

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Florida Newsletter

February 2021

Moderator's Message:

We know many of you are attending church via on-line services and meeting with your various church groups via Zoom. Please take this time to pray for those less fortunate.

I know you are doing Bible study, working on TIS projects, and volunteering. I pray it will soon be safe to meet in person. I look forward to our Annual Gathering scheduled March 20, 2021 via ZOOM. I encourage you to make plans to attend the Churchwide Gathering in St. Louis, Mo, August 5-8, 2021. I continue to pray to our heavenly Father, who created us in His likeness, and expects us to remain strong and continue to look for the goodness in this world.

Kelly Slorahn, PWP Moderator

News from the PWPCT:

Our **next meeting** of the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery Coordinating Team (PWPCT) is scheduled for 10:00AM Central Time March 19, 2021, via ZOOM and **The Gathering is at 10:00AM Central Time March 20, 2021, via ZOOM**. Look for the Meeting ID# and Passcode # from our PWP Moderator to attend.

We will adopt the budget proposed by the Finance Committee and approved at the PWPCT meeting, approve the changes to our Bylaws, and elect and install new officers.

Send **Treasurer Wanda Segers** your donations for the PW. The remittance Form D is in the Directory or contact her for one. Her address is 621 Baywood Dr., Lynn Haven, FL 32444. Our proposed budget was approved at the PWPCT meeting and will be voted on for final adoption at the Gathering March 20, 2021.

Our **Historian Suzanne Hinman** reminded churches that the histories were due by January 15 and needed to include the Annual End-Year-Report Form (forms K and L in the PW Directory), the names of those who died in 2020, and also the names of those who received the Honorary Life Membership during 2020. I also asked the historian to give detailed information about their service projects. Their PW history should contain all PW and church activities from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Scholarship Coordinator Gayle Avant, contact listed below, said our current PWP Scholarship recipient, Lauren Scott, is on track to graduate with the dual-degree Master of Divinity (MDIV) and Master of Arts of Practical Theology (MAPT) in May 2022. She has been preparing for and taking ordination exams. New semester started February 1, 2021. She will apply for a scholarship next year. Please find worthy applicants preparing for Christian service. Application submissions are due to Gayle Avant by February 28th, 2021. Application Forms are in the Directory on pages H, I and J.

TIS(Together In Service)-In all Districts, PW are meeting to do service projects in person and virtually. Some projects and events are on hold this year due to the pandemic, but most giving and serving is continuing. Also, new projects of helping with the suffering of many during this global crisis have begun.

TIS-West District Coordinator Gladys Haney -Trinity in Pensacola continues with their 'Cross Stitch for Baptisms' project, and other projects they can do at a distance. They collect 'Manufacturer's Coupons'

to be forwarded to Commissaries overseas. Monetary donations given to organizations they support annually. Trinity Presbyterian Women are using a portion of their Legacy grant funds to purchase a buggy to safely transport toddlers within school grounds of the Trinity Learning Center (TLC). First Ft. Walton Beach is collecting school supplies for two teachers in the congregation.

TIS-Central District Coordinator Margo Adams- Panama City Grace catered lunches for Bay Co. Retired Educators; 1st Lynn Haven gave school supplies to Lynn Haven Elementary School and is participating in Back Pack Ministry providing food to needy students on the weekends, Christmas gifts to 25 clients, developmentally challenged children, of ARC of the Bay (St. Andrews Bay Center), help Mercy Chefs food distribution, pantry items for Anchorage Children's Home and adopted St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana and sent \$4,800 in gift cards.

TIS-East District Coordinator Inger Avant-Stitchers made masks for anyone needing it and hand sewn items for the neonatal unit at TMH included baby caps, blankets, and onesies. Church Clothes Closet and Food Pantry at Quincy 1st church, 2nd Harvest Food Bank in Tallahassee and Manna on Meridian in Tallahassee were places food, items and money were given to alleviate hunger in our district. 10 dresses made and sent to Little Dress for Africa, a cow given through Heifer Project and Feed the Children program helped internationally. Drive through donations at 1st PC Tallahassee Preschool done with youth group directing traffic raising \$1,000 and 2 tables of supplies. Also, they did their 2cents-a-meal and Birthday Offering Collection as a Drive-Thru. 1st PC in Quincy had a Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat. Drop off meals for U-Kirk were delivered. Thanksgiving baskets were delivered and Angel Tree Christmas gifts given to needy. Almost all other projects have continued, for example giving to Salvation Army, Red Cross and Homeless Shelters.

West District Coordinator Cheri Boyce see TIS report

Central District Coordinator Rosa Stanley see TIS report

East District Coordinator Vicki Bell see TIS report

Peace and Justice, Sue Hightower-As we attempt to begin a new year with hope and resolve to make this year better than 2020, we struggle with the realities of life today in America, where we are filled with anxiety about Covid-19 and its serious and deadly impact on society as well as severe political divisions and social unrest. As Christians, we ask what we can and should do in these troubled times. We remember the words of the prophet Micah: "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8. And as we seek justice, we need to love kindness and walk humbly with God. So, we must act in a peaceful, nonviolent manner to bring about justice. And is it important to find the courage to speak truth to power? Yes, we must seek to find peace and reconciliation. "For God is a God not of disorder, but of peace." I Corinthians 14:33.

Our **Racial Ethnic Leader Sherl Morden-**Overall, 30% think race is the biggest source of division in America today. Would you say that too little attention is being paid to race and racial issues? According to 41% of Americans in the group, too little attention is being given to race and racial issues. Do you have any idea as to the statistics African-Americans say have been treated unfairly in a store or restaurant because of their race in the last month, compared to Hispanics and whites? Four in 10 African American's say they have been unfairly treated in a store or restaurant because of their race. Where do we go from here? As Christians we know that God is with us. I read where in Miami, even as rioters were violently demonstrating, law enforcement officers knelt alongside peaceful protesters as a sign of solidarity and prayer. Faith-based leaders around the country are raising their voices, working to do

what they can to shine the gospel in the midst of this difficult time. Let us not be so discouraged by the few who come to destroy and harm, but may we look to God for our comfort and joy!

Horizons, Sandra Winslett- The magazine is combining the Summer Issues of June and July into one issue. They are hoping to recommend our latest PW Horizon Bible Lessons on “Laments” to be used in regular congregations as a lesson.

Our **Bylaws Committee** revisions were approved at the PWPCT meeting and will be presented for final approval at the Annual Gathering. You will receive a copy of the Bylaws revision before the Gathering. The PWPCT reviewed proposed changes to the Standing Rules and Job Descriptions and approved changes at the January meeting. Those changes will be printed in the next PWP Directory.

Nationally:

Churchwide Gathering ...what is it? Where is it held? What do you do there? Women out there are asking these same questions. The answer, since the first Gathering in 1988, over 30 Years and 11 Gatherings since, PW have come together to build and inclusive, caring community of women. There are many speakers, many songs, go to plenary where one is uplifted and given challenges for study, personal growth and mission awakening. The speakers have the ability to make us understand what is going on in the world and workshops deal with relevant issues. There is a silent auction to benefit the Mission Pledge. There is a placeto SHOP!

In the Exhibit Hall, there are fair trade vendors, a free library, copies of Horizon’s magazines. Many women go on the mission tours and enjoy the history lessons and slideshows. If you are new to PW, this was a great opportunity to learn about the beginning of PW. Make plans to go to St. Louis, August 5-8, 2021. Stay tuned, as of right now, the Gathering is still on. Contact Patricia Longfellow to get on PW’s email distribution list. Patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org. You can also go to www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering.

Mission Haven-As part of our 70th Anniversary, we are encouraging \$7 donations from all women. Nearly 100 years ago, our foremothers contributed \$5 each (close to \$70 in today’s economy). Surely each of us can sacrifice \$7 to ensure that our ministry remains strong! We have 3 unrelated plumbing issues in 2B, 167, and 207. The leak in 167 (behind a tub) is severe and will require removal of original tile (think 1950s pink) and major renovations to both bathrooms. Subway tile and ceramic plank flooring will be installed while the Dimmocks are in residence. They are troopers! Meanwhile, our handyman, Dennis Sears, performed several repairs prior to the Warkentine family’s arrival in 2A. He also patched and painted the ceiling after the plumbers repaired a leak in 2B. Mission Haven is supported and operated by Presbyterian Women in the Synods of South Atlantic and Living Waters. We rely on YOUR contributions to maintain 3 houses and 6 apartments. Visit us at www.missionhaven.net and “like” us on Facebook!

Synod of South Atlantic, Sandra Winslett-In person Gathering is still planned for Aug. 5-8, 2021, but may be by ZOOM. They will be voting on 2 Bylaws revisions and Electing 3 officers, who will take office July 1, 2021. The 2022 Gathering is in planning.

The full report of each officer is available by contacting the officer listed in the PWP Directory. Officer and Appointed Leaders listed below for your reference:

Moderator-Kelly Slorahn, RSlorahn@cox.net
Vice Moderator- Leslie Kelly, LKtangerine@gmail.com
Secretary-Barbara "Bo" Elzie, elziebarbara@gmail.com
Treasurer-Wanda Segers, wsegers@bellsouth.net
Historian-Suzanne Hinman, halhinman@cox.net phone correction, only mobile used now(850)207-0113
District Coordinators; West-Cheri Boyce, rieboyce53@gmail.com
Central-Rosa Stanley, stanlrl@knology.net
East, Vicki Bell-vabb1954@gmail.com
Search Committee; Moderator, Norma Meier, nmmtlh@gmail.com
West-Sandra Winslett, SandraRWinslett1@cox.net also is Horizons Representative
Central-(Anna Faye Brooks, annafayebrooks@comcast.net)has moved,
temporary new Central Search Committee is Sherl Morden, artsherl@aol.com
East-Lin Brannon, lhbrannon65@hotmail.com also is Horizons Representative
Justice and Peace-Sue Hightwer, hightows@tcc.fl.edu
Racial Ethnic/Member at Large-Sherl Morden, artsherl@aol.com
Synod Seminaries/ Scholarship Coordinator- Gayle Avant, gcavant@comcast.net
Together In Service Coordinators; West- Gladys Haney, gladyshaney@msn.com
Central-Margo Adams, mimago@comcast.net also is Fellowship of Least Coin Representative
East- Inger Avant, inger@nettally.com also is Newsletter Editor
PW Birthday Offering- Barbara Overholt, kaboverholt@aol.com
PW Directory-Jackie Sykes, wackijackie@hotmail.com

