



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PRESBYTERY OF MISSISSIPPI

February 2009

Volume 6 Issue 1

Moderator's Moment by Myra Hester

This will be an exciting year for Presbyterian Women in Mississippi, one filled with many opportunities to gather for prayer, Bible study, seeing old friends, and making new ones. At our Annual Gathering on March 14 at Westminster in Gulfport, Mary Weber, our PW Synod of Living Waters Moderator will speak to us and install our new leaders for the coming year.

This has been an amazing two years for me as PW Moderator. I have had so many opportunities to meet and converse with Presbyterian Women from all over our Presbytery and other Presbyteries. Working on the committees to plan events such as the AL/MS Women's Conferences, Kaleidoscope, Cluster Gatherings and other PW events has been a joy. We always get to know each other better when we work together. It is always true in PW that there are a lot of willing hands to help and lots of great ideas to try. These are the hands that are always the busiest with many duties, but seem to be able to find the time and talent to do more.

I am looking forward to handing the gavels to Pam McDonald, our incoming Moderator, at the Annual Gathering. I have already given her a few file boxes. I also am looking forward to my new position on the search committee in finding more women who would like the opportunity to work with this amazing PW Mississippi group of women.

A Note from Moderator-Elect Pam McDonald

First of all I want to thank you for electing me to this position. I am deeply honored and very happy to be your next Moderator for Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Mississippi. I have lived in Natchez for 28 years, ever since we retired from the Army and moved back to my husband, Marvin's home town. I look forward to getting to know you in the months ahead, especially at the Fall Gatherings in September and October. I hope you will all make a special effort to come to your Cluster Gathering. They are always such a great way to begin the new year. The introduction to the Bible study and all the helpful hints for local chairpersons will give each of us a boost as we prepare to be God's people in our communities. Hope to see you soon!

Together in Service by Sara Brown

A reminder to the churches to send in reports on the projects you have done in the year 2008 for missions by March 1, 2009. I need these reports so I can send my report to the Synod Leader before I go out of office on March 14, 2009. The report is on page 19 of "The Together in Service Guide." My address is 166 Dogwood Trail, Laurel, MS 39443.

CLUSTER A - End of Year Report by Jackie Moran

Since becoming the new Cluster A Leader at the Fall Cluster Gathering in Gautier, I am enjoying meeting all you dedicated Presbyterian Women Team Leaders, Contact persons, and Ministers and locating all of your Churches. Many of you I have known through PW at events such as AL/MS in Birmingham, Cluster Gatherings and the Winter Retreats at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa.

Bay St. Louis First Presbyterian Church PW Moderator, Margaret Harris reports that BSL still has volunteers and the Lagniappe kitchen. Their ladies gather for Bible Study and Tuesday Sewing for knitting and quilting. One of the California volunteers comes with supplies and instructs them in making quilts for cancer patients. BSL has maintained its treasury and has been painted and landscaped. The scars of Katrina are fewer.

Sandy Carraway is PW Moderator, and Penny Bullock is Co-moderator for Diamondhead Community Presbyterian Church. PW has two monthly Circles for Bible Study from the Presbyterian study (avg. 10-15), and they host (three) quarterly luncheons plus "Advent by Candlelight". They presented graduates gift certificates, Baptismal Bibles to the youth and babies. They sponsored the youth mission trip to Pigeon Forge. Also, DCCPW raised funds for their kitchen expansion and appliances, and assisted financially "Advent by Candlelight" on the first Friday of Advent. There is a Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Sewing for Missions where newborn and silent layettes, blankets, booties, and caps are made for the Neonatal unit of Children's Hospital, UMC, Jackson, MS. DCCPW paid extra money over the budgeted amount of mission contributions to the Presbytery. Local missions went to Hancock Food Pantry and Hope Haven. CT members attended AL/MS, Fall Cluster Meeting, and Winter Retreat at Chatawa. Jackie Moran is Cluster A Leader from DCCPW. Calendar year runs May-May.

Gautier Presbyterian Church PW Moderator Kitty Ely, and Co-moderator Pam Martin and Gautier PW graciously hosted Fall Cluster A Meeting. They are building a new sanctuary which should be completed the last of February or the first of March. One of their ladies made wooden crosses from the large pecan tree that came down after Katrina, to be given out at the First Sunday Celebration in the new sanctuary. PW gives receptions for new members, and spaghetti dinners for the youth at special times of the year. They have fed the youth at Wednesday night Sunday School. They also host potluck dinners at almost any church gathering. PW has 2 Circles for Bible Study, one studying Acts at Jo Talbot's home once a month. The second Bible Study is at the Church studying Luke along with book "Understanding Jesus in the World of Luke" by Mary Holder Naegli. Gautier PW fulfills its mission pledges to the Presbytery, and locally supports the Food Pantry. They helped the youth make craft items to send to Lebanon. They have a Prayer Shawl Ministry for crocheted shawls for those in need. The ladies maintain the kitchen for their active food ministry to their members.

Handsboro Presbyterian Church

Moderator is Shelly Cummings 896-5222. They have hosted Cluster Meetings, and are planning to make a mission trip as a church to Mexico.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Gulfport Jane Meynardie is PW Moderator and Patty McKinley is Treasurer. PW adopted a Christmas child. They donated extra funds to Presbytery. Their PW has a Ministry of taking magazines to nursing homes; a Fellowship committee bakes cookies for carolers to give shut-ins. They have 2 Circles which average 8-12. The PW cooked

casseroles for Congregation Care Committee, held a kickoff luncheon and a Salad Supper, and forwarded money on to buy new flatware for the kitchen.

Long Beach Presbyterian Church has 2 contact ladies, Sally Boulay, and Martha Belina for PW. They have one Circle and have regular Bible study. They have Sunday School for 7-8 young people. These PW also sing in the choir. Long Beach (11:00a.m.) shares a minister, Rev. Robb Butler, with Bay St. Louis (9:30 a.m.)

Annie Ruth Thigpen, PW Moderator, reports that Lucedale First Presbyterian PW, though small in number, have Bible Study, and locally they are busy at Christmas giving gifts to shut-ins (sweaters to the ladies and flannel shirts to their male caretakers). They placed poinsettias in the church, supported the youth in caroling, and gave fruit baskets to the homes where they caroled.

Vernal Presbyterian Church, Lucedale, MS. - Bernice McIntosh is PW Moderator and Nancy McIntosh is ME. Vernal has one monthly Circle Meeting studying Jonah and Ruth study from PW. They do Souper Bowl for Food Pantry; Sheets for World Services (16-18); Contribution to Living Waters. PW helped plan the one day celebrations for the 100th Birthday Celebration of Vernal Presbyterian Church, the celebration for their new Memorial Prayer Garden for Rev. H.J. Hedgepeth, and The Re-dedication of The Church building from damage from Hurricane Katrina and age. They planned Easter sunrise service in the Prayer Garden. They make mission payments to Birthday Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, Joy Gift Offering during Christmas program, Palmer Home, the Linda Bates Pre-school in Brazil. They did Operation Shoebox – Franklin Graham (20+). They made craft items for AL/MS Country Store. For Advent, they did Jesse Tree celebration for the Children, helped with Christmas musical, and put Poinsettias in Church. They carried fruit baskets to shut-ins in the community. They are planning to host the Presbytery in May. Vernal has a pastoral fill-in and their very first Songleader.

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Springs, Cindy Pulliam is Moderator and Co-moderator is Loretta Johnson. OS has a very active PW. They have 3 Circles 9/12 months which avg. 15 attendees studying “Walking as Luke Walked”. PW has been refurbishing the Old Sanctuary as a chapel for three years with one year to go. They have Socials in September and May have joint circle luncheon with Pastor. One of their missions is Afghan Kids Mission where in boxes are packed with scarves, caps, Mittens, shoes, and toilet articles, school supplies, hard candy mailed APO for service men to give out in Afghanistan. They support the Salvation Army, Woman’s Center, Children’s Center, Chamberlain Hunt, Belhaven, Stillman College, Home of Grace Women and Men’s Mission, and The Lord is My Help soup kitchen, 3 women’s centers, Gideons, Knit and Crochet lap blankets for preemies. Boxed scarves are for Special Olympics.

First Presbyterian Church, Pascagoula, has a contact person for PW, Rae Tully, 228-474-2036. Minister is Clint Regen. They have 3 Circles who do the Devotionals for the Church. PW has raised money for Kansas Tornado Relief. Memorial gifts are given to Home of Grace, the Haven in Gautier, and to the Home of Grace, Our Daily Bread in Pascagoula. The PW does the Social for the families at deaths. They give a \$500.00 scholarship for a senior (voted on by the Circles). PW gives a Christmas Luncheon at a restaurant for the Pastor and Staff. They still have Volunteer groups upstairs in Sunday School-area of the church, but Pascagoula is at the point now, not too many are coming.

Pineville Presbyterian Church, Pass Christian, MS has a Contact person, Heather Sprague who is the Clerk of Session. They do food drives for the Our Mother of Mercy Food Pantry. They

have a combined Bible Study with the congregation. On the 3rd Sunday they have dinner. Every quarter they have a covered dish dinner. WOC places flowers in the Church. They have project for either their Kitchen or Church. They have Local missions to benefit the neighborhood ie: The Cuevas Fire Department. They have no Church Office Hours. Church is open 9:30-12:a.m. Sundays. Contact- 228-452-9550 hmsprague@cableone.net

Ruth Memorial Church, Poplarville, MS- PW contact person is Rev. Sally Lodge Teel, the Stated Supply. Women have Bible Study and Sunday School. The Session is half female and half male. Their Mission Projects are One Great Hour of Sharing, Hunger, to Our Brother's Keeper in Poplarville. Other mission projects are a nursing home in Hattiesburg, and the Parent's Association for East Mississippi Mental Retardation Center. The women cook after worship meals, and go to lunch together. They need funds for restoration, as they did not get the funds from Presbytery, "that was promised them".

Wiggins Presbyterian Church, Contact PW person is Kathy Kirker 601-928-3904 or 601 928 7982. Minister is William H. "Bill" Pettey, CLP. Cell 228-6696740. Their PW are not active, nor organized. PW prepares food for Wednesday Bible Study.

Cluster B Report by Linda Soons

Cluster B met on September 20, 2008 at Pineview Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg. We had 43 in attendance from Prospect Presbyterian, Trinity Presbyterian, First Trinity Presbyterian, Westminster Presbyterian and Pineview Presbyterian. We collected \$425 for the Domestic Abuse Family Shelter in Hattiesburg, MS. Rachel Covington of Prospect Presbyterian Church in Meridian issued the invitation for the 2009 Fall Cluster Gathering. We had an excellent meeting with Rev. Martha Cherry giving the devotional and Norma Laposser giving the Bible study introduction. Everyone who attended the workshops felt they were worthwhile and were glad to receive the handouts. After the meeting, we enjoyed a wonderful lunch and fellowship with everyone. A letter and packet have been sent to those churches that were unable to attend.

Cluster C Report by Inez Dunlap

Fondren knitters have been busy. They mailed 106 baby caps, 3 baby quilts, 13 blankets and 26 receiving blankets! A Thank Offering of \$1026 was collected. New this year PW will be sending two scholarships recipients to Chatawa in hopes of generating interest in PW on the Presbytery level. A Birthday Breakfast was held in November to highlight the Offering and offer information about the Birthday Offering and how the recipients are chosen. The PW also hosted a reception following the Joy Gift Program.

In December First Church Canton hosted children from the Natchez Children's Home. They had lunch, church service and a party with gifts. The special offering went to the school. The PW also hosted a Christmas program and reception. The Cluster C Gathering will be held in Canton this fall.

Briarwood PW was quite creative this Christmas when they presented the Salvation Army with handmade uniquely dressed stuffed bears for the children and mesh stockings filled with age appropriate gifts to older children and adults. Their Cookie caper will be in February. During

their regular monthly Mary Martha Day they will bake homemade cookies for their college students, military personnel and shut-in's. Usually 65 boxes are distributed. Once a month Briarwood PW meets to work on some mission project.

St. Luke's PW is continuing with support of Wednesday Night Suppers and bible study. The children are then taught from the Catechism. They are also providing clothing for under privileged children and supplies for Friendship Connection.

Vicksburg PW has started a new circle for young women meeting Wednesday night while their children are involved in an evening program. They are looking forward to a PW retreat at Eagle Lake in February. Their local mission efforts include Natchez Children's Home, Child Abuse Center, and CAP Center for Christmas and Salvation Army. Super care is being given to the homebound with visits, birthday flowers and goodie bags for Christmas.

Faith PW started the year with a joint Fall Gathering enjoyed by all. For local mission projects they have adopted a needy family, initiated a book and coat drive for students at Walton Elementary School, feed men at Billy Brumfield House and donated blankets to the Salvation Army. They are collecting "Nickels for Nets" to purchase mosquito nets for women and children in Africa. Some of the PW members shared their singing talent with the 15th Annual Jackson Metro Community Christmas Choir.

Cluster D Report by Joyce Borum

Almost one year ago I was installed as Cluster Leader for service in our Presbytery. My first CT meeting was very enjoyable ...meeting new ladies on the council and catching up on friendships I've enjoyed from years past. My first council meeting was very informative (new names for each position). Renee Belote, the outgoing Cluster Leader as at my side so I felt reassured until she went through the box that she had collected for several years and said: "Now this is yours"! I then realized I had taken on a big job. The Council dinner that evening was out away from the church, I got lost proving I was no good at following directions.

The Annual Meeting was the next day, a wonderful worship service. The installation of the new leaders was done by Rev. Mickey dePrater. After a delicious lunch served by the PW women and we were adjourned. Following the meeting we all rushed to an inside flea market that was planned as a money making project to support water wells in Third World Countries.

Our next council meeting was in Hattiesburg so I got to see the Presbytery Office. At this meeting we made plans for the Fall Gatherings. It was decided to honor Rev. Bill dePrater with an Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women for his wonderful support of PW and our work.

The Cluster D Fall Gathering was held at JJ White Presbyterian in McComb. Since Renee Belote is a very active member of that church, it was smooth sailing for me. I presided at the meeting, but all the work and plans had already been done. We were greeted with early morning refreshments and good fellowship. The members of JJ White were anticipating their new Pastor and were all excited.

Charles Ray, Lay Pastor from Magnolia was with us for the meeting. Norma Loposser introduced the Horizon Bible Study, "Jubilee!" We sang the PW hymn to the tune Morning has Broken. Myra Hester, PW Moderator gave her report, count for each church was made, Dr. Dana Lamar, organist set the mood for the day and made our singing beautiful. A wonderful lunch of three different salads with desert and tea completed our day. The miniature flower arrangements from our tables were favors for each attendee.

The churches in Cluster D continue to have regular worship services. Port Gibson reports they are no longer strong enough to host a Gathering or an Annual Meeting. We covet your prayers for this dedicated group of ladies.

Libby Simo of JJ White reports the excitement of having a new pastor, Rev. Elizabeth Gabbard. In spite of being in a wheelchair (because of an accident on snow with a youth group) she arrived on time and delivered her sermon at the presbytery meeting. The church has created a playroom for young children in hopes of encouraging young couples to attend church. They boast of over 100 in worship services.

Osyka Presbyterian church has Lay Pastor Charles Ray holding services on the second and fourth Sundays.

Marie Honea of Magnolia reported good fellowship, still enjoying "SSS" (soup, salad, study) on the second Tuesday of the month. The will also be supporting the Souper Bowl project at the end of the month.

Natchez Westminster is without a pastor again, Marc Mihale had to resign due to health reasons after serving only a year. Our church has suffered lots of storm damage and even completely losing the manse due to excessive damage.

I serve on the Board for the Natchez Stewpot and have developed a group of ladies of the church for home delivery of prepared meals on Mondays of each month. We strive to have two ladies at a time going out together for fellowship and rapid service. We also had a Rice drive for the Stewpot at Thanksgiving, since this is almost a daily staple.

First Presbyterian Church in Natchez has volunteers that help serve food at least twice a month and they deliver takeout orders on Sundays. Pam McDonald and I did the food preparation the Sunday after Christmas, Judy Larsen and others helped serve the plates and it was Pam's Sunday to deliver the food. Our appreciation of those that prepare food on a daily basis has gone way up!

Columbia Friendship Circle by Pam McDonald

In October of 2008 I was privileged to represent you at the annual meeting of Columbia Friendship Circle at Columbia Seminary in Atlanta. To be honest, I hadn't thought much about CFC in years—so many other projects and programs vying for attention these days.

Did you know that CFC was established in 1949 and that our own Betty Simmons (1998-99) and Joyce Gibbons (2003-04) are Past Presidents? The purpose of CFC has always been three-fold: to pray for students, to encourage women and men to consider a ministry vocation, and to provide financial assistance to help meet the needs of students. From now on, CFC and all the students will be in my daily prayers. This year's recipients are Debbie Confalone, David Hawkins, Diane Hunter, Soonki Lee, and Shon Peppers. After meeting them and hearing their testimonies, I am convinced that God is blessing them and us.

The Columbia Friendship Circle Executive Council unanimously voted to increase our giving to \$60,000.00 this next year. Our President, Camille Ruddick, has compiled a few statistics that show that if each of the 1,500 churches in our 27 presbyteries gave \$40.00 per church, we could meet this goal. Of course, if some churches give more, that would be good, too! Let's be attuned to the Holy Spirit and give our seminarians the support they need.

PW Moderator's Update by Mary Weber, PW Moderator Synod of Living Waters

USING OUR HANDS

Last Spring I urged several Spring Gathering groups to "use your hands" to help others in Mission. We listed things such as preparing food and taking it to shut-ins, writing to Congress or Senate reps, driving folks to the grocery or doctor's appointments, and so on. Then came AL/MS, and I decided to donate some hand-crocheted necklaces to their Market Place. Later in the summer I gave another necklace to Dean Vandegrift, my hostess when I went to Birmingham for the Main Event. I had NO IDEA what would happen next!

Dean asked how to make the necklaces, and the next I knew she was selling them to raise money for the Presbyterian Congo Project. Her goal was to raise \$500. Before long, she exceeded that goal by \$100. At last count, she has raised over \$1600 and reports that the total is still growing! The necklaces have become a wonderful mission project for me as well. One of my favorite experiences with the necklaces happened just this week. Our county was a victim of Kentucky's ice storm, and we opened a local shelter. One night I went to visit. Not knowing what there would be to do, I took a crochet hook and some yarn with me. Before I left I had made and given each of the 8 women in the shelter a necklace of her choice! A Red Cross volunteer later thanked me for bringing cheer to a group who had been restless and discouraged. This necklace project seems to evolve and grow without conscious intention. It is truly God led. My prayer for all our PW is that we might follow God's lead in our work. There is no telling what He will bless your hands to do.

14th Annual Winter Spiritual Retreat

The Rev. Mickey dePrater led over 60 Presbyterian Women from fifteen churches in our presbytery in our 14th Annual Winter Spiritual Retreat at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi. In her workshop titled “God’s Messages: Dreams and Visions” she led us in an exploration of the mystery of divine interventions found in both Old and New Testament passages and the effects and impact on the lives of the participants. Through Bible study, music, worship and prayer we also looked at our own journey of faith and the influence of divine and holy moments.

This continues to be a special time for the Presbyterian Women to spend time in a beautiful place, to see old friends and make new friends from around the presbytery while learning more about our own spiritual journey. Plan to join us next January.



left:
Rev. Mickey dePrater
Retreat Speaker

right:
Mrs. Chetta Hitt
JJ White Church
(The retreat group
sang “Happy
Birthday” to Mrs. Hitt
in celebration of her
92nd birthday!)



Additions and Corrections
PW Directory 2008-2009

Planning Calendar 2008-2009 page

Under Sept and Oct, take out “receive and return mission pledge forms”

PW Coordinating Team

Cluster A Leader, replace Robin Knapp with Jackie Moran, 7730 Maniniway,
Diamondhead, MS 39525, phone 228-255-9332, drcmoran@gmail.com

Cluster A

Cluster Leader - replace Robin Knapp with Jackie Moran (address above)

Gautier

Kitty Ely – phone 228-217-9977

Pam Martin – email pmartin@cableone.net

First Pres Ocean Springs

Add Stella Lawson, Ministry Support Assistant – phone 228-875-5326,
email stella@firstpreschurchos.com

Ruth Memorial

Sally Lodge Teel – email revlapin@aol.com

United Presbyterian, Sandersville

Add – Minister: Rev. Eugene (Gene) Anderson

Bay St. Louis, Pineville, and Long Beach – Minister: Rev. Rob Butler

Pisgah – CLP: Norma Loposser

Cluster B

Trinity Meridian

Add Secretary – Evelyn White, 609 65th Ave., Meridian, MS 39307,
Phone 601-483-8983

Pisgah

Change contact to Caroline Bonner, 1856 CR 31, Heidelberg, MS 39439
Phone 601-787-3213

Cluster C

First Canton

Correct Charlotte Brown’s email to cbrown764@aol.com

Briarwood

Correct Corinne Fox’s email to corinnefox2@comcast.net

Faith

Correct Patricia McCarty’s email to patricia.mccarty@jsums.edu

St. Luke’s

Correct Phyllis Morris’s email to pwattsmorris@yahoo.com

First Vicksburg

Add Beth Culpepper’s email bethculpepper@bellsouth.net

Fondren

Add – Minister: Rev. Morris (Mat) Taylor, Jr.

Cluster D

Magnolia

Correct street address for Rosemary Perkins to Bay St.

JJ White

Add – Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Gabbard

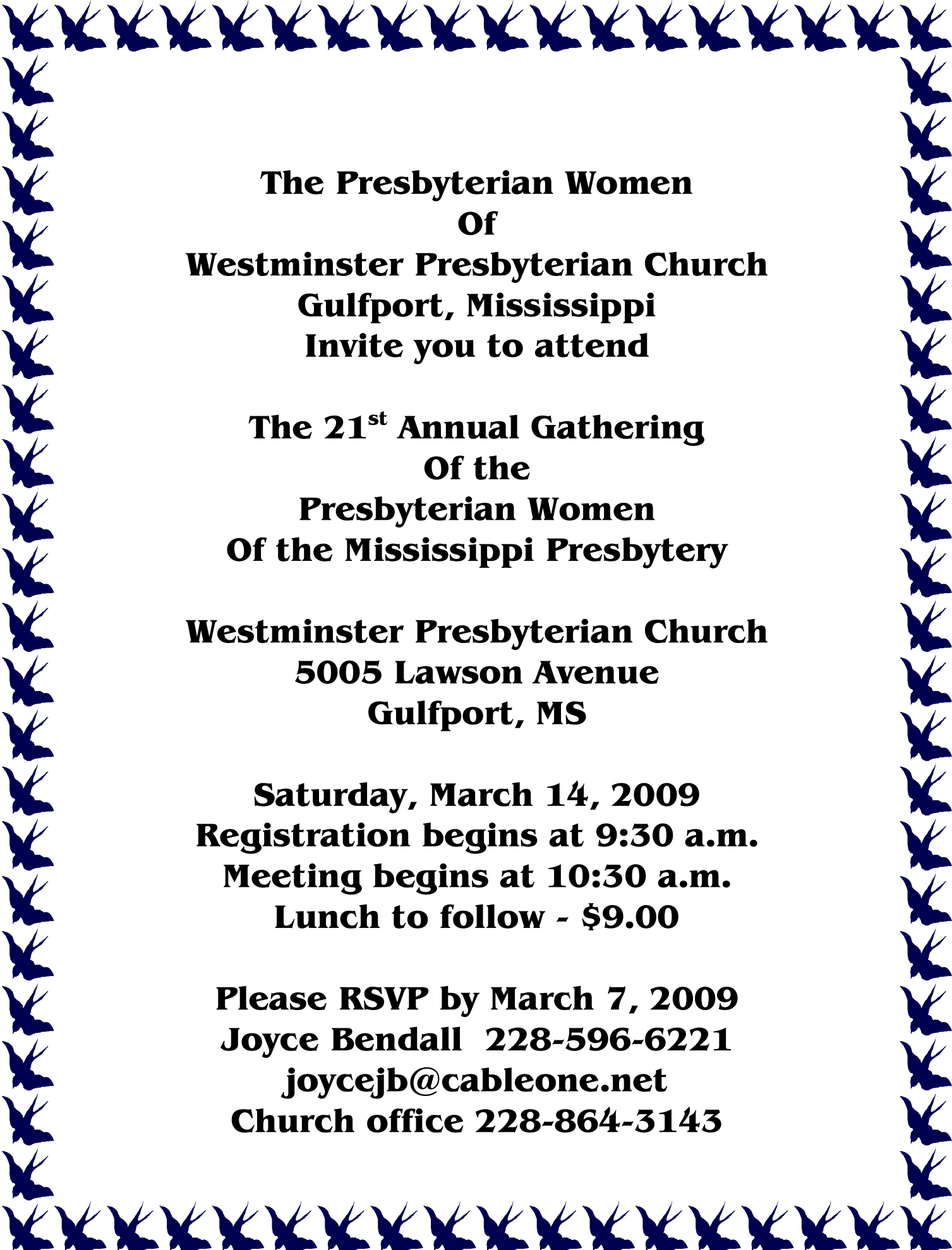
Add phone number for Mr. Charles Ray 601-684-0343

Add cell phone number for Libby Simo 601-551-7245

First Natchez

Corrections:

Moderator	Beth Troutman, 1115 Main St., Natchez 39120 dtroutman1@bellsouth.net	601-442-7758
Secretary	Beverly Aldridge, 104 Pecanwood Dr., Natchez 39120 bevrIDGE@cableone.net	601-446-7576
Treasurer	Connie Moreland, 7275 Hwy 120, Monterrey dmoreland@att.net	318-715-2075
Comm/Hist	Cara Moody, 111 Arlington St., Natchez 39120 caramoody@bellsouth.net	601-304-1602
Mission Adv	Dotty Stubbs, Meadow Rd., Natchez 39120	601-446-5214
Spiritual Lead.	Harriet Johnson, 813 Washington St., Natchez 39120	601-442-3946



**The Presbyterian Women
Of
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Gulfport, Mississippi
Invite you to attend**

**The 21st Annual Gathering
Of the
Presbyterian Women
Of the Mississippi Presbytery**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church
5005 Lawson Avenue
Gulfport, MS**

**Saturday, March 14, 2009
Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.
Meeting begins at 10:30 a.m.
Lunch to follow - \$9.00**

**Please RSVP by March 7, 2009
Joyce Bendall 228-596-6221
joycejb@cableone.net
Church office 228-864-3143**



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN
of the
Mississippi Presbytery
5826 Kings Place
Jackson, MS 39211

Address Service Requested