

White Cross Mission Serves Tea And Makes Dresses

By Ellen Ferrera
for the News Progress

Women on a Mission of the First Baptist Church held their annual White Cross Tea on March 7.

The event was open to the public and attendees were served several flavors of tea and assorted pastries.

The tables were beautifully set with small pots of Spring flowers, colorful china teacups and vintage teapots. The pastry buffet was laden with cookies, scones, bread pudding, tea cakes and cupcakes.

Following the tea, the ladies attended a White Cross workshop to make dresses from pillow cases for little girls and hygiene pads for older girls in Africa.

Stations were set up in Fellowship Hall for cutting, ironing, assembling and sewing.

The attendees chose their stations and set about the tasks at hand.

There were 25 ladies from Sullivan and area churches working at four portable sewing machines and ironing boards, while others cut the pillow cases and assembled them into sun dresses.

The Ministry of White Cross grew out of the Red Cross mission during WWI. This helped meet the tremendous need for medical supplies.

In 1919, American Baptist women inaugurated the White Cross program. Three years later the women of the North American Baptist joined this effort making the birth of the NAB White Cross.

Since its inception, NAB White Cross has directly and tangibly participated in the compassionate care ministry of hospitals in Cameroon and Nigeria. Through White Cross, NAB churches across the United States and Canada are able to partner with medical staff and NAB missionaries in Cameroon. This partnership fills a critical gap in tangible medical needs. This is accomplished by cutting and sewing baby layettes, dresses, blankets, rolling bandages, and cutting absorbent squares as well as providing sheets, pillow cases, hospital supplies, guest house supplies and other medical supplies.

The Women on a Mission group meets every month at the First Baptist Church to engage in a variety of activi-



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ties to support the First Baptist missionary work. These activities include Blessing Boxes, blankets, selling St. Louis Cardinal calendars, Women's Day of Prayer Breakfast, making cookie and candy plates for the nursing homes and the senior center, Christmas shoeboxes, Tea and roller bandages, Souper Bowl Sunday (soup for sale), Ladies Night Out and the White Cross Tea and dressmaking.

Interested women are always welcome at any of these monthly workshops.