

# The Lighthouse



February 2018

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the North Northeast

## Moderators Message



Lisa Gray

Dear Faithful Presbyterian Women,  
I'd like to wish you a Happy New Year! My words to you are from the 2018 Mission Pledge (Presbyterian Women's Annual Fund) from Galatians 6:9-10:

*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right,  
for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.*

*So then whenever we have an opportunity,  
let us work for the good of all,  
especially for those of the family of faith.*

It is my joy to announce to you that FOUR of OUR women in PWSNE have been nominated to the 2018-2021 Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women. Jenny Lee – Moderator, Jo Ann Burrell – Vice Moderator for Mission, Gladys Ortiz – Hispanic/Latin American Member at Large and Alpha O. Brown – Search Committee Northeast Region. Their bios can be found in the Nov/Dec 2017 issue of HORIZONS. Please keep them in your prayers to do us proud as they serve the Lord and women that they have already spent so much of their time and energy on.

Let's plan to send even more of us to the National Triennial Gathering August 2-8 (business meeting 1-2) in Louisville, Ky. Let's show our support for the nominees. Registration has opened January 15!

In 2018 we are celebrating PW's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of when we merged the "Southern and Northern Streams" into ONE PW group and one denomination. I attended that Gathering as Co-Moderator of the Presbytery of Newton (NJ). I was processing across the stage with one of the stoles each Presbytery made, in the large auditorium of Purdue University at age 37. I was in the midst of a nasty divorce and what got me through were those women (especially the three I went with) who were my **inclusive, caring community**. PW is no less relevant now to the **"thirty somethings"**. **Invite a Young Woman to attend the workshop: "Creating Spaces: Exploring Young Women's Involvement in an Intergenerational Era". It is a roundtable discussion which introduces young women to the opportunities available within the ministries of PW and PCUSA, while creating an open**

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### Editor's note:

Comments appreciated on *Lighthouse*.

The next issue of the Lighthouse will be published in August. Please try to have your info in by August 14, Due to the Churchwide Gathering.

In addition it is hoped we will hear from PWPs. What are you doing? Ideas to share and photos, etc.

Susan Silliman Smith, editor

Moderator's message continued

***dialogue on program ideas that serve young women.***

I urge you to choose a friend, daughter, or granddaughter and go on the road trip (or for most of us a flight). Pick a young woman from your congregation and SEND her! Get a Scholarship at any/all of the four levels (local, Presbytery, Synod & National have Leadership Development Grants) and enjoy a life changing event with over 1,000 women singing, listening to speakers, worshiping together, learning about peace and justice issues, going to Ed-Ops (Educational Opportunities=workshops), offsite local mission tours, book discussions, Spirituality Center, exercise classes, silent auction, the bookshop and exhibit hall. Did I mention the *vendors* at the Presbyterian Hunger Program Global Market Place? There IS CHILDCARE if you need it.

On another very important note, I have been reading, I mean really reading the **2018 Mission Pledge** materials. It's got a harvest type décor on the front and one was sent to EVERY CONGREGATION. I hope you will find it or order one! PDS (Presbyterian Distribution Service) 800-524-2612 and ask for PWR17011 or download it from the NEW website [Presbyterianwomen.org](http://Presbyterianwomen.org). The pledge deadline is long gone (I'd still like to see if YOUR church pledged-352 Hamilton Drive Stewartville NJ 08886), so send payments to PW Remittance Processing PO Box 643652 Pittsburgh, Pa 15264. My job is to offer support to PW leaders responsible for the pledges/gifts. MMMM if there is NO ONE doing this it could be YOU! Congregations are supposed to make pledges, send it to their Presbytery Treasurer on the form provided, PW business office in Louisville and ME. Since I haven't gotten any, we have a long way to go!

What's really important is that we **contribute** to this and understand that it funds: leadership enhancement and training, mission partnerships, publishing efforts, justice and peace advocacy, PCUSA world mission, and PW's operating expenses. Without PW there would not have been \$25 MILLION from the **Thank Offering** and \$20 MILLION from the **Birthday Offering** raised for the two major grant programs over these 30 years!

I am available to attend your Presbytery meetings or help any way I can!  
Text/call 973-476-4720 & Lisa\_A\_Gray@Hotmail.com  
Peace and Joy in this New Year!

## A Gift That Keeps on Giving

Maxine G. Hunter, past-Moderator, 2014-2017

There is a tradition in Presbyterian Women in our Synod for the PWP's (Presbyterian Women in Presbytery) to give their outgoing Moderator a monetary gift. The out-going Moderator then uses this gift in support of a mission or missions of her choice. As the "out-going" and "now-gone" Moderator of PWSNE, I again thank you for the monetary-gift-for mission you presented to me at our 2017 Triennial Gathering. I knew immediately the mission I would support! It is the new mission named "*Women Together*", located in Cranbury, NJ, inspired and developed by Jyungin (Jenny) Lee.

*Women Together*—an exciting step forward in mission—in my mind was a seed that was planted by the Sister's Stand and Walk Together (SSWT) program developed and first carried out by PWSNE 2004-2007 Moderator Anne Reynolds. I say this because Women Together like the SSWT program (which Jenny was one of the first gradates), is a mission dedicated to providing a "place of connection and fellowship for women" and "to educate, empower, and to spiritually nourish them for the community and the world"; and its Vision—"Educated, empowered, and spiritually nourished women together create ways to reach out to others to help them in turn to be empowered, encouraged, and nourished to enjoy the Kingdom among us and to strengthen the beloved community." What is better than this—a mission that keeps on giving?

For more information concerning *Women Together* contact: Jyungin (Jenny) Lee, Executive Director, at [womentogether.nj@gmail.com](mailto:womentogether.nj@gmail.com).

I hope all of you find this step forward in the development of Women Together is as exciting as I do. Take care and God Bless. MGH

## Presbyterian Women Synod of NE Representative To the Churchwide Coordinating Team

JoAnn Burrell

I attended the PWCCT meeting 08/30/17 to 09/03/17. My first meeting was new Synod Rep. training at the PW, Inc. office in the PCUSA building, and we were giving a tour of the facility. It was a warm and welcoming first meeting. After dinner, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee (CMOC) met to go over the Birthday Offering Grant Application that were reviewed at our homes over the past month. We selected "Cottage Village, a Tiny-house Community for Low-income Residents" in Cottage Grove, OR, "Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health" in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and "The Dwelling Place" in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN. The information on each grantee is in the Jan/Feb 2018 Horizon's Magazine. We then revised the Birthday and Thank Offering applications. We remind everyone that they should always use the most recent revision date on their applications.

Over the next 3 days, the full CCT met. Reports from the standing committees and the working committees were presented in writing (sent to Dropbox on our computers & Kindles); and presented verbally. We had a presentation from Rev. Eileen Lindner (PC of Tenafly, NJ) on the status of the PCUSA from the 2016 Survey; a presentation from Anita Coleman (Synod Rep from Southern California & Hawaii) on Anti-racism. We went on a field trip to the Kentucky Refugee Ministries at the Highland PC in Louisville.

In October, I received the Thank Offering Grant Application for review through the Dropbox system. Eighty-nine applications have been received. I finished my reviews on 01/15/18. The CMOC will come together on 02/28/18 to make selections for funding. Reviewing grant applications are time consuming and exhausting, they are also very enjoyable readings. Reading these applications gave me great joy, and restored my faith in humanity. Sometimes, the news of the day can depress me. The news can throw a wrench in my feelings and emotions. After reading these grant admissions, I felt good. They made me smile. I felt happy and inspired by the work of the applicants. I know there are good people in this world. Good people doing great things to help others. The grant applicants are people who do God's work in times of upheaval and chaos. It is because of PW, you women, who help and make it possible for the applicants of our grants, to continue with their missions helping the world.

I encourage each of us (Presbyterian women), to support the mission of PW, Inc. through our Mission Pledge with a donation, individually and as a group (PWS< PWP< PWC). Read the PW Mission Pledge Annual Fund 2018, Page 2 for what the PW Mission Pledge does. It is important for our organization to keep up God's work. Donate because you know your funds go to good causes!

### NEW INITIATIVES THAT OCCURRED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF YOUR ROLE:

No new initiatives in the scope of my role.

OTHER: I encourage all (women, men, young, old, youth, everyone) to come to the celebration of 30 years at our Churchwide Gathering starting 08/02/18. This gathering will inspire, educate, will let you connect with old friends, make new friends, learn about ways to live out your faith, and make you very happy. Rise, shine, your light has come! Isaiah 60:1

Yours in Christ,  
Jo Ann Burrell

### Churchwide PW E-Blasts

Periodically, Churchwide PW sends out e-blasts that include important information. If you would like to be in this email group, contact Patricia Longfellow at [Patricia.Longfellow@pcusa.org](mailto:Patricia.Longfellow@pcusa.org) and request to be added in. You will receive e-blasts from Stephanie Morris, Multimedia Associate/Designer for Churchwide Presbyterian Women. Her email address is [Stephanie.Morris@pcusa.org](mailto:Stephanie.Morris@pcusa.org).



## Global Exchange

The Global Exchange to Indonesia was awesome. I want to Thank everyone that helped support this trip with your prayers and financial support.



We could take some lesson from these folks and we shared about us and our customs with them. Everyone was so appreciative of your gifts of yarn necklaces. Even the men wore them proudly.

These women laid out the red carpet, showering us with gifts and we never went more than 2-3 hours without food being served.

And the children we met, just melted our hearts.

We visited several churches and women in several communities along with some mission projects for them. Everywhere we went we were welcomed with native dances and music. Saw several Temples.

They treated us like stars or famous people. Everyone wanted to take our photos either alone or with them. Lots of "selfies."

I am going to attach a couple of photos and I will tell you about them when I come to an event in your neighborhood to share the full story with you. At this point, I have an empty calendar.

Virginia Champlin



### Editor's Note:

You can email Virginia at [Danvirginia@aol.com](mailto:Danvirginia@aol.com) reach her by telephone at 585-526-5841 for a visit to your PWP meeting.



## Historian

**Sandy Grillo**

As we jump into a new year, so many things come to mind that I want to do. The older I get, the faster time seems to fly. Are you the same? Each day is precious and should be used wisely. That isn't to say we don't need to relax and rest, that's how our bodies refuel. One of the things I want to do this year is work on storing the history of my own church. We have so many old books of minutes and other items from the distant past that no one ever looks at anymore, yet we don't want to throw out - so it sits there taking up valuable space. I want to pack some of the older items up and take them (or send them) to the Presbyterian Historical Society at 425 Lombard St. in Philadelphia. It is a wonderful place that you can spend several hours looking at the various parts. The staff will gladly give you a tour, it is quite impressive. Does this sound like something you need to think about also? Our history is so important. It is hard to figure out where we are going if we don't know where we have been. Anything you take to the HS is saved, if you ever need to see or retrieve it, you can. It will always be accessible to you and kept safe. Think about it. Philly is a great day trip for those of us close enough.

Continuing with the thoughts from women who have had a big role in our PWS, I asked Former Moderator Jane MacDonald for a few words. Here is what she said:

I reflect back to the Churchwide Gathering held in Ames, Iowa, my first. Five thousand plus met and worshipped in an arena, but it was decorated as a tent - literally the Biblical "tent of meeting". From then until now, I often reflect on how much more we as the church and as PW could do if we were not tied to our buildings, but were instead out and about, carrying our "tent" with us. With the flaps up, people are invited to enter; with the flaps down, the tent becomes a place of meditation, quiet and encounter with God and each other. What 'tents' can we create? Jane

I took many photos at our last two meetings but if you have pictures that are outstanding, please send me copies and I will include them in our history. PLEASE label names. Thank you. I hope God will bless you richly until we meet again.

## —Thank You— Triennial Offering

Thanks so much to all the super generous women who attended the closing worship service of last summer's Triennial Gathering! The offering totaled just under \$1700! As promised, it was quickly put to good use, building a much needed restroom.

An interesting development of the project is that the water pump and tanks are close to the part of the village on one side of the Prayer Mount. Some of the women who live on the other side found the confidence to speak up and ask for a tank on their side!! Fortunately, Rev. Myers was able to find a donor in Missouri, and now those women also have a convenient supply of water.

We are hopeful that the arrival of spring will bring lots of honey and eggs, and new hope to the villagers!

## Gun Violence

Gun violence seems to have escalated in recent years. Since the shooting at Sandy Hook and the most recent shooting in Florida, there have been advocates to not eliminate guns but to espouse for safe handlers and handling of them.

In your editor's opinion, there is absolutely no reason for anyone besides the military and maybe the SWAT teams to have access to military styled rifles. Also person with mental health issues should be closely monitored.

If you have not viewed and studied the video "Trigger" which the PCUSA has produced, please do so. Gun violence has a rippling affect on all.

Pray for the families affected.

## PWSNE SCHOLARSHIPS

### 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women



The Presbyterian Women Synod of the Northeast is pleased to announce that a \$300.00 partial Scholarship Application for the 2018 Gathering is currently being accepted. The guidelines and application form can be found on the following web site:

PWSNE.org

On the top bar – “hit” scholarship

Near bottom of page – “click” Printable Scholarship Guidelines

Near bottom of page – “click” Printable Scholarship Application

Scholarship award notification will be announced on June 4, 2018. However, please note that applicants are requested to register and pay all fees in advance, by the registration deadline of the Gathering. Payment of the scholarship will be made after the Gathering by submitting the Reimbursement Voucher, with documentation, to the Treasurer. Documentation may take the form of a hotel bill, airline ticket, mileage declaration, etc.

Please send your application and/or questions regarding scholarships to:

Bev Hoover, Scholarship

603-488-5445 (H)

703-362-3911 (C) No, that is not a typo, cell area code 703

mikebevhoover@yahoo.com

## In Memoriam



We received notice from The Finance Secretary of Northern NY Presbytery who received a telephone call from Joyce Bancroft, Recording Secretary of the PWP in NNY stating Emily Castine passed away back on November 13, 2017. She was 79 years old. She had been the Moderator for the past 5 years. Their PWP did not have a Vice Moderator.

Some of you may remember that Emily presented a workshop at the Triennial Gathering held in Silver Bay.

Please keep their PWP in your prayers as they prayerfully search new directions to take.

## ‘Unknown’ to be ‘known’

Reflection of Korea Peace Trip

Moon Kyung Rhee Kim, CT, Member-At-Large,  
KPW/SNE (Korean Presbyterian Women  
in the Synod of North East)

### We dare to believe that

On that day, God will wipe away the tears from our faces

On that day, we will all be reconciled with one another, and

On that day, we will do a circle dance, holding hands with one another

as one reconciled beloved community And there will be war no more.

(From Closing Hymn of Memorial Worship Service at Nogunri • Peace Park, 11/02/2017)

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•

The Lord opened the door for me to step in and observe the reality where my mother land ‘Korean Peninsula’ has been facing. I was invited to join ‘Korea Peace Trip’ with 15 other delegates from Oct.31 to Nov.8 in 2017.

I perceived the series of wounds, their cry outs from memory contains profound grief and injuries which have not forgotten.

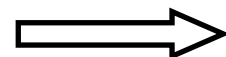
We visited ‘War and Women’s Human Rights Museum’ as the first journey, where ‘Comfort women’ true stories are preserved. Their individual presence was unknown in the darkness of the history, but now is known in details. □ I am impressed that they are striving for overcoming the past and more interested in the form of peace work toward whom have been through similar suffering by the warfare such as incidents of Korean Army Troops’ behavior to Vietnamese women.

We finally visited Nogunri Peace Park where the God’s work of reconciliation had launched there in spite of the considerable claims remain. PC(USA) Peace Delegates’ GA 222 follow up had demonstrated very officially. Sincere apology seems to represent whole faith community, and the burden of guilt and shame had casted out while the assurance of pardon was smear into heart to heart □. I had a privilege to meet with survived victims and bereaved family who have been unknown, but now is known. We hugged each other and wipe each other’s tears, and we all had agreed mutually that there are neither offenders nor defenders showing gestures of tapping each other’s back gently during the Memorial Worship Service, ‘River of Tears’, and proclaimed in silence. “ There will be war no more” □.

We also visited Border Peace School located in DMZ, Cherwon expecting how God is working now and future for the Peace Work in Korea in a different fashion. Rev. Jiseok Jung is the founder who had shared with us that he prays and expects the border peace school should be blossoming in quantities line up along the DMZ in not only the south bound, but also in north bound, and the mature level of the Korean reunify- cation could be happening through our second generations. Their curriculum emphasizes Spirituality of Peace, Conflict Resolution on North and South, etc. and the most amazing thing is the Soi Mountain Peace

Prayer Pilgrimage which promotes silent prayer. [borderpeaceschool@gmail.com](mailto:borderpeaceschool@gmail.com)

There were sessions of consultation, debrief, reflection and future casting among our delegates and the





affiliated denomination leaders from Korea, and I was deeply inspired by their passion and efforts on the Peaceful Reunification on Korean Peninsula. Through this experience, I finally decided not only observe the task but also walk together to the journey.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/comfort-women-human-face-war-korea/>

<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2017/11/8/stated-clerk-pledges-repentance-no-gun-ri-massacre/>

□ <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-peace-delegation-visits-no-gun-ri-massacre-site/>

Sisters in Christ,

Would you not walk together by joining PPNK (Presbyterian Peace Network for Korea) as learning process.

God is calling his people to act justice and peace to Korean Peninsula and much more.  
We might have been unknown, and will be known on his book.

## Together in Service

As I sit waiting for the snow to stop falling before going out to shovel I'm aware of the many people around the world who don't have the option of waiting in a warm house before facing the cold outdoors. Many of the PW groups in the synod are providing mittens, scarves, socks, and winter hats to homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters and schools and sending blankets and warm clothing locally and overseas to refugee camps and victims of natural disasters. They are also providing financial aid for Presbyterian Women's mission grants and numerous humanitarian projects. Keep in mind that TIS works as a team with PC(USA) world mission so when you support any of their projects or causes you are participating in Together in Service. So, keep up the good work and let me know what you have accomplished in 2017.

Two projects that knitters might find interesting are making six inch tall Prayer bears to give to those facing surgery, living with health issues, or needing a reminder that they are remembered and not alone. These bears have a pouch on the front into which an uplifting message or Bible verse can be tucked. The other is a miniature prayer shawl which is 5" X 5" square with a cross in the center that can be carried in a pocket or handbag and touched for comfort. A small card with a prayer or encouraging words can be attached to remind people that God is always with them. These projects were highlighted in the Guideposts magazine and more information plus the patterns can be found by googling Guideposts Prayer bears or Guideposts mini prayer shawls or at [www.guideposts.org/inspiration/peoplehelpingpeople/someonecares-prayerbears](http://www.guideposts.org/inspiration/peoplehelpingpeople/someonecares-prayerbears) for the bears or [www.guideposts.org/inspiration/peoplehelpingpeople/someonecares/asmallgiftwithabigimpact](http://www.guideposts.org/inspiration/peoplehelpingpeople/someonecares/asmallgiftwithabigimpact) for the prayer shawls.

Happy knitting!

Rosalie Hemingway, Together in Service coordinator

<b>Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast</b>				<b>Earned Income</b>	
<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 12/31/2017</b>					
<b>CHECKING ACCOUNT</b>					
	Bank Balance		\$10,572.44		
	Deposit in Transit	\$	-		
	Outstanding Checks	\$	-		
	Check Book Balance		<b>\$10,572.44</b>		
<b>NEW COVENANT MUTUAL FUNDS--BALANCED GROWTH FUND</b>					
	Beginning Balance		\$45,287.38		
	Deposits -				
	Change in Market Value	\$	(6,585.35)	Reflects \$10,000 moved to checking	
Direct deposit checking Acct.	Earned Income-pd quarterly			\$	780.59
	Ending Balance		<b>\$38,702.03</b>		
<b>NEW COVENANT MUTUAL FUNDS-BALANCED INCOME FUND</b>					
	Beginning Balance		\$36,352.59		
	Deposits				
	Change in Market Value		\$4,373.91		
	Ending Balance		<b>\$40,726.50</b>		
	<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$90,000.97</b>		
Designated Fund Balances:			<b>(\$28,373.35)</b>		
<b>Available Funds:</b>			<b>\$61,627.62</b>		
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS (Presbyterian Foundation)</b>					
	The Hyon O'Brien Fund - Endowment for	\$567.36	\$	23.64	Quarterly Dep.
	Spiritual Growth, Education and Leadership Development				
	The Nancy Horsfeld Fund/Jane MacDonald	\$10,187.17	\$	267.35	Quarterly Dep
	Ellie Gregory Fund- PWSNE	\$5,000.04	\$	99.02	Annual Deposit
TOTAL ADDED TO DESIGNATED FUND OF THE YEAR (CW Gath Scholarship)			\$	390.01	

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST						
DESIGNATED FUNDS AS OF 12/31/2017						
		1/1/2017	Income	Expense		Balance
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>						
	Leadership Development	\$ 7,383.16		\$ 218.00		\$ 7,165.16
	Racial Ethnic Dialogue	\$ 175.30				\$ 175.30
	Sisters Stand & Walk Together	\$ 8,981.23		\$ 2,000.00		\$ 6,981.23
<b>MISSION</b>						
	Global Exchange	\$ 9,169.70	\$ 3,158.00	\$ 5,209.90		\$ 7,117.80
	USA Mission Experience	\$ 2,607.57	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 518.92		\$ 3,088.65
	Young Adult Volunteer	\$ (800.00)	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 1,400.00		\$ 600.00
<b>SCHOLARSHIP</b>						
	CW Gathering Scholarships	\$ 1,247.25	\$ 390.01			\$ 1,637.26
	CW Gathering Moderator Expenses	\$ 840.09				\$ 840.09
	CW Gathering Seminarian	\$ 1,800.00				\$ 1,800.00
	Seminarian Ordination Exams	\$ 290.00	\$ 300.00			\$ 590.00
	Synod Event Scholarships	\$ 8,290.52		\$ 2,510.00		\$ 5,780.52
<b>PASS THROUGH</b>						
	Outgoing Moderator Gift		\$ 625.00	\$ 625.00		\$ -
	Triennial Gathering		\$21,087.80	\$28,490.46		\$ (7,402.66)
	<b>TOTALS</b>	\$39,984.82	\$29,360.81	\$40,972.28		\$28,373.35





## Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering 2018 Silent Auction Donation Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Group Contact Name/PW Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Synod/Presbytery/Congregation Affiliation (if different than group name above) \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Donated Item/s \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Item/s Value \_\_\_\_\_

Submit a completed form **by July 15, 2018** to Rhonda Martin email: [rhonda.martin@pcusa.org](mailto:rhonda.martin@pcusa.org); fax: 502/333-7596 Mail: Rhonda Martin, PW Auction, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202  
Questions? Please contact Judy Persons - [jpcREATEPW@gmail.com](mailto:jpcREATEPW@gmail.com)

-----**For Office Use Only**

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Item Number Assigned \_\_\_\_\_

Date Bid Sheet Created/Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Included in Silent Auction Item List G Yes

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **First Presbyterian Church PW of Ulysess**

**Trumansburg, NY**

Our church intentionally gives to missions that help families to have a better life – both local and global.

We gave to the local school systems to provide school supplies, emergency clothing & personal supplies, the after school program and to “Books for Backpacks” at the Trumansburg Library. We supported our local Food Pantry with donations and participation.

We gave to the Presbyterian Church (USA) to build community wells to provide safe drinking water.

We made and filled CWS School Kits and sent donations to the PDA for disaster and hurricane relief. We supported Mission money requested by the Presbytery, Synod & General Assembly.

Members of our congregation worked in villages in Guatemala, India and Myanmar (formerly Burma) to improve the farming methods.

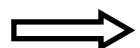
We have tried to find ways to use our time and talents for opportunities of faithful “outreach”.

## **Albany PWP Gains a New PWC**

Charlotte Hasselbarth, Moderator of PW in the Presbytery of Albany, guided women of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Albany, NY in starting a Presbyterian Women group in June 2016. No such group had existed at Westminster for many years and most current members have no memory of one. The current idea was generated by a group of women born in Ghana who had experience of such groups in their home churches and countries where they had appreciated the unique support of a women-only gathering. The group advocated for starting a PW group at Westminster, approval was granted, and the Session provided some start-up seed money.

The first project was to provide hands-on support for a member who had just had twins. Her partner was only able to be in Albany every other weekend, and she had no family members in the area. About ten Westminster PW members and friends took turns at the house, so the mother could get some much-needed sleep.

Early meetings were focused on organizational tasks such as selecting officers and defining the mission of the group. Currently groups are attended by between 10 and 20 members. One of the key benefits that members perceive is the opportunity to discuss issues that are experienced as needing private discussion by women only. An example arose in the discussion issues of menstrual management when the group met to consider making menstrual hygiene kits for women and girls in homes and orphanages supported by Westminster Presbyterian Church mission projects. A frank discussion of the challenges of managing menstruation in situations of vulnerability and deprivation such as some women reported experiencing was eye opening for other members. Sharing of personal experience led into a broader interracial dialogue so important in the interracial and intercultural church we aspire to be. A related advantage was that members became aware of the urgent need for strategies such as the hygiene kits to further the goal of keeping girls in school. The types of activities that the group has engaged in include cutting fabric for menstrual



hygiene kits and sponsoring an official *MoonBee* event to make them. Members have also developed strategies to help particular members and support local Westminster mission projects. For Christmas 2017 they prepared food for an elderly member living on her own and donated \$10 gift cards for homeless families living in an area shelter.

In October 2017 Westminster PW hosted an Albany Presbytery Gathering, featuring presentations of the City of Albany's two PW Thank Offering grant recipients, both featured in the August 2017 issue of *The Lighthouse*.

Most of the current officers of the Westminster PW were born in Africa:

- Co-Moderators: Anita-Opoku-Asante (born in Ghana) and Felicia Kollie-Gambles (born in Liberia)
  - Secretary: Mary Green (born in the US)
  - Treasurer: Kate Asamoah (born in Ghana)
- Organizers: Sarah Sebagala (born in Uganda) and Ruth Mendoza (born in Trinidad)

-- Submitted by Carolyn Smith and Lois Wilson

## Immigrants and Refugees

The November/December issue of *Horizon's* focused on the immigrant and refugee situation. As you are well aware much has been in the news regarding various viewpoints on the issue.

We are all God's children no matter where we are from. Many came seeking a safer place to live and work in order to provide for their families.

Those who came as children were brought here or sent here not really knowing where they were going. Yet their parents or guardians felt this was best for them. These persons have made their life here and assimilated themselves into our country and education and workplace and know nowhere else. Advocate for them.

We should pray for them and assist them in anyway possible as the Lord would wish us to do.

Jesus, himself, was a refugee in many ways. We can also think of many others especially in the Old Testament ie. Moses. Take time to read the issue to reflect and pray.

Susan Silliman Smith

## Orange Day



The PW "Wear Orange" bandana is generously sized (22" x 22") and all cotton. Why orange? Because orange is the color for raising awareness about domestic violence, particularly as this violence im-

pacts women and girls around the world. Wear this bandana on Orange Day (the 25th of every month); when you work to raise awareness (and funds) for a local domestic violence shelter or speak to church or community groups about what they can do to stop violence against women; or as a way to spread the word to friends about this issue. Or simply wear this bandana to stand in solidarity with women and girls around the world who deal with this issue.

These bandanas are \$5.00 each and can be ordered on the Presbyterian Women's website. Go to the website and type Orange Day in the search.

There are several articles to assist you in working or planning programs to assist against violence against women. With all of the news regarding the ME TOO movement it is time to help those who have been through this or are suffering and need support.

Sometimes all these people need is a shoulder to lean on and an open ear.





For those of you who do not subscribe to Horizon's Magazine, you will find the Booklet for the Churchwide Gathering by going to [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering). Registration can all be done online.

Find roommates or request to be assigned a roommate. This will bring the cost down. Rooms will hold up to four people. Also, if you wish to travel by automobile, let your wishes be known, if you need ideas for someone. You can contact our Moderator, Lisa Gray to post online your request to all the PWP moderators and Coordinating team members. Let's have a good representation from the Synod of the Northeast.

There will be Synod Luncheon on Saturday. We will be receiving more information regarding this soon. We will be hosting a woman from Indonesia as our guest from the Synod of the Northeast.

Hopefully you will join us for the Synod Luncheon. I will stress that when the information comes out you must register and pay for this before the Gathering.

Come and join us for the 30th Anniversary of Presbyterian Women. This is the anniversary when the North and South reunited and became one women's group. If you have never attended a Churchwide Gathering before, you will not be disappointed. The energy from the Plenarys the Music, the Great Room and other venues will fill your hearts with joy.

In addition, please invite a young woman say high school, college age and other young women. They are the future and have great ideas we can all use.

# Presbyterian Women

Synod of the Northeast Fall 2018 Gathering SAVE THE DATE

September 28 - 29 Christ the King Spirituality Center Greenwich New YorkIntroduction

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**Resourcing and energizing for ALL women! Rays of light from the National Gathering!**





**The 2018-2019 PW/Horizons Bible Study at Stony Point Center  
May 8-10, 2018**

**God's Promise: I Am With You  
By Amy Poling Sutherlun**

"I will be with you."  
"I am with you."

These words—God's words to God's people—convey a profound truth for God's people. God is with us. Throughout scripture, God promises to accompany each of us throughout our lives and the lives of generations before and after us.

"I will be with you." "I am with you."

The 2017–2018 PW/Horizons Bible study, *God's Promise: I Am with You*, takes readers on a journey through scripture to consider circumstances in which God articulated God's promise of presence. This study does not delve deeply into manifestations of God's presence—the tabernacle, the ark of the covenant, manna, the Temple, pillars of cloud and fire—but rather on God's actual articulation of God's promise. We will see anew that God offered these words of profound comfort and commitment to individuals and communities from the time of the patriarchs to that of the prophets; from the judges to the kings; before, during, and after the exile; into the New Testament and beyond, to the end of the age.



**Amy Poling Sutherlun**

grew up in Texas and New Mexico, the middle child of a 6<sup>th</sup>-generation pastor. A graduate of Austin College and Princeton Theological Seminary, she has been a missionary in Malawi, Africa, a teacher in inner-city Dallas, and a pastor of churches in West Virginia and Texas. Amy currently serves (with her husband, Joshua) as co-pastor of First Presbyterian Church in San Marcos, Texas. She is also thrilled (frazzled/daunted/amused) to be the mother of Serena (11), Asher (9), Josiah (7), and Micah (5). Amy's life is filled with laughter, liturgy, and laundry, and though she doesn't have much time for hobbies, she loves writing, travelling, and good tortillas.

*The full program begins with dinner on TUESDAY and ends with lunch on THURSDAY. Registration and check-in will start on Tuesday at 4:00 PM. Cost covers meals and a shared double room in one of our lodges. If requested at registration, a limited number of private rooms may be available at an additional cost.*

*Call 845-786-5674 x 107 with any questions.*

**STONY POINT CENTER  
Conference Registration Form  
Horizon Bible Study May 8-10, 2018 (Tue-Thu)**

Name .....  
Address .....  
City ..... State ..... Zip .....  
Phone .....  
E-mail .....  
☐ Female ☐ Male Roommate Request:

*We will assign a roommate unless you provide a roommate request. Each person must fill out a separate registration form.*

Special Dietary or Other Needs:

Rates include program fee of \$60.

☐ Double Occupancy \$270.00 .....  
☐ Single Occupancy \$400.00 .....  
(if available)  
☐ Commuter \$170.00 .....  
☐ Add'l Overnight Stay \$100.00 .....

Dates: Early Arrival .....  
Late Departure .....

☐ Transportation \$ .....  
☐ Donation for Program \$ .....

TOTAL\$ .....

☐ Check enclosed (payable to Stony Point Center)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card Number .....

Expiration Date .....

Signature .....

**OR REGISTER ONLINE**  
[www.stonypointcenter.org/horizons](http://www.stonypointcenter.org/horizons)