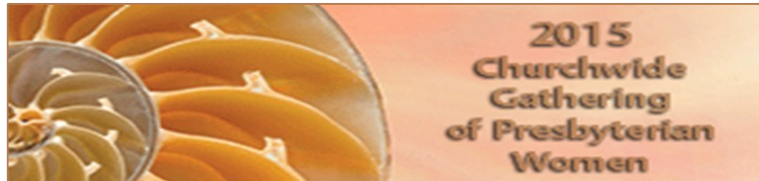




# News from Presbyterian Women Presbytery of Yellowstone January 2016



Minneapolis, MN June 18-21

Joining 1,700 other women (and a few men) Yellowstone Presbytery PW Moderator Merry Lee Hooks from Madison Valley, TE Teresa Kendall from Deer Lodge, TE Susi Ennis from Poplar, and Donna Beck, Suzanne Bratsky, Sally Broughton & Susan Gibb from Bozeman attended the recent celebration in Minneapolis. Using 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and the theme “One Body, One Spirit,” we enjoyed four plenary & worship sessions with fantastic music, numerous educational workshops, five on-site mission tours, a March for Justice & Peace, a Silent Witness against discrimination and a Gathering-wide communion service. Several women from our Mission Partners around the world provided colorful accents with their beautiful native dress.

Over \$30,000 in Target gift cards were donated in support of the Minneapolis-area American Indian Family Center and over \$32,000 collected in the Gathering Offering for a women’s vocational institute in Puerto Rico. The Activities Hall provided opportunities to visit the Presbyterian Bookstore, Speakers’ Corner and Global Marketplace. The several workshops were very informative and wide-ranging from mission experiences and opportunities, leadership programs, ending violence against women, global food security, upcoming *Horizons* Bible Studies, Native American rights, to Presbyterian Women organization.

During the business meeting conducted before the Gathering our own Wanda Beauman from Synod of the Rocky Mountains was elected as the new Churchwide vice-moderator for justice and peace concerns.



## REVISED PW MANUAL

Our PW Manual will be revised within a few months into three separate, smaller documents:  
*Guide for PW Groups*      *Guide for PW Moderators*      *Guide for PW Treasurers*

The *Guide for PW Groups* will be both printed and downloadable, each for \$6.00. The other two guides will be available as free downloads. For convenience in our Presbytery, you can obtain free copies of all revised guides when available from Susan Gibb in Bozeman, M; 406-582-741 or [susgibb@gmail.com](mailto:susgibb@gmail.com) . Contact Susan or watch the next newsletter for availability information.

## **From the Moderator—Merry Lee Hooks**

It's our turn! In your hands is our "news" and as you read this I will be in Denver at the PW Synod planning meeting doing my part for PW Yellowstone(\*humor and fun) to chase away that "Bleak Midwinter" inversion. I say it is our turn because this June we will show our "know how" at The PW Gathering of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The theme will be about challenges facing all rural churches. (exact dates next week)

The 2015 September/ October "Horizons" has an excellent article titled "Presbyterian Women Astride the Divide" by Sarah Kennerly. "The PW Purpose is the mission statement for the organization. If you are committed to what the purpose envisions, why should you disclaim the statement as an individual simply because your church leaves the PC( USA)? You can continue Presbyterian Women's work individually or with one of PW's many secular or faith-based partners." After all is said and done "Since 1888 Presbyterian Women have joyfully expressed gratitude for God's blessings by sharing their blessings with those in need at home as well as around the world."

PW of the Yellowstone holds the Thank Offering Celebration in the fall. This offering helps fund projects in our communities or in the world and comes through the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women. The goal for this year's giving is \$900,000. PW of the Yellowstone Presbytery typically gives \$700 towards this effort. Look for the Thank Offering Poster on the PW bulletin board in your church.

We are looking forward to the Presbyterian Women's USA mission experience to visit Cameron House while in the San Francisco Bay Area in September 2016. "Out of darkness.... into the Light" ( John 1:5) We will save money to send delegates from the Synod to understand the challenges faced by women and children in that area. Participants will focus on immigration, human trafficking, domestic violence and related issues and be available to speak at PW events. Last year the international mission experience took place in Haiti and if all goes well Theresa Varnado, synod delegate to Haiti, will visit to tell us about her experience for the PW Spring Gathering in 2016.

This quote, from Kathleen Norris, "Joy has always been an important part of my life, but it wasn't until I became a Benedictine oblate (an associate member of a monastery) that I appreciated its place in my spiritual life," she said. "I was muttering to one of the monks about my lack of spiritual discipline and my haphazard prayer life, when he said to me, 'I don't worry about you at all. You have joy, and that is one of the traditional fruits of the Holy Spirit.' This was news to me, and it cheered me immensely, reminding me that even when I wasn't `doing` the stuff I felt I should be doing, the Spirit was working in me nonetheless."

## **Happy New Year sisters in faith!**

I've got some exciting opportunities to add to your calendars this year. Presbyterian Women in the Synod is sponsoring a Disaster Preparedness Training session in Cheyenne, WY, June 10, in conjunction with our triennial synod gathering. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) will run the training for all interested women from throughout the Synod. You do not have to be active in Presbyterian Women, but we do invite you to stay for the PW triennial gathering on June 11-12. Check out the attached flyer for details, and encourage your friends to apply as well. Our PW Gathering will focus on Service. "How May I serve You" is the theme and we will be hearing what it's really like to serve as a mission co-worker in the third world; listening to Churchwide Coordinating Team Moderator Carol Winkler speak about what the Churchwide Coordinating Team is doing with service; and be creative in expanding our own awareness of local and regional mission and service needs. We hope you will join us! More information and details will be coming out shortly.

Blessings, Marilyn Collins, Moderator PW in the Rocky Mountains

## Presbyterian women stay connected!



### Presbyterian Women on the web

[www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org)  
Call 844/PWPCUSA (844/797-2872).



### PW on Facebook

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
Search for "Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)."



### PW on Twitter

[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)  
Sign up, then search for PWPCUSA, and "follow."



### PW on Pinterest

[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)  
Sign up, then search for Presbyterian Women.



### Horizons on the web

[www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons)  
Subscribe to *Horizons* magazine on line or call 866/802-3635.



### PW on YouTube

[www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen](http://www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen)  
Subscribe to YouTube to see the latest PW videos.



### PW on Flickr

[www.flickr.com/photos/presbyterianwomen](http://www.flickr.com/photos/presbyterianwomen)



### PCUSA's store

[www.pcusa.org/store](http://www.pcusa.org/store)  
Order PW resources through the online store or by calling 800/524-2612.

## Presbyterian Women Madison Valley Presbyterian Church Report

A delicious potluck was enjoyed by six brave ladies driving through snowy roads who attended our December 18th meeting at the church. A thought provoking Bible Study was led by Lucy on Lesson 4 of our Bible Study booklets, "Dangerous Waters-God's Deliverance." We discussed our need for trust in God as did the Israelites when led out of the desert in crossing the deep raging waters of the Jordan River by Joshua, our response today to trust, and our church's issues with trust and its vision.

A short business meeting followed. Ideas for selling different items at our next Christmas Bazaar table, a successful Blood Drive, and prayers for church members and friends were discussed.

Plan to join us at our next meeting on Friday, January 15th at 1:00 pm. All ladies are invited! See you then!

Blessings for a Happy, healthy New Year!  
Sue Woodruff, Secretary

## PW NEWS FROM BOZEMAN

We are excited in Bozeman for the formation of a new circle called the Lydia Circle. Last year there was talk of forming a new circle with a different meeting time and this fall it has happened. We planned a "kick off" event in the early fall with a served dinner and then The Rev. Carol Shellenberger lead us in an overview of the Horizon's Bible Study, "Come to the Waters 2015-1216." Carol's emphasis was that anyone can lead a lesson in the Horizon's Bible Study. Bonnie Blakely gave a program on making Feminine Hygiene Kits. These kits can be used by a variety of women in all parts of the world including in our state. She is setting up a chapter for Days for Girls (Daysforgirls.org) here in Montana. Because the prices of feminine products are so great, she is hoping to make the kits available to the homeless, prisoners and others who need this sort of help. "Days for Girls" name comes from the fact that in Africa, the girls have to stay home from school during their cycle because they have no feminine hygiene products. These kits allow them to go to school and not miss any days thereby they can continue their education. Bonnie's email is [blakelymt@yahoo.com](mailto:blakelymt@yahoo.com). If you would like further information, she would be glad to help you.



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This newsletter is a new beginning for PW in Yellowstone Presbytery. How often we will publish a newsletter is still to be determined. We invite articles about activities, special events, and happenings in your local PW or churches to be included in following newsletters. Articles can be submitted to Suzanne Bratsky at [suzbratsky@gmail.com](mailto:suzbratsky@gmail.com) or mailed to Suzanne Bratsky, 521 W. Arnold, Bozeman, MT, 59715. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne via e-mail or at 406-539-0211. If you know people in your congregation who are not connected by email, please share this newsletter with them or anyone else interested in PW activities. We hope to spread the good news of Presbyterian Women around our Yellowstone Presbytery. Our newsletter can be read at the PW link on the presbytery Web site and downloaded/printed for your local use: [www.yellowstonepcusa.org](http://www.yellowstonepcusa.org). Additional PW information and announcements also are available on this site to share locally, including the link to churchwide PW. This churchwide Web page contains a wide array of resources for your use.



## A New PW Website

Work is underway to create a new, easy access and improved website for Presbyterian Women. The new site will merge content from Presbyterian Women's website, the Horizons Magazine and Bible study website and the Gathering website. It will launch at the end of the first quarter 2016. A condensed version of the Horizons website will be available during this redesign. Until then you can find detailed PW information at [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org).



## General Assembly in Portland

**June 18-25, 2016**

The 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly will be held in Portland, Oregon June 18-25, 2016 under the

theme "The Hope in Our Calling" from Ephesians 1:18. The assembly will be held in the Portland Convention Center and rooms have been blocked at 12 downtown hotels. Online registration opens on February 25<sup>th</sup> at Web site [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org) where you also can find detailed information. Please consider travelling the [relatively] short distance from Montana as an Observer at our biennial meeting, especially if you have local friends or family for lodging purposes. Watch PCUSA's governance in action as the assembly acts on hundreds of items of business. Presbytery Commissioners include Teaching Elder (TE) Lanny Rounds from Butte, Ruling Elder (RE) Pam Jackson from White Sulphur Springs, and Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) Tanner Robison (MSU student) from Butte.