



The Linkage



Presbyterian Women
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

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Dear Sisters in Christ! I'm writing this on another "week after". The PWP CT met here last Saturday for our winter meeting. It is always an enormous blessing to all of us to be together to do the work of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery. As we shared our joys and some sorrows I was struck by the fact once again that we are family. I wish this for each PW and it would be refreshing to have new faces around the "table". Why not join us as we do the work and serve our Lord together. Think about your involvement and call Beth Barker today! We have several "elect" positions to fill. (See page 5.)

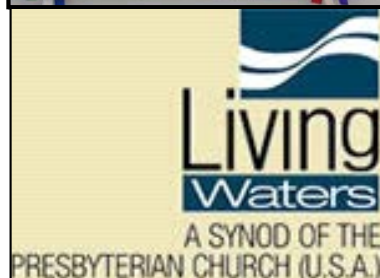
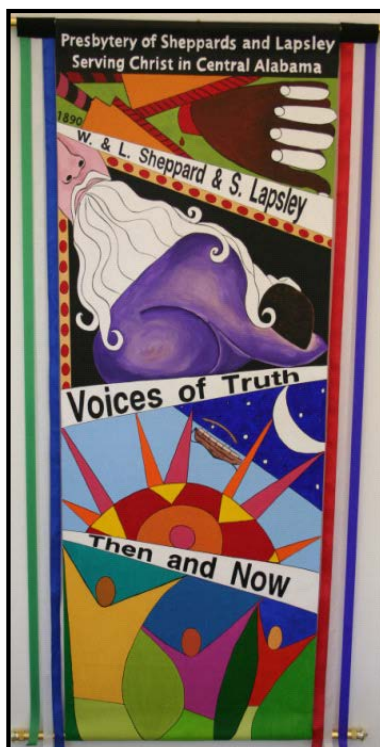
Annual Spring Gathering is upon us—Saturday, March 17th at Shades Valley Presbyterian, Birmingham. A special celebration—our 25th—same place as the first one with the same "old" Moderator as the first time! Members of that first CT will be invited and introduced. Flyer enclosed—pages 2 and 3.

The Triennial Churchwide Gathering was also on our minds as we planned. It will be July 18-22 in Orlando, FL. Three Voting Reps to the Business meeting were chosen and others have received scholarships. **ARE YOU GOING? LET ME KNOW—csjordan4@charter.net— THERE WILL BE A SYNOD LUNCH ON SATURDAY AND I WILL BE GLAD TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR YOU. I ALSO NEED TO LET OUR SYNOD MODERATOR KNOW HOW MANY OF US WILL BE THERE.**

"Come See Columbia" is April 19th at the Seminary.

AL/MS is early because of Churchwide. It will be at Covenant Presbyterian in Huntsville, June 20-22. Brochures/Registration forms will be available at the Spring Gathering.

Fill up your calendars and your gas tanks and join us for these wonderful times of fellowship, worship, learning about mission opportunities and good food. I'll look forward to seeing you at all of these celebrations. A favorite word of mine is CONNECTIONAL and we are just that in our PW and our beloved Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Shalom.



25th Annual Spring Gathering
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

Saturday, March 17, 2012

“Celebrating our Silver Jubilee”



Shades Valley Presbyterian Church
2305 Montevallo Road
Birmingham, AL 35223

Worship Leader:

The Reverend Dr. Becky Burton
Executive Presbyter - Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

Presentations:

First Light Shelter – Deborah Everson, Assistant Director

Synod of Living Waters – Jackie Riddle, PWS Moderator

Presbyterian Home for Children – Karla Conway

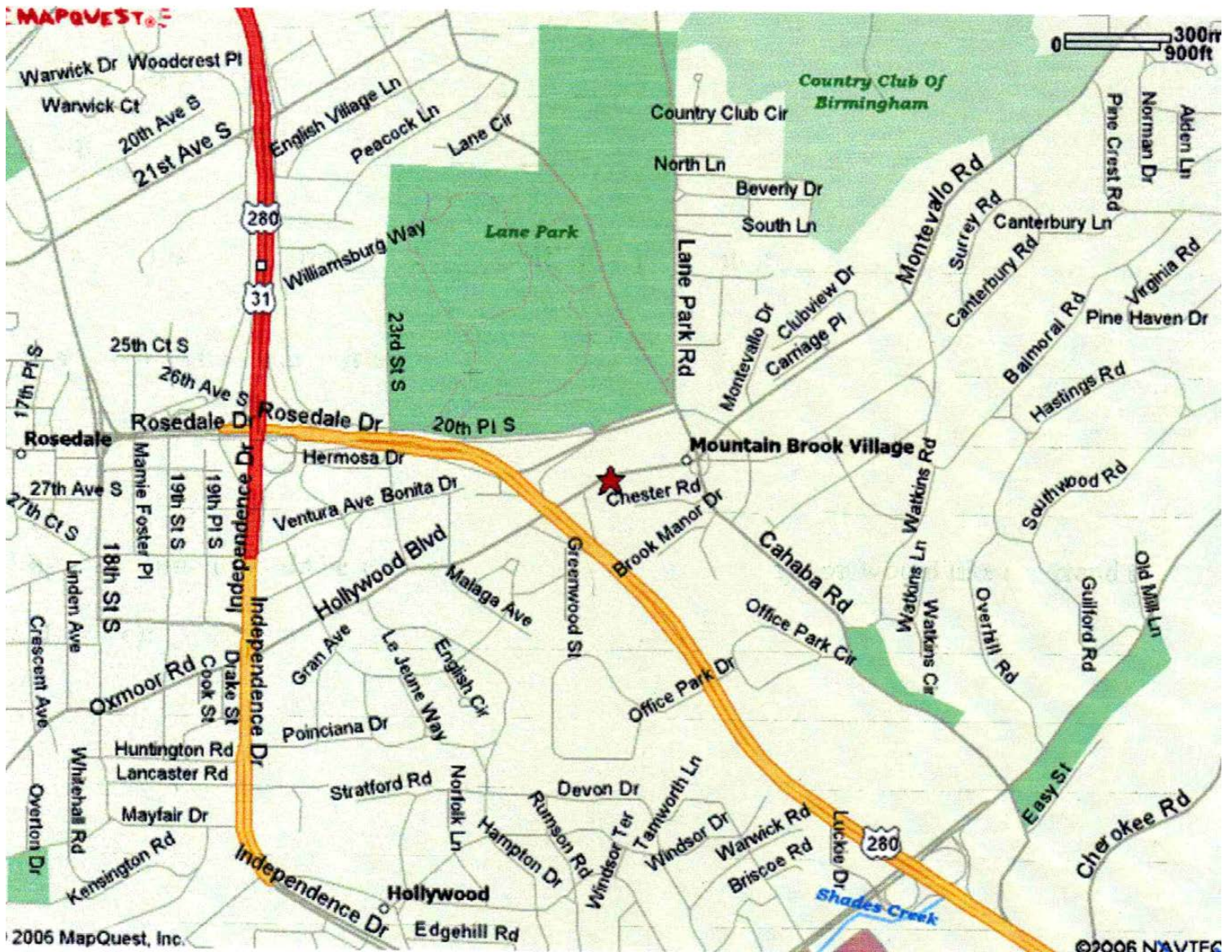
Mission Displays – Individual Churches

Registration – 9:00 a.m. Program – 9:30 a.m.

\$8.00 pre-paid Lunch to follow program and worship

Please pre-register with your cluster leader by March 3, 2012

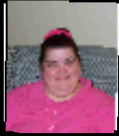
Shades Valley Presbyterian Church
2305 Montevallo Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35223
(205) 871-7309



In Birmingham: Traveling on Hwy. 280 West towards downtown, we are located off the Hollywood Blvd. exit, between the ramp and Brombergs in Mtn. Brook Village. Directly beside Express Oil. *Note: The road and city limit changes names beginning with our property line.

From Tuscaloosa I-59 East and I-65 South towards Birmingham: Merge onto I-59 East towards Atlanta. From I-59 E, near the Downtown Birmingham Civic Center, take the Carraway Blvd. ramp and stay to the left towards US Hwy. 31. From Hwy. 31, turn left at the 3rd red light onto Hollywood Blvd. Go through 2 stop signs. Church will be on the right just over the bridge, next to Express Oil.

From Anniston/Leeds area off I-20: Take I-20 West towards Birmingham. Take the I-459 exit towards Tuscaloosa. Take the Hwy. 280 exit and go west, bear to the right on ramp. Stay on Hwy. 280 until you see the Hollywood Blvd. exit (approximately 4-5 miles). At the top of ramp, turn right. We are directly beside Express Oil at the top of ramp.



CALLING ALL LEADERS

By: Dotty Lessley

2012 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

I have a very simple question for you. Have you ever been to a the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women? If the answer is no, you have missed out on a really great time of fellowship, discovery, learning, music, worship, and shopping! Now, I could have added a lot more verbs in the previous sentence. But, I didn't want to spread it on too thick.

I attended my first Churchwide Gathering in 2009. It was fantastic! I had a great time meeting women from around the world. The plenary sessions were uplifting and had you on your feet singing, laughing, clapping, and at times crying. You could truly feel the Spirit moving among us! The workshops and forums were informative. Mealtimes found you lingering with conversations with your tablemates. The Marketplace filled your bags with gifts for everyone on your list. It was awesome!

This year I am attending the Churchwide Gathering as a voting representative. I am so looking forward to taking everything in once again. I have looked through my registration booklet so many times that I am beginning to wear it out.

I look forward to the music leaders, Jan Richardson and Darci McKinnon, kicking off worship with songs of praise. They will be accompanied by Cindy Sutton. You will be singing these songs for years to come. You will find yourselves humming the tunes over and over again. You know what I mean.

Ingrid Reneau, a PC(USA) mission coworker in Sudan will provide information about the ongoing issues in Sudan. Noelle Damico will speak to us about human trafficking. Megan Manas will address maternal health. Kathy Angi will tell about her work on the Carpathian Basin-Ukraine Water/Solar Projects. Pix Mahler will share her work as a stateside-based mission coworker with Haiti. Dave Moore will speak about Beth-El Farmworker Ministry. Future Horizons Bible Study authors, Nancy Benson-Nicol (2012 - 2013 *Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles*), Janice Catron (2013 - 2014 Exodus), and Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty (2014 - 2015 2 Corinthians), will share their studies.

I absolutely love one of the new features this year. They will have a Chat and Chew PW Book Club during mealtimes. Tables will be set aside and marked for discussions on specific books. The books are: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot; *The Sisters of Sinai: How Two Lady Adventurers Discovered the Hidden Gospels*, by Janet Soskice; *The History of Love : A Novel*, by Nicole Krauss; *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barbery; *Pearl*, by Mary Gordon; and *Prodigal Summer: A Novel*, by Barbara Kingsolver. So, if you are a book lover like I am, check out one or more of the books and enjoy!

You absolutely must go to at least one Churchwide Gathering in your lifetime! If you go once, you will want to go again. I hope to see you in Orlando!

Blessings,
Dotty Lessley



REPORT OF COORDINATOR OF SEARCH COMMITTEE

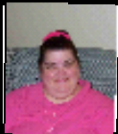
By: Beth Barker

NEW AND CONTINUING PW LEADERS

OFFICE	NAME	CHURCH	TERM
MODERATOR	Carolyn Jordan	Southminster	2013
Moderator Elect			
Recording Secretary	Anne Thomas	Grace, Trussville	2013
Recording Secretary-Sub.	Libby McKean	Center Point	2013
Treasurer	Zoe Powell	Eufaula	2013
Financial Secretary	Judy Boyes	Southminster - Birmingham	2013
Financial Secretary-Elect			
Coordinator of Mission	Carol Rylee	Westminster - Montgomery	2013
Coordinator of Mission-Elect			
Peace & Justice Coordinator	Gene Fritz	First United - Anniston	2013
Peace & Justice Coordinator-Elect			
Historian	Dotty Lessley	Sylacauga	2013
Historian-Elect			
Coordinator of Gatherings	Melissa Scott	Memorial - Montgomery	2013
Coordinator of Gatherings-Elect			
Coordinator of Search	Beth Barker	First Presbyterian - Bessemer	2013
Coordinator of Search - Elect			
Cluster Leader-Anniston	Carrie Hutcherson	First United - Anniston	2013
Cluster Leader-Anniston-Elect			
Cluster Leader - Auburn	Zoe Powell	Eufaula	2013
Cluster Leader - Auburn-Elect			
Cluster Leader-B'ham East	Paula Haynes	Center Point	2013
Cluster Leader-B'ham East-Elect			
Cluster Leader-B'ham West	Shirley Jones	First Presbyterian - Bessemer	2013
Cluster Leader-B'ham West-Elect			
Cluster Leader-Mtgy/Selma	Cindy Hoffmaster	Westminster - Montgomery	2013
Cluster Co-Leader-Mtgy/Selma	Bette Lewis	Westminster - Montgomery	2013
Cluster Leader-Mtgy/Selma-Elect			
Cluster Leader-Tuscaloosa	Olympia McCrackin	Brown Memorial	2012
Cluster Leader-Tuscaloosa	Shelley Hancock	First - Tuscaloosa	2013

Appointed Leaders:

Corresponding Secretary			
Directory Editor			
Horizons Representative	Thelma Gibson	Westminster - Birmingham	
Horizons - Elect	Gloria Dennard	Westminster - Birmingham	
Finance Comm - Member at Large	Kathy Tracey	South Highland - Birmingham	



HISTORIAN'S REPORT

By: Dotty Lessley

Greetings Ladies!

Can it be? We are already in the month of February! Time certainly slips away from you, doesn't it? I am hard at work gathering all of your History Reports and Necrologies. As of this writing, I have received seventeen full reports (both history and necrology), two histories only, and three necrology only with twenty-two churches reporting. I will be making phone contacts to gather more reports in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you to all of the cluster leaders, historians, moderators, and church contacts who have helped gather up the historian reports and necrologies. I know the hard work you put in to accomplish this task. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Keeping a history is extremely important. It provides a snapshot glimpse into the very life of the Presbyterian Women from a local, presbytery, synod, and churchwide level. It is exactly like putting a puzzle together. Each local church is a puzzle piece. Our PW puzzle is not complete without your piece of the puzzle. We cannot see the whole picture without you.

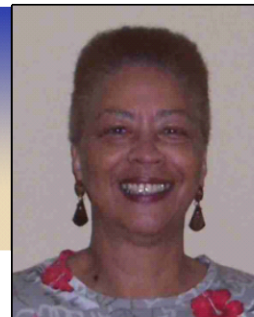
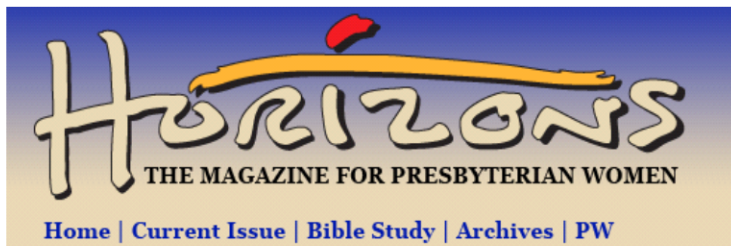
Your congregation may be small, but your heart and spirit are not! Your information is as important as the larger churches. To tell you the truth, your information may actually be more important. We need to know what you are doing in your little corner of the world with the resources you have within your small little group. We could learn a thing or two from you.

So, don't underestimate your contribution to the church at large. You don't have to be a mega church to do great things. Remember, where two or more are gathered, Christ is there also. God is with you and all you do. Share that with us.

The thing I love most about being your Historian is that I get to see all of the wonderful things you are doing in your local churches. It gives me ideas to share with my own congregation. I look forward to sharing some of the things you are doing in the next installment of the Linkage.

So, keep those histories and necrologies coming. I have a small window of opportunity to get my report completed.

Blessings,
Dotty Lessley
Historian
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Subscribe today

Want more information? Contact your
Horizons representative, Thelma Gibson

Phone: 205-796-0995 or e-mail: tfjgibson49@msn.com
or go on-line to www.pcusa.org/horizons/

CLUSTER LEADER REPORTS



BIRMINGHAM EAST

Paula Haynes

Greetings from Birmingham East! I am happy to report that our Presbyterian Women across our cluster are alive and well and actively serving our Lord! This past Advent and Christmas season found our women fully engaged in worship, service and fellowship as we celebrated the holiday season. And now we are leaping into springtime (at least it seems like it with this glorious weather this week) with new Bible studies and a renewed sense of mission.

When I look back over the previous paragraph, I am struck with such gratitude that I can report to you that we **are** alive and well! As you are all aware, northeastern Jefferson County was hit with a violent F3 tornado that ripped through Center Point, Pinson, Clay and into the Argo/Springville area. We were all so saddened to learn of the one fatality in our area, a precious teenage girl. And at the same time, we praise God that there was only one death as we look at the devastation that took place. The storm came within a quarter mile of **Center Point Presbyterian** and **Grace Presbyterian**, with no damage at Center Point and minimal damage at Grace – Thank you, Lord! And we praise God for the Holy Spirit moving through volunteers that showed up immediately and continue to be there for the recovery. Please be in prayer for all those who are reeling in the aftermath, rebuilding lives and livelihoods. As our sisters in Birmingham West well know, recovery from this kind of event is a very long-term process. Please pray for our congregations as we try to serve in the recovery process.

One of the things that has been resonating with me recently is how grateful I am that we as Presbyterians are a connectional bunch. We are accustomed to reaching out to one another, in good times and in bad. I see examples of this repeatedly in our PW cluster: Grace and Eastminster teaming up for Advent/Christmas and Lenten/Easter events and **Bold Springs** and **Leeds** doing similar joint seasonal worship experiences. I see that the women in our congregations reach out to other women in our communities by inviting them to Bible studies and knitting groups. And of the course, the tornado recovery is yet another avenue where we are and will be linking with others in service.

Paula Haynes

BIRMINGHAM WEST

Shirley Jones



I am continually amazed, but not surprised, at the accomplishments of Presbyterian Women. From packing Christmas Shoe Boxes for Samaritans Purse to collecting gently used clothing for Mission Haven, our women are busy in service. The PW in **Bessemer** held a bake sale this past November allowing them to donate \$1000.00 to First Light. Nell Barron of **Edgewood** tells me they just delivered coloring books and crayons to the Ronald McDonald House, gallon size canned goods to the Firehouse Shelter and cleaning supplies for Habitat for Humanity.

Many of our PW are involved in helping tornado victims by collecting non-perishable goods, baby items, toiletry, etc. The PW of **Oakmont** gave \$1000.00 to help feed tornado volunteers. These women also collect bottle caps for the McDonald House.

I received an email from Belinda Dickinson, the former West Cluster leader, inviting everyone to visit **Southminster** on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 from 10:00 to 11:00 when Dr. John Fletcher (Good Shepherd Hospital) and his wife Gwenda will be speaking to their PW. These two missionaries have been serving in the Congo. Gwenda works with the educators and is the liaison between PCUSA and the area of the Kasai in the Congo. Light refreshments will be served prior to the meeting. Come and support the PW at Southminster and meet these two dedicated workers in Christ. If you plan to attend please call me at 491-5368 or email me jones288959@bellsouth.net.

Please remember our 25th Annual Spring Gathering "Celebrating Our Silver Jubilee" at **Shades Valley** PC on March 17th. This is going to be very special as we will be at the same church with the same Moderator, Carolyn Jordan. Don't miss this opportunity to spend time with your sisters in Christ.

In Christian love,

Shirley Jones

CLUSTER LEADER REPORTS



MONTGOMERY/SELMA

Cindy Hoffmaster, Leader



Bette Lewis, Co-Leader

Presbyterian Women of **First Presbyterian Church of Wetumpka** and **Westminster Presbyterian Church of Montgomery** combined their efforts and held their Fall Gathering at First Presbyterian Church of Wetumpka. The ladies from Wetumpka did a wonderful job as hostesses, and we are thankful to their pastor, Rev. Jonathan Yarbboro, for leading the worship service. Bridge Street Coffee Shop catered a delicious lunch.

First Presbyterian Church of Wetumpka recently celebrated their 175th anniversary. They had many special events and services to commemorate this milestone, including having several former pastors return. Presbyterian Women helped serve food at various events, as well as provided guided tours of the building and shared church history with visitors.

Presbyterian Women at **Westminster Montgomery** hosted a SERRV sale for the holidays, along with also selling products from Women's Bean Project. In addition, they have participated in the Presbyterian Coffee Project through Equal Exchange for the last 9 years.

Alfreda Williams and the women of **New Trinity Church of Camden** are still involved with the after-school and summer programs for youth at the **Camden Community Youth Development Center**. Alfreda asked that we tell the women of the presbytery that art supplies for the K-12 summer program are needed and any donations will be greatly appreciated. Some supplies she mentioned are: construction paper, markers, crayons, pencils, paints, and ABC and number books to help the youngest ones practice forming letters and numbers. Anyone wishing to donate supplies can send them to Alfreda Williams, P.O. Box 491, Camden, AL 36726

COORDINATOR OF MISSIONS

By: Carol Rylee



Mission Notes

I've heard it said that "Mission is the heartbeat of the church." Presbyterian Women have always taken great initiative when it comes to supporting mission at home and abroad. Each year we have generously supported PW giving, including the Presbyterian Women Mission Pledge, Thanks Offering, Birthday Offering, and the Fellowship of the Least Coin, to name a few. In addition, with the Together in Service Program, we have had the opportunity to develop our own mission projects and as we continue to make a difference in the lives of others. Although we no longer roll bandages, consider knitting baby caps. You may send them to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. Little Dresses for Africa, a non-denominational Christian organization is a sewing project in which to become involved.

Fair Trade Coffee Sales have supported Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and through this project \$21,000 has been given to date. This coffee is easy to sell with a little publicity. For example, Westminster, Montgomery has sold \$14,000 over 10 years and a portion of this has gone toward the \$21,000. By the way, it is very good coffee.

You may give funds to the "Together in Service" programs to help purchase bicycles, mattresses, or palms for our Presbyterian Partners in Congo and send a card to your loved ones telling them that you made a gift in their honor. Funds collected from this project go to "Together in Service." Call (800) 524-2612 or order on line.

Last but not least, consider a member or members for Honorary Life Memberships. As you can see, there are endless possibilities to help improve the lives of people throughout the world. Check the PW Mission web site <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pw/> for information. PW women are truly a blessing.

Carol Rylee
PW Mission Coordinator



Presbyterian Women

Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community

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