



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PRESBYTERY OF MISSISSIPPI

November 2007

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Moderator's Report – Myra Hester

We began our Fall Cluster Gatherings on Saturday September 8 at First Presbyterian Church in Port Gibson, a beautiful historical church that is celebrating their 200th birthday this year. We were among the first to be able to sit on the newly refurbished pew cushions, which still retain their original horsehair stuffing according to Rev. Michael Herrin who gave us a brief history of the church as we began. Dr. Betsy Lipscomb introduced the offering objective, the Society of St. Andrews, which addresses hunger issues in this country in a variety of ways.

Our next Gathering was Cluster B hosted by Jones Memorial Presbyterian in Meridian on Thursday September 13. The offering objective for this cluster was Habitat for Humanity presented by Fonda Rush, Director for Habitat in this area. During lunch we got to hear about the Fall Festival and Catfish Fry they were planning and got a chance to buy raffle tickets for the quilt they had made.

On Saturday September 29, Cluster C gathered at Briarwood Presbyterian in Jackson. Gloria Moorman, Moderator of Mid-KY Presbytery PW, was our guest speaker on Justice and Peace. In addition to the leaders' workshops, Anne Hodges gave a workshop on Briarwood's new prayer shawl ministry, including hands-on knitting instructions. Gloria had a prayer shawl started to knit on her way home. Mickey Velkey presented the offering objective, The Flowers Shelter at Stewpot Ministries in Jackson.

For our final Cluster A Gathering, we met at Hansboro in Gulfport on Saturday, October 6. Rev. Scott Castleman welcomed us to this historic church and gave us some history of this beautiful church as well. Dianna Kuns presented the offering cause, the Harrison County Children's Shelter. This was also the weekend for Cruisin' the Coast, one of the biggest special events in Mississippi, so as we left our gathering we drove along Highway 90 and waved at the folks in lawn chairs looking for cool cars.

At each Gathering, Norma Lopper gave us an inspiring introduction to this year's Bible Study "Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth". Dr. Bill dePrater, our Executive Presbyter, also spoke and gave us updates on what is happening in the Presbytery of Mississippi as well as in the larger church. All the workshops for leaders went well, we just wish more could have attended and gotten in on the lively discussions and idea swaps that always occur when Presbyterian Women heads get together!

We had over 200 to attend the four cluster gatherings with offerings of over \$2,000.00 for the four mission objectives.

Thank You from Gloria Moorman

Myra, I don't know where to begin. I enjoyed myself so very much. You will have to offer a workshop on your photography talents. I was delightfully surprised to have pictures so soon. Myra's Bed & Coffee was the best. I will miss my special living quarters, coffee on the deck and a most pleasant indescribable southern hospitality.

Thank you for inviting me. I pray first that God was pleased and that you were okay with how everything went, especially my presence. I prayed and believe God intended for me to share the words of caring and supporting each other to my sisters there. We can be creative in developing so many fun and exciting ideas to support mission, justice and peace. Nothing will be sustaining if we allow sisters to fall through the cracks because they feel unloved, unwanted, and unnecessary by their peers. On the plane, as I read scriptures, I ran across several that I would like to share with Mississippi Presbytery PW. I will gather my notes and send them to you. Please share with those who are directly or indirectly affected by the challenges facing Mississippi Presbytery.

Love and Peace, ~Gloria



Gloria Moorman with Diane Blankenhorn at the Cluster C meeting at Briarwood in Jackson.

Together in Service Report – Sara Brown

I went to the four Cluster Gatherings and had a good turn out at each for training. The class was to give information on mission opportunities and the special offerings that the PW groups take each year. I hope that each church has a guide book telling the suggestions for missions. If any church doesn't have a guide book I will be glad to send them a copy if they let me know. Each church can select whatever projects they want to do.

Casserole Caravans – Inez Dunlap

Hello all. The Casserole Caravan continues! The work on the coast is going strong and hungry workers are still hoping to enjoy a home-made southern delight. Whole houses are being built from the ground up using prefabricated parts sent by the Amish people.

Of course the repair and rebuilding of damaged homes continues. Let's get busy cooking and do what we can to help boost this worthy mission. The schedule is the same as last year: Cluster B in November: Cluster C in December and Cluster D in January. Happy cooking!

Fall 2007 Cluster Meetings in Pictures

Cluster D Meeting in Port Gibson



Cluster B Meeting in Meridian



Cluster C Meeting in Jackson



Cluster A Meeting in Gulfport



PW Service Projects:

Trinity Meridian: Presbyterian Women of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Meridian, Mississippi for the past several years has been making about 350 cupcakes each month for our local Boys & Girls Club. The children all look forward to this homemade treat. Accepting our Synod's Moderator's Challenge we looked for another project in our community to benefit women or children. Since we already have a connection with the Boys & Girls Club, it seemed like a perfect fit. We all know that school supplies are consumable; therefore, we felt this was more than just a one time need of the children. We decided to collect the basics: spiral notebooks, loose-leaf paper, crayons, markers, pencils, pens, and folders. Also we realized they often have other donations at the beginning of the school year. Therefore, it was decided to store the supplies at Trinity and deliver them during the year as needed.

Briarwood Jackson: Briarwood Presbyterian Women held their Dorcas Auction on October 4. The purpose of the annual event is to raise money for various facilities for the developmentally disabled. The year's evening featured a soup supper, white elephant sale, silent auction, and live auction. Ladies attending the lively and fun evening raised \$3,450.00 to benefit Mustard Seed and Baddour Center.

Briarwood PW also collects school supplies for the children in the Jackson Public Schools.

PW Honorary Life Membership Changes

The PW Honorary Life Membership Program office announces two changes beginning January 1, 2008:

1. On the occasion of the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Presbyterian Women in 2008, there will be a 10 K gold HLM pin available for \$250.00.
2. The sterling silver HLM pin will increase in price to \$95.00.

Revenue from the Honorary Life Membership program supports the Leadership Development Grant program. To learn more about Honorary Life Memberships or to download an order form, visit www.pcusa.org/pw/gifts <<http://www.pcusa.org/pw/gifts>> or call 888/728-7228, ext. 8014.

Kaleidoscope Information

Kaleidoscope is February 8-9, 2008. The following link will take you to the Kaleidoscope website with speaker, classes and registration information.

<http://www.first-trinity.org/kaldscp/kaldscp.html>

New Address for Presbytery Office

The Presbytery of Mississippi office has moved. The new location is 107 N. 25th Ave., Hattiesburg, MS 39401 (next door to Westminster Presbyterian Church). The new mailing address is P.O. Box 16837, Hattiesburg, MS 39404-6837.

13th Annual Winter Retreat, January 25-26, 2008
St. Mary of the Pines - Chatawa, Mississippi
"Finding God....Finding Home"

Retreat Leader is Dee Koza. Dee is a certified Presbyterian Church USA Educator with experience in local, presbytery, and national level educational positions. A national keynote/consultant, Dee continues to concentrate on faith development, vision/mission planning, narrative in worship, and youth ministry. Her latest published works are Faithful Living in a Time of Violence and Peace Knows No Season.

Contact Jane Bloss at janebloss@aol.com for registration information and forms.

In Memory



Lucile Smith of Westminster, Gulfport transferred to the Church Triumphant on October 26. She was a charter member of Westminster, and the first woman ordained as an elder, serving several 3-year terms. She also served Westminster as President of Women of the Church and Moderator of Presbyterian Women for four separate terms. She was active in PW on the Presbytery level, serving on the Coordinating Team, and attending many Gatherings, Cluster meetings and retreats. She was awarded an Honorary Life membership by South Mississippi Presbytery in 1974, and by Westminster in 1978. She will be greatly missed.

Synod PW News

**PARTICIPANTS ANNOUNCED
for
PW GLOBAL EXCHANGE FOR 2008
Synod of Living Waters
Fund Raising Request**

For Global Exchange, 2008

October 15, 2007

Dear Presbyterian Women Sisters,

Anna McIlwain of Shephards and Lapsley Presbytery has been selected to represent the Synod of Living Waters when the PW Global Exchange travels to Eastern Europe in September of 2008. We are honored to have someone chosen from our Synod. A group of women from Eastern Europe - Hungary, Czech Republic and Ukraine – will be invited to attend the 2009 Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, KY.

The theme of this Global Exchange is “Joined and knit together in love”. I know that we will want to encourage all of the participants as they prepare for their adventure. The focuses of this Global Exchange is to discover how our church partners have fared and are in ministry since the end of Communism, how the societies are dealing with minority populations, and the issues facing women and children in these societies.

Resources for study and information about the countries to be visited will be in future issues of *Horizons* magazine and on the Presbyterian Women’s web site, www.pcusa.org/pw. Because Anna will represent us, study the resources to prepare, and take three weeks to travel in September 2008, we are privileged to assist her financially. The cost of the trip is \$4500 for each participant. I am hoping that PW in each church and every presbytery in our synod will contribute as they are able to the 2008 Global Exchange. A remittance form is attached, and all money must be forwarded from your presbytery to our Synod Treasurer, Jean Starnes. Your support will be appreciated! Consider that you are paying the honorarium for a future program when Anna can come to you to interpret the Exchange.

Participation in the Global Exchange changes lives and opens the participants to seeing the world in a different light. Feel free to share this letter with others and plan to schedule a presentation by Anna in the two years following her return.

You may reach me at hillside2two@roadrunner.com with questions regarding the Global Exchange and about scheduling a program. Do not hesitate to call me if there is some way I can help your PW.

Peace and Joy,
Mary Weber
Moderator of Presbyterian Women
Synod of Living Water

Prayer Cues from Mary Weber

*Moderator of Presbyterian Women
Synod of Living Water*

So far in my travels around the Synod I have found several things that hold us together as women of faith. To me one of the most important is prayer. No matter our age, our physical condition, or our walk in life—we can pray. Using a cue to remind me to pray has impacted my prayer life in a positive way, and I hope that you will consider trying it out yourself.

In the 1970's I attended a Bible study class in our church in Mesa, Arizona. One of the class members, a local pediatrician, mentioned that every time he heard a siren he prayed for the patient and for the medical staff providing the care. I was impressed that a doctor would admit that he turned to God in that way.

The Scriptures admonish us to “pray without ceasing,” (1 Thessalonians 5:17.) My prayers, though heartfelt, were infrequent, certainly not continuous. Perhaps the use of a cue, like my doctor friend used a siren, could help my prayer life. But, like good intentions to improve my diet, I let the idea languish.

It is only in recent years that I have tried to put this principle into practice. When I was teaching, I was impressed with “Lessons from the Geese” and used them as rules for my classroom. When a family member experienced some work related trouble, I looked up and saw geese flying overhead. I began to pray every time I saw geese flying in formation. God gives many messages through geese—to take turns leading so that we can benefit from the efforts of others, to get ourselves back in line, to take care of each other when we are hurt, and to be sure that our honking is for encouragement.

Continuing to pray whenever I saw geese, I gradually realized that every bird I saw was cueing me to pray. A single bird making its way through the air provided personal messages of God's love and care for me. Or it might help me to pray for those who are lonely or who don't belong. Groups of birds reminded me of others and prompted me to pray for the corporate body.

As I had hoped, my prayer life had become enriched. This is not the only time I pray, but it adds to the frequency and meaningfulness of my prayers. I have been surprised at the infinite variety of messages that God sends to me through my observation of birds.

If you want to try this for yourself, let your prayer cue find you. It may be something that you experience every day—the buzzing of the clothes dryer, the ring of the telephone, a red light in traffic. One woman prays each time she turns on a light switch. With our Synod interest in Living Waters for the World, you might want to pray each time you turn on the water tap or drink a glass of water. Whatever you choose, I hope you find that your prayer life becomes enriched as mine has. For when we pray, we are fulfilling one of the purposes of Presbyterian Women.

Website for PW Synod

PW Synod website www.pwslivingwaters.org <<http://www.pwslivingwaters.org>>