 Presbytidings

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Baltimore

Fall 2017

**Thoughts of a Moderator**

Romans 12: 1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God”s mercy , to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God”s will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

My Dear Presbyterian Women of Baltimore, I hope that your summer has been one of blessings and wonderment.

At our Spring Gathering in April at Woods Memorial church we focused on the work of Mission. Mission is the living scarifies we make, to help and support God’s world here on earth.

Respectfully Yours,

Debbie Salles

Moderator of Presbyterian Women, Presbytery of Baltimore

**WE had lots of fun! Where were YOU?**

In June at Massanetta, we had quite a group. One of the larger ones, in fact. The next two years are important for Baltimore as we are leading planners of the event (Assistants 2018 and Chairs in 2019). This year **all the events were held on the hotel side of the road**—no big hill to hike up! AND the plenaries were **air conditioned!** The golf carts were still available for those who chose not to walk.

 The Bible study was led by Rev. P. Lynn Miller with creative suggestions for bringing the lessons alive that reflected her love of teaching art and art history. We were gifted by the presence of Susan Jackson Dowd with her knowledge and enthusiasm for PW cheering us on and indicating some future directions. The dance party on Friday night was lively. It was especially enjoyed by the youth who joined us this year. While the rain interfered with some of the outside work planned to support Massanetta, a lot was accomplished with those participating finding meaning in hands-on mission work.

 Planning has already begun for 2018 where we promise not to be JUST the same old, same old . Come and see what new stuff with which we come up!

**SAVE THE DATE--JOIN US!:**

**October 14, 2017--9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**PWP Fall Gathering at Grace Presbyterian Church**

2604 Banister Road, Baltimore, MD 21215

**9:00am registration. Registration $12**.

***“For Your Prayerful Consideration”***

**Praying in Color with Angela Nichols**

**Walking the Labyrinth with Joan Berry**

(for labyrinth walk, no shoes, please bring socks)

**Synod Summer Gathering (SSG) at Massanetta June 8-10, 2018**

**“God’s Promises”**

In 2018 there will be the Churchwide Gathering In Louisville, KY in August. Our Synod will also have its regular Synod Summer Gathering at Massenetta Springs June 8-10, 2018. This means that the Synod Gathering will be one day shorter, it will start on Friday instead of Thursday. Once again we will have all the meetings on the hotel side of the property. In 2018, Baltimore Presbytery has the assignment of being Assistant Chairperson, filled by Co-Chairs for 2019, Connie Renner and Joan Berry. **We need a communications person too!** If you are a good communicator, write well, and enjoy doing newsletters, let us know ASAP: constancerenner@comcast.net or berry962@verizon.net . Next year we are in charge for a 3-day event, and then we advise the new committee for a year. More info will be shared as it becomes available. So. GET THIS ON YOUR CALENDARS NOW.

[**www.baltimorepw.com**](http://www.baltimorepw.com)

What's this?  YES!  We have a **website!**

While currently under construction, more information will be added in the days to come.  Your suggestions are always welcome.  And don't forget to find us on Facebook!

**A Moment for Mission**

Summer days are in the past as we gear up for the autumn and winter seasons it’s time to turn back to missions and goals for the coming year. We continue to participate in the Little Dresses for Africa mission. In June, I visited Knox Presbyterian women’s circle explaining the program as they cut and put together over dresses. We will reunite in the next few weeks to complete the project and pack the dresses to be sent to LDFA headquarters in Brownstown, MI. Here is a link to Rachel O’Neil’s Blog, <http://www.littledressesforafrica.org/blog/blog-2/> The work that LDFA is doing in Malawi is wonderful and we are a part of that work. The girls’ school is open and bunk beds are being made and setup for student arrivals. Go girl power!

The “Big Dinner” fundraiser for LDFA this year is scheduled for 11-04-17. You may remember that this is the evening that across the world women gather for a meal and fun to support the work of LDFA and the young women in southeastern Africa. We are looking for groups to lead the way and plan a dinner with their congregation. A unity dinner (were all are invited) is being planned and my hope is to have details at the Fall Gathering. Details about the LDFA headquarters dinner in Detroit MI. and other dinners across the country can be found on the LDFA website. <http://www.littledressesforafrica.org/blog/>

You may have read the article in last month’s Horizon about the organization Days For Girls which is launching a million dollar fundraising campaign to provide sustainable feminine hygiene kits, education about women’s health issues and provide income opportunities. If you haven’t read the article please do it is along the same mission as LDFA and our goals in the Presbytery to reach and teach young women across the world about the love of our bodies, ourselves and our God. See <https://www.daysforgirls.org/> for more details.

Blessings,

Patti Ross

P.S. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve the homeless in the Presbytery there is a group that meets on the second Saturday of each month – “Selfless Saturday” in the mornings at the Fallsway Bridge underpass – providing a host of materials to the homeless…food, clothing, personal care services, etc. Email me @ PARresources@gmail.com for specific details. Peace be with you!

**Upcoming Events**

* **1st of Howard**: Annual Alternative Gift Fair --December 2nd from 10:00 - 4:00.  Wonderful fair trade gifts and opportunities to donate to a variety of charities and causes.
* **1st of Bel Air:** 48th Annual Advent Tryst -- November 28th.

**Devotion**

**Opening Prayer:**

We gather to worship our God who speaks the words of peace we need in chaotic times.Let us support one another in ways old and new to follow Jesus who encourages to never fear, for he is near. May we gather those here and seek other to join us to be filled with the Spirit, who anoints us so we can go to serve our world

**Scripture: Psalm 138: 7-8.**

**Hymns:** I’m Gonna Live so God Can Use Me PH 369 GtG 700

 How Clear Is Our Vocation Lord PH 419 GtG 432

**Message Ideas**  Chaos Prescription?

* What chaos do we face as a nation, a community, a congregation or circle, and in PW? Name some.
	+ Are reactions of our culture helpful or reflective of your understanding of God’s Kingdom?
* As his chosen who are given a purpose by God what are we to be and how should we act?
	+ We often think of chosen as those being saved, but this passage shows the roots are different.
	+ The Abrahamic religions (Jews, Christians, Muslims) are chosen to live out and bring God’s Kingdom to the rest of the world.
* To fulfill this purpose,[[1]](#endnote-1) we need to act in prayer and in community. Christ showed us that the world often will not like what we bring that’s not the way ‘they’ve always done it.’
	+ Mercy, Grace, Love, Justice, Forgiveness . . .
	+ What are some other Christian attributes and actions in difficult circumstances?
* To do this we need to use the gifts God had given and continues to give us.
	+ Meditate on the gifts you have and how to use them.
	+ Encourage others to use their gifts by recognizing gifts in them (sometime we deny or don’t see our own gifts).
	+ Pay attention to opportunities that will not go away as a possible push by God to show us a new gift being given (Yes, gifts may change over time).

**Closing Prayer**

God of Grace and hope, let us go into the world as God's people, telling of God's hopes for all. Walk with us as we go to serve the world as followers of Jesus, showing with our lives that all are part of the kingdom. Guide us in ways to share the Spirit, to bring peace where there is war, to share love where there is hate.

Joan Berry, CRE



1. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)