



SPOTLIGHTING

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (POJ)

FALL 2018



FALL GATHERING

November 3, 2016

Registration 8:30 – 9:30 AM

Meeting 9:30 Am to 12:00 Noon

The Presbyterian Church in Fredericksburg

810 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Keynote Speaker: Peggy Jones

Her Medical Mission to Honduras through World Gospel Outreach

The Presbyterian Church in Fredericksburg is looking forward to hosting the Fall Gathering of The Women of the Presbytery of the James on November 3, 2018. We hope that many of you will plan to attend the morning meeting and will then stay in town to enjoy an afternoon (or longer) of history, sightseeing, shopping, and dining. Fredericksburg is more than just traffic and the Civil War!

The Church is located on the corner of George St and Princess Anne St in downtown Fredericksburg. The Gathering will be held in the handicapped accessible French Education Building. Handicapped parking will be available in the lot adjoining the building. Additional parking is located just across Charles St behind BB & T Bank. There will be smiling volunteers on hand to direct you. Our historic Sanctuary and Church House founded in 1833 will be open for you to visit.

Directions to the Church follow:

- From Richmond & points South: Take I-95 North to Exit 130A (VA Rt 3 East) toward Fredericksburg/UMW. On VA Rt 3 East, go 1.1 miles. Turn left at the 3rd traffic light onto William St. Go 1.2 miles and turn right onto Prince Edward St at the 2nd traffic light. Go 1 1/2 blocks. Look for volunteers and signs...the parking lot will be on the left behind BB&T Bank. If you need handicapped parking, please let the volunteers know and they will direct you.
- From Culpeper & points West: Take Rt 3 East toward Fredericksburg. Follow signs toward UMW/downtown. Turn left at the traffic light onto William St. Go 1.2 miles and turn right onto Prince Edward St at the 2nd traffic light. Go 1 1/2 blocks. Look for volunteers and signs...the parking lot will be on the left behind BB&T Bank. If you need handicapped parking, please let the volunteers know and they will direct you.
- From King George & points East: Take Rt 3 West toward Fredericksburg. Stay on Rt 3 Business. Cross the Rappahannock River. Turn left on Sophia St for 1 block. Turn right onto George St. Go 4 blocks (you will pass the Church building on your left). Look for volunteers and signs...the parking lot will be on the left behind BB&T Bank. If you need handicapped parking, please let the volunteers know and they will direct you.
- From Stafford and points North: Take I-95 South to Exit 133A for US-17 Business toward Falmouth. Go 1.8 miles and turn right onto US Rt 1. Cross the bridge and turn left at the first traffic light onto Princess Anne St. Go 1.3 miles and turn right onto George St. Look for volunteers and signs...the parking lot will be on the left behind BB&T Bank. If you need handicapped parking, please let the volunteers know and they will direct you.

FROM YOUR MODERATOR:

Welcome to a new program year for Presbyterian Women of The James (PW-POJ).

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women on Saturday, November 3 at The Presbyterian Church located at 810 Princess Anne Street at George Street in Downtown Fredericksburg. We will be meeting in the church's accessible fellowship hall; tours of the historic sanctuary will be available following the gathering.

Registration with refreshments begins at 8:30 a.m, and the gathering starts at 9:30 a.m. Our mission speaker for the day will be Peggy Jones who will share her experiences of medical mission trips to Honduras through World Gospel Outreach. We also will take a look at part of the HORIZONS Bible study "God's Promise: I Am With You" by Amy Poling Sutherlun during this gathering. We also will recognize and thank General Presbyter Rev. Carson Rhyne for his years of ministry for Presbytery of The James as he prepares for retirement at the end of this year. The gathering will conclude at mid-day. Our host church will provide information about nearby restaurants where you may go for lunch. "History hounds" especially will want to plan to stay and explore the area following this gathering.

Please refer to information from Peace and Justice Coordinator Antoinette Archer elsewhere in this newsletter regarding the two mission agencies which are being presented for consideration as the recipient of our Spring Gathering's mission offering. Please share this information with your congregation as we will vote upon the recipient during Fall Gathering.

August was a special time as women from around the world traveled to Louisville for the Churchwide Gathering (CWG) of Presbyterian Women. During Fall Gathering Sharon Moser, a member of Fredericksburg Church, will share her experiences as a first time attendee at CWG. You can take a look at many pictures from CWG which are posted at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/presbyterianwomen>.

This is an exciting year for PW-POJ as we will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of our founding on May 6, 1989, Please "Save The Date" for Spring Gathering on May 4, 2019 at River Road Presbyterian Church in Richmond when we will celebrate our pearl anniversary. More information will be coming on plans for that special day in the next issue of SPOTLIGHTING. Be sure to sign up for the PW quarterly newsletter so you may keep current with all of the good work of Presbyterian Women. <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/quarterly-newsletter-third-quarter-2018/>

Remember, your Area Leader is your "best friend" should you have a question or need help with information for your congregation's PW program. Please do not hesitate to call upon any member of your Presbytery's Coordinating Team; we all are here to help you.

Blessings,
Jayne Sneed, Moderator
Presbyterian Women of The James

Peace and Justice News

Our donation to Persecution Project for Dignity Kits at Spring Gathering 2018 totaled \$4,153.05.

Spring Gathering 2019's offering will benefit a local mission project of the Presbytery of the James. The Coordinating Team is recommending the following for vote at the Fall Gathering on November 3, 2018. The coordinator has provided information about each as well as the website where you can find additional information.

1. Presbyterian Children Homes of the Highlands
2. Crisis Assistance Response Emergency Shelter (CARES)

Since 1919 the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands has provided love, sanctuary, guidance and support to children that have been removed from their homes and families. Over the past 99 years thousands of children have passed through their doors. In their early days many of the children were orphans, whose parents were victims of wars and disease. As they moved into the 21st century, many of the children are victims of various forms of abuse and neglect. There have been many changes in their history, but the commitment to providing the children the best possible care remains a constant force in their ministry. For additional information please visit their website at www.pchh.org

For over 35 years, the Crisis Assistance Response Emergency Shelter (CARES) has responded to their neighbors struggling with maintaining their houses, feeding their families, clothing, household items and delivering critical support to more than 1,200 families of the area's neediest residents each year.

CARES operates the *only* emergency shelter for women and children in the Tri-Cities area. Last year, 5,283 shelter nights were provided to those in crisis as the result of homelessness or domestic violence. In addition CARES provides non-shelter services including food, clothing, furniture, personal hygiene and household items to low income community members who are at risk of homelessness, and most often have nowhere to turn for such support. CARES clients include senior citizens, the disabled, veterans, women, children, single men, and intact families. Their work is 365 days a year because domestic violence, child abuse, and homelessness are a 24 hour a day crisis. For additional information visit their website at www.cares-va.org

Each Church of the Presbytery of the James in attendance at Fall Gathering, November 3, 2018, is eligible for one vote. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Coordinator, Antoinette Archer at 804.639-9511 or TwinToni@aol.com

Antoinette Archer, Peace and Justice Coordinator; September 22, 2018

Registering at Gatherings

Why should I register at gatherings of Presbyterian Women? The bylaws state that to act on official business we MUST have a quorum. We are required to have ten members of the Coordinating Team, of whom one shall be the Moderator or her alternate, a representatives of one-fourth of the congregation shall be representatives from the churches of the Presbytery of the James. Therefore it's very important to register in your area and to list the name of your church.

Please take time to register at the next gathering you attend.

Antoinette Archer, Coordinating Team

60th Anniversary at Amphill

The Women of Amphill celebrated their 60th anniversary on Sunday, August 19, 2018. Church members past and present gathered to honor and remember the women of the church, past and present. The worship service included inspirational and funny stories from the 60 years as well as a candle lighting to remember those "great cloud of witnesses" who still inspire us today. A Lifetime Membership Award was also presented to Martha Horine. The service was followed by a luncheon, picture sharing, visiting and an old time wedding reception. Wedding receptions were once given by the women and many couples recaptured their special day in pictures. It was wonderful to revisit special times and share many memories



First United Presbyterian Church

The women at First United did a supply drive for The Barack Obama Elementary School and it included back packs. We have two youths in college and they were given scholarships for books. The women had not done Bible Study for about two years, however on Tuesday, September 11th we began the study again and finish with a light lunch. Elder Gwendolyn Young is using her skills as a retired teacher leading the discussion.

Most of the ladies are retired, this makes for a great Fellowship during the early time of day. We are grateful to Elder Gwendolyn Young for restarting the Bible Study.

In Jesus Name
Evalyn Page

WAYS YOUR CONGREGATION MIGHT "DO MISSION"

The Presbyterian Disaster Agency (PDA) always needs "Gifts of the Heart" kits. The PDA website shows information about the kits and instructions to send the kits to the Church World Service (CWS). If you or your women's group is interested in assembling a cleanup bucket, hygiene kit, or a school kit, take a look at the Church World Service (CWS) website at <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/>. Your group may want to assemble kits with needed items for use in your own area.

During the Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering in August, the Mission Relationships Committee updated attendees on several changes that will appear in the upcoming *Together in Service Guide*. The revised guide will be made available electronically. The following partnerships have been discontinued: Safe Motherhood Kits for IMA World Health, and the World Mission's Mother's Day Cards project, but Presbyterian Women are still encouraged to donate to the Healthy Women Healthy Families through the World Mission.

PW SUMMER GATHERINGS WERE GREAT!!

The 30th Annual Synod of the Mid-Atlantic PW Summer Gathering took place June 8-10, at the Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center near Harrisonburg. A highlight of this gathering was the Bible study overview by Amy Sutherlun, author of this year's HORIZONS Bible study [God's Promise: I Am With You](#). There were many workshops, meaningful worship experiences, and time to make friends in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley setting of Massanetta Springs.

The gathering offering for Children's Hope Alliance of North Carolina was \$1,259. Attendees also contributed \$1,450 in gift cards and \$220.12 for the Cents-

Ability Offering to benefit Lily Pad Haven, a non-profit organization in Charlotte, NC, that provides housing for survivors of human trafficking. The Synod PW Coordinating Team sponsored a silent auction during the gathering which raised \$883 for the ministries of PW in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Women also purchased \$450 worth of "pearls" as a way to support the Synod PW budget. Save the date for next year's 31st annual gathering: June 6-9, 2019, at Massanetta Springs.

The **11th Triennial Churchwide Gathering** of Presbyterian Women took place August 2-5 at The Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. The theme for the Churchwide Gathering was "**Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come!**" based on the first verse of Isaiah 60.

More than 1,500 women attended this inspiring weekend. Speakers included the current and next two authors of the HORIZONS Bible studies, Amy Sutherlun, Eugenia Gamble, and Lynn Miller. The 2019 Bible Study will be on The Ten Commandments, and the 2020 Bible Study will be on Reclaiming Lament. Several mission offerings were received during this gathering including \$32,952 to support Presbyterian Women; \$11,787 in gift cards to support the D.I.A.P.E.R. Project (Diapering Infants and Providing Emergency Resources), Kentucky Refugee Ministries, and Lily's Place; and \$482 to the Cents-Ability Offering to support the Presbyterian Hunger Program. There were several "Glimpses in Time" videos presented during plenary which highlighted the ministry of PW in celebration of its 30th anniversary.

Pillowcase project

For the second year the Ladies of Chester Presbyterian came together with friends from the Happy Quilters of Chester to make

pillowcases for the children admitted to the Bon Secours Richmond Pediatric units. We had a day with 15 ladies, 100's of yards of donated fabric, 7 sewing machines, an ironing board and iron. We had ladies measuring, cutting, pinning, sewing, ironing and counting. We then sent folks on with kits to complete more at home. The outcome was over 200 pillowcases. All were then washed, ironed and bagged for delivery. Why do we do this? Well in the words of the mother of a child who received one during a scary visit to the emergency department "It was something familiar in the unknown that gave comfort".



Missions

POJ Teams to Help with Hurricane Recovery in North Carolina

Our hearts and prayers go out to those who have suffered trauma and loss as a result of Hurricane Florence. The hardest hit area, Coastal Carolina, is part of our Synod of The Mid-Atlantic. Your congregation can help, both with prayers and monetary support, to flood victims and the agencies that can help people rebuild their lives and their property. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has deployed workers throughout North and South Carolina. You may support this

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ministry and stay up to date on their work on Facebook or Twitter or by visiting this page on their website:

<http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/hurricane-florence/>

Southminster Presbyterian Church, in Partnership with Presbytery of The James, is organizing a mission trip to the New Bern and Kinston areas of North Carolina to help with clean-up and rebuilding. If you are interested in being a part of this mission, please contact Brown Pearson at cbpearson3@erg.homes.com.

Teams from the Presbytery of the James will assist with Hurricane Florence recovery in New Bern, North Carolina. The first trip, October 7-14, will involve primarily cleaning out homes and assessing the damage for additional response. A second trip is planned for November 11-16. The effort is led by **Brown Pearson**, an elder at Southminster Presbyterian Church, who brings 15 years of experience in disaster recovery on the Gulf Coast, West Virginia, and Florida. To join a team for either week or part of a week, please email Brown or call him at 804-347-8895.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Thank you to those Churches who shared their women's ministry activities through display boards, scrapbooks, photos, and handwork (baby blankets, lap blankets, prayer shawls). It was heartwarming to see the activism of the women of the POJ! If your church hasn't had an opportunity to share your women's ministries, please bring a display of any kind to the Fall Gathering on Saturday, November 3, at First Presbyterian Church, Fredricksburg It will be a blessing to us all!

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

For my last birthday, my best friend gave me a ***GRATITUDE JOURNAL***. She knew she was going out on a limb with this gift because she also knows that I have never been able to stick with journaling. I simply cannot put on paper my thoughts, feelings, and hopes, let alone record events of the day. I am too impatient!

To get me into the proper frame of mind, even before Day 1, I had to do some exercises: I was to list at least 8 people I am grateful for; at least 7 people that made a difference in my life; 7 people to whom I have made a difference (how would I know?); 10 memorable places I have been that I am grateful for; 10 memorable events in my life for which I am grateful; and, the really tough one: the top 10 teachable moments from my past that I am now grateful for. Each day of journaling I am to write down 3 to 5 things that I am grateful for, that day, turning ordinary moments into blessings. The pages are not dated, so I don't have to write an entry every day. To focus on gratitude for various things in my life, I searched for Bible passages about gratitude. I didn't have to work very hard because gratitude is central to the core of our faith in Christ and His grace.

Words from the Editor

Thank you to everyone who sent in articles for the spotlighting. It is a great place to share your stories.
Kathy Peebles

So, how do we move beyond the routine of thankfulness in our prayers to recognizing and acknowledging the enormity of God's gifts every day--His care and guidance in all facets of our daily life--providing the necessities of daily living, our health, our safety, and our place in the community of believers, and acceptance in the secular community in which we live and work? With that in mind, it is easy to fill each page with things and people I am so utterly grateful to have around me.

One Scripture I found meaningful to journaling is First Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Did you notice that we are to give thanks in all circumstances? Thankfulness should be a way of life for us, flowing automatically from our hearts and mouths.

You don't have to buy a special journal to begin recalling what you are grateful for. Try it for a week, and I guarantee it will become a habit of blessing to you. I am very grateful to my friend for giving me this journal, and for opening me up to the limitless evidence and proof of God's love and care that surrounds me every day.

Barbara Gary, Faith and Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Dates to Remember:

November 3, 2018 Fall Gathering, First Presbyterian, Fredericksburg, VA

May 4, 2019 Spring Gathering, River Road Presbyterian, Richmond, VA

June 6-9, 2019, PW Synod Summer Gathering at Massanetta Springs.

**Presbyterian Women
Presbytery of the James
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