

A Moment in Macedonia

Women's Seminar

With financial support from Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries in New York and the United Methodist Women of Switzerland, we were again able to offer a seminar or retreat for women. It was held at Hotel Prince, a modest hotel on Lake Ohrid in Struga, Macedonia from August 24 - 28, 2009. Forty-eight women, from village congregations and city congregations participated. The theme was "To Drink From the Source." We heard Bible lessons from such familiar passages as "He leadeth me beside the still waters," (Psalm 23:2) and "Jesus answered, '... those who drink the water that I will give

them will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring which will provide them with life-giving water and give them eternal life.' " (John 4:13-14)



Relaxing at the lake



Reverend Hannah Wilhelm, pastor and former DS from Germany, presented the Bible lessons and offered related practical guidance for lifestyle application. The goal of these seminars, organized every other year, is to provide rest, spiritual renewal, fellowship and suggestions for lifestyle improvement to women.

Macedonia is a male-dominated society; women are sometimes abused (physically and psychologically), frequently stressed and overworked. At the seminar we were reminded how

Women’s Seminar - cont’d

important it is to seek “oases” in our lives, those places or activities where we can find relaxation, peace and solace. We participated in exercises to explore ways of finding tranquility.

There were also opportunities for good fun: arts and crafts, informal conversations, singing, games and an excursion by boat from the city of Ohrid to the picturesque St. Naum monastery. We saw the value of women having quiet time to themselves, to rest, to be creative, to strengthen relationships with God and with supportive women friends. After the seminar, we felt rested in body, encouraged in faith and renewed in spirit.

Thanksgiving for the Harvest



On Sunday, October 4, we celebrated Thanksgiving for the harvest. The church was decorated with colorful fruits and vegetables. The Sunday school children presented a short skit about having a thankful attitude and they sang two songs. The youth group also sang. Holy Communion was an im-

portant part of the celebration.

Carol Partridge
Zagrebacka 4,
Strumica, MK-2400
R. Macedonia

e-mail: carolpartridge@yahoo.com
web site: www.carolpartridge.com



Serving Communion



World Day of Prayer

In September I was privileged to participate in the European Conference of World Day of Prayer, along with a Catholic woman from Skopje. The conference was held in Hertfordshire, England and included women from thirty-five European countries. The workshops offered useful information and the excellent Bible studies will help us prepare for World Day of Prayer 2011, written by the women of Chile.

