

# JOYFUL NOISE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PWNC

## FROM THE MODERATOR

### Greetings PW!

The celebration of the Presbyterian Women's (PW) 30th Anniversary was held April 14, 2018, at Warren

Wilson Presbyterian Church which was the location of the first PW Spring Gathering on April 23, 1988. Three former Presbyteries in Western North Carolina (WNC) were joined together at that time – Concord, Catawba and Asheville.

There were approximately 100 women and men in attendance at the gathering representing 23 churches. We were blessed to have five past Coordinating Team (CT) Moderators in attendance including the first CT Co-moderator, Joyce Weaver. Other special guests included: Reverend Bobbi White, General Presbyter for the Presbytery of WNC; Sandra Gisiner, CT Moderator for the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic; and Nancy Long, Synod of the Mid-Atlantic representative on the Churchwide CT.

### Business Meeting

Scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each were awarded to two very deserving students. Conner Leidner of Brevard Davidson River, and he will be attending Virginia Tech; and

Ashley Bailey of Gastonia First, and she will be attending the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The annual Faith Fund Award was given to Fairview Presbyterian Women for their Pay-it-Forward Food Pantry which began in 2005 and operates on donations only. The food pantry serves 1,600 people monthly with food purchased through Second Harvest Food Bank and donations from Food Lion.

The mission offering in the amount of \$2,072 was presented to Cheryl Wilson, Director of the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry for the Hope for Tomorrow Project which builds homes for homeless women and children. The campus in Black Mountain will include ten apartments.

The installation of the 2018 – 2019 CT was led by Nancy Long. Sharon Meares of Hickory First was installed as Moderator-elect; Karen Border of Reems Creek-Beech as Secretary; Chris Gantt of Hickory First as Celebration Giving Facilitator; Ellie Mercer of Brevard Davidson River as Cluster A Leader; Gloria Hickson of Gastonia First as Cluster D Leader; and Dot Descieux of Kenilworth as Cluster F Leader. A special thanks to Sharon, Chris, Ellie

MAY 2018

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and Dot for taking on multiple rolls on the CT.

### Focus on History

At the Spring Gathering the upcoming Horizons Bible Study is usually introduced. However, the focus this year was on PW history. To that end, there were two presenters – Barbara McLean, former PWCT Moderator for the Presbytery of WNC, and Diana Sanderson, archivist at Warren Wilson College. Barbara took us from the formation of PW to the formation of the Presbytery of WNC, and from there to where PW is today. Diana told us about amazing Presbyterian Women that paved the way for us as the result of “women always doing something” even though the women “weren’t allowed in public roles” at that time. The greetings from Nancy Long and Sandra Gisiner also included bits of history, one of which is the fact that 60 million dollars has been given to missions since 1988 – a milestone we should be truly proud of today.

### Gathering Closing

The gathering ended with a memorial for the women who entered the Church Triumphant in

2017 and lunch hosted by the women of Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church. In addition, Barbara challenged us to leave the gathering “appreciating the past and excited about the future. Don’t be afraid to move your PW forward – always looking for new ways to nurture your faith, support the mission of the church worldwide, work for justice and peace, and build a caring community that works without ceasing to further God’s kingdom in Western North Carolina, in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, in the PC(USA) and worldwide.”

A special thanks to Michele Simmons and the women of Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church for all that they did to make our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PW a very special day to remember. Thanks for *letting your light shine so we could see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.* (Matthew 5:16 paraphrased.)

*Tina Joyner, PW Moderator  
Presbytery of WNC*

## Scholarship Recipients 2018-2019

Two new scholarship recipients were named to receive a Presbytery of Western North Carolina Scholarship valued at \$1500 and renewable for one year.

Ashley Beaty, senior at Gaston Day School and member of First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia, who will pursue a degree in nursing from UNC-Greensboro is one of our new recipients. Ashley excels in academics and sports, Cross Country, varsity soccer and varsity golf. Her coaches speak of her as a model of a coachable student-athlete and a role model for positive outcomes of hard work.

Ashley participates in her church Youth Group, has traveled to New York, Arizona

and Alaska on mission trips, and enjoys looking for the next challenge. She states, “I learned that I can’t do anything on my own and in order to succeed in anything, I need to trust in God and experience everything alongside my church and family.”

Connor Leidner, senior at Hendersonville High School and member of Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church is the second new recipient of a PW PWNC Scholarship. He will attend Virginia Tech this fall and will pursue a degree in architecture.

Connor also participates in several areas of church life, serving as acolyte, liturgist, youth preacher, youth deacon, Presbyterian Youth connection

and serving on the Presbyterian Youth Council. He plays varsity soccer and tennis, and performs with ACT at the Brevard Little Theater, as well as maintaining an outstanding academic record.

Connor likes to travel as well, having traveled to Guatemala twice, the last time with the 2017 PWNC Youth Delegation. He has a deep desire to touch lives and make them better and plans to do that through the education he will attain.

We also have two recipients of the renewable scholarship they obtained last year. Luke Shealy has just completed his first year at NC State studying engineering. He is enjoying his studies and very excited about his association with the NC State

Chapter of Engineers Without Borders. The association is working on water collection systems for villages in Guatemala. Luke expresses this gratitude for having received a scholarship that will help him realize his dreams.

Anna Nagy, second-year scholarship recipient attending Appalachian State University is pursuing a degree in interior design. Anna is mature and compassionate as well as having a wonderful work ethic and talent for art. She also expresses gratitude for the opportunity this scholarship provides.

All the scholarship applicants have been a pleasure to meet, either in person or through the application process. The

applicants impressed the judges so, that they wanted everyone to know, that if these were examples of our future generation, we have much to look forward to.

Thank you on behalf of these scholarship recipients for the outpouring of your love, support, and faith by contributing to the scholarship fund. We received \$2,501.00 in response to the one-time scholarship request, which has been deposited into the Scholarship Mutual Fund.

For PW Circles who have rising high school seniors in their church or have members who are already in college, please encourage them to apply for one of the PW PWNC

Scholarships. Each applicant must have applied/been accepted to a four-year college or university, not a technical or graduate school. Criteria for awarding scholarship are financial need, scholastic ability, leadership in church, school, and community, and references. Please see the Presbytery of WNC website (<https://presbyterywnc.org/>) for more detail or contact Elizabeth Barbee, [ebarbee@charter.net](mailto:ebarbee@charter.net).

*Elizabeth Barbee  
Scholarship Chair*

## 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.* . . . On May 18, 2018, the United States suffered once again at the hands of a gunman at Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas, in the Houston metropolitan area. Two teachers and eight students were killed, and thirteen others were injured. Exactly one week later a teacher and a student were injured by a middle school gunman at Noblesville West Middle School in Noblesville, Indiana. Let us once again be reminded by the Justice and Peace committee to join efforts on a local, state, national and international level to end gun violence (Sara Lisherness). The committee also encourages PW groups to hold conversations around the issues of all forms of violence against women and children, human trafficking, and the elimination of discrimination against women.

## Justice and Peace Calendar

### June

- 20 World Refugee Day
- 25 Orange Day (<http://endviolence.un.org>)

### July

- 1 Immigration Sunday
- 25 Orange Day (<http://endviolence.un.org>)

### August

- 2-5 PW Churchwide Gathering

- 19 World Humanitarian Day
- 25 Orange Day (<http://endviolence.un.org>)
- 26 Public Education Sunday

### September

- 21 International Day of Peace
- 21-27 Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence
- 25 Orange Day (<http://endviolence.un.org>)

## Guatemala Microloan Project Update: May 2018

### Guatemala Microloan Project Selected as Thank Offering Grant Recipient

Wonderful news in March! Our grant proposal to the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women PCUSA was accepted! They were faced with choosing between many worthwhile projects, and prayerfully read and considered all 82 applications for the PW Thank Offering. We are excited that they decided to fund our Guatemala Microloan Project for \$15,815.00. The first installment will be received in May while the balance will be sent in December of this year. This will be a huge help as we continue to step out in faith that we will have enough to continue the work that is being done.

Project Moderator Mimi Michael said it well in her letter announcing the Grant Award: "I am deeply grateful for the faith entrusted in this project, and continue to pray for God's guidance as we move forward. What a blessing that 45 new women (in three new areas) will be able to participate in the Microloan Project."

Much appreciation is given to those who spent many hours writing and editing the grant proposal. Our hearts are full that we are receiving support for this ministry from women all over the country.

Look for news in the months ahead as the new groups are formed. We have also decided to continue current groups for an additional 1-2 years to allow the women to receive maximum benefit from their participation in the project, and to prepare the groups for independence.



### Thank You Presbyterian Women!

When we travel to Guatemala and visit microloan groups, we always hear participants express deep thanks for the opportunities the project has provided for them. During the microloan assembly in February, the microloan group from Coatepeque offered a tangible expression of their gratitude by giving a beautiful banner to Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. This banner was presented to PW Moderator, Tina Joyner, at the Spring Gathering in April at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church. The banner states the name of the microloan group, "Faith and Hope." On behalf of all Guatemalan women, thank you for your ongoing faithfulness, prayers, love and support that help foster Faith and Hope.

### New Partners in the Microloan Project

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon and Covenant Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto, California became interested in supporting microloans through Brian and Sandi Thompson Royer, mission co-workers in Guatemala. After discussions with microloan task force members, they each have committed to give financial support over the next 3 years that will provide needed funding for the administrative costs of beginning three new groups. They also plan to have members involved in the prayer partnerships and in other ways.

While this project has created connections for us with women in Guatemala, we are also grateful for relationships that will develop through this partnership with Presbyterians in California and Oregon.

### Microloan Trip to Guatemala

We are exploring the possibility of a trip to Guatemala in November or January to visit the microloan groups. We hope to have spots available for Presbyterian Women who would like to see the project firsthand and are willing to return and share what they have seen. If you have any possible interest, please contact Mimi Michael at [mimimichael17@gmail.com](mailto:mimimichael17@gmail.com) or 828-234-0176 so we can keep you informed of details as they develop. Also,

any individuals or groups who would like to help sponsor participants on this trip can send donations to PW Treasurer (contact info is below) and designate it for the "Guatemala Microloan Travel Fund."

**Thank you** to Jade Baker from Grace Covenant for designing our new alternative giving card. Keep these in mind for birthdays, Mother's Day, Christmas, or any occasion throughout the year. To order cards for yourself or to make them available to your congregation, contact Debby Vial at [debby.vial@gmail.com](mailto:debby.vial@gmail.com) or [502-407-7402](tel:502-407-7402).



### Ways You Can Provide Support!

\* Individuals or groups can **serve as a Prayer Partner** to a microloan participant. Contact Sue Barrett at [suebar@comporium.net](mailto:suebar@comporium.net) or [828-553-3621](tel:828-553-3621) for more information.

\* We are grateful for the many who have made this project possible, and welcome new supporter as well. **Send Donations** 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.

\* Continue to **Stay informed** by liking our "Guatemala Microloan Project" Facebook page.

## 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. This is the sixth in a series of PW basics for those new to PW and those who sense some gaps in their PW knowledge.

### PW 101.6: We Gather

Presbyterian Women is connectional. And that means we gather! This is such an important part of our shared journey of faith that coordinating teams at each level of the organization (congregation, presbytery, synod and churchwide) are equally tasked with promoting "attendance at PW events at the presbytery, synod and churchwide levels."

What happens at gatherings? Depends! Sometimes a business meeting is part of a presbytery or synod gathering; the business meeting deals with, well, the business of the group, which often includes the installation of new leadership. Gatherings are also the place to learn about the organization (and the organization's resources such as Horizons magazine and Bible study, which are promoted by the assigned and invited Horizons representative) and activities of the organization (Bible study, service projects and more). Workshops, presentations, community projects, stewardship opportunities, Bible study and fellowship are important components of gatherings. Gatherings are serious business in the most joyful, PW Purpose-full way!

Stay connected with your PW circle so you can learn when your presbytery or synod plan to gather as gathering frequencies differ by region. At the national level, Presbyterian Women gather every three years. In 2018 (this year!), Presbyterian Women will gather in Louisville from August 2–5, 2018. Visit [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) to register for a truly faith-affirming experience!

*(Taken from May-July 2018 • Presbyterian Women Quarterly Newsletter)*

# FPC, Morganton Girl Scout Sunday March 11, 2018

## Where you go, I will go (*Ruth 1:16*)

*But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."  
(Ruth 1:16)*

In honor of *Girl Scout Sunday*, March 11, 2018, GS Troops 10383 and 02945 led the morning church service for First Presbyterian Church, Morganton. The girls led all parts of worship from the beginning *Call to Worship* to the *Charge and Blessings*.

The service began with Troop 10383 Leader Becky Wisniewski recognized Carly Carpenter and Emily Robinson for their Gold Award, which is the highest award earned in Girl Scouting. Both girls have earned their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. The congregation sang the opening hymn, *For All the Faithful Women*, to set the stage for the service.

The Old Testament Lesson read was from Ruth 1:1-22 followed by the Meditation, "Running on Empty, Arriving on Full." Naomi has been compared to a female Job. She lost everything; home, husband, and sons—and even more than Job did—her livelihood. She joined the ranks of Israel's lowest members: the poor and the widowed. She cried out in her grief and neglected to see the gift that God placed in her path—Ruth.

The service ended with Liturgical Dancers sharing their gift of dance to the song, *Canticle of the Turning*, arranged by Buddy Green.

### **Troop 10383**

*Leaders:* Teresa Gamewell & Becky Wisniewski  
*Call to Confession, Time for Children* - Carly Carpenter

*Passing of the Peace, Old Testament Lesson* - Catherine Gamewell

*Time for Children* – Rachel Gamewell

*Call to Worship* – Cora Hunt

*Prayer of the Day, Front Bulletin Design* = Emma Johnson

*Assurance of Pardon* – Gracie Mode

*Time for Children, Service of Giving* – Olivia Redman

*Meditation, Charge & Blessing* – Emily Robinson

*Affirmation of Faith* – Lauren Robinson

*Prayers of the People; Lord's Prayer* – Allie Roper

### **Troop 02945**

*Leaders:* Michael McQuaid & Suzanne Brandon  
*(Girls served as Ushers)*

*Psalter Reading* – Nancy Carol McQuaid

*Psalter Reading* – Liz Sasser

*Prayer for Illumination* – Alley Sasser

Madeleine Bennett

Emilee Cook

Mila Davidson

Samantha Martin

Ana Pedro

Harper Robinson

Parker Stephens

*Liturgical Dancers* – Caitlyn Eagan, Happy Naggy, Tabitha Rapp, Gabrielle Williams

*Teresa Carpenter  
Historian*

***Arise, shine, your light has come!***

*2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women*

*August 2-5, 2018*

*Louisville, Kentucky*

## A Call to Serve

### Prayer Partners Needed

The Guatemala Microloan Project is now receiving support from a PW Thank Offering Grant and from two congregations in California and Oregon! This will enable us to expand the programs to three more communities. So, we shall be needing new prayer partners for these additional 45 women. If you know women in your congregations who might be interested in accepting a woman from one of these groups being formed as a Prayer Partner, please let me know.

This has been an empowering experience for those involved in the microloan program in Guatemala and enriching for us in NC. We are experiencing a taste of what it means when we pray “Thy kingdom come, on earth as in heaven”. The desire of God for healing, wholeness, justice and righteousness on earth is being carried out in Guatemala and the US as we build community and support one another in this growth. The ripple effect of our partnership spills over to our families, congregations and communities - bringing God’s Kingdom-reign-presence among us.

Individuals or groups can *Serve as a Prayer Partner* to a microloan participant. Contact Sue Barrett at [suebar@comporium.net](mailto:suebar@comporium.net) or 828-553-3621 for more information.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Suzanne Barrett*  
*Microloan Task Force*

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### The PWCT of the Presbytery of WNC Needs Your Help!



PWCT of the Presbytery of WNC continues to search for someone to take the following positions:

- ❖ Mission Facilitator
- ❖ Cluster Leader for Cluster E

If you are interested in being a part of the PWCT, please contact Tina Joyner, Moderator, by email – [tjoyner10@yahoo.com](mailto:tjoyner10@yahoo.com) .

# Important Dates

**Synod Summer Gathering – Massanetta Springs      June 8 – 10, 2018**

**Churchwide Gathering, Louisville, KY      August 2 – 5, 2018**

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

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



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