



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

# The Linkage

Presbyterian Women  
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley



The Linkage

Summer 2018

## Message from Moderator, Dotty Lessley

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### Greetings Ladies!

Can you believe it? July is nearly gone! August is on its way! The Churchwide Gathering is just around the corner. Unfortunately, yours truly will not be able to attend. Olympia McCrackin will be taking my place as a Voting Representatives for the Business Meeting. Kathy Tracey is our second representative. Keep them in prayer for discernment as they prepare for the meeting.

The Presbytery Coordinating Team is hard at work preparing for the 2018 Fall Gatherings and the 2019 Spring Gathering! You will find information for the Fall Gatherings later in this issue.

Get your calendars out ladies! Turn to March 2019. Mark the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd. We will be having an overnight on Friday the 22nd with the Spring Gathering on the 23rd. Guess where we will be? You've got it! LIVING RIVER! We heard you loud and clear.

Youth Cabins have eight bunk beds and two twin beds for \$30 per night per person. There are four staff cabins for \$35 per night per person. Two have two twin beds and two with queen beds. Each staff cabin has a private bath.

All meals prepared by Living River is \$8. They will prepare breakfast and lunch for us on the 23rd. We do have a choice of having them prepare dinner for those staying over on the 22nd or we could bring our own meal. We could individually bring our own or have say a pizza party or KFC for everyone.

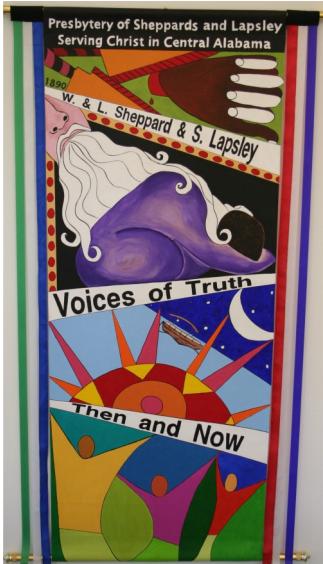
The mission now, ladies, is to let your Cluster Leader know if you would like to be a part of the Overnight Group and what you would prefer for Friday Night Supper (\$8 Living River Meal, Bring Your Own Meal, Pizza Party or KFC Meal). Majority Wins!

I pray your summer is a pleasant one. I know some of you are traveling and some spending time with friends and family. Many of my favorite childhood memories are of family summer vacations. May you be filling and creating many new memories this summer!

See you at the Fall Gatherings!

Blessings,

*Dotty Lessley*



Out of the believer's  
heart shall flow rivers  
of living water.

### BIRMINGHAM EAST & WEST CLUSTERS

*Birmingham, Ala.* With the restructuring of our Presbytery, the PWP is also looking at a re-orienting of our clusters. The first step is to combine the East and West Birmingham clusters into one cluster. In doing this, we are hoping for a more close-knit community. Two women from Southminster Presbyterian, in Vestavia Hills, have answered the call of leading this cluster.

**Belinda Dickinson:** I came to the Presbyterian Church as an adult, seeking a new church home. One of the first groups I became involved in was Presbyterian Women. They have meant a great deal to me during good times and bad. P.W. is important to the life of our churches; even more so during these challenging times in our denomination.

I served as Cluster Leader for Birmingham West Cluster about 10 years ago. I enjoyed visiting our churches and meeting Presbyterian Women from as far away as Carbon Hill - north of Birmingham, to Trussville - east of Birmingham, and Green Pond - southwest of Birmingham. These visits were a highlight of the job.

Some of our churches have discontinued P.W. We are inviting women from these churches as well as the churches with active P.W. to our Fall Gathering. As members of the Presbyterian Church, we are all "Presbyterian Women". It is my hope they will come to this gathering time to stay connected to the women of Birmingham churches and will reconsider having some form of gathering time in their churches. For instance, Carbon Hill has renewed their group and meets quarterly.

We are all needed to support the work of the PCUSA. Blessings to all.

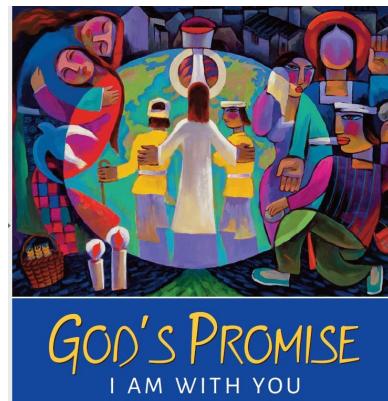
**Charlotte Worsham:** I transferred from South Highland four years ago to Southminster and immediately joined a circle to jump right into the life of the women of the church. This year I was asked to become moderator of our Circle One and also Secretary for our PW Coordinating Team. I also represent Columbia Seminary for our congregation. I am interested in inviting more women to participate in PW, even if they cannot come on a regular basis as the fellowship is wonderful. I am looking forward to working with Belinda during the coming year.

### When God makes a promise, He ...

The study of the situations and events that prompted God's promises to his people is the subject of the Presbyterian Women's Study Book for 2018-2019. Those of us who attended the AL-MS P.W. Gathering in Jackson, MS, learned from the author of the book about the powerful promise of God.

**We, P.W. of Southminster, will host the Fall Gathering on Saturday, August 25th. All women of PC(USA) churches are invited, even if you do not attend a circle. Rev. Debbie Feagin will present an overview of the new study, "God's Promise - I Am With You Always." We look forward to seeing you! Come, learn, and STAY CONNECTED to other women of the Presbytery of Sheppard's & Lapsley.**

**Registration and light brunch 9 - 10 a.m.  
Service to follow.**



Find free BIBLE STUDY resources at  
<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/>

**2018-2019 Bible Study... God's Promise: *I Am with You* by  
Amy Poling Sutherlun  
Program, Fellowship, Refreshments (no lunch)**

**FALL GATHERING  
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**ANNISTON,  
AUBURN/EUFAULA &  
MONTGOMERY/SELMA CLUSTERS**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2018**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**100 SOUTH NORTON AVENUE**

**SYLACAGUA, ALABAMA**

**Registration begins 9:30 am**

**Contact:**

**Anniston: Sandy Godbey 256-649-0971 or email [sgodbey0118@charter.net](mailto:sgodbey0118@charter.net)**  
**Auburn/Eufaula: Zoe Powell 334-695-2975 or email [zoempowell@gmail.com](mailto:zoempowell@gmail.com)**  
**Montgomery/Selma: Betty Lewis 334-224-0144 or email [bw\\_lewis@icloud.com](mailto:bw_lewis@icloud.com)**

**The Tuscaloosa Cluster Fall Gathering is  
Sunday afternoon, September 9 from 2-4 pm at  
The First Presbyterian Church in Livingston, Alabama  
105 N Washington Street.**

**RSVP by August 24 to Shelley Hancock at: [shelleyhancock@comcast.net](mailto:shelleyhancock@comcast.net)**

## PWP TEAM NEWS & NOTES

### PWP MAKES CHANGES TO ITS TEAM!

#### Welcome back, Olympia!

*Tuscaloosa, Ala.* With the departure of Thelma Gibson who served this presbytery with faithfulness and energy, Olympia McCrackin has returned to our Council to represent the PW Horizons and to coordinate the Missions of our Presbytery PW.

**Olympia McCrackin:** It is a joy to serve alongside an amazing, hard-working and dedicated group of faithful PW sisters! As the *Horizons* Representative, I look forward to promoting subscriptions to the Horizons magazine. And as Coordinator of Missions, I look forward to encouraging mission relationships and sharing the wonderful service projects that Presbyterian women are promoting in their communities. As we serve, share, and encourage each other, may our mission projects be a blessing to others and bring honor to God.



#### And still looking...

*PW of Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley, Ala.*

The Coordinating Team of your PW in the Presbytery is still looking to fill three more positions. We still need a **Search Committee** individual that would handle talking to women all over our presbytery when a position becomes empty. It is a great opportunity to meet the women in our area and draw them into a great fellowship and service.

A second position that has a limited responsibility but is very important is that of **Gathering Coordinator**. As daunting as that might sound, all we ask of this position is someone who likes to organize a party can organize our Spring Gathering. Working with the host church or facility, she would be in charge of finding a preacher, and following the Team's ideas for mission speakers and service. One event—that's all! So look around your groups and if there is one woman who loves to organize events, let us know and we will contact that person.

The third position involves the sad leaving of one of our own. Judy Boyes and her husband are moving to be closer to their sons in the Charlotte, North Carolina, area. She has very ably and with Christian charity filled the position of **Financial Secretary** for many of these past years. While the move is being planned and a home already found, Judy will not be moving until close to the new year. She is more than willing to work with whoever hears this call. The position works with our Treasurer, Zoe Powell, so that our funds are well managed and used for the glory of God throughout our presbytery and into the world. The woman who will fill this position should have a desire to serve and assist the Team in being a good steward of all we are entrusted.

#### And on a bittersweet note...

I am sure we have all heard about the turnover at Living River Camp and Conference Center. Our prayers are with Rev. Angelini as she begins a new chapter in her life, hopefully at a little slower pace! We also rejoice with all women across this presbytery as we welcome Jenny Thagard as the new Executive Director, starting on September 1. With her love of camp and experience of a constant volunteer; with her educational and executive background; Jenny will be a great fit for the next chapter of Living River. Our prayers and support are with you, Jenny!

### The 2019 Alabama/Mississippi Women's Conference

Here is the latest information on the conference straight from the Coordinating Team:

The Planning Team voted at the 2018 AL/MS Conference not to stage AL/MS next year but to plan the Synod Gathering and invite every one to attend that Gathering. It was felt that it was a lot of duplicate planning for the hosts and asking women to attend two Gatherings in one summer. Since we are planning the Synod Gathering in Tupelo, Mississippi, on June 13-15, 2019, at First Presbyterian Church, it felt like the right time to make this opportunity available to all. More information will follow as we move closer to the date.



### The 2018 Annual Spring Gathering

The 31<sup>st</sup> Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women held at Living River March 3 was wonderful. Those in attendance enjoyed hearing from Doug Marshall, the new president of the Presbyterian Home and Adisa Salim of 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance in Anniston. We also loaded down Adisa with "goodies" for those seeking shelter and assistance at 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance. A car load!!! Worship was led by the Rev. Betty Angelina, which was inspiring. Communion was shared. Following a family style lunch, PW was at liberty to go exploring. It was a perfect day to be on the Cahaba.

- Zoe Powell



### PRESBYTERY WOMEN HAPPENINGS

08/2-08/5 2018  
2018 Churchwide Gathering  
@ Louisville, KY

#### FALL GATHERINGS

08/11 Anniston, Auburn/Eufaula, & Montgomery Clusters  
@ First Sylacauga; 9:30 a.m.

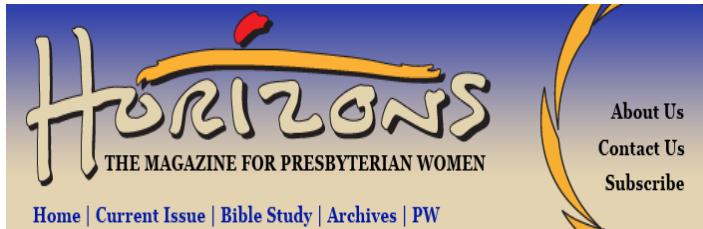
08/25 Birmingham Cluster  
@ Southminster; Vestavia Hills; 9:00 a.m.

09/09 Tuscaloosa Cluster  
@ First Livingston, 2-4 p.m.

11/2018 Thank Offering

03/22 - 03/23/2019 Annual Spring Gathering @ Living River Camp & Conference Center

06/13 - 06/15/19 Synod Triennial Gathering @ Tupelo, MS



*Subscribe today*

Want more information? Contact your **Horizons** representative, Olympia McCrackin Phone: 205-394-9701 or e-mail: [omccrackin@att.net](mailto:omccrackin@att.net) or go on-line to [www.pcusa.org/horizons/](http://www.pcusa.org/horizons/)



## Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley—2018 PWP Coordinating Team

### ELECTED LEADERS

#### **Moderator : Dotty Lessley**

E-Mail: [d.j.lessley@att.net](mailto:d.j.lessley@att.net)

904 Country Club Rd., Sylacauga, AL 35150

Telephone: 256-249-2872

#### **Recording Secretary: Anne Thomas**

E-Mail: [atrn@windstream.net](mailto:atrn@windstream.net)

14787 Jones Road, Springville, AL 35146

Telephone: 205-467-7345 (H), 205-863-9852 (C)

#### **Treasurer: Zoe Powell**

E-Mail: [zoempowell@gmail.com](mailto:zoempowell@gmail.com)

605 N. Randolph, Eufaula, AL 36027

Telephone: 334-695-2975

#### **Financial Secretary/Directory Editor: Judy Boyes**

E-Mail: [judyboyes@charter.net](mailto:judyboyes@charter.net)

4047 Somerset Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242

Telephone: 205-995-2154 (H); 205-901-4184 (C)

#### **Historian: Dotty Lessley**

E-Mail: [d.j.lessley@att.net](mailto:d.j.lessley@att.net)

904 Country Club Rd., Sylacauga, AL 35150

Telephone: 256-249-2872

#### **Coordinator of Gatherings: TBA**

#### **Coordinator of Missions: Olympia McCrackin**

E-Mail: [omccrackin@att.net](mailto:omccrackin@att.net)

3 Greenbriar, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

Telephone: 205-343-7456 (H); 205-394-9701 (C)

#### **Co-Coordinator of Justice and Peace—Bessie Goggins**

E-Mail: [b\\_gogginsb@att.net](mailto:b_gogginsb@att.net)

817 W. 16th Street, Anniston, AL 36201

Telephone: 256-235-2938

#### **Co-Coordinator of Justice and Peace—Carrie Hutcherson**

E-Mail: [hutlove@cableone.net](mailto:hutlove@cableone.net)

1427 Pine Avenue, Anniston, AL 36201

Telephone: 256-236-6812

#### **Coordinator of Search Committee—TBA**

### PW CLUSTER LEADERS

#### **Anniston Co-Leader: Sandy W. Godbey**

E-Mail: [sgodbey0118@charter.net](mailto:sgodbey0118@charter.net)

4101 Brecon Circle, Talladega 35160

Telephone: 256-649-0971

#### **Anniston Co-Leader: Sidney E. Thompson**

E-Mail: [set411@gmail.com](mailto:set411@gmail.com)

411 E. South Street, Talladega 35160

Telephone: 256-368-8985 (H), 256-589-2419 (C)

#### **Eufaula /Auburn: Zoe Powell**

E-Mail: [zoempowell@gmail.com](mailto:zoempowell@gmail.com)

605 N. Randolph, Eufaula, AL 36027

Telephone: 334-695-2975

#### **Birmingham: Belinda Dickinson**

E-Mail: [belindabjld@bellsouth.net](mailto:belindabjld@bellsouth.net)

2603 Tyler Road, Vestavia Hills AL 35226

Telephone: 205-979-1621

#### **Birmingham Co-Leader: Charlotte Worsham**

E-Mail: [cworsham52@gmail.com](mailto:cworsham52@gmail.com)

#### **Montgomery/Selma: Lucinda (Cindy) Hoffmaster**

E-mail: [1.hoffmaster@yahoo.com](mailto:1.hoffmaster@yahoo.com)

2207 Walbush Drive, Montgomery, AL 36116

Telephone: 334-395-9919 (H), 334-312-2651 (C)

#### **Montgomery/Selma Co-Leader: Bette Lewis**

E-Mail: [b\\_lewis@knology.net](mailto:b_lewis@knology.net)

1565 South Perry St., Montgomery, AL 36104

Telephone: 334-264-4740

#### **Tuscaloosa: Shelley Hancock**

E-mail: [shelleyhancock@comcast.net](mailto:shelleyhancock@comcast.net)

1010 Valleyforge Rd., Tuscaloosa, AL 35406

Telephone: 205-752-6869

### APPOINTED

#### **Horizons Representative: Olympia McCrackin**

E-Mail: [omccrackin@att.net](mailto:omccrackin@att.net)

3 Greenbriar, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

Telephone: 205-343-7456 (H); 205-394-9701 (C)

#### **Linkage Editor: Kathy Tracey**

E-mail: [dobbes@bellsouth.net](mailto:dobbes@bellsouth.net)

3305 Marlboro Dr., Birmingham, AL 35223

Telephone: 205-969-2264 (H); 205-903-1970 (C)