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COMMUNITY

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Sister Sponsa Beltran visits the Women of Trinity Presbyterian Church

Pictured with Sister Sponsa are, from left: Catherine Bolinski, president of the women's group; Rev. Barbara Saxe, president, Church Women United of the Wyoming Valley Council of Churches; Sister Sponsa; Meryl Davis, treasurer of the Women of Trinity; Pastor Mark Harper.





Rev. Mark Harper coaxed a chuckle from Sister Sponsa.

The Women of Trinity Presbyterian Church entertained at a special morning coffee June 3 in honor of Sister Sponsa Beltran, a Bernadine Franciscan nun who runs a Rehabilitation Center in Liberia. She takes in handicapped children and adults who have nowhere else to go. Sister Sponsa visited the women to thank them for their ongoing financial support of her mission and to show them a video of "her children."

She is a native of Wilkes-Barre and the daughter of a coal miner. She was educated at College Misericordia. After retirement, she returned to Liberia to continue working with the more than 300 handicapped children who live at the center. Although she is 77 years old, legally blind and in a wheel chair due to rheumatoid arthritis, she feels that she has finally found her true calling. More than two-dozen members and guests attended the coffee to hear the presentation, each bringing a jar of peanut butter for Sister Sponsa to take back to Liberia to provide protein for the children.

