

JOYFUL NOISE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PWNC

FROM THE MODERATOR

Greetings PW!

In support of our Presbyterian



Women (PW) Purpose *to nurture our faith through prayer and*

Bible study, most circles began the PW year with the 2018 – 2019 *Horizon's* Bible Study entitled, *God's Promise: I Am With You*, written by Amy Poling Sutherland, co-pastor of First Presbyterian Church in San Marcos, Texas.

Further support of our PW Purpose *to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women* was accomplished through local PW groups and the Fall Gatherings.

Our first Fall Gathering (for the eastern part of the Presbytery of WNC) was hosted by the Presbyterian Women at United Presbyterian in Lenoir, North Carolina, on Saturday, September 22, 2018. There

were 40 PW in attendance representing 11 churches.

The workshops at both gatherings included an overview of the *Horizons* Bible Study, Leadership in PW, Building a Better Today & Tomorrow Through Mission, and Personality Strategies. The mission offering in the amount of \$545 was collected for Caldwell Friends, Inc. in Lenoir. Their mission is to inspire, enrich, and enable at-risk children and youth ages 7-11 to realize their full potential and motivate them toward positive life choices.

The second Fall Gathering (for the western part of the Presbytery) was held at Grace Covenant in Asheville, North Carolina, on Saturday, October 20, 2018. There were 51 attendees, representing 16 churches; the mission offering in the amount of \$1,298.50 was collected for Beloved House in Asheville. Their mission is to seek an end to homelessness,

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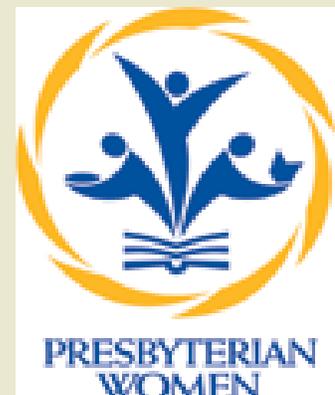
NOVEMBER 2018

**MODERATOR
INFORMATION:**

**TINA JOYNER
5 MELBOURNE PL.
ASHEVILLE, NC
28801**

828.279.2665

***PLEASE SHARE
THIS ISSUE OF
JOYFUL NOISE
WITH THE
PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN IN YOUR
CHURCH.***



(continued from pg.1)

poverty, and prejudice through the power of community!" Beloved House also needs "help in building community with children and their families, women, senior citizens, people who are homeless, people with disabilities, and neighbors in Asheville." Thanks PW of PWNC for your generosity for both agencies at the Fall Gatherings.

Tina Joyner

Moderator, PW-CT PWNC

Presbyterian Women's FAITH FUND

As you gather with Presbyterian Women for prayer and Bible Study, fellowship and support, do ideas come up where you see a need? Have you thought of ways that a small input of effort and money might make a significant difference in your neighbors' lives? Presbyterian Women (PW) are caring and creative. The FAITH FUND of the PW of the Presbytery of WNC (PWNC) might be the vehicle that can make your idea work.

The FAITH FUND – **F**-Financial, **A**-Awards, **I**-Inspired, **T**-Through, **H**-Helping Hands – was established in 2004 to encourage local PWs to carry through with creative projects that recognize and nourish the light of Christ in every person that bring hope when it might be dimming. The first award was given in April of 2006. The scripture associated with the fund is Matthew 25:40, "... *I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.*"

The PW of PWNC makes an annual award to a benevolent church or community project within the Presbytery. The PW of a congregation submits the FAITH FUND application; and if chosen, the money goes to the project. **This may be a project created, are involved in, and/or support.** The amount of the award(s) will vary depending on the performance of an investment fund of gifts from many Presbyterian Women over the years.

An example of a creative project was an award that allowed the Chaplaincy program of the Swannanoa Women's Correctional Center to have mothers separated from their children record themselves reading books to their children. The books, recording materials, and postage to get books and recordings to the children were covered by the FAITH FUND award. This project has been carried on and enlarged with other funds over the years because of the original idea of one PW group and the monetary support of the FAITH FUND. Another PW used the FAITH FUND to purchase a freezer for their food pantry that allowed for greater ongoing capacity to serve their community.

What is happening in your congregation and community where a small investment could make a significant difference? Fill out the application below, and set your idea in motion. The deadline for submission has been extended to January 31, 2019.

Sue Barrett

Past Moderator/PW PWNC

2019 Faith Fund Application

The Faith Fund of the PW of PWNC makes an award annually to a benevolent church or community project within the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. The PW of a congregation submits this application; the money goes to the project. This may be a project in PWNC that they created, are involved in, and/or support. The amount of awards will vary depending on the performance of the investment.

Church Name

1. Name of group, organization or project you would like to receive the funds.

2. Address of group, organization or project to which the money should be sent.

3. Give reasons why the funds should go to this project. Attach supporting documents.

Signature of Church Moderator of Presbyterian Women

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Send application to:
 Sharon Meares
 PW WNC Treasurer
 1012 10th Street Court, NW
 Hickory, NC 28601
 828/324-1601
 shmeares@hotmail.com

Due December 31, 2018

November 30, 2018

PW 101 – Helps for New PW Leadership

If you are reading these words, you are probably a PW leader and know all things PW! But many of our faithful are unaware of some of the finer points of their amazing organization. That's why we began a "PW 101" series. This is the seventh in a series of PW basics for those new to PW and those who sense some gaps in their PW knowledge.

PW 101.7: We Celebrate Our History

In 2018, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Presbyterian Women. Of course, women of the church have been active and faithful for generations. In fact, the first Presbyterian women's organization began in the early 19th century. Today's PW "came to be" when Women of the Church (WOC) (the women's organization of the PCUS, or "southern stream" of the church) and United Presbyterian Women (UPW) (the women's organization of the UPCNA, or "northern stream") united in 1988 after much discernment, prayer, and intentional engagement. Legacies from our predecessor organizations include the Birthday Offering (WOC) and Thank Offering (UPW); Bible study and magazine; hands-on mission work; and gains in women's leadership in the church.

Presbyterian Women are mindful that we are never alone on our faith journey. Maintaining and preserving the history of PW at the congregation, presbytery, synod and national levels is a meaningful task for leadership at all levels of PW.

PW historians in the congregations send annual reports to the John Bulow Campbell Library at Columbia Theological Seminary, and a copy to the PW in the Presbytery (PWP) historian. PWP historians compile their reports based on PWC reports and send their reports to the Presbyterian Historical Society, with a copy to their PW in the Synod (PWS) historian. PWS historians compile their reports based on PWP reports and send them to the Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS), with a copy to the churchwide historian. The churchwide historian sends a report to PHS, as well. Download our historian brochure at www.presbyterianwomen.org/history.
(Taken from Aug. 1 - Oct. 2018 • Presbyterian Women Quarterly Newsletter)

PW 101.9: PW Is Voluntary and Inclusive!

How many amazing organizations or volunteer activities are you a part of that require no membership fees or even an enrollment sheet? Presbyterian Women requires neither! How is that for relying on the generosity and faithfulness of its "membership"? Being an elected PW leader (at the presbytery, synod and national level) does require membership in a PC(USA) church, and two-thirds of the PWC leadership must be member of the PC(USA).

Participation in Presbyterian Women is open to all women who choose to be supportive of Presbyterian Women in any way. Presbyterian Women intentionally seeks the inclusion of all ages, races, ethnicities and geographic locations so that it reflects the rich diversity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). All women who are members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are considered part of Presbyterian Women (PW Manual: A Guide for Groups, 5).

And anyone—male or female—"who supports the PW Purpose . . . is welcome and encouraged to participate in all activities" (PW Manual, 6). Participation may include attending a gathering, volunteering at a mission event, or participating in a Bible study!

Even so, participation in PW is intentionally welcoming. So feel free to invite your Lutheran neighbor, your "none" granddaughter, or even your a capella vocal quartet to your next Bible study or Together in Service (TIS) project! (Taken from Nov. - Jan. 2019 • Presbyterian Women Quarterly Newsletter)

Guatemala Microloan Project Update: November 2018

Introducing Two New Groups to the Guatemala Microloan Project

Thanks to a Presbyterian Women Thank Offering grant and a partnership with Covenant Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto, CA and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portland, OR, two new microloan groups were started in October 2018. A group of 12 women was formed in **Sintaná**, a community outside of Coatepeque. The second group of 16 women was formed in the community of **El Progreso**, located in the municipality of Mazatenango.



TWELVE MEMBERS OF COFFEE FLOWER WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS FROM SINTANÁ. FLOR, ON STAFF WITH ADEHGUA, IS PICTURED ON FAR LEFT AND MILDRE ON FAR RIGHT.

Mildre and Flor, on staff with ADEHGUA, the NGO that administers the project, are very pleased with how quickly the groups are learning. Prayer support is an essential aspect of the microloan project. If you or your group are interested in serving as a prayer partner for one of these new participants, contact Sue Barrett at suebar@comporium.net or 828-553-3621. Prayer partners will receive information and photos of the woman for which they are assigned to pray.



SIXTEEN MEMBERS OF WOMEN WORKERS WITH HOPE FROM COMMUNITY OF EL PROGRESO.

Evaluation of the Microloan Project

Following three years of participation in the microloan project, the four original groups had the opportunity to evaluate its impact. Here are a few highlights of their responses:

Las Animas: The women enjoy seeing each other often. **Lesvia** comments that the project has been an “awakening of women.” **Merari** found the workshops attracted her to learn, and although she was scared initially because she didn’t know how to do things, she was taught. She believes the best part is becoming independent as women. **Olga** says she and her husband both make the decisions, that women can also decide and have the ability to be in charge.

Santo Domingo: Unemployment and poverty in Guatemala continue to make it difficult to earn enough for household expenses, medical needs, and children’s education, but the project has been helpful, and the women are more active.

Coatepeque: The women have learned to share experiences, deal with differences, be more patient, love themselves, and save money. They enjoy the communion that participation in the group brings. The workshops are interesting, and they share with others what they learn.

San Felipe: **Aury** considers the microloan group an extension of her church’s work, and it is a blessing to her and her family. The group encourages the women, exhorts them, and leads them to work more and together. **Kelita** has gained new ideas, such as how to cook and eat healthy foods, that she practices with her family, and she has learned new ways to expand her business. Despite her 74 years, **Victoria** says, the project has helped her to stay active and never stop learning.

Women from all groups have noticed changes in each other, most notably increases in animation, confidence, positivity, and thoughtfulness.

The Microloan Project aims to provide Guatemalan women opportunities to grow in self-esteem, hope, and freedom, and to help them develop economic resources for themselves and their families. It is exciting and encouraging to know that they have come to perceive and value these opportunities for themselves. We give thanks for all those who pray for and contribute to the ongoing mission.

Available for Christmas Giving



A fitting way to celebrate Jesus' birth is to honor others with a gift to the Guatemala Microloan Project. For a minimum \$10 donation, you will receive a card explaining how the gift provides opportunities for women to grow in self-esteem, hope and freedom. To order cards for yourself or your church contact Mimi Michael at mimimichael@charter.net or 828-465-0335. Thank you to Jade Baker for the beautiful design of our Christmas card.

For more information about new and current groups, follow our "Guatemala Microloan Project" Facebook page.

Economic Conditions in Guatemala

Guatemala has one of the highest poverty and chronic malnutrition rates in the Western Hemisphere. Due to falling coffee prices and other factors, economic conditions across the country are worsening and ADEHGUA is seeing the impact on the microloan participants. Please keep the microloan groups, ADEHGUA staff, and all citizens of Guatemala in your prayers.



THANK YOU TO TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN HENDERSONVILLE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT A PROGRAM

AT THEIR THANK OFFERING BRUNCH. TO ARRANGE A PROGRAM ON THE GUATEMALA MICROLOAN PROJECT FOR YOUR PW OR CHURCH, CONTACT ELLEN DOZIER AT 828-403-3988 OR ELLEENDOZIER@HOTMAIL.COM.

February Microloan Trip to Guatemala

Eight women from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will have the opportunity to see the Microloan Project firsthand on a February 4-11, 2019 trip to Guatemala. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for and travel to Guatemala, and meet with ADEHGUA staff and the microloan groups.



FROM LEFT: AMANDA MARTIN, TERRI HENDRIX, SUSAN MAVEETY, MIMI MICHAEL, MARY LOUISE FORSYTHE, LIL LANIER, ELLEN DOZIER AND GLORIA HICKSON.

We are grateful for all who have made this project possible, and welcome new supporters as well. **Send Donations** to PW Treasurer *Sharon Meares, 1012 10th ST CT NW, Hickory, NC 28601*. Checks should be payable to PW PWNC and designated for the Guatemala Microloan Project. Also, gifts to assist with travel can be designated for the Microloan Travel Fund.

Important Dates

Spring Gathering – Hickory First, Hickory, NC April 13, 2019

Synod Summer Gathering – Harrisonburg, VA June 6 – 9, 2019



Rita Warren
Presbyterian Women of PWNC
3203 St. Augustine Place
Asheville, NC 28805

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