



TODAY WE WELCOME-



Betsy Fleming, President of Converse College.

Converse College has been preparing women to be strong leaders in their professions and in their communities for over 100 years. Here, women come first – in the classrooms, science labs, and music rehearsal halls; on our playing fields and in our student organizations. This commitment to our students ensures that throughout their Converse experience and beyond, they will be involved, prepared, and accomplished.

OUR GREETER FOR TODAY- Sandy Sanders

Congratulations on your special day.

Anniversaries This Week!

Bill & Thelma Brown, Feb., 8
Ed & Cynde Overcash, Feb., 10

Birthdays This Week!

Sandy Sanders, Feb., 5
Bill Brown, Feb., 5

GREETER FOR NEXT MEETING- Jim Seeley, February 17

PROGRAM FROM LAST MEETING-



Scott R. Scheel, Executive Director of Glenn Springs Academy. Scott talked about the many goals he would like to achieve at the academy and what changes he has made in the short time he has been there.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS-

March 17 - Amanda G. Bass, Editor of Belle Magazine.

“Those things which are precious are saved only by sacrifice.”
~David Kenyon Webster

CIVITAN EVENTS-

Clergy Appreciation Week

Clergy Appreciation Week is a significant event throughout North America. The efforts of Civitan clubs to show appreciation to the clergy of all faiths is appreciated by both the local community and the clergy who are honored on this special occasion. Clergy week aims to promote world brotherhood and religious understanding among all people, regardless of religious persuasion. It is a time to reflect on our individual religious beliefs and to promote an understanding and acceptance of the rights of others to participate in a religion different from our own. Clergy Appreciation Week was inspired by an event which occurred during World War II.

The Four Chaplains

On February 3, 1943, the *USS Dorchester* was pushing through the treacherous waters of the North Atlantic. With 905 American servicemen aboard, the Dorchester left its convoy a few hours short of its destination. A German submarine, stalking the ship undetected, took this opportunity to fire a torpedo straight toward the ship's stern. The torpedo struck amid ships and exploded in the boiler room. Many on board died instantly, and some were trapped below deck. Others, jolted from their bunks, half asleep, clambered to reach the decks of the stricken vessel. The ship, taking on water rapidly, began listing to starboard. Because security reasons prevented use of distress flares, escort vessels, still close enough to assist, pushed on into the darkness, unaware that the Dorchester was sinking. Overcrowded lifeboats capsized; rafts drifted away before anyone could reach them.

On deck, amid confusion and terror, Army Chaplains George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington moved about calming frightened men, directing bewildered soldiers to lifeboats, and distributing life jackets with calm precision. Soon, the supply of jackets was exhausted, yet four young soldiers, afraid and without life vests, stood waiting. Quickly the chaplains stripped off their own and forced them upon the young soldiers.

The four men of God (one Catholic, one Jewish and two Protestant) had given away their only means of saving themselves in order to save others. Men rowing away from the sinking ship in lifeboats saw the chaplains clinging to each other on the slanting deck, arms linked together and heads bowed as they prayed to the one God whom each of them loved and served. The Dorchester sank beneath the icy waters of the North Atlantic, carrying with it the four chaplains and 675 servicemen.

It is this moment which Civitans annually pause to remember, and in so doing, pause to say thank you to the clergy of their communities.



DATES TO REMEMBER-

February 12-13 - Region 2 Meeting (Best Western Island Inn, St. Simons Island, Georgia)

March 3 - SEEK Meeting, bring a perspective member to our meeting.

April - McCarthy/Teszler School Plant Sale.

April - SC District Spring Meeting in Columbia, SC

