

JOYFUL NOISE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PWNC

FROM THE MODERATOR

Greetings PW!



As PW members of the Presbytery of WNC, some of us would like to share highlights from the 2018 Churchwide

Gathering of Presbyterian Women held in Louisville, Kentucky, the weekend of August 2-5, 2018. The theme for the gathering was *Arise, shine, your light has come!*

There were more than 1,600 PW in attendance including Cleda Locey, the first Churchwide PW Moderator elected in 1988, and our Global Partners. There were 10-15 PW from churches in our Presbytery, including 5 members of the Presbytery PW-CT; and there were approximately 125 PW from our Synod – the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

More than \$12,000 in gift cards were collected and given to The D.I.A.P.E.R. Project, Lily's Place and Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Inc.

There were a variety of workshops to choose from in addition to the wonderful speakers at the Plenaries.

Guest speakers included:

PW Executive Director, Susan Jackson-Dowd;

Rhashell Hunter, Director, Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries;

Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency;

Amy Poling Sutherlun, author of the 2018-2019 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *God's Promise: I Am with You*;

Greg Fischer, Mayor of Louisville;

Eugenia Gamble, author of the 2019-2020 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*;

Kathy Reeves, PW Mission Associate;

Katherine Blankenship, Housing Case Manager at Homeward Bound in Western North Carolina;

J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, PC(USA);

Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri, Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly (2018);

AUGUST 2018

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.**



August 16, 2018

Marisol Jiménez, founder of Tepeyac Consulting;

Jieun Han, Associate for Leadership Development and Recruitment for Leaders of Color, Racial Equity & Women’s Intercultural Ministries;

Lynn Miller, author of the 2020-2021 PW/Horizons Bible study entitled, *To You They Cried: Reclaiming Lament*;

Beth Snyder, Program Administration Associate, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance;

Ruth-Aimée Belonni-Rosario Govens, Chief Enrollment Management Officer, Columbia Theological Seminary;

Eun Joo Kim, Program Coordinator for “Rise Together,” National Mentorship Network for Women of Color in Ministry at Union Seminary;

Other Churchwide CT members (past and present) and Synod CT Representatives.

Each plenary focused on a part of the theme as well as a part of the PW Purpose.

- Plenary I – *Arise!* – *Nurturing our Faith*
- Plenary II – *SHINE!* – *Supporting Mission*
- Plenary III – *Your LIGHT!* – *Working for Justice and Peace*
- Plenary IV – *Your LIGHT has COME!* – *Building Inclusive Community*
- Plenary V – *COME!* – *Celebrating the Beloved Community*
- Plenary VI – *Arise, shine: for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!* – *Witness to the Promise of God’s Kingdom*

There were two mission tours, three book groups and a justice and peace march, themed “Ninth Street Divide,” and witness against segregation and racism in Louisville, Kentucky, and around the country. The 2018-2021 Board of Directors (formally known as the Churchwide Coordinating Team) were installed.

The Churchwide Gathering ended with Communion and the reminder that the spirit has claimed us, called us, centered us, charges us and sends us forth as women of faith, women of witness, women of justice, women of love and as Presbyterian Women anointed to go forth and be the proclamation of God’s acceptable year (paraphrased).

*Tina Joyner, PW Moderator
Presbytery of WNC*

2018 Churchwide Highlights from Attendees

The 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women was all that I expected it to be and more. This was my eighth Churchwide Gathering, but the first one I attended with my clergy sister as my guest. Her first impression was, “Do you all encourage younger women to attend? There is so much energy here, and I know they would be thrilled with what they saw.”

For me, the connection with Presbyterians I have known for so many years was definitely a highlight. Building relationships is part of our purpose, and those relationships that last over the years are to be treasured. The challenges raised around mission, justice and peace are inspirational. I came home feeling thankful, inspired, and filled with amazement once again about who Presbyterian Women are and what they have accomplished and will continue to accomplish in the future.

*Barbara McLean
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church*

In attending the 2018 PW Churchwide Gathering I was fortunate enough to hear two passionate speakers at the plenaries on Friday who were from our own backyard – both living and working in Asheville.

Missions Grounded in Faith - Katherine Blankenship, Housing Case Manager with Homeward Bound, reflected on her experience as a youth going on a mission trip to Guatemala. The results were an angry question of “How can such poverty and need be allowed to exist?” Years later she became ordained and worked with the Raleigh Youth Mission, which gets groups of youth involved with local mission work. In using a three-part process – education about the service projects, then the action (the actual service project), and ending with reflection through discussion, art, and prayer – she hopefully achieved a spiritual awakening in these youth through their “action.” “An awakening needs action to interpret it for our lives,” says Katherine. As she now works with veterans who are in crisis or are homeless, she advocates “We need to be grounded in faith while we are called to make a difference in the world.”

Immigrant Social Justice Efforts - Marisol Jiménez, founder of Tepeyac Consulting, quietly yet passionately, shared her experience as an advocate for a more just immigration system by forming networks of sanctuary for the marginalized within the Asheville community. As a result of our broken immigration system – and a consumerism which makes us complicit to the exploitation of migrant workers – there is a backlog (some dating back to 1995) of applications for legal residency. Thus, she is resolved to protect and care for the undocumented migrant workers there. Despite all that she has witnessed, experienced, struggled with, and fought for she still celebrates God’s generous blessings.

I marvel at the commitment, strength, and faith of such young women. I am grateful to God to be placed by His hand in a position “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14) at the 2018 PW Churchwide Gathering!

*Sharon Meares
Treasurer/Moderator-elect
PWNC-CT*

The 2018 Churchwide Gathering was one of the best churchwide gatherings that I have attended.

The encouragement from Diane Moffett (president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency) and our theme kept us energized. In an article by Yvonne Hileman on Thursday, August 3rd, we were reminded of Moffett’s words, “Rise up so that new stories will be told. Rise up despite the barriers. Ain’t no mountain high enough to keep God from us!” She said, “Jesus came to cause terror to those who loved the status quo... Jesus causes us to rise and love justice, just as yeast causes bread to rise.”

Thanks to Mary McKee Martin for her devotions for the week of June 29th through August 4th – Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come! taken from *These Days Daily Devotions*.

*Chris Gantt
Spiritual Nurture/Celebration Giving
PWNC-CT*

The words of the PW purpose were truly alive at the Churchwide Gathering. Familiar friends and renewed acquaintances joined with newly-met faces to build our inclusive, caring community of women. There were multiple opportunities for prayer and Bible study, and many ways to learn about mission organizations that serve Christ in the world. We joined a march for justice and peace and prayed for the healing of humanity. It was an exhausting few days, but faith-energizing!

*Cathy Clevenger
2nd Vice Moderator,
PWNC-CT*

PW of PWNC Fall Gathering – East

Saturday, September 22, 2018

United Presbyterian Church, Lenoir, NC

(see directions on reverse)

THEME: *God's Promise: I Am With You* by Amy Poling Sutherlun
The 2018-2019 PW/*Horizons* Bible Study

Time Schedule

9:00 – 9:45	Registration	10:40 – 11:25	Workshops (First Session)
9:45 – 10:00	Gathering Music	11:35 – 12:20	Workshops (Second Session)
10:00 – 10:30	Plenary	12:30	Lunch

Please detach and mail the bottom portion, along with \$10 payment for lunch reservation, to:
Cathy Clevenger, 57 Hensley Road, Weaverville, NC 28787

If paying by check, please make it payable to "PW PWNC"

Questions? Call Cathy Clevenger at 828-231-0325 or email: cathy@clevenger@frontier.com

Offering recipient is CALDWELL FRIENDS, INC., whose mission is to inspire, enrich, and enable at-risk children and youth ages 7-14 to realize their full potential and motivate them toward positive life choices.

***Please send your registration before
Saturday, September 15
as a courtesy to our hosts***

Fall Gathering 2018

United Presbyterian Church, Lenoir NC

Saturday, September 22, 2018

Please choose two workshops:

- A: **Bible Study Overview:** An overview of the 2018-2019 PW/*Horizons* Bible Study, *God's Promise: I Am With You* by Amy Poling Sutherlun. Led by Rev. Joanne Glaser, pastor for the last three years at Sweetwater Presbyterian, active in PW for over forty years, and a Certified Christian Educator.
- B: **Leadership of Presbyterian Women:** The focus of this workshop will be the roles, responsibilities, tips and resources needed to be a PW leader. The workshop will be led by Tina Joyner, PW Historian at Kenilworth Presbyterian, current Presbytery PW-CT Moderator, and a member of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic CT.
- C: **Building a Better Today and Tomorrow through Missions:** Malawi, Guatemala, Camp Grier, and Vital Churches missions, along with a local mission of UPC Presbyterian Women will be highlighted: Caldwell Friends pairs mentors in the community with at-risk middle school youth. Wanda Prince is a 40-year member and elder of United Presbyterian Church, a retired community college teacher, volunteer, and artist.
- D: **Personality Strategies:** An introduction to the Enneagram system, a powerful tool using nine distinct personality strategies of how we humans cope in relationships, work, and the world. Led by Rev. Carol Hovis, a Presbyterian minister, spiritual director, and certified teacher of Enneagram Studies in the Narrative Tradition.

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR PHONE or EMAIL: _____

YOUR CHURCH: _____

Staying for Lunch? Yes No Need Childcare? Yes No

Directions to United Presbyterian Church
415 Pennell Street
Lenoir, North Carolina

828-758-4694

unitedpresbyterianlenoir@gmail.com

From Hickory:

From I-40, take Exit 123 and go North on US-321 to Lenoir. At intersection of US-321, US-64, and NC-18 go straight through red light. At 2nd red light, turn right on Hospital Avenue (Walgreens on corner). Turn left on Seehorn Street. Turn right on Pennell Street. Cross small bridge and UPC is on the left.

From Morganton:

From I-40, take Exit 100 and go North on Jamestown Road crossing the interstate. Stay on Jamestown Road and go through intersection with Carbon City Road. Continue straight on – road name changes to Independence Blvd. passing Freedom High School and Park. At intersection with NC-181 turn right and go approximately ½ mile and turn left on US-64 East to Lenoir. Turn left at Hwy 18 intersection and stay in outside lane. This is Hwy 64/18 and will take you to Lenoir. Using inside lane, turn right at McDonald's on Harper Avenue and stay in left lane. At intersection, turn left on US-321 North. At 2nd red light, turn right on Hospital Avenue (Walgreens on corner). Turn left on Seehorn Street. Turn right on Pennell Street. Cross small bridge and UPS is on the left.

From Blowing Rock:

Take US-321 South to Lenoir. Just past Bo's Entertainment (located on right), turn Left on Seehorn Street. (This is the red light at the Walmart Shopping Center.) Follow Seehorn for approximately ¼ mile and turn left on Pennell Street. Cross small bridge and UPC is on the left.

From Wilkesboro:

Take NC-18 West to Lenoir. At intersection with US-321, turn North (right at light). At 2nd red light, turn right on Hospital Avenue (Walgreens on corner). Turn left on Seehorn Street. Turn right on Pennell Street. Cross small bridge and UPS is on the left.

PW of PWNC Fall Gathering – West

Saturday, October 20, 2018

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC

(see directions on reverse)

THEME: *God's Promise: I Am With You* by Amy Poling Sutherlun
The 2018-2019 PW/*Horizons* Bible Study

Time Schedule

9:00 – 9:45	Registration	10:40 – 11:25	Workshops (First Session)
9:45 – 10:00	Gathering Music	11:35 – 12:20	Workshops (Second Session)
10:00 – 10:30	Plenary	12:30	Lunch

Please detach and mail the bottom portion, along with \$10 payment for lunch reservation, to:

Cathy Clevenger
57 Hensley Rd
Weaverville, NC 28787

If paying by check, please make it payable to "PW PWNC"

Questions? Call Cathy Clevenger at 828-231-0325 or email cathyclevenger@frontier.com

Please send your registration before Saturday, October 13 as a courtesy to our hosts

Fall Gathering 2018

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville NC

Saturday, October 20, 2018

Please choose two workshops:

- A: Bible Study Overview: An overview of the 2018-2019 PW/*Horizons* Bible Study, *God's Promise: I Am With You* by Amy Poling Sutherlun. Led by Rev. Joanne Glaser, pastor for the last three years at Sweetwater Presbyterian Church, active in PW for over forty years, and a Certified Christian Educator.

- B: Leadership of Presbyterian Women: Have you ever questioned the makeup of your Coordinating Team and what kind of leadership you need on your team? Do you have job descriptions for your leadership? What are other churches doing for leadership in their PW's? In this workshop, these and other issues are going to be discussed. Come with your questions and your ideas. Barbara McLean, lifelong Presbyterian, has served PW at all levels of our denomination. She is also an elder and member of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville.

- C: Global Ministry in Haiti: This workshop will illustrate how God's love is shown through caring for children, strengthening families, and serving communities in Haiti. Along with her twin sister Martha McMinn, Margaret Selle from Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian will describe their work in the cities of Jacmel and Jeremie. Margaret is a retired school teacher and serves as an Elder. She will return to Haiti in February 2019.

- D: Personality Strategies: An introduction to the Enneagram system, a powerful tool using nine distinct personality strategies of how we humans cope in relationships, work, and the world. Led by Rev. Carol Hovis, a Presbyterian minister, spiritual director, and certified teacher of Enneagram Studies in the Narrative Tradition.

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR PHONE or EMAIL: _____

YOUR CHURCH: _____

Staying for Lunch? Yes No

Need Childcare? Yes No

Directions to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
789 Merrimon Avenue
Asheville, North Carolina
828-254-3274

From the West:

Follow I-40 East and I-240 East to US-25 N/Merrimon Avenue in Asheville. Take exit 5A from I-240 East onto US-25 N/Merrimon Avenue. Follow US-25 N/Merrimon Avenue to Gracelyn Road (at the red light past McDonald's), and turn right. The church parking lot will be on your right.

From the East:

Follow I-40 West and I-240 West to US-25 N/Merrimon Avenue in Asheville. Take exit 5A from I-240 West onto US-25N/Merrimon Avenue. Follow US-25 N/Merrimon Avenue to Gracelyn Road (at the red light past McDonald's), and turn right. The church parking lot will be on your right.

From the South:

Follow I-26 West to US-25 N/Merrimon Avenue in Asheville. Take exit 5A from I-240 East onto US-25N/Merrimon Avenue. Follow US-25 N/Merrimon Avenue to Gracelyn Road (at the red light past McDonald's), and turn right. The church parking lot will be on your right.

From the North:

Follow I-26 East/US 19-23 South toward Asheville. Take exit 23 toward Woodfin/North Asheville/Merrimon Avenue. Turn right onto Merrimon Avenue, proceed approximately 2 miles, and turn left at the red light onto Gracelyn Road. The church parking lot will be on your right.

Guatemala Microloan Project Update: August 2018

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

During the 6th cycle, ADEHGUA interviewed women who have participated in the microloan project from the beginning and asked them to share their thoughts and feelings about the brothers and sisters of the churches in the US who support this project. Here are some of their comments:



Rosa Vásquez (Pictured at left): I wish many blessings for them, these families that support us. We have not seen each other, nor embraced or greeted one another, but this is what love of neighbor looks like; this is what it looks like for them to love us. I am grateful to God. (Las Animas)

Any Lucrecia Quich: I think that the people there are working to help us; it would be unfair if I do not work. So that one day they will say: what we did was good. Thank you and may God continue to bless you. Maybe it seems insignificant, but for us it is a great help, for my children, my family. Sometimes the money that our husbands earn is not enough for all the expenses, and we, the women, can make our contribution to

improve the lives of our families. (Santo Domingo)

Thelma Méndez (pictured at right): Thank God they are doing a good job because they are teaching and educating their children to love their neighbor; they are doing what is pleasing to God; they are making one and several hearts happy. Although we do not know them, we love them and we ask God to bless them. We have a great desire to know them, how they work and organize to do their work. (Coatepeque)



Marcia Velásquez: They love their neighbor, because without knowing us, they thought about the importance of teaching women that yes, they are able to succeed in life. I thank you very much. In my prayers I ask God to bless you. You have given us support, for the group it has been important, for my family, my children and I as a woman, to get ahead. (San Felipe)

Thank you to all who have supported this project in various ways: through your interest, by hosting or attending gatherings to learn about the project, by praying, by serving as prayer partners, by making financial contributions, by purchasing Mother's Day or alternative giving cards, by serving on the microloan task force, or by overseeing special projects. May the women's expressions of thanks be an encouragement to each of you.

To read other reflections from women in the microloan project, be sure to visit our "Guatemala Microloan Project" Facebook page.

Giving Thanks for the Life of Julio Roca



In June, the Microloan Task Force was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of Julio Roca of ADEHGUA. Julio believed that change for his beloved country of Guatemala could best come by strengthening and empowering women. He was key in establishing the microloan project and worked with dedication and passion. We were inspired by and are deeply grateful for his life, example, and partnership. He will be greatly missed, but the women who have benefited from this project remain part of his legacy. We are grateful that, though grieved to lose their coworker, Mildre Castillo and Flor de Maria Quiñonez are very capable and determined to carry on. Please keep them in your prayers.

Microloan Trips to Guatemala

August 20-28, 2018 - Remember Ellen Dozier, Susan Maveety, and Mimi Michael in prayer as they travel to Guatemala. They will meet with ADEHGUA to discuss new groups and the future of the project, and will meet with leaders of our sister presbyteries. They will also participate in the Day of the Bible with the women of Sur Occidente. May God foster communication and understanding and be at work to lead this project in the best way forward.

February 4-11, 2019 - We hope to organize a trip to Guatemala in February to visit the microloan groups. We would like to include Presbyterian Women who are interested in seeing the project firsthand and are willing to return and share what they experience. If you want to learn more, contact Mimi Michael at mimimichael17@gmail.com or 828-234-0176. We will send out details to interested individuals following our August trip.

Travel Expenses - Travel for ongoing oversight of the microloan project is necessary. Anyone who would like to sponsor individuals or contribute to expenses can send donations to our PW Treasurer (see contact info below) and designate gifts for the "Guatemala Microloan Travel Fund."

Ways to Provide Support!

* Individuals or groups can **serve as a Prayer Partner** to a microloan participant. Contact Sue Barrett at suebar@comporium.net or 828-553-3621 for more information.

* We are grateful for all who have made this project possible, and welcome new supporters as well. **Send Donations** to PW Treasurer *Sharon Meares, 1012 10th ST CT NW, Hickory, NC 28601*. Checks should be payable to PW PWNC and designated for the Guatemala Microloan Project.

* **Invite** someone from the Microloan Task Force to speak to your group about the microloan project. Contact Susan Maveety at 828-768-5475 or maveety@charter.net to arrange.

Important Dates

Fall Gathering East – United PC, Lenoir September 22, 2018

Fall Gathering West – Grace Covenant, Asheville October 20, 2018



Rita Warren
Presbyterian Women of PWNC
3203 St. Augustine Place
Asheville, NC 28805

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