

The Pitcher



Dedicated to the dissemination of news for Presbyterian Women
Of the North Alabama Presbytery

November 2008

Greetings from your Moderator:

Soon I'll be preparing my yearly report for Presbytery and it will be included in your Spring Gathering materials. It's amazing how many PW related events there are to attend, and there is something available for every level of interest. My main concern is that we all remember that we are a connectional church, and that everyone needs to try to attend at least a few events outside their own church. As we become smaller and older, these connections become even more important.

That leads to the calendar of opportunities for upcoming events. First on the list is to submit your Mission Pledge Form to me ASAP if you haven't done so already. Your Presbytery, Synod, Churchwide and Mission PW budgets cannot be made without this information.

On February 17, 2009, the PW Presbytery CT will meet to plan our Spring Gathering that will be held on **April 14, 2009**, at **Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville**. Vice Moderator, Carol Copeland, has already been at work, and Anna McIlwain of Talladega, AL, will be our guest speaker at Spring Gathering. Anna participated in the September 2008 Global Exchange Program to Eastern Europe, and will be here to tell of her experiences. Also, Mary Weber, our PW Synod Moderator, plans to attend and will install our new leaders and give an overview of what's going on in the larger church.

Two days after our Spring Gathering, on April 16, is *Come See Columbia Day* at **Columbia Seminary in Decatur, GA**. If you've never visited Columbia, you really want to be to this meeting. Dr. Laura Mendenhall, President of Columbia Seminary, is retiring this summer, and will be preaching at our April 16 meeting. PW from the Synods of South Atlantic and Living Waters will be presenting Dr. Mendenhall with a PW Lifetime Membership Pin, and the program will include bagpipers and banners from all the presbyteries. It should be very festive so I hope you'll start making plans to attend. This is an event you don't want to miss! You will also have an opportunity to meet the recipients of this year's Columbia Friendship Circle Scholarships. I got a sneak preview in October, and they are amazing students with stories you will want to hear. Several low cost overnight rooms will be available at the seminary on a first come basis, so make reservations early.

There are two other summer events to get on your calendar. **AL-MS** will be **July 21-24, 2009, in Starkville, MS**. You will receive program and registration information at Spring Gathering. The other event is the **PW Churchwide Triennial Gathering** that will take place **July 11-15, 2009, in Louisville, KY**. Churchwide Gathering is your opportunity to meet with 3,000 other Presbyterian Women to worship, fellowship and study. Early bird registration (\$380) for that event ends May 15, 2009. After that the price goes up. There are registration instructions and forms in the Sept/Oct 2008 Issue of Horizons, or you can contact me, and I'll send as many as you want. They will also be available at Spring Gathering, but you need to register early to get the classes and hotels you want.

PW from all Presbyteries are being asked to provide original quilt squares to be used at the Churchwide Triennial Gathering .At our last Fall Gathering when I explained this need, Pat Kyser's name was immediately mentioned by several women from Huntsville. As it turns out, Pat has a long list of quilting credentials, and even though she has had recent surgery, she has agreed to provide the square for North AL Presbytery. She is a PW at First Huntsville, and we are very grateful to her for doing this at this especially busy time of the year. We'll share a picture of our square with you all at Spring Gathering.

Lucy

What's Going On!

Elonda Harris

Fellowships' Presbyterian Women Supported the Congo Palm Project Mission. With funding from the project women's groups and hospitals are able to participate in the planting, maintenance and harvest of the crop. A small plantation of 450 palm trees at a high school will cover tuition costs for 60 girls. One \$20,000 investment from PW will fund 80 hectares of palm trees that will generate \$200,000 per year for 30 years and subsidize educational programs, hospital and clinics. Fellowship Church donated \$500.00 to the project.

Fellowship PW donated over 1000 magazines to The Senior Horizons Volunteer Organization at Huntsville Hospital. The organization accepts used magazines for distribution to patients in the hospital...a simple act of kindness to brighten someone's spirits.

Joyce Counter

Athens First Presbyterian Women gathered for their annual Harvest Luncheon at noon on November 1, 2008. Forty ladies enjoyed delightful food prepared by the Kitchen Angels and beautiful Fall table decorations.

Charlotte Lyle, Moderator, welcomed all, including PWP Moderator Lucy Harris. Rev. Jaina Anderson shared an outstanding video made by FPC's youth group illustrating this year's PW Jubilee Bible Study. Then the group celebrated the 20th anniversary of the present PW organization by reminiscing about our members ancestors through the sharing of wedding dresses worn over five generations beginning with a great grandmother's dress from the 1880s and ending with a daughter's dress worn in 1983. FPC youth group girls modeled some of the dresses.

Sue Vice, Together in Service Coordinator, shared information about the 2008 Thank Offering and thanked members for bringing a bountiful amount of toiletries for Crisis Services. A Thank Offering of \$1017.00 was dedicated to God's Glory. Extinguishing the Christ Candle and reciting the Mispah Benediction brought the gathering to a close.

Stella Wilson

First, Huntsville has recently started a Prayer Shawl Ministry. We have been meeting for about six weeks and have an average attendance of 12 ladies. We have had as many as 16 at one meeting. We have ladies from Fellowship and Big Cove joining us. Several of the ladies had never knit before but are fast becoming pro's now. Some crochet – some knit. This past Wednesday we had a special speaker, Mary Romer from First. She had an accident in 2005 and was blessed to receive two prayer shawls – one from a local Methodist church and one from a local Catholic church. She spoke to us on how much the shawls meant to her and how she could feel God's presence as she wrapped the shawls around her body. We have knit eight shawls already and are planning a "Blessing Ceremony" soon.

If you are in the Huntsville area and would like to join us, we meet every Wednesday at 1:30 in our church library.

Good Morning all,

As a member of the Churchwide Coordinating Team and a member of the Missions Relations Committee of that team, I received this information. With Christmas coming up fast, I think this would be a great project for any church, or group in the church. I feel sure that some of you have already heard of the needs of PDA, but another reminder can't hurt.

Urgent need for Gift of the Heart kits

Recent hurricanes have taken a toll of the inventory of Gift of the Heart kits. An urgent appeal for the kits has been issued to help families affected by the storms. The following list shows the large number of kits that have been sent.

- 3,266 clean-up buckets to Louisiana and Texas
- 11,420 hygiene kits to Louisiana and Texas
- 5,000 hygiene kits to Haiti
- 5,000 school kits to Haiti
- 864 baby kits to Louisiana

Especially needed at this time are clean-up buckets to be sent to the warehouse at Ferncliff Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center. Ferncliff will be providing the clean-up buckets to families in Texas and Louisiana affected by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Information on assembling the kits or on making a donation to support the purchase of kits supplies can be found at:

<http://www.pcusa.org/pda/help/goh.htm>

Thanks and God Bless,

Martha Knichel