



Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of South Dakota

November 2017

Moderator Musings

by Trudi Nelson, PWP Moderator

Goals for Presbyterian Women

How many of you, either individuals or PW groups have set goals?

Our PW in the Congregation in Madison set these goals several years ago:

1. To achieve an active dedicated membership in Presbyterian Women
2. To be a visual and involved organization in the church and community
3. To be supportive of church activities

Of course, these goals could be updated. The point is these goals are in addition to the PW Purpose.

PW 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.

So.....how is the goal setting?

Did your PW groups set aside money for someone to attend the PW Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, KY, on August 2-5, 2018?

Our PW Presbytery Coordinating Team

*Set aside 10 scholarships at \$100.00 each for individuals to attend the PW Churchwide Gathering

* Will reimburse 10 individuals to attend the PW Synod Gathering Luncheon at \$32.00 each

*Will order 10 bandanas/scarves from PW Churchwide to be given to the first 10 participants

PLEASE contact, Trudi Nelson, PWP Moderator, if you wish a scholarship or if you plan to attend. Registration is online and begins in January.

Looking Ahead:

- January 15, 2018:** Registration opens for Churchwide Gathering
- April 28, 2018:** PWP Spring Gathering at First Presbyterian Church in Miller
- August 1, 2018** PDA/PW Disaster Preparedness Training in Louisville, KY
- August 2-5, 2018:** PW Churchwide Gathering at Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY. Registration cost is \$425. Room rate is \$149 per room.
- June 20-21, 2019:** PW Synod Gathering at Gateway Hotel and Conference Center, Ames, IA
- Fall 2019** USA Mission Experience in the Synod of the Northeast - Cuyuga Syracuse, Geneva and Genesee Valley presbyteries
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In 2018 Churchwide Gathering news . . .

Registration booklet

Horizons subscribers
You may also order from the PC(USA)'s online store at www.pcusastore.com. (that's all who are reading this newsletter, certainly!), the 2018 Churchwide Gathering registration booklet mailed with the November/December 2017 issue of *Horizons*. To order additional copies (for sharing!), order from the PW Shop www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop or call 800.533.4371 and ask for item CWG18001.



Basic registration information

The Gathering will be held at the Galt House in Louisville, Kentucky, August 2–5, 2018. Rooms start at \$144/night; suites start at \$159, both plus taxes. Registration will open January 15, 2018.

Plan to ship!

The UPS Store at the Galt House—a woman-owned franchise—is looking forward to PW's Gathering! As such, they are offering a bit of a break to PW attendees on packaging and shipping from the Gathering (in case you are wondering how to fit that special something in a carry-on bag)! Stay tuned for more info!

Disaster assistance training

In conjunction with the Gathering, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will offer Disaster Preparedness Trainer training. PW Disaster Preparedness Trainers are expected to organize and conduct a minimum of three disaster preparedness trainings a year, sharing the basics of disaster preparedness with congregations and presbyteries. The training will be held on August 1, 2018, and is open to all interested PW. PDA will

pay for two nights of lodging: July 31 and August 1. All meals on August 1 will be provided. Download the application and reference form from www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/pw-pdaapplication. If you have previously submitted an application for a training that you were unable to attend or for more information, please contact Beth Snyder, 888.728.7228, ext. 5806; email beth.snyder@pcusa.org.
Program book to host ads again
The 2018 program book will once again include ads that celebrate faithful women, send prayers and joyfully envision the future. See registration booklet.

Help our Treasurer

Please send a ***Presbyterian Women in the Congregation Remittance Form*** with each payment sent to Lois, our PWP treasurer. It makes her bookkeeping job a bit easier.

Lois Stanfield, 5732 W Bream Dr
Sioux Falls, SD 57107

From *Meditations/Now* by Leslie Brandt (Oct 28)

“Prayer is not simply petition and repetition, feeling and sentiment; nor is it a sanctified form of begging or convincing God of something He already knows and thereby compelling Him to some sort of action. It is primarily an act of devotion whereby Christians dedicate, submit, consecrate themselves to God and can be brought to the place where God through them can accomplish the very things for which they have prayed.

Looking Ahead
Reflection on the Light -- PWP Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 28, 2018 in Miller at 1st Presbyterian Church

Worship Leader: Pastor Janice Palmer... Miller

Mission Experiences: Sue Holloway...Lead

South Dakota Health Care Association /Music and Memory...Jeanne Armstrong...Pierre

Our Mission Project and our Mission Offering for 2018

Bring your Special Offerings: Birthday, Least Coin, and Cents-Ability (Hunger)

Bring your Necrology of Presbyterian Women in the Congregation

Registration with Coffee and Rolls: 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Cost is \$15.00...Includes lunch

Set your goals. Plan to come. Bring a car load of Presbyterian Women.



amazon

smile

Shop AmazonSmile and help PW!

Amazon donates to PW in the PC(USA) when you shop <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/80-0473061>.

**Reflecting on Light –
2018 Churchwide Gathering**

This reflection is from Rhoda Frasier, moderator for PW in the Synod of Mid-America and co-chair (with Bligh Jones) of the plenary team for the Churchwide Gathering.

There has been a lot of hoopla over the solar eclipse. I live about 60 miles from the premier watching line. But I decided to just sit at home and watch, without all the crowds and traffic.

This event gave me pause as I thought about God's light in our lives. As with the sun, when we walk with God, the world is bright. Everything around us is bathed in the glow of God's love and creation. All is right with the world. But when we are not walking with God, or the sun is covered up, our world, our life gets a little less bright. Things are not as clear. There are shadows all around us. As we move further from God's light, or the sun is becoming completely covered, we are standing in darkness. There is gloom around us. We have trouble seeing or focusing on where we should go, where God is leading us.

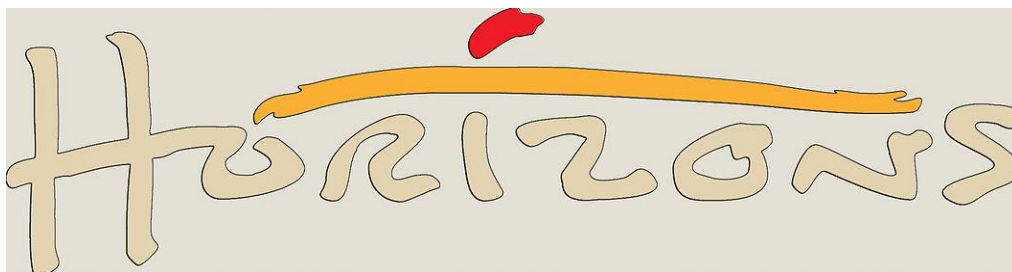
But the good news is—just like with the eclipse—the light is always there. It is just hidden behind the moon. As we move back to God, uncovering the love of God in our lives, the light shines brighter. The shadows disappear. The world around us is again bathed in God's love. We just need to believe that through the darkness, there is light.

Arise, shine, the light has come!

Horizons Corner

November/December Issue:

Migrants and Refugees



As Advent approaches, you may plan to do a bit of shopping at your local fair trade store (mortar and bricks or online). Partners for Just Trade (PJT), which was begun by the Presbyterian Hunger Program, continues its 10-year ministry of offering amazing handcrafted goods that truly make a better, more just world for so many artisans who would otherwise live in extreme poverty. PJT sells a nativity figurine that varies a bit from standard nativity sets that feature the Holy Family, a manger, an angel or two, stable creatures, and a trio of magi. PJT's nativity figurine, entitled Nativity Flight to Egypt, depicts Mary, Joseph and infant Jesus, tightly clinging to one another, fleeing to safety on the back of a llama (as envisioned by the Peruvian artist who makes it).*

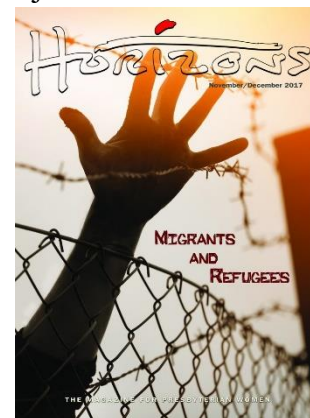
This dear nativity figurine may ultimately find its way to a holly-covered mantel or illuminated evergreen in a cosy North American home, but it depicts a very difficult human experience: fleeing one's home for safe refuge. "Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod" (Matt. 2:13–15).

"Then Joseph got up. . ." (Matt. 2:14)

Heeding the angel's warning, this young family "got up" and "got out." Can you imagine just how difficult it would have been to flee, particularly with a newborn child? What event or foreboding would move you to get up and flee? What must it be like to have to quickly consider what to carry with you (if you have time to consider, that is)?

As God's people, we have lots of prayers to offer and ministry to make happen for our sisters and brothers—many of whom are very young—who are seeking a better life, or, perhaps, just life. May these pages offer insight and clarity as we "get up" to walk alongside the migrants and immigrants among us (as well as advocate for the too many who are a world away in refugee camps or dire situations). "Let mutual love continue," indeed.

*The figurine (Nativity Flight to Egypt, item MA663) is available in limited quantity at www.partnersforjusttrade.org.



***When you get to your wits end,
You'll find God lives there.***

The *Prairie Wind* is Available ELECTRONICALLY!

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by e-mail instead of mail contact Linda Barnett at barnelim@hotmail.com

***Horizons* subscriptions "Did You Know?"**

- PW groups can save by subscribing in bulk—two to four subscriptions to one address is \$18.95/per subscription/per year; five or more to one address is \$17.95/year.
- Print subscribers to the magazine receive the digital edition of the magazine free *and* the annual Bible study in print.
- Digital-only subscribers pay just \$15 but do not receive the Bible study.

Musings from the Fall Retreat at Joy Ranch

Submitted by Louise Van Poll

I am a brand new PW member, having attended my first PW meeting a scant two weeks before the Fall Retreat. But I was not the newest PW member in attendance. And even though I had not been able to attend PW meetings, I did attend the last Worldwide Gathering in Minneapolis and the last Spring Retreat at Pioneer Camp.

I am a fairly new Presbyterian, having joined the church three years ago. But again, I am not a new Christian, having been involved in church work and women's fellowship groups for about 40 years.

So the Fall Retreat at Joy Ranch was not my first rodeo, but it was a great experience.



Pat Hammond, associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Sioux Falls, facilitated the retreat and it was obvious she put a lot of time, thought and effort into the group and individual experiences.

There are three, no four, make that five highlights out of many that stand out in my mind as treasured memories.

The first was during our opening session when we were getting to know each other. Instead of going around the room giving our names and home churches, we each interviewed someone we didn't know well and then introduced her to the gathering. After the introductions, we spent time in deep conversation with our partners answering questions such as, "What gives you the most energy these days?" and "What is the greatest challenge in your life?" I learned so much about my partner.

Number two were the Barnabas Bags we each put outside our bedroom door. Barnabas was considered a great encourager and we put notes of encouragement into everyone's bag. This was a tremendously uplifting experience for me, first to purposely consider what I wanted to say to each person, and again at home reading the notes others left for me.

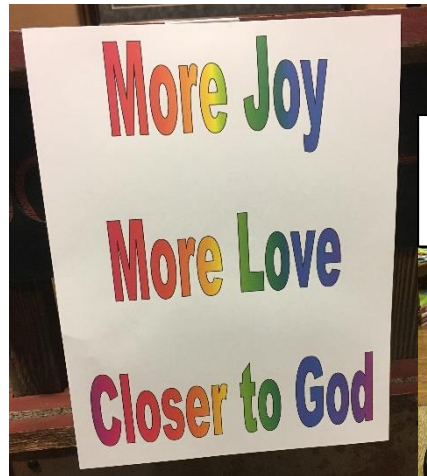
The third and fourth highlights involved the individual meditation tables. At one we picked out a photograph that spoke to us and meditated on it. Pat talked to me about the picture I chose, really drawing me out into greater clarity about the direction and choices in my future. The other table that really engaged me was learning how to write an ethical will. A document to pass on to my children explaining my values and beliefs and the important decisions and events that shaped my life.

And the last highlight was a wheel for healthy living. I plotted where I fall in areas such as faith life, movement, nutrition, and friends and family. The idea is to be aware of your strengths and weaknesses and work at getting, and keeping, your life in balance.

Many folks talked about making this an annual event, which I think would be a wonderful idea. It is always great to gather with other women to share a time of reflection, growth, love and worship.

Louise Van Poll is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Huron.

A Look at PWP Fall Retreat at Joy Ranch



Fate whispers to the warrior, 'You cannot withstand the storm,' and the warrior whispers 'I am the storm.'



Reflecting the Light

Submitted by Bonnie Wirt, Spiritual Growth

It was a bright autumn day when the PWPCT met at First Presbyterian Church, Huron, on Saturday, October 2, 2017. The very productive meeting included reports on activities, business and finances, and plans for upcoming events.



“Arise, shine, your light has come.” (Isaiah 60:1) is the theme for the 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, August 2-5 in Louisville, KY. That theme was reflected in the devotions of the day. Registration for Churchwide Gathering will begin online in January. The PWP will make ten \$100 scholarships available.

The Faithful Women Fall Retreat (Sept 23-24 at Joy Ranch) was deemed a wonderful success. Consideration and discussion was given to a suggestion to hold the fall retreat annually; but it was decided to leave it as it is with a three-year rotation of churchwide gathering, synod gathering, and fall retreat. That will allow time to focus on promoting and recruiting attendance for one at a time.

PWP will also promote the annual women’s retreat scheduled by Camp Director Jason xxxxx as part of the many camps provided at Pioneer and Rimrock. Some Presbyterian Women may choose to attend it every year, and others only in years when PWP doesn’t have a fall retreat.

Plans were discussed for the 2018 PWP Spring Gathering to be held April 28, 2018, at Miller First Presbyterian Church with the theme of “Reflection on Light.” Mission, Justice, Peace Coordinator Jeanne Armstrong was asked to present information on a South Dakota Care Association program, “Music and Memory”, for use in nursing homes; and it was chosen as a PWP mission project.

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery are still basking in the glow of having a group in our state receive a PW Churchwide Thank Offering grant. *In His Steps: Pathways of Peace* received a \$50,000 grant in March for *Mara l’il Mara* (Woman to Woman) Breast Cancer Project in Palestine. PWP is extremely grateful to Judy Rops, Christy Reiners, Pat Boelman and others who played a role in accomplishing this feat. It was a pleasure to support IHS by buying the many items carved from the wood of the olive tree in the past; but now it is a tremendous honor and responsibility to continue to support them in this endeavor.

PW Synod Gathering will be in Ames, IA, June 20-23, 2019. The next PWPCT meeting will be at Huron First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 7, 2018

23rd Psalm for the work place

The Lord is my real boss, and I shall not want

He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.

He gently reminds me to pray and do all things without murmuring and complaining.

He reminds me that he is my source and not my job.

He restores my sanity every day and guides my decisions that I might honor him in all that I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of e-mails, system crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping co-workers, discriminating supervisors and an aging body that doesn’t cooperate every morning, I still will not stop – for He is with me! His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through.

He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me.

He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens to let me go. His faithfulness and love is better than any bonus check.

His retirement plan beats every 401k there is!

When it’s all said and done, I’ll be working for Him a whole lot longer than for that. I bless His name!

JOYFUL HARVEST

They that dwell under his shadow shall return...and grow as the vine... HOSEA 14:7 (KJV)

When my children were small, I was the magical elf of our pumpkin patch. In mid-August, when the pumpkin vines began setting on fruits about the size of apples, I would sneak into the garden with a nail, stick, or barbecue skewer, and scratch each child's name on a baby pumpkin. The scratches made a thin mark, but didn't otherwise damage the fruit. Better yet, the tiny globes remained invisible beneath the broad, scratchy pumpkin leaves and my work went unnoticed.

Over the next few weeks as the pumpkins swelled and turned first ivory, then yellow, then brilliant orange, the scars would grow too, stretching with the shell and forming a brownish welt. By harvest time each fifteen-pound pumpkin would be personalized with a two-inch name- a source of infinite amazement and speculation.

After the first September cold snap, I would casually suggest, "Maybe we'd better go pick those pumpkins." My four children would rush to the dead garden and easily spot the orange pumpkins glowing like lanterns amid the leaves blackened and shriveled by frost.

"Mom", Tess would suddenly shriek, "it has my name!" The enchantment never failed. As the older children caught on, they still let Trina, the youngest, delight in finding her special pumpkin without spoiling my secret. Even when all the children were old enough to solve the mystery, they would remind Mom to "go name the pumpkins" as soon as they first bulged on the vine.

I haven't grown pumpkins for years now, and half of my children have left home. Very often I wonder whether my relationship with God has made any difference in their lives. Did I pass on my faith- really and truly? Did I make an impact? Then I pause to consider the faint etchings on those tiny pumpkins- and know that in God's good time, for my children, too, there will be a joyful harvest.

Lord of creation, thank you for the miracle of growth, in my garden and in myself.

-Gail Thorell Schilling



From *Mission Yearbook* Oct 20, 2014

Let us pray

Lord, help us to care for those in need. May we offer hope in the face of chaos, confidence in the face of uncertainty, and joy in service to you. May all who endure loss be filled with your presence and confidence in your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Churchwide Gathering Registration Booklet will arrive with the Nov/Dec issue of Horizons or can be downloaded at:

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/product/cwg-2018-arise-shine-your-light-has-come-registration-booklet/>

Moderator's Report to Presbytery – October meeting

Who RECEIVED A \$50,000 THANK OFFERING GRANT? From PW Churchwide?

Answer: In His Steps: Pathways of Peace

Mara l'il Mara (Woman to Woman) Breast Cancer Project

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Palestinian women; it is an urgent health concern. The Thank Offering grant will be used to develop a culturally sensitive program that raises awareness about the prevalence of breast cancer, its possible cause, and the desperate need for early detection, screening, and treatment. It is hoped that the grant will create the momentum necessary to replicate this effort in more villages across the West Bank. www.ihsholyland.

Thanks to Christy Reiners, Judy Rops, Pat Boelman, and others, who were instrumental in securing the grant, which began in 1888. Presbyterian Women have joyfully expressed gratitude for God's blessings by sharing their blessings with those in need at home and around the world. The Thank Offering funds programs which provide education, safe housing, clean water, health care, help for prisoners, justice for women, and so much more.

Want to contribute to and support our PW Thank Offering celebration? Contact Trudi Nelson, our PW Presbytery Moderator at nelsont@svtv.com, or call 636-9287. Please join us in being thankful!

Faithful Women Fall Retreat

Did you miss it? If so, read about it in the New Song. Next time? Yes. There is a next time!

What an awesome retreat we had with Pastor Pat Hammond leading the retreat and so many others who volunteered. The list is endless...I cannot name everyone, but blessed are those who came or contributed in so many ways. The Lord has used our talents.

PW Mission Pledge

All of the PW mission and activities happen because of **YOU**, our Presbyterian Women. If you wish to pledge to PW, please do so. Contact me. We do wonders!! Especially mission.

Mark Your Calendar

April 28, 2018 PW Presbytery Spring Gathering at First Presbyterian Church, Miller

August 2-5, 2018 PW Churchwide Gathering at Louisville, Kentucky,

Trudi Nelson, PW Presbytery Moderator

***Quit griping about your church;
If it was perfect, you couldn't belong.***

Justice and Peace Calendar

December

10 International Human Rights Day
18 International Migrants Day
25 Christmas; Orange Day
(<http://endviolence.un.org>)

January

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
7–13 PW Together in Action Days to End Human Trafficking
11 International Human Trafficking Awareness Day
14 Race Relations Sunday
15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
16 National Religious Freedom Day
18–24 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
21 Criminal Justice Sunday
25 Orange Day; <http://endviolence.un.org>
27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day

February

Black History Month; also, National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month
1 National Freedom Day
4 Souper Bowl of Caring
12 International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers
14 One Billion Rising for Justice
25 Orange Day; <http://endviolence.un.org>

March

Women's History Month
2 World Day of Prayer
4 Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday
8 International Women's Day
12–23 UN Commission on the Status of Women
12–23 PW Together in Action for Women's Empowerment
22 World Water Day
25 Orange Day; <http://endviolence.un.org>
29–A.7 Ten Days of Prayer and Thanksgiving for the Roma

For a complete calendar, including links to resources, see www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice

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What does your PW do? What "works" for you?
Share your successes!
Write to or email Linda, editor of *Prairie Wind*