



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

# PEAKS PW NEWS

Vol. XXI, No. 3

December 2017

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PURPOSE

*Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves: to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study; to support the mission of the church worldwide; to work for justice and peace; and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.*

### FROM THE MODERATOR (Helen B. Dean)

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**PLEASE READ AND SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH THE WOMEN IN YOUR CHURCH.**

### MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

This letter is to say thank you to each of the churches for your active participation in our 29th Peaks PW Annual Gathering that took place at Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke on September 23.

We were so excited to have participation from the Roanoke Youth Symphony String Ensemble with our music; the wonderful welcome from the Honorable Anita J. Price, Vice Mayor of the City of Roanoke; and the uplifting service led by The Reverend Elizabeth Link, Associate Pastor for Christian Education at Second Presbyterian Church.

Our gathering theme, "How PW Moves from Talking to Action," was emphasized by a discussion on human trafficking led by Pam Snyder, 2012-2015 Churchwide Vice Moderator for Mission Relationships. Pam's message, entitled "How Snakes Lure Canaries," was an energizing discussion, and we were so very proud to have her be part of this gathering.

Your donations of children's hats, gloves and scarves were given to benefit the Roanoke Rescue Mission, the Presbyterian Community Center, and the Salvation Army. These agencies were so pleased to receive these gifts which were presented by Diane Patty, Peaks Mission Coordinator. The monetary offering of \$750 was given to Marie Muddiman, Executive Director of Family Promise of Greater Roanoke, by the Peaks Treasurer, Gloria Burleigh.

We want to thank all of the vendors who worked with us to make this gathering a success and for your active involvement and participation.

We are getting ready to begin our planning for our spring gatherings. We want you to make these gatherings meaningful to everyone, and we look forward to your active participation. If you have ideas that you feel would benefit us in the planning, please send me a note.

In addition, we need your help with filling open vacancies on our Coordinating Team. If you would like to assist us, please phone me directly and let me know. We need your support and your help to make this team work for our Presbyterian Women of the Peaks. My telephone number is 540.362.5169.

Today, we want to especially thank Theresa Underwood for all of her work, support, and involvement with Presbyterian Women. She is a role model for Presbyterian Women, and we appreciate all that she does to support our efforts. Congratulations to Theresa on a job well done!

We look forward to another great year.

With sincere blessings to each of you,

*Helen B. Dean*

Helen B. Dean, Moderator

## NEWS BRIEFS

- **Fall Packet and Financial Support Form for 2018 (PW Mission Pledge):** You received the Fall Packet of information through the mail in October. Thanks for all of the Financial Support Forms received so far. **Even though the November 15 deadline has passed, please continue to send those forms** to Helen B. Dean, PO Box 744, Blue Ridge, VA 24064. If you have misplaced your form, or if you have questions, please contact Helen at 540.362.5169 or hbarb55@cox.net.
- **Orange Day:** The 25th of each and every month is “Orange Day,” a day to raise awareness of and take action to end violence against women and girls. So remember to wear orange each and every month on the 25th!
- **Educate a Child:** Presbyterian Women is taking a leadership role in supporting the PC(USA)’s Educate a Child Initiative. Through this program, the church hopes to improve education for one million children in the U.S. and around the world in the next four years, focusing particularly on strengthening early childhood education and decreasing the drop-out rate. Your church can help by sponsoring an after-school program that would assist children with homework or the improvement of their reading skills, or a community book drive that would collect books for children who don’t have books at home, or a used book sale to sell books at very reasonable prices for families who can’t afford books. There are so many possibilities!
- **UN Commission on the Status of Women:** The 62nd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women will meet March 12-23, 2018, in New York. The 2018 session will focus on “Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls.”
- **Celebrate the Gifts of Women, Sunday, March 4, 2018:** On Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, we honor women who answer God’s call to leadership and service. The Celebrate the Gifts of Women resource is available in the November/December 2017 issue of *Horizons* magazine. It can be downloaded free from [www.pcusa.org/women](http://www.pcusa.org/women). It is also free from the PC(USA) store, 800.533.4371, or from [www.pcusastore.com](http://www.pcusastore.com); item 27501-18-001.
- **Honorary Life Memberships (HLM):** Honorary Life Memberships are a wonderful way to honor the special women in your PW circles. The sterling silver level is \$95, and the gold level is \$250. Funds from the HLM support PW leadership development and training.
- **2018 Churchwide Gathering:** Save the dates of August 2-5, 2018, in Louisville, Kentucky. The Churchwide Gathering will be held at the Galt House. The theme of the Gathering is “Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come!” based on Isaiah 60:1. Rooms start at \$144 per night, plus tax; suites start at \$159 per night, plus tax. The registration fee is \$425; one-day registration fee is \$125. The registration booklet is included with the November/December 2017 issue of *Horizons*. Registration opens January 15, 2018!

## **FROM THE VICE MODERATOR (Cindy Harper)**

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### **PW PARTICIPATE IN TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL GATHERING**

Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke hosted the Twenty-ninth Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Peaks Saturday, September 23.

Following the Call to Order, Theresa Underwood, Moderator, extended greetings to all attendees, led the lighting of the Christ Candle with an opening prayer, followed by the Presbyterian Women Purpose. Helen Dean, Moderator-Elect, introduced the Honorable Anita J. Price, Vice Mayor of the City of Roanoke, for her welcome to the city. Special music was provided by two members of the Roanoke Youth Symphony String Ensemble.

During the business portion of the Gathering, the 70 attendees approved a budget of \$3,250 for 2018; elected new PW leaders for 2017-2018; received the Moderator's Annual Report; and heard brief reports from representatives of various presbytery and synod agencies and/or exhibits.

The Reverend Elizabeth Link, Associate Pastor for Christian Education at Second Presbyterian Church, presented the morning devotions for the Annual Gathering. Using 2 Timothy 1:5-7 and a portion of Hebrews 12 as the basis for her devotions, she asked attendees to think of special women or witnesses in their lives who had influenced their faith. Attendees then placed those names on a bookmark as a reminder of those individuals and the faith they had shared.

The theme for the Annual Gathering was "How PW Moves from Talking to Action." The guest speaker, Pam Snyder, 2012-2015 Churchwide Vice Moderator for Mission Relationships, vividly described numerous human trafficking/women issues in the local region. She offered tips for ways everyone can be more involved in this mission area. Attendees appeared to be spellbound by her presentation.

A monetary offering of \$750 was received to benefit Family Promise of Greater Roanoke. Marie Muddiman, Executive Director of Family Promise, explained that this program is designed to assist families with children that are experiencing homelessness. In addition to the monetary offering, attendees brought children's scarves, caps/hats, and gloves/mittens to be donated to the Presbyterian Community Center, the Rescue Mission, and the Salvation Army.

The Reverend Elizabeth Link installed the newly elected PW leaders and re-affirmed those PW leaders who are continuing in service on the Coordinating Team. The new Peaks Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team is composed of the following leaders:

Moderator – Helen Dean (Second Church)

Vice Moderator – Cindy Harper (Virginia Church)

Secretary – vacant

Treasurer – Gloria Burleigh (Second Church)

Historian – Carol Cole (Second Church)

Racial Ethnic/Justice and Peace Representative – Janice Wells (Gethsemane Church)

Mission Coordinator – Diane Patty (Fairlawn Church)

Moderator of Search Committee – Cynthia Washburn (Second Church)

Search Committee Members – Pam Claterbaugh (Green Ridge Church), Terri Massie (Grace Church), and Eleese Wilson (Holbrook Street Church)

Leadership Coordinator, Piedmont & Southside Neighborhoods – vacant

Leadership Coordinator, Hill Cities & Roanoke Valley Neighborhoods – Sarah Eller (Salem Church)

Leadership Coordinator, Highlands & New River Valley Neighborhoods – Shelda Wills  
(Christiansburg Church)  
Past Moderator – Theresa Underwood (Peace Church)

Following the installation service, the Gathering concluded with the observance of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, with The Reverend Elizabeth Link serving as the celebrant.

Appreciation is expressed to Second Presbyterian Church for hosting the Twenty-ninth Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Peaks with warm hospitality and delicious snacks.

The Thirtieth Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Peaks will take place on Saturday, September 29, 2018, at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg. You are encouraged to mark your calendars now! We look forward to seeing you there!

## **YOUR 2017 ANNUAL GATHERING OFFERING**

As a result of the offering received at the Peaks PW Annual Gathering, we donated \$750 to Family Promise of Greater Roanoke. Marie Muddiman, Executive Director, was extremely pleased to accept this donation on behalf of Family Promise from Gloria Burleigh, Peaks PW Treasurer.

We thank each of you for your support and your involvement in making this contribution possible. (photo by Helen Dean)



Marie Muddiman (left) receives check from Gloria Burleigh.

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## **FROM THE TREASURER (Gloria Burleigh)**

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## **2017 FINANCIAL DUE DATES**

This is a gentle reminder that our Peaks Presbytery **PW 2017 Financial Pledges for this year are due**. If you haven't sent in your pledges for either the fourth quarter or the full year, please do so before **December 10**. **Also**, if you still have **Thank Offerings** that have not been mailed to me, please send these no later than **December 10**. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you have. Wishing each of you abundant Christmas Blessings!

## **2018 SYNOD SUMMER GATHERING SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Synod Summer Gathering Scholarships will be available again in 2018**. Watch for scholarship application info and forms, which will be available in early spring 2018. If you or a PW member in your church has an interest in applying, please contact Gloria Burleigh at gloriaburleigh@gmail.com or 540.772.3201.

## **FROM THE HISTORIAN (Carol Cole)**

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## **IT'S TIME TO PREPARE YOUR PW HISTORIES!**

Greetings from Carol Cole! I am a PW of Second Presbyterian Church, and as a new member of the Peaks PWCT, I am excited to be working with you in my role as Historian. I have been Historian for my local PW several times, so I am very familiar with the completion of the requested annual historian's report.

Presbyterian Women have worked hard to streamline the report and reduce the work involved in pulling the requested information together for submission. In my experience, it's more difficult getting around to it than actually completing it.

Here's what I do: 1) Set up a goal/reward for submitting the report – a special treat! 2) Take out the form (it came to you in the Fall Packet) and read it over. The first thing to note is the "due date" for submission, January 31, 2018. Calendar this date a month early (December 31, 2017). 3) Read over the requested information. There will be items you probably need to get from your church secretary, so highlight these and make a point of calling for them. Then, set aside an hour to complete the form, add any pictures you took, make the copies, and mail it away. You're done! Easy!!

Thanks in advance for your work on our collection of stories. Have a fun, relaxed, and faithful Christmas!

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### **FROM THE MISSION COORDINATOR (Diane Patty)**

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## **TOGETHER IN SERVICE (TIS)**

I enjoyed meeting so many of you at the Annual Gathering in September and hearing about your many service projects. One item exhibited at the Together in Service display was the pair of "knitted knockers" that many of you were interested in making. These are soft, comfortable, knit prosthetics for breast cancer survivors. For crocheting and knitting instructions, take a look at [www.knittedknockers.org](http://www.knittedknockers.org).

The recent natural disasters have affected millions of people. So many people want to donate and help in some way. A great hands-on response would be to assemble hygiene kits that would be distributed by Church World Service (CWS). CWS is an ecumenical partner with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Information about assembling and sending bags to CWS is shown at <http://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/hygiene-kits/>. I recently talked with a representative at CWS who said they always need hygiene kits!

At our Spring Neighborhood Gatherings, we plan to assemble hygiene kits with items you will be asked to donate. If you would like to start gathering some of the items, refer to the list on the CWS website shown above. We will have additional information about the gatherings, as well as the hygiene kits, in the spring newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing participation in projects to help others. You are doing great work!

### **FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Diane Patty, Chair)**

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Mail: PO Box 744, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

## YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MADE A DIFFERENCE!

**Thank you** to everyone who brought children's caps, scarves, and/or gloves to the PW Annual Gathering at Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke on Saturday, September 23. Approximately 150 items were donated!

Helen Dean, newly-elected Presbyterian Women Moderator, and Diane Patty, PW Mission Coordinator, delivered the items to three Roanoke Valley organizations: the Roanoke Rescue Mission, the Presbyterian Community Center, and the Salvation Army. Each organization was extremely happy to receive these items in time for the cold weather. (photos by Helen Dean)



Diane Patty (right) shares donations with a Roanoke Rescue Mission worker.  
Presbyterian Community Center workers



receive donations from Diane Patty (center).

Diane Patty (center) talks with two workers at the Roanoke Salvation Army.

