

JOYFUL NOISE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN - PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

FROM THE MODERATOR

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina have been blessed with a busy Fall. The Fall Gathering (East) was held at First Presbyterian Church Gastonia, September 24, 2016. There were 63 women in attendance representing 12 churches in the eastern part of our Presbytery. An overview of the 2016-2017 *Horizons Bible Study*, "Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes," was presented by Rev. Dr. Joan C. Martin, Chaplain, Covenant Village, Gastonia. The mission offering in the amount of \$641 was given to the *Bit of Hope Ranch* which has as their mission to "Reach, Rescue and Restore hurting, children, families and horses through offering equine therapy wellness and educational programs."



The Fall Gathering (West) was held October 1, 2016, at Mills River Presbyterian Church. There were 61 women in attendance representing 15 churches in the western part of our Presbytery. The *Bible study* overview was presented by Rev. Dr. Edna Banes, Parish

Associate for Kenilworth Presbyterian Church in Asheville. The mission offering in the amount of \$1,148 was given to *Safelight* which "provides support for victims of interpersonal violence, sexual assault and child abuse, making it possible for families who want to be free of violent relationships to succeed."

Other workshops presented at both gatherings included: *Understanding Your Leadership Role: Tending to Your Own Soul*, led by Jane Lee Vondette of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville; *Through the Camera Lens: Where Jesus Walked*, led by Esta Jarrett, Pastor of Canton Presbyterian Church, Canton; and *Asking New Questions: An Experience in Journaling*, led by Susie Churchfield of Grace Covenant.

The Guatemala Microloan Project is in its third phase with 68 women participating. Alternative giving cards were sold for Mother's Day raising more than \$2,000, and the Microloan Task Force applied for a Thank Offering grant. You can read more about the grant and project in the *Microloan Update* section.

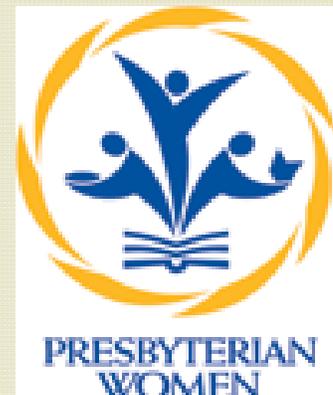
NOVEMBER 2016

MODERATOR
INFORMATION:

TINA JOYNER
5 MELBOURNE PL.
ASHEVILLE, NC
28801

828.279.2665

PLEASE SHARE
THIS ISSUE OF
JOYFUL NOISE
WITH THE
PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN IN YOUR
CHURCH.



From the Moderator (continued)

The 2017 Spring Gathering for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina is scheduled for April 8, 2017, at First Presbyterian Church, Newton. See the "Mark Your Calendar" notice on page 8 of this newsletter.

As shown by our actions, the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, "empowered by the Holy Spirit, we (continue to) commit ourselves: to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice

and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom."

Tina Joyner
Presbytery PW Moderator

How Can Your Presbyterian Women's Group Help in Efforts for Justice and Peace?

One way is to begin with "Helping One Woman Become Empowered." This initiative focuses on helping a teenage mother in whatever way your local PW group deems most appropriate. By working together with a local teenage mother, you are living out the PW purpose "to work for justice and peace, to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom." Please forward your stories of "Helping One Woman Become Empowered" to share with others throughout the presbytery and beyond.

Want to help women beyond your local community? According to the newly released PW Quarterly Newsletter for November 2016-January 2017

you can attend events during the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), March 13-24, 2017. You do not have to be a member of the official PW/PC (USA) delegation to participate in related events during CSW. For more information, visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice.

Want to be "Together in Action?" The next official focus will be human trafficking during the week of January 7-14 (January 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day). What can your PW do? Here is a list of ideas:

- Host a panel of speakers
- Hold a service of awareness
- Hold a fundraiser for a local shelter
- Teach others to recognize signs of

human trafficking and to report instances

- Learn about ECPAT and "The Code" at www.ecpatusa.org.
- Urge travel services to sign on to "The Code"
- Download the Human Trafficking Roundtable's Toolkit for Action
- Download PW's "Together in Action" bulletin insert and four-page resource
- Download "Seven Days of Prayer and Action to End Human Trafficking"
- Support the work of the PC(USA)'s Human Trafficking Roundtable
- Go to www.pcusa.org/donate
- Click "change it here"
- Type in account number E052101 for the correct donation page

Justice and Peace (continued)

Have you pondered or read any recent material on the subjects of racism, white privilege and mass incarceration? If you have, you need to connect with the private Facebook group developed by Hillary Mohaupt [current contributor to *Horizons* and former member of the Churchwide Coordinating Team

(CCT)]. This group is currently reading *Waking Up White* to better discuss and explore how to do something concrete (such as speaking at a city council or school board meeting, talking with police officers, or supporting Black Lives Matter initiatives). The focus of the group is to have the

conversations that need to happen and do the work that needs to get done.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Simmons
Facilitator for Justice and Peace
ztapenguin@gmail.com

Important Dates for Justice and Peace

January (National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month)

- 7–14 PW Together in Action Days to End Human Trafficking
- 11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- 15 Race Relations Sunday
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 18–25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 22 Criminal Justice Sunday
- 25 Orange Day

February (Black History & National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month)

- 1 National Freedom Day
- 5 Souper Bowl Sunday

- 12 International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers (Red Hand Day)
- 14 One Billion Rising for Justice
- 17 National Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 25 Orange Day

March (Women’s History Month)

- 3 World Day of Prayer
- 5 Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday
- 8 International Women’s Day
- 13–24 UN Commission on the Status of Women
- 25 Orange Day

Fall Gatherings

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina had opportunities for fellowship

in autumn, as two churches hosted Fall Gatherings.

On October 24, crisp white tablecloths billowed in a morning breeze in the

courtyard of First Presbyterian of Gastonia, setting a tone of welcome and

hospitality for the morning. Over coffee and snacks, ladies signed in and had the

chance to greet one another and to gather materials of interest from the various mission displays.

We learned how horses and people could work together to heal one another during the plenary service, thanks to the mission focus, "Bit of Hope Ranch". After plenary, the attendees went to the workshops they had chosen.

Taking a cue from the Bible study for this year, "*Who is Jesus: What a Difference a Lens Makes*", the workshop themes followed a similar vein, beginning with a Bible study overview in the sanctuary; a photo tour of the Holy Land; an instructional exercise in journaling to enrich the Bible study; and, a leadership workshop which

revealed how to work with your own and others' personalities successfully. A lovely lunch wrapped up the morning.

The following Saturday, November 1, women who journeyed to Mills River Presbyterian enjoyed an unusually warm Fall day. Exactly as the previous Saturday, used eyeglasses were collected at registration, for donation to the Lions Club. Safelight was the mission focus for the plenary session, and attendees learned of the myriad services which that organization provides for women and children in Henderson County. The same workshops were available on this day, followed by lunch in the

fellowship hall, which was beautifully decorated with a pumpkin theme.

With great appreciation, I want to express my gratitude to the volunteers who worked hard to make both events enjoyable and successful. Whether working behind the scenes to prepare and host; giving time to create memorable workshops; speaking during the services; or serving food and cleaning up--your time and talents are valued and appreciated. I thank you!!

Cathy Clevenger
Second Vice Moderator

CELEBRATION GIVING

Creating a Culture of Responsible Fundraising and Stewardship

Three keys:

1. Leaders who teach, preach and talk about money with theological and financial integrity.
2. Circles, congregations, presbyteries and synods who model organizational accountability and financial transparency.
3. Donors who are committed to living their faith with prayerful generosity and charitable intentionality.

In February 2016, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Woman met to review 71 applications submitted for grants from the 2015 Thank Offering. Twenty-two of the projects were chosen from

grants totaling \$510,088. Fourteen of the projects are ministries that serve people in need in the United States. Eight of the projects are international. More than 40 percent of the funded projects are health ministries.

For more information about each 2016 Thank Offering recipient, go to: <https://pma.pcusa.org/ministries/pw/2016-thank-offering-recipients/>.

Chris Gantt
Celebration Giving Facilitator

Mission Matters

In the November, 2016 Monthly Update from World Mission, a Ministry of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, there is an article by Rachel Yates, Associate Director of Program for Presbyterian World Mission. Excerpts from her article appear below.

“The timing of this eNews is such that I wrote *Mission Matters* before the outcome of our national election. As I write this, I don’t know who will win or lose.

But, I share the sense of many that one of our greatest challenges post-election will be the healing of a divided nation. Right now it seems that we are united only in our belief that others are wrong about their beliefs. We puzzle at how friends and family became downright stupid, a trait we’d never noticed before. It has become increasingly easy for us to discount views, “unfriend” colleagues, and withdraw from people of different political persuasions.

Division, anger and violence have become the easy responses to disagreement.

But, they cannot be the responses of the Church. Last month, Presbyterian World Mission sent a letter to its global partners in more than 40 countries. We asked for their prayers.

Our partnerships are grounded in prayer for each other. We have been humbled to pray for our global partners as their countries experienced civil war, natural disaster and economic despair. In difficult circumstances, they have been faithful witnesses to the power of reconciliation found in Jesus Christ, and we have marveled at their courage and commitment...”

“Now it’s our turn. In our recent letter to global partners, we asked them to pray for the United States that we might have a peaceful and a nonviolent transition of government. We asked them to pray for our ability to work together in positive ways for the people and our world, not divided along political lines.

Families will need to recall the ties of love that bind them; communities must forgive and come together. So, we also asked them to pray for the reconciling work and witness of the Church. Now more than ever, we give thanks for these partners who surround us with their prayers and encourage us by their example.

In Christ, there are no winners or losers. To begin the hard work of reconciliation, we must drop the language of victory and defeat and instead seek unity as sisters and brothers. It will require both conviction and gentleness. For the sake of our nation, let us begin that healing today.

Grounded in God’s promise of hope, we have much to do together.”

To read the entire article, go to www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/world-mission/mission-matters/

Ellen Cinq-Mars
Mission Facilitator

Presbytery of WNC PW Scholarship Application

The *Presbytery of WNC PW Scholarship* applications are due to the Scholarship Committee by February 15, 2017. The scholarship value is \$1,500 for an academic year, payable to the educational institution in two increments of \$750. In addition, previous recipients are eligible for a one year scholarship renewal. The requirements and criteria can be found on page 12 and the application begins on page 13 of the PW Directory/Handbook. Moderators, please make the forms available to interested members of your church.

Sandra Strickland, Scholarship Facilitator

Guatemala Microloan Project Update: November 2016

Highlights from Cycle 3: May-November 2016

Progress Report: Overall the women continue with a very good rhythm of work, faithful participation in monthly meetings, and continued savings. Most of their businesses are doing well, with some seeing very good results.

Challenges: A few women do not participate in the meetings or are not saving. Some of these cases are explained by illness or family problems. Adehgua is working with the individuals and groups to minimize the risks of default.



OLGA JOINED THE PROJECT DURING CYCLE 3

Successes in This Cycle:

- There has been good consolidation of the groups and integration of the group members.
- Strong leaders are developing, and women have been able to adapt and

connect with each other. The group in Coatepeque, especially, has different personalities, ideas, and forms of expression. The group has some strong and impulsive women and others who are gentle and foster dialogue, peace, and harmony. All are committed to the groups' success.

- The groups are enjoying increased dialogue and a greater ability to identify and resolve conflict.
- Participants have grown accustomed to the workings of the microloan project. Adehgua says it is as if the women had always done this; they are excelling with the books and records.
- The habit of saving money is becoming just that—a habit!



Sabina participated in the first cycle of the microloan project, but left discouraged after the pigs she was raising to sell were stolen. She decided to reenter

for this third cycle, and says her family is "very blessed" because their activities (selling firewood, making cheese, and growing corn) are going very well. Sabina is an example of persistence in overcoming obstacles to achieve success.

Visit us on Facebook - "Guatemala Microloan Project" - to read more about Sabina and to see photos and stories of other participants.



Christmas Giving Idea: Honor others this Christmas by giving gifts that give twice! In

exchange for a donation to the *Guatemala Microloan Project*, we will send a card to you, or the person you designate, that tells of your gift in their honor. Also, please consider making these cards available to your PW group and congregation. For more information or to order, contact *Debby Vial* at debby.vial@gmail.com or [502-407-7402](tel:502-407-7402).

Thank Offering Grant

The Presbyterian Women Thank Offering, received annually in the fall, gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Gifts have made possible hundreds of mission projects over the years. The Guatemala Microloan Project has applied to be a 2016 Thank Offering recipient. If successful, funds will enable us to begin three new groups and to initiate a pilot project with the Las Animas group to address health needs.

Your Support is Important

THANK YOU to Presbyterian Women for the incredible support that has made this project possible and touched many lives.

To continue investing in ongoing cycles, make checks payable to PW PWNC, designate for the Guatemala Microloan Project, and send to PW treasurer: *Sharon Meares, 1012 10th ST CT NW, Hickory, NC 28601.*



This is the Mendez family: mother Claudia, with daughters (from left to right) Judith, Irma, and Olga. They are hardworking women, dynamic, cheerful and responsible, who have not only fully met all requirements, but have also accumulated solid savings.

To serve as a prayer partner contact:

Sue Barrett
suebar@comporium.net
828-553-3621

To arrange a program or for more information, contact:

Ellen Dozier
828-403-3988
ellendozier@hotmail.com
or

Mimi Michael
828-465-0335
mimimichael17@gmail.com

Mimi Michael
Guatemalan Partnership



A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Psalm 100:1-8

“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” (NRSV)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2017 SPRING GATHERING!

Who? All Women of the Presbytery of WNC

What? Fellowship, worship, and learn about the 2017 *Horizons* Bible Study

Where? First Presbyterian Church of Newton (701 N. Main Ave., Newton, NC 28658)

When? Saturday, April 8 (9 a.m. until 1 p.m.)

Why? Melissa Bane Sevier (Author of the 2017 *Horizons* Bible Study, *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*) will introduce the study

How Do You Register? Details regarding registration will be released in the next *Joyful Noise*

Need More Information? Please contact Michele Simmons at ztapenguin@gmail.com
or (910) 476-6172

Other Dates to Remember

Faith Fund Applications Due	December 31, 2016
PW Congregation Histories Due	January 31, 2017
Scholarship Applications Due	February 15, 2017
Synod Summer Gathering, Harrisonburg, VA	June 15 – 18, 2017
Churchwide Gathering, Louisville, KY	August 2 – 5, 2018

Rita Warren
Presbyterian Women - Presbytery of Western North Carolina
3203 St. Augustine Place
Asheville, NC 28805

[Type the recipient name]
[Type the recipient address]