

## **Pelicanette** Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Florida Newsletter September 2020

### **MODERATOR'S MUSINGS**

September traditionally means fall and the start of a new year...school year and church year. New shoes are bought and new study guides are ordered. This year is different. Some won't need new shoes because they are staying home and continuing to go to virtual school or on-line school due to the CORONA Virus. PW's around the district are trying to figure out how to gather safely in order to study the Word of God and safely nurture each other. I urge you to try to use Zoom as a platform for meeting. Think about inviting your church members to a "Fall Thanksgiving Party" to aid in collection of donations.

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven"—Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, verse 1.*

So, pray, pray, pray that this nation can get through this season and help to heal its divides-- racial, political, and economic.

I look forward to our Annual Gathering scheduled March 20, 2021 at First Presbyterian in Quincy. Also, make plans to attend the Churchwide Gathering in St. Louis, Mo, August 5-8, 2021

Kelly Slorahn, Moderator Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Florida, email [RSlorahn@cox.net](mailto:RSlorahn@cox.net)

**News from the PWPCT:** PWP Coordinating Team met by Zoom August 22, 2020. Our next Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery Coordinating Team meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2020 at 9AM at Chipley 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Chipley, FL.

**Historian Report:** The 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering on March 21<sup>st</sup> at Lynn Haven First Presbyterian Church was canceled because of the pandemic. From the histories that were received, it was noted that nine ladies received the Honorary Life Membership in the Florida Presbytery and sixty-five women who were active in PW, died in 2019. We had 40 churches in our presbytery in 2019. There are now 39 churches in the Florida Presbytery. Twenty of the churches have historians listed in the directory, and they were emailed to remind them that their histories should contain all PW and church activities from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The histories should be completed and mailed no later than January 15, 2021.

**PWP Scholarship Report:** Lauren Scott was re-awarded the \$1,500.00 PWP Scholarship for the 2020-2021 year. Application forms can be found in the new emailed Directory or in last years' Directory. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2021. Contact Gayle Avant, if you need assistance at [gcavant@comcast.net](mailto:gcavant@comcast.net).

**PWP Directory:** Directories may be picked up in person at the next PWPCT meeting. An electronic copy of the PWP Directory has been emailed to all PW Moderators. This file can be forwarded on to all PW circle members. If you didn't get the email with the PWP Directory attachments contact Jackie Sykes at [wackijackie@gmail.com](mailto:wackijackie@gmail.com).

**Together In Service:** Our women have been doing many activities to help those in need during the recent crisis. Making masks and gathering school supplies for local schools. Donating food and distributing it in the community. Be sure to include your efforts in your District's TIS reports.

**District Coordinators:** Encourage local circles to find creative ways to meet and gather, while being healthy and safe.

**Horizons** magazine at a Great Price! This special introductory offer includes a one-year print subscription for just \$9.95 — that's 60% off the regular \$24.95 subscription! Plus, your all-access subscription includes FREE access to the digital edition. This offer does not include the annual Bible study. Also, one can order most PW resources by calling 800.533.4371 or visiting [www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop). PDFs of many free materials may be found at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads). Any questions contact Sandra R. Winslett PWPCT-Horizons at [sandrarwinslett1@cox.net](mailto:sandrarwinslett1@cox.net).

**Synod of South Atlantic:** Sandra Winslett is serving as our Synod Moderator.

Lin Brannon is our new Search Committee Moderator for the Synod of South Atlantic. She is a member of Fellowship Church in Tallahassee. Be open to opportunities to serve our PW, if she calls on you.

**Presbytery of Greater Atlanta PW Leads PW Churchwide Gathering Again in 2021 – This is Historic!**

Atlanta's **Mary Martin** is the Leader of the 2021 PW Churchwide Triennial Gathering, as she was in 2018, giving her the distinct honor of being the first PW to do so. The upcoming Churchwide PW Triennial Gathering is scheduled August 5-8, 2021, in St. Louis, MO. The "Rejoice in HOPE" theme was selected 10 months ago, prior to the coronavirus pandemic and prior the Black Lives Matter conversations. If the theme were to be selected today, no other theme could be more appropriate. Subscribe to receive monthly "The Gathering Quest" updates as we plan to attend an exciting and memorable Gathering. Continue to pray with us that we are able to safely gather in St. Louis in August 2021.

**Birthday Offering** collection is traditionally taken at our local church PW luncheons with envelopes placed on the table. Since many of you won't be able to gather in person, please find a way to make your donations to this worthy cause. Some ideas are to ask your entire church to join in and contribute, make a flyer to insert in the bulletin.

**Northeast GA Presbytery GAP Ministries of Augusta was a Recipient of \$135,000 2020 PW Birthday Offering Grant.** For forty years GAP Ministries has served a community on the margins of society, helping with food, clothing, toiletries, prescription assistance, photo IDs, and storage bins for homeless persons. By renovating the second floor of their historic church building and adding an elevator, GAP can address other needs such as Saturday services for the working poor, expanded health assistance, and meeting spaces for partner ministries.

**Thank Offering:** Read about the recipients of the Thank Offering look in the July/August "Horizon" magazine.

**Justice and Peace Report:**

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation, Presbytery and Synod groups respond to local or regional justice and peace needs. Our work can be action, advocacy or awareness-building—or a mixture depending on the gifts of our groups. We nurture faith, support mission, and work for justice and peace especially in the areas of: violence, poverty, mass incarceration, human trafficking, education, and racism.

You and your church may already be involved in Justice and Peace issues through your Session, Circles, Together in Service and other entities. These are just a few activities that you may be doing or want to do: working on a campaign, signing petitions, letter writing, voting, forming book groups, supporting Habitat for Humanity, promoting quality education, collecting and distributing food, and many more.

I look forward to sharing ideas with you. For more information, see [www.presbyterianwomen.org/peaceandjustice](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/peaceandjustice). On that site, you can also find the Working for Justice and Peace 2020 Calendar.

All PW are asked to wear the color “orange” on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of every month to show unity in Awareness of Violence Against Women.

Sue Hightower- PWPCT Justice and Peace

**PWP Life Membership Awards** will be given in person at the spring “Gathering” in Quincy, FL in 2021. This will include the one that we were unable to give at the canceled 2020 “Gathering” at Lynn Haven.

**Presbytery Banner** is being made by Cheri Boyce, Vicki Bell and Sandra Winslett. It will have a travel ready collapsible stand, so it can be taken to represent our PWP of FL at the Synod meetings.

The full report of each officer is always available by contacting the officer listed in the PWP Directory.

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