

# PW Connection

Volume 1, Issue 11

Presbyterian Women of the Mid-South

August 2011

## Moment with the Moderator



### Don't Forget:

**August 27, 2011**  
Pinecrest Bible Study Conference  
Review of Horizons Bible Study  
Pinecrest Conference  
and Retreat Ctr.  
LaGrange, TN 9:00 a.m.

**August 30, 2011**  
Presbytery of the Mid-South  
Meeting, Shady Grove  
Presbyterian Church  
Memphis, TN 1:00 p.m.

**October 1, 2011**  
PWP Fall Workshop Gathering  
Memphis, TN 9:00 a.m.  
(location to be announced)

**November 8, 2011**  
Presbytery of the Mid-South  
Stated Meeting  
Pinecrest Conference  
and Retreat Ctr.  
LaGrange, TN 2011 9:00 a.m.

**February 1, 2012**  
PWP Connection  
Newsletter Deadline  
Grant Application Form Due  
Statistical/Historical Report Due  
Annual Necrology Report Due

**February 11, 2012**  
Presbytery of the Mid-South  
Stated Meeting  
9:00 a.m.  
(location to be announced)

**April 14,**  
2012 PWP Annual  
Spring Gathering  
Evergreen Presbyterian church  
Memphis, TN 9:00 a.m.

**May 8, 2012**  
Presbytery of the Mid-South  
Stated Meeting  
9:00 a.m.  
(location to be announced)

**July 1, 2012**  
PWP Connection  
Newsletter Deadline

I am looking forward to these next two years and the challenges they will bring. The Presbytery has dismissed a number of churches to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in the past two or three years. Some of these churches had active PW's and some of their members were active with the Presbytery Presbyterian Women. At the May Coordinating Team, the team decided to combine some of the offices. We combined the Together-in-Service and Creative Ministries, with Dot Payne Hartzog as Chair and the Interdenominational Representative and Horizons Representative, with Jo Hall as Chair. We welcome Janet Nix back as Treasurer for the year 2011-2012.

At the Synod CT meeting in June, I found that we are not alone in our struggles to bring in new Women to our organization. I am challenging each of us to find ways in which to open our PW's to bring in more members, especially our younger women, who may not have the time to take part in the PW gatherings and circles as we know them. We need to be creative and find ways in which to include all women in our churches to participate in Presbyterian Women.

We have two events coming up for the Women of the Presbytery of the Mid-South. The Bible Study Workshop is on August 27, 2011 at Pinecrest. You should have the information on that event. If you have not received it, please contact your Liaison. The second event is the Fall Gathering to be held on October 1, 2011. Although this was a Leadership Workshop for many years, in the past few years we have added workshops that are on topics of interest to our women. At the Synod CT meeting I met Loretta Teter from Chattanooga. She is the Leadership in Training Representative for our Synod. Loretta was one of the three women to go to training in Orlando held by Church-wide that Jackie Riddle, our Synod PW Moderator, spoke of. Loretta agreed to come to Memphis for our Fall Gathering to present a workshop on Leadership. This workshop will be valuable not only for current leaders but also future leaders in our PW's as well as our churches.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is a connectional church. We work together and help one another so I encourage our PW's to share their programs and events inviting other church PW's to join them for special times. Also if there is a small church in your area that has no organized PW, invite the women of that church to join with you. Two churches can work together to host the Gatherings and CT meetings. Some of our churches have the facilities to host a larger gathering, but may not have enough women who are able to do the work, while other churches have the women but not the facility. If a church is interested in hosting the CT meeting or a Gathering, please contact me, and I will talk with you about it.

The members of the Coordinating Team are available to present a program at your PW meeting. We all have small groups so don't be embarrassed to ask for just a small group.

Presbyterian Women has a mission, a voice, and an important place in the church. No matter our differences, we are all a part of our local churches and communities sharing God's love and grace in our own ways.

*Peace and Love in Christ,  
Marti Becker, Moderator*



 **Tribute to Anne Griffin Dunn**   
November 15, 1930 – June 29, 2011

Collierville Presbyterian Women recently lost their beloved Anne Dunn. Anne was an elder, past PW Moderator, retired teacher, and a fun-loving woman that was always on top of her bridge game. Anne was always committed and passionate about the church and Presbyterian Women. She was the one that got me interested in PW when I first attended the church. She and her husband, Byron, have served as key leaders in Collierville Presbyterian Church for over 60 years. She was involved in all aspects of the church and could be counted on each year to help with Vacation Bible School – in fact, she wouldn't think of missing out on this event. Anne always showed up at Presbyterian Women meetings with a car load of women she had picked up on her way there. She was an Honorary Lifetime Member of PW and had her membership certificate hanging on the wall at the head of her hospital bed in the den of her home the last time I visited with her. We will miss Anne and thank God for her life. She was certainly an example of the legacy that we should all strive to emulate as Presbyterian Women and faithful church members.

*Submitted by Mary Ann Epperson,  
Collierville Presbyterian Women*

 **Presbyterian Women, Balmoral Presbyterian Church** 

Balmoral Presbyterian Women met in June at the home of the PW Chair. While we do not often meet in homes this was seen as a good way to have a less formal gathering without a heavy agenda.

We discussed the importance of reaching out to the women in our congregation who are not currently members of PW. A survey will be conducted early in the fall and we are open to adding an evening Circle if we find there is an interest for one.

We also discussed being intentional at our meetings, for example, going around the group so that those that wanted to could share their name and what they have been doing, enjoyed or had problems with.

We have a member who is blind and several members who are hearing impaired and some of them have shared that they think this will be a way for them to begin to recognize the speaker by voice and where they are located within the group. We hope this will help everyone feel comfortable within the group setting.

We will be hosting the Presbytery's PW Coordinating Team on August 6<sup>th</sup> and we are already looking forward to being involved with that. Also, in August we are already making plans to attend this year's introduction to our new Bible study: *The Beatitudes*. We hope to have a good group to travel to Pinecrest for this important and very helpful presentation.

*Carol H. Odom*

 **Pinecrest Bible Study Reminder**   
Saturday, August 27, 2010

Review of the Horizons Bible Study entitled "*Confessing – the Beatitudes*," written by Margaret Aymer will be held at the Pinecrest Conference and Retreat Center, LaGrange, TN on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. Cost of registration and lunch is \$12.00 (see your moderator for a registration form). We are pleased to have the Reverend Nancy Benson-Nicol, Chaplain of the University of the Ozarks, Clarkville, Arkansas as our guest speaker. Please make plans to attend this interesting and worthwhile event with your friends.

 **Johnson Auxiliary Update** 

The Johnson Auxiliary held their 38<sup>th</sup> annual volunteer meeting/luncheon on April 26, 2011 at Woodland Presbyterian Church. Thirty one active and former volunteers and guests participated in the celebration, with a theme which was "Making a Difference in the Lives of Others."

Jane Reynolds, Auxiliary Present, welcomed everyone and introduced the special guests. Representing The MED and The MED Foundation were: Leticia "Tish" Towns, Vice Present of Government Affairs and Public Policy; Reverend David Chappell, Manager of Pastoral and Volunteer Services; Lori Spicer, Manager of Community Outreach and Engagement; Tammie Ritchey, Executive Director; and Marsha Evans, Donor Relations and Gift Coordination of The MED foundation. Representing the Presbytery of the Mid-South was Bonnie Blair, Moderator and Marti Becker, Presbyterian Women Moderator.

Reverend Pam Haley, Associate Pastor at Woodland, gave an inspirational keynote address focusing on how volunteers offer "servant leadership" within their communities as a reflection of both Old and New Testament beliefs on service to others.

Pat Gesell, Auxiliary Treasure, presented our \$20,000 Annual Gift from Gift Shop profits to The MED Foundation. With this gift the Auxiliary has donated over \$440,000 to The MED Foundations since 1991.

## Presbyterian Women, Parkway Gardens United Presbyterian Church

Our Presbyterian Women celebrated Women's Day March 13. The theme of our program was "Celebrate the Gifts of Women: Beautiful Women Who Do Beautiful Things". Our colors were chocolate (brown) attire with any pastel colored accessories. We were honored to have Mrs. Bonnie Blair, Moderator Presbytery of the Mid-South, as our guest speaker. Her message "A Broken Vessel for Jesus" was inspirational, and as one of our congregation stated "right on time." Michelle Pryor and Aneesa Burford, two of our younger members, were recognized for their contributions to church and community. And, for the first time our PW honored a man. Through the years Mr. Charlie Edwards has always been there to support us in our efforts/projects. It was only fitting that he be recognized.

In April our PW and women from our community journeyed to New Orleans, LA for our 17th Annual Women's Retreat. The theme "Food for the Soul" was emphasized with inspirational presentations by our PW and entertaining and insightful storytelling by Rosa Metoyer. The group enjoyed a bus tour of the city and ample opportunity to enjoy food for the body.

The PW and our congregation suffered considerable loss in a short period of time. Within a three week period we lost Terri Middleton Brown, Queenie Griffin and Betty Broadnax. These wonderful women made significant contributions to our church family and to their communities. They will be missed.

*Georgia B. Harris, Moderator*

## PW Cordova Presbyterian Women

The Cordova PW began our year in August with a boxed luncheon and installation of officers: Moderator and Circle Chair Marilou Smith, Secretary Marilyn Branum, and Treasurers Lee O'Leary and Nikkie Patton, with an active membership of about 10. Our Bible studies followed a light breakfast, prepared by individual members, early on Sunday Morning before Sunday School. In addition, the Christmas Luncheon featured a storyteller and carols. Some of our women used their knitting skills to make caps that were donated to First Presbyterian's Soup Kitchen. Other projects included the Memphis Family Shelter and Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering. During the year we remembered our shut-ins and others in the congregation with special needs. In April, we enjoyed our Spring Retreat at Pinecrest. In preparation for the program, each participant was asked to think about her favorite Bible character and be prepared to tell why. May brought our most ambitious project--an old-fashioned church rummage sale. With help from the entire congregation's attics and garages, we gathered enough rummage for sales totaling slightly over \$700.00. \$500.00 was donated to Heifer International and the remainder to other mission projects. We will end our year with a fun summer get together at Olive Garden in July.

*Harland Lovell*

## PW Synod Together in Service Report

Hats off to our churches that collected the necessary items for putting together the Hygiene Kits for the Church World Services (CWS). Judy Parsons, the PW Together in Service Representative for the Synod of Living Waters, reported on the collection for the total of Synod PW stating "We recently had our Hygiene Kit Challenge which was a wonderful joint effort and a big help to CWS. Are you aware that by the time we sent our approximately 1300 kits to them, CWS had already shipped over 12,000 kits to Alabama alone? CWS prepares so that they can respond, not in a month or a week, but in one day. They are able to do that only with the help of people like PW." The Presbytery of the Mid-South put together more than 260 kits. Thanks to Jean Starnes for making arrangements to transport the 200 Kits that the women and members of our churches provided to CWS in Little Rock. One church in the Presbytery shipped 62 Kits separately.

Judy suggests that "as we go into the fall season, many are considering what mission projects to do. I would like to encourage you to consider establishing a long-term commitment to disaster relief efforts. This can be by making and sending Hygiene Kits (or any kit) to CWS, donating blood to Red Cross or helping any relief organization, and of course money is always needed. Remember, it was due to the efforts of people like you from all over the country that enabled Church World Services to send those kits to devastated areas as soon as they were needed. Let us help prepare for wherever the need comes next."

## PW Collierville Presbyterian Women

Our Presbyterian Women are continuing to sell the beautiful crocheted necklaces that were so popular during the holidays. Our PW contributed \$2000 of this money to Living Waters for the World. Proceeds above this amount will be used by the CPC PW for mission projects.

We are continuing to enjoy the lessons in our Horizons Bible Study "Journeys Through Revelation; Apocalyptic Hope for Today" and at this time have two lessons remaining.

Gifts from our PW group have given us a much-needed new stove for our Session Room Kitchen, and the installation of new cabinets is planned.

Ann Cross, Ruth Lewis, Karen Wimpee and Jo Hall attended the Annual Spring Gathering at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, TN, and enjoyed hearing the vivacious Tracey Kennan speak and lead the singing. One of the highlights was her song, "Walk".

Eight ladies from PW served lunch for our Annual Day School Teacher's Luncheon in April. The Moon Bounce, our PW annual event during Fair on the Square in Collierville was more of a success this year, with nicer weather prevailing. Proceeds were divided with most going to our Youth Group and the remainder to the PW group. Mary Ann Epperson represented CPC as PW Liaison at the CT meeting in Somerville. She reported that Joanne Schultz will be the Synod Global Exchange participant to India this year. To round out the month of April, several of our ladies served at the Soup Kitchen.

The Collierville PW Circle had our Annual Spring Gathering on May 14. Marti Becker, Vice Moderator for the Presbytery, gave an informative talk with slide presentation on Columbia Theological Seminary and Mission Haven. Ruth Lewis presented the Birthday Offering program. We also contributed monies toward making hygiene kits to be delivered to the Church World Service headquarters in Elkhart, Indiana, destined for the Japanese tsunami survivors. Some of the kits were also distributed to the SE United States for flooding and tornado victims.

*Jo Hall, Reporter*

## Grace Presbyterian Women

The women of Grace Presbyterian have been very busy. On May 15th, we collected our birthday offering and awarded an honorary life membership to Miree Pomeroy for 2011. Miree is a dedicated member of Grace and formerly Raleigh Presbyterian. The PW of Grace sponsored the Christmas Everyday Fund. These funds are used



to provide gifts and food to needy families in our area at Christmas time. While donations are accepted all year, the 2nd Sunday of each month is designated as our collection date. So far this year we have collected \$329.00. The PW of Grace also hosted a potluck/theme basket auction on June 26th. A total of 10 baskets were donated both by circles and individuals. We collected \$468.00 to go into the sanctuary new floor fund generated by the PW. We look forward to starting our Bible study on the Beatitudes and gathering for fellowship beginning in September.

*Wendi Glenn*

## PW Germantown Presbyterian Women

On June 21st, the guest speaker at the monthly PW Gathering of Germantown Presbyterian Church, was Jane Sanderson. Jane is the great-great granddaughter of Moses Neely and Jane Parks McDowell Neely, who were consistently active members in Germantown Presbyterian Church following their arrival in 1839. Moses Neely, along with the minister, Dr. Evans, were instrumental in saving Germantown Presbyterian Church's original sanctuary from the "orders" of burning all public buildings in Germantown, including churches, during the occupation of Federal troops in 1862. Jane's personal story was fascinating and we at GPC are so proud and grateful that the original Chapel still stands as a reminder to all of us of the struggles and battles that went on during that period of time in history.

*Barb Poier, Moderator*

## Annual Spring Gathering of 2011

The Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women was held on Saturday, April 2, 2011 at First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN, with 122 women in attendance, and 19 churches represented. The Reverend John White, Pastor, gave the welcome and opening prayer.

The Reverend Jimmie Lancaster, Executive Presbyter and Bonnie Blair, Moderator, Presbytery of the Mid-South welcomed the assembly. Martha Knichel, Churchwide CCT Representative gave an update. Vashti Crowder, PWP outgoing Moderator gave highlights of her term in office. Marti Becker, incoming Moderator presented Vashti a crystal bowl on behalf of the PWP.

The Reverend Dr. Tracy Keenan, a nationally known speaker, singer/song writer and Senior Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Ohio, delivered a dynamic, heart warming sermon on *Faith-Filled Friends Breaking Through Roofs and Seeing Jesus*.

Changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules were presented by Doris Webster and approved. Seven Churches received grants presented by Dot Payne Hartzog. Jackie Riddle, PW Ann Epperson, Southeast, Jan Strickland, Southwest, Shirley Jones, Northeast, Pam Wayer, Northwest, Mona Kernan, Central, and Earline York, Liaison-at-Large.

Marti Becker presented inspiring ideas and goals for her term of office. The Offering was given to Living Waters for the World and Columbia Friendship Circle, and Mission Haven.

Invitation to the 2012 Annual Gathering to be held at Evergreen PC was given by Gerre Gourley, PW Moderator, Evergreen and Nadine Oest, PW Moderator, Farmington, who will co-host the luncheon.

Rev. Keenan and Rev. White served Holy Communion.

*Bonnie Blair, Chair*



Reverend Dr. Tracy Keenan at  
Jackson First Annual Gathering



Marti Becker, PWP Moderator, Reverend Dr. Tracy Keenan, Guest speaker, Bonnie Blair, PWP Annual Gathering Chair

## PW, Farmington Presbyterian Church

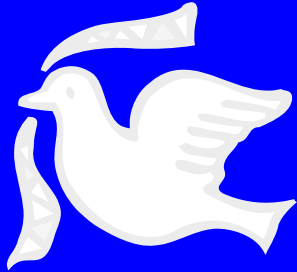
We look forward to our August Salad Supper, which traditionally begins our year, and we have invited the PW of Evergreen to join us this year. Evergreen PW will partner with Farmington to co-host the annual Spring Gathering in April 2012. The program and luncheon will be held at Evergreen Church and Farmington will prepare the lunch and refreshments. We look forward to working together. Farmington PW are pleased to be hosting the PWP Coordinating Team in November.

We continue our prayer shawl ministry and dedicated new shawls during our church service last week. Our ladies are looking forward to attending the Bible Study Conference at Pinecrest this month as this year's study of the Beatitudes promises to bring us new insight into Christ's messages to the people of his time. The study also addresses our role as women as we navigate the issues of the world today, and it challenges us on a personal level. The Beatitudes are no less valid for us in these troubled times.

Farmington is proud of our young women who have started a social group called *Dinner on the Town* (DOTT) that is open to all women of the church. Nationwide, as members of PW circles age, it sometimes becomes difficult to bridge the 'generation gap' and pass the torch, to our younger women, especially since many of the traditional women's roles have changed in this modern society, but they remain alive and well connected to the church. Through DOTT this past year, many friendships among the younger women have been cemented and their bonds with the church were strengthened. Several young DOTT women serve on the Session, on the Farmington School Board and on other church committees. We are very proud of these young PW, and I am happy to say my daughter is a member of this group. Someone recently quoted, "Just when you think the vine is dead, you see the new shoots." Now we see new shoots and new life in our church. God surely works in His own way and in His own time. We at Farmington are looking forward to a busy and interesting year.

*Nadine Oest, Moderator*

Presbyterian  
Women of the  
Mid-South



 **Finding Hope for the Future by Reviewing the Past**   
Psalm 146:1-2 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

We have experienced a lot of negative publicity in past months, indeed years, about our Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination. Let's look for the good in our church by reviewing the past. In Syria a ten-year old boy from an Armenian Christian community sits outside alone during the noon rest hour just to view a *real mountain*. From his densely populated, desert-like home, he never dreamed he would see real mountains or walk in nature among trees and grass. He had this wonderful experience in a summer camp, a project of the relief and development ministry in the PCUSA.

Presently, PCUSA mission personnel work in 50 countries around the world, proclaiming Christ's good news and building bridges in some of the world's most troubled places, and have provided both financial and "hands-on" support for global missions for more than a century. For instance, in Africa, some of the oldest and largest health care facilities were founded by the PCUSA, and during the past decade, they have sent more and more teams to provide assistance to the health programs in the under-developed world.

Over the years Presbyterian Women have given more than **\$29 million** in support of mission projects throughout the world. In our own Synod we had opportunity this year to participate in assembling and providing to Church World Service 1300 Hygiene Kits destined for tornado victims in Alabama and Mississippi, and other disaster areas. The project brought people together, taught children about helping others, and demonstrated God's love. Through these examples and many, many others, we can find the good in our PCUSA and praise God with joyful thanksgiving.

*Jean Markham*

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