

JOYFUL NOISE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PWNC

FROM THE MODERATOR

My Sisters in Christ-



As I begin my three-year term as Moderator of the Presbyterian Women Coordinating

Team, I'd like to start on a personal note. I want you to know that I am grateful for all of you in this Presbytery because I have God's assurance that you are faithful Presbyterian Women in that you are committed to the mission of the church worldwide. I look forward to hearing about your various experiences and feeling your excitement as you share with me and others the work and mission of your PW groups.

The Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering was held on April 13, 2019 at Hickory First. There were approximately 77 women and men in attendance at the gathering representing 17 churches. Guests included one of this year's scholarship recipients, Mason Streppa, and his father Michael; Reverend Bobbi White, General Presbyter of Presbytery of WNC; Ellen Dozier, a representative of the PWNC Guatemala Partnership; and Reverend Joanne Glazier, guest speaker and pastor of Sweetwater PC.

Our day began with fellowship and a light breakfast. I give

many thanks to the PW groups from Northminster PC and Sweetwater PC for their contributions to the breakfast.

Business Meeting

PW scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each were awarded to two deserving students. I have already mentioned Mason Streppa who is a member of Morganton First and will attend NC State University. Our second recipient is Kaegan Parks of Grace Covenant PC and will attend Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte.

The annual Faith Fund Award in the amount of \$700 was given to Hickory First's Good Samaritan Fund which provides financial assistance for those living within the Hickory area. The areas of needs are rent, electricity, water, heating oil, gas for cars, prescriptions and bus fare. Many church members volunteer on Tuesday afternoons to conduct the client interviews. The funding for this ministry comes strictly from donations.

The mission offering in the amount of \$1323.05 which was collected at the gathering will be for support of the Guatemalan Women in our partner presbyteries of Sur Occidente and Suchitepequez. These monies will help support the work of the women's

MAY 2019

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



(Continued from p. 1)

groups in each of these presbyteries as they travel to retreats and conventions, share meals together, purchase materials for workshops, and participate in Bible Study. Ellen Dozier gave us an inspiring and passionate overview of these gatherings for the Guatemalan women.

The installation of the 2019-2020 CT was led by Reverend Glaser of the following officers: Moderator - Sharon Meares of Hickory First; Treasurer - Heather Hudson of Grace Covenant; 2nd Vice Moderator - Deb Wakefield of Newton First; Mission - Beth Bolin of Gastonia First; Scholarship - Elizabeth Barbee of Reems Creek-Beech; Spiritual Nurture - Chris Gantt of Hickory First; Cluster A - Cathy Clevenger of Grace Covenant; Cluster E - Amy Yenderusiak of Newton First; Guatemala Partnership - Susan Maveety of New Hope, Asheville; and Newsletter/Justice & Peace - Tina Joyner of Kenilworth.

Bible Study Overview

Reverend Joanne Glaser introduced the 2019-2020 Horizon's Bible Study *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* written by Eugenia Anne Gamble. As always, Joanne came

bearing handouts, bookmarks, learning tools to remember The Ten Commandments in order, and her enthusiasm for the Bible. She reminded us that today we need to be holy – set apart. As Christians we are different because we belong to God. “The Ten Commandments are for us, not to impose them on the rest of society,” – for us to learn and live them as God’s people today.

Gathering Closing

It was fitting that our gathering ended with a memorial for the women who had entered the Church Triumphant in 2018. In addition to those listed in the program three women who had participated in our Guatemala Microloan Project were named: Rosa Maria Lopez Tolcha, Felipa Lopez Tolcha, and Claudia Mendez Perez. Then lunch was hosted by the women of Hickory First.

I’d like to express a special thank you to the PW of Hickory First for hosting such a wonderful Spring Gathering where I was elected and installed surrounded by the love and support of my church family. Ladies, you all are near and dear to my heart. Thank you, as well, to Michele Simmons in her planning of the gathering.

Sharon Meares
PW PWNC Moderator

Mission – What One PW Group is Doing



Several months ago some of the PW at Kenilworth met one Saturday to make desperately needed dresses for little girls in Africa. The ladies brought their sewing machines, other needed equipment, notions and fabric and completed seven dresses that day which they left at church. Several of the women took partially completed dresses home to finish them. However, there were additional dresses that were cut out, but not sewn, and fabric for some dresses that hadn’t been cut out that Linda Underwood took home to finish.

When Linda got home, she left everything in her unlocked car intending to return shortly to take it in the house. However, when she went out to unload the car, the car wasn’t there! It had been stolen along with the unfinished dresses, material, notions, her sewing machine and other equipment, and her purse including her ID, credit cards, money and other personal items.

When she notified the police, Travis Duyck was the officer that responded to the call. The police subsequently found the car, but it had been totaled. Unfortunately none of the dresses or other equipment were found. Linda was greatly distressed, mostly because of the loss of the unfinished dresses, donated fabric and the fact that the KPC-PW would be unable to complete this worthwhile project.

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But, now comes the good part! Officer Duyck also felt bad about this sad situation, and on his own, bought enough fabric to make 15 dresses. He contacted Brittney Whitworth, a Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Owen High School, to see if she and her apparel class could help. Her students had already completed their sewing assignments, but when she asked if they would be willing to make some dresses for these little girls, they enthusiastically made the 15 dresses.

In the meantime, a friend whom Linda had worked with on other volunteer sewing projects, got another group together, and they made more dresses. All of these wonderful people – the police

officer, the teacher and her students, and the many friends-of-a-friend – likely were not even Presbyterians, but they surely were Christians and angels in disguise. Now there are 65 dresses soon to be ready to send, many more than our PW group would have hoped to complete on our own. The Lord surely does work in mysterious ways!



Shirley Mathis
KPC – PW Secretary

2019 Scholarship Recipients

Two amazing young Presbyterians are the recipients of one-year, renewable scholarships in the amount of \$1500, presented by the Presbyterian Women of Western North Carolina at their Spring Gathering.



The first recipient, Kaegan Parks, is a member of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville and a senior at T.C. Roberson High School in Arden. She plans to attend Johnson and Wales University in Charlotte and major in culinary arts with a minor in business. She wants to be a chef but also have the skills that a business degree offers. Kaegan hopes to own a restaurant or catering business, is interested in international foods, and has been working at Biltmore Estate alongside the best in the culinary field. Kaegan’s pastor says she is a person of great faith, drive, integrity, intelligence and leadership. She serves her church as liturgist, worship leader during Youth Sundays, is a Presbyterian Youth Council leader. The children and youth look up to her as she naturally connects with people of all ages. Kaegan shares her faith with openness and an ease that allow others to share their struggles with faith and be comforted. Her pastor talks of her willingness and availability to be open to God’s call in her life. Kaegan tackles every assignment with eagerness and enthusiasm, overcomes obstacles in her life with grace and thoughtfulness and shares God’s message of love and hope with all she meets.



Our second recipient, Mason Streppa, is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Morganton and a senior at Patton High School. He plans to attend N.C. State University where he has been accepted into the honors program and will major in engineering. Mason maintains an excellent academic record, plays three sports, and serves his church and denomination as liturgist and deacon. He has traveled to Guatemala on mission trips, serves on his church’s Pastor Nominating Committee, and is a leader on the Presbytery Youth Council. Mason has learned what many of us discover as we serve others. That we receive great benefit by serving our God and serving others.

We are proud of these two scholarship recipients and thank their families and their churches for nurturing and supporting these future leaders in our communities and our churches.

There are also two students renewing their scholarships from last year. Ashley Beaty is continuing her studies in nursing at the Queens University and Connor Leidner is continuing studies at Virginia Tech, majoring in architecture.

PW 101 – Helps for New PW Leadership

Note: This is the tenth in the series but we are calling it 101.8, since we skipped 101.8 (oops!). If you have an idea to share or a question you'd like answered in this series, please email carissa.herold@pcusa.org.

PW 101.8: Resources for Presbyterian Women

PW resources are available in many forms, some for purchase, some free to download or view, and even some to wear or share. Everything that PW offers—from video introductions for the Bible study (the annual companion DVD), to Glimpses in Time videos (available on PW's YouTube channel), even items such as PW pins and aprons—promote and support Presbyterian Women at all levels of the organization. Here is your guide to finding the resources you need.

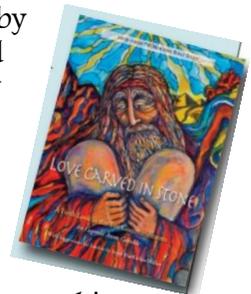
- The free catalog, Resources for Presbyterian Women is available for download; this resource brims with items to consider, order and download; because the catalog is downloadable, the content is current. Visit www.presbyterianwomen.org and type “resource catalog” in the search box to find the most up-to-date edition.
- Browse free downloads at www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads.
- Visit the online PW Shop (www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop) to explore and order!
- Horizons is the magazine of Presbyterian Women; a subscription to Horizons includes six issues of the award winning magazine and the annual Bible study (mailed in March each year); to subscribe, call toll-free 866.802.3635; visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons; or mail your \$24.95 check for a one-year subscription to Horizons/Presbyterian Women, PO Box 421, Congers NY 10920-0421. This resource is also available as a digital only subscription (Bible study not included).
- Visit the online PC(USA) Store, www.pcusastore.com, to order denominational materials, Westminster John Knox Press and Flyaway Books titles, and children's curriculum. And if you are there to order the Book of Order, feel free to add PW items to your shopping cart while you're at it! (You may order your PW and PCUSA goodies by telephone as well; call toll-free 800.533.4371, Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.)

As you plan PW events in the congregations, presbyteries and synods, you will want to provide PW resources that interpret the mission and programming of Presbyterian Women, that support the life of PW, provide access to the nurturing publications of PW, and celebrate the community of PW. Contact carissa.herold@pcusa.org for guidance in sourcing your event. *(Taken from May–July 2019 • Presbyterian Women Quarterly Newsletter)*

2019 - 2020 PW Horizons Bible Study

Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments (or Ten Words), by Eugenia Anne Gamble, is a Bible study that helps us reframe the way we look at and live in the world. The author has chosen to use the term ‘Ten Words’ for the study because it is the biblical form and opens us up to looking at the Ten Commandments in fresh new ways.

Each lesson begins with exploring one of the Ten Words in its biblical context. Next, consideration of a moment from Jesus' life that shows how he lived out that Word, and followed by consideration of the Word for our own lives and contexts. Each lesson ends with an invitation to pray with the Word in circles or study groups and in personal devotions.



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Summary of the Ten Words

The **First Word** calls us to allow God to be our One and Only.

The **Second Word** asks us not to be fooled into substituting other things for God.

The **Third Word** summons us into deep and honest intimacy with God for who God is and not for what God can do for us.

The **Fourth Word** calls us, regularly and without fail, to stop and rest in the beauty and provision of God for us and for the whole human family.

The **Fifth Word** calls us to honor that which is honorable in our heritages and give a place of precedence to those who bring us to the fullness of life.

The **Sixth Word** calls us, as individuals and as a society, to refuse to “take life,” whether in literal or metaphorical ways.

The **Seventh Word** reminds us that life-long commitments matter, not just to us but to the whole community.

The **Eighth Word** reminds us not to take from others—not their possessions, their self-esteem, or their livelihood. This word asks us to ponder how our choices take from or lift up others.

The **Ninth Word** calls us to fundamental honesty in all of our dealings and in the institutions of our society.

The **Tenth Word** calls each of us to trust God’s provision and to welcome the unique lives that we live.

(Taken from the *Love Carved in Stone flier*)

Justice and Peace

As mentioned in the February 2019 issue of *Joyful Noise*, PW added a new initiative for this triennium – Substance Use Disorder (SUD). The initiative focuses on justice issues related to SUD, including mass incarceration of people of color, stigmatization and marginalization of those suffering from SUD. In the March/April 2019 issue of *Horizons* magazine, an article written by Marvella Lambright, describes a four-prong approach to be used by Presbyterian Women at the congregational level which was recently adopted by PW at the national level. The approach is to raise awareness, pray, advocate for individuals with SUD, and advocate for policy changes. Please refer to the article for details of ways to use the suggestions, or download the suggestions as a flier from <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/PW-SUD-initiative.pdf>.

Justice and Peace Calendar

May

- 22 International Day for Biological Diversity
- 25 Orange Day
- 26 Disability Inclusion Sunday

June

- 2 Intercultural Church Sunday
- 16 Father’s Day; Men of the Church Sunday
- 19 Juneteenth
- 20 World Refugee Day
- 23 PC(USA) World AIDS Sunday
- 25 Orange Day

July

- 4 Independence Day
- 7 Immigration Sunday
- 25 Orange Day

For a complete Justice and Peace calendar go to: presbyterianwomen.org/justice .

Guatemala Microloan Project Update: May 2019

- Our three new groups, which started in Fall 2018, are now finishing Cycle One, repaying their loans and starting Cycle Two.
- The four established groups finished Cycle 8 and are starting Cycle 9.
- The WNC PW delegation of 8 women who visited in February have been making presentations at churches around the presbytery.
- Sue Barrett is connecting prayer partners and sharing prayer concerns.
- Mother's Day cards were available for purchase at the Spring Gathering and Presbytery.
- We hope to soon have our own website available.

So much Good News, but overshadowing is the deep grief for the tragic deaths of sisters Rosa María López and Felipa López and the serious burns from hip to foot (needing skin grafts) to Reyna Martinez in a bus station accident (live wires falling on those waiting for the bus). They were members of the new group El Progreso (Reyna the president of the group), and many extended family members are also participants in the Microloan Project. We are thankful that Reyna seems to be recovering from surgeries and infections.

The ADEGHUA staff, Mildre and Flor, have been compassionately working with the families and groups. The Project made available \$600 to be of help to the families, as well as loan forgiveness for this cycle.

It was a special blessing that two women from Spain were there for a week in March and were able to use art therapy to help the El Progreso women express their grief and the deep sense of loss in their group. The Spanish women had wonderful words of encouragement for us, especially coming from those experienced in this kind of work internationally.

Elena Parral Manjon writes:

I have worked for 15 years in public administration in Rubí, a city 20km from Barcelona. In those years I managed cooperation projects, many of them related with micro-credits, but I have never seen such coordination and execution of these kind of projects.

During my time in Mazatenango I had the pleasure of seeing the micro loan projects administered by Mildred Castillo and Flor de María Quiñonez, and it was incredible. I have never imagined that this kind of project had within it so many added values, both for the groups as well as for the staff. Values such as communication, commitment to the group and the society, cooperation, empathy, confidentiality. The women have a trustworthy place to talk about their problems, the women are the protagonists, they have a new role and value in the community and they can see another kind of women with new occupations and same nationality as they are (the personnel of Adegua).

Really, these micro-loan projects have a high level of transformation and impact in these communities, and this I think is because of the professionalism and humanity of Ms. Castillo and Ms. Quiñonez.

*Happy and grateful to know your extraordinary work, your project.
Thank you so much.*

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In the midst of this tragic accident we see the strength of the women and their groups and the support by Mildre and Flor, and can give thanks to God for the ways this Project has helped. We are enthusiastic and inspired to continue as we seek to follow God's vision.

HOW CAN YOU HELP??

Prayer partners are still needed. Contact Sue Barrett at suebar@comporium.net if you or your PW group wish to participate.

Purchase **Alternative Giving Cards (\$10 each)** to send to someone you want to honor or thank.

Have a program about the Microloans for your PW or church! Call us, we will come! Sharing Good News is always a joy. Contact Mimi Michael at mimimichael17@gmail.com.

Send donations, or make a pledge for on-going donations (individually, as a PW or as a Church mission project). Make checks payable to PW PWNC and designate for Guatemala Microloan Project and send to Heather Hudson, 4 Northvalley Dr., Weaverville, NC 28787.

Join a delegation trip next year! The possibility is being considered.

Food for Thought

FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce us be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

NO GARDEN IS COMPLETE WITHOUT TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends



WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE.
THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN.

Important Dates

Synod Summer Gathering – Harrisonburg, VA	June 6 – 9, 2019
Birthday Offering due to Presbytery Treasurer	June 1
New PW Officers due to Secretary & Moderator	July 1



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