

PW Connection

Volume 1, Issue 8

Presbyterian Women of the Mid-South

March 2010



Don't Forget:

March 6, 2010
PWPCT Meeting
9:30 am

Bethel Presbyterian Church
Memphis, TN

April 22, 2010
Come See Columbia Day
Columbia Seminary
Decatur, GA

May 1, 2010
PWP Annual Spring Gathering
9:00 am
Woodland United
Presbyterian Church
Memphis, TN

May 11, 2010
Presbytery of the Mid-South
Stated Meeting
9:00 am
TBA

May 15, 2010
PWPCT Meeting
9:30 a.m.
First Church
Paris, TN

June 3-5, 2010
PW Synod Triennium
First Church
Huntsville, AL

July 1, 2010
Newsletter Deadline

Moment with the Moderator

Wow, what a winter! No matter how cold and gloomy the winter has been, it always lifts my spirits to look forward to springtime. Among all the beautiful and glorious events of spring is our upcoming Annual Spring Gathering. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, May 1, 2010 when the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Mid-South will come together for our 2010 Annual Spring Gathering at Woodland Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee. Beth Seaton, Annual Gathering Committee Chair, and her committee have planned an exciting day. The keynote speaker will be Dee Koza, national keynoter and Commissioned Lay Pastor at Geneva Presbyterian Church, Geneva, Alabama. We are looking forward to seeing and greeting many of our fellow PW from all over the Presbytery at Woodland.

Since my last "Moment with the Moderator:"

- We had a very successful Bible Study Conference on August 29, 2009 at Pinecrest Conference and Retreat Center, LaGrange, TN, our favorite meeting place for this occasion. The Reverend Dr. Kendra Hotz, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Rhodes College rendered an excellent overview of *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*. Thanks to Mona Kernan and her committee for a well planned event.
- Our Fall Workshop Gathering was held on October 3, 2009 at Germantown Presbyterian Church in Memphis, TN. The ladies at Germantown were amazing hostesses. We were fortunate to have Bonnie Blair as our keynote speaker who delivered a wonderful speech entitled "Knitting and Cyberspacing." Eleanor Thomas and the Liaisons did an outstanding job in planning this day that included workshops that covered training, missions, storytelling, health and fitness, PW revitalization, and inspiration. There were several informative displays. It was a great day!

Sincere thanks go out to all the churches that made 2010 pledges to Church wide, Synod and to our Presbytery. We certainly could not function without your financial help. I would also like to thank the churches that have hosted our Coordinating Team meetings this past fiscal year as well as the churches that have agreed to host in the future (Collierville, May 2, 2009; Grace/Bartlett, August 1, 2009; Parkway Gardens, November 7, 2009; Bethel/Memphis, March 6, 2010 and Paris/First, May 15, 2010).

CONGRATULATIONS to one of our own, Bonnie Blair who was elected Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of the Mid-South at the stated meeting of the Presbytery on November 10, 2009.

Please plan now to attend the Triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women, Synod of Living Waters, June 3-5, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Alabama. Read more about this special upcoming event elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Finally, I ask everyone to please pray for the people of Haiti during these difficult times.



Peace! Vashti E. Crowder, Moderator



Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women, Presbytery of Mid-South
Woodland United Presbyterian Church, Memphis
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 1, 2010

It's that time again! – time to meet and greet old and new friends alike while attending the Annual Gathering of PW from across the Presbytery of the Mid-South. As per usual it will be a time for the celebration of the spirit of connecting, a time for feasting, and a time to hear a **spiritually uplifting** message from our very gifted guest speaker, Dee Koza. Dee hails from Alabama and is a certified PCUSA educator, and presently serves a congregation as a Commissioned Lay Pastor. Registration forms should be available from your Moderator in the near future. If you don't have access to a form, please contact Beth Seaton at 901-309-6591. See you at Woodland on the 1st of May. Make a commitment on your Calendar today!!!



Presbyterian Women, Synod of Living Waters Triennial Gathering
First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Alabama
June 3-5, 2010

Put these dates on your calendar and **make plans to attend** this exciting event. Registration before May 15th is \$115 or \$125 after that date, and includes all meals. Cost of hotels and travel are in addition. **Please note**, a specified fund has been set aside in the PWP budget to be equally divided and distributed to all registrants from this presbytery for this Gathering! Ask your Moderator to alert you as soon as she receives the **Registration Form**. There will be wonderful music (including Parkway Gardens' own Jennifer Bynum) every day and evening, and a Bible Study each day on the book of Revelation by The Reverend Doctor Louise Lawson Johnson (Princeton Theological Seminary). Interesting and varied workshops are being offered, including, but not limited to, "Computer Training," "How to be a Blessing," "Raising the Roof (with prayer)," "Story Telling (the rest of the story)," etc. Huntsville is a 4 hour drive from Memphis so make plans now to carpool with friends on the morning of the 3rd in time for registration at 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. We are asked to provide handmade items for sale in the Market Place. Please let Jean Starnes know if you are willing to donate an item. Call Jean (901-377-7171) or email (nstarnes@bellsouth.net) with questions or additional information.



Presbyterian Women, Grace Presbyterian Church, Bartlett

We were saddened by the death of two of our PW members. Dot Taylor who died on May 1, 2009 and Frances Young who died on September 12, 2009. Both ladies were very active in their Circles and an asset to our church. August 1, 2009 we hosted 25 ladies on the PWP Coordinating Team for their meeting and lunch. With the funds raised from the sale of our Cook Books, *A Taste of Grace*, and the funds raised from our Silent Auction we were able to remodel our ladies restroom. Katherine Fitzgerald who has been a member for 50 years moved to St. Louis, MO to live near her daughter. A reception in her honor was held September 6, 2009. Our church members participated in the Christmas Child Shoe Boxes and filled 72 boxes for this worth-while event. December 5, 2009 we hosted *Breakfast with Santa* for the children of our congregation and the community. We served breakfast to 120 people. The children enjoyed reading, making crafts, having their picture taken on Santa's lap and the delicious food. Five men from our congregation served as wonderful chefs. Thanks to our *Christmas Everyday Fund* for our Christmas Toy collection we raised \$981.00 and were able to help nine (9) families with Christmas baskets and gifts. We started this fund-raiser in March 2009 providing envelopes on the second Sunday of each month for our members to make their contributions. It was so successful we are planning to have the same fund-raiser in 2010. Our PW members help with our Vacation Bible School each summer.

Our PW board is: Jan Evans, Moderator; Sandy Kehrl, Vice Moderator; Jean Starnes, Secretary; Paula Bishop, Treasurer; Dot Hathaway, Historian; and Jane McGoldrick, Church Hostess. Circle leaders who are also board members are: Circle # 1, Frances Kitterman; Circle # 2, Linda Foster; Circle # 3, Jan Evans and Circle # 4, Sara Lawson. Bible study leaders are: Circle # 1, Mildred Culverhouse; Circle # 2, Linda Foster; Circle # 3, Jean Markham and Circle # 4, Suzanne Getman. Circle # 2 contributed \$76 to the Heifer International fund with matching funds. We will have a Silent Auction in August 2010 to raise monies for our sanctuary fund. All items will be hand made by church members. Yes, we are a very busy PW at Grace.

Jan Evans, Moderator


Balmoral Presbyterian Church PW


Shortly after the PW organized at Balmoral Presbyterian in 2008, the group began looking about for a service project that could involve both Circle members and other members of the congregation. Our answer was to initiate a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Some PW members are skilled knitters, some were not knitters, and some wanted some refresher instruction. Fortunately, the Church Health Center (www.ChurchHealthCenter.org) invited us to their Wellness Center for training. Since then, PW members and other Balmoral members (female and male!) have joined in knitting Prayer Shawls.

The shared experience of knitting Prayer Shawls is a small part of this ministry. The key elements of the Prayer Shawl Ministry are (1) that several of us pray over each shawl, usually with our Pastor involved; and (2) that we give our shawls to people who may benefit from this kind of comfort – someone facing surgery or coping with a grave illness or the loss of a loved one. We have given shawls to Balmoral members and non-members, including some clients of the Church Health Center. Beyond the recipients of the shawls, many in the Balmoral congregation, as well as the knitters, have experienced the impact of this ministry. For more information you may e-mail Carol Odom at odom62356@bellsouth.net.

Carol Odom, Moderator


Presbyterian Women (PW), Bethel Presbyterian Church


As in year's past, the PW of Bethel have actively engaged in, and been involved in the PC (U.S.A.), both on the local and churchwide level. The year of 2009 began with submission of individual pledges, and monthly Bible Study was conducted by capable study leaders.

PW members attended the Annual Gathering at Advent Presbyterian last April, and the Fall Gathering Workshops at Germantown Presbyterian in October 2009. Although our ladies were unable to attend the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville in July, they provided five (5) \$20 gift cards to assist in the perpetual work of the church. A note of thanks for the cards was received from the PWP moderator, Vashti Crowder.

Bethel's PW sponsored and presented their **Annual Green Tea** which is a major fund raising event for the church. The Tea was chaired by Nancy S. Wallace, and Ruby Smith chaired the **Mother's Day Honor Roll**. The PW also made a donation of \$200 to Bethel's Pre-fall Musical, and underwrote the cost of the food for the 2009 Harvest Day Program at the church. A benevolence of \$50 was given to Mrs. Edith Wells when her Mother died.

In 2009, the PW coordinated and sponsored an event to further promote fellowship throughout the congregation. For example, a Friends and Family Day Brunch held on 12/05/09 was deemed a success and was immensely enjoyed by all in attendance (especially the "made from scratch" edibles).

Vacation Bible School and the Summer Youth Program were coordinated, sponsored, and led by the PW of Bethel. These programs were a plus for keeping neighborhood and church children and youth occupied. Minnie Stated was director of VBS and Rubye Smith served a coordinator of Summer Youth Program.

We are thankful for the able and enthusiastic leadership of our moderator, Lillian Loggins, and plan to continue to develop Christian, fun-filled, and diverse activities.

Officers:	<u>Moderator</u> Lillian Loggins	<u>Secretary:</u>	Mattie Moody
	<u>Treasurer:</u> Edith Wells	<u>Historian:</u>	Nancy Wallace
	<u>Chaplain:</u> Lillian Smith		

Lillian Loggins, Moderator


First Presbyterian Church, Somerville


Hello to all, we have both an active morning and evening Circle working hard to support our community by participating in the local **Fayette Cares** and providing contributions of food and clothing, and sometimes volunteering when necessary. Our PW also share in providing for a family the Church has adopted from Hope Cottage in Somerville. We recently made and delivered lap blankets to shut ins, took meals where needed, started sharing information of our PW on the Church bulletin board, volunteer to work at and visit Pinecrest when possible. Pinecrest is near and dear to our hearts, and one of our special ladies, Carol Redditt, made a beautiful banner honoring our PW that hangs gloriously in the Sanctuary. We are currently looking forward to working with our Church team for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in May.

Margaret Beyer, Moderator

 **PW, Collierville Presbyterian Church** 

“Let’s Be Creative” became an unspoken theme for CPC PW this fall in more ways than one. Our night circle commenced its study of *Joshua* without a facilitator. So, we purchased the CD and now begin our time together by listening to the lesson and then discussing anything we find interesting or surprising.

Our second creative venture involved coloring. Literally. If you’ve ever had your mind wander during meditation or prayer, you would benefit from “Praying in Color.” Thanks to the efforts of Julie Parks, we hosted a workshop in September where participants learned to doodle prayerfully. Author Sybil MacBeth facilitated our workshop and taught us to draw a new path to God.

Finally, we upheld our long tradition of sharing food together and exchanging white elephant gifts during our Christmas gathering, but added a creative touch. Marcia Rast presented the “Mary, Did You Know” devotion, and then we transformed pine boughs, various greenery, red and white carnations, plastic candy canes, and decorative things that glitter into centerpieces that each one of us could take home. Even those of us who claimed to have “no creative bone” in our bodies were pleasantly surprised with how well our creations turned out. Again, under the creative guidance of Julie Parks, we were treated to a lively time together.

Our outreach efforts continue in support of the Johnson Auxiliary at the Med, the Memphis Family Shelter, the Collierville Food Pantry, and several of our members deliver “Meals on Wheels” through MIFA. On December 4th, we hosted “Coffee and Conversation,” an opportunity to simply talk with patrons of the Collierville Literacy Council who are learning English as their second language. Nancy Drewry, Ruth Lewis, and Ann Cross have tirelessly crocheted literally hundreds of necklaces with the proceeds benefiting Living Waters for the World. Some of the money raised by these efforts was sent directly to the community in Honduras where three of our members installed a water treatment system and taught the community about the importance of clean water last May.

We ask that all who read this report please pray for our PW Moderator, Mary Ann Harris who has been ill and is making a slow recovery. Thank you!

By Sue Beaton



Night Circle



Day Circle

 **PW, Advent Presbyterian Church** 

Advent Presbyterian Women hosted their annual women’s retreat on February 5th and 6th. The theme was “In Her Shoes.” Friday began with early check in and a special blanket making project for Johnson Auxiliary at the MED. Representatives of Johnson Auxiliary came to speak and answer questions while ladies worked on the newborn blankets. Dinner was at Club Windward with keynote speaker Carole Austell. She emphasized verses through various times in her life journey. Each woman brought shoes to represent herself and we had a parade of shoes! The shoes really gave us a time to laugh. The evening ended with a social time with the ladies dancing, playing games, and finishing their blanket mission projects.

Saturday began with a testimony from our associate minister Cindy Schwartz and a talk on Centering Prayer. We ended the session with Communion. With small groups we were given an assignment to portray women from the Bible. This was quite fun and came with several interesting choices. We saw the creative side of our ladies. After lunch we began with music to energize our brain cells. Carole Austell spoke on *Biblical Women Standing on Promises*. This retreat allowed the ladies of Advent to reconnect and minister to one another. The ladies left refreshed and energized to face the world.

Sharon Kelso


Buntyn Presbyterian Women


Buntyn PW got off to a good start when they met with Helen Sciara to plan their Coordinating Team meetings and Gatherings. We have had three speakers who have given us very interesting programs. Imogene Joyner, a former Missionary to the Congo shared her experiences of the difficulty that she had in getting to the Congo and her ministry there. Wilson McCloy from the Memphis Literacy Council spoke to us of the importance of families introducing their children to books at an early age. Sallie Johnson gave a book review of *Bridges Out of Poverty* at our February Gathering. We will attend a Lenten service at Calvary in March. We enjoy eating out and have supped recently at the Interim Restaurant and plan to lunch at the Rosebriar Tea Room in April.

The celebration of our centennial year began in November 2009 with the installation of our pastor, the Reverend Margaret Jorgensen. We will have several musical events during the year. In January 2010 we collected 100 pairs of socks to share warmth with a family shelter, and we will collect 100 other items three more times during the year. Our formal celebration will be held the weekend of May 1-2 when we will invite former members and friends to share our fellowship with a worship service and reception.

Anita Brown, Moderator


PW, Parkway Gardens United


The PGU Presbyterian Women have had a busy fall/winter season. We had "Pink Ribbon Sunday," in recognition of breast cancer awareness, in October. Reverend Patricia Brown and Selina Clark gave moving presentations of their experiences and faith in battling breast cancer. A special offering was collected with donations made to the American Cancer Society and Sisters Network Memphis Chapter. The PW hosted a Christmas party, at the church, for the residents of the Orleans and Taylor Care Homes. The activities started with a lively and fun-filled rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," followed by a craft session, a turkey and dressing meal with all the fixings and gifts for all the residents. It was a rewarding experience.

The PW fall service project was donations, by the congregation, of toys, personal items and household items to the Abused Womens' Shelter Program of the YWCA. Our efforts resulted in over \$700.00 in items being donated.

Mrs. Barbara Bowling, Director, Johnson Auxiliary was the guest speaker at our winter joint circle meeting, held in January. We will have our Women's Day recognition program during morning services Sunday, March 14. Our theme is "A Gift Given, A Gift Used." Mrs. Rutha Jones will be our guest speaker. All are invited.

Georgia Harris


Presbyterian Women, Piggott, Arkansas


Presbyterian Women at Piggott raised \$550 from a Rummage and Bake sale held in December '09 as their annual fundraiser for their mission projects in 2010. Many items were donated to the church and the women baked numerous goodies for sale. The annual mission project is to sponsor a needy child with Christmas gifts and a food basket for the child's family.

In other news for the Piggott church, we have a new pastor. Piggott church welcomes Rev. Norlita Kaul and her husband David Brian Robinson. After serving in the field of Church Music for 35 years, Rev Kaul graduated from the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, with an M.Div. in May, 2008. Ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament, she accepted the call to serve as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Piggott in November 2009 and began serving the congregation on January 1, 2010. Rev. Kaul and her husband, Dave, who is from Windsor, Ontario, Canada, are still newlyweds, and he will join her later this summer, after he retires. They are excited to be in Piggott and look forward to serving in the Church and in the local community.

Pam Wayer, Moderator


Mt. Sharon Presbyterian Women

Mt. Sharon's PW group elected new officers in December '09. Their Circle meets the 1st Wednesday night of each month, and they have invited a missionary couple from Ecuador to speak at their church this month. The lady missionary grew up in their church. An on-going project of the PW group is to collect eye-glasses to be distributed by the missionaries in Ecuador. They also provide lunch at the church when there is a 5th Sunday in the month. In the summer months they have barbecues to raise funds for families in the community with needs, such as losses occurring when there is a house fire, etc.

Sherry Sweat, Moderator

Presbyterian
Women of the
Mid-South



Support of Living Waters for the World by the Crocheting of Necklaces



Collierville: Mary Ann Epperson reports that three very industrious ladies from Collierville Presbyterian Women made enough of the ribbon necklaces that they were able to contribute \$1200.00 to Living Waters of the World. Ruth Lewis, Missions Chairperson, spearheaded the necklace crocheting project and was ably assisted by Ann Cross and Nancy Drewry. The ladies had no idea this project would take off the way that it did once it was started. All three ladies have diligently worked to make this project a success, as the results indicate.

Memphis First: Ella Emory of First Church Memphis has crocheted 150 necklaces at the time of this writing. \$470 have been collected and forwarded through the PW group at their church to Living Waters of the World. Ella has sent necklaces as far away as Washington to be sold for this worthy cause. Ella states that when she started making the necklaces she never expected to reach a goal of \$500, but she is almost there. She mentioned that she has sold the necklaces right off of her neck on several occasions.



The Johnson Auxiliary



The Johnson Auxiliary at the Regional Medical Center (the MED) manned a booth at the Volunteer Expo from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 25th at the Oak Court Mall. This was the first time for the Auxiliary to be involved in this community event. It is hoped that through this type of program that people will be made more aware of the contributions made by the Auxiliary's volunteers to the MED. At this time there are twenty active volunteers, but there is always room for more, so consider this your invitation to join us. The Auxiliary's Gift Shop fully managed and operated by volunteers, donates \$25-\$30 thousand dollars to the MED each and every year. The auxiliary was begun in 1973 by Presbyterian Women and receives their continued support to date. The 37th annual meeting and luncheon will be held at Balmoral Presbyterian Church on April 22nd. The Reverend Carla Meisterman, pastor of the church will be the featured speaker. New officers will be elected at that meeting and installed by Vashti Crowder, Moderator of Presbyterian Women of the Mid-South.

Doris Webster, President

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