

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE YELLOWSTONE PRESBYTERY

Report to the Presbytery, March 5, 2016

The PW Synod of the Rocky Mountains Coordinating Team met a few weeks ago and listed challenges facing presbyterian women in rural churches: distance between groups, aging of congregations and decreases in numbers of involved women. Yet, each of the eight presbyteries submitted annual reports demonstrating shared responsibility for the future of women of the church and detailing activities and mission commitments. Here is a "sampling."



Glacier - First Presbyterian Church of Great Falls hosted Heidi Gjefle McCurdy, Director of Programs and Counseling at the YWCA and The Mercy Home. Heidi spoke about Domestic Violence and Abuse. A detective from the Missoula Police Department spoke about sex trafficking in Montana.

Denver - Wheat Ridge Presbyterian heard two speakers at their Fall Gathering. Theresa Vernado shared a PowerPoint presentation of the Global Mission Trip to the Carribean. Maria Shupe spoke of her experiences in Zimbabwe.

Yellowstone - Gave \$700.00 to Creative Ministries and will support the PW USA Mission experience to visit Cameron House in the San Francisco Bay Area in September, 2016. This year the top ministry has been "Days for Girls," but we also made blankets for the warming hut in Bozeman and Intermountain Faith Home. We knitted hats, mittens and scarves for "Helping Hands." In March of 2015 we donated funds to help Vanatu after Cyclone Pam. Supplemental nutrition in summer was funded and volunteers helped with kids eating at the "Children's Vittles Program" in Ennis.

PW Yellowstone has started a newsletter! Pick one up on the PW table in the "Fireside Room." In the newsletters will be short reports from all PW groups. Please send us your news so we can share it with everyone. In the next issue, Merry Lee will review "Between Heaven and Mirth - Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life" written by James Martin, S.J.

The PW Spring Presbytery Gathering is April 2, 2016 at Billings, First Presbyterian Church and will feature Leah Spellman speaking about the "Days For Girls International" which is making a difference in the lives of girls in 85 countries by giving them more days at school. Registration is 8:30am, program begins at 9:00 and closing will be at 3:00pm. The flyer is available at the display.

Presbyterian Women are adapting. Come by and talk to us. We're listening!  
Faithfully, Merry Lee Hooks, Moderator

