Women's Dorm)

Oct.: "New Testament Interpretation and Women In Ministry." Presentation and discussion led by Richard Spencer (Prof. SEBTS).

Nov.: "Issues of Women in Ministry in SBC." Presentation of paper presented at pre-convention meeting in June. Presentation and discussion led by Debra Griffis-Woodberry (Associate Min. Ridge Road Baptist, Th.M.-SEBTS).

ORDINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/ETC.

Brenda Taylor Padelford was accepted by the Women's Theological Center in Boston for a nine month, 24 semester hour program of theological education at a Master's level. Brenda, Marc and their children moved to Boston for this academic year.

Susan Elliott (M.Div.'83) was ordained by her home church, Rivermont Baptist, Danville, Virginia, on June 19, 1983. The pastor delivered the sermon, Glenn Miller (Prof. SEBTS) delivered the charge and Ginger Barfield (Th.M. student SEBTS, ordained '81) served as liturgist. Susan and her husband (as of Saturday, Sept. 17), Bob Kimball, are living in Jacksonville, N.C. Susan is the Protestant Director of Religious Education for Camp Lejeune Marine Base there.

Janice Odom Patty was ordained by Pullen Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C., on June 25, 1983. Janice serves there as Minister of Youth.

Nancy Peebles was selected by the United Church of Christ (Southern Region) to serve as the Southern Region Program Associate in Parenting and Family Ministries on July 15, 1983. Her work will begin on January 1, 1984.

(Please let us know if you have similar news to share. We are also interested in knowing who the women are on our campus who have already been ordained. Information can be sent to us: The Women's Resource Center, Box 2136 SEBTS, Wake Forest, N.C. 27587. The telephone number and the hours that the center will be staffed will be in the next issue. Meanwhile, make good use of the box!!!)

## CALENDAR

\*October 6, 1983

WOMEN'S FORUM-SEBTS (8pm Basement Women's Dormitory)

Guest: Richard Spencer

Topic: "New Testament Interpretation and Women in Ministry."

For any interested member of the Southeastern family.

\*October 6-8, 1983

THEOLOGY IS A VERB (Second Annual Conference), Atlanta, Ga. "A gathering of Southern Baptists concerned with addressing the issues of our society: hunger, race relations, peacemaking, women in ministry."

Program personalities: Darrell Adams, Wendell Belew, Spurgeon Hays, Walker Knight, Ann Neil, Gene Owens, Nancy Hastings Sehested, Ed Wheeler.

For more information write: Morningside Baptist Church, 1700 Piedmont Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, GA. 30324.

\*October 31-November 2, 1983

TIME-STRESS MANAGEMENT

Intentional Growth Center

Lake Junaluska Assembly

Box 67

Lake Junaluska, N.C. 28745

\*November 3, 1983

WOMEN'S FORUM-SEBTS

Guest: Debra Griffis-Woodberry

Topic: "Issues Facing Women In Ministry in SBC."

For any interested member of the Southeastern family.

\*December 5-7, 1983

NOTES ON BEING - A SEMINAR ON OUR LIFE'S JOURNEY

Intentional Growth Center

Lake Junaluska Assembly

Box 67

Lake Junaluska, N.C. 28745

RESOURCE

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY: BOOKS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO WOMEN  
By Marilyn Mayse, Staff Chaplain, Alabama Baptist Hospitals-  
Birmingham; M.Div., SEBTS, 1983.

1. Paul K. Jewett, The Ordination of Women (Eerdmans, 1980), pb \$5.95. The author of Man As Male and Female presents and responds to three arguments against women's ordinations: 1) the argument from the "nature of women"; 2) from the nature of the ministerial office; and 3) from the "masculinity of God." His statements of the arguments are fair and cogent, and his responses are scripturally and historically sound. Other sections are on the nature of the incarnation; a theology of motherhood; the Holy Spirit as female; the history of the "male apostolate;" and sexist language in theology. Women who wish to know the facts will find here a valuable resource, written sensitively and powerfully.
2. Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique (Dell, 1963), pb. A classic of the modern feminist movement. Friedan's thesis: that the idea that "woman's place is in the home" is a recent development in American history (post-WWII), deliberately engineered by the media and educational institutions. She documents carefully from magazines, books and speeches of the era. I recognized my parents and grandparents and, in addition, was able to claim kinship with "career women" of the 20's and 30's who now have retired after long, satisfying work lives.
3. Carol P. Christ Judith Plaskow, ed., Womanspirit Rising (Harper & Row, 1979), pb. Subtitled "A Feminist Reader in Religion", these short essays introduce one to fifteen women theologians, mainstream (Phyllis Trible) to radical (Mary Daly and Starhawk). Includes articles on history, reconstructing tradition, and creating new traditions. An excellent overview and introduction to feminist theology.
4. Paul Tournier, The Gift of Feeling (John Knox Press, 1981), pb. "I believe that women have a mission today. Men have kept them out of public life and have built up our Western technical civilization without them--a masculine society, ordered entirely in accordance with masculine values, and tragically lacking the

## RESOURCE CONTINUED

contribution that women could make." So wrote Christian psychotherapist Tournier in his 80th year! He postulates that women's great strength is their ability to feel, to see persons rather than things, to be intuitive. He calls for all of us to seek balance--to include the typically "feminine" strengths in order to be whole. The book is appreciative of the distinctions between men and women and recognizes their equal importance in the development of human life.

5. Spinning A Sacred Yarn: Women Speak from the Pulpit (Pilgrim, 1982), pb. A collection of 26 women's sermons--Protestant, Catholic, Jewish. The quality is somewhat uneven, but here, at least, are some role models--enough for a woman preacher to choose some out of which to mold her own style. Most could only have been written by women, and the contrast with the "traditional" male sermon is instructive. My favorite is Peggy Way's "You Are Not My God, Jehovah."
6. Evelyn and Frank Stagg, Women In The World of Jesus (Westminster, 1978),pb. The Staggs, Southern Baptists, have here a thorough presentation of the cultural characteristics with regard to woman in 1) the world into which Jesus came; 2) Jesus' dealings with women; and 3) the earth church's attitudes. Their bias is in favor of recognition of woman as equal, and to this end they present the culture as highly influential in the New Testament writings.
7. Alla Bozarth-Campbell, Womanpriest: A Personal Odyssey (Paulist, 1978)pb. \$9.95. This highly personal book is by one of the eleven women ordained "irregularly" to the Episcopal priesthood in 1974, before the Church recognized women's ordination. The author is a poet, an artist, and a woman with a lifelong mystical sense of vocation. Her writing is a spiritual conversation with the reader, in which she shares her special insights into the nature of ministry, the meaning of vocation, and the unique problems and joys of a woman in ministry.

The rest of this bibliography will be presented in the next issue of the newsletter. Please share with us books and resource materials as you discover them. -7-

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WAKE FOREST, NC 27587

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NEWSLETTER: Of Special Interest to Southeastern Women will be printed five times a year. Issues will be available at these times: Sept./Oct., Nov./Dec., Jan./Feb., Mar./Apr., and one issue in the summer. Persons involved on the campus at Southeastern will be able to pick up each issue from prominent places on the campus. Persons who desire to have issues sent to them need to send a check for \$3.00 (payable to the Women's Resource Center, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, NC 27587) for a year's subscription. Other programs of the Center will be funded by private donations, such donations should not be considered as part of regular gifts to the seminary or to its programs. BK