

Presbyterian Women

Presbytery of Mississippi

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PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Annual Gathering elects new leaders for the Coordinating Team



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Rev. Noelle Read, Cynthia McCraw, Jackie Moran, Aserelene Pickett, Pam McDonald, Nora Brunson, Sarah Amos, Linda Bates, Shirley Middleton, Renee Belote. Not pictured: Shirley Burris, Sara Brown. (Photos courtesy of Myra Hester.)

Sara Brown is the new Moderator-Elect. She lives in Laurel with her husband, Bill, and has three grown children, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She is currently the Moderator of First-Trinity Church and is also the Hunger Action-Enabler for the Presbytery. She is an advisor for Kaleidoscope.

Cynthia McCraw and her husband, John, moved here from Virginia and now attend Fondren Church in Jackson. She has three grown children and seven grandchildren. As a "life long Presbyterian", Cynthia says she is happy to become our new Secretary.

Renee Belote has served on the Presbytery Coordinating team before and is glad to be on the team again as Cluster D Leader. She is a member of J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church in McComb. She and her husband, Michael, are the proud parents of three children and seven grandchildren.

Special thanks are due to Dorothy Daniel who has faithfully served as Secretary, and to Joyce Borum, outgoing Cluster D Leader.

Moderator's Moment

"A Journey of Faith" is the subtitle for our study of Joshua. It could also be the title of our life in Christ. I love the New International Version translation of Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." We have an incredible God who has proven faithful to us over many, many generations.

We have nurtured that faith this year in a difficult study of Joshua which has caused us to pray more fervently for peace. "A Journey of Faith" could also be the subtitle for Aserelene Pickett's special message as the Vice-Moderator for Justice and Peace. She chronicled the Presbyterian Church in Mississippi as it grew from three disparate groups into one loving and inclusive community of faith, justice and peace.

The mission of the church is very important to Presbyterian Women. We have given to the Birthday Offering, Thank Offering, Least Coin, and Joy Gift. Some of the many ways we supported the mission of the church through benevolent giving are:

Columbia Friendship Circle	Mission Haven
Stillman College	Pre Escola Linda Bates in Brazil
Brazilian Missionary Training	French Camp/Chamberlain Hunt

We gave generously at our Fall Cluster Gatherings to:

Hancock Food Pantry	Hope Village for Children
Our Daily Bread Ministry	Living Waters for the World

We have also worked hard on local mission efforts directed toward peace and justice as we support battered women's shelters, abused children's shelters, food kitchens, and after school tutorials. We worked in nursing homes, hospitals, and Boys and Girls Clubs. We made caps for newborn infants and heart patients. We purchased school supplies for underprivileged children and participated in many more local projects.

We certainly know how to build an inclusive, caring community. My first job as your moderator was to attend Mission Haven and Columbia Friendship Circle board meetings. Those caring communities encompass three synods and do remarkable work. Last year the three synods refurbished the mission housing and the clothes closet and also raised \$60,000.00 for scholarships at Columbia Seminary.

As moderator, I am part of a team of five moderators and others that produces the Alabama/Mississippi Women's Conference. Over twenty of us attended the conference in Starkville, Mississippi – in the process getting to know women from many other places. Jackie Moran and I represented you at the Churchwide Gathering with 1,500 women from all across America and other countries.

There were over fifty women from across the presbytery at the Winter Retreat. Rev. Elizabeth Gabbard and Dr. Dana Lamar led us in a study of our musical heritage. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing.

Cluster Leaders Jackie Moran, Sara Amos, Inez Dunlap, and Joyce Borum organized the four Fall Cluster Gatherings at Diamondhead Community Church, Prospect Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church of Canton, and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Natchez. We learned about our study of Joshua in the coming year from Shirley Burris, Spiritual Leadership Developer, and shared ideas to make our local PW units work more effectively. Each gathering was well attended. In March, Presbyterian Women met at First Presbyterian Church in Natchez for our Annual Gathering. Shirley Middleton led us in a remembrance of those who have entered the Church Triumphant this past year. We elected Sara Brown, Moderator-Elect; Cynthia McCraw, Secretary; Renee Belote, Cluster D Leader; and Jackie Moran to continue as Cluster A Leader. Thanks to Myra Hester and the cluster leaders for all their hard work as the search committee.

The highlight of the year was a visit from the Brazilian Mission Team from our sister presbytery

in Brazil. Many thanks are due to Linda Bates, Together in Service Chair, and her husband, George, who spearheaded the project. Presbyterian Women outdid themselves in making the team feel welcome. I pray that their enthusiasm for the Gospel and their love for the Lord and one another (including us) will light fires in each of our churches that will burn brightly for years to come. Their love and our hospitality are indeed a witness to the promise of God's kingdom.

Your coordinating team met three times this year to plan activities for the presbytery. Each member of the team contributed so much to our overall functioning. Dorothy Daniel and Nora Brunson have faithfully kept our records. Your Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team is ready, willing, and able to assist any church that needs them. Thank you, team, for a job well done. And thank you, Presbyterian Women, for everything you do to make Christ's reign on earth a reality.

Peace,

Pam McDonald, Moderator

Cluster A News

Then Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." Joshua 3:5. I have spoken to representatives of all of our Cluster A churches several times this year and attended meetings with Westminster in Gulfport. It has been my joy to meet and converse with you all on the phone and it was very rewarding to have you follow-up and attend our meetings. Cluster A still needs more rejuvenation. Thank you so much. Although some of us have not been as active as others seem to be, I am here to tell you that all of our churches have active Christian ladies working strongly supporting missions, feeding the hungry, teaching the children, giving scholarships to new graduates, and having Bible Studies. Our women are pastors, Christian lay leaders, elders, deacons, teachers, choir members and members of the churches. We are working for Christ

Jackie Moran, Cluster A Leader attended the PW Gathering, Louisville, KY with Pam McDonald July 11-15, 2009. Westminster Gulfport also had an attendant. Many of us in Cluster A attended Alabama/Mississippi Presbyterian Women's Conference in Starkville, MS on July 22-24, 2009.

On Saturday September 26, 2009 **Diamondhead Community Presbyterian Church** hosted the Cluster A Fall PW Gathering and had a wonderfully exciting turnout. "*God will do wonders among you*" was our theme. We were welcomed by Sandy Carraway, DCC PW Moderator, and pastor Chas Jones. Pam McDonald, PWP Moderator was introduced by Cluster A Leader, Jackie Moran. Soloist Carlene Daboval and accompanist Renee McClendon presented a special rendition of "*My Tribute*". Spiritual Leadership Developer, Shirley Burris lead an impressive overview of our 2009 Bible study "*Joshua: A Journey of Faith*" by Dr. Mary Mikhael. Together in Service Leader, Linda Bates spoke to us about "Our Sister Presbytery in Brazil". The Hancock County Food Pantry was the selected mission for our offering.

We are happy to report having so many churches represented: **Diamondhead Community Church** (19): Jackie Moran, Elaine Jones, Gail Seliga, Bobbie Sorgenfrie, Pat McLeod, Renee McClendon, Myrtle Barrios, Carlene Daboval, Nancy Hunt, Lou Ada Hanson, Penny Bullock, Irene Lear, Chandra Parnell, Mary Anne Ballard, Henrietta Kelty, Sandy Carraway, Patricia Brown, Sue Foster, Lois Anderson, and Barbara Wittliff, **Long Beach Presbyterian Church** (3): Frances Favre, Judy Dill and Cara Adams, **First Presbyterian Church Natchez** (2): Linda Bates and Pam McDonald, **Vernal Presbyterian Church** (2): Bettie Mosley and Norma Bassett, Gautier (1): Linda Andrews, **Pineview Presbyterian Church** (1): Aserelene P. Pickett, Hattiesburg, (1): Sarah Amos (Cluster B Leader), Wiggins Presbyterian Church (1): Jeanel Pettey, **Ocean Springs Presbyterian Church** (3): Laura Melton, Cindy Pulliam and Dana Neal, **Briarwood Presbyterian Church** (2): Nora Brunson (Tres. PW) and Myra Hester (PW Search Committee Chair), **Faith Presbyterian Church** (2): Shirley Middleton (PW Historian) and Dorothy J. Daniel (PW Secretary), **Handsboro Presbyterian Church** (1): Norma Loposser, **Westminster Presbyterian Church Gulfport** (2): Garnie Dubuisson and Jane Meynardie.~*Jackie Moran*, Cluster Leader

Cluster B News

Our cluster churches are very busy ministering to the needs of our communities.

Westminster in Hattiesburg donates to a domestic abuse shelter each month and makes caps for cancer and heart patient monitors. **Pineview** works with the domestic abuse shelter and Christian Services, providing food and clothing. They also donate to an area nursing home. **Trinity** in Meridian uses "Cans for Kids" to help underprivileged children. They have a stamp ministry, providing reading material for Spanish speaking kids. They play Bingo at a nursing home and provide cupcakes to the Boys and Girls Club. **Jones Memorial** in Meridian ministry is the Circle of Friends Program. They serve lunch at the church each Tuesday to patients of East Mississippi State Hospital. **First Trinity** in Laurel collects stamps and the front of greeting card for projects and eye glasses. ~Sarah Amos, Cluster Leader

Cluster C News

Being true to our historical perspective, Presbytery Cluster C PW had a demanding roll in the successful Brazilian Mission visit. The benefits of their visit were many, including demonstrations of loving faith, soaring musical talent and a general joy in sharing the love of Christ. Especially noteworthy locally was the unity, cooperation and fellowship that working together generated.

PW on the coordinating team included Myra Hester and Inez Dunlap, sharing leadership roles, Betty Keating, Bibby Swayze, Jan Taylor, and Carolyn Burch. Upon arrival, Carolyn and the Fondren PW entertained the whole mission group with Brazilian "soul food". Helen Boone not only served as hostess for Edmilson and Claudia, but prepared a supper inviting everyone locally involved in the mission. The joy of a loving community caused one local pastor to comment, "This is one of the most wonderful experiences of my life!"

In celebration of World Communion Sunday, a service was held at Briarwood inviting all members of Cluster C. Sharing the pulpit were ministers of each PCUSA church in the cluster, a first in remembered history! **Briarwood PW** hosted a reception following. At other times **St. Luke PW** and **First Canton PW** also hosted suppers. On the night before our guests flew back to Brazil, **Faith PW** hosted a wonderful supper and singing celebration which put an exclamation point on a Spirit-filled event.

This Fall, in a spirit of fellowship and unity, **Fondren PW** hosted a Lebanese luncheon and invited PCUSA churches in the Jackson area. A panel of circle Bible study leaders, Shirley Burris, Jane Sanders, and Dary Schenefelt offered some suggestions for teaching our present study. In the following discussion members from St. Luke, Faith and Briarwood shared different ways they presented the Joshua material. With a wonderful meal, good fellowship and inspiring study information, the meeting was a great success. ~Inez Dunlap, Cluster Leader

Cluster D News

Cluster D has had a busy and productive year. **Osyka, Unity and Liberty Presbyterian Churches** do not have an active PW unit, however the women continue to worship and serve our risen Lord. **Magnolia** has a strong PW even though their church membership is small. They meet monthly for Horizon Bible Study. They host a monthly S.O.S.-soup, sandwich and study. This is a reach out project for the Magnolia community. Sometimes they have as many as 26 attend. J. J. White is meeting monthly for the Joshua study. They are listening for God's word for them. They sponsor a child at French Camp each month. **Brookhaven** is beginning to re-activate their PW and are excited to be in mission. **Port Gibson** continues to study God's Word and the Bible study. **Westminster** in Natchez have a monthly mission project, collecting such item as peaches for the Stewpot, and eyeglasses. Each year they have a Birthday offering luncheon. And, of course, they are studying the Horizon Bible study on Joshua. **First Presbyterian** supports the Linda Bates Preschool in Brazil and supplies the Sunshine Shelter with needed item such as toilet paper, toys, clothing, back packs and anything else they need. They have four circles actively engaged in the Joshua Bible study. This year they hosted the PW Annual Gathering, which was a wonderful experience for all. ~Renee Belote, Cluster Leader

♪ Treasurer's Notes ♪

I want to say thank you to the Treasurers for being so kind and patient with me as I went through the process of learning (I hope) the job of PWP Treasurer. Actually, things went rather smoothly. Even though our pledges were down, it was a good year.

I will have packets for the 2010-2011 Treasurers at each of the Cluster meetings. These packets will contain various forms that you will use throughout the year. Among these forms will be the pledge form. It is important that you complete this form and return it to me as soon as possible. As most of you know, your pledges determine our operating budget. They also help with planning the budget for the next year. A good many of you did return the form in a timely manner and I want to thank you for that.

Please feel free to call me if you have questions.

Have a great summer.

Nora Brunson, PWP Treasurer

♪ Secretary's Notes ♪

It is time to gather all your information in order to start working on the Directory! Please encourage your local church leaders to get the requires information to me either by e-mail at:

cynthiamccraw@yahoo.com

or by regular mail at:

4280 Quail Run Rd., Jackson, MS
39211.

My phone is: 601-366-7611.

Please help your leaders get the information in. If a church doesn't have all the officers, let me know. You can send what you have and send the rest later.

Thanks so much. Have a good Spring and let's hope the oil goes away and the storms are all gone! What a month!

Gratefully,
Cynthia McCraw, PWP Secretary

Justice and Peace

On March 13, 2010, a brief message on Peace Making was presented to PW members at the 22nd Annual Spring Gathering held at First Presbyterian Church in Natchez, Mississippi. Information used in preparing the message came from several sources and may help you to share peacemaking ideas in your own churches. They are as follows:

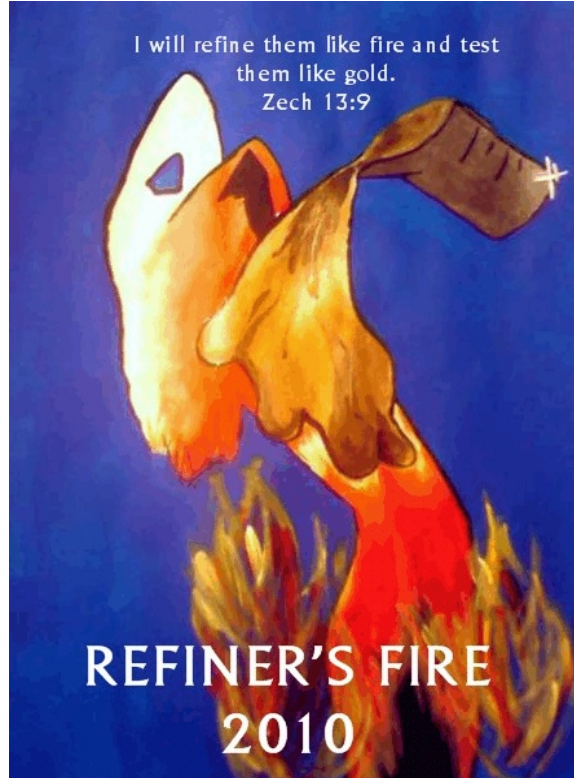
1. *The Holy Bible*
[a]. Micah 6:8 NRSV
[b]. Matthew 5:1-16 "Reflections on the Beatitudes"
2. Presbyterian Women's *Horizon*, July/August 2005 issue. The entire edition was devoted to articles on or about the celebration of International Day of Peace, which is September 21 each year.
3. *A Brief History of Presbyterians*
Fourth edition by Lefferts A. Loetscher
4. *Bound Together in Love: Creation of Presbyterian Women 1978-1988*
by Barbara McDonald
5. *Race and Religion, Southern Presbyterians 1946-1983* by Joel L. Alvis, Jr.
6. *Personality Types-Using the Enneagram for Self Discovery*
by Don Richard Riso with Russ Hudson
7. *The Book of Order* 2007-2009 ed., Chapter Seven, "Worship and the Ministry of the Church in the World" W-7.3000 to w-7.5003
8. The Resource, *Becoming the Beloved Community* available through *Horizons*

A great resource is provided for Presbyterian Women through *Horizons* magazine. Subscribe and read with care. It contains many ideas for peacemaking. There is also news about the work Presbyterian Women are doing to strengthen the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Aserelene P. Pickett

Vice-Moderator for Justice and Peace

Alabama/Mississippi Women's Conference
July 21-23, 2010



Spring Hill Presbyterian Church
Mobile, Alabama

Bible Study Overview by Dee Koza

See your Moderator or Cluster Leader for
registration brochure or go to
www.presbyteryofms.org

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The Triennial Synod Gathering is in
Huntsville, AL, June 3-5, 2010
Registration forms are on the
PW Synod web site
www.pwslivingwaters.org

Calendar for 2010-2011

June 3-5	Synod Gathering "Celebrating God's Goodness"	Huntsville, AL
July 6-10	Montreat Women's Conference	Montreat
June 29	PWCT	Hattiesburg, MS
July 21-23	AL/MS Conference "Refiner's Fire"	Mobile, AL
Sept. 11	Cluster C	Fondren
Sept. 18	Cluster B	Westminster, Hattiesburg
Sept. 25	Cluster A	Westminster, Gulfport
Oct. 2	Cluster D	First, Natchez
Oct. 3	World Communion Sunday	Peacemaking offering
Oct. 28	Presbytery meeting	Bellhaven, Jackson
Oct. 14-15	Columbia Friendship Circle	Columbia Seminary
Jan 2010	PWCT (Planning for Annual Meeting)	Hattiesburg
Jan 21-22, 2010	Winter Retreat	St. Mary of the Pines, Chatawa
Feb. 11-12, 2010	Kaleidoscope	Laurel
Feb. 27, 2010	Presbytery	TBA