

# Presbyterian Women

## Presbytery of Mississippi

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Volume 7 Issue 2



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

### Moderator's Moment

Wow! That's the best word I know to describe the whirlwind of activity since you installed me as your moderator on March 14<sup>th</sup> at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gulfport. We all had a wonderful time at the Annual Meeting. Many thanks to Jane Meynardie and the women of Westminster for a beautifully coordinated meeting and luncheon.

Myra Hester presided at her last meeting as moderator, telling us of the amazing two years of her term. Mary Weber, synod moderator, challenged us to be a blessing with our hands. She installed the new coordinating team for the Presbytery. They are: Pam McDonald, moderator; Dorothy Daniels, secretary; Nora Brunson, treasurer; Shirley Burris, spiritual leadership developer; Aserlene Pickett, vice-moderator for justice and peace; Linda Bates, together-in-service coordinator; cluster leaders Jackie Moran, Sara Amos, Inez Dunlap, and Joyce Borum. The historian is Shirley Middleton and the search committee chair is Myra Hester.

Practically as soon as that meeting was over I was on the road to Columbia for "Come See Columbia Day". June 4<sup>th</sup> your Presbytery coordinating team met to plan the next few months' worth of activities. Then in July, Jackie Moran and I went to the Churchwide Gathering. Of course, July 21-23 was also the Alabama/Mississippi Women's Conference in Starkville. In just a few weeks we will all meet in our respective clusters for our Fall Cluster Gatherings. I hope each of you will make a special effort to come to the gathering in your cluster.

I hope your summer has been as fulfilling as mine has been.

Peace,  
*Pam*

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### **Churchwide Gathering**

July 11-15<sup>th</sup>  
Jackie Moran and I had the adventure of a lifetime. We at-

tended the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, KY. It was so inspiring to hear wonderful preaching, incredible music and drama, and the wonderful thrill of worship and fellowship with 2,500 Presbyterian Women from all over the world.

We took part in the commissioning of 22 missionaries and their families who will serve in areas near and as far as Bangladesh.

As your voting representatives, we voted on the new budget, and the incorporation of Presbyterian Women. We are now Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. Incorporation will provide flexibility for PW to operate as needed, ensure good stewardship of PW funds, and establish clear and separate accounting practices.

We were privileged to vote for the new slate of officers: Marta Rodriguez, moderator (center); Alice Wright, vice-moderator for mission relations; and Chris Wolf, vice-moderator for justice and peace. The other officers will be included in the directory.



Stop by the display at the Fall Gatherings to see more!

### **AL/MS Conference**

The Alabama/Mississippi Women's Conference in Starkville was so wonderful. There were 28 women from our presbytery who attended. Dr Mary Mikhael, author of our Bible study, was our Bible study leader. She made the lessons come alive for us with personal stories and thoughtful insights. All the workshops blended ideas in keeping with the Middle Eastern theme of the conference

Next year's conference will be in Mobile, July 21-23, 2010, so make plans now to attend.

### **Mission Haven News**

Susan Addle, vice-president of the Mission Haven board, writes that the renovation of one house and one two-bedroom apartment has begun. Until now all units were full. Old carpets are being removed and the floors refinished. Everything will have a fresh coat of paint. A new missionary family is in residence for the next six months. If you would like to contribute to the ongoing work, please send your contributions to: Mission Haven, 235 Inman Drive, Decatur, GA 30030.

### **Columbia Friendship Circle**

Thank you just does not seem adequate. I find it hard to come up with the correct words to express our appreciation to you for your support of CFC this past year. You contributed \$66,988.07 for scholarships. We will be able to offer six scholarships to seminarians with families.

The Blessings of Christ be with you,

*Martha Knichel*, President,  
Columbia Friendship Circle

## Briarwood Celebrates John Calvin's 500<sup>th</sup> Birthday



If you have an event that you would like published in the newsletter, just sent the pictures and a description in an e-mail to [pammcdonald@cablone.net](mailto:pammcdonald@cablone.net)

### Together-in-Service

I am looking forward to meeting and visiting with each of you at our Fall Cluster Meetings. As all of you know we are in the process of making plans for our Brazil Mission Team to arrive on September 30. I cannot wait to share with you information about the members of the Brazil team and other exciting news from Brazil. I believe that God has been planting the seeds for this event for many years.

I do not know of anything greater than being involved in mission. To quote David Livingstone, "God had an only Son and He made Him a missionary." So together let's follow the footsteps of Jesus in missions. I am humbled that God is allowing me to walk on this journey with you. Come ready to share your love of mission.

"Attempt great things for God, expect great thing from God", William Carey.

**Linda B. Bates**

Together-In-Service Coordinator

### Fall Cluster Gatherings

Presbyterian Women are on the move. They will be journeying with Joshua this year in Bible study. Shirley Burris, our spiritual leadership developer, attended the AL/MS Conference and learned the relevance of Joshua from Mary Mikhael. Shirley will present a preview of the Bible study that will be beneficial to all leaders and learners.

Linda Bates will present a missions program on our sister presbytery in Brazil. Since a team of missionaries is coming to Mississippi, learning about their presbytery and their special faith will help us be ready to welcome them into our churches in October.

Besides these two outstanding programs, please come to your gatherings to praise God and to exchange ideas for mission projects and other activities in your church to share Christ's love. Everyone is welcome. Everyone is needed. Bring a friend.

**Jackie, Sarah, Inez, and Joyce**

Cluster Leaders

### **Devotion by Pam McDonald**

Several people at AL/MS asked me if I would put this devotion in the newsletter so everyone could have it...

As we finish this year and begin a new season of study in the book of Joshua, I thought I would focus on some of the last words Luke has for us and some of the first ones from Joshua. How big is your world? When my children were small, my world was the house, park, grocery store and church. It expanded to ball fields and dance classes. Sound familiar? Yet, what is Jesus saying about our world? Luke 24:48 says, "I am going to send you what my Father promised, but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." And again in Luke's second book, Acts 2:1-4 says: "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place...All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit."

What do we see in these verses that is relevant to us? First they stayed close to each other. We draw strength from one another. Second, like the first Pentecost, we celebrate the Spirit coming to each of us. When the disciples were given the gift of the Holy Spirit, their world changed. It was enlarged to include neighboring towns, countries, even to the whole world.

In our study of Luke's Gospel we began to glimpse what our Lord intends for us as God's witnesses. Just what will our witness be? Will we say to the world that we go to church on Sunday? That we take care of the sick, the homeless, those imprisoned by poverty, illness, despair, or place of birth? How can we contribute to their hope? How do

we continue the Jubilee that Jesus began?

In our new study of the book of Joshua, when the Israelites were ready to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land, there was much fear and anxiety about the new bigger world they were entering. Joshua gave the people some advice on how to meet the challenge. This verse can have special meaning for **us** as we continue our journey of faith. Joshua 3:5 says, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

Holy, holy, God, as we fellowship, pray, and study together this year, may the wonder of your creation, the hope of salvation for all of your children, and our own discipleship be made real to us. In the mighty name of Jesus we pray.

### **Upcoming events**

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|------------------|---|
| Sept. 12         | Cluster C,Canton                              |
| Sept. 19         | Cluster B, Prospect, Meridian                 |
| Sept. 26         | Cluster A ,Diamondhead                        |
| Oct. 3           | Cluster D,Westminster, Natchez                |
| Oct. 2-12        | Brazilian Ministry Teams visit each cluster   |
| Oct. 4           | World Communion Sunday Peacemaking offering   |
| Oct. 10          | Presbytery, Natchez FPC                       |
| Jan 22-23, 2010  | Winter Retreat St. Mary of the Pines, Chatawa |
| Feb. 12-13, 2010 | Kaleidoscope                                  |

