

JOYFUL NOISE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PWNC

FROM THE 1ST VICE MODERATOR

As I sit and write this, we are all living in an unusual time. Many businesses are closed, and the ones which are open have masked employees and customers--all as a result of Covid-19. Our churches are empty as we now worship in our homes using on-line technology. PW Circles are also meeting via Zoom and video chats. We may all be scattered, but we are still united by the Holy Spirit as PW. God is with us all as we continue to live out the PW purpose.

Aside from the unusual times, many of you have probably heard that Sharon Meares, our presbytery's PW moderator, suffered a stroke on Saturday, May 9. After a successful surgery to deal with the brain clot and hemorrhaging, she is now recovering. Due to these circumstances, I will be the acting moderator as she continues to recover. Please continue to pray for Sharon and her family.

Prior to Sharon's stroke, the CT met via Zoom on Saturday morning, May 9, to discuss several items. First and foremost, we decided to have one annual meeting this year in

the fall. The format for this meeting will follow that of the Spring Gathering with an extended time for fellowship in the morning before we gather to conduct business and install new leaders. The details are still being determined, but we are tentatively scheduled for October 17 at Waldensian Presbyterian Church in Valdese.

Although the times are unusual and unforeseen circumstances have arisen, we find hope in God. I have been encouraged recently by a dear PW and a morning devotion to pray Psalm 91. The psalmist reminds us, "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty (v.1)." Furthermore, "He will cover you with His feathers and under His wings you will find refuge, His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart (v.4)." May we pray this for one another during these times.

Waiting and Watching for God's Hand at Work,

Michele Simmons
PW-PWNC 1st Vice Moderator

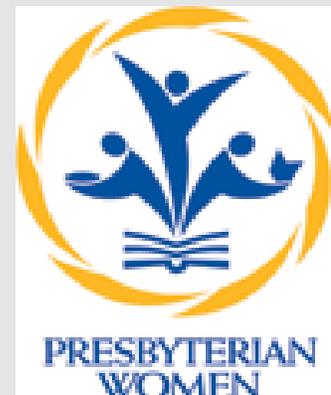
MAY 2020

MODERATOR
INFORMATION:

SHARON MEARES
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HICKORY, NC 28601

828.324.1601

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



May 2020

2020 Birthday Offering Recipients

The Birthday Offering was launched in 1922 in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States and PW's history of giving. Today the Birthday Offering is an annual tradition and has funded more than 200 mission projects that touch the lives of women and children in the United States and globally.

The 2020 Birthday Offering recipients include:

- The Center for Social Assistance to the Disabled, Family, and Children PREOBRAZHENIYE, an assisted living facility located in Davydovo, Russia. They received a grant in the amount of \$100,000.
- GAP Ministries of Augusta, Georgia, helps with food, clothing, toiletries, prescription assistance, photo IDs and storage bins for homeless persons. They received a grant in the amount of \$135,000.
- Community Presbyterian Child Learning Center, a childcare prekindergarten facility located in Payson, Arizona. The center also serves the Tonto Apache Tribe and neighboring communities. They received a grant in the amount of \$75,000.
- Liberty Community Church located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, provides a "healing homeplace" with supportive housing, workforce development, access to healthy food, K-12 school initiatives, and care for survivors of trauma and commercial sexual exploitation. They received a grant in the amount of \$75,000.

To read more of how each recipient plans to use their grant funds, visit <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/product/2020-birthday-offering-booklet/>.

The PW-PWNC Coordinating Team (CT) has received numerous inquiries about collecting the annual Birthday Offering during these uncertain times. Since churches and PW groups are meeting face to face using Zoom or other video conferencing platforms in lieu of worshipping in their churches, the CT would like to suggest the following ways to donate to the Birthday Offering.

- Make check payable to PW-PWNC, and mail it to:
Heather Hudson
PW-PWNC Treasurer
4 Northvalley Dr.
Weaverville, NC 28787

(Please indicate your church affiliation on the memo line.)

- Make check payable to Presbyterian Women, and mail it to:
Presbyterian Women Inc.
P.O. Box 643652
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652

(Please indicate your Presbytery on the memo line.)

- Donate online:
<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/>.

(Please indicate the Presbytery and church affiliation in the comment section.)

*Chris Gantt, PW-PWNC
Celebration Giving Facilitator*

Justice and Peace Highlights

Together in Action for Education

Presbyterian Women holds Together in Action Days around the issue of children’s literacy in May, during Children’s Book Week. Presbyterian Women in the Congregation, Presbytery and Synod groups support local or regional education and literacy programs. In addition to these, PW groups may choose to support the [PC\(USA\)’s work for Educate a Child](#), or sign up for the initiative.

[Consider these ideas](#) for your PW group’s work for education:

- Community book sale—sell used books at low cost for families with limited budgets.
- Community Story Hour—host it at your church and read aloud to children of the community.
- Book drive—donate books to hospitals, schools, community centers and more.

Or download the Educate a Child [toolkit](#), which has congregational assessment tips, strategies for school board advocacy and much more.

Whether your work to promote literacy happens in May, October or year round, your work for education will help change the world.

To ask a question or to learn more about Advocacy, contact [Yvonne Hileman](#).

Taken from https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/work-for-justice/education/

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Justice and Peace Calendar

May

- 5-11 PW Together in Action Days
For Children’s Literacy
- 6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 11 World Fair Trade Day; Stamp Out
Hunger Drive
- 17 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday
- 25 Orange Day

June

- 19 Juneteenth
- 20 World Refugee Day
- 20-27 224th General Assembly
- 25 Orange Day
- 28 PC (USA) World Aids Sunday

July

- 5 Immigration Sunday
- 25 Orange Day

August

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

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

February-April 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.

PW 101.13: Your National Publications

One of the many strengths of Presbyterian Women is our connectedness. Just attend a presbytery, synod or churchwide gathering and you will soon see that we are linked to one another in ministry and outlook. We share values and we value our shared work. Ride shares and planning teams, mission trips and Bible studies, deep discernment and justice work, luncheons and rummage sales—all are satisfying and transformative.

Presbyterian Women value connection so deeply that we are organized to stay connected! What happens in circle informs the presbytery and synod and churchwide—even worldwide. Our stories are as rich and varied as God's world. We connect again when we share those stories. Good communication is key so we stay informed, stay current, stay faithful, stay connected!

Two of our most effective connectional tools are our magazine and Bible study. “Nurturing our faith through prayer and Bible study” is the first bullet point of our PW Purpose. Our annual Horizons Bible study—selected by a committee, field-tested by PWs—connects us year after year. And Horizons magazine—the magazine by and for Presbyterian Women—examines where faith and life connect. Six times a year, within its pages, readers find inspiration, stories of faith, ideas for mission, examples of working for justice and peace, news of PW and our denomination, and more. The magazine also includes devotions and reflections, fun and features, Bible study support, and inspiration to live boldly.

Visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons or call 866.802.3635 to subscribe to Horizons magazine. Each one-year subscription includes the annual Bible study.

Taken from February-April 2020 Presbyterian Women Quarterly Newsletter

PW 101.14: PW Meets—In Person and Virtually

One of the many strengths of Presbyterian Women (the organization and those who are Presbyterian women) is our connectedness. Just attend a presbytery, synod or churchwide gathering and you will quickly and clearly see that our connectedness links us one to another in ministry and outlook. We are never strangers, even when we have never met! Living out our PW Purpose unites and challenges us, as individuals and as a community. Our denomination relies on our rootedness and our connectedness. PW is a blessing to our church and the wider world.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Presbyterian women are finding ways to stay connected—within our circles and communities as well as regionally and nationally. We support our church and organization through financial support and through participating in online worship services, PW virtual town halls and coffee hours. We telephone and connect with our sisters, supporting one another during trying times. We advocate for our brothers and sisters who need our care. And countless of us are making (and sharing ideas for crafting) masks to share with first responders and others within our communities who are stocking shelves and delivering boxes. Even with busy hands and praying hearts, we support PW's life-giving Birthday Offering (established in 1922), knowing that together, PW's many ministries and programs rely on each of us for steadfastness and connectivity.

Taken from May-July 2020 Presbyterian Women Quarterly Newsletter

PW Scholarships - Gifts for the Next Generation

Anna Kirby (First Presbyterian Church of Newton) and Maggie Kinton (Grace Covenant) were selected as the 2020-21 PW Scholarship recipients. Both young women exhibit outstanding character, academic excellence, participation in sports, and service to their churches and community.



Anna Kirby will attend UNC Chapel Hill and explore her interest in the medical field with the goal of using her skills to serve others. Just one of her high school volunteer projects included work with her town's non-profit organization that helps those affected by hunger, The Corner Table. Anna says that this has helped her learn valuable lessons in service while meeting some wonderful people. The executive director for the non-profit wrote that Anna raised more than \$6,000 for the organization by publishing a book of collected recipes called *Tasting at the Table*. Anna's selfless contributions to society encourage us to serve alongside her.



Maggie Kinton will attend Davidson College where she plans to double major in Political Science and Anthropology. She has a passion for learning and a passion for people. Maggie would like to find more and better ways to provide humanitarian aid for communities across the globe. She has traveled to other countries with Christian mission trips, has spent a year of study in Italy, and dreams of continuing travel to learn and support her global community in positive ways. Maggie's history and philosophy teacher from her year in Cagliari, Italy noted that she soon became a "point of reference for the whole class" because of her grace and respect of the people and the culture around her. Maggie will certainly have a positive impact on our world.

All our scholarship recipients are doing well and maintain a positive outlook for their work and study during this challenging pause in normal life. You will remember Mason Streppa and Kaegan Parks, our 2019-20 scholarship recipients who are in their first year of college. Mason attends NC State, is majoring in engineering, and is adjusting to on-line lectures and labs but enjoys the live video chats with both professors and friends. Kaegan Parks attends Johnson and Wales University in Charlotte and is majoring in culinary arts. Fortunately, she completed her culinary labs during her last two trimesters and is concentrating on academic classes now which makes learning via the internet more manageable. She was scheduled to work at the 2020 Master's Tournament but since it's postponement until November, she will have to reassess her schedule to see if that's still possible.

Our two second year scholarship recipients are finishing up their semester requirements also. Connor Leidner attends Virginia Tech and is majoring in architecture. While at home he says the most difficult aspect is the sense of disconnection, not being able to work side by side in a university studio space where students motivate one another. He has been able to remain grounded through two campus organizations still working to serve students, UKirk, the PCUSA Campus Ministry, and the Interfaith Youth Connection. Ashley Beaty is attending Queens University in Charlotte and majoring in nursing. Lab practicals have been challenging as have the prerecorded lectures with no opportunity for questioning. Ashley also plays soccer and keeps in touch with teammates via Zoom and workouts via online apps. She shares that her quiet time and devotional time helps give her perspective to this challenging time of life.

All these students express their gratitude for the scholarship and the opportunity it provides them in pursuit of their dreams of work and service. Their stories are inspiration for us as well. Thanks be to God.

Elizabeth Barbee, PW-PWNC Scholarship Facilitator

Taking a Look Back - WNC PW Histories

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10

Thank you to the 29 WNC churches from the 44 active PWs for submitting their 2019 histories and contributing to our cumulative history report for the Mid-Atlantic Synod. As I read through each report, I found it enlightening to see God’s hand at work in the communities and churches throughout western North Carolina and the world. Each celebration, meal prepared, Bible study attended, backpack stuffed, card written, Christmas gift shared, donation given, and other activities shared in the reports touched so many people with the love of Jesus Christ.

During these extraordinary times of staying at home, it has given many of us time to clean and organize our living space. Due to busy work and family schedules, projects just seemed to get placed on the back burner. One of my projects discovered was the large rolling crate of WNC PW history binders I inherited several years ago.

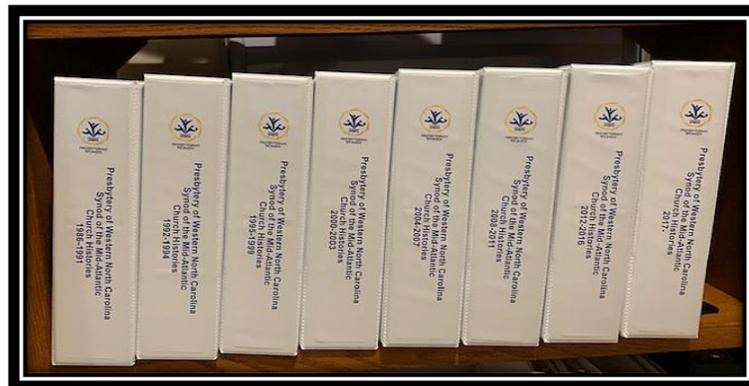
During the 2016 Spring Gathering, Tina Joyner passed the Historian torch to me and then proceeded to roll a great big crate holding aged binders of past PW histories from 1986 to the trunk of my vehicle. With her guidance and patience, Tina trained and assisted me as I prepared the histories for the synod report each year. This past year, our new moderator Sharon Mears asked me to continue serving as Historian for another term, which means the crate remains sitting in my house.

After compiling the 2019 WNC PW history report, I mentioned to Sharon that I will be adding the report to a binder that is part of a great big crate of binders from years past. Through our next few conversations, we came to the conclusion there must be a better place for the binders rather than storing them in a roller crate at my home. We both searched

to find a more suitable place to store the written records that can be accessible by all WNC PWs and churches. After reaching out to several places, the library committee at First Presbyterian Church, Morganton gladly agreed to store the binders in the church’s main library. With the church being next door to the Presbytery office, the reports will be accessible to the churches in WNC. Due to the condition of the binders, it was suggested to transfer the reports to uniform binders and labeled appropriately. This would make it easy for the reports to be cataloged and located on the shelf.

While transferring the reports to the new binders, I came across a treasure of information and memories. Seeing the work of WNC PWs over the past 33 years left me in amazement. Each handwritten and typed page held a history of fellowship and serving others done out of love. Hebrews 6:10 reminds us that He will not forget your work and love and how you have helped His people and how you continue to help them. May we continue to help others and share God’s love; even in times when are unable to gather, we can continue to serve.

Hopefully, many of you have finished some of your projects and are able to step back to admire your accomplishments. As I step back, I’m grateful I had the opportunity to open the big crate of binders and discover the treasures inside. I look forward to sharing some of my discoveries with you in future Joyful Noise newsletters. The WNC PW reports will be shelved in the FPC Morganton library as soon as the church opens once again for visitors. Look for the white binders busting at the seams holding records of caring women who lovingly and full of grace serve others doing God’s work.



Teresa Carpenter, PW-PWNC Historian

Guatemala Microloan Project Update: May 2020

A REPORT FROM MILDRE OF ADEHGUA (THE NON-PROFIT WE WORK WITH IN GUATEMALA) ON THE COVID-19 QUARANTINE THERE AND HOW IT HAS AFFECTED THE WOMEN, THEIR FAMILIES, AND BUSINESSES:

“All women, families and communities are trying to comply with the recommendations for social distancing. However, families are running out of money and resources to survive.

***The Groups in rural areas** (Las Animas, El Progreso, Sintaná) report that due to businesses related to animal husbandry and food production, they have been able to survive. The government’s School Feeding program has given each family a bag of groceries and some families have been supported by local authorities, churches and other NGOs.*

***Groups in urban areas** (Coatepeque, San Felipe 1&2, Santo Domingo) have a great challenge. Without work and without resources, families face scarcity and deterioration even greater than before the crisis. Most of the women in the urban areas work in small local markets or go house to house selling clothing, jewelry, perfumery, kitchen utensils, personal and household cleaning supplies, and food among others. With the prohibition to go out, most activities are at a standstill.*

In addition to these pressures, in a country like ours, there are other factors such as being in a small house with several children or several families living in the same home, domestic violence, health problems, single mothers or lack of partner employment, alcoholism, among others. There is no demand for products since customers no longer have the ability to pay.

ADEHGUA has created WhatsApp groups where there are some women who have that option, and it is not only to maintain communication but also to share information about important things to try and prevent this disease. The women are very grateful to you, for the prayers and for your concern for them, they want you to know that they are also praying for you.”

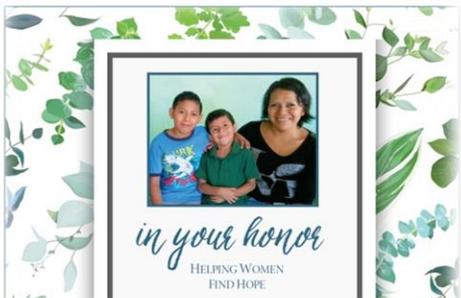
Due to the challenging situation there, the WNC Task Force made the decision to extend the current loan cycle an additional 3 months. For now, we are suspending the ending of the original groups and the beginning of new groups, and will be discussing additional options to help the women get their businesses up and going again once the quarantine is lifted there.

As we are in prayer for our sisters in Guatemala, they also are in prayer for us. A few of the women and their expressions of appreciation and prayers are shown on the next page.

The Website is UP!! www.GuatemalaMicroloanProject.org Check it out! And follow us on our Facebook page [Guatemala Microloan Project](#) for regular updates.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Our **Alternative Anyday Cards** are available by contacting Mimi Michael at 828-234-0176 or mimimichael@charter.net with a **\$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.



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



Leticia: My small family is grateful to the sisters of the United States for praying to God for us and are grateful for the solidarity and trust. We here, me and my two sons, we are praying for you: brothers and sisters from Madison, Carolina, and also for all the world. We are not perfect, but we do our best to be in communion with God. You are always in our prayers. It is difficult to live in this world, to see so much suffering and what is happening, but the important thing is to have love for ourselves and for our neighbors.

And Reyna: Good day, sisters. It is a pleasure for me to be able to greet you. I hope that all of you are well in the hands of our

Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to the sisters of North Carolina (and other parts of the USA) for your prayers; we are praying for you, and for all of humanity whose lives are at risk because of this disease. We know that for God nothing is impossible to conquer, we only must have faith, and continue ahead. May God bless you for your moral and spiritual support.

Nurian: This message fills me with faith and peace and reminds me that Jesus said: "I am with you always, until the end of the world." Promises fulfilled: we are alive and grateful to him. We continue to cry to God for the United States and many other countries, may God keep you and have mercy on us human beings. Always united in prayer, even from a distance. Blessings Sisters.



And Dora: Thank you sisters. God bless you.



Monica: I am grateful for the prayers that the sisters have offered for us, we really need them to have the strength to move forward. Here we have been worried about this situation and we have worked tirelessly in my community, and I ask with all my heart that you will keep praying that everything will work out here. And here I am praying for all of you because this is difficult and we need the mercy of our God. May God bless you.

Important Dates

Birthday Offering due to Presbytery PW Treasurer June 1, 2020

**List of New PW Officers due to Presbytery PW
Secretary and Moderator July 1, 2020**

Churchwide Gathering August 5 - 8, 2021



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

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