



PEAKS PW NEWS

Vol. XXIII, No. 2

August 2019

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

To the Awesome, Spectacular Presbyterian Women of the Peaks:

This is a special thank you for all your hard work in support of our communities. Your involvement with our special organizations and all your volunteer work has made a real difference to so many organizations like the Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, Ms. Dorsey's Closet, House of Bread, and the Women's Resource Center. For your work and support of organizations who work so very diligently to support women and children, we say that YOU are very, very special!

I also want to congratulate the leaders in the different churches for all your wonderful leadership. Without this leadership, we would not be able to accomplish the things that we do to support the church and our communities.

Some special thanks go to the women of our Coordinating Team who support you. We are always looking for ladies willing to serve, and if you would like to be part of this team, I ask you to contact Cynthia Washburn who will be more than willing to speak with you. You can reach her by email at cjwnuss@aol.com.

I also want to extend a special congratulations to Theresa Underwood who is the new Treasurer for the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic CT. Theresa is a very hardworking person, committed to Presbyterian Women, and is so very committed to the support of the Peaks. As you are already aware, Shelda Wills is the Secretary for the Synod CT. These ladies represent us well, and our special thanks go to each of them for their commitment and outstanding support of the Peaks and of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

At the beginning of the year, we asked that you help us with the "Handbags for Hope" Mission Project. Our goal at the time was to donate 100 bags from the Peaks to various organizations. As of this writing, we have donated close to 400 bags to different organizations around the Peaks. My special thanks go to each of you ladies for your donations, and I believe that after our Annual Gathering, we will have over 500 bags donated. On behalf of the Coordinating Team, thank you for your participation and your drive to make this a reality for organizations supporting women and children in the Peaks.

We need your support again. We want this to be a great Annual Gathering. Diane Patty, your Vice Moderator, and the team have worked to bring new and exciting speakers for this Gathering. We want to thank the Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church for working with us to make this Gathering a success. This is a special invitation to you to come, and let's see if we can have 100 percent participation from the churches in the Peaks. Remember, you make the difference! We look forward to seeing you on September 28, at Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church at 9 a.m. for registration, and the Gathering will begin promptly at 10 a.m.

Peace and Blessings to you,

Helen B. Dean

Helen B. Dean, Moderator

FROM THE VICE MODERATOR (Diane Patty)

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31st ANNUAL GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Plans are being finalized for the 31st Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Peaks that will be held on Saturday, September 28, at Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church in Roanoke. Registration with light refreshments will take place from 9:00-10:00 a.m. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. and is scheduled to conclude around 1:30 p.m. following the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. A break with refreshments is scheduled around noon.

The Gathering theme will be "Reflect, Refresh, Renew." The keynote speaker will be Jennifer Brothers, Licensed Professional Counselor, Co-founder and President of House of Bread in Roanoke, and Final-year Master of Divinity Student at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Her inspirational talk will present ideas for making time for Sabbath rest so we might live a rhythm of work and rest each day.

Janet Rakes, former Historian of Presbyterian Women, Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, will install new PW leaders. The Reverend Clayton Rascoe, the Executive Director of Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, will serve as communion celebrant.

The monetary offering received will benefit House of Bread in Roanoke which is a program for formerly incarcerated women that teaches basic kitchen and baking skills and assists participants in resume writing and job searches. The mission project will be to continue collecting "Handbags for Hope." The handbags, new or clean and gently used, will be given to women's shelters and several community organizations. Please include a couple of toiletries in a zip bag inside the purse. Suggestions include hand sanitizer, soap, deodorant, shampoo, hair conditioner, pack of tissues, lip balm, hand wipes, nail clippers, and nail polish. Do not include money or food. This will be the last opportunity to donate handbags for this project.

There will be displays and exhibits during registration and the noon break. The popular Fair Trade Sale will return again this year featuring handmade folk art, ceramics, textiles, baskets, jewelry, musical instruments, home décor, gifts, coffee, and chocolate. (Check or cash only.) Proceeds will go to Two-Cents-a-Meal.

We look forward to spending some time together renewing friendships and making new friends at the Gathering.

Directions to Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church, 1837 Grandin Road, SW, Roanoke, VA:

From Rt. 460: Follow US 460W into Roanoke. Use the right lane to merge onto I-581 S/US 220S via the ramp to Downtown. Continue on I-581 and take the Colonial Avenue exit. Turn right onto Colonial Avenue. Use the right two lanes to turn left onto Brandon Avenue, SW. Continue straight on Brandon Avenue. Turn right on Grandin Road, SW until you reach the church on the left.

From I-81 N or S: Take exit for I-581 S/US 220 S. Keep straight onto I-581 S/US 220 S and take the Colonial Avenue exit. Turn right onto Colonial Avenue. Use the right two lanes to turn left onto Brandon Avenue, SW. Continue straight on Brandon Avenue. Turn right on Grandin Road, SW until you reach the church on the left.

NOTE: One of the business items during the Annual Gathering will be some proposed changes to the Peaks PW Bylaws. Please refer to the following proposed changes in order to be prepared to vote on them during the Gathering. Thanks!

Proposed Changes in Presbytery of the Peaks PW Bylaws

NOTE: Deletions have a strike through them. Additions and changes are in bold.

ARTICLE IV – *Coordinating Team Election and Term of Office*

Section 4

The leaders of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery shall be Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Vice Moderator, Secretary, Historian, Treasurer, Moderator of the Search Committee, three Search Committee Members, Racial ~~Ethnic~~ **Equity**/Justice and Peace Representative, ~~Mission~~ **Missions** Coordinator, and three Leadership Coordinators. Additional leaders may be Members-at-Large with specific responsibilities to carry out the work of Presbyterian Women as needed.

Section 5

The rotation system for the Coordinating Team shall be as follows: In one year, the Moderator, Secretary, Racial ~~Ethnic~~ **Equity**/Justice and Peace Representative, Moderator of the Search Committee, one Search Committee Member, Leadership Coordinator for Piedmont and Southside Neighborhoods, and Leadership Coordinator for Highlands and New River Valley Neighborhoods shall be elected; and in one year, the Vice Moderator, Treasurer, Historian, two Search Committee Members, ~~Mission~~ **Missions** Coordinator, and Leadership Coordinator for Hill Cities and Roanoke Valley Neighborhoods shall be elected. The Moderator-Elect shall be elected every other year for a one-year term.

ARTICLE V – *Duties of Leaders*

Section 4

The Secretary shall keep and preserve minutes of all meetings and gatherings and shall mail or email the minutes to the Moderator within two weeks after each meeting and to each member of the Coordinating Team within four weeks after each meeting; shall coordinate the preparation of the directory for the Coordinating Team; shall coordinate the preparation **and distribution** of the newsletters; **shall coordinate the preparation and distribution of the PW Fall Packet of forms and reports**; and shall

send information to Coordinating Team members, to local PW Moderators/Contact Persons, and to other individuals/agencies as directed by the Moderator.

Section 8

The Racial ~~Ethnic~~ **Equity**/Justice and Peace Representative shall bring concerns of racial ~~ethnic women~~ **equity issues** to the attention of Presbyterian Women; shall encourage participation and involvement of ~~racial-ethnic~~ **all** women in the Presbyterian Women's programs in the Presbytery; and shall review current justice and peace issues, bringing the information to the attention of the Coordinating Team, and, when appropriate, distributing the information to women in the Presbytery.

Section 9

The ~~Mission~~ **Missions** Coordinator shall be responsible for making the local churches aware of the Birthday Offering and Thank Offering projects; **and** shall be available to assist the local churches with their ~~Birthday Offering and Thank Offering~~ celebrations; shall be responsible for the distribution of ~~the mission~~ **missions** materials to the local churches; shall prepare an exhibit for display ~~at each Spring Gathering and~~ at the Annual Gathering; and shall work with the Synod Representative, as needed.

FROM THE HISTORIAN (Carol Cole)

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GREETINGS FROM THE HISTORY CORNER!

This issue I want to focus on the bare essentials of your Historian's Reports. It's my job to take in all the reports from the churches in the Peaks, read them, and pull from them the information needed for the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, of which we're a part. If you are not able to complete the whole report – dotting every "i" and crossing every "t" – here are the essential parts I am responsible to gather and send along in my Peaks PW Historian Report:

- Do you have a PW circle (or circles) at your church? How many?
- Who is the contact person for your PW? (name, phone, address, and email, if possible)
- How many PW's are there at your church?
- Have any of these women passed away in the year just proceeding your report? If so, please list the name(s) and date(s) of death.
- Did you honor any PW's with the Honorary Life Membership Award?
- Did any PW's attend the larger gatherings: Spring Neighborhood Gathering, Synod Summer Gathering, Annual Gathering, Churchwide Gathering (every three years)?

I hope your summer is going well, and by now you're getting excited to get started back up. At our church, we're starting all over – two brand new circles, one morning, one evening – and there is a buzz in the air about how it's all going to go. The new study looks great. I previewed the book and CD, and I think we'll love it as much as last year. I wish I could come to your potluck kick-off! Take pictures for me!

FROM ONE OF THE LEADERSHIP COORDINATORS (Shelda Wills)

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RECAP OF SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD AND SYNOD SUMMER GATHERINGS

Since the March *Peaks PW News* was published, women in the Presbytery of the Peaks have been involved with two Neighborhood Spring Gatherings and the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic PW Summer Gathering. It’s been a busy time for everyone! We would like to share some of our experiences with you, so please keep reading!

2019 SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERINGS

This year, the Presbytery of the Peaks PW had two Spring Gatherings, with each one being designed for three different Neighborhoods. Each Gathering had a brief devotional, a review by Ashely Stanley of the top 10 hymns for PW in the Presbytery of the Peaks during the past 30 years, and a memorial service for those women who died in 2018. The mission project for each Spring Gathering was the collection of “Handbags for Hope” to support women who are victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking in the various communities of the Presbytery.

Following is a summary of each Spring Gathering:

The Spring Gathering for the Piedmont, Southside, and Hill Cities Neighborhoods took place March 31, at Gethsemane United Presbyterian Church in Drakes Branch.

- There were 25 attendees: 10 from the Piedmont Neighborhood (3 churches represented: Briery, Gethsemane, and Guinea); 4 from the Southside Neighborhood (2 churches represented: Holbrook Street and Mizpah); 1 from the Hill Cities Neighborhood (1 church represented: First in Lynchburg); and 10 guests.
- 53 “Handbags for Hope” were collected.

The Spring Gathering for the Roanoke Valley, Highlands, and New River Valley Neighborhoods took place April 7, at High Bridge Presbyterian Church in Natural Bridge.

- There were 44 attendees: 8 from the Roanoke Valley Neighborhood (6 churches represented: Campbell Memorial, Green Ridge, Peace, Raleigh Court, Salem, and Second); 25 from the Highlands Neighborhood (3 churches represented: Clifton Forge, High Bridge, and Mallow); 9 from the New River Valley Neighborhood (5 churches represented: Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Fairlawn, Floyd, and Old Brick); and 2 guests.
- 108 “Handbags for Hope” were collected.

The 2020 Spring Gatherings are tentatively scheduled as follows: Piedmont, Southside, and Hill Cities Neighborhoods on April 26; and Roanoke Valley, Highlands, and New River Valley Neighborhoods on April 19. Look for more information in the next edition of *Peaks PW News*.

2019 SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC PW SUMMER GATHERING

The 31st Annual Synod of the Mid-Atlantic PW Summer Gathering took place June 6-9, at the Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center in Harrisonburg. The Gathering provided attendees opportunities to renew old friendships, establish new friendships, participate in a variety of workshops, and take part in meaningful worship experiences, while enjoying the beauty of Massanetta Springs.

Thirteen women from the Presbytery of the Peaks were among the 104 attendees at the Gathering: Pam Claterbaugh, Helen Dean, Sandra Gisiner, Mary Lee Hendricks, Bev Lineweaver, Elva Miller, Janet Rakes, Daisy Simmons, Ashley Stanley, Theresa Underwood, Lorna Whisler, Shelda Wills, and Elease Wilson.

Those in attendance were extremely generous with their giving. They contributed a monetary offering of \$1,232 for The Center in Baltimore, Maryland, a mission that hosts youth and adults from across the United States for a different kind of mission experience – one that helps to prepare them to become involved in justice-making in their own communities. Attendees also contributed \$217.74 for the Cents-Ability Offering to benefit the Baltimore Westside Men’s Shelter for the homeless. The hands-on mission project during the Gathering was the decorating of pillowcases for children in Puerto Rico who have been adversely affected by severe storms and hurricanes.

Next year’s Gathering has been scheduled for June 11-14, 2020, at Massanetta Springs. Put the dates on your calendar now so that you can make plans to attend the 32nd Annual Synod PW Summer Gathering! Watch for details in the next edition of *Peaks PW News*!

NEWS BRIEFS

- **Annual Peaks PW Fall Packet:** Be on the look-out for the annual Peaks PW fall packet of forms and information that will be mailed to you after the Annual Gathering. The packet will include a Financial Support Form for 2020, various forms for your treasurer, a 2020 Local PW Leaders form, and a PW Group/Circle Report form to record historical information from 2019.
- **2019 Thank Offering:** The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women approved 18 grants and asks that you open your hearts to the projects chosen for the 2019 Thank Offering. Check the current *Horizons* magazine for details.
- **Challenge from the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Women:** The Synod PW Coordinating Team is challenging each Presbytery in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic to raise a “Mile of Pennies” between September 1 and November 30, 2019, to benefit the Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center. A “Mile of Pennies” placed end-to-end equals 84,480 pennies, or \$844.80. The “Mile of Pennies” can be raised by individuals, circles, PW groups, Sunday School classes, entire churches, etc. The possibilities are endless! Donations should be sent to the Peaks PW Treasurer, PO Box 744, Blue Ridge, VA 24064 by December 6. If every Presbytery in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic donates at least a “Mile of Pennies,” \$10,982.40 will be raised for Massanetta Springs to use as needed for upgrades to the facilities. (By the way, just in case you’re curious, it takes 10,560 pennies to equal 1/8 of a mile; 21,120 pennies to equal 1/4 of a mile; 42,240 pennies to equal 1/2 of a mile; 63,360 pennies to equal 3/4 of a mile; and 84,480 pennies to equal one mile if the pennies are placed end-to-end!)
- **Domestic Violence Awareness:** Orange Day is the 25th of every month. Wear orange to raise awareness and work for an end to violence against women and girls. Don’t forget that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month!
- **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.
- **Shop AmazonSmile and help PW:** Amazon donates to PW in the PC(USA) when you shop <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/800473061>.



SAVE THE DATE

(Please post for Presbyterian Women to see.)

Presbyterian Women Presbytery of the Peaks

*31st Annual Gathering
Saturday, September 28, 2019
Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church
1837 Grandin Road, SW
Roanoke, VA 24015*

9:00 a.m. – Registration, meet-and-greet, refreshments

10:00 a.m. – Gathering begins

11:30 a.m. – Break - refreshments, visit displays and vendors

12:15 p.m. - Gathering resumes

1:30 p.m. - Gathering concludes

THEME: “Reflect, Refresh, Renew”

Speaker – Jennifer Brothers, Licensed Professional Counselor;

Co-founder and President of House of Bread, Roanoke;

Final-year Master of Divinity Student at Union Presbyterian Seminary

Come and learn how to make time for Sabbath rest and how you might live a rhythm of work and rest every day.

“Handbags for Hope” project concludes at the Gathering. If you wish to donate, please bring clean, slightly used handbags or new handbags. Please put a couple of toiletries in a plastic zip bag inside the handbag. Do not include any money or food. Handbags will be donated to charities and organizations that serve women.

We look forward to having a fun day with you on September 28!

*If you have questions, please contact Diane Patty, Vice Moderator,
at dpatty@vt.edu.*