October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM). Since the program began in 1985, mammography rates have more than doubled for women who are 50 and older and breast cancer deaths have declined.

This is exciting progress, but there are still women who do not take advantage of early detection at all and others who do not get screening mammograms and clinical breast exams at regular intervals.

The Christian Social Action Commission would like to tell you the facts:

- Women age 65 and older are less likely to get mammograms than younger women, even though breast cancer risks increase with age.
- Women below the poverty level are less likely than women at higher incomes to have had a mammogram within the past two years.
- Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide. It is estimated that more than 1.6 million new cases of breast cancer occurred among women worldwide in 2010.
- Compared to African American women, white women are slightly more likely to develop breast cancer, but less likely to die of it. One possible reason is that African American women tend to have more aggressive tumors, although why this is the case is not known.
- About 20-30% of the cases of African American women in this country are TRIPLE NEGATIVE, versus 10-15% of triple negative cases in white women.

Now that you know the facts ---- do not be reactive... be proactive!
“If all women age 40 and older took advantage of early detection methods – mammography, plus clinical breast exam – breast cancer death rates would continue to drop significantly!”

We must EDUCATE --- We Must EMPOWER --- We must PROMOTE Breast Cancer AWARENESS!

For more information about NBCAM, please visit www.nbcam.org. For additional information call one of the following toll – free numbers: American Cancer Society, (800) 227-2345, National Cancer Institute (800) 4-CANCER, or Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization, (800) 221-2141.

“Think Pink!”

The Connectional WMS is asking all Missionaries to wear PINK on Sunday, October 23, 2011 in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness

Shirley Cason Reed, Connectional WMS President
Deborah Taylor King, Connectional Christian Social Action Commission