

Newsletter for Presbyterian Women of the Milwaukee Presbytery

Grapevine

"I am the vine, you are the branches" John 15:5

November, 2019

edited by Beth Gallagher,



Grace Presbyterian Church Connects With Pine Ridge Reservation

On September 12 the Makers, at Grace Presbyterian Church in Beaver Dam, spoke with Violet Robinson and clarified our final questions regarding the layette project for the



Lakota Tribe in South Dakota. Violet represents the only Presbyterian Church in the Pine Ridge Reservation. The many items sewn, crocheted, knitted and purchased have been organized for our shipment to South Dakota in October. We also received a grant from Thrivent Insurance which was used to buy additional diapers and onesies. Ramona and Allen Ehrhardt will be taking the supplies as they travel to the reservation to work at an eye clinic for the Lions of Wisconsin.

Reflections from our leadership

As I am writing this, the sun is shining on the wonders of God's magnificent fall pallet of colors. The oranges and yellows are aglow. The air is calm, clear, and dry. Children are in excitement mode as they prepare for Halloween parties, costumes, and treats. Halloween has become an increasingly popular holiday and offers children and families a great deal of pleasure – BUT – why has our society put such an emphasis on a holiday honoring ghosts, witches, monsters and death?

One of the greatest challenges today is the number of people suffering from mental illness. This is not an illness of 'the other person', but often times we, ourselves. Mental illness can take the form of fear, depression, withdrawing from society, isolation, loneliness. We all suffer from one or another of these at some time. Does Halloween reinforce these conditions, or somehow aid in overcoming them? I do not have the answer. BUT –

Through the structure of PW (take a look at the PW Purpose) we can offer programming to educate, advocate, assist, and offer hope. Let's find a way to bring some hope to the immigrant, the refugee, the suicidal, the addicted, the poor, the hungry. Can't we find a way to move them from desperation to hope, and finally to gratitude and thanksgiving. Society is strongly supporting Halloween and then the promise of Christmas, but is overlooking the holiday of Thanksgiving. Let us remember to not only offer hope to others, but also to take the time to show gratitude and thanksgiving to our Lord who has showered us with unlimited blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!

An excerpt from:

The Power of Gratitude by Maria Shriver
"Gratitude is a flower that blooms in noble souls." -Pope Francis

I believe strongly in the power of gratitude. And scientific research backs that up. It shows that making a daily conscious effort to be grateful does in fact make you a happier, more hopeful person.

There are those lucky ones who come by their attitude of gratitude naturally. It seems like they were born happy, optimistic, and grateful. But most of us have to work at having a positive frame of mind. I've found that the best way to get that is to have a daily gratitude practice.

So every morning when I open my eyes, and before my feet touch the ground, I think God for the gift of my life. I give thanks for my health, my family, my friends, and for the country I'm blessed to live in. I've found that starting out that way makes for a better day and, in turn, I believe it makes for a better life!

I seek out people who have a gratitude practice, I love talking with them and learning from them. They look at the world through a clear lens. They're more joyful. When adversity arises, they bounce back faster. They know and feel that they have a good thing going. And they do.

The truth is, you can never be grateful enough. So it's worth seeking out people who are like this and asking them how they stay that way; their practices, their principles and how they put those into action.

The power of gratitude can turn a bad day into a good one. It reboots your spirit. It makes you look at your life in a different way. Being thankful can make all the difference in the world.

Dear God,

Thank you for all the times when I am blessed by the kindness of others. You have surrounded me with people who care for me and bless me every day with kind words and actions. Help me to show them the same kindness they have provided. Help me to know how deeply I appreciate them and to know that I treasure them as a gift from you to me.

Amen.

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Info and Stats:

PW Giving Aug. 2015-Dec. 2018

Mission Pledge, PW's Annual Fund	\$3,450,376
Thank Offering	\$1,980,734
Birthday Offering	\$1,771,830
Honorary Life Memberships	\$ 372,030
Together in Service	\$ 56,140

Thank you!



YES! We can already be thinking and planning for the next Churchwide Gathering. St Louis is the chosen city and August 5-8, 2021 the dates. Mark your calendars and be watchful for information

Hello! I am the new volunteer that is hoping to put out PW news at least four times a year to all of you! I work at Linn Presbyterian Church in Lake Geneva and have been here at Linn for 10 years. I love the work that the PW does locally, nationally and internationally and believe that it should be shared to the masses! Please share what is going on at your church ~ other churches can benefit from your ideas and your mission can even make more of a difference, if more people are aware. Any other news is welcome too! Please email me anytime at PWMKEGrapevine@gmail.com

~Beth Gallagher

PW STEWARDSHIP

Fall is the time of year we are reminded to prayerfully make our pledges to our local congregations. It is also the time for PW at all levels, to prayerfully consider supporting PW programming and staff. It is through these annual funds that PW is able to function at the churchwide, synod, presbytery and local levels. We, beginning with our congregational PW giving, support the mission of the PC(USA), the PW staff in Louisville (providing the many resources aiding all programming assisting the Global Exchange and the USA Experiences. The Gatherings at all levels and the leadership would not be possible without each of you and your support. Together we can do such marvelous things!!!!

PW Annual Funds packets have been sent to every congregation in the PC(USA). We invite you to prayerfully fill out the appropriate form and send it in to Helen McMasters as our acting treasurer/moderator. These forms are due to her at 3595 Westshire Circle, Delavan, WI 53115 by Nov 15. This is short notice, but she in turn, must send in a pledge to PW in the synod before they prepare their budget for the next year. Without your support, PW cannot move forward as an instrument for the work of our Lord. Thank you for your loving support.

Remittance checks due by Dec. 10 to Helen McMasters, acting treasurer. Thank offerings are also to be sent in by Dec. 10. With gratitude, we collect the PW Thank Offering in the fall of each year. These offerings provide grant money to agencies and projects both locally and globally. Most recently, through the sponsorship of PW in the presbytery of Milwaukee, a grant was presented to *Exploit No More* to assist sexually exploited girls in the Milwaukee area. You will find the listing of 2019 grant recipients in the July-August issue of Horizon magazine.

Anyone Can Support the Missions of PW!

You, too, can make a difference. Perhaps your congregation does not have a PW organization, OR perhaps you are involved in your congregation's mission, but are not able to attend circle meetings. OR perhaps you are not fully aware of just how important PW is to the life of our denomination, and to the life and health of our society. PW has been, and continues to be, at the forefront of mission and social concerns. You probably know that the women of the church led the way to financially support foreign missions, and education/schools. PW also led the way for the Presbyterian Hunger Program, One Great Hour of Sharing, and influenced the General Assembly on issues of immigration, earth stewardship, and human trafficking to name a few.

The life and health of PW is currently impaired by decreased contributions. You, though you may not be otherwise directly involved in a PW in your congregation, can still be active within the presbytery and participate/ attend the PW gatherings. You can also contribute directly to the mission of PW by sending your contribution directly to:

Presbyterian Women, Inc.
Remittance Processing—Giving
PO Box 643652
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652



****Or ask a member of PW in your congregation for one of the green envelopes. You can direct your giving to the many offerings they support; birthday offering, thank offering, publishing mission or many other specific projects. You may also choose to research and give online: www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving**

What is going on in your Church's PW?

Linn Church PW supported PDA

On Sunday, October 20, the PW at Linn PC hosted Marilyn Stone who gave a presentation on PDA. Though PDA is an agency of the Presbyterian Church (USA), many in the congregation are unaware of the importance and function of the agency. Marilyn was able to share, not only her experience at many levels, but to highlight the current needs and activities, as well as her personal history of working with PDA. Marilyn was able to field many questions and to thank those who have supported PDA in the past through their donations, and also to those who joined reconstruction teams to the golf states following Hurricane Katrina.

PW continues to support PDA, not only financially through the One Great Hour of Sharing Offerings, but also through the donation of Gifts of the Heart kits (hygiene, school, and clean-up bucket kits).



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**



Apostle PW

On September 26th at noon the Milwaukee PW Presbytery Coordinating Team sponsored a luncheon and program. The Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, an International Peacemaker from Zimbabwe, is an ordained minister of the United Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa, (UPCSA), a transitional Presbyterian denomination with churches in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. She was a delightful speaker and it was so interesting to learn about life in Zimbabwe including the women and their care of their children while multitasking working in the fields. She shared how a child is secured on their mothers back while she is working in the fields and hauling wood and water.

MISSION IDEA!

While reading a copy of Guidepost magazine recently I came across an article written by Donna Savin of Waukesha. She and her friends receive unclaimed slipper-socks (with the gripper soles) from local hospitals. These are then washed and given to local shelters. In this age of the 'throw-away society', perhaps your PW could inquire of hospitals in your area. These socks come in a variety of sizes and could be given to shelters for women and children as well as to men's shelters.

PWP Milwaukee Coordinating Team Meeting

Members of your coordinating team met for lunch and business in Greendale on Wed. Oct. 30. Those attending voted to support the mission of Lydia Neshangwe, International Peacemaker. While visiting Milwaukee Presbytery, Lydia was guest speaker at Apostle Church. Details of that day are found elsewhere in this newsletter. A gift of \$100 will be donated to Lydia's mission by the PWP of Milwaukee. She and her pastor husband are making a significant difference in the lives of many in their community.

Also at this meeting – plans have been made for a Milwaukee PW gathering next spring on May 9, 2020 at Linn, Lake Geneva, and for an overnight retreat in the fall of 2020. The fall retreat dates will be Nov. 13 & 14th at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha.

Be sure to mark your calendars also for the next Churchwide PW Gathering to be held on April 5-8, 2021 in St. Louis. The theme of that gathering is "Rejoice in hope!" inspired by Romans 12: 12-13.