



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PRESBYTERY OF MISSISSIPPI

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Moderator's Moment – Myra Hester

This coming year will keep Presbyterian Women in Mississippi Presbytery busy. In a couple weeks we will be in Birmingham, AL at the annual AL/MS Women's Conference. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there to enjoy the Bible study, workshops, and great fellowship and conversation as we share what we are doing in our churches and learn from others.

The Fall Cluster Gatherings are in the planning stages, Cluster C on September 13 at First Presbyterian in Vicksburg, Cluster B on September 20 at Pineview in Hattiesburg, Cluster D at JJ White in McComb, and Cluster A on October 4 in Gautier. I hope you will all come, these are always a good way to start the PW year. New directories will be given out, any other information from your leaders on Mission and plans for the coming year.

I have been back from General Assembly in San Jose for a little over a week and am still processing all that I have experienced. It was a great time to get to talk with many Presbyterians from all over the country, in some ways we are so alike, but in others, so very different. It was especially interesting to talk with other commissioners who were also their Presbyteries PW Moderator. Whenever we get beyond our own familiar neighborhood, we learn a lot, but it requires careful listening. And to be able to listen, we have to stay together and continue the conversation. There were many impassioned speakers who felt deeply about their views, most of these will never be convinced of the others' point of view. There were some close votes. My prayer is that we can continue to work together, study together, share conversations and gatherings as we have been doing. Presbyterian Women have always had a remarkable network of love and concern for each other and our church, we do communicate even if we don't always agree. Let's keep it up! This is going to be very important in the coming years.

Alabama/Mississippi Women's Conference

Twenty-one Presbyterian Women from the Mississippi Presbytery joined their sisters from St. Andrews, North Alabama, Sheperds and Lapsley, and South Alabama Presbyteries for the annual AL/MS Women's Conference held July 22-25 at South Highlands Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL. Dee Koza gave the overview of this coming year's Horizon Bible Study "Jubilee, Luke's Gospel to the Poor" by Dale Lindsay Morgan. We also heard from special guests

Mary Weber, PW Synod of Living Waters Moderator and Rev. Terry Newland, Executive for the Synod of Living Waters. We all learned much from the variety of workshops offered, speakers, and of course much conversation with each other.

I hope to see many of you at next year's AL/MS Women's Conference at First Presbyterian Church in Starkville on July 21-24, 2009. Phyllis Hicks from Southaven will be next year's director.



AL/MS Report – Shirley Griffin Middleton – Faith Presbyterian Church, Jackson

While in attendance at the AL/MS Women's Conference in Birmingham, Alabama, I had the opportunity to visit the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. This institute is the centerpiece of the city's historic Civil Rights District. This includes Kelly Ingram Park, where the marches were formed and the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church where four young girls were killed by a racist's bomb. While there, I got the opportunity of a lifetime! I met Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth! Even though he can't speak and is in a wheelchair, he allowed me to take his picture and he also took one with me. I never dreamed that I'd be blessed enough to meet anyone from the Civil Rights Era, but I did and it was an awesome experience.

AL/MS Women's Conference Beginnings?

Does anyone know when AL/MS Women's Conference began? Several people asked, no one knew for sure. Most knew it had been going on longer than they had been attending. Some remembered their mothers going - in white gloves and hats yet! Does anyone know?

Fall Cluster Meeting Dates

Cluster C at First Pres Vicksburg on Sept 13, Cluster B at Pineview Hattiesburg on Sept 20, Cluster D at JJ White in McComb on Sept 27, and Cluster A at Gautier on Oct.4. All are on Saturdays. Norma Loposser will be giving the Bible Study overview at all the gatherings.

News from Cluster A – Robin Knapp

As the newly installed Cluster Leader for Cluster A I can truly say, “I am overwhelmed with joy!” Okay, maybe just overwhelmed. Well, whatever it is, I'm excited about all the opportunities that lie ahead for me in this position. I know I have lots of support from my sisters in Christ and that God will equip me to do his work. So, look out!!!

Cluster A will hold their planning meeting for the Fall Cluster meeting on Friday August 15 at 11:00am at the Gautier Presbyterian Church in Gautier. Moderators are encouraged to attend this meeting for input and planning purposes. After all, this is your meeting. Why not have a say in what it will be like? Besides, snacks and “happies” will be shared!!! My contact info if you need anything, knapp745@cableone.net or 228-868-9294/806-4677.

News from Cluster C – Inez Dunlap

Within the next few days Cluster C will make it's last delivery of 25 casseroles to the coast. Our churches are busy with many other things also. Fondren celebrated the 20th Birthday Offering and the 100th birthday of two members with a wonderful brunch at the church (see more below). The knitters are turning out dozens of baby caps, blankets and gowns to be sent to Africa. Paper products and toiletry are being collected for Hope House, a refuge for long term hospital patients and their families. For local “shut-ins” small casseroles are being prepared and stored in the freezer.

Myra and I will be traveling to Vicksburg later this month to meet with Mary Pope and help with the planning for the Fall Gathering to be held in First Church Vicksburg on Sept. 13.

Briarwood has found an interesting way to spend the summer. They are having joint circles sharing information on different subjects. One month they discussed books of interest and next will focus on sharing artistic talents and know-how. In August they will have an Annual Dinner where the new Coordinating Team will be installed.

BIRTHDAY BASH at Fondren

Fondren found a wonderful way to have a real birthday celebration! On June 28th not only did we celebrate the 20th year of the Birthday Offering but also celebrated the 100th year of two of our PW members, Sue Zenor and Bessie Fairly. They were born on the same day!

A wonderful brunch was cooked and served by a group of Presbyterian Men headed by Dave Blankenhorn. The room was decorated with a banner, blue tablecloths, glitter and floral arrangements while blue and white balloons floated everywhere. A table held presents and a basket filled with Birthday cards. Nash Nobel gave an interesting "This Is Your Life" type presentation for each birthday "girl" followed by a rousing rendition of the "Happy Birthday" song.

Diane Blankenhorn led a short business meeting during which new coordinating team members were elected and Carolyn Burch presented the Birthday Objective. As is the custom the offering was taken during services on Sunday. Then came a surprise. Lillian Magruder presented the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award to-----DAVE BLANKENHORN. Dave has been a great supporter of Diane and promoter of PW through word and action. Congratulations Dave and thanks.

Together in Service – Sara Brown

Eleven churches turned in reports from the twenty-one churches in the Presbytery that has active Presbyterian Women groups. All of the churches that sent in reports did local missions and seven sent blankets, sheets, baby gowns, baby caps and baby blankets and financial support to global services.

The eleven were also involved in sending casseroles to the coast.

I didn't get a report from 10 churches but I am sure they did some type of mission.

The eleven churches participated in Birthday, Thank, and Least Coin offerings and other programs under PW.

Peace and Justice – Sara Amos

I have not received information from any churches dealing with the Peace and Justice projects to this current date.

October 4, 2008 will be the Sunday for the Peace and Justice offering. Packets will be provided at the Fall Cluster meetings in September. If any information is needed about this project before the, please feel free to ask Peace and Justice members. Please forward and comments, ideas, or suggestions to Ms. Sarah Amos.

PWS Website – Polly Banks

Please sign on and view the new items on the PWS Website:

www.pwslivingwaters.org

- 1) From Presbytery News - select 2008 AL/MS Photos. Most pictures (except the two larger ones) are "thumbnails" which means that they can be enlarged by clicking on the picture. You can also print or save a particular picture to your computer by doing a "right click" and selecting the appropriate action.
- 2) From Missions, you can view the Global Exchange Tentative Itinerary and a list of participants
- 3) From Missions, select Sheppards and Lapsley and then "The Sarahs" - a mission story from the First PC in Talladega, AL
- 4) From Forms, Info and News, select PW eMinistry for information on classes
- 5) Enjoy!!!



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