

JOYFUL NOISE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PWNC

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR



Can you believe we are still dealing with Covid? It seems things are starting to improve, at least for the time being, as the number of deaths, hospitalizations, and positive tests are currently slowly going down, and best of all people are being vaccinated. I do not know about you, but that gives me a glimmer of hope in dismal times. *“More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope (Romans 5: 3-4).”*

The good news is the work of PW did not stop. First, let me say thank you to the PW groups that have sent their Historian and Moderator’s reports for 2020 to Teresa Carpenter and me. I have genuinely enjoyed reading about the creative ways in which groups have continued to collect funds for offerings, enjoyed fellowship with each other in prayer and Bible Study, and the continued support of ministries in their communities.

Donations were made to the Birthday and Thank Offerings, Least Coin and the Guatemalan Microloan Project. Honorary Life Memberships were given, and ministries such as Black Mountain Home for Children, Christian Ministries, schools, Christmas gifts were given to the needy, and meals prepared for the sick and shut-in, to name a few things.

Last, but not least, most groups indicated the use of the *Horizons Bible Study – Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* written by Eugenia Gambrell, and *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* written by P. Lynn Miller – as the chosen studies for 2020. *Into the Light* has been a very timely study during these times.

Keep up the good work ladies and remember “for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).” Stay safe, continue to wash your hands, wear your masks and social distance. We will get through this by the grace of God!

Tina Joyner, Interim Moderator

February 2021

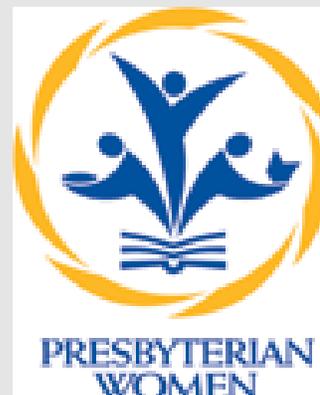
FEBRUARY 2021

INTERIM
MODERATOR
INFORMATION:

TINA JOYNER
5 MELBOURNE PLACE
ASHEVILLE, NC
28801

828.279.2665

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



Gather *Virtually* Anywhere

As we continue keeping our “social” distance, gatherings and meetings have moved to virtual formats. Most of us might have been introduced to Zoom, Skype, Microsoft Teams, or some other virtual meeting platform. While it is not the same as meeting in person, there can be some positive ways to make the most of using technology during this time.

First Presbyterian Church, Morganton’s Circle 3 introduced Zoom to members last summer by holding several informal Zoom *Block Parties*. It was a friendly way to learn how to log into a Zoom account, work the video and microphone tools. Members kept phones near and would text each other to let them know if they were on mute or that their video camera was not working. With lots of patience and grace, most members were ready to use their Zoom skills during the first September circle meeting.



First Presbyteian Church, Morganton Circle 3 Summer Block Party 2020

Staying connected is an important part of maintaining our positive mental health. Using virtual meeting platforms, such as Zoom, can be a fun way to connect with others; especially during the cold winter months. It doesn’t have to be all about meetings, feel free to get creative and enjoy fellowship with others.

Some creative ways to socialize *virtually* anywhere:

- Share a conversation with a cup of coffee or tea with a friend(s)
- Become involved with a Bible study or book club
- Host a Block Party or Game Time
- Virtual Volunteering by reading aloud to children, become a virtual tutor, or playing games with shut-ins

A website with resources & suggestions from Cheshire Public Library in Connecticut:

<https://cheshirelibraryblog.com/2020/07/23/teen-virtual-volunteering-you-can-make-a-difference-even-while-social-distancing/>

Virtual Meeting Resources:

(Google or search for more resources)

- Getting Started with Zoom
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360034967471-Getting-started-guide-for-new-users>
- Zoom Turtorial for Small Groups – Youtube Video
<https://youtu.be/Lz7ibrQgiWM>

(continued from page 5)

- Lifeway – How to lead a Bible Study Online
<https://www.lifeway.com/en/special-emphasis/how-to-lead-an-online-bible-study/how-do-i-lead-a-bible-study-remotely>

Note: If you do not have access to the Internet, Zoom has a phone option for calling in and participating in meetings without video.

Teresa Carpenter
WNC PW Historian

Thank You!

Dear PW Sisters,

I want to thank you for your perseverance through the last year. The months of separation from each other in our families, churches and communities have been unsettling and painful. You all have discovered new ways and used new technology to promote the Birthday and Thank Offerings and award Honorary Life Memberships. You all have engaged your circles and honored your pledges.

I am grateful for the monies that have come in to support the Presbyterian Women's Annual Fund, the Mission Pledge. This Annual Fund supports in full or in part just about every PW

Ministry nationally and regionally and brings to fruition the commitments that we say together in the PW purpose.

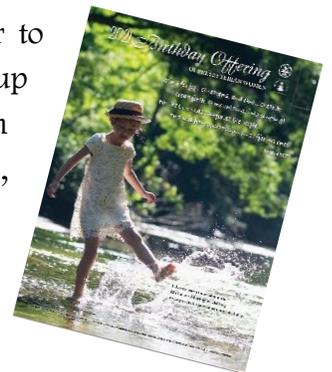
I encourage you to contact me by e-mail or phone (hehuds@charter.net /501-442-6225) if you have any questions about PW giving to the support the Annual Fund as it works with groups to share Christ's love with the world by supporting mission and working for justice and peace.

Grace and Peace,

Heather Hudson
WNC PW Treasurer

2021 Birthday Offering

The Birthday Offering is a PW offering collected in the spring of each year to celebrate the blessings in the lives of Presbyterian Women. The offering funds up to five projects that are not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support, such as agricultural development, childcare, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence, and women's concerns. Learn about the projects funded through the Birthday Offering since 1988 [here](#).





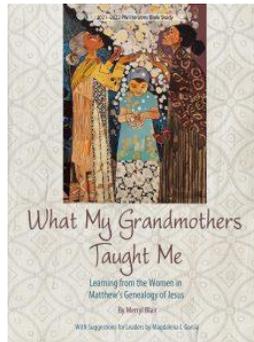
PW SPRING GATHERING

WHO? All Presbyterian Women of Western North Carolina
WHAT? Annual Meeting and Bible Study with Reverend Sally Woodard
WHEN? Saturday, April 10, 2021, 10 a.m. – 12 noon
WHERE? Via Zoom
HOW? Click [HERE](#) to register online, or complete the registration information below & mail to:

Corise Gambrell
481 North Fork Rd.
Black Mountain, NC 28711
828/357-5064 (H); 225/978-2483 (C)
corisegambrell@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings from Reverend Dr. Byron Wade, General Presbyter
Introduction to 2021-2022 *Horizons* Bible Study: *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*
Written by Merryl Blair



Registration Information

NAME _____

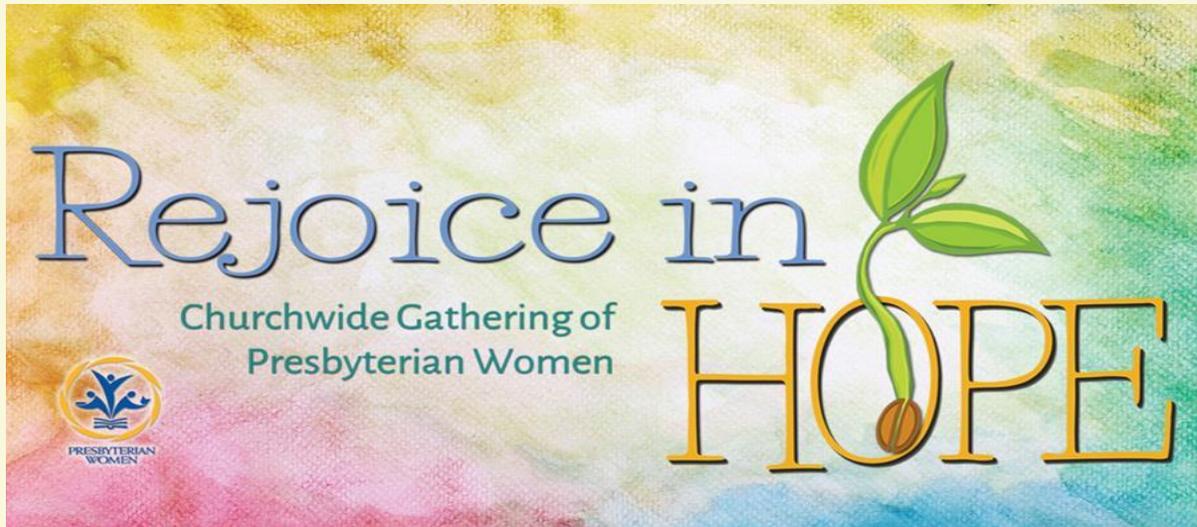
PHONE # _____

CHURCH _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

*****Registration deadline – April 2, 2021*****

The Zoom link will be emailed prior to the date of the Spring Gathering.



**An important update on the
2021 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women**

Dear Presbyterian Women,

“Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the uncertainty of vaccination distribution, the current state of the virus (including new variants that are more contagious), the Administration Committee, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc., regrettably, has canceled the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, which was to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, in August 2021.” So what’s next? First, let us give thanks to God, confident that we can . . .

Rejoice in Hope!

The 2021 Churchwide Gathering theme illuminates our way forward as we continue to navigate difficult days. “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers” (Rom. 12:12–13).

Let us look forward to new plans!

The next Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held in 2024 at a location and during dates that are yet to be determined. Although we cannot meet in person in August 2021, the 2021 Gathering Planning Team is at work, preparing an online national program and worship service. Details about this service are forthcoming, so check sources of PW information, including *Horizons* magazine, PW social media channels and www.presbyterianwomen.org.

The triennial Business Meeting will be held online August 4 and 5, 2021. During these sessions Presbyterian Women, Inc. voting representatives will vote on leaders, business and a budget for the national organization. The schedule will accommodate all voting representative time zones.

*Patricia Longfellow
Presbyterian Women, Inc.*



Guatemala Microloan Update



“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13: 34-35

“Fraternal greetings to all of you from ADEHGUA! I wish the best for everyone this year, and I hope that the political transition that the United States is facing can bring more positive changes for all of you and the world. It is undoubtedly a difficult time for all of us. The women, their families and the community faced challenges, difficulties, and obstacles that prevented the constant work they are used to. The good news is that we closed a year with more unity, with more maturity on their part, creativity and ingenuity and desire to achieve. They continued to support their families, worked for their sons and daughters, each one from their reality searched and found the best ways to excel, and today we are here stronger, more united, more aware, more human. And with great joy, I also manifest that I see more strengthened and consolidated families because they stayed side by side.

I want to express the gratitude that the women and their families feel towards you, towards us, because we did not leave them alone, they always felt accompanied and strengthened by all the support received.”

Mildre



Crop growing as micro enterprise



Corn has long been a staple of the Guatemalan diet — both people and *livestock*. **Marfina**’s story illustrates the challenges that many small farmers face. When **Marfina**, who has a seven-year-old daughter, entered the microloan project, she and her partner used their small loan to raise Creole chickens and broilers. They have done quite well, but as farmers, the planting of corn is vital to survival. This year they received a larger ‘entrepreneur’ loan in order to plant corn for their livestock.

Growing corn is difficult in Guatemala due to the conditions under which corn is planted and there are few other resources that can be allocated to it. *Campesinos*, or ‘peasant’ farmers, do not have the capacity to buy the agricultural supplies needed (such as fertilizers) because these products are so expensive. This makes their corn yield low. Bugs and insects prevent the corn cobs from growing very large or in some cases they ruin a large part of the crop. While there is little profit, the benefit of growing their corn is that they will not have to buy corn from middle men, which is expensive.



Marfina and her partner also planted sesame seeds. The profit margin for sesame seeds is better, but once again, not all the necessary resources are affordable, so the quality of the seed was acceptable, but not excellent. However, **Marfina** and her partner are very happy for the harvest, and grateful for the blessing of these two products that they were able to grow in order to support the family.

Education is ‘priceless’ for microloan mom of two



You may have read previously about Lety, a very successful microloan participant. She is a single mother of two children, ages 11 and 16, seeking to change the course of their futures. She started the microloan program by selling used clothing, bananas, and cheese. With her success in this area, she progressed to the ‘entrepreneur’ level of the program and was able to get a larger loan and began selling silver jewelry. In addition, Lety took a course on perfumery and makes perfumes based on orders from her regular customers. But the pandemic hit her businesses hard. She became quite concerned about the lack of work because she could not go out to sell her wares. When she could go out, she didn’t have many ‘sales’. How would she pay her household expenses? But Lety did not get discouraged; but continued to work towards her dreams of self-sufficiency!

Having earlier in her adult life completed her high school equivalency degree, she entered a school for auxiliary nurses in Guatemala. She took this pandemic ‘down-time’ to complete the course, is now an auxiliary nurse, authorized to work as a nursing assistant! Not only that, but she hopes to soon have a steady job in nursing that will support her family and plans to continue studying and complete the course in specialized patient care.

See, it is not just about a ‘loan’, but about changing lives of two generations, Lety and her children. Taking them from subsistence to *independence*, from just surviving, to *thriving*—that’s what the Guatemala Microloan Program is all about! Congrats to Lety! We’re proud of you!

Looking for a PW Project?

Why not purchase Alternative Giving Cards and raise money for the Guatemala Microloan Program?



These cards, on sale for \$10 each, are perfect for *Mother’s Day or Easter Greetings!*

Want to remember those ‘special women’ in your life or the life of the church during this Pandemic?

Why not buy a bunch of cards and mail to them all?

To order, contact Mimi Michael mimimichael@charter.net

Visit Us www.guatemalamicroloanproject.org



Important Dates

PWP Spring Gathering (via Zoom)

April 10, 2021

Churchwide Gathering

August 5 - 8, 2021

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

[Type the recipient name]
[Type the recipient address]