



PEAKS PW NEWS

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March 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)

hbarb55@cox.net – 540.362.5169

Mail: PO Box 744, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

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

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

We are very excited about the different things that are happening in your churches. As a result, we want you to send us pictures of activities that your women are involved with so that we can put them into a slide show that we will use at the Annual Gathering in September at Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church in Roanoke.

Diane Patty is working with the Raleigh Court Presbyterian Women to make this year's Annual Gathering lots of fun, and there will be some surprises. Your help will make this a wonderful opportunity for us to share and learn from each other. Thank you, in advance, for sending me your pictures and information about the activities in which your church is involved. Use the email or mailing address above.

We also want to recognize our Honorary Life Members at the Annual Gathering. If you could send me the list of your 2018 Honorary Life Members, that would be greatly appreciated. The names of the 2018 recipients will be printed in the program booklet, but all Honorary Life Members will be recognized during the Gathering.

At the February Presbytery Meeting, the Peaks Coordinating Team made a presentation about the missions and projects that women do for the communities in support of children and women. We are very proud to have been asked to do this, and we want you to know how impressed we are with what you do to support the communities in the Peaks.

Please do not forget our Spring Gatherings. Sarah Eller, Ashley Stanley, and Shelda Wills are working very hard to make these Gatherings a time to renew acquaintances and to have good and warm fellowship with each other. We hope that you will encourage your women to attend these Spring Gatherings.

Our 2019 mission project is "HANDBAGS FOR HOPE." It is our intent to have 100 handbags to distribute to women following the Annual Gathering in September. Every woman needs a nice handbag, and the Peaks PW wants to ensure that we do our part to make this happen. Search your closets for gently-used bags to bring to the Spring Gatherings and/or the Annual Gathering. See more information on pages 4 and 6.

Do not forget the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic PW Summer Gathering at Massanetta Springs. We will have more information coming to you, and we hope to see you there. Continue to watch your emails for information.

I look forward to seeing you at the Gatherings,

Helen B. Dean

Helen B. Dean, Moderator

NEWS BRIEFS

- **Fall Packet and Financial Support Form (PW Mission Pledge):** You received the Fall Packet of information through the mail last fall. Thanks for all the Financial Support Forms received so far. **Even though the November 20 deadline has passed, please continue to send those forms** to Helen Dean, PO Box 744, Blue Ridge, VA 24064. If you have misplaced your form, or if you have questions, please contact Helen at hbarb55@cox.net or 540.362.5169.
- **Giving in the Presbytery of the Peaks:** During 2018, PW groups in the Presbytery of the Peaks gave \$4,847.53 to the Birthday Offering; \$5,185.04 to the Thank Offering; \$1,040.25 to the Least Coin Offering; and \$1,206.43 to the Links of Love Offering. Thank you all for your generous giving to these offerings, as well as the many other dollars you give for other offerings!
- **Honorary Life Memberships (HLM):** Honorary Life Memberships are a wonderful way to honor the special women in our PW circles. The sterling silver level is \$95, and the gold level is \$250. Funds from the HLM support PW leadership development and training.
- **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.
- **Ecumenical Advocacy Days:** Ecumenical Advocacy Days will be held April 5-8 in Washington, D.C. The theme is "Troubling the Waters for the Healing of the World." The full-gathering registration fee is \$225, and the one-day registration fee is \$125.
- **2019 Birthday Offering:** Four recipients have been selected for the 2019 Birthday Offering, and you are encouraged to give generously:
 - **Disaster Response Team of the Presbytery of Charlotte**, Charlotte, North Carolina: The Birthday Offering grant will help provide a warehouse and parking lot with security fencing so that the Disaster Response Team can expand its ministry to support people affected by human-made or natural disasters.
 - **Effingham Child Development Center Inclusive Playground**, Effingham, Illinois: The Birthday Offering grant will improve the center's playground by helping to provide a protective play surface and all-inclusive play equipment for children of differing abilities.
 - **Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky, Inc. Good Shepherd Community Nursing Center**, Phelps, Kentucky: The Birthday Offering grant will help provide new wardrobes, bedside cabinets, over-bed tables, nursing beds, mattresses, and lift recliners for people who are sick, poor, lonely, or vulnerable due to infirmities of age and poor health.
 - **Wings of Refuge Restoration Home**, Iowa Falls, Iowa: The Birthday Offering grant will help fund a larger long-term safe home where many more women victimized by human trafficking will find restoration, identity, community, opportunity and hope, and transition into independent living.
- **PW Synod Summer Gathering, June 6-9:** The PW Synod Summer Gathering will take place at the Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center in Harrisonburg. The Bible Study will be the 2019-2020 *Horizons* Bible Study entitled *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia A. Gamble. The Gathering registration brochure and registration form will be available in the near future. See page 5 for more information. An application for scholarship assistance from the Peaks PW can be found on pages 7 and 8.

FROM THE VICE MODERATOR (Diane Patty)

dpatty@vt.edu – 540.552.0699

Mail: PO Box 744, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

31st ANNUAL GATHERING FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The 31st Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Peaks will take place Saturday, September 28, at Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church in Roanoke.

Registration and a time to “meet-and-greet” will run from 9:00-10:00 a.m. During this time, light refreshments will be served. Attendees may also visit exhibits and displays set up by representatives from Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands, Sunnyside Communities, “Together in Service,” and Two Cents-a-Meal/Fair Trade Sale.

The Gathering will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a break around noon to give attendees an opportunity to have refreshments, socialize, and visit the exhibits and displays. The Gathering will end around 2:00 p.m. following the business session with election and installation of new leaders and the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

The theme of the Gathering will be “Reflect, Refresh, Renew.” The speaker will present ideas about how we might slow down from the hectic lifestyles we live and renew our relationship with God. The mission project for the Gathering will be to continue collecting “Handbags for Hope.” The handbags, new or gently-used, will be given to women’s shelters and several community organizations. (See additional information about this project on pages 4 and 6.)

Additional information about the Gathering will be sent to your church several times over the coming months. Look for more information in the upcoming August issue of *Peaks PW News*. We look forward to spending a few hours together, renewing friendships and making new friends at the Gathering.

FROM THE HISTORIAN (Carol Cole)

slick314.carol@gmail.com – 540.797.2354

Mail: PO Box 744, Blue Ridge, VA 24064



Hello to the Peaks! I have received many of your histories, but as of this date, I do not have something from all the churches.

It is critical that you send me your histories as soon as possible because we want to have a good representation from the churches. We want to know what you have accomplished for the year and what your plans are for the coming year.

At the Spring Gatherings, we like to remember and honor all our sisters who have passed away during the year. If you have not already done so, please send your list of women who died in 2018 to either Helen Dean (hbarb55@cox.net) or Shelda Wills (swills@usit.net) so that we can have the names listed properly in

the booklet that will be distributed at the Spring Gatherings.

Again, thank you for your input, for your wonderful work in support of Presbyterian Women of the Peaks, and for your involvement!

FROM THE RACIAL ETHNIC/JUSTICE AND PEACE REPRESENTATIVE (Janice Wells)

janicefire03@peoplepc.com – 434.568.4981

Mail: PO Box 744, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND HEART MONTH

Black History month was celebrated in February, and Presbyterian Women worked to inform our churches about the rich history that African Americans have played in the church and of the work that they are currently doing in support of our communities and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We want to thank each of you for your involvement with sharing the history of African Americans and for the support that you have given to all members of the Presbyterian Women of the Peaks.

We also supported heart month in February. All members of the Coordinating Team wore the red dress pin in support of heart month and encouraged everyone to eat healthy and to get their check-ups.

We want you to write to us and let us know what you did in support of these two activities. When you have a moment, drop me a line, and send me any pictures that you would like to share. My email address is listed at the top of this article.

My thanks to each of you for all your help and support of Presbyterian Women of the Peaks.

FROM THE MISSIONS COORDINATOR (Betty Oliver)

bjboliver09@gmail.com – 434.384.0222

Mail: PO Box 744, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

TOGETHER IN SERVICE (TIS)

This is an exciting time for our Presbyterian Women. Our goal in 2019 is to support women who are victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking in the various communities in the Presbytery of the Peaks. One way to do that is to support “Handbags for Hope.”



We want to be able to distribute at least 100 handbags by the end of our Annual Gathering at Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church in September. However, we think we can exceed our goal – and with your help and prayers, we know we can do it!

We plan to fill these new and gently-used bags with toiletries and other supplies for ladies, along with a prayer of comfort that you may write and put into the bag. The toiletries should be new and placed in a plastic baggie.

Please bring your handbags and baggies of toiletry items to the Spring Gatherings and/or the Annual Gathering. If you know of other women who would like to contribute to the success of this project, please let me know – all help is appreciated.

My personal thanks to each of you for your help and your support of this important project. I am looking forward to getting to know you at our Gatherings. Also, please feel free to email me at the address above with any ideas you have.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP COORDINATORS (Ashley Stanley, Sarah Eller, Shelda Wills)

stanleymusic1903@gmail.com – 434.607.7048; sceller483@gmail.com – 540.529.8399; and swills@usit.net – 540.382.2802

Mail: PO Box 744, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERINGS

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Peaks will have two Spring Neighborhood Gatherings again this year, one in Drakes Branch and one in Natural Bridge.

The Gathering for the **Piedmont, Hill Cities, and Southside Neighborhoods** will take place on **Sunday, March 31, at the Gethsemane United Presbyterian Church in Drakes Branch** (185 Gethsemane Church Avenue, Drakes Branch, VA 23937).

The Gathering for the **Roanoke Valley, Highlands, and New River Valley Neighborhoods** will take place on **Sunday, April 7, at the High Bridge Presbyterian Church in Natural Bridge** (67 High Bridge Church Road, Natural Bridge, VA 24578).

Registration will occur from 2:00-2:30 p.m. at each Gathering, with the business portion of each Gathering convening at 2:30 p.m. Each Gathering will include a brief devotional, a “Peaks PW Top 10” hymn sing, a memorial service for those women who died in 2018, and some announcements about upcoming events.

Because the 2019 mission project for the Peaks PW is “Handbags for Hope,” attendees are encouraged to bring new or gently-used handbags for Domestic Violence Centers within the Presbytery of the Peaks. Place a plastic baggie with toiletries and other items (such as soap, shampoo, lotion, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, tissues, scarf, note cards, etc.) in the handbag. Please refer to the flyer on page 6.

The Spring Neighborhood Gatherings will provide worship, information, fun, and fellowship for all in attendance, so please plan to join us!!

FROM THE SUMMER GATHERING ARRANGEMENTS COORDINATORS (Theresa Underwood and Shelda Wills)

tundwood@aol.com – 540.254.2485 and swills@usit.net – 540.382.2802

Mail: PO Box 744, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

2019 SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC PW SUMMER GATHERING

The Synod of the Mid-Atlantic PW Summer Gathering will take place Thursday through Sunday, June 6-9, at the Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center in Harrisonburg. The theme will be “God’s Love Carved in Stone” based on the 2019-2020 *Horizons* Bible Study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*, by Eugenia A. Gamble. Joyce MacKichan Walker, the author of the suggestions for the Bible study, will serve as the plenary speaker and lead a workshop about the study.

The recipient of the mission offering will be The Center, “a mission initiative of the Presbytery of Baltimore that hosts youth and adults from across the United States for a different kind of mission experience – one that allows them to volunteer beside members of The Center’s partner congregations and organizations, learn from local leaders, reflect theologically, and return home prepared to get involved in justice-making in their own communities.”

Full-time registration fees are \$370 early bird (by May 1) or \$415 after May 1. Registration forms and brochures will be available soon. Peaks PW is offering scholarship assistance again this year. An application form is included at the end of this newsletter. The deadline to return the application form is April 6.



PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
2019 MISSION PROJECT

TALK TO
BETTY OLIVER
ABOUT WHAT
YOUR CHURCH
CAN DO TO
SUPPORT THIS
IMPORTANT
MISSION

2019

**100 BAGS IS OUR
GOAL**



**Presbyterian Women
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Summer Gathering
Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center
Harrisonburg, Virginia
June 6-9, 2019
Scholarship Application**

FOR WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS ONLY

Recipients will be asked to write a brief article describing their Gathering experience.

Fill out and take to the Moderator/Contact Person at your church for completion.

Form must be mailed no later than April 10, 2019.

I am interested in being considered for a scholarship for the 2019 Synod Summer Gathering.

Church: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

I have held the following PW leadership roles:

_____ I have never attended a PW Synod Summer Gathering.

_____ I have attended one PW Synod Summer Gathering.

_____ I have attended more than one PW Synod Summer Gathering.

I want to be a part of the 2019 Synod Summer Gathering because

(If necessary, use an additional sheet of paper.)

Moderators/Contact Persons: You may e-mail this form or mail it postmarked no later than April 10, 2019, to:

**Peggy Martin
2546 S. Clearing Road
Salem, VA 24153
pmtlyon@gmail.com**

Scholarship Recipients will be notified by April 24, 2019.

Applicant's Signature

(over)

(To be filled out by the local PW Church Moderator or Contact Person.)

Comments:

Name of Church: _____

PW Moderator or Contact Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date: _____

Recipients will be asked to write a brief article describing their Summer Gathering experience within four (4) weeks after the Gathering.

Moderators/Contact Persons: You may e-mail this form or mail it postmarked no later than April 10, 2019, to:

**Peggy Martin
2546 S. Clearing Road
Salem, VA 24153
pmtlyon@gmail.com**

Scholarship recipients will be notified by April 24, 2019.