

JOYFUL NOISE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF WNC

FROM THE MODERATOR

Greetings PW!



friends.

For those of you that missed the 2017 Fall Gatherings of the Presbyterian Women of Western North Carolina, we missed seeing you there. Below are highlights from both gatherings. They were held Saturday, September 23, 2017, and Saturday, September 30, 2017, at Bryson City Presbyterian Church in Bryson City and Green Street Presbyterian Church in Morganton, respectively.

The gathering at Bryson City had 47 in attendance representing 13 churches in the western part of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. The gathering at Green Street included 52 in attendance representing 15 churches in the eastern part of the Presbytery.

The workshops at both gatherings included an overview of the 2017-2018 *Horizons Bible* study, *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*, by Melissa Baner Sevier; *Leadership in the PW Community*; *Community in*

the World; and *Community-Building in our Local Areas*.

Bryson City

The pastor of Franklin First Presbyterian, Reverend Tempe Fussell led the *Bible* study overview. *Leadership in the PW Community* was a discussion on PW leadership through the lens of community among women, led by Michele Simmons. *Community in the World* was led by Peggy Rada, the wife of the Moderator of the 221st General Assembly. Peggy shared some of their experiences of community in the 38 states and several countries traveled during that two-year period. *Community-building in our Local Areas* was led by Rev. Shannon Spencer, the Executive Director of Asheville Poverty Initiative. During the workshop Rev. Spencer described her work toward building bridges between communities by connecting groups with folks living in poverty.

The mission offering in the amount of \$1,438 was given to the Swain County Caring Corner. Their mission is to provide a medical home to the underserved in the community. The Caring Corner serves as a primary care organization which provides preventative care, regular checkups and sick

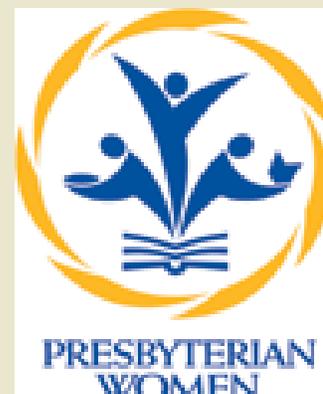
NOVEMBER 2017

MODERATOR
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*PLEASE SHARE
THIS ISSUE OF
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care for patients, and coordinates patient's care with other local organizations.

Green Street

The pastor of Sweetwater Presbyterian, Reverend Joanne Glaser, led the *Bible* study overview. *Leadership in the PW Community* was led by Patricia Clark; Peggy Rada and Rev. Shannon Spencer presented the same workshops given in Bryson City. The mission offering in the amount of \$758 was given to Options, Inc., a domestic violence, rape and sexual assault shelter, education and advocacy center in Morganton. Their mission is to inform and educate the citizens

of Burke County, while offering support to victims of violent crimes.

2018 Spring Gathering

Plans are underway for the celebration of Presbyterian Women's 30th anniversary. The celebration will take place at our Spring Gathering scheduled for April 14, 2018. It will be held at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church which is the location of our first PW Gathering 30 years ago.

*Tina Joyner, PW Moderator
Presbytery WNC*

Scholarship Time

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western NC (PW PWNC) is proud of the service we have provided students in acquiring a college education through the PW Scholarship Program. Just the process of making application for college and for scholarships is a practice that helps young people define the story of who they are, where they are on that journey of life and faith, and helps define where they want to go.

High School seniors are now in the middle of this process. Encourage those who qualify, to apply for one of the PW PWNC

scholarships of \$1500. Applicants must be members of a Presbyterian Church of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, of sound Christian character, have validated scholastic ability, prove need of financial assistance to further their education. They must be graduates of an accredited high school or preparatory school, have qualified for admission to an accredited institution of higher learning or are presently enrolled in four-year program of undergraduate study at such an institution. Applicants must plan to enroll in a four-year degree program. Technical or

graduate schools are excluded from consideration. The application form, school transcript(s), and letters of recommendation must be received by the Scholarship Committee by February 15th to be considered for scholarship for the following school year. See

<http://presbyterywnc.org/presbyterian-women> to find the scholarship forms, but **note** that the contact person and address to send applications is: Elizabeth Barbee
Scholarship Chair
2 Blackberry Inn Rd.
Weaverville, NC 28787

Donations Are Needed to Fund One Scholarship This Year

Each year PW PWNC offers scholarships of \$1500 each to four students (two new applicants and two renewing applications) who wish to attend a college or university but have a financial need. This coming year, due to a past commitment for funding five scholarships in

one year, we will be able to only offer one new scholarship, along with the usual two renewing applicants. But, with your help, we can fund our regular two new scholarships.

We are asking for donations, for this year only, to fund one

scholarship in the amount of \$1500.

There are 100 PW Circles registered in our PW PWNC. If every circle gave just \$15, or if just 15 circles gave \$100 that would meet the goal! Realistically, however, we don't expect every circle to be able to

make a financial commitment. But, if you would like to participate in this one-time fundraiser, with whatever amount you decide, please make checks out to PW PWNC and indicate for Scholarship

Fund on the memo line. Send your check to:

Sharon Meares
 PW Presbytery Treasurer
 1012 10th Street Court, NW
 Hickory, NC 28601

Please share this request with other groups in your church

who might want to donate, maybe the Youth Group leader, your Session, or the congregation at large. Let's continue to support our youth through the PW PWNC scholarship program.

Justice and Peace

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves . . . to work for justice and peace. . . In recent months, the United States has suffered at the hands of gunmen in two of the largest mass murders in the history of the US, first in Las Vegas and a few weeks later in Sutherland Springs. In addition to items listed in the calendars shown below, the Justice and Peace committee encourages PW to join efforts on a local, state, national and international level to end gun violence (Sara Lisherness). The Justice and Peace Committee also encourages PW groups to hold conversations around the issue of all forms of violence against women, to participate in Together in Action Days in January around human trafficking, and to participate in Together in Action Days in March, related to CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women).

Let's get to work on Justice and Peace issues!

November

Native American Heritage Month

25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women/Orange Day

25–Dec.10 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence

December

10 International Human Rights Day

18 International Migrants Day

25 Christmas; Orange Day (<http://endviolence.un.org>)

January

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

7–13 PW Together in Action Days to End Human Trafficking

11 International Human Trafficking Awareness Day

14 Race Relations Sunday

15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

16 National Religious Freedom Day

18–24 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

21 Criminal Justice Sunday

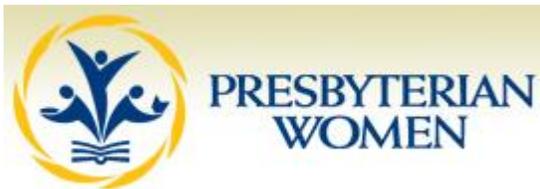
25 Orange Day; <http://endviolence.un.org>

27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Mission pledge

It's not too late to send your Mission Pledge, PW's annual fund, which makes Presbyterian Women possible. Your pledge ensures that PW will continue to serve women well into the future. Please mail your pledges today to: Sharon Meares, PW PWNC Treasurer, 1012 10th Street Court NW, Hickory, NC 28601.

Spring Gathering



Save the Date

30th Annual Spring Gathering of PW in Presbytery of WNC

April 14, 2018

More Details Coming in the Next *Joyful Noise* . . .

While Saving Dates, Remember:



Look for Registration for the 2018 Churchwide Gathering in the November/December 2017 Issue of *Horizons* Magazine



***The PW Historian's Report is due
January 31, 2018.***

Guatemala Microloan Project Update: November 2017

Greetings and Thanks from Guatemala

What a joy and privilege to travel to Guatemala to meet women participating in the microloan project, and to hear firsthand of the benefits they are experiencing. The oft repeated refrain is "Thank you," "Thank you to the women of North Carolina," "Thank you for this project, it is a blessing."



SUSAN, ELLEN, AND MIMI WITH ELENA, A MEMBER OF THE LAS ANIMAS MICROLOAN GROUP, AND PASTOR JOSÉ MARIA SOPÓN

During their September 2017 trip, Ellen Dozier, Susan Maveety and Mimi Michael visited the microloan groups, met with AdDEHGUA staff (administrators of the project) to discuss present and future plans, and met with church leaders to foster understanding and cooperation.

The microloan project began with four groups in April of 2015, and is now in the fifth cycle. Each loan cycle lasts six months; women may participate in the project for up to six cycles.

Women shared stories of their business ventures, challenges they have encountered, and how the income is helping them and their families. The project has helped put food on the table, enabled the education of children, and provided new opportunities.

Debora, who is 23 years old and lives in the rural community of Las Animas, is the youngest participant in the Microloan project. She said, "Sometimes we had money but didn't know how to spend it well. The people from ADEHGUA, Mildre and Julio, have helped us a lot, to learn how to invest our money." With her loan Debora bought a stove and is helping her mother, who is also in the project, to prepare quesadillas, tacos, and ganachas to sell from their home. Debora's father died several years ago, leaving her mother, Lesvia to care for the four children. Lesvia says, "The project has helped me a lot. I joined in the first cycle, and when Debora saw how well things were going, she decided to become a part of the project as well." Now Debora has dreams; she would like to buy her younger sister a computer to help with her studies, and is buying things for her own future home. Mildre says that although Debora only completed six grades of formal education, she is intelligent and determined.



LESVIA AND DEBORA, FROM LAS

Second Phase of Project

During the first three cycles of the microloan project women learned how to invest their loan and manage their businesses,

how to save, how to manage the secretary and treasurer books, and how to cash a check – everything was related to the economic aspects of the project. During cycles four through six, while the work with the loans continues, the focus has shifted to strengthening the women’s understanding of themselves as people of value, with rights and a voice in their family and community. Through a variety of workshops and activities it is hoped that the women’s self-awareness and confidence will grow; that they will see that they have opportunities and choices for their lives; that they will grow spiritually, into a deeper understanding of God and themselves.

At right Amelia is holding words from a recent workshop, where each woman was given a different thought to read and expand on. Amelia now keeps this phrase in her home: "Believe in yourself and give your best effort. Remember that you are not alone. God is with you."



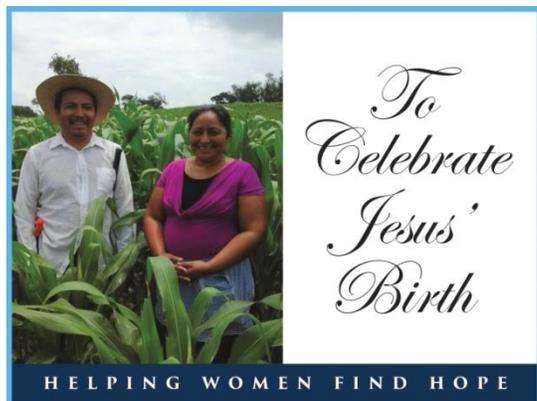
Home Gardens

One of the activities in which the women participated was developing small family gardens. Women were excited about what they learned and look forward to using their harvest in their cooking. They understand the produce provides needed vitamins and minerals and introduces new flavors to their families’ diet. As part of their studies, two university students lent their expertise to help facilitate these workshops.



Other topics to be covered include nutrition, sanitation, health, and care for the environment. Women are enthusiastic about what they are learning and are sharing this new information with family and friends. Thanks be to God, and to PW, for the faithful support that is enabling this project to bear in many lives.

Program: We have a power point on the second phase of the microloan project, and welcome the opportunity to share it with your PW or church. Contact Ellen Dozier: ellendozier@hotmail.com, 828-403-3988.



Available Now for Christmas Giving

A fitting way to celebrate Jesus' birth is to honor others with a gift to the Guatemala Microloan Project. For a minimum donation of \$10, you will receive a card explaining how the gift provides opportunities for women to grow in self-esteem, hope and freedom. To order cards contact *Debby Vial* at debby.vial@gmail.com or 502-407-7402.

Donations to the Guatemala Microloan Project can be sent to PW Treasurer *Sharon Meares*, 1012 10th ST CT NW, Hickory, NC 28601. Make checks payable to PW PWNC and designate for the Guatemala Microloan Project.

Individuals, groups and churches can sponsor a participant in the project at a cost of \$80/cycle or \$160/year.

Individuals or PW groups can serve as a **Prayer Partner** to one of the microloan participants. To sign up, contact Sue Barrett: suebar@comporium.net, 828-553-3621. Prayer partners will receive information and photos of the person they are praying for as they become available.

PW 101 – Helps for New PW Leadership

If you are reading these words, you are probably a PW leader and know all things PW! But many of our faithful are unaware of some of the finer points of their amazing organization. That's why we began a "PW 101" series in the last newsletter. Each idea in the series is presented in such a way that newsletter editors and PW leaders can paste into their own documents/presentations. If you are so moved to share an idea or two that you think should be part of this series, please email carissa.herold@pcusa.org.

PW 101.4: PW Connectionalism Mirrors That of Church. It is said that Presbyterians approach every task in a way that is decent, in good order, and in community. That helps us better understand why our denomination and Presbyterian Women are organized at all levels of the church: congregation, presbytery (made up of several congregations in a region), synod (made up of several presbyteries), and churchwide (or national). This connectional system allows ideas and information to flow through the organization, strengthening the ministry and mission of all. Our connectional system is undergirded with roles and responsibilities assumed by those called to lead and participate at each level. The circle, at the congregational level, is the foundation of PW, and informs and responds to the ministry of PW. PW at each level is led by a coordinating team. For more information, order the PW Manual: A Guide for PW Groups at www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop (\$6; item PWR16120). (*November 2017-January 2018•Presbyterian Women Quarterly Newsletter*)

Important Dates

Faith Fund Application	December 31, 2017
PW Historian's Report	January 31, 2018
PW Scholarship Application	February 15, 2018
Spring Gathering – Warren Wilson PC	April 14, 2018
Synod Summer Gathering – Massanetta Springs	June 7-10, 2018
Churchwide Gathering, Louisville, KY	August 2 – 5, 2018



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Asheville, NC 28805

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