

# JOYFUL NOISE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PWNC

## MMMFROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE MODERATOR

Since I have just finished virtually worshipping with the “scattered” First Presbyterian Church of Asheville, this seems like the perfect time to complete this report. Although the world has not changed much in the last month regarding social distancing and mask wearing, there is still great uncertainty for the future. As an avid North Carolina State University Wolfpack football fan who attends all home football games in Raleigh (yes, our family drives four hours both ways for every game), I am awaiting the plan for spectators at the games.

As the mother of a high school volleyball player, I am awaiting the plan for the volleyball season. We are all in a period of waiting as we continue to watch the news of the effects of the coronavirus. While we all await the different plans for the future, now is a perfect time to spend with God in His Word. Several years ago as I was waiting for where I would work following my pharmacy residency, I spent a few weeks studying waiting in the Bible. I challenge all to take the opportunity to study what

God has to say about waiting in His word.

During the meeting of the coordinating team this past Sunday, August 23, the resignation from Sharon Meares as Moderator was accepted. Although Sharon is recovering well from the stroke she suffered in May, she believes it is best that she step aside for the time being. After much discussion, Tina Joyner has graciously agreed to serve as interim moderator until a new moderator is elected. Therefore, we will need to fill the roles of moderator and moderator-elect at our next election at the Spring Gathering in 2021. Please be in prayer regarding the filling of these positions and contact any member of the coordinating team to suggest potential candidates for either position.

Plans are now in place to move the agenda of the annual gathering to the PW Fall Gathering which will be held via Zoom on October 17 starting at 10 a.m. All PW are invited to join the meeting via Zoom that morning. In addition, you can pre-register to attend this Zoom meeting.

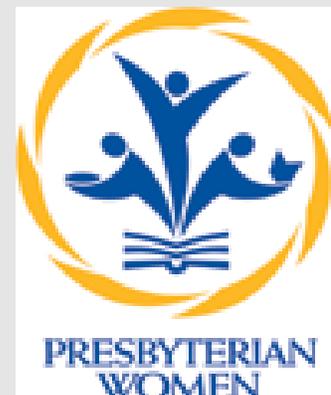
AUGUST 2020

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



(continued from p. 1)

To pre-register, please visit:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpd-mprjsqG9y1oS6Pm0JqtTQ2JSzBDe7>.

Since this is the annual business meeting of the year, every PW group in our presbytery needs to have at least one representative participate. However, more than one person can attend from each local PW congregation. There will be a business packet sent to the PW Moderator or contact for each local PW group by September 15. This packet will contain information regarding suggested changes to the by-laws; the slate of officers being presented for election; and the budget. By September 22, each PW group will need to vote on approval of the changes in the by-laws, the slate of officers, and the budget. The Zoom meeting on October 17 will review the results of those votes and install officers who are elected. We have been flexible to adjust things based on recommendations to not gather face to face at this time. Speaking of PW gatherings, please also be in prayer regarding the planned 2021 Churchwide Gathering of PW scheduled for August 5-8 in St. Louis. The PW Board of Directors will make a decision in December to determine whether we will gather in St. Louis or virtually.

The month of August has historically been a busy one for PW as groups prepare to begin new years with Bible study and mission projects. However, this August will be drastically different as each PW group will determine the best way to gather for Bible study and mission projects—either virtually or in a socially distanced setting. Let us be in prayer for one another as we turn to God to determine the most realistic and safest way to meet.

After getting my latest edition of *Horizons* this week, I was pleased to see that a local organization has been named one of the

recipients of this year's PW Thank Offering. The Thank Offering is typically collected by PW near Thanksgiving and supports different mission projects worldwide. From the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Faith 4 Justice has been selected as one of the recipients of the grant. Faith 4 Justice in Asheville is a bridge between local faith leaders and Black and Latinx community leaders who are committed to racial equity and healing through monthly meetings, trauma-informed materials, and discussions led by those directly impacted by racism. The Thank Offering grant will support training for leadership development, community organizing, and raising public awareness. For more information on Faith 4 Justice, visit their website at [www.faith4justiceasheville.org](http://www.faith4justiceasheville.org).

God is continuing to allow PW groups to live and fulfill our PW purpose as “we nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, support the mission of the church worldwide, work for justice and peace, and build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God’s kingdom.” As we remember we are “forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit,” we continue to explore new ways to live out our purpose—even using technology to do so.

Please continue to pray for PW in our presbytery and in the meantime, may we all continue to heed the words of Paul: “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Michele Simmons, First Vice Moderator*  
*PW of the Presbytery of WNC*

**The PWP-CT would like to express our sincere gratitude to Sharon Meares for her hard work and dedication to the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of WNC, Presbytery General Council, and the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Coordinating Team. We pray for your continued healing and look forward to you being able to work with the Coordinating Team again real soon. “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28 NIV).**

## Justice and Peace

*We are called to share God’s love with the world, by being God’s hands in the world. We answer God’s call to “do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.” (Micah 6:8).*

Presbyterian Women groups respond to local or regional justice and peace needs. Our work can be action, advocacy or awareness-building—or a mixture depending on the gifts of our groups. In addition to local and regional emphases, Presbyterian Women Churchwide suggests addressing the injustices of mass incarceration, poverty, racism, human trafficking and violence; and promote quality education for all children. Presbyterian Women also supports the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s work in the areas of advocacy and social justice, education, hunger and poverty, immigration, gender and racial justice and environmental ministries.

For more information about Presbyterian Women’s work for Justice and Peace, visit [https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what we do/work-for-justice/](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/work-for-justice/) .

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### Justice and Peace Calendar

#### August

- 19 World Humanitarian Day
- 23 Public Education Sunday
- 25 Orange Day

#### October

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- 4 World Communion Sunday
- 12 National Indigenous Peoples’ Day
- 16 World Food Day
- 18 Children’s Sabbath
- 24 United Nations Day
- 25 Orange Day

#### September

- 1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- 6 Season of Peace begins
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 25 Native American Day
- 25 Orange Day

#### November

- Native American Heritage Month
- 8 Caregiver Sunday
- 15 Hunger & Homelessness Sunday
- 20 Universal Children’s Day
- 25 Orange Day
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Domestic Violence
- 25 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence begins

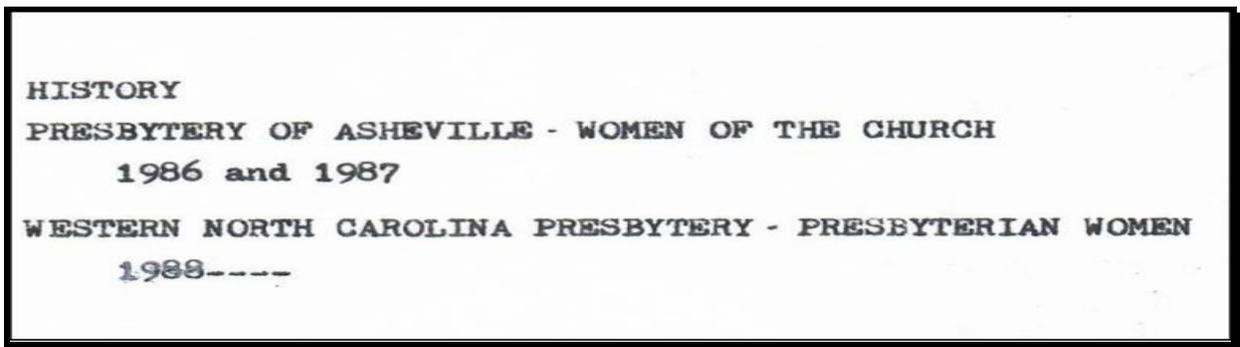
For a complete Justice and Peace calendar go to: [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice)  
 May-July 2020 • *Presbyterian Women Quarterly Newsletter*

## A Look Back as We Move Forward

Challenges are nothing new for the Presbyterian Women of Western North Carolina. One of the first cataloged histories begins with a statement made about forming the new Presbytery. “The year 1988 will be most challenging.” Today, we continue facing challenges as we move forward nurturing faith, supporting missions, working for justice & peace, and building community. And just like the faithful women who worked together to build a strong foundation for Presbyterian Women, we can do this through Him who gives us strength. (Philippians 4:13)



I wanted to share a glimpse of the past including a snapshot of the beginning of PW of WNC with an appreciation to all of those who dedicated themselves in establishing the new organization.



### THROUGH THE YEARS\_\_\_\_\_

#### In the beginning...

The first recorded History cataloged was submitted by Fannie Slade (Mrs. R.L.) as Women of the Church, Presbytery of Asheville, 1986. The report began by stating work continued on the transition to the 1988 new organization of Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Barbara McClean served as president and represented Asheville Presbytery at the conference in St. Louis held in July to discuss the design and implementation of the new organization which became Presbyterian Women.

The final history of the *Women of the Church, Presbytery of Asheville History* records the Fall Meeting, held September 19, 1987, hosted by the Bryson City Presbyterian Church, focused on the newly formed Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Cathy Vaughn from Montreat Church provided the keynote for the event with a message entitled “*Roots and Fruits*” – a look at our past and our future as women in the Presbyterian Church. From the meetings and discussions held during 1987, the women in leadership understood the challenges of combining three North Carolina presbyteries (Catawba, Concord, and Asheville) into one Presbytery A of the Mid-Atlantic Synod. The History report ends with the statement: “The year 1988 will be most challenging year for a new Presbytery in union for the building of God’s kingdom.”

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From documented history ...

***TRANSITION from Women of the Church to PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN***

On April 23, 1988, Presbyterian Women in Presbytery A, State of North Carolina, Synod of Mid-Atlantic was born at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, Swannanoa, North Carolina. “Approximately 350 women were present, and Barbara McClean was elected moderator pro-tem. It was a day to celebrate the rich histories for the three former presbyteries and to rejoice in the newness of Presbyterian Women and all the new potential for carrying out God’s work in Western North Carolina. From the One Hundredth Psalm comes the directive to make a ‘Joyful noise,’ and from this

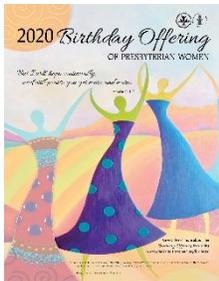
the PW newsletter drew its name, *Joyful Noise*. As of 1989, this publication has been sent to all moderators to keep local units informed of activities of the presbytery, to announce upcoming events, and to keep PW a cohesive unit.”

As we continue being the hands and feet of Christ while supporting our communities, churches, missions, and fellowship with Bible study, let’s remember with gratitude the women who were there to establish PW of WNC. As we move forward, we offer support and prayer for the mission of the Presbyterian Women, USA.

*Teresa Carpenter  
PW-PWNC Historian*

**What One PW is Doing**

*But I will hope continually,  
And will praise You yet more and more. Psalm 71:14 (NKJV)*



How do you celebrate a birthday or observe any celebration when you are in social isolation and no group gatherings are allowed?

Well, you think outside the box and watch stories on TV about families celebrating remotely or distancing, refusing to be discouraged, and somehow connecting. So Black Mountain Presbyterian Church PW scheduled a drive through event at the front entrance of the church on May 19, 2020.

But a birthday celebration means a birthday cake with candles, so we made cupcakes instead. A group of volunteers made and decorated cupcakes which were carefully packaged, including a candle, in an attractive goodie bag along with the colorful promotional materials describing the selected grant recipients, and a thank you acknowledgement to our out-going officers as well as a welcome to our new ones.

Thanks to much advance publicity and a few enthusiastic PW volunteers, over 28 cars were greeted and given the goodie bag in the pouring rain, many with checks in hand for the Birthday Offering. All were delighted to see another

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friendly face even behind a mask after almost two months of isolation. Even our ministerial staff was on hand to wave a welcome!

Normally our May meeting is a highlight for the end of the PW program year as we observe the Birthday Gathering with some 50 or more women attending a special dinner and program and contributing generously towards the

offering. This year's final total for the Birthday Offering was one of our highest amounts--almost twice the previous year--of over \$1500.

Our motto for the special day in May was "PW cares and is still going strong".

The best news is that all who participated in whatever way had a wonderful experience and remained healthy over the subsequent 14 days.

Submitted by,  
*Gayle Shelton, Black Mountain PW*

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The Presbyterian Women (PW) of Black Mountain PC also sent out their first monthly PW newsletter, entitled *Postmark: PW*, to all women in their congregation. The sole purpose of the newsletter is to strengthen connections during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their hope is for the monthly newsletter to be "a source of helpful information and encouragement" to include "news, prayer requests, National PW updates, and a profile spotlighting one of their members."

Congratulations Black Mountain PW!

If you would like to share a story of what your PW group is doing, please email it to me, Tina Joyner, at [tjoyner10@yahoo.com](mailto:tjoyner10@yahoo.com).

## New Scholarship Application



A new school year may have high school seniors thinking about college scholarships for next year. Some families may need financial help in sending their children to college more than ever. Now is the time to look around your congregations and offer scholarship information from the

Presbyterian Women of Western NC to those high school seniors or those already in college.

The scholarship application has been updated and is posted on the website of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, <https://www.presbyterywnc.org/ministry/presbyterian-women>. If you have old application forms in your files, please discard those and download the new forms. There have been several changes made to make the application more appropriate for our students, and an essay requirement has been added as well. Deadline for the application remains February 15<sup>th</sup>, and the application must be postmarked for that date or it will not be accepted.

*Elizabeth Barbee*  
*PW-PWNC Scholarship Facilitator*

## Guatemala Microloan Project Update: August 2020

As here in the USA, the pandemic has made for many challenges for our sisters in Guatemala, but there are positive developments as well.

Many microloan participants have had their businesses disrupted. Women who rely on public transportation to purchase supplies or to take products to market have been unable to buy and sell. Confinement to homes has limited options for those relying on door to door sales. However, the women are finding creative ways to adapt. Some have changed their focus to sell essential items such as food.



**Reyna S.** sells vegetables and eggs



**Reyna G.** raises chickens.

**Lety** was selling jewelry and took a free class and now makes disinfectant in several scents, printing her own labels. She recently sold 40 gallons to one business. **See right ->**



Vendo  
desinfectante,  
Citronela  
Fresa canela  
Manzana  
canela  
Herbal floral  
Bouquet floral  
Manzana  
verde  
Pinabete

Several women in a rural community have taken advantage of the time of year to plant corn, like Marfina and her husband. **See above ^** Women still need additional capital to make changes and develop alternate plans. Your donations go a long way in enabling these women to keep moving forward.

Prayer partners and the Newton Church contributed towards some emergency funds to make available distribution of food this summer.

The staff of ADEHGUA purchased in bulk and prepared bags of food for each family depending on size and needs: oats, pinol (nutrition drink), milk, sugar, rice, beans, pasta and cooking oil. Mildre and Flor visited each group and not only delivered food but also educational materials for the women and children. They had the opportunity to talk with the women about their situations and community and were able to share moments that were important and encouraging to all. **(See picture next page)**



Flor, who oversees the formation aspect of the project, continues to look for ways to support the women during this time of quarantine. She created an educational brochure for the whole family, with topics on healthy eating, prevention measures, optimism in times of crisis, family life, and the distribution of tasks at home. She included guides for individual and family exercises, word puzzles, mazes, coloring pages, and stories so the women and families can enjoy, share and learn together.

With the visits, it was possible to verify the business activities of women, and to see again the creativity, struggle, effort and work of women even in crisis. Some not only continue with their usual activities, but have grown and multiplied their business, like Rosita from El Progreso; she had a store with basic supplies, now she has added school supplies and internet and sells food. Leonarda sold prepared food and now also sells vegetables and corn.

In addition, ADEHGUA is partnering with a group of students from a private university to provide psychological support for the women. Another group of University students will be helping families with their vegetable gardens. We give thanks for ways ADEHGUA is adapting to the changing needs and providing help and support.

*“Message from participants: We appreciate your great love, constantly manifested by the prayers and support you have given us. You have provided us with one of the best forms of support – decent work, the power to be providers, to meet the needs of our families, to change our way of seeing and acting.”*

**WHAT CAN YOU DO? SHARE THE NEED and the GOOD NEWS** If your PW, Circle or Church would like a Zoom presentation, or a short video for a Minute for Mission in worship, contact Susan Maveety at [susan.maveety@gmail.com](mailto:susan.maveety@gmail.com) or 828-768-5475.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO? Join the Task Force!** We do need some new members who can meet (via Zoom currently) on Monday mornings every other month. If you might be interested, join us one time to check us out! Call Susan Maveety 828-768-5475, [susan.maveety@gmail.com](mailto:susan.maveety@gmail.com) or Mimi Michael 828-234-0176, [mimimichael@charter.net](mailto:mimimichael@charter.net).

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?** Purchase our **Alternative Anyday Cards**, available from Mimi Michael at 828-234-0176 or [mimimichael@charter.net](mailto:mimimichael@charter.net) with a **\$10 minimum donation**. Send to someone you want to honor or thank as a meaningful greeting/gift, or for Thanksgiving or Christmas greetings.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?** Undoubtedly there is hardship and struggle, and every bit of help provided is appreciated and needed. Contribute to Guatemala Microloan Project; make checks payable to PW PWNC and send to Heather Hudson, 4 Northvalley Dr., Weaverville, NC 28787.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO? PRAY!** As we are in prayer for our sisters in Guatemala, they also are in prayer for us. The prayer support is important to them as they know their sisters in Christ care about them and lift them up.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?** Follow us on our Facebook page [Guatemala Microloan Project](https://www.facebook.com/GuatemalaMicroloanProject) for regular updates, even videos! And our website is up: [www.GuatemalaMicroloanProject.org](http://www.GuatemalaMicroloanProject.org) Check it out.

# Important Dates

<b>PW Annual Gathering</b>	<b>October 17, 2020</b>
<b>Birthday Offering due to Presbytery PW Treasurer</b>	<b>As soon as possible</b>
<b>Mission Pledge Form due to Presbytery PW Treasurer</b>	<b>November 15</b>
<b>Churchwide Gathering</b>	<b>August 5 - 8, 2021</b>



Tina Joyner  
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