



The 2013 Annual Report Presbyterian Women of the Yellowstone Presbytery

Mission Pledge of Presbyterian Women 2014

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:4-9

We updated our By-Laws to reflect the following changes:

Article IV CT of PW of Yellowstone Presbytery: **"With a minimum of seven (7) days notice, the PWP Coordinating Team may use conference calls/e-mails/postal mail to transact business and planning as needed between meetings."**(new)

Article 5, Section 5 to read, **"It is recommended that the Resource Coordinator or Cluster Moderator meet with each local group in the cluster once a year for evaluation and program planning and to help interpret issues of the connectional church. "** (new) Article 5, Section 8. **(Together We Serve) (new)/** Justice Coordinator shall be appointed by the coordinating team.....

Biff Hogue moved that in Goal 1, the word **pastors be changed to teaching elders** and that **CLP be changed to CRE** to reflect the changes that have been made in the denomination. Susan Gibb seconded the motion and it carried.

Joan Cunningham installed the following officers: Merry Lee Hooks Moderator, 2016, Suzanne Bratsky, Mentor and Vice-Moderator 2016, West Cluster Moderator, Susan Gibb 2016, East Cluster Moderator, Hazel Walter 2014, Previously installed secretary/ historian Janet Guphill 2014. Treasurer, Linda Best 2015, Outreach/Justice Coordinator Marlene Spencer. *The division of the Clusters into East and West is on an experimental basis and the membership has not voted on this division.

We decided on the following goals:

To divide the clusters to help the aging membership reach the meetings. This will take the form of a separate Fall and Spring Meeting, one day in a central location per cluster.

The Spring Gathering was held April 12-13, 2013 at First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman. Speakers were: Aloha Whitney, PW Global Exchange to India, "Glimpses of India" Cindy Coad, "86 Quilts in 60 days" Rev. Jody McDevitt, asked us to "Tell Our Story" by "Engaging in the PCUSA Evangelism Program." Merry Lee Hooks, "A Faithful, Grassroots Answer to Aggression." Worship and Communion was conducted by the Rev. Carol Shellenberger. We envisioned people seated at the communion table who had influenced our participation in the Sacrament of Communion. She told a story about the people at her table to guide us in this very moving, personal sharing of the wine and bread by intinction. Suzanne Bratsky ably moderated the meeting. Susan Gibb and Merry Lee Hooks reported on the 2012 Triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women and a video of the event was shown.

Life membership awards were given to Jody McDevitt and Suzanne Bratsky. In the future we will present names to the coordinating team, then to the Fall Cluster Meeting membership and finally to be voted on at the spring gathering,

On Saturday, Aloha Whitney answered questions about her presentation and spoke of "The Violence of Human Trafficking." She referred to the hospice center for aids research and told us the sad statistic that 65% of the Indian population is below the poverty level. She also presented at the Glacier PW Spring Meeting and we are very grateful for her work in our behalf.

Cindy Coad, a member of the Dillon congregation told of her group's work to supply quilts for an orphanage in Costa Rica, the local police and the New Hope Pregnancy center. The quilts are labeled with the phrase, "Sharing God's Warmth." Cindy traveled to Forsyth to help the PW of Hysham organize their knitting and crocheting work. The "86 Quilts in 60 days" project was submitted as the Yellowstone Presbytery's "Together in Service" project

Under the heading of "If you wonder where the money will go?", Merry Lee is to assemble all contact information for "local" missions: American Indian Reservations, camp for foster kids who have been split from their siblings, "The Casa Program, Youth Camps for kids whose parents are incarcerated, long term care centers, ambulance, fire and Red Cross services, hospitals and in Billings, The Casa Program and Intermountain in Helena. We are also going to put together a list of national level addresses for people and staff and increase our own publicity for PW Mission.

Suzanne and Merry Lee traveled to Laramie, Wyoming to attend the Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Rocky Mountains Triennial Gathering, June 28-30 2013 and the PWS Leadership Training, June 27. The Keynote address- "Give me a "P"give me a "W" and "PW and the Future"-- Mary Cook Jorgenson. followed by a community building activity led by Marilyn Collins, "Who are these women and why do we call them leaders?" Next, "Would Jesus have a Facebook Page? PW and the Social Media" – Heather Dixon. "God Gives you Double for your Trouble" Dr. Wanda Beauman and "Ending Modern Slavery: A Human Rights Approach to Eliminating Human Trafficking – Meagan Manas, Faces of Faith: The 57th

United Nations Committee on the Status of Women” – Wanda Beauman plus the “USA Mission Experience” in Appalachia by Vicki Sutton.

Five points to support PW 1. It's the energy, not the numbers. 2. Start saving now to attend the next World Wide Gathering 3. If you have an opportunity to talk about PW, accept that opportunity. 4. Evangelize the word of God through our actions, living the PW purpose 5. Develop sincere relationships with other people.

We planned the next Fall Cluster Meetings, Susan and Merry Lee to arrange the gatherings of the West Cluster, Merry Lee, Suzanne, Joan and Hazel to travel to the East Clusters. This was determined in a teleconference on Sept. 26, 2013* Please see minutes.

The focus for the “Round Robin” of shared Fall Meetings was the Mary Cook Jorgenson’s Power Point presentation about the history of Presbyterian Women. We adapted the history to include photos and history of the small, mission churches founded in each town. PW Dillon with PW Butte shared histories and strengthened their long- standing bond. Do dee Husted (PW Yellowstone and clerk of the Presbytery) and Nancy Sexton had a reunion after years of separation due to everyday “busy-ness” and not driving, a very common reason for low attendance at Spring and Fall Gatherings.



Dillon First Presbyterian Church 1893 and made possible because, “that the trustees be empowered to borrow of the Ladies Aid Society of the church, money with which to pay the rent due on Dart’s Hall.” *First Presbyterian Church Seventh-Fifth Anniversary 1888-1963

Merry Lee and Retha attended the commissioning of the Rev. Theresa Kendall to the Deer Lodge 1st Pres. And talked to women there about the best way for us to gather as most of our members don’t drive. So, Deerlodge, Anaconda, Phillipsburg, Butte and Dillon are going to meet in Anaconda. (possibly Ennis and Bozeman if they want) for the Fall Gathering. I have a tentative “yes” from Rev. Kendall to speak if we plan it far enough ahead to help her find a date.

The East Cluster worked on the Together in Service projects of Little Dresses for Africa and knitting, crocheting, quilting for local missions. Cindy Coad, speaker at the Spring Gathering, traveled to Miles City and was met by women from Hysham to start their version of knitting or sewing “little dresses, little britches, sweaters, caps and quilts.”

Suzanne traveled to Denver very recently, January 17, 18 , 2014 to participate in the PW in the Synod of the Rocky Mountains Coordinating Team Gathering, an annual meeting. One workshop was titled, “Using A Facebook Page To Engage Your Group.”

Merry Lee Hooks, Moderator, PW of the Yellowstone January 21th 2014