

JOYFUL NOISE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PWNC

FROM THE MODERATOR

My Sisters in Christ-



Most Presbyterian Women's groups in our Presbytery have begun the 2019-

2020 program year by delving into this year's Horizon's Bible Study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*, written by Eugenia Gamble.

Next on our PWP calendar were the two Fall Gatherings. I am grateful to our hosting Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church of Newton and Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church. Both gatherings proved to be a wonderful time of fellowship – a time of renewing those PW friendships of the past as well as making new ones over both light breakfasts and delicious lunches.

The eastern gathering was on Saturday, September 14, 2019, at FPC Newton. There were 40 attendees representing 10 churches. The collected mission offering in the amount of \$783 has been distributed to

Safe Harbor of Hickory whose mission is to provide a Christ-centered community for women and their children coming from tragic situations in order to recover, renew, and rebuild. Many thanks to the workshop leaders of the four workshops offered: Deb Wakefield of Bible Study How To; Elizabeth Barbee of Winning Scholarship Applications and How to Write Them; Rev. Bobbi White of Justice and Peace Through the Eyes of Forgiveness; and Laura Sparks of Using Social Platforms for Mission.

The western gathering was on Saturday, September 28, 2019, at Brevard-Davidson River PC. There were 59 attendees representing 11 churches. The women of Mills River PC prepared breakfast treats for us. The collected mission offering in the amount of \$1,131 was distributed to El Centro Comunitario Hispano-Americano of Brevard whose mission is to enhance the well-being and integration of Latinos in the community.

In addition to Elizabeth Barbee and Bobbi White's workshops we had a Bible

NOVEMBER 2019

MODERATOR
INFORMATION:

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



(continued from pg. 1)

Study Overview led by Rev. Sarah Grace Montgomery and got a taste of the Guatemala Formation workshops in Ellen Dozier's Guatemala Microloan Project workshop.

There is exciting news from our Guatemala Microloan Project in that the original microloan groups will be completing Cycle 9 and will be "graduating" next year in the Spring. As the former PWP treasurer I thank you for your faithful generosity in the support of the Guatemalan women. Since I've seen this project take shape and grow for the past 4 years, I'm thrilled to be joining the Guatemala delegation trip from January 27 – February 3, 2020 to meet, share, and celebrate with our sisters and brothers there. Amazingly we will be

representing not only Western NC but also Pittsburgh, PA; Portland, OR; and Palo Alto, CA.

My hope for this team is that, while we remember who we are and whose we are by being centered in Jesus Christ, we take our PW Purpose with us as we...build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom. I do ask for prayers for safe travel for our group as well as for a rewarding experience for all involved. May God bless us abundantly!

Sharon Meares
PW PWNC Moderator

Scholarships for Next Year

THINK college... THINK scholarships... THINK Presbyterian Women of Western North Carolina.

The PW PWNC offers two new scholarships of \$1500 for study at a 4-year accredited college or university each year. This scholarship is renewable for one year.

Are there high school seniors in your church or students who are already in their first or second year of college? They may be thinking of applying for scholarships to help them achieve their goal of completing an education and you could help them by offering information about PW Scholarships.

Go online to <https://presbyterywnc.org> and click on Presbyterian Women where you can access and download the scholarship application and guidelines and offer this information to members of your congregation who may be thinking about college and scholarships. If your members are already in college, offer this information to parents, or email students themselves and let them know that you want to help. They may need your reference letter when they apply for the scholarship too.

What a pleasure to meet new students every year and read their stories of work and service and their hopes of carrying out their goals as they prepare for the next phase of life and learning! Please encourage your young members and help them achieve also.

Elizabeth Barbee
Scholarship Facilitator

Justice and Peace

We Will Speak Out!

"It's an epidemic! We are helpless to stop it!" These words are used for many crises these days, but we are not helpless! Domestic abuse, also known as sexual and gender-based violence, is one epidemic to which Presbyterian Women has chosen to respond. One in three women in the U.S. experience sexual

(continued from pg. 2)

assault or stalking during their lifetime; one in four has been physically assaulted/battered/beaten. We can help. Domestic abuse often includes isolation, whether from a sense of worthlessness assumed by the abused or as a weapon of the abuser. When we choose to act, we break a cycle and provide hope. As women together in faith, we can strengthen our circles, congregations and friendships, and become a more loving community.

For practical awareness raising and skill development turn to a program entitled *We Will Speak Out*, published by IMA World Health. PW continues to partner with IMA World Health and Faith Trust Institute to raise awareness of the symptoms of abuse, and more importantly, teach us to respond to the crisis, to listen to a survivor and support her in her hour of need. Survivors may also be men, but our focus is on the women who sit around and among us in the pews and chairs of our churches, at worship and in circles and gatherings. These are places they feel safe enough to relax a few moments, among women they trust.

Learn to listen, present an attitude of trust and compassion, refuse to offer opinions; be a friend and willing support, accompanying her to the hospital, if needed. Most of us have no idea what our friends go through on a daily basis. Survivors come to us believing that the friendly shoulder of a sister in faith is a starting place. Presbyterian Women and pastors often hear the first cries for help. And few of us know what to do when we hear it. Pastors receive little or no formal training; PW friends even less.

As we reach out to those in crisis, the first steps are welcoming, listening and believing. The woman has chosen you for a reason! You are trusted. Respond to that trust by paying full attention, offering assurance, and encouraging her to seek help. Do not send her home or tell her to “work it out.” Be ready when you hear your sisters crying for help! See the resources below for more information.

Resources:

<https://imaworldhealth.org>

<https://wewillspeakout.us/> (offers resources for congregations seeking to address violence against women)

One in Three: Preventing Sexual Violence in Our Communities from *We Will Speak Out*.

*Marilynn Collins, PW Moderator
Synod of the Rocky Mountains*

Excerpts taken from: August–October 2019 • Presbyterian Women Quarterly Newsletter

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Justice and Peace Calendar

November

Native American Heritage Month

10 Caregiver Sunday

13 World Kindness Day

17 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday

20 Universal Children's Day

25 Orange Day

Int'l Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

D.10 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence

28 Thanksgiving

December

5 International Volunteer Day

10 International Human Rights Day

18 International Migrants Day

25 Christmas

Orange Day

* See presbyterianwomen.org/justice for a pdf with links to resources.

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

PW 101 – Helps for New PW Leadership

If you are reading this, you are probably a PW leader and know all things PW! But many of our faithful women are unaware of some of the finer points of their amazing organization. If you have an idea to share or a question you'd like answered, send to yvonne.hileman@pcusa.org. This is the 11th in the series.

PW 101.11: Presbyterian Women Programming

Presbyterian Women's work is meant to fulfill the PW Purpose. Each mission and ministry of PW is aligned with at least one of the points of the Purpose.

Take, for example, Horizons magazine and Bible study (critical pieces of the publishing ministry of PW). These nurture faith and build community. They also support and work for justice and peace. In fact, all aspects of PW's publishing mission, including PW's website, social media and e-blasts build community, nurture faith, support mission, witness for justice and peace, and strengthen the PC(USA) by promoting the programs, resources and connectionalism of the church.

Here are the overarching programs of PW and the points of the Purpose that they help fulfill.

- Celebration Giving—Supporting mission, building community. Includes Birthday and Thank Offerings; ecumenical prayer and offering partners; annual fund (Mission Pledge) giving; and extra giving opportunities such as Together in Service Puerto Rico.

- Publishing Mission—Building community, nurturing faith, working for peace and justice, supporting mission, strengthening the church. Includes Horizons magazine, the Bible study, website, PW social media, quarterly newsletter and email communications.

- Mission Matters—Supporting mission, building community. Includes mission trips, Together in Service (the hands-on component of PW mission), the Offerings (grants program) and disaster-relief trips/training.

- Justice and Peace—Working for justice and peace, building community, strengthening the church. Includes Together in Action days, J&P Links (newsletter), Courageous Conversations, participation in Ecumenical Advocacy Days and UN CSW, and more.

You do not have to actively engage in all of PW's programming to be considered a PW. But there are so many ways to engage that all women in the church can engage in some way—using the Horizons Bible study, giving to support the structure of PW through the annual fund (Mission Pledge), holding a "Tea for Peace," hosting a conversation about substance use disorder, supporting the Birthday and Thank Offerings, organizing women to work in a soup kitchen or women's shelter, and sharing stories of what women are accomplishing together!

Taken from: August–October 2019 • Presbyterian Women Quarterly Newsletter



PW SPRING GATHERING

Who? All Presbyterian Women in Presbytery of WNC—and beyond!

What? Gathering for Worship, Fellowship, and Bible Study with Rev. Joyce Mackichan Walker

Where? First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St., Franklin, NC 28734

When? Saturday, April 18, 2020, 9 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Why? To Celebrate How We Build an Inclusive, Caring Community of Women Witnessing to the Promise of God’s Kingdom

How? Mail Registration Form with Check to
Michele Simmons
539 Bluebird Ridge
Asheville, NC 28804
ztapenguin@gmail.com
(910) 476-6172

Cut Below Here

Registration Information

NAME _____
Phone# _____
Church _____
Email address _____

Child Care Needed (Circle One): Yes No
Please send registration with check for \$10.00 made out to:
PW PWNC

*****Registration deadline April 6, 2020*****

**Introduction to
2020-21 Horizons
Bible Study:
Reclaiming
Lament**

**Registration,
Food, and
Fellowship
9:00-9:45**

Lunch at 12:30

**Registration: \$10
(Includes Lunch)**

**Installation of New
PW Leaders for
Presbytery of WNC**



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Guatemala Microloan Project Update: November 2019



Our beautiful **NEW Alternative Christmas Cards** are available by calling or emailing Mimi Michael at 828-234-0176 or mimimichael17@gmail.com. Purchase these (**\$10 minimum donation**) to send to someone you want to honor or thank or for a more meaningful Christmas greeting/gift.

CELEBRATION and GRADUATION of 4 GROUPS ~ Fourteen women will travel to Guatemala January 27 to February 3rd to visit the Microloan groups celebrating the close of 5 years (10 cycles). Nine travelers are from western NC and the others are

from west coast churches which also support the Microloan Project. Keep this group in prayer as they travel and as they bring our greetings and congratulations to those who have learned and accomplished so much.

Sue Barrett is collecting letters from **prayer partners** of all graduates so we can deliver them at the celebration. Letters should be sent to her asap (for translation) at suebar@comporium.net.

To support travel expenses or make a contribution to the Guatemala Microloan Travel Fund, make checks payable to PW PWNC and send to Heather Hudson, 4 Northvalley Dr., Weaverville, NC 28787.

THANK YOU to the Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian of Gastonia for their gift of \$1164, supporting for a year the twice-monthly visits of ADEGHUA to the newer group in Sintana. These visits include Formation and the monthly Microloan reporting. You (or your group) could sponsor one of the new groups that will form in 2020.

OPPORTUNITY ~ At the PW Fall Gathering in Brevard, Rev. Ellen Dozier led a workshop on the process of Formation, an important aspect of the Microloan Project. Guatemalan women attend monthly meetings on topics such as health, parenting, self-esteem, and overcoming negativity. Ellen is willing to share her hour long workshop with churches or groups that would like to host her for a daytime presentation. Contact her at ellendozier@hotmail.com.

The new **Home Garden Formation Workshop** is illustrated on the following page.

WORKSHOP: HOME GARDENS

August to October 2019

During the Fall, 3 students from the University were giving workshops on home gardens to all groups participating in the microloan project in order to install gardens in the homes of interested women.

In addition, they will carry out the preparatory work required by their establishment such as the measurement of the available area, the preparation of soil, and realization of a nursery among other things. Plants and seeds are provided and delivered free of charge.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- Inform about gardens and their benefits.
- Make family and ecological gardens.
- Promote family life through the care of gardens.
- Implement a nutrition plan.

Workshop with “Coffee Flower Women Entrepreneurs” in Sintaná



Doménica, her daughter, and Juana reading the information



Handing out information in Santo Domingo



Workshop in El Progreso with “Women Workers with Hope”



Measuring the land intended for gardens at the homes of Juana and Rosa in Sintaná

Important Dates

Mission Pledge Form Due to PWP-CT Treasurer	November 15
Thank Offering Due to PWP-CT Treasurer	December 10
Faith Fund Application Due to PWP Treasurer	December 31
PW History Due to PWP Historian & Moderator	January 31, 2020
PW Moderator's Report of PW Activities Due to PWP Moderator	
	January 31, 2020
Scholarship Applications Due to PWP Scholarship Chair	Feb. 15, 2020
Spring Gathering – First Presbyterian of Franklin	April 18, 2020
Synod Summer Gathering – Harrisonburg, VA	June 11-14, 2020



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