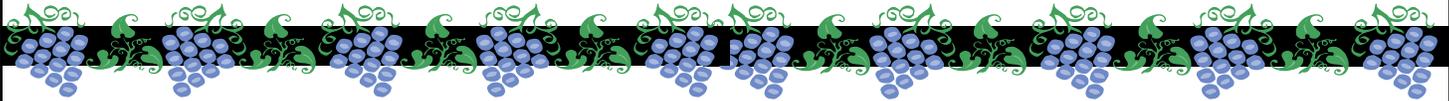


## Newsletter for Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Milwaukee



# GRAPEVINE

“I am the vine, you are the branches.” John 15:5

September 2018

Edited by Marilyn Stone

### WORDS TO PONDER . . . FROM PW LEADERSHIP

As we left Louisville after attending the Churchwide Gathering, my head was filled with thoughts of the many outstanding women who spoke and the information they shared. We are so lucky to have these women speaking for Presbyterian Women and the PC(USA) to the world. And what diversity is represented! Now trying to bring this energy to our Presbytery group. Put Summer 2021 on your calendar to attend the next Churchwide Gathering and have a wonderful experience with a group of women.

I'm not ready for fall to arrive just now. However, Mother Nature is not listening to me. I see some trees putting on a color display with their leaves, the morning air is cooler, and I do not hear my birds singing at 4 am.

So, it must be time to think of our fall activities for Presbytery Presbyterian Women. Please note the date for the Fall Gathering, Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Faith PC, Franklin. We are working with our speaker, the Reverend Nicole Melara for the details of the program. Stay tuned for the flyer coming soon with the details.

As fall comes, our congregations need to review their mission pledge for 2019. These are due by November 15 and should be sent to Judy Bell, 5217 Roberts Dr, Greendale, WI. Each church should have received the booklet explaining the mission pledge with a form for your congregation to send to Presbytery PW. If you do not have the booklet in hand, please contact me and I will send a form to you. My phone is 414-378-6437 and email is [jmoinebell@aol.com](mailto:jmoinebell@aol.com).

Fall is also the time for your group to collect the Thank Offering. We plan to dedicate this offering at the Fall Gathering.

Remember June 20-23, 2019 is our next Synod PW Gathering, in Ames, IA. Hope to have information on the event for you at the Fall Gathering.

Let's put on our colorful ladies running shoes and plan some new plays for our Presbytery PW. I am inviting all of you with interest to come and join the coordinating team and help build our Presbytery group with new "plays".

Judy Bell, PWP Co-moderator

### THIRTY YEARS OF PW



Thirty years ago PW was born. It was not born without its share of birthing and labor pain as women from the northern and southern churches met to determine a new course for the women of the about to be united Presbyterian churches.

The book *Bound Together in Love, the creation of Presbyterian Women 1978-1988*, by Barbara McDonald chronicles the struggles of many hours and months of prayerful consideration that went into the creation of PW. Each tradition had to let go of valued practices and meld others together to create a viable, workable member of the newly formed denomination.

The northern women had collected Thank offerings, the southern women, the Birthday offering. The southern women had sent delegations on trips to other areas to learn of the struggles of women in that area. They also had been offering lifetime memberships with pins.

As the two churches merged, synod and presbytery boundaries were redefined. PW would abide by these changes. A whole new language needed to be created for PW - terms like gatherings rather than presbyterials. How was PW to be funded? A new logo and PW purpose were to be created. A new magazine was to be published. What staff would be needed to provide leadership, and how was this staff to be financed. What structure needed to be in place for all churches, presbyteries and synods to be represented, to provide and receive leadership and materials?

We are the beneficiaries of the committed, devoted women who donated, not just hours but years, to the formation of PW as we know it today. We give thanks for their insight and service.

Helen McMasters, PWP Co-moderator

### 2018 FALL GATHERING

**SAVE THE DATE** - Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Faith Presbyterian Church, Franklin

Registration is 9 AM

Meeting at 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

**Program - Seasons of the Spirit:  
Understanding Spiritual Growth**



The Reverend Nicole Melara will be our program leader. Watch for program details and where to register!

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## DEVOTION by Helen McMasters

In John 1:38 Jesus asks his disciples “What do you seek” or what are you looking for?

When you go to church on Sunday morning, what are you looking for? Most probably you are seeking a meaningful worship experience. That is a good beginning, but what else are you looking for? To name a few possibilities, (you add your own), you may be looking for love, acceptance, peace, truth, wisdom, forgiveness, inspiration, grace, purpose. These are the qualities that make up a faith community, a faith family, a community of believers. With God’s grace you will find these where you attend worship.

Going one step further, what are you looking for in your PW circle? Are you seeking these same qualities? Are you seeking more in the way of guidance, challenge, and opportunities to serve, to advocate? What are you seeking from your overall PW experience? Has attendance at gatherings met these criteria? If not, perhaps you are a part of the problem. What are you bringing to the table? What are you contributing so others may find what they are looking for? As part of the faith community we each have an obligation to offer love, support, friendship, and prayers for others with whom we worship, study, and serve. You can be an important element in other’s worship/faith experience.

May your faith family be a blessing to you as you continue to share and serve.

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## FINANCIAL NOTES FROM OUR PWP TREASURER

PW Synod reimbursed one-half the cost of the PW Synod Luncheon at the recent Churchwide Gathering. Synod Luncheon checks in the amount of \$16.00 were sent out to the recipients on August 14. If you have received your reimbursement check, please cash before September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Fourth Quarter Mission Pledge is due on December 5, 2018. This check should include the fourth quarter pledge, 2018 Thank, Least Coin, Cents Ability Offerings and any other monies collected during 2018 to be submitted to PW in the PC(USA) and Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

Mary Hayden, temporary treasurer, has a limited time to process these funds (10 days) before leaving for an extended vacation. Please, treasurers be prompt. Early remittance would be very appreciated.



Shop AmazonSmile and help PW! Amazon gives a portion of each purchase back to PW! Start at smile.amazon.com, choose PW as your charity!

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## 2018 THANK OFFERING

The 2018 Thank Offering provides an opportunity to express joyfully our gratitude for God’s blessings by sharing with those in need at home and around the world. Your

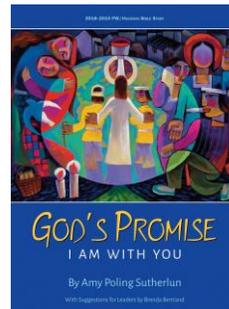


gifts will help individuals grow in self-esteem, hope, freedom and economic stability. Sixteen grant recipients will help build peace, provide rehabilitation services, and promote self-empowerment in the areas of health, shelter, nutrition, and education. Your gifts to Thank Offering continue to make a huge difference! Please prayerfully consider how you can support this important ministry. Read more about the Thank Offering recipients in the July/August issue of Horizons.

*Thank Offering funds collected in congregations should be submitted to the PW Presbytery treasurer on the quarterly “Remittance Form to the Presbytery” by December 5<sup>th</sup>.*

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## HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY



As we begin our fall programming, some of us will begin exploring the 2018-2019 Horizons Bible study, God’s Promise, ‘I am with you’, authored by Amy Poling Sutherland. Horizon’s studies always offer new perspectives on familiar scriptures, and this one will do the same. God’s promise to be with us can be found throughout the scriptures, in both the old and new testaments;

to be with us individually and as communities. You can explore this study within your circle or with just two or three others in a small group, choosing one chapter a month, or consecutively for just nine weeks. However you choose to use this study, you will be richer in faith because you did it.

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## MILWAUKEE PRESBYTERY PW GIVE GENEROUSLY

Thank you women in our presbytery for donating **fifty** \$10 gift cards at the Churchwide Gathering. That is equal to \$500 to help those in need. These gift cards will help three local organizations in the Louisville area.

Also a special thank you to **Sandy Shotton** for preparing the silent auction basket and for donating the items contained in the basket from our presbytery. The proceeds from the auction benefit the Mission Pledge, PW’s Annual Fund, which makes PW possible at all levels of the church. Milwaukee Presbytery women can be proud!

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## EQUALITY IS OUT – EQUITY IS IN

Equity was a term used and heard frequently at the Churchwide Gathering. According to Webster:

*equality* – the state of being equal, being neither superior nor inferior  
*equity* – justice, impartiality

Are we looking for racial equality, or racial justice? As I understand the difference, equality means you are equal to someone or something else – racially, that usually means equal to the dominant white in our society. If we speak of equal housing, or equal education, we usually compare them to that provided by or for the dominant members of our society. Equity means being honored or of value in your own right.

Our scriptures tell us we are all children of God; not valued as man or woman, master or slave, tall or short. ALL are children of God. We do not judge the foods we eat by their ethnicity. Is Italian cooking, Chinese, French, Mexican judged against each other? Each stands on its own. So it should be with our value of one another.

It is not enough to understand this difference, we must take action. Action may be as simple as voicing our concern when others speak of equality as being enough. Let your light shine on the understanding of those around you. And be aware of and open to the use of the term EQUITY.

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## 2018 CHURCHWIDE GATHERING REFLECTIONS

*The PW 2018 Triennial Churchwide Gathering was held August 2-5 in Louisville, KY. Nine women from our presbytery attended this event and each came away with their own experiences and impressionable moments. Hopefully you will enjoy reading the following reflections.*



back: Judy Puschnig  
Marilyn Stone  
front: Adelle Sanford  
Sally Gogains

Traveling to the Churchwide Gathering with three Apostle church ladies in early August was definitely a highlight of the summer for me. What's not to like? A pleasant scenic drive to Louisville, KY, (Marilyn Stone driving) with great camaraderie followed by four days packed with opportunities to learn and appreciate the great mission of Presbyterian Women.

There were so many dynamic speakers bringing heartfelt messages of faith springing from their own personal challenges. It is so much better to understand rather than condemn and to see through someone else's eyes brings clarity.

Thursday's mission tour of the Hope Community Garden

and Kentucky Refugee Ministries was particularly gratifying. I really enjoyed seeing the garden plots where newly arrived families can grow their own food. KRM does an admirable job in helping with so many resettlement issues. It was eye-opening to hear the personal stories of several of the immigrants.

One of the workshops I attended was a report of the Global Exchange that took place in 2017. A group of Presbyterian Women from the U.S. who had traveled to Indonesia and some of their Indonesian hosts were there to lead a discussion of the challenges faced in that part of the world. This too, was a beautiful experience hearing from these incredible women. There was a display of wonderful Indonesian handcrafts and the lovely batik fabrics made there.

These are just a few of my memories and impressions from this wonderful meeting and I would not hesitate to encourage anyone who might have the opportunity to attend a future Churchwide Gathering to seriously consider going. You will not regret it.

~ Sally Gogains, Apostle PC, West Allis

At the PW Churchwide Gathering, the most meaningful to me was the Plenary.

Presbyterian Women from around the world gathered together to sing praises,



l-r: Mary Hayden, Helen McMasters, Judy Bell

worship and share the stories of the positive, faithful and knowledgeable women speakers. Thank you PWP Milwaukee for the \$300 funds towards the Gathering.

~ Mary Hayden, Linn PC, Lake Geneva



Ann Peck, Ruth Meylink

Arise, Shine, Your light has come! (from Isaiah 60:1) This verse was the inspiration for the 2018 Churchwide Gathering of the Presbyterian Women, which Ruth Meylink and Ann Peck attended Aug.2-5th in Louisville, KY.

They participated in a Louisville Mission Tour, visiting Kentucky Refugees Ministries which provides resettlement services from job placement to citizenship classes, providing continuing support. They also visited Hope Community Garden. Here resettled refugees and new American families received garden plots, along with environmental education and agricultural training.

Each day began with everyone coming together for lively singing, worship, and an interpretation of God's Word. Inspirational speakers focused on faith nurturing and waking to the fullness of the gospel. The speaker Friday helped everyone explore what it means to shine in our homes and



community. Marisol Jimenez gave an impassioned message on "your light" and a call to work for justice and peace. Ruth and Ann attended educational workshops and visited the global marketplace. While Ann went to a book discussion, Ruth stepped out for a Justice and Peace March to witness against segregation and racism in Louisville. To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the gathering, women attending the final dinner dressed in outfits of the last 30 years. New officers were installed, communion was celebrated, and the women of faith, of justice, and of love left the gathering full of the spirit.

~ Ann Peck, Grace PC, Beaver Dam

I want to first thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the PW Churchwide Gathering. It was a pleasure to meet a lot of wonderful women from all over. I enjoyed the plenary and worship. I also enjoyed the workshops I attended. I attended one on prayer that really spoke to me. Prayer is an individual prayer. It doesn't have to be scheduled. It can just be talking to God. It is between you and God. I enjoyed all the workshops I attended. Thank you again for providing me a scholarship.

~ Judy Puschnig, Apostle PC, West Allis



Marilyn Stone, Adelle Sanford, Ruth Meylink

I am so happy that I had the opportunity to attend the 2018 Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering in Louisville in early August. It was even a greater experience to share it together with Marilyn Stone, Judy Punching and Sally Goggins.

The very enthusiastic and interesting speakers for the plenary sessions and the workshops were so focused on theme, "Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come", Isaiah 60:1. We learned how our awareness of justice and peace is important to our faith. We learned that we can "Shine" in our homes and communities. Our "Light" focuses on our work for justice and peace as Presbyterian Women, things we do, the importance of community and how we care as we pray, "Thy Kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven."

The backdrop for the stage was stunningly beautiful with many religious symbols: a dove, with an olive branch, Presbyterian Symbol, an empty cross, communion bread and wine chalice and a church. It was beautifully showcased each night with different vibrant colors.



A very good session was on "Gratitude Can Lead to Compassion". When we are grateful we feel peace and feel a purpose. We want to show others that they can overcome adversities and have gratitude in their life. A quote from Brene Brown, "Compassion is not a virtue-it is a commitment". I have gratitude in my life for family, my Church, Church Family and I have faith in God, Lord Jesus as my Savior.

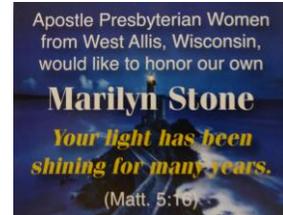
The Justice and Peace March thru downtown Louisville was impressive with more than 350 Presbyterian Women. This march highlighted "The Ninth Street Divide" focusing on the social and economic divide that exists in so many cities in the USA. We sang as we marched, "We Are Marching in the Light of God". We marched for over two miles and carried signs such as "Who Is My Neighbor" and "Segregation is Real" and more.

A special banquet was held on Saturday evening as a celebration of our first 30 years as Presbyterian Women. The song leader and choir director for the gathering, Allanda Campbell, was so enthusiastic with an absolutely beautiful voice. Enjoyed her so much! Our 2018 Louisville PW Churchwide Gathering was a very special time for me.

~ Adelle Sanford, Apostle PC, West Allis



Marilyn Stone was installed as Synod of Lakes and Prairies Rep to the Churchwide Coordinating Team



### GENEROSITY OVERFLOWS

The Churchwide Gathering provided many opportunities to give. Here's a snapshot view of totals at the end of August. . .

- Gift cards for three local organization - \$32,470
- Gathering offering for the PW Mission Pledge - \$38,733
- Silent Auction for the PW Mission Pledge - \$10,478
- Centsability for the PC(USA) Hunger - \$1,659



