

Presbyterian Women

Presbytery of Mississippi

August, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 1



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Annual Conference in Natchez, MS, on March 13th

Moderator's Moment

"How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me? Things so undeserved, yet you did to prove your love for me. The voices of a thousand angels could not express my gratitude. All that I am, all that I ever hope to be, I owe it all to thee. To God be the glory...for the things you have done."

I know many of you see God's hand in your life. This year I have witnessed God's hand in the life of Presbyterian Women in Mississippi. You gathered in clusters to praise God and to share ideas. You've worked hard to be Jesus' hands and feet. You've prayed, and studied, and grown closer together. Please look inside this newsletter for stories of amazing things God is doing.

Now, on **March 13, 2010**, you have the opportunity to gather together in **Natchez, MS** for our **Annual Gathering**. Come be a part of this great adventure. Mrs. Aserelene Pickett will share with us God's unfolding plans and the witness we have in Mississippi.

Peace,
Pam

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Elizabeth & Dana



Chetta & Shirley



Helen, Dorothy,
& Shirley



All of us

And a wonderful time was had by all...



REFLECTIONS ON THE VISIT OF THE BRAZIL MISSION TEAM

From September 30 to October 15, The Presbytery of Mississippi was graced by the presence of eight visitors from our sister presbytery, The Presbytery of the Northeast of the Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil. Following two days of acclimation and orientation, the eight split into pairs and headed for the four clusters of our presbytery. In each cluster, they preached, presented music, told about their churches in Brazil, attended covered dish dinners and did about anything that would enable us to get to know them better. One highlight was the Jackson Cluster joint communion service on World Communion Sunday. The Brazilians loved participating in the service.

They reunited in Natchez the day before our October presbytery meeting for the Friday night "Celebration of Mission" service at Westminster Presbyterian Church. At presbytery the following morning, Pastor Edimilson Lima preached at the worship service and the group sang beautifully. The following Sunday, three of the missionaries preached in three different churches and all of them continued to get to know us better. On the night before they returned to Brazil, the congregation of Faith Presbyterian Church in Jackson treated the group to a wonderful dinner and music program. The "Voices of Faith" performed several numbers for the enjoyment of the Brazilians who, in turn, sang Brazilian numbers for the church members and guests. Without a doubt, the Holy Spirit was present!

Now that they have returned to Brazil, we have heard from many, many people who met them in our presbytery. All have said how uplifting it was to be with people who expressed the joy of their faith so openly. We are indebted to them for taking the time to come so far to spend quality time with us. We shared a devotional with them on their last morning in Mississippi and their message to us was, "Keep the flame alive!" To do this, we need your help. If you want to be actively involved in this or have suggestions to carry on, please let me know.

On a personal note I have been blessed beyond measure by each of you during the Fall Gathering cluster meetings. Putting aside my fear of public speaking, it was truly a blessing to be around such dedicated and giving women. My only regret is not being a part of Presbyterian Women before now. May God continue to bless each of you through your service to Him.

All praise to God our Father,
Linda Bates, Your Together in Service coordinator

Presbytery Response to Haiti

The grave situation in Haiti has brought great sorrow and concern to us all. We in the Presbytery of Mississippi can share the pain of the victims of this tragedy better than most because of our Katrina experience. While our natural inclination is to jump in and do something at once, this very experience has taught us that our effectiveness will be greater if we wait until the situation there stabilizes somewhat. The First Responder groups are getting their assets in place to conduct a national triage in short order. The immediate need which we can now fulfill is PRAYER. In days to come, other avenues to help will be opened for us.

We propose that the Mission Committee of the presbytery take the lead in planning future relief efforts. We do not yet know if this will involve sending teams from Mississippi but that is indeed a possibility. In the meantime, we will be in close contact with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, The Outreach Foundation, Living Waters for the World and other sister organization. We will keep in touch with you and ask for your comments and input.

Specific prayer needs at this time are:

1. For Mark and Jenny Hare, PC(USA) missionaries in Haiti
2. For the family in Haiti of Lionel Derenoncourt, staff member of the Presbyterian Hunger Program

We close with a prayer offered by our national leadership:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as the eyes of the world turn to Haiti, let us join our hearts in prayer:

God of compassion, Please watch over the people of Haiti,
And weave out of these terrible happenings
Wonders of goodness and grace.

Surround those who have been affected by tragedy
With a sense of your present love,
And hold them in faith.

Tho they are lost in grief,
May they find you and be comforted.

Guide us as a church to find ways of providing assistance
That heals wounds and provides hope.

Help us to remember that when one of your children suffers
We all suffer.

Through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives and rules this world with you.
Amen

Grace and peace to all,

Betsy Lipscomb
Mission Committee Moderator

George T. Bates
Mission Committee Moderator-Elect

Mission Haven News

I am pleased to begin my term as President of the Mission Haven Board, and I hope we will be making a number of improvements to both the oversight capabilities of the Board and the upkeep of the Mission Haven properties. Mary Elizabeth does wonders in making do with limited resources, and I hope the Board will be able to improve our support for her, as well as work toward increased donations. Susan Adle recently gathered up unused items from various properties and held a yard sale, which provided an infusion of some funds for property upkeep. There are still items left, so a spring yard sale will be held. Many thanks to Susan, the missionary families, and others who supported her in that effort.

We have had some flooding in several basements and will need to do some repairs there, in addition to our ongoing renovation needs.

Mary Hough is working on a presentation for state representatives. We will send it out when it is finalized. Thanks to her for all of this hard work, and to all of you for your continued support for the work of Mission Haven.

Jeanne Simpson, Board President

Search Committee Report

The Search Committee is pleased to report that we have found some excellent leaders for the 2010 – 2011.

Moderator Elect

Sara Brown First-Trinity

Secretary

Cynthia McCraw Fondren

Cluster A Leader

Jackie Moran Diamondhead

Cluster D Leader

Renee Belote J J White

Respectfully submitted:

Myra Hester, chair

Jackie Moran

Inez Dunlap

Sarah Amos

Joyce Borum

Columbia Friendship Circle

There are six new wonderful students receiving CFC scholarships this year. I will have brochures for the Annual Gathering so you can see for yourselves why we need to sponsor them. CFC goal this year is to raise \$60,000.00 like we did last year. With three synods and 15 presbyteries, we will make a difference in the students' lives and our lives, too, as these young people take their leadership roles in our churches.

Come See Columbia Day is April 22, 2010. I will be leaving on the 20th for a board meeting on the 21st. Anyone who wants to come with me is welcome. Rooms are available on campus. Just let me know. -*Pam*

Peace and Justice

Packets were prepared and presented to moderators and contact persons of Presbyterian Women at each Cluster Gathering of the Presbytery of Mississippi. The Peacemaking Offering was also promoted. The packets contained a list of resources to be used to advocate Peacemaking and promote the Peacemaking offering in each congregation. Moderators were encouraged to use the resource, "Becoming a Beloved Community".

Check your Book of Order W-7.400, W-7.4002 and 4003 and you will find that Peacemaking should be an important mission and ministry in the life of our congregations. "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the Children of God." (Matt. 5:9)

Peace can be promoted through worship, prayer, and Bible study, community ministries, study of global issues, the love and care of the environment, peacemaking in families in the congregation and the study of global issues. "Peace be with you."

Aserelene P. Pickett, Vice-Moderator

Fondren Presbyterian Church hosts Cluster Lebanese Banquet



Fondren Presbyterian Women held a day of learning, celebrating, and thanksgiving for the Jackson PC(USA) Presbyterian Women on Saturday, November 14, 2009. Just over thirty women from Fondren, St. Luke's, Faith, and Briarwood churches attended. Fondren moderator Carolyn Burch opened the morning by welcoming everyone, making introductions, and saying a few words about the Thank Offering. Rev. Su McClain then gave an opening prayer and led a responsive call to worship.



The program, "Why Joshua?" consisted of a panel of Fondren women, led by Shirley Burris, and included Dary Shenefelt, Peggy Miller, and Jane Sanders, who gave insights, overviews, and ideas on how the various circles were approaching the Joshua studies. The panel then gave the attendees the opportunity to share their experiences with the Joshua lessons.

Following the program there was a lively song fest led by Nash Noble



Chefs Martha Yost of Fondren and her friend, Salwa Malouf, described the Lebanese dishes they had beautifully prepared. It was a lovely and delicious luncheon that was really enjoyed by all.

There was a shopping spree table prepared by Jamie Pitts and Peggy Miller featuring the popular PW necklaces in many different colors and textures.



Fondren truly enjoyed having the gathering and would love to do it again!

-Cynthia McCraw

Together in Service

Our project reports are due, the reports on all mission activities through PW and through your church. If you would like to e-mail this to me in paragraph form, it would be a huge help. If I do not hear from your local PW Together In Service Coordinator, I will be sending the form to you by e-mail and snail mail. Thanks.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a report of how our presbytery is responding to the Haiti earthquake crisis. We also contacted Jeff Ritchie of The Outreach Foundation who said that TOF is working in partnership with Haiti Outreach Ministries. When we emailed Bill Glass, Director of HOM, he called within two hours to say that he is a member of a Presbyterian church near Richmond, VA, and had been with his church's teams to help in disaster recovery on the Mississippi Gulf Coast following Katrina, and that he had stayed at the Gautier Presbyterian Church while working in Gautier and Pascagoula. He was impressed enough with our program that he is patterning the Haiti disaster recovery program of HOM after ours.

We asked Bill what the Presbytery of Mississippi could do to assist in Haiti besides sending a team there in the future. He stated that the response from across the country was getting to be overwhelming and that he needed help in scheduling teams. Since this was a large part of our work on the Gulf Coast, George and I volunteered to do the team scheduling for HOM as a part of our presbytery's response. A special email address has been set up for this purpose: haitioutreachtrip@gmail.com. If your church wants to send a team to help, please contact me at this address. A handbook is being created with a lot of details which we will email to you if you request.

In His service,
Linda Bates lindabbates@gmail.com

Historian

All local church histories are due NOW. A composite history of the presbytery needs to be written to include each of your churches. Please send them to Shirley Middleton, Box 68716, Jackson, MS 39286, or e-mail to: middletonshirley@yahoo.com. Thanks to all of you who have already mailed your histories to me.

On another note, at the Annual Gathering in Natchez on March 13th, we will have a memorial service for all those saints who have died since the last Annual Gathering. Please make a list of those names and mail or e-mail them to me as soon as possible. The list will be read out at the gathering.

In Christ's Service,
Shirley Middleton, Historian

Treasurer's Report

At the Fall Cluster Gatherings, each church received a treasurer's packet that included a pledge form. This form needs to be turned in to me. Any monies that you have collected need to be remitted to me as soon as you are able. We close out our presbytery books for the Annual Gathering and we need your pledge monies by that time if at all possible.

Your help in this is greatly appreciated.
Nora Brunson, Treasurer

Upcoming Events

Kaleidoscope	
Laurel, MS	Feb.12-13, 2010
Annual Gathering	
Natchez, MS	March 13, 2010
Synod Gathering	
Huntsville, AL	June 3-5, 2010
AL/MS Conference	
Mobile, AL	July 21-23, 2010