

JOYFUL NOISE

NEWS FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA



To Work For Justice and Peace



After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God, for his judgments are true and just. Revelation 19:1, 2a

This passage from *Revelation* reminds us that the Biblical witness from beginning to end is that God is concerned with justice. God is concerned that the widow, the

orphan and the sojourner among us be treated fairly and have enough. These are the people that were most at risk in their society. Who is at risk in ours? The Purpose of PW links Justice to Peace in the recognition that peace follows where justice exists – the justice of fairness, of enough for all.

I welcome your invitations to visit. As I attend your meetings and learn of your work, I rejoice and feel blessed and can say with John of Patmos, *"I know your works -- your love, faith, service, and patient endurance. I know that your last works are greater than the first."* Revelation 2:19

Moderator:

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- ***Please pass this issue of Joyful Noise to the person responsible for distributing information to the Presbyterian Women in your church.***

Handbook/Directory

If you did not get one, please contact me and I will send it. 828-884-7504; suebar@citcom.net

Looking Ahead - Add to your Calendar

Spring Gathering: April 30, 2011 the Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, author of the next *Horizons* Bible Study on the Beatitudes will keynote our Gathering at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville.

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Summer Gathering: June 9-12 at Massanetta Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA. Dr. Aymer will lead the Bible study under the theme "Confessing the Beatitudes."

There will be many workshops and mission opportunities.

Spanish Bible Study

The group that visited our Guatemala partners in November took with them 50 copies of the *Horizons Bible Study on Revelation* in Spanish for the women of our partner churches. So that your PW can feel ownership in this

program, send \$8.00 to our treasurer, Pat Fiol to cover the cost of one study. When you are studying *Revelation*, remember our Guatemalan sisters doing the same.

Justice and Peace

By Josephine Hambrick, **The Resurrection Dance Theater of Haiti:** Former street children and child slaves in Haiti will be in Hickory on January 15, 2011 sponsored by Northminster and First Presbyterian Churches. Contact Josephine for further information. 828-327-5751

Sudan and Human Trafficking

Churchwide and Synod PW are focusing this triennium on **Sudan and Human trafficking**.

1. Two members of the Churchwide Coordinating Team, Marilyn Collins and Janice Takeda, visited Sudan the end of October to attend the second women's Peace and Trust Building Conference between women of two formerly competing (warring) tribes – Murle and Nuer. They went with leaders of RECONCILE, a Sudanese Christian organization devoted to trauma healing, reconciliation, peace building, and civic education. PW supports the work of RECONCILE.

Mission co-workers Del and Debbie Braaksma worked with RECONCILE for several years and are now in Louisville. They visited our Presbytery twice in the past four years.

2. PW is supporting the efforts of the National Coalition to End Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (see afnap@womensfundingnetwork.org and March/April 2010 *Horizons* for more information). Encourage your representatives in Congress to pass HR 5575, a bi-partisan bill that seeks to combat the sex trafficking of children across America and allow survivors access to restorative care services.

PW Histories

A reminder to all Historians: Histories for January 1 – December 31, 2010, should be sent in by January 31, 2011. Please share a summary of your women's work, such as number of circles, number of women participating, activities that the women did during the year, attendance of members to Presbytery and/or Synod gatherings, and any special offerings given by the women. A one-page summary would be great! If you can, please email them to Becky Lineberger at beckyl@carolina.rr.com or mail them to Becky at 1738 C R Jonas Hwy., Mount Holly, NC 28120.

Faith Fund of PW of PWNC

An award is made annually to a benevolent church or community project nominated by a local PW. The amount depends on the return from our investment, but it is usually around \$700-800. Applications are due December 31, 2010. See p. 12 of the *Handbook*.

Speaker Available

The Rev. Dr. James Aydelotte who led *Peace with Justice in the Holy Land* is willing to speak at churches in the Presbytery. Let PW be the catalyst that spreads ideas to your congregation. Talk with your Session Mis-

sion/Justice and Peace/Education Ministry Teams about inviting him. Contact James at 828-664-9030 or jamara03@bellsouth.net. Also see the Sept./Oct. 2010 *Horizons*.

Search Committee

We welcome members who would like to attend a Presbytery PW CT meeting to visit any time. The next one is February 5 at 1st PC in Hendersonville, 10-12. More than that we are looking for women who will accept a position. Call Lois Groth to learn more about the positions that are open and to suggest a woman from your PW who would share her talents, skills and time at the Presbytery level. It is truly a blessing to work together to further the PW purpose in Western NC. Lois Groth, Search Moderator, 828-488-3427.

Good News

Brenda Winker former PW moderator at Rutherfordton has accepted the job of Cluster Leader for Cluster IV. Those in that cluster will be hearing from her soon. Contact information: 828-287-3884, 187 Ridgeland Drive, Rutherfordton, 28139 brendawinker@bellsouth.net

*Happy
Holidays*

Mission Pledge Form

Many thanks to those PW moderators who have sent their Mission Pledge Form (p. 11 of handbook or on Presbytery Web Page under PW). Please get that in as soon as you can, so we can make plans for the coming year. Although some think of this as dues or an assessment, I encourage you to think of it as an offering to support the work of PW at Presbytery, Synod and Churchwide levels. By sharing at these levels we can participate in mission efforts that each church could not do alone. It is empowering to be part of PW all over the country carrying out our Purpose.

Fall Gatherings

Our two Fall Gatherings, at Highlands and Lowell, were well attended by about 200 women from 36 churches.

Josephine Hambrick, Justice and Peace Facilitator provided each church with two copies of *Building a Culture of Peace Begins with Children*, published by the Peacemaking Program of the PC(USA). If you did not get one and want it, please

contact me at 828-884-7504 or sue-bar@citcom.net

Evaluations showed all the workshops were well received. If you have ideas for future workshop themes or speakers, contact Ginny Gernoske at 828-697-5308 or mtngin@bellsouth.net

Offerings from the Fall Gatherings

Highlands : Living Waters water purification project in Bolivia that a team from Highlands has trained for and will take place in March: \$1,149.25

Lowell: The Shelter of Gaston County (temporary shelter for victims of domestic violence): \$947.00

Nickel-a-meal at both gatherings: \$55.70 for the Presbytery Hunger Fund

Mission USA: Meeting Our Sisters in South Dakota

Patricia Clark is available to share with your PW or whole congregation her experience with the Churchwide team of PW visiting Native American women, congregations, reservations, and schools this past September. They went to hear the voices of our sister and learn about issues that concern them – justice among those concerns. As we all know, reading brings some understanding, but presence enhances and personalizes situations in a mighty way. Patricia will bring this first hand experience to you.

Contact information: 828-433-1726

patriciahc@bellsouth.net



Many thanks to the Presbyterian Women at Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church, Brevard NC. They knitted 14 Children caps and 14 lovely dolls to be sent to our Malawi Mission Hospital.

Recommended Reading

by Mimi Michael

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

This is one of the most compelling books I have read in a long time, and I highly

recommend it to all Presbyterian Women. The authors, Pulitzer Prize winning NY Times columnists, relay accounts of oppression women experience around the world and cite examples of the kinds of help that are making a difference. The book makes the convincing argument that empowering women can make

the single greatest difference in fighting global poverty and achieving basic human rights across the world. Though the problems are complex, the book offers helpful, concrete examples of ways we can make a difference. Eye-opening and disturbing yet inspirational, this book should be read and then shared.

AMANDA CRAFT'S BLOG

Amanda has started a blog where she regularly posts items related to her life and work in Guatemala. To subscribe to the blog and receive new posts directly to your email account, go to <http://amandacraft.wordpress.com/>. You will see the box on the right hand side of the page where you can subscribe. This is an excellent way to stay informed and to remember to pray for Amanda and our sisters in Guatemala.

to Guatemala who is continuing the work with Guatemalan women that Ellen Dozier began. Amanda was in the states for a few weeks this summer, and we were fortunate to have her in Western North Carolina for some of that time.

Amanda shared with us many interesting facets of Guatemalan life. Women work extremely hard in their families and churches, yet do not have many of the opportunities in their society that men do. Consequently, low self esteem is common. There is a very active and diverse Presbyterian Women's organization. While most women are Latina and speak Spanish, many are from indigenous populations that speak different dialects. This

makes communication at their national gatherings a challenge. As the Facilitator for the Leadership Development of Women, Amanda works particularly with the leadership of Sinodica, their Presbyterian Women's organization.

To strengthen and support the sociedades (circles) and the presbyteriales (presbyteries), they recently began an *obrero* program. The country was divided into five regions and each was assigned an *obrero* (literally "worker.") Their job is to visit with the local women's organizations to offer guidance, help and support. Our Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina has pledged to provide ongoing financial support for the *obreras*.

MISSION

Guatemala:

A visit with Amanda Craft

By Mimi Michaels

On a warm August afternoon, several Presbyterian Women had a wonderful opportunity to have lunch with Amanda Craft. Amanda is the mission co-worker

The *obrero* who serves the churches in our partnership is Flor de Maria Alvarez, who was one of the women who came to visit our presbytery a few years ago. She is intelligent, enthusiastic, and energetic and is doing a great deal for Presbyterian women.

Amanda Craft lives in Antigua with her husband, Omar, and their one year old son, Ethan. We are fortunate to have her serving in Guatemala. To learn more about Amanda and read her updates go to:

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/missionconnections/craft-amanda/>

Dates and Deadlines

Jan 31, 2011	PW Histories due
Feb 5, 2011	WMC PW CT Meeting, First Pres. Of Hendersonville
April 30, 2011	Spring Gathering, Trinity Presbyterian, Hendersonville
June 9-12, 2011	Synod of the Mid Atlantic Summer Gathering, Massanetta Springs
Sept 24, 2011	Easter Fall Gathering, Location TBA
Oct 1, 2011	Western Fall Gathering, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church



News for Presbyterian Women
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