

JOYFUL NOISE

NEWS FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA



Moderator's Report



What a joy it is to read the reports of the work you are doing as you fulfill the PW purpose in your congregation and community and

reach out to embrace God's world. It is good to be part of Presbyterian Women. John of Patmos declares that "the deceiver of the whole world" – "the accuser" is "conquered by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." Rev. 12:9-11 These reports indicate a wonderful testimony to God's work being done here in Western NC that is overcoming the forces that separate and alienate us from each other.

I hope you will join our annual **Spring Gathering** at Trinity Church, Hendersonville on April 30th. May it be a time of refreshment and renewal for you, both enjoyable and enriching. We

are honored to have the author of the coming *Horizons* Bible Study: "Confessing the Beatitudes," the Reverend Doctor Margaret Aymer. Margaret is an Associate Professor of New Testament at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. She spoke at the 2009 PW Churchwide Gathering and is in great demand for a variety of events and conferences. I heard her at a conference at Montreat last summer and left blessed by her message, enriched by her insights and energized by her enthusiasm. Make a special effort to invite those who lead your Bible studies to come. The Bible study will come with the March *Horizons*, so bring it with you, and Margaret will provide us with some supplemental pages to aid in our study.

The Faith Fund Award will be made and Scholarship students introduced. We shall also be electing and installing new Coordinating Team members.

Moderator:

Sue Barrett

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- ***Please pass this issue of Joyful Noise to the person responsible for distributing information to the Presbyterian Women in your church.***

**Hope to see you at the Spring Gathering!!
April 30, 2011**

Who Are Presbyterian Women and What is Their Heritage?

Presbyterian women **are all the women** who are members of a Presbyterian Church U.S.A. (PCUSA).

Presbyterian Women have a mission, a voice and a place in the church. Presbyterian Women's predecessor organizations began more than 200 years ago when women had no role outside the home. In the early 1800's the first Presbyterian women's organization defied societal and church conventions. These courageous, dedicated women faced the biases of men and others who felt women should remain at home. In spite of the numerous restrictions, the women's organization gained respect, especially that of missionaries in the field who requested women's donations and prayers.

In the mid-1800's with civil strife in the nation, the church split; it would be many years before wounds were healed and the northern and southern branches were united. The work of Presbyterian women varied with the cultural backgrounds of North and South. Despite regional differences, Presbyterian women have always been in the forefront of national movements. Presbyterian women have long advocated for women and children, and crusaded for the right to fair, paid work for African Americans, Native Americans, people of Appalachia and immigrants. They went into the field to actively do something about a host of other societal problems.

In the late 1800's the mission work of Presbyterian women broadened to include areas in Alaska and San Francisco, with particular focus on Asian women. By answering God's call, women's work in the church and in society was validated, and the role of women in both foreign and home missions expanded throughout the 19th century.

In 1872 the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in North America (UPCNA) asked women members to devise some way to systematically raise money to support women missionaries in the field. In 1875 Sarah Foster Hanna spoke to the General Assembly and received permission to establish the first national organization for women in any Presbyterian denomination, *the Women's General Missionary Society*.

Southern women were more hesitant about organizing a churchwide missionary society; it took the southern women of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) another 26 years to get permission to set up a national women's organization, *Women of the Church*. Presbyterian women's financial support of missions was phenomenal and included the Thank Offering (first in 1888) and the Birthday Offering (first in 1922), both of which continue today.

The early 1900's were a time of upheaval and discontent; women gained power, lost power, but through it all, women remained dedicated to the church. Then in 1930's the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (PCUSA) opened the office of elder to women, thereby expanding the power of women to serve on any board of the General Assembly. The offices of elder and ministries were opened to women in the UPCNA when the PCUSA and the UPCNA merged (1957) and to women in the PCUS in the sixties.

In the 1930's the definition of the word "missions" was expanded. It began to mean much more than sending out missionaries, preachers and teachers to far away lands. It meant sending people to work in the inner cities. It meant working to bring people together. It meant working with former

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**Presbyterian Women of
Western North Carolina**

SPRING GATHERING

April 30, 2011

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HENDERSONVILLE

(The directions are on the back of this form)

THEME: "THE WONDER OF BLESSINGS"

SPEAKER: Dr. Margaret Aymer

Author of "Confessing the Beatitudes" for the 2011-2012 Bible Study

Registration, Fellowship, & Exhibits: 9:00 until 9:45 AM

Lunch - \$7.50

Adjournment after lunch

RESERVATION DEADLINE – April 25th

*******Cut on this line*******

Mail registration forms to:

Ellie Mercer

107 London Ct.

Brevard, NC 28712

elliem@comporium.net

828-885-7276

NAME _____ Phone # _____

Church _____ Cluster _____ e-mail _____

I plan to stay for lunch _____. (Send a check for \$7.50 made out to Presbyterian Women)

I am a vegetarian _____.

I will need a babysitter _____. I do not plan to stay for lunch _____.

Directions to Trinity from **I-26 exit 49B** (Hendersonville not Bat Cave). Follow Hwy 64, (also Four Seasons Blvd.) continue west thru town to **Blythe St.** about 3-4 miles. **Note:** At the intersection of Hwy 25 and Hwy 64, First Presbyterian Church is on your left. Follow the middle lane to stay on Rt. 64 1.2 mi. (Grace Lutheran Church is on the corner of Blythe)..**turn right (north) .3 miles to Trinity** Presbyterian Church. Individuals can be dropped off at the front door.

If you are coming from Brevard on Rt.64 note that Blythe St. is on the West side of Hendersonville and you will turn left.

Global Exchange

India October 7-24

GREATLY HONORED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE.

The 2011 Global Exchange will take a group of U.S. women to India in October 2011. Indian women will complete the “exchange” part of the trip by attending the 2012 PW Gathering in Orlando, Florida, July 18–22, 2012.

The representative from the Mid-Atlantic Synod (ours) is Pam Snyder, immediate past PW Synod Moderator. Pam is an Elder in Second Presbyterian Church, Staunton, VA. She attended our 2009 Spring Gathering and conducted the installation of the Coordinating team.

We can prepare with her by being alert to India in the news and reading about its history and the work of the church there. Those of us with craft inclinations might consider making a necklace made of strands of chain-stitched crochet tied together for Pam to take as gifts to the women she meets. See Jan.-Feb. 2010 *Horizons* p. 31 Directions follow.

Here are the instructions for the necklaces being taken as gifts to Indian women for the October PW Global Exchange.

YARN NECKLACES

[The yarn is hard to find in retail stores and can be expensive. Look for ribbon yarns, track yarns, or flag yarns online. Try YarnParadise.com. Crochet hook should be large: size J is best.

Instructions:

Pull out a length of yarn about 13 inches long, and leave it unworked. Cut

Work a chain stitch for approximately 13 inches. About 42 stitches work for me, but it sometimes takes more or less depending on the thickness of the yarn. Be sure to keep your work LOOSE!

Leave another length of yarn about, 13 inches, unworked. Cut Pull the yarn through the last stitch, fastening off. Make as many of these chain pieces as you want in your necklace. I usually put 5-7 together for a necklace.

After you have completed the number of chains that you desire, hold them together so they line up. Then tie a knot in all of them together about 3 inches from the end of the chain. Tie a similar knot 3 inches from the other end of the strands.

Now take the two ends, and tie them together with another knot. Pull this knot very tight so that it will not come undone when you pull the necklace over your head. You can determine the length of your necklace by where you tie this final knot; leaving approximately 1 inch outside the knot will work for most women’s head size.

If you have left more than 1 inch at the end, measure about one inch down and trim all yarn ends to that length. If you have a shorter end, just trim ends to be even.

(If you wish to make the necklace length adjustable, pull all strands of the necklace through a bead with a darning needle, or small crochet hook, before tying the final knot. This bead will work as slide so the necklace can be shortened)

Mary Weber

See her article in the Jan/Feb 2010 *Horizons* magazine

hillsidetwo@roadrunner.com

(859) 734-4010

Barium Springs Continues to Provide Child Advocacy

Since May of 2010 Barium Springs has added four non-profit child advocacy agencies to its array of services. Barium Springs is grateful for its Presbyterian Heritage and for 120 years has been caring for North Carolina's children. Why would Barium Springs take on additional financial burdens in an economy that is struggling to recover? Because keeping foster homes in tact, continuing residential care for children who have been abused, neglected or have substance abuse problems, helping to educate children who cannot reside in a normal classroom and making sure that adoptions do not fail is at the core of our mission statement.

"Serving North Carolina's children and families now; making a difference for the future." It is only with the help of individual donors, churches, business owners and foundations that we are able to carry out God's calling upon this ministry. Adopting The Rainbow Center, Our Father's Place, Appalachian Family Innovations and Mountain Youth Resources means more children and families being served in 41 counties. Lorie Fees, Barium Springs Church Liaison is available to speak at your church and can be reached at (800) 320-4157 ext. 374, or by email, lfees@bariumsprings.org for additional information.

2011 Synod Summer Gathering

The 2011 Synod Summer Gathering will be held **June 9-12, 2011**, at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The theme for the conference is "***Confessing the Beatitudes***." The keynote speaker will be Rev. Margot Starbuck; the Bible Study Leader will be Rev. Margaret Aymer, PhD; the mission speaker for Friday night will be Rev. Noelle Damico; and the music leader will be Millie Fling Harris. A fun craft that the planning team members were asked to share with our Presbytery CT and the women in our congregations, called ***My Beatitudes Blessing Box***, is to be used to start saving nickels, dimes, and quarters (outlined in the instructions) to go towards the expenses for the summer gathering. Please visit the planning team website, which is still under construction, for the blessing box instructions. The URL for the website is:

<http://mid-atlanticsynodpwwsummerngathering2011.webs.com/apps/blog/>.

More conference details will be distributed at a later date. Good luck making your blessing boxes!! I look forward to a lot of us going to the Summer Gathering representing the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

Tina J. Joyner

PW Video Aired

I Believe You: Faiths' Response to Intimate Partner Violence

Video produced with support from Presbyterian Women aired January 9, 2011, on ABC.

An extraordinary interfaith documentary that explores faith groups' efforts to support the victims of domestic violence was aired on ABC-affiliated stations. The documentary, *I Believe You: Faiths' Response to Intimate Partner Violence*, was made possible with the support of an interfaith group that includes **Presbyterian Women**, the New York Board of Rabbis, the Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network, United Methodist Women, the Evangelical Church in America, the National Council of Churches and a consortium of Muslim organizations.

This one-hour program highlights the many ways faith groups are supporting, advocating for and helping aid the healing of those who have experienced domestic abuse. Those interviewed include Diane Smalley, survivor and current chair of the Domestic Violence Work Group, Presbytery of Detroit, who also moderates the Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network.

The video notes the following statistics:

- One in five tweens—age 11 to 14—say

their friends are victims of dating violence.

- 62 percent of abused women surveyed practice their religion strictly or moderately, yet only 7 percent would confide in their clergy if they felt unsafe.
- Of female murder victims in 2007, 33 percent were killed by their husbands or boyfriends.
- Clergy say they condemn domestic violence but only 10 percent of congregants have heard any mention of such condemnation in a sermon.

Women and girls who experience intimate partner violence (IPV) have not always found compassion and help in their houses of worship. Now, a growing number of faith groups are trying to make sure those days are over. They are learning that being believed is one of the keys to recovery for victims of intimate partner violence.”

For more information about Presbyterian Women and its advocacy work, visit www.presbyterianwomen.org.

For more information about Diva Communications, visit www.divacommunications.com. 201-242-1894

Personal copy of DVD \$25. Resource Center Copy with study guide \$100.

Please Send In Your Email

If you are still receiving the Joyful Noise in the mail and you have an email, please send your email to PWJOYFULNOISE@AOL.COM. It will help your Coordinating Team cut down on printing and mailing costs. Please include your name and church. Thank you.

Annual Business Meeting

At the Spring Gathering the annual business meeting will include. There will be election of new members to the Coordinating team and approval of the budget.

The positions to be filled this spring are: Historian, Justice and Peace Facilitator, Spiritual Nurture Facilitator, Ethnic Member-at-large, Search Team Moderator, and several Cluster Leaders. Job descriptions are on pp. 34-36 of the *Handbook*. **If you know of a person who would bring creativity and energy to any of these positions** please contact Lois Groth (828-488-3427) or Sue Barrett (828-884-7505).

The report of the Search Committee will be e-mailed to moderators before the Gathering. Nominations from the floor are appropriate as long as the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Following is the proposed budget for January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011. Compare it to the 2010 budget on p. 9 of the *Handbook*. It reflects some lower costs for the past year.

Administrative Costs

Spring Gathering	1,000.00
Fall Gathering	500.00
Moderator's Expense	300.00
Obrera Program (Guatemala)	240.00
Coordinating Team Expense	400.00
Newsletter	460.00
Directories	600.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
Total Administrative Costs	\$3,600.00

Leadership Development

Synod Conference (Moderator)	500.00
Other Leadership Development	1,500.00
Total for Leadership Development	\$2,000.00

Scholarships	\$6,000.00
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GRAND TOTAL **\$11,600.00**

2011 Birthday Offering

***THEME FOR 2011 BIRTHDAY
OFFERING: JESUS CHRIST IS THE
FOUNDATION***

For no one can lay any foundation
other than the one
that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus
Christ.

—1 Corinthians 3:11

The 2011 Birthday Offering season has already begun! Eeekkkk!! Have you done your planning and ordered the great materials available to help make your Birthday Offering an interesting and fun event? Yes? Good for you! Maybe your group has already celebrated with a Birthday Offering luncheon or some other event? If so, hooray! But regardless of where you are in your planning, it is worth the time to download and watch the short video that is available on the Presbyterian Women Web site about the 2011 Birthday Offering recipients. The music and the scenes from the three projects are truly inspirational.

These exciting projects chosen for gifts from the 2011 Birthday Offering span our country and the world: the Menaul School (Bringing the World to Menaul) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Anderson Interfaith Ministries (the Women and

Children Succeeding, (“WACS”, Program) in Anderson, South Carolina and Across (Bring Peace Now) in Jonglei, Sudan. All three truly are building on that strong foundation laid down by Jesus Christ.

Back in 1922 when the Birthday Offering idea was conceived by Hallie Paxson Winsborough to benefit Miss Dowd’s School for Girls in Kochi, Japan, the offering suggested was just one penny for each year of a woman’s life. A woman could give a dollar if she preferred not to reveal her age! Remembering how my secretive my own mother was about her age, I’m guessing a lot more dollars than pennies have been collected over the years!

Regardless of dollars or pennies, the funds collected through the work of Presbyterian Women have helped many worthy and innovative mission projects in the United States and all over the world. The goal for the 2011 Offering to benefit the three projects listed above is \$900,000. Prayerfully consider how your PW will celebrate the life of each person in your group through the Birthday Offering. Invite the Holy Spirit to bring a generous spirit into each woman’s heart. And give thanks for our blessings as we reach out to women and children all over our country and the world through the Presbyterian Women’s Creative Ministries and the 2011 Birthday Offering.

By the way, Happy Birthday!!

Gail Findlay

Creative Ministries Coordinator

Annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days

Calling Presbyterians to join in **Compassion, Peace, and Justice training**, followed by **Ecumenical Advocacy Days**: March 25-28 Washington DC. **“Development, Security and Economic Justice: What’s Gender Got to Do with It?”**

Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.”

Proverbs 31

Find out more at www.advocacydays.org and Presbyterian Office of Public Witness
<http://gamic.pcusa.org/ministries/washington/> 202-543-1126.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

Presbyterian Women encourages you to consider attending Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2011! Two members of the CCT will be there, and we know many of you make this a yearly priority. Never heard of Ecumenical Advocacy Days? Learn more at: <http://advocacydays.org/>

This year's theme is "Development, Security and Economic Justice: What's Gender Got to do With It?" Presbyterian Women certainly know what gender has to do with it! Gather with women and men of a variety of denominations to learn and sharpen your advocacy skills in Washington, DC. Held March 25-28, 2011, the registration for Ecumenical Advocacy Days is \$160 (until Feb. 19), not including hotel and travel.

Will your PWS or PWP send someone this year? Let us know you are coming by sending an email to [Megan Manas](mailto:Megan.Manas). We will do our best to connect as Presbyterian Women during the conference.

Also this year--the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness will hold a Compassion, Peace and Justice Training Day before the start of Advocacy Days on March 25. The cost is free to all who register for EAD! Contact [J. Herbert Nelson](mailto:J.Herbert.Nelson) for more information.

Yours together in advocacy,

PW Justice and Peace Committee

Scholarship Updates

Annually we select scholarship recipient to receive PW scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 for an academic year. We are delighted to honor students to enhance their undergraduate work, but we sometimes neglect to reach out to them to see how they are adjusting to the college life. Below are some feedbacks:

2009-2010 Winner, Jacqueline Smith, United Presbyterian Church, Lenoir: She is attending Appalachian State University. She stated, "this year has been one filled with doubts, frustration, and beauty. I learned a lot about people and I kept an open door and an open heart." She appreciates the committee's efforts on her behalf and she feels that this opportunity is from God's Grace.

2010-2011 Winner, Patrick Edwards, First Presbyterian Church, Morganton: He is attending NC State University. He has finished his first semester and transitioning into the second semester. He feels honor and blessed to have received this scholarship. He has been active in the University Scholars Program and attended several university events. Academically, he has made the Dean's List. Great job!!!

Thanks,
Sandy Geary

Offering Recipient

Living Waters for Bolivia project of First PC, Highlands was the recipient of our western Fall Gathering offering of \$1,150. A group of eight, including four Presbyterian Women, will be going to Bolivia March 11-20 to install the water purifying assemblage we saw in their fellowship hall. Keep this group in your prayers as well as those in Bolivia who will work with them to bring clean water to their town. To learn more about Living Waters for the World, go to www.livingwatersfortheworld.org

(Continued from page 2)

enemies after the two great wars. Peace became a continuing emphasis of Presbyterian women as they continued their faith journey through the 20th century and into the 21st century. They also worked to stamp out hunger, exploitation of women and children, and war. Presbyterian women were strong women who took tough positions on racism, freedom to choose in problem pregnancies and equal rights for women in society and in the church.

After many years of talk about reunification, it became a reality in 1983 when the two churches rejoined, becoming the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). There were many difficulties in blending two organizations of strong women. Finally in 1988, Presbyterian Women was born, incorporating the best in the *United Presbyterian*

Next Guatemala Mission

The next Church Delegation Trip is scheduled for June 1-7. The deadline for submitting the application along with \$700 deposit is March 15. The first preparation meeting will be April 8 (Friday evening) and second will be May 14 (Saturday). Ellen Dozier will be one of the leaders of this trip. If application forms are needed, contact Grace Boyer e-mail: gboyer@presbyterywnc.org

Women and the Women of the Church.

Two centuries after the first Presbyterian Women gathered to pray and donate their money to the church, women have a voice in the church and in the world. A legacy of devotion to the church and dedication to God are a strong foundation for continuing mission and taking Christ into every area of life in their third century. Presbyterian Women exists today because women are adaptable, determined, proactive, charitable, generous and dedicated to God. The Birthday Offering and the Thank Offering make it possible for new and existing ministry projects around the world to expand their work in new and creative ways.

Ginny Gernoske, Cluster Leader Coordinator

(Taken from Churchwide website)

Dates and Deadlines

April 30, 2011	Spring Gathering, Trinity Presbyterian, Hendersonville
June 9-12, 2011	Synod of the Mid Atlantic Summer Gathering, Massanetta Springs
Sept 24, 2011	Eastern Fall Gathering, Location TBA
Oct 1, 2011	Western Fall Gathering, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church



*News for Presbyterian Women
of Western North Carolina
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