

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
THE PRESBYTERY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE
2011 ANNUAL REPORT
July 6, 2011

Last year it was especially significant for our Coordinating Team to host our Fall Gathering at Monroe Harding (formerly Monroe Harding Children's Home) in Nashville, Tennessee. During the meeting, Reverend Monnie Caine, the guest speaker, gave an overview of the bible study lesson, the new PW Moderator was installed, and Phil Leftwich, who was retiring as the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, was presented an honorary lifetime membership from PW. In addition to the meeting and fellowship, first time visitors to Monroe Harding were welcomed with tours of the beautiful campus. All attendees participated in a mission project by supplying toiletries and socks for residents at Monroe Harding. Monroe Harding has been in existence since 1891 and supports the most vulnerable children and youth in a safe nurturing environment. Monroe Harding historically has been faithfully supported by churches in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and specifically by Middle Tennessee Presbyterian Women who serve as lead volunteers for many special projects that support this great ministry.

Churches in the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee are grouped into seven geographic "Clusters" to nurture communication and fellowship. After very successful "trial runs" of Spring Gatherings by cluster areas in 2010, our PW by-laws were amended to reflect the official adoption of PW Spring Gatherings by cluster areas. This year cluster areas continued to be creative with their meeting formats and mission activities.

On April 2, 2011, Cluster areas 1, 6 and 7 combined to host a Spring Cluster Gathering at Hillwood Presbyterian Church with the theme "Pursue Your Dream" Purses; attendees brought lightly used (and some new!) purses stocked with toiletries to be donated to women at the Salvation Army and a special donation was made to a clothing ministry for women who are re-entering the work force. A special offering was also given to a church for repairs related to storm damage. The speaker at the gathering was Reverend Sandra Randleman, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

On April 16, 2011 the PW of Allardt Presbyterian Church hosted the Spring Cluster Gathering for the Upper Cumberland area, cluster area 1. Lunch was provided at no cost to attendees and attendees donated handmade items to a silent auction that raised over \$500.00 for the PETEN of Guatemala Mission. PW women shared their different experiences through their involvement in different missions.

On April 30, 2011 at the Spring Cluster Gathering for cluster area 4 hosted by First Presbyterian Church Manchester, PW groups representing two churches donated baskets of new household kitchen items for families returning to their homes after being displaced by the May 2010 middle Tennessee flood and a special offering was provided to the PDA Nashville flood relief program. Pastor Michael McLaughlin, FPC Manchester and church member Ken Allen spoke about their Mission Trip to Guatemala in February 2011. A Minute for Mission was provided by Presbytery Middle Tennessee, Disaster Relief Coordinator, Rebecca Penza.

On April 30, 2011 the PW of Smyrna First Presbyterian Church hosted the Spring Cluster Gathering for cluster area 3. Rob Moreland, PDA shared information regarding PDA response during and after a disaster and Margie Gray, First Presbyterian Church Fayetteville shared a

Slide presentation and firsthand experiences about her trip to the Holy Land.
PW groups from cluster area 5 attended the Gatherings in areas 3 and 4.

Plans are underway for this year's Fall Gathering which will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at the Martha O' Bryan Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Susan Hulen, Assistant Professor of New Testament, Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Reverend Bridgette Green, Doctoral Student, Vanderbilt University Divinity School will preside over the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We will also be providing a training workshop for all women after lunch focusing on understanding the Presbytery and PW, PWCT roles, and involvement in missions.

In addition to special mission activities at our Spring Cluster and Fall Gatherings, PW across Middle Tennessee participate all year round in numerous missions designed to improve the welfare of individuals, families and communities. With local missions in the forefront, PW groups also meet mission challenges that extend beyond their immediate communities, meeting needs of others nationally and internationally. In May, Betty Currey, a PWCT member, coordinated the development of hygiene kits in answer to a challenge from Judy Persons who was coordinating a regional effort to make hygiene kits that were donated to Church World Service.

Our focus last year and this year continues to be on revitalizing PW, filling CT vacancies and serving others.

Joyce N. Harris
Moderator