

October, 2009 Report of Presbyterian Women of St. Andrew Presbytery

Reported by Debbie Connolly, Moderator

These last 16 months since my last report to Synod have truly been a blessing to me, so many uplifting events have taken place - 2 great AL/MS Conferences, my first Churchwide Gathering and our own Presbytery gatherings.

The Fall Cluster meetings in 2008,, held in Nesbit, Starkville and Cleveland, were well-attended and the Horizons Bible Study, "Jubilee: Luke's Gospel to the Poor" was previewed by 3 inspirational leaders. We were especially excited by the turnout at Nesbit, which is new to PW and had never hosted an event. They did an outstanding job, led by their member, Gail Bartlett, Cluster A Leader. Their fellowship hall was too small to seat us all so we enjoyed a "picnic in the sanctuary at the conclusion of the meeting!

Batesville Presbyterian Church hosted our annual CT meeting the evening of March 24th, followed by our Spring Gathering the next day. We enjoyed a presentation by Anna McIlwain from Sheppards & Lapsley Presbytery on her trip to Eastern Europe with the Global Exchange. Her husband, Jim, accompanied her to present pictures from the trip on the PowerPoint program. The Gathering concluded with the election and installation of new leaders, followed by a delicious catered lunch in their beautiful fellowship hall, converted from the former sanctuary. Batesville Moderator, Michelle Mundroff, and her planning team did a great job as Hostesses.

I was so thrilled to attend the Triennial Churchwide Gathering in Louisville in July. It was truly a blessing to worship, work and dine with 2,500 Presbyterian women from all over the world. The singing at the plenary sessions was the highlight for me as we truly made a joyful noise! Kudos go out to South Alabama's Bligh Jones and her planning team for these sessions.

Our Fall Gathering was held on Saturday, August 29th at the Cornerstone Lodge at Camp Hopewell, hosted by the PWP Coordinating Team. We enjoyed delicious refreshments beginning at 9 am followed by our plenary session and the overview of our Bible Study, "Joshua: A Journey of Faith" led by my husband, Rev. Bill Connolly. Following a short break, Cluster C Leader, Nancy Bryson, led a panel discussion/workshop on the duties of PW leaders. This event was well-attended by PW from all 6 areas in our Presbytery, with a total attendance of 45. Normally we have 3 Cluster meetings in the fall, which are spread out around the Presbytery, but decided to try this one gathering this year to reduce travel expenses of the Coordinating Team and enable us to combine the Bible study overview with leadership training. I have received some very positive feedback from this event.

As we approach the end of the year, with my 2 year call as Moderator of PW in St. Andrew Presbytery also nearing an end, I praise you all for your work in PW and look forward to the next chapter in my 30 year journey with Presbyterian women.