



GRAPEVINE

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

January 2018 Special Edition

Edited by Marilyn Stone

WORDS TO PONDER. . . FROM PW LEADERSHIP

As we began a new year at my church, our pastor referenced John 1:1-5. **In the beginning.** . . In the beginning was the Word AND the Word was with God, AND the Word was God. As you read those verses note how many times the word AND is used. AND the light shone in the darkness AND the darkness would not overcome it. Think about this!! Christ is our hope in the darkness of these days and the light that shines on our world. Are we keeping that light at the center of our PW mission and activities planned for 2018? Add your own ANDs. How many ways can you serve your church and your community? Do you advocate for or promote attention to the marginalized, the hungry, those reeling from the devastation of natural disasters? Let your imagination flow and see how many ANDs you can dream up. Your circle, your PW can be the light, the hope as found in Jesus, our Lord.

What a great way to launch your promotion and enthusiasm for the 2018 Churchwide Gathering as you center your 2018 programming around finding ways to show Christ's light shining in the darkness. With **“Arise, shine, your light has come”** as the theme of the gathering, you will find even more ways to incorporate light into your year. Let us know in what ways you will be including the light.

--Helen McMasters

REQUEST FOR END OF YEAR REPORTS

It is that time of year. And YES that means all of you, regardless of what title you may give the women's ministry in your congregation. We're requesting a copy of the annual report you have written for your session. The purpose of sending in a report is to learn how the women of the Presbyterian Church (USA), not just those subscribing to the PW organization, are doing mission.

In addition, we would like to learn if you are subscribing to the Horizons magazine and/or using the Horizons Bible study; what kind of programming you are doing; are you advocating for justice and peace issues; in what way are you serving your congregation, your local community, the global community, what are your mission projects? How are you doing PW, women's ministry?

Please send reports **by the end of January** to either:
- Helen McMasters, 3595 Westshire Circle, Delavan, WI 53115, mcmasters.helen@gmail.com OR
- Judy Bell, 5217 Roberts, Greendale, WI, 53129 jmoinebell@aol.com

TOGETHER IN ACTION DAYS – Human Trafficking

January 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and January is [National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month](#).

PW urges action across the church around the issue of human trafficking during the month of January and throughout the year in order to educate about this form of violence and determine what can be done to end it.



So what can you possibly do? On Thursday, January 11th, let's start our day with prayers for victims of Human Trafficking. Won't you join in making it an additional ORANGE DAY?

For additional last minute ideas, visit the PW website for suggestions. <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/.../work.../human-trafficking/>



During the month of January, Exploit No More is taking over social media to raise awareness about exploitation and trafficking. They will be going live on Facebook every week to talk about the issue of human trafficking, answering your questions, and giving you tools to become community advocates! And they want to hear from YOU!

Tuesday January 9th at Noon (CST)
Diving into awareness, education, and prevention

Tuesday January 16th at Noon (CST)
Unpacking advocacy within the law, victim centered rights and care, and how to advocate for your community!

Tuesday January 23th at Noon (CST)
Chatting more about ENM aftercare programming, Freedom House, and what it takes to help a survivor of trafficking

Have a question that you want them to address? Email at contact@exploitnomore.org or join us on Facebook during any of the live events listed above.

Here's the latest news about the

upcoming Churchwide Gathering...



**Churchwide Gathering
August 2-5, 2018
Galt House, Louisville, KY**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. —Isaiah 60:1

All roads lead to Louisville for the 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, August 2-5! Turn on your GPS, turn off your hectic schedule and arrive at the lovely Galt House in Louisville for worship, fun, fellowship, connection and spiritual uplift!

Registration begins January 15, 2018

Join Presbyterian Women from around the country and sisters in faith from around the world for this triennial event.

Why attend this Churchwide Gathering? It's an event that deepens one's faith through Bible study, worship, and plenary sessions with inspirational speakers. Participants learn about mission opportunities and justice & peace issues through workshops, forums, tours and international guests. There's book discussion groups, resource gathering and shopping, spirituality center, exercise classes, reconnecting with friends and creating new friendships. . . and so much more.

Scholarships are available for EVERY attendee from the Presbytery of Milwaukee! A \$300 scholarship will be provided for every person attending this event, upon request and with proof of registration. Contact Mary Hayden, our PWP treasurer, for details at mhayden626@att.net or 262-728-5425.

Synod luncheon, why should I register for this? Our

PW Synod of Lakes and Prairies will host a luncheon on Saturday, August 4th, 12-1:30 PM at the Galt House. This provides an opportunity to gather as a synod, connect with our PW synod officers, as well as enjoy a meal and program together. To register for this synod luncheon, you must register and pay for your synod lunch (\$32) when you register for the Gathering. **You will get reimbursed for one-half of the luncheon costs (\$16).** Don't forget to register for this special event!

Registration online (www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) and by mail for the Gathering begins on January 15th - just a few days away! You are encouraged to register early so that you get your first choice for workshops, tours, etc.

Registration booklets available: If you subscribe to Horizons magazine, you received a registration booklet with your Nov/Dec issue. . . consider sharing your registration booklet if you won't be using it! If you are not able to access the registration form online, you can obtain copies by calling 844/797-2872, ext. 8015.

Registration costs \$425. This includes three meals (lunch on Friday; dinner on Thursday and Saturday), programs, exhibits, workshops and a program book.

Hotel reservations can be made at the Galt House online (www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering for link) or by phone (800/843-4258) beginning January 15th. If you stay at the Galt House, you will receive a daily \$5 voucher for food purchased in the Galt House. The Galt House has a number of sleeping room options, with rates from \$144-\$179. There are other hotel options in the area that you can explore, if you wish.

Carpooling and roommate connections: If you need a roommate or would like to carpool to the Gathering, contact Helen McMasters or Judy Bell (contact information on page one).

Gift cards: Consider bringing (or sending) \$10 prepaid Target, Walmart, CVS or Walgreens gift cards to the Gathering. (\$10 per card only, please). The gift cards will be distributed to the following three organizations:

- ~ **The D.I.A.P.E.R. Project** (Diapering Infants and providing Emergency Resources), Charlestown, IN, which provides diapers, nutritious food and first-aid supplies to families who are struggling financially and have infants and small children.
- ~ **Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Inc.** (KRM), Louisville, KY, which provides resettlement services to refugees through faith- and agency-based cosponsorship.
- ~ **Lily's Place**, Huntington, WV, which provides medical care to infants suffering from Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) and offers non-judgmental support, education and counseling services to families and caregivers.

