

PWPP GRAPEVINE

August 2014

Presbyterian Women in the Pittsburgh Presbytery



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

901 Allegheny Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233



Please plan to attend the
Annual Fall Gathering
Saturday, September 20, 2014
Bidwell Presbyterian Church

“The Lord will provide.” Genesis 22:14

8:30 a.m.-- 9:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast
Kimberly Merrell, Director of the Metro-Urban Institute at
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, worship leader
“Reconciling Paul,” *Horizons* Bible Study,
led by Rev. Sylvia Carlson
Highlights from the Synod Gathering
Luncheon

Come join in the
Thank Offering Gathering
Saturday, November 8, 2014
Pittsburgh Presbytery Center

“I by my works will show you my faith.” James 2:18

8:30 a.m.-- 9:00 Registration
Full Breakfast 9:15
The Rev. Jennifer Haddox will lead us in worship
Presentation of the Free Wheelchair Mission,
Synod Project
Adoption of the 2015 PWPP Mission Budget

More Information, Registration, Directions inside

Moderator's Message

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As your newly installed Moderator, I am grateful for the opportunity to further the goals and interests of Presbyterian Women in the Pittsburgh Presbytery. Over the past year and a half, as Moderator-elect, it has been my good fortune to shadow Carol MacDonald, who has shared her experience and wisdom and faithfully kept me informed in preparation for this responsibility. Thanks to Carol's foresight and fortitude, the PWPP Coordinating Team has been restructured to align more closely with the current reality of the congregations in the Pittsburgh Presbytery. We will be implementing a new paradigm this year, and we ask for your patience, prayers and loving support as we strive to dot all the i's and cross all the t's.

Ironically, but not surprisingly, as the denomination is suffering losses, Presbyterian Women are standing firm, despite "gracious departures" and closures of some formally organized PW groups in the congregations. Attendance at the PWPP Gatherings is reassuring both in numbers and enthusiasm for the programs. Younger women are stepping up and committing to leadership roles in some congregations. And the PW commitment to mission is PW STRONG! Imagine: 1,020 Little Dresses For Africa! (That is going to be a tough act to follow.) In the First Quarter Report, the total Presbyterian Women Mission Pledge and Giving is \$780,857.85, an increase of \$96,001.90 over the First Quarter a year ago. Synod of the Trinity and PW in Pittsburgh Presbytery are in the top giving category in that first quarter report.

As Mark Twain once said, "The news of my death has been greatly exaggerated. Likewise, Presbyterian Women will not only survive, but prevail. Please spread the word and bring a friend (or two or three) to the upcoming Fall Gathering and Thank Offering Gathering. You will find more details elsewhere in this *Grapevine*.

We hope to supplement the twice-a-year distribution of *The Grapevine* with timely News Briefs, via e-mail to all the moderators who have provided an e-mail address and snail mail to those who are not yet on line. This timely distribution of accurate, relevant information is meant to sustain a bridge between PWPP and the individual congregation PWs. Look for reminders about registration for the gatherings and other programs, as well as the deadlines to submit information for publication in *The Grapevine*. As good things happen in your congregations, or as needs arise, send an e-mail to the Grapevine editor, or to me.

I look forward to knowing more of you personally and I offer my e-mail to anyone who has questions or requests for me: mekirby@speakeasy.net. I don't have voice mail because I am one number off from the ACCESS phone number, and I get two or three wrong calls, on average, a day. The thought of someone leaving a message to be picked up and waiting for the ride that never comes is troubling. I prefer just to tell my elderly callers how to reach ACCESS.

Faithfully yours,
Mary Ellen Kirby

"

Upcoming Events

August 2014

The Fall Gathering
Saturday, September 20, 2014
Bidwell United Presbyterian Church
8:30 -- 9:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast
Registration: \$10 (includes lunch)

“The Lord will provide.” Gen. 22:14

The 2014-15 program year opens on September 20 at Bidwell Presbyterian Church, where we look forward to a beautiful venue and the gracious hospitality of the good women of Bidwell. We are pleased to welcome Kimberly Merrell, Director of the Metro-Urban Institute of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, who will lead us in worship and share her mission experience and study of women's issues in the global context. The Rev. Sylvia Carlson will review the new *Horizons* Bible Study, “Reconciling Paul,” with tips for prospective teachers as well as “students.” Alfreda Richardson will give us highlights of the June Synod Gathering in Waynesburg (and the possibility of a visit or two by some notable ladies from the Old Testament.) We'll worship together, renew our purpose, share a lovely lunch, and join in fellowship as women of faith. All Presbyterian Women are welcome. Mark your calendars. The registration form and directions are in the back of this publication.

Please register by September 16.

Thank Offering Gathering
Saturday, November 8, 2014
Pittsburgh Presbytery Center
Registration: 8:30 -- 9:00
(Form is in the back of *The Grapevine*)
Registration: \$10

“I by my works will show you my faith.” James 2:18

We will enjoy a catered full breakfast before we review our mission giving for 2014 and vote to approve the proposed mission budget for 2015. The 2014-15 Synod Mission project will be introduced by Linda Paterni, who will tell us about the Free Wheelchair Mission, a humanitarian, faith-based organization in service to “provide the transforming gift of mobility to the impoverished disabled in developing countries, as motivated by Jesus Christ.” The Rev. Jennifer Haddox, Seminary World Mission Initiative, will lead us in worship as we receive and dedicate the thank offerings given by the PW groups in the congregations of the Pittsburgh Presbytery. We will also launch a new presbytery-wide-hands-on mission project, a desperately needed practical provision for our African Girls for whom we made so many pretty dresses last year. Do plan to come, and **register early, no later than November 4**, the date when we must give the caterer a final count. Registration form and directions are at the back of this publication.

Mission and Issues

125 LITTLE DRESSES FOR AFRICA - A HUGE P.W. SUCCESS

Project Recipe

November - Take one pebble of this idea from PW in the Presbytery's mission project: dresses made from pillow cases displayed at the Thank Offering service.

January - Toss it into the pool of Priscilla Circle, request pillow cases, fabric, trim, sewers.

February - Add a Minute for Mission at two services, showing two dresses, invite participation.

March & April - Set up Sewing Saturdays at church, invite others to come join the project/

All winter - Watch the ripple effect of expanding circles of involvement -

- One circle member coordinated the fabric and trim that poured into the office and made kits.
- Posters were made, publicity was put into bulletin and monthly newsletter.
- The display case in the red tile entry was filled with sample dresses and information.
- Dresses were hung on display in red tile entry, downstairs, and in the church office.
- The local weekly, The Herald, was asked to come take photo of dresses' display and ran a story.

When done, deliver the 125 dresses to PW in Presbytery's Spring Gathering to add to other dresses from other local churches' PW groups. (The total was 1020 dresses!) Then collect the funds, (\$232) with thanks, from those who contributed to help with shipping costs.

Many thanks to the 28 women who made the dresses, including church members and friends, some from the American Sewing Guild, and some from a Bridge Club. The dresses were made with creative flair - unusual fabric combinations, pockets added, as were innovative trims with bows, florets, decorative buttons and ribbon. How happy these little girls will be.



Thanks also to the church youth who tie-dyed pillow cases making this a church-wide intergenerational effort. Lastly many thanks to Ruby and Bobbi in the office for all their supportive help.

These Little Dresses for Africa will indeed be "changing lives, one little dress at a time." The ripple response of church and community involvement was beyond our wildest imagination. Surely "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform." Thanks be to God!

Wilberta Pickett, Priscilla Circle leader

On Saturday May 17, 2014 over 40 women and men attended a Human Trafficking Awareness event at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. This program was organized by members of the Northmont PW, and Carolyn Curry, Vice Moderator of Issues for PWPP, in cooperation with students from the seminary. This collaborative effort was very successful in highlighting the issue of Human Trafficking.

The speaker was Elizabeth Echevarria, President and Founder of Living in Liberty. Those in attendance were inspired as Elizabeth shared the story of how she felt a call from God to respond to the needs of human trafficking victims. Living in Liberty is a non-profit organization that helps victims of Human Trafficking by providing them shelter, food, and medical assistance.

Elizabeth discussed what needs to be done and what efforts already are in place to help these victims. One safe house is in operation and plans are progressing to open two additional safe houses in our area and a drop in place in Homewood. A thrift store called Repurposed was opened in Northway Mall at 800 McKnight Road in the North Hills to provide financial support to these safe houses and to Living in Liberty. Awareness training sessions are offered periodically at Repurposed. The store needs donated items, volunteers, and shoppers.

The audience asked many questions about this problem that is happening not only worldwide but also in our local communities. The outcome of this event is that those who attended from the community, the seminary, and PWPP now are very aware of the need to support efforts to help victims of Human Trafficking.

THANK YOU

On May 17, 2014, we held a Human Trafficking Awareness workshop at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Although this is a growing problem within several communities and countries, luckily, this topic is receiving political attention.

I recently came across an article written by Linda Finarelli of the Landsdale, PA newspaper *The Reporter*. She writes that SB 75 (Senate Bill 75) was unanimously passed in the Senate in December 2013 and in the House on June 25 [2014]. A Senate concurrence vote on House amendments took place on June 30, and the bill was signed by the governor on July 3; it takes effect in 60 days. Further, the "bill defines human trafficking and sex trafficking, which we didn't have before and hindered law enforcement from taking any steps against a predator," Senator Greenleaf said July 8.

Human trafficking is a topic that needs our attention. As Jean Eckert states, "we hope the Presbyterian Women will continue to be aware and support efforts which fight human trafficking."

This event could not have been a success without our quiet behind the scenes workers. For their talents and time, I would like to thank Jean Stultz, Kathy Spitz and Jean Eckert from Northmont Presbyterian Church for spearheading this event and making it the success that it was. They worked tirelessly and that was proven by the attendance on May 17. I would also like to thank the students at the Seminary, The Women's Caucus and Damien Berry for spreading the word about the event and serving refreshments. Thank you also to Mary Ellen Kirby, Moderator and Charlesetta McKinney of the Presbyterian Women in the Pittsburgh Presbytery.

Carolyn Curry
Vice Moderator of Issues

2014

Pennsylvania State Church Women United Mission Project



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF PENNSYLVANIA will focus on Human Trafficking as their 2014 Mission. In October 2013, our Ecumenical Development Chair, Rev. Dawn Harmon of Mt. Joy, PA, introduced the project that fulfilled our goal of the maximum impact to prevent Human Trafficking in our State, our Country and in the World. We chose the Change Purse non-profit organization that is committed to fighting sex trafficking through raising awareness and financially supporting faith-based organizations that provide hope, healing, and restoration, through their direct work with victims and survivors of sex trafficking.

This is a year long project that assures us of impacting Human trafficking to the MAX!

Information about Change Purse can be obtained from www.changepurse.org. To buy a purse go to the website at www.changepurse.org/shop

Help Make a Difference!

Stacy Williams, President CWU-Pittsburgh Unit

Presbyterian Women Support Mission

After spending some time searching for words of inspiration and encouragement that would touch us to be faithful in mission giving I came to realize Presbyterian Women do not need encouragement to give to mission work. Women in our churches have been providing mission help in many ways for many years. Whether it is physical labor, a kind listener, a loving friend, or our dollars, we support those who need help. Presbyterian Women in the Pittsburgh Presbytery have always been extremely generous in PCUSA giving to support the ministry and mission of Presbyterian Women as we carry out the PW Purpose together. A (thank you –receipt) letter from Mary Cook Jorgenson, Moderator of the Churchwide-Coordinating Team had a hand written line “**WOW – Thank you Pittsburgh PW !** Thank Offerings and Birthday Offerings from Pittsburgh PW reflect our commitment to these mission areas. Remember as we finish the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2014 submit your donations to your mission treasurer. The Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA will receive the portion designated for Mission Pledge, Birthday Offering, Thank Offering, Life Membership, Memorials and Least Coin. Money you designate for Pittsburgh Area Mission Agencies will be given to programs in our Pittsburgh area as they continue the Lord’s work. Previously, Pittsburgh Presbytery distributed these funds. This year your leaders on the coordinating team will prayerfully and carefully consider how to use this mission money. Names of agencies you think worthwhile are welcome.

Sally Andrews, Mission Treasurer/Vice Moderator of Mission

Synod Mission

2014-15 Synod Mission Project Free Wheelchair Mission

Many years ago on vacation in Morocco, a young engineer and inventor from southern California witnessed the agonized plight of a disabled woman struggling to drag herself across a busy thoroughfare. Unable to forget the scene, Don Schoendorfer would eventually leave a successful career in the biomedical field and invent a basic, inexpensive, and durable wheelchair. His unique design became the cornerstone of Free Wheelchair Mission, the nonprofit organization he founded in 2001 to serve people with disabilities in the developing world.



For over 100 million people living in underserved regions of the world, a wheelchair is either inaccessible or unaffordable. They must crawl on the ground, or wait to be carried to meet their basic needs. Subjected to danger and disease, struggling with isolation and hopelessness, their options are few and the future holds little opportunity for advancement. Education,

employment, access--without mobility, these essential components of an empowered life can remain out of reach.

Designed for use in the rugged terrain of rural and under-resourced areas, the wheelchairs combine the simplicity of a resin lawn chair with the strength of a custom steel frame and sturdy mountain bike tires. They cost just \$71.88 to manufacture and deliver and are provided at absolutely no cost to the recipient.

reprinted from the Free Wheelchair Mission brochure

www.freewheelchairmission.org

WOMEN IN GRACE

The Presbyterian Women of **Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church** have completed plans for an overnight trip in September to Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster County for the play *Moses*.

We all know the story of Moses, but this version brings the Bible to life through amazing song and storytelling of Moses' trials in Egypt --, the parting of the Red Sea, the scribing of the Ten Commandments and so much more. This trip is always exciting and a chance to connect with friends both new and old. We hope your women's organization will also plan a visit to Sight & Sound Theatres.

The women of **Forest Grove Church** recently had a salad - hat luncheon. Prizes were given for the prettiest, funniest, oldest, most original, and best overall hat. Everyone enjoyed the good food and good fellowship.

In September the women will have a bake sale during the church's spaghetti dinner.

The **Third Church** PW 's fall rummage sale is Saturday, October 4, in the church social hall, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Alpha House will benefit from the proceeds.

The Holiday Bazaar is on Saturday, November 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. featuring a luncheon and rich desserts, a trove of attic treasures and collectibles, a new limited edition of the Third Church Mouse, fine needlework and beautifully refurbished jewelry.

Presbyterian Women of Westminster

Westminster PWW's two Rummage and Recycling Sales garnered somewhat over \$20,000 this program year. All proceeds minus minimal expenses) are donated to mission. The sales are a success thanks to loyal customers. PWW members and families, Westminster members and friends support the sales by donating the sale items and working the set-up day and sale day (about 200 workers each sale). Our next Rummage and Recycling Sale is in November.

Four Circles meet monthly September through June. Circles utilize the Horizons Study Guide. Sarah Circle also dines out for lunch once a month during the summer for fellowship. Hannah Circle fills thirty Easter Baskets for distribution to children through the Bridgeville Food Bank. Abigail Circle invites the entire Westminster staff and the Thursday morning volunteers to a June picnic. The son of an Elizabeth Circle member spoke about trekking in Nepal at a meeting.

September 11, 2014 Westminster PWW joins the United Methodist Women of Christ UM Church of Bethel Park and Baldwin UM Church for lunch, fellowship, and a program. Sister Jeannette Bussen, Coordinator of Justice and Peace Ministry for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, PA. is speaking on "Human Trafficking", today's sanitized term for old fashioned slavery. Sister Jeannette is Coordinator of Justice and Peace Ministry for the Sisters.

Joy Mahrer

In Review...

The **Spring Gathering and Annual Meeting of PWPP** was a joyous event, held on a bright sunny April 26 at Third Presbyterian church, where hundreds of Little Dresses for Africa were displayed. The chapel foyer was filled with circular dress racks and tables stacked with a colorful, amazingly creative array of dresses meant to raise the spirits and warm the hearts of children across the globe. The Presbytery-wide mission project, which was launched at the Thank Offering Gathering in November 2013, culminated with a final tally of 1020 dresses, including 80 made by Bethany PW and taken directly to Haiti on a mission trip just before Easter. A team of volunteers packed nine large boxes and shipped them to LDA headquarters in Michigan, where they will be distributed and transported personally on mission trips to various countries in Africa. Many thanks to everyone who sewed, helped pack, and contributed towards shipping costs. Bless you!

Seventy-nine women from 15 congregations attended and enjoyed an inspiring worship service led by the Rev. Sharon Stewart, interim pastor of Crafton UP Church. Andrey Nemzer, counter tenor who performs with the Metropolitan Opera and is a member the third Church choir, sang a selection of beautiful songs, accompanied by Preston Showman, Director of Music. New leaders for the PWPP Coordinating Team were installed, including Moderator Mary Ellen Kirby, and outgoing leaders were recognized for their faithful service. A silver cross and monetary gift were presented to outgoing Moderator Carol MacDonald, who was delighted with the response to the Hands-On mission project which she launched and promoted.

Gracious hospitality of Third Church included a tasty continental breakfast, uplifting and amusing welcoming remarks by senior minister "Trip" Torbert, and delicious lunch prepared by caterer Denise Doaks and presented by PW women of Third. The hunger cans collection of \$97 was matched by the Citizens Bank Foundation and was donated to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. It was a fine day for all who attended.

"Hope in Bloom" was the theme of the Gathering of the Synod of the Trinity in June on the campus of Waynesburg University. More than a hundred Presbyterian Women from throughout West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio celebrated our common purpose with energy, insight, and renewed commitment. Mary McElroy enriched our spirits through song and lively worship. Betsy Ensign-George set us on track for reconciling Paul with her illuminating discussions on the new *Horizons* Bible Study. Surprise "visits" from Mary Magdalene, Martha (sister of Mary and Lazarus), Hanna and other Old Testament women, who offered dramatic monologues, brought history to life. A broad range of workshops provided an opportunity to learn how to teach a Bible study, arrange flowers with Biblical allusions, listen with your heart, let laughter lighten your load, and develop leadership skills. And of course, there was plenty of what Presbyterian Women do best--singing!

An optional after hours display of hands-on mission projects and ideas featured Little Dresses for Africa with kits to take away and a selection of decorative frills, free for the taking--thanks to donated leftovers from the Fox Chapel PW sewers circle. A crocheted plastic sleeping mat, with instructions, on loan from Union PC was a big hit, and the Sani-Panti instructions for those girls in Africa also generated quite a bit of interest. The Gathering Mission Focus was Avis Arbor, a shelter for women and children, serving Washington and Greene Counties. Well over a thousand dollars in gift cards were donated in support of their programming.

Pam Snyder, Churchwide Vice Moderator for Mission Relationships, was the keynote speaker. Pam shared a detailed, personal look at many mission opportunities in her workshop. She also installed the new elected Synod leaders, including Carol MacDonald as the new Vice Moderator, responsible for coordinating programs. Full exposition of the theme took us from seeds of hope to roots of hope, sprouts of hope, blossoms of hope and nourishing hope, guided by the words of Jeremiah 29:11:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

To which all God's women said Amen.

August 2014



Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church
384 Fox Chapel Road Saturday, October 4, 9-3!

And More News...

Fox Chapel's Priscilla Circle concluded a full year of activity

Fox Chapel's Priscilla Circle continues to meet at Longwood at Oakmont. Fourteen of the twenty-some members live there. The rest carpool across the Allegheny River from the church each month. Seven of the Longwood residents who attend are members of seven other churches, six come from six other Presbyterian churches, while one is an Episcopalian. We even have two younger members. We are inclusive!

We have enjoyed the excellent HORIZONS Bible Study led each month by Kitty Skinner, a former English teacher who has shown us how to analyze the texts to get at the historical and cultural contexts. This has given us a deeper appreciation of the Biblical story for our time. Members took turns reading from the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study each month to keep us aware of the PCUSA's far-reaching ministries and issues. Other members have served as treasurer, made the arrangements with Longwood for our meeting space, assigned refreshments, called members and arranged carpools for meetings and mission tours. I am very grateful for all their help as well as the help of the office staff for mailings and publicity.

Mission is a large part of our agenda. We collected monies each month for the Hunger Program of EECM and the Fellowship of the Least Coin. At Christmas we adopted a "Dove Tree" family from Homewood for whom we provided 3 large boxes of gifts for a large family.

As a result of the challenge presented at the Thank Offering service, our timid start of a "let's see what happens" if we invite people to make "Little Dresses for Africa" resulted in an explosion of interest and activity which resulted in 125 dresses which were taken to the PWPP's Spring Gathering to be shipped to Africa. This was the combined effort of 28 women who sewed - some on their own, some church members, some relatives or friends, some from Bridge clubs, some from the American Sewing Guild, some attended two all day Sewing Saturdays set up by others at the church, and the Youth tie-dyed pillow cases to be used. One member cut fabric and combined trim and elastic to make sewing kits that people could take home to sew. In addition, there was so much excess fabric and trim donated, that more kits were assembled and given to Mary Ellen Kirby to take to PW in the Synod at Waynesburg University in June to supply a hands-on mission project there for all the attendees. Both Priscilla Circle members and other church members contributed \$232.00 to help pay for shipping the dresses. That added to the other circle mission donations (\$569.00, monthly donations and @ \$400.00 spent for Dove Tree gifts) made a total of \$1,201.00 contributed to mission from the circle.

Two local mission trips were enjoyed and proved enlightening to members. On October 31 we were invited to attend the church's Pre-School where we rotated among the various colorful class rooms, met their staff who talked about their programs, saw some of the children in costume, and then were guests of the staff at their In-service luncheon. Early in May we toured the new Community House of EECM, guided by Sally Johnson, where we were amazed and impressed with the size, scope and variety of community services under one roof covering

innumerable beautiful rooms for a variety of functions - all to serve the greater East End. It is truly an integrated, inclusive community ministry. Afterwards we enjoyed lunch at Cafe Sam's on Center Ave.

In May we hosted our annual carry-in Salad Luncheon for the entire staff of our church. This was held in the Oakmont Room at Longwood. The staff always looks forward to this bountiful buffet and the opportunity to share their ministries with us, and for us to report on our year's progress in carrying out the wider purpose of Presbyterian Women.

Our final Bible study was early in June along with a Jewish Seder (the Passover meal that was Jesus' Last Supper) to experience the culmination of our year with the Exodus story. Two Jewish residents of Longwood were our guests for this symbolic meal. They were pleased to be invited and shared family stories about their customs, along with how important the tradition was to them. They joined us in reading the Hebrew part of the "Hagaddah," the text that explained the importance of children's participation, and the emphasis on the anticipation of Elijah's return.

After four years at the helm as leader I am now stepping down and rejoice that Kitty Skinner, our Bible Study leader, will now also be Circle leader. I have been honored to serve as leader, and pray God's blessing on Priscilla Circle as it continues to learn and serve under Kitty's guidance.

Faithfully, *Wilberta Pickett*

Congratulations to Carol MacDonald, who is the new Vice Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Trinity. Carol is now responsible for coordinating all the programs and Gatherings of Presbyterian Women in the Synod, a challenging but highly rewarding job. Along with Judith Jerry, who is Synod of the Trinity Representative to the PW Churchwide, PWPP is well represented and very well connected in the leadership of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Our prayers and best wishes for success are extended to Carol and Judy.

Congratulations!



PWPP Submitted to Horizons Magazine!

Little Dresses For Africa

An enlarged photograph of a little African girl with a red rose in her hair and wearing a black and white striped sun dress with red bows tied at the shoulders became the face that launched 1,000 dresses.

“When I saw that smiling face, so proud of her new dress and obviously pleased with

herself, I just knew that we had to participate in the Little Dresses for Africa mission program,” recalls Carol MacDonald, who recently completed her two-year term as moderator of Presbyterian Women in Pittsburgh Presbytery. “I looked it up on line and I talked with Rachel O’Neill, who founded the program following a mission trip to Africa in 2006, and the



more I learned, the more I loved the idea. The simple patterns, one of which uses a pillow case, were easy enough even for novice sewers.” In fact, a few women even sewed their dresses by hand.

One lady, with the help of her sister, made 100 dresses. Another 96-year-old, who could no longer sew, embroidered little bears, hearts and other designs on dresses others had sewn. Teenagers tie-dyed white pillow cases and younger children drew designs with permanent fabric markers.

The project was launched at the Thank Offering Gathering in November 2013 with instruction kits and sample dresses on display. The ingathering took place at the PWPP Spring Gathering and Annual

August 2014

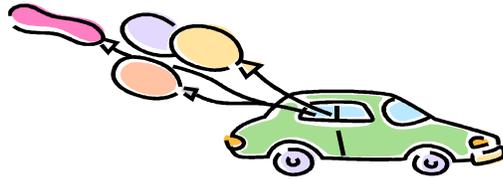
Business meeting on April 26, 2014, with the appropriate theme “Presbyterian Women: Where Faith, Hope and Love Abide.” The response was truly amazing. The project captured the hearts and imagination of the women in the 25 congregations of PW in the Pittsburgh Presbytery. Dresses in small, medium, large and extra large in gorgeous colorful fabrics, some with matching shorts or little pouch purses attached with velcro, creatively decorated with pockets, buttons, ribbons, ruffles, and little flowers were brought to Third Presbyterian Church, where they were displayed on round dress racks and long tables at the Spring Gathering.

“The participation by so many congregational PWs was really heartening,” said Mrs. MacDonald. “We counted 1,020 dresses. It was a truly joyous occasion and I think the Little Dresses were just what we needed to jolt our enthusiasm for mission as well as renew our commitment to Presbyterian Women.”

Bethany Presbyterian Church in Bridgeville packed up their 80 dresses and took them with them on a mission trip to Haiti, where one of their women is on a two-year mission commitment. Another 100 will be taken personally on a mission trip to Africa in June. An efficient PW team sorted dresses by size, rolled them, and packed them three of a kind into one-gallon zip lock bags. Nine boxes were shipped via UPS to LDA headquarters in Brownstown, MI., where they will be distributed to mission teams who will take them to countries in Africa and other impoverished countries.

The program continues to grow. Several churches have decided to keep on making dresses and either ship them to Michigan or take them directly on upcoming mission trips departing from Pittsburgh area churches. At the Synod of the Trinity Gathering in June at Waynesburg University, sample kits will be available for those looking for new ideas for Hands-On Mission. So far, 2.5 million dresses have been distributed from the headquarters in Michigan and an estimated half million more have been taken or shipped directly by the sewers themselves.

Directions to PWPP Events



Don't be late!

Directions to Bidwell United Presbyterian Church 1025 Liverpool Street, Pittsburgh 15233 412-231-4663

- **From Downtown:** go across the Ft. Duquesne Bridge and bear left to Heinz Field Exit and the first traffic light, Allegheny Ave. Turn right onto Allegheny Ave. and proceed through four traffic lights. Turn left at Liverpool St. Church is on the left in the first block.
- **From the East:** take Parkway East towards downtown Pittsburgh to Ft. Duquesne Bridge exit. Cross the Ft. Duquesne Bridge to exit 7B and follow above directions.
- **From the North:** follow I-279 towards Pittsburgh. At exit 7A, turn right onto ramp. Bear left onto Reedsdale St. Turn right onto Allegheny Ave. Proceed as above.
- **From the South:** come through the Ft. Pitt tunnels (left lane) and get into the far left lane on the Ft. Pitt bridge to cross the Duquesne bridge. Continue as from Downtown.
- **From Route 51:** take Route 52 to the West End Circle. Go across the West End Bridge and stay in the right lane. At the end of the bridge, go straight onto Western Ave. Turn left at the second traffic light (Allegheny Ave); straight through two more lights, then left onto Liverpool Street.

Directions to Pittsburgh Presbytery Center 901 Allegheny Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15233 412-323-1400

- From Downtown:** Cross the Ft. Duquesne Bridge and bear left to Heinz Field exit and the first stop light at Allegheny Avenue. Turn right onto Allegheny Avenue. Proceed and cross Western Ave., making a quick right turn into the Presbytery parking lot.
- From the South:** Come through the Fort Pitt tunnels and get into the left lane on the bridge. Follow I-279N (Ft. Duquesne Bridge) and take exit 7B to Western Avenue. Turn right onto Western Ave. and follow to the second traffic light. Turn left onto Allegheny Avenue and a quick right into the Presbytery parking lot.
- From Route 51:** Take Route 51 to the West End Circle. Go over the West End Bridge, staying in the right lane. At the end of the bridge, go straight onto Western Avenue. Turn left onto Allegheny Ave. and a quick right into the Presbytery parking lot.
- From the Parkway East:** Take the Fort Duquesne Bridge exit. Cross the bridge to exit 7B and follow above directions.
- From the North:** Follow I-279 towards Pittsburgh. At exit 7A, turn right onto the ramp. Bear left onto Reedsdale Street. Turn right onto Allegheny Avenue. Go straight to 901 Allegheny Avenue.

August 2014

Your Leadership Team:

Mary Ellen Kirby, Moderator—412-782-6772

Carolyn Curry, Vice Moderator of Issues—412-243-3542

Pam Adomaitis, Corresponding and Recording Secretary—412-835-5731

Charlesetta McKinney, Contingent Treasurer/Finance Coordinator—412-362-1526

Sally Andrews, Mission Treasurer/Vice Moderator of Mission—412-787-2654

Judith Jerry, Literature/Resource Coordinator—412-761-2501

Diane Donovan, Grapevine Editor—412-487-6560

Grapevine Distribution through Bethel Park Presbyterian Church—412-835-0405

Carol MacDonald, Directory Editor—412-833-4590

Charlesetta McKinney, Parliamentarian—412-962-1526

Dolly Patterson, Ecumenical Representative—412-793-5630

Your CT is here for you! Don't hesitate to call with any questions or observations.

If you would prefer to no longer receive the Grapevine through the mail, please contact Kathy at Bethel Presbyterian Church by calling 412-835-0405.

Remember that the Grapevine is available on the web at www.pghpresbytery.org



Registration

***The 26th Fall Gathering
Saturday, September 20, 2014
Bidwell United Presbyterian Church
Registration Fee: \$10.00 per person
Registration Deadline: September 16***

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ***State*** _____ ***Zip Code*** _____

Phone: _____ ***e-Mail:*** _____

Church: _____

No. of Guests _____ ***Total No. Attending*** _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

***Please make your check payable to PWPP and send to:
Charlesetta McKinney, 5528 Hampton St,
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-362-1526***

Registration

THANK OFFERING GATHERING
Saturday, November 8, 2014
Pittsburgh Presbytery Center
Registration Fee: \$10.00
Registration Deadline: November 4, 2014

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Church: _____

No. of Guests _____ **Total # Attending** _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make your check payable to PWPP and send to:
Charlesetta McKinney, 5528 Hampton St,
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-362-1526

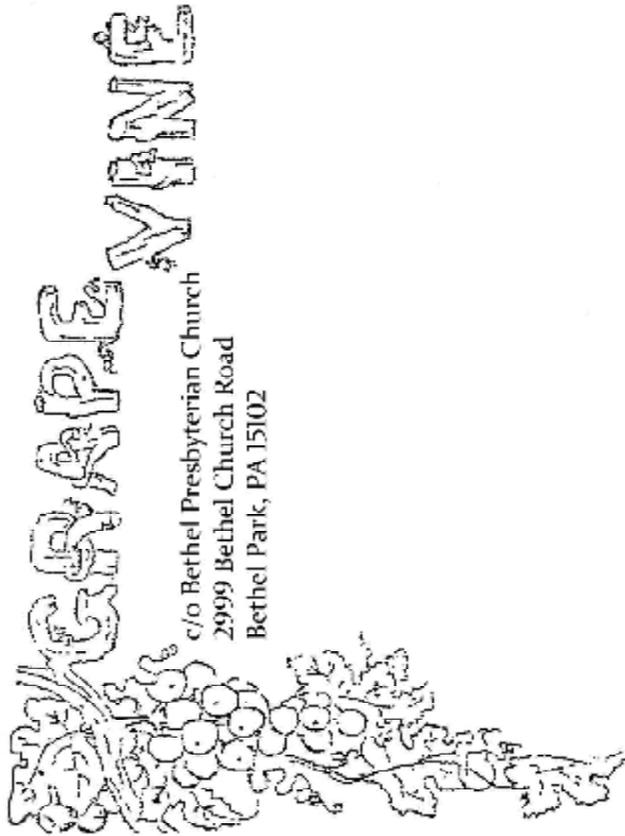
**Please register as early as you can. The caterer needs a final
count by November 4. Thank you.**

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible!

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bethel Park, PA
PERMIT NO. 1

Dated Material --- Do Not Hold

Return Service Requested



c/o Bethel Presbyterian Church
2999 Bethel Church Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102