

# JOYFUL NOISE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PWNC

## FROM THE MODERATOR

### My Sisters in Christ-

This will be a joyful, yet difficult article for me to write as I have just returned from Guatemala on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. I traveled with a wonderful Microloan (ML) Delegation team who came together from different parts of the country - Western NC; Portland, OR; Palo Alto, CA; and Pittsburgh, PA - most of whom I did not know. We all had a desire to meet, share, and celebrate with the Guatemalan women currently participating in the Microloan Project in the Presbyteries of Suchitepequez and Sur Occidente. There were many reflections and discussions throughout the week about the women we met. There was lots of laughter and smiles as well as tears as we rejoiced with them and grieved over their struggles.

Our first 2 days were based in Antigua Guatemala. From there we first traveled to a co-op of women weavers who shared their stories of escape from the military's seizures and violence during the height of Civil War

in the 1980s to only arrive in this town to face shame of not speaking Spanish and being considered dirty as they dressed in their traditional Mayan clothes. They are a proud group of women who can now read and write and who sell their beautifully woven products to groups of people who go there specifically to buy from them. The second day we traveled to Adegua which is the managing group of the MLs. Mildre, president of Adegua, and Flor, who is in charge of Formation, gave us a wonderful overview of the project. While there we met and had lunch with one of the new ML groups - El Progreso. They all expressed their thanks to God for the leadership of Mildre and Flor and for the ML project giving them opportunities to better their lives and those of their children. We also had the chance to visit 5 El Progreso businesses. We quickly learned that most of the ML businesses involve several family members and therefore branch out to other things - i.e. mothers, husbands, in-laws, etc. first raising chickens, then pigs, cutting firewood, getting corn kernels and making tortillas -

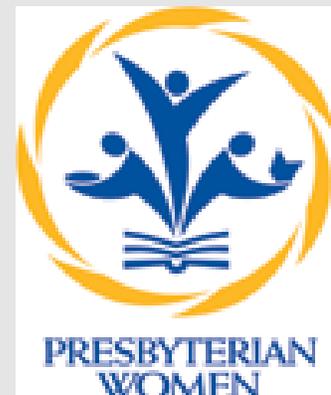
FEBRUARY 2020

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



February 2020

(continued from pg. 1)  
all to be sold locally or at the market.

We moved on to stay at a coffee farm in San Felipe for the next 4 days. The first 2 days were spent first celebrating with the ML groups of Santo Domingo and San Felipe as these women will phase out of the program in the spring. Speeches were made, several women recognized by their own ML group, diplomas and then cards from Prayer Partners were given out and lots of pictures taken. That same day we visited 3 businesses of San Felipe ML group. Friday was another day of celebrating the women - this time with the Coatepeque and Las Animas groups. Fellow team members showed their support as they clapped for one another. A banner with PW symbol, handmade by ladies from Gastonia 1st, was presented to Gladis, my PW counterpart as the Moderator of Sur. Time was spent visiting 4 businesses of the new group of Sintana. Our final full day was spent at an archeological Mayan site called Takalik Abaj

and walking to make 4 final visits to new ML businesses in San Felipe.

Now that I am home I am still processing my experience in Guatemala. It is a country of much beauty – both people and landscape. I've observed firsthand the pride of these women in their accomplishments of helping their families. Through the hard work and compassion of both Mildre and Flor, their abilities and self-esteem have increased. Yet as my thoughts and heart journey back there I still feel the extreme poverty, the social injustices, and oppression of their government. And, yes, frustrated by our own government's lack of compassion for the plight of the Guatemalans. Even though I may never meet future ML recipients my heart and prayers will be with all of them.

*Sharon Meares*  
*PW PWNC Moderator*

## Thank You



We would like to share our deep appreciation to Sarah Wentz and Pat Schultz of First Presbyterian, Gastonia, for creating this beautiful Presbyterian Women banner. The women of Sur Occidente, our sister presbytery in Guatemala, requested a banner so they could remember the women of our presbytery at their gatherings. Usually in their gatherings, women from each church come forward (or sometimes parade through the streets) carrying a banner that represents their group. How special that Presbyterian Women of PWNC will be represented at future women's gatherings by this beautiful and meaningful banner. The Microloan Delegation will take this gift with them on their January trip. An explanation of the PW symbol written in Spanish will be given with it so the Guatemalan women will understand its significance. Thank you very much Sarah and Pat, and Gloria Hickson who facilitated this project.

## Justice and Peace Highlights

### Together in Action to End Human Trafficking

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day was January 11, 2020. PW encouraged activities around that day to bring greater awareness to the problem. It's not too late for us to do our part. It can be as simple as a bulletin insert and Minute for Mission on recognizing the signs that someone is a trafficking victim, and how to respond to that. Learn more at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/what we do/work-for-justice/human-trafficking](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/work-for-justice/human-trafficking) and [polarisproject.org](http://polarisproject.org).

### Suicide prevention/mental health

Holidays are known to be a risky time for those who are at risk of depression. The pressure to recreate Norman Rockwell images of family security and harmony can be a reminder of how few families fit that image. Be especially alert to church members who might be struggling emotionally. Offer support and a caring ear. And refer to professional services if it seems that someone is overwhelmed or suicidal. For more information on simple techniques you can use to help prevent suicide, see <https://qprinstitute.com>. Their QPR training saves lives.

### Ecumenical Advocacy Days

The next Ecumenical Advocacy Days, April 24–27, will explore the intersection of climate change and economic injustice. Advocate on behalf of policies and programs that chip away at the systems of oppression keeping people in poverty and pushing all life on earth to the brink of destruction. Learn more at <https://advocacydays.org/> and watch for CPJ's Advocacy Training Weekend registration at [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington).

\* \* \* \*

### Justice and Peace Calendar

#### February

- African American History Month
- 14 One Billion Rising for Justice
- 17-23 National Acts of Kindness Week
- 17 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday
- 25 Orange Day

#### March

- Women's History Month
- 8 Celebrate the Gifts of Women Day
- 8-14 PW Together in Service for Women's Empowerment
- 15 Self-Development of People Day
- 25 Orange Day

#### April

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- 21 Easter
- National Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 24-27 Ecumenical Advocacy Days
- 25 Orange Day

For a complete Justice and Peace calendar go to: [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice) .  
November 2019–January 2020 • *Presbyterian Women Quarterly Newsletter*

## 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](mailto:yvonne.hileman@pcusa.org). This is the 12th in the series.

### PW 101.12—PW Bylaws

A set of bylaws is a set of rules or guidelines established by an organization to regulate itself. Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has had bylaws since it became PW in 1988. Those first bylaws from 1988 set up a Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women that conducted the business of Presbyterian Women and reviewed its bylaws each triennium, periodically making changes approved by voting representatives at the triennial business meeting. PW's bylaws have been revised at least triennially since 1988. The biggest change came in 2009, when the organization became incorporated, and a completely new set of bylaws was adopted to reflect that Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was a corporation with a board of directors. The mission and vision of the organization did not change but the legal language defining the organization did.

The most recent revision to the bylaws was approved in August 2019, when the voting representatives to the 2018 PW triennial business meeting passed changes recommended by the board to reduce the size of the board. (The national bylaws allow voting representatives to take an action without meeting between business meetings.) Because of the national Search Committee process and timeline for nominating directors for the board, the action had to occur before the fall of 2019 so that the Search Committee has time to prepare the slate for the 2021 board elections. The current board recommended eliminating five national positions beginning with the 2021–2024 triennium: one vice moderator, secretary/historian, new immigrant representative, two young women representatives. No current director will lose her position. The recommendation passed: 175 yes, 5 no, 2 abstentions.

PW provides sample bylaws for PW groups at all levels of the church (search “Bylaws” at [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org)). If you are starting a new PW group, that is a good place to start. You will also want the PW Manual: A Guide for PW Groups, available on line at <http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop>.

## 2020-2021 *Horizons* Bible Study

### *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament*

By P. Lynn Miller

The 2020–2021 Presbyterian Women/ *Horizons* Bible study is *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament*. In this nine-lesson study, Lynn Miller revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn't fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss still exists—the lamenter is strengthened to face the world and to hope. And for us as Christians, hope is not just an emotional response or an attitude of pie in the sky. Hope implies movement: both God's inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. Recovering lament may be one of the church's most timely gifts to the world.





# 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](mailto: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

## Directions to First Presbyterian Church ~ Franklin

Take I-40 West to Exit 27 to US-74 West towards US-19/US-23/Waynesville

Continue on US-74 West/US-23 South/Great Smokey Mtn. Expwy for 26 miles.

Take Exit 81 to US-23 South/US 441 South/Dillsboro/Franklin/Atlanta for 17 miles.

Turn right on Hunnicut Lane/E Main Street/US 441 Bus in Franklin

Turn right on Iotla Street for 1.5 miles

Turn left on Church Street

First Presbyterian Franklin is located at 26 Church Street, Franklin, NC

**Note:** If the church parking lot is full, you can park in the Courthouse parking lot or the Masonic Hall parking lot.

## Food for Thought – Scripture Cake

This cake was first popular in the 1800's. The recipe is written as a riddle that can be solved by finding ingredients in the Bible (*Use a King James Version.*) This is a great way to learn Scriptures. This is a dense fruitcake. It's sort of similar to a spicy German Koenigskuchen - a dense cake with fruits. The answers are shown below the recipe.

**PART 1:**

3/4 cup Psalms 55:21  
 1 cup Jeremiah 6:2  
 3 Jeremiah 17:11  
 1/4 cup Judges 4:19  
 1 tbsp. I Samuel 14:25

**PART 2:**

2 1/4 cups Leviticus 6:15  
 1/4 tsp. Leviticus 2:13  
 1 tbsp. Amos 4:5  
 1 tsp. II Chronicles 9:9

**PART 3:**

1 cup I Samuel 30:12  
 1 cup Numbers 13:23  
 1/2 cup Numbers 17:8

**Instructions:**

Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease and flour 4 mini loaf pans.

**PART 1:**

In large mixer bowl, beat Psalms 55:21 until light and creamy. Add Jeremiah 6:2 and beat till fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add Jeremiah 17:11, one at a time, beating well after each. Mix in Judges 4:19 and I Samuel 14:25.

**PART 2:**

In separate bowl, sift together all ingredients listed in PART 2. Remove 1/4 cup and set aside. Add half of remaining mixture to mixer bowl and blend thoroughly. Add remaining half of mixture and mix until well blended to make batter.

**PART 3:**

In separate bowl, combine ingredients listed in PART 3 plus the 1/4 cup of PART 2 that was set aside. Toss to mix. Gently fold this into batter.

Fill loaf pans about 3/4 full and bake for about 35 - 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Let cool on rack for 15 minutes and remove from pans. Cool completely before serving. Dust with powdered sugar if desired.

Enjoy this fun novelty cake. It feeds the spirit and the body!

**Answers:**

**PART 1:**

3/4 cup Psalms 55:21 = butter; 1 cup Jeremiah 6:2 = sugar; 3 Jeremiah 17:11 = eggs; 1/4 cup Judges 4:19 = milk; 1 tbsp. I Samuel 14:25 = honey

**PART 2:**

2 1/4 cups Leviticus 6:15 = flour, all-purpose; 1/4 tsp. Leviticus 2:13 = salt; 1 tbsp. Amos 4:5 = baking powder; 1 tsp. II Chronicles 9:9 = baking spice blend (or use 1/2 tsp. cinnamon, 1/4 tsp. nutmeg, 1/4 tsp. allspice)

**PART 3:**

1 cup I Samuel 30:12 = raisins

## We are your salt . . . and your light . . .

Almighty and Eternal God, we are your salt of this earth and your light in this world; and each day you give us opportunities to give witness to your great love. Yet, we make excuses that we don't have time. We get side-tracked and distracted. We lack courage to do your will. We are your salt of this earth and your light in this world. Lord, forgive us when we fail to be who we are. *Amen.*

*Submitted by Chris Gantt, Spiritual Nurture Facilitator*

## Guatemala Microloan Project Update: February 2020



Fourteen members of the Microloan Delegation just returned from their Jan 27 – Feb 3, 2020 trip full of enthusiasm for the Guatemala Microloan Project. They were impressed with the work of Mildre and Flor from ADEHGUA, delighted in celebrating the accomplishments of the 4 original groups who are nearing completion of their 5 years in the project, met with representatives of the 3 new groups that began in late 2018, and had the wonderful opportunity to visit with many participants and see their businesses. In this newsletter are just a few highlights; please follow the “**Guatemala Microloan Project**” Facebook page for more. Members of the group would love to come share their experiences with your PW or church! To arrange contact Susan Maveety at [susan.maveety@gmail.com](mailto:susan.maveety@gmail.com).



**Leonarda**, whose mother was killed in the bus accident last year, shared that the El Progreso group is together and strong, even after the tragedy. She expressed gratitude for the loan that is strengthening her business of selling seafood and lunches. She also gave thanks to Flor and Mildre for the training and workshops that have taught them how to save, to grow their businesses using good hygiene, and to take care of their children. We saw **Reyna** as well, who has recovered beautifully from her injuries in the accident. Reyna is grateful to be alive and to continue in the project, and gave thanks for the prayers and support she received.

**Yasmin** used her entrepreneur loan (a larger loan for experienced participants) to fulfill a longtime dream of opening a restaurant. Because business space is expensive to rent, she and her husband converted their home that is located near a university with potential customers. They cleaned, painted, decorated, hung lights, and with much creativity and hard work created a beautiful dining space. She serves snacks and complete meals, including burritos and grilled meat, and even prepared a delicious cold drink for all of us. Her recipe



consisted of oatmeal, milk, and sugar, but “mostly love”. She certainly won us over with her warmth and enthusiasm. Mildre says that Yasmin, like many in the project, is a very hard worker; she is also completing studies to become a lawyer and is saving to take her final law exams.

**Mildre, president of ADEHGUA**, shared that the philosophy of ADEHGUA is to awaken women as to how they are living in this country. It is important that the participants know ADEHGUA is interested in them as women. They treat people equally. It doesn't matter if some went to university and others not; women can tell that they care and want to accompany them. Mildre relishes the building of new ideas, perspectives, and attitudes; helping women to think something different, create a new reality, provide another way of being in the world.

The Website is UPI! [www.GuatemalaMicroloanProject.org](http://www.GuatemalaMicroloanProject.org) Thanks to Kathryn Forsythe of Trinity Hendersonville for her work and support on this.



ALTERNATIVE GIVING CARD FOR  
MOTHER'S DAY  
FEATURING LETY AND HER 2 SONS

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our beautiful *Alternative Mother's Day (or any day) Cards* are available at the Spring Gatherings or by calling or emailing Mimi Michael at 828-234-0176 or [mimimichael17@gmail.com](mailto:mimimichael17@gmail.com). Purchase these (**\$10 minimum donation**) to send to someone you want to honor or thank as a meaningful greeting/gift.

To contribute to the Guatemala Microloan Project (or Travel Fund), make checks payable to PW PWNC and send to Heather Hudson, 4 Northvalley Dr., Weaverville, NC 28787.

To arrange speakers to share about the program, contact Susan Maveety at [susan.maveety@gmail.com](mailto:susan.maveety@gmail.com).

# Important Dates

**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**



Tina Joyner  
Presbyterian Women of PWNC  
5 Melbourne Pl.  
Asheville, NC 28801

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[Type the recipient address]