

Moderator's Annual Report  
Presbytery of Mississippi  
April, 2011

In the book of Revelation we read about Laodicea, which was neither hot nor cold—a lukewarm church. What did God say He would do to them? (He would spit them out of his mouth.) This is where the famous passage about Jesus knocking on your heart's door comes from. (3:20) Our passionate God invites them to eat with Him! And as they overcome their lukewarmness, the Bible tells us that the overcomers will sit with Him on the throne. I'm here to tell you that I don't see many lukewarm churches!

Last year at our Fall Gatherings I challenged each of you to discover what God would have you become passionate about. This year at our Fall Gatherings we learned that you are passionate about missions. Each church told about their missions projects. They were astounding. You are feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sharing the Good News in Word and deed. You are demonstrating that Christ brings life through food banks, clothing banks learning centers, crisis centers for women and for children. You are providing prayer shawls, layettes, mosquito nets. You save stamps, labels, anything that can be turned into a form of assistance for the needy. You help people to see through glasses collections.

You demonstrated your passion for those whom God loves by giving to:

Feed My Sheep in Cluster A  
Eve's House in Cluster B

Capitol Campaign for Stewpot in Cluster C  
Sunshine Center for Children in Cluster D

Your prayers are mighty as well. Not long ago Mary Mikhael wrote to us about the turmoil in Lebanon. We asked you to pray for Lebanon. To date your prayers have been answered. Mary reports that things have quieted down there. Keep praying for Lebanon as tensions escalate elsewhere.

Through prayer and Bible study we grow as Presbyterian Women. Our study of Revelation, I think, has made us realize that no matter what happens in this world, God will triumph. After each seal, each trumpet comes the resounding acclamation that all honor, praise, and glory belong to God and to the Lamb. That is our promise, our hope and our praise to God alone.

Besides actively engaging in missions, prayer and Bible study, we strengthened our bonds with other Presbyterian Women. Fifteen or so of you enjoyed taking classes and worshiping with the women of North Alabama, Sheperds and Lapsley, South Alabama, and St. Andrews Presbyteries. You may not realize how unique and wonderful our conference is. Not too many presbyteries have such a conference. This year's AL/MS Conference will be in Montgomery, July 20-22, 2011. I hope you will all attend.

Next year, in 2012, we have the opportunity to learn and to worship with PW's from all across the United States and many other countries. The Churchwide Gathering will be in Orlando, FL July 18th to 22<sup>nd</sup>. I'm sure you will hear more about this. Jackie Moran and I went to the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville in 2009. What an incredible experience that was!

In the Winter, when its cold and damp, our hearts were warmed by the Winter Retreat. The Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller helped 43 of us to understand how the arts and our creative talents can be used to glorify God and enhance our worship.

I am looking forward to a new year in PW. Sara Brown, our newly elected moderator, has chosen "Blessings without Boundaries" as her theme. I am intrigued by the idea that we have been blessed to be a blessing. Perhaps next year's study of the Beatitudes (or blessings) will help us understand what God has in store for us.

Peace,

*Pam McDonald*