



Quarterly Newsletter

for Presbyterian Women Leaders

Download this resource at www.presbyterianwomen.org. Select *About PW*, then select *Quarterly Newsletter*.

February–April 2016

Notice: PW's website is being redesigned and addresses may change as the new site is launched. Thank you for your patience.

Presbyterian Women Churchwide

Presbyterian Women takes on children's education and literacy

By Yvonne Hileman

Last fall, at the first Churchwide Coordinating Team meeting of the 2015–2018 triennium, CCT members agreed to make children's education a focus of PW's work during this triennium. Children's nurture and well-being have always been concerns of Presbyterian Women, but they are more so now, since the PC(USA) has launched a global/national campaign to strengthen quality education for a million children by 2020. (Learn more about the "Educate a Child" campaign in the July/August 2015 issue of *Horizons* magazine or at www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/call-mission/globalpoverty.)

Now is the time to think about how you and your PW group can support this priority. One way is to participate in the second set of **Together in Action Days** for 2016, **May 2–8**, focused on **children's literacy**. Because many peace and justice issues—poverty, discrimination, abuse, violence, exploitation, marginalization, imprisonment, unequal access to opportunity—are related to lack of education, Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Coordinating Team urges each PW group to join the church's education effort and devote PW's next Together in Action Days to empowering children through literacy. These days coincide with Children's Book Week, the longest-running national literacy initiative in the country. Learn more at www.bookweekonline.com.

Work for a better future by working with children

What better way to witness to the promise of God's realm than to meet the needs of children as they are developing? Children are the most vulnerable, easily exploited members of society. When they are neglected and abused, they often grow up to repeat the cycle of neglect and abuse. When their needs for nutrition and nurture are not met, they don't learn as well; they may have emotional and social disorders, will be less likely to function effectively, and will more likely end up at the margins of society, without education, and at a disadvantage in terms of competing for work that sustains self and family.

The power of words

Words and language are critical shapers of a child's future. Dana Suskind, a surgeon who does cochlear implants, has found important data on language acquisition.² She has found that, among her patients, "The kids who received cochlear implants but struggled to develop language often did so because their parents didn't talk to them as



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The development of adequate language is critical in allowing every child to reach their potential.

much as their growing brains required." She references a study by Betty Hart and Todd Risley, "where they followed a group of children between 0 and 3 years old from all socioeconomic backgrounds. . . . [T]hey found, by the end of age 3, children from low-socioeconomic backgrounds will have heard 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers. . . . The most stark findings of Hart and Risley were really the differences in affirmations versus prohibitions. . . . Not only does that impact children's language development, but it can often be related to toxic stress, which impacts children's ability to learn, as well as their own view of themselves. . . . We want to see a shift, where . . . every parent, every caregiver, every educator, every policymaker understands how powerful language is in allowing every child to reach their genetic, intellectual potential."

Find resources from Presbyterian Women

We invite you then, to plan a week of activities designed to stimulate children's literacy in your local communities. See page 6 for a list of suggestions, and watch for resources (including a reading list and bulletin insert), on PW's website at www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice. Focusing on children's literacy is one way we can fulfill our call to serve "the least of these" and witness to God's love.

1. Also see "Working to Alleviate Poverty Through Education in Democratic Republic of Congo" at www.pcusa.org/blogs/global-poverty/2015/10/30/democratic-republic-of-congo/

2. Cory Turner, National Public Radio report, September 14, 2015.

Don't miss what's inside! • PW in the Synods and Presbyteries • Looking ahead to *Who Is Jesus?* • May Together in Action Days • Think you know PW? Prepare to be amazed! • Commission on the Status of Women • and lots more!

Plan now for 2016 mission activities; plan your own "week of service" mission project

Prayer and advocacy for the Romani people

For several years, PW, in partnership with PC(USA) World Mission, has observed International Day of the Roma (April 8) by offering resources for reflection, prayer and advocacy. In March, PW will post a new resource at www.presbyterianwomen.org/mission. Also see the January/February 2016 issue of *Horizons* magazine for an article about the conflict between Ukraine and Russia—"Deep Roots, Deep Conflict," by Burkhard Paetzold, PC(USA) regional liaison for Central and Eastern Europe. Additional prayer resources for the Roma are available at www.pcusa.org/search/?criteria=prayer+and+thanksgiving+roma&collection=resources.

Baby gowns, caps no longer needed by IMA

We have just learned that baby gowns and baby caps are no longer needed for Safe Motherhood Kits. Interchurch Medical Assistance (IMA) (partners with Church World Service and the PC(USA) on Gifts of the Heart kits), has identified a vendor to supply items that used to be donated. Please continue to donate to PDA's hygiene kit program. This is one way PWs can assist first responders when disaster strikes. Questions? Call Kathy Reeves, 844.797.2872, ext. 5402.

Mothers' Day Project 2016

Healthy Women Healthy Families is a year-round PC(USA) ministry supporting Presbyterian partner churches' programs around the globe that promote health, education and development of women and children. By participating in the annual Healthy Women Healthy Families Mother's Day Project, Presbyterians honor women in their lives with cards and donations that in turn provide prenatal and essential obstetric services, trauma healing and psychosocial support, early-childhood health and nutrition programs, health and hygiene education, fistula repair surgery, disease prevention and medical services and more to families in dire need. To order materials for 2016, email stephanie.caudill@pcusa.org or call 800.728.7228, ext. 5279. Learn more at pcusa.org/mothersdayproject. Give throughout the year at www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E052136.

Plan a day or week of service for PDA mission

In a recent newsletter, we told you about Louisville's Mayor's Week of Service, held each spring, and what PW in the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery are doing in response.

Each year, Louisville Mayor Greg Fisher encourages Louisville citizens to volunteer acts of compassion during a designated week in April. Individuals, churches, businesses and schools choose projects to benefit the community and people in need. In fact, PW and PC(USA) employees participate in this week of service! In 2015, projects included:

- Operation Brightside trash clean-up
- Bears on Patrol (stuffed animals in police cars for children in trauma)
- Shoe collection to raise money for clean water projects
- Habitat for Humanity housing
- Little Free Libraries in underserved neighborhoods
- Sorting medical supplies for overseas recipients

PW of Mid-Kentucky's idea for 2016

PW in the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery is asking PC(USA) churches in metro Louisville to assemble items and pack hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) (see ad at right for additional information on kits). Members of

congregations will donate the items that go into the kits, PDA will cover the cost of shipping the kits to Arkansas (Ferncliff Disaster Assistance Center). The center has a covenant relationship with Church World Service (CWS) and PDA. The warehouse is one of two centers designated to receive CWS Gift of the Heart kits from churches around the country. Here is information that was sent to churches in the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky about the presbytery's day of service.

Ways churches and PW groups can participate

- Pray for people struggling to survive a disaster.
- Recruit volunteers at each church.
- Buy items for one kit, several kits or shipping boxes.
- Send teams of five to ten people to kit assembling events.
- Teach a Sunday School class about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Video, pamphlets and speakers are available.
- Contribute money to buy needed items.
- Designate PW gathering offerings for the project. Or bring completed kits and items for kits to meetings.
- Invite young people to bring items for kits to youth events.
- Invite the church's preschool students/families to donate.
- If a church cannot send a team to an assembling event, they can make hygiene kits at their own church.
- Bible study groups, men's breakfast circles, preschool students, choirs, youth groups, etc., can donate items.
- A church can designate a Give a Day event to promote the PDA program and launch participation in this service.
- Seminary and college students can assemble kits on campus or at a presbytery assembling event.
- Families can adopt this project, making one or several kits.

Expected outcomes

People receive the tangible help they need following a disaster. Presbyterians fellowship together as they assemble and pack hygiene kits. Children, teens, adults, and seniors act out their Christian faith together. Preschool students learn to do mission. Everyone in every church contributes to and participates in this project.

Gift of the Heart Kits



Hygiene kit

- bar of soap
- toothbrush
- washcloth
- wide-tooth comb
- nail clipper
- hand towel
- bandages
- in a one-gallon zip-lock bag

PDA encourages PW groups to participate in the ecumenical Gift of the Heart Kits program. Hygiene, baby care, clean-up and school supply kits offer a way to reach disaster survivors and others in need with the hope of Christ. For hygiene kit details and a list of other GOH kits and contents, visit <http://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/>.

PW in synods and presbyteries report on gatherings and more

PW of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery's fall meeting was excellent; about 80 attended. Dianne White did a great job as moderator, with her warm smile and personality. The skit from the PW Gathering was well-done. Angela Johnson, new pastor of Grace Hope, gave a masterful sermon about listening to the call of God, following it even when you don't want to, and dealing with the outcome, which may be very different from what you expect. The offering will be divided between Grace Hope and Strathmoor, which will use the money for Gift of the Heart kits being assembled in April 2016 (see page 2 for more). Three big boxes of items for the kits were collected.

—Submitted by Diane Kirkpatrick

PW in the Presbytery of South Louisiana hope to connect with immigrant families coming to South Louisiana from Central America. As the children enter public schools, they need books, school supplies and basic toiletries for home use. The new mission coordinator, to be installed in April, works with immigrant children and will help us learn more about how we might engage with them and their families. Meanwhile, several of our churches continue their partnership with sister churches in Cuba. Spanish copies of *Come to the Waters* were dedicated at our presbytery meeting in New Orleans, in October, where Cuban Partners held its annual meeting. It was a joyful event with music and salsa dancing.

—Submitted by Cheryl Pennington

PW in the Synod of Living Waters will hold its triennial gathering June 8–11, 2016 at First Presbyterian, Franklin, TN. Dee Koza will lead an overview of the 2016–2017 *Horizons* Bible study. CCT Moderator Carol Winkler and CCT Vice Moderator for Mission Relationships Judy Persons will be keynote speakers. Workshop presenters include George Sinclair, Kathy Reeves, Susan Jackson Dowd, Bonnie Blair and Warner Darnell.

The Alabama/Mississippi Women's Conference will be held July 13–15, 2016, at South Highland Presbyterian, Birmingham. Workshop presenters include Dee Koza, Lara Reddick, Ann Houston Kelly and Lynn Miller, designer of the PW Honorary Life pin.

Charlotte Rhodes will represent PW in the Synod on the USA Mission Experience to the Bay Area in September.

—Submitted by Sarah Ford

PW in the Synod of Lincoln Trails reports that PW in Blackhawk Presbytery have a

ministry called Cozy Blanket. Kristine Meyers (kristine@kristinemeyer.org) says, "It began when the tornados hit last year in our presbytery. Over 200 handmade blankets have been given by many churches and distributed to victims, first responders and community leaders after the tornados. Since then, New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City has been reaching out into their community with this project. This is an ongoing project and is involving many more than just our PW groups."

PW in Greenwood, Indiana, meet every month to make sanipads for Little Dresses for Africa.

—Submitted by Susan Barlow

PW in the Synod of the Northeast participates in a synodwide event

In October, the Synod of the Northeast hosted *Synod Gathering 2015: Come to the Table*. This was the first event of its kind for that synod. The purpose of the gathering was to bring together the regional community for worship, fellowship, best practices sharing, learning about ministries and experiencing renewal for the path ahead. PW is considered a synod partner and was asked to provide an exhibit table. Rita Hooper, Magdalene Lewis, Virginia Champlin and Charlotte Hasselbarth worked together to create a display, offer PW promotional materials and determine what information would be pertinent to the non-PW world. They answered many questions at the event. One surprise was meeting some PW women from our synod for the first time.

—Submitted By Charlotte Hasselbarth

Upcoming gatherings

New Castle Presbytery—Annual spring retreat, "Amazing Grace," April 22–24, Ocean City, MD. Contact Nancy Long, nlongssg@gmail.com.

Synod of Living Waters—June 8–11, Franklin, TN

Synod of the Covenant—June 10–11; Theme: Though Many, One (Eph. 4); Watch for details at www.pwsoc.org.

Synod of Alaska Northwest—June 16–18, Wasilla, AK; Theme: One Body, One Spirit; Speakers from three organizations that work with those who are homeless or in transition.

Alabama/Mississippi Women's Conference—July 13–15, Birmingham

Synod of the Sun—July 21–23, Fort Worth



(Most of) the coordinating team of **PW in the Synod of Mid-Atlantic**, at their October 2015 meeting. Patricia Clark, left front, is moderator; Nancy Long, back left corner, is synod rep to the CCT.

—Submitted by Nancy Long

Justice and Peace Calendar

February

- Black History Month
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
- 1 National Freedom Day
- 7 Souper Bowl of Caring
- 14 One Billion Rising for Justice Day
- 17 National Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 25 Orange Day
- 28 Justice Advocacy Sunday

March

- Women's History Month
- 4 World Day of Prayer
- 6 Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday
- 8 International Women's Day
- 14–24 UN Commission on Status of Women
- 25 Orange Day
- 27 **Easter**

April

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- 7 World Health Day
- 8 International Day of the Roma
- 16 Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day
- 25 Orange Day

May

- 1 May Day (day for solidarity with workers)
- 2–8 PW Together In Action Days/Children's Literacy; National Book Week
- 4–8 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 8 Mother's Day
- 14 World Fair Trade Day
- 14 USPS Stamp Out Hunger Drive
- 22 International Day for Biological Diversity
- 25 Orange Day
- 26 Memorial Day

June

- 12 Disability Inclusion Sunday
- 18–25 General Assembly
- 19 Men of the Church Sunday
- 25 Orange Day

Many opportunities to changes lives, support mission through Presbyterian Women!

Birthday Offering 2016 under way

Birthday Offering promotional materials mail in early February. Four recipients were chosen for this offering, including **Heartland 180**, a program in Overland Park, Kansas, that serves youths ages 11–17 who have been part of the criminal justice system; **Habit for Humanity**, East Bay/Silicon Valley, California, where housing costs are so high, families with low incomes often live in aging pre-fabricated homes; **Building Minds in South Sudan**, a program that is building a school for girls in the village of Majok-Keen; and **Direct Action and Research Training**, a program that trains individuals to build powerful justice ministries in Miami, Florida. Please vigorously promote giving to this offering so that PW can meet and exceed the goal of \$500,000, keeping the Birthday Offering fully funded and robust for the future. (See enclosed flier.)

Contact Patricia Longfellow (844.797.2872, ext. 8015, or patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org) if you do not receive your promotional materials by the end of February. Contact Cindy Goodman (ext. 5387 or cindy.goodman@pcusa.org) if you have questions about the offering.

PW's Mission Pledge a year-round commitment

One only needs to consider the sheer number of ministries that Presbyterian Women has touched the world over to truly appreciate Presbyterian women's unfaltering commitment to living into God's call to care for God's people. As we continue to share our gifts with worthy ministries near and far, please remember to support Presbyterian Women's Mission Pledge. The Mission Pledge, PW's annual fund, is only supported through women's second- and third-mile giving, but the fund undergirds all the work of Presbyterian Women, at all levels of the church. Your gifts make PW possible. Your gift (of any size), given through your circle, outside your circle, in your estate plans, in honor of or in memory of a special person, is crucial to the work of Presbyterian Women.

As you fulfill your pledges to PW's Mission Pledge, remember that \$5 or \$10 or \$20 is not what it used to be. If you can, please consider increasing your gift to reflect today's economy. Also, if you are able, please consider an additional gift over and above your circle pledge.

Send your gift ("Mission Pledge" and the name of your presbytery on your check) to: Presbyterian Women Remittance Processing • PO Box 643652 • Pittsburgh PA 15264-3652. Or give online: www.presbyterianwomen.org/missionpledge.

Giving an Honorary Life Membership this spring?

If so, because Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday is in March and Mother's Day is in May, please return your application as quickly as possible. Questions? Contact Jung Ju Winner (844.797.2872; email jung.winner@pcusa.org). Need a form? Honorary Life Membership applications are available on line at www.pcusa.org/resource/pw-honorary-life-membership-form.



Stay Tuned FOR something AWESOME

Final giving numbers for 2015 still coming in!



Linda Werts, PW moderator, Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, New York (seen here holding the ceremonial check from PW [behind the word School]), attended groundbreaking ceremonies for Majok-Keen Girls' School in South Sudan. Go to <http://pwpcusa.typepad.com/cmoc> to read Linda's post from South Sudan.

Together in Service

Mission Magnified: A gathering worth repeating

By Judy Persons
CCT vice moderator, Mission Relationships

Mission Magnified was put on by PC(USA) World Mission, November 19–21, 2015, in Kansas City, to train leaders of short-term mission trips. But it was so much more. It was a jam-packed three days of information and tool sharing that anyone associated with any mission trip, even a one-day project, should go through.



Judy Persons, Bonnie Blair, Rebecca Luter and Jan Beran

Topics were presented in a relaxed lecture format with small-group discussions following each session. While each session was valuable on its own, each one built upon the previous.

In the first session we were introduced to the six core values of mission involvement—dignity, empowerment, holistic ministry, partnership, relevance to God's world and stewardship. As we went through case studies, we judged each one by how well it met the core values. Participants shared personal mission experiences and discussed how they met core values. Some did, but many fell short.

We viewed Simon Sinek's video *Start with Why*, which says most people plan missions starting with the *what*, then the *how* and finally the *why*. Sinek says we should start with an honest look at *why*, then *how* and finish with *what*. When you look at mission projects this way, you might rethink them.

Those three days changed my own approach to mission projects. When the program is presented again, I encourage anyone at all interested in influencing your group's mission work to attend, as I will do again.

Educate a Child toolkit available from the PC(USA)

A free toolkit to help congregations get started with or improve already-existing direct service and advocacy related to education is available at www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/child/toolkit. This toolkit is a fluid document, and the church hopes to expand it with more resources (including suggestions from you!) as the initiative continues to grow. If you would like to be part of a network that the PC(USA) is developing in order to better resource you and connect you with other Presbyterians doing the same work, fill out the brief network survey with information about yourself (share only as much as you feel comfortable). Go to <https://nationaleac.wufoo.com/forms/educate-a-child-transform-the-world>. Finally, please don't hesitate to be in contact with any questions or suggestions you might have. Email Ginna Bairby at ginna.bairby@pcusa.org.

Advocate at the global level: Attend the 60th UN Commission on the Status of Women

March 14–24, 2016, 40 Presbyterians will form a delegation to the 60th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in NYC. This session will focus on women's empowerment and its link to the sustainable development goals adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015. Find more information at www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice. The information there will help you, whether you decide to attend on your own this year or plan to join the delegation next year.

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women organizes a number of events that happen at the same time and parallel to the Commission itself. One of these is a consultation day, to be held on March 13, 2016 from 9 AM–3 PM at the 92nd St. YMCA. Speakers will include international leaders for gender equality and women's empowerment. This is a day to help prepare for the Commission. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngo-csw-forum-events-and-ads-csw-60-registration-18421268510>.

Dozens of other NGO Committee Forum events take place during the two weeks that the Commission meets and also are open to all interested. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/ngo-csw-forum-csw-60-registration-18396656896.

Whether you are part of the official PW/PC(USA) delegation or are attending independently, you will want to attend worship at the UN Church Center each morning (777 First Ave. at 44th St.). The worship is planned by various denominational groups who are members of Ecumenical Women, the organization with whom the Presbyterian delegation collaborates on its advocacy statement.

World Day of Prayer • March 4
www.wdp-usa.org/2016-cuba

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday • March 6
www.pcusa.org/women

White Privilege Conference 17

April 14-17, 2016 • Philadelphia, PA


Let Freedom Ring—Re-Imagining Equity and Justice in the United States

Registration, housing, sponsorship opportunities and other information available at www.whiteprivilegeconference.com

Presbyterian participants are invited to other events that take place during the days the Commission meets, as well, including a parallel event sponsored in part by PW, March 14 at 6:15 PM at the Church Center, 10th floor, and a Presbyterian dinner at Church of the Covenant (310 E. 42nd St.) March 17, from 6 to 8 PM. The parallel event is free, the dinner is \$30. Email Mark Koenig (mark.koenig@pcusa.org) to make reservations for the dinner. (If you are part of the delegation, you already have reservations.)

See www.ngocsw.org for information on parallel events. To follow the delegation, visit PW's and the PC(USA)'s Facebook pages during the Commission. To follow the Commission itself, visit UN Women (www.unwomen.org/en/csw) and Ecumenical Women (<http://ecumenicalwomen.org>) on the web.

Finally, if you plan to attend and want to inquire about a host for your stay, contact Wanda Beaumann, CCT vice moderator for peace and justice, at wbclerk5@gmail.com.



Empowering Christian Women in Leadership

2016 National Asian Presbyterian Women Gathering

April 22–24, 2016
Mercy Center, Burlingame, California
Registration deadline is March 18, 2016.

Keynote speaker: Grace May
Executive director of Women of Wonder, Inc., and assistant professor of biblical studies, William Carey International University

Worship leader: Laura Cheifetz
Vice president, church and public relations, Presbyterian Publishing, and Asian American member at large on PW's Churchwide Coordinating Team

Workshops

A Walk Through Church Polity • Queen Esther's Conversions
Writing for Prayer and Publication • others may be added

For information, email jeanette_huie@yahoo.com.



Encuentro VIII 2016

MHLP

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22-24 de Julio

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Efesios 4:15-16

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Working from the grassroots up to end human trafficking, reach children in danger of being left behind

PW and Educate a Child

Want to work for justice and peace at the most fundamental level? Work with children, the most vulnerable and easily exploited members of society. Help shape a more just and peaceful future by investing time in their development.

Presbyterian Women is taking a leadership role in supporting the PC(USA)'s Educate a Child Initiative. Through this program, the church hopes to improve education for one million children in the U.S. and around the world in the next four years, focusing particularly on strengthening early childhood education and decreasing the drop-out rate.

How can your church or PWP help? Maybe an after-school program that will help kids with homework or to improve their reading skills? Could you partner with another church to make a community impact for kids? Email Carol

Winkler (winksmama@gmail.com) with ideas. In the meantime, implement those ideas!

Financial literacy helps many overcome disadvantage By Judy Klamm

Is there a solution to help those who are impoverished overcome poverty? In *How the Poor Can Save Capitalism*, John H. Bryant offers the idea of getting free enterprise and entrepreneurship into communities to help members rise to the middle class. Often those in poverty face financial illiteracy, which can help keep them impoverished. The author proposes teaching financial literacy skills. He also envisions volunteers and mentors to help young people start businesses. He says this knowledge can help impoverished communities grow into healthy working environments that benefit everyone.

Plan now for May Together in Action Days, May 2-8, 2016

PW urges groups to plan events around Children's Book Week, May 2-8. Ideas:

- Community Story Hour (host it at your church and read aloud to children of the community; may be a one-time event or ongoing).
- Roving Readers (form a group of volunteers who go to community centers, hospitals and other sites where children are served, to read aloud to children). Focus especially on underserved children.
- Community book drive (for children who don't have books at home)
- Used book sale (selling books at very reasonable prices for families who can't usually afford books)
- After-school story hour (volunteers can "staff" this as frequently as there are volunteers)
- Lending library for families (donations might allow lending to anyone in the community who wants to avail themselves); emphasis on books with messages that address concerns of children and families; positive messages, empowering stories, etc.
- International Literacy Society suggests building a "Little Free Library"; see <http://literacyworldwide.org> for kit and ideas.
- Contribute to Thank and Birthday Offerings, which frequently give grants to education programs.
- Volunteer at local libraries (help for a day, or on a regular basis).
- Contact schools; volunteer to help children who are falling behind because of poor language skills.
- Think about donating books to organizations that supply books to children in areas of need.
- Consider equipping children in your community with electronic book readers.
- Supply nutritious snacks at story hours, cushy chairs, warm hugs—things hungry children need.
- Donate books to hospitals, schools, community centers and more.
- Play word and number games with children in after-school and community-center settings.
- Provide story Bibles for children in need.

Together in Action on Human Trafficking Awareness Day



On a chilly morning in January (January 11, to be exact), seven Presbyterian women (and one man!) from The Stone Church of Willow Glen in San José, California, stood with signs, brochures and balloons on the corner by our church and immediately across the street from the church, facing morning traffic in both directions. We stood from 8:30-9:30 AM and gave out brochures to passers-by and to parents stopping at the stop sign after dropping kids off at school. We got "honks" of support and even a \$10 contribution to the cause which has been donated to a local human trafficking consortium. Other years on Human Trafficking Awareness Day, we have had small gatherings to see films or participate in a simple worship service. This year called for "action," so we did it! A police officer drove by, saw us, turned around and came to talk with us. Turns out, he had been on the human trafficking squad and had developed some of the literature on trafficking that's distributed by our police department!

—Submitted by Claudia Hamm, vice moderator for programming Presbyterian Women, Stone Church of Willow Glen

See www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice for links to resources.

Supporting the publishing mission of Presbyterian Women, one *Horizons* reader at a time!

Tucked into the new *Horizons* subscription card and renewal letter is an opportunity to add extra \$\$ over and above the subscription price to lend support to the publishing mission of Presbyterian Women. The ongoing response just confirms what everyone in the church already knows: Presbyterian women—and *Horizons* readers, in particular—never miss an opportunity to care much and give generously!

You may donate each time you renew, subscribe or give a gift subscription. You also may send a separate tax-

deductible gift at any time, "Donation to publishing mission" in the memo line, to Publishing Mission, Presbyterian Women, Inc., PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652.

A special thank-you to the following supporters! This list reflects gifts to the publishing mission of PW processed from October 1 through December 31, 2015. Many women contributed to other ministries of PW and they are thanked, too, but are not listed below.

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Bible Study

Looking ahead to *God's Promises* and beyond

Field testing groups needed for *God's Promises* study

Field testing takes place between August and December every year. Groups receive a draft of the study along with evaluation forms to complete as they make their way through each lesson. All evaluation forms are sent to the Bible study author, who uses feedback to edit and rewrite her work. Field testing is the best way for your voice to be heard as new Bible studies are developed.

PW circles, Bible study groups, and coordinating teams have all made excellent field testing groups. What about your group? Apply today! Contact Betsy Ensign-George (844.797.2872, ext. 5366, or betsy.ensign-george@pcusa.org), or go to www.presbyterianwomen.org and click on "*Horizons Magazine and Bible Study*" on the left to download the field testing application form.

Author nominations welcome!

Do you know someone you think would make an excellent Bible study author or writer of Suggestions for Leaders? Pastors, educators and professors have all created studies and leader suggestions that are beloved by Presbyterian women. You might know the author of the next one. Strong candidates will have these qualities (and more!):

1. Knowledge of the Bible and related writings
2. Knowledge of and commitment to Reformed Theology
3. Experience teaching Bible study
4. Experience writing, especially for lay people
5. Commitment to women's issues
6. Commitment to inclusive language
7. Active membership in the church

Send in a nomination today! Contact Betsy Ensign-George (844.797.2872, ext. 5366, betsy.ensign-george@pcusa.org).

Promoting PW

Think you know PW? Prepare to be amazed!

Check your email in early February to find the first of several light-hearted and happily serious promotional posters about PW for you to enjoy and share (on a bulletin board, newsletter, your refrigerator door). Every couple of weeks, you will receive another poster in your email inbox, in the "Think you know PW?" series.

As the posters become available, they also will be uploaded to the PW website, www.presbyterianwomen.org. Make sure you have an email address on file with the PW offices in Louisville (see information below) so you are among the first to see the posters!

Are you on our email list? Don't get left out!

In this age of frugality, more and more communications happen by email and the internet. If you don't have email or the internet, do you have a friend in PW who does? Ask them to send us their email and share news with you! Make sure you (and/or your friend!) are on our email distribution list by emailing Patricia Longfellow (patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org). Don't get left out!



PalCraftAid helps artisans in West Bank and Gaza

PalCraft Aid started as a short-term venture, importing Palestinian sculpted olive wood and sending proceeds back to Palestine to help a few families survive and gain hope. Pal Craftaid now works with several groups of artisans in the West Bank and Gaza. Their handcrafted purses are just \$20; proceeds support Pal Craftaid's mission of bringing compassion, hope and healing for all Palestinians. Learn more at <http://palcraftaid.org>.



Shopping Amazon? Shop AmazonSmile!

Do you shop Amazon? If so, you can help PW at the same time! Shop through AmazonSmile, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to PW in the PC(USA). Bookmark the link—<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/80-0473061>—and support PW each time you shop.



While supplies last!

A limited quantity of the brightly hued, environmentally friendly 2015 Churchwide Gathering tote bags are available for purchase through the PW offices. Want one (or two or three)? Contact Jung Ju Winner in the PW offices: 844.797.2872, ext. 5389, or jung.winner@pcusa.org.

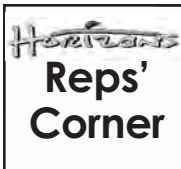


Attention, resource providers!

As we ring in a new year, we are doing a bit of a new (old) thing! PW gathering planners (and Bible study resource orderers) are now encouraged to call Presbyterian Distribution Service for resources, including free and cost items. PDS representatives can set up consignment orders, too. Carissa (Herold) and Jung Ju (Winner) still enjoy hearing from you and are happy to make recommendations, so if you have questions or concerns, give them a call. But moving the ordering process to PDS just makes sense (and cents!). PDS is set up to take, ship, and track orders, and has the space necessary to warehouse material. PDS representatives have worked for the denomination for some time so they are informed about what's available. Just call PDS (800.524.2612) when it's gathering (or Bible study resource ordering) time (or any time you want to order PW or PC(USA) materials)!

Annie, the Kitchen Queen, half price!

Order Annie, *the Kitchen Queen*, item HZN06304 for half price (just \$5.00, plus shipping and handling). Call 800.524.2612.



Dear Horizons Reps,

Phyllis Henry, a longtime *Horizons* rep from Idaho, has joined the great cloud of witnesses. Phyllis was untiring in her faith, and a creative and cheerful promoter of all things Presbyterian Women, *Horizons* magazine and Bible study.

PW and Horizons skits, newly unearthed

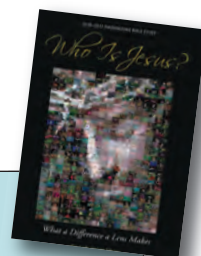
A few *Horizons* skits have recently resurfaced and are ready to share. Feel free to make your theatrical debut by adapting one or more of these skits for your upcoming gatherings.

- *The Innkeeper's Wife* by Muriel Stephens. The innkeeper's wife was undoubtedly aware of the beautiful young woman and her newborn child who found a resting place in the stable. This is the innkeeper's wife's reflection on the birth of Jesus.
- Rhoda Frasier took inspiration from cooking shows to promote *Horizons* during the 2012 Churchwide Gathering of PW. Her skits are available together: *Julia Child of God* (think Julia Child) and *Rachel Ray of Sonshine*.
- Have encore copies of *Horizons* on your bookshelf? If so, turn to page 32 of the January/February 1995 issue to find *Birthday Offering—Fashion Show* by Charlotte Lyons and Barbara Lodwick.

For a copy of one of these skits, email yvonne.hileman@pcusa.org. Have a skit or poem to share? Send to Carissa Herold (carissa.herold@pcusa.org). Electronic documents are preferred. And of course, all material submitted will be assumed to be your own original material and, by sharing, you are happy to reshare at no cost to PWs everywhere.

PW/Horizons pens and notepads

Presbyterian Women is a thriving organization of generous, Christ-centered women. That being said, we are reevaluating how PW does its work, particularly as PW's main financial source, the PW Mission Pledge, is under pressure to do great work on a tighter budget. And that brings us to PW's pens and notepads. These items may appear to be inexpensive at first blush. But the costs for promotional items—like the price of a loaf of bread, a bag of rice, a car, an education—have skyrocketed over the years. So this question is for gathering planners and others who enjoy sharing these items: would you be willing to pay for these items? (Pens are currently about .30 cents each; for 100 pens, that equals \$30.00.) The idea is that the cost for these items can be shared widely. Please take this question to your circles or meetings. And let us know your answer (or concerns, questions, or ideas)! Email . . . Call . . . Write . . . Or take the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/7ZVP7QH.



Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes Bible study resources

Welcome to the 2016–2017 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes*. Author Judy Yates Siker invites you to join her on "a journey to expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is—a journey of our hearts and minds, a journey that we will take together." She invites us to be good conversation partners along the way, sharing with one another as we experience the various lenses through which Jesus is seen and how these perspectives impact our understanding of Jesus.

Each of the study's nine lessons explores the question "Who is Jesus?" through a particular theological lens. Who is Jesus . . . according to Mark? . . . according to Matthew? . . . according to Luke? . . . according to John? . . . according to Paul? . . . according to Hebrews? . . . according to the noncanonical gospels? . . . according to the Abrahamic faiths? . . . according to contemporary cultural interpretations? Learn more. Order your study today. See enclosed flier for ordering information.

2016 Presbyterian Women BIRTHDAY OFFERING ORDER FORM

LET
Justice
ROLL DOWN



Presbyterian women have a long tradition of caring for others and helping those in need. Ever since Hallie Paxson Winsborough challenged each member of the Woman's Auxiliary in 1922 to give a penny for each year of her life as a "birthday gift" for Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Japan, Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering has helped fund mission projects that improve the lives of women and children around the world. While the projects and donation amounts have changed, Presbyterian Women's commitment to improving the lives of others has not. We continue to need broad, consistent support from Presbyterian women and others in order to continue funding mission projects like the ones selected for 2016.

In 2016, we will offer our prayers and financial support to the following recipients:

- Funds from the Birthday Offering will allow *Heartland 180* in Overland Park, Kansas to purchase a dedicated space and computers that will enable the program to maintain confidential information about participants and donors.
- With funds from the Birthday Offering, the *Direct Action and Research Training (DART) Center* in Miami, Florida will train clergy and lay leaders in more than 20 communities on how to stop the flow of children into the school-to-prison pipeline.
- Your gift to the Birthday Offering will allow *Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley* in Oakland, California to partner with more than 100 individuals and families to repair their manufactured homes, ensuring safety and stability for these households.

- Your gift to the Birthday Offering will help *Building Minds in South Sudan* in Pittsford, New York fund the construction of a girls' primary school, for levels one through eight, in Majok-Keen, a village in Warrap State, South Sudan.

The grant amount will depend on gifts contributed during 2016. The goal for the 2016 Birthday Offering is \$500,000. Please promote prayerful, generous support of the Birthday Offering in your presbyteries and congregations, using the following tools:

- Promotional booklet—mailed to every PC(USA) congregation (addressed to "PW/Women's Group") as well as moderators, comoderators, treasurers and Celebration Giving representatives at every level of PW.
- The January/February 2016 issue of *Horizons*—announces the Birthday Offering grant recipients, offers a dedication service and lists resources available for promoting the offering.
- PW's Birthday Offering web pages (www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday)—free downloads of the dedication service, booklet, order form, promotional video, history/FAQ, grant application and a list of past recipients; links to order additional materials.

Learn more at www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday or contact Cindy Goodman at 844/PW-PCUSA (844/797-2872), ext. 5387, or cindy.goodman@pcusa.org.

2016 BIRTHDAY OFFERING

of Presbyterian Women



PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS ORDER FORM

| QUANTITY | PDS# | ITEM | PRICE | REMITTANCE |
|----------|----------|---|-----------|------------|
| _____ | PWR12501 | Group giving envelope (pkg. of 25) Traditionally used in PW circles and congregations | free | _____ |
| _____ | PWR16546 | Individual giving envelope (pkg. of 10) For those outside PW circles, those who want to give over and above their normal offering and those who wish to give with a credit card | free | _____ |
| _____ | PWR16452 | Bulletin cover (8½"x14"; pkg. of 20) | free | _____ |
| _____ | PWR16450 | Bulletin insert (pkg. of 20; 5 each of four designs) | \$3/pkg.* | _____ |
| _____ | PWR16453 | Placemat (English/Spanish; pkg. of 25) | \$4/pkg.* | _____ |
| _____ | PWR16454 | Poster (English/Spanish; 11"x17") | free | _____ |
| _____ | PWR16458 | Promotional video (English/Spanish) | free | _____ |
| _____ | PWR16457 | Promotional materials order form (distribute at all presbytery and synod events) | free | _____ |
| _____ | PWR16451 | Promotional materials packet Contains information and resources you'll need to celebrate the Birthday Offering at PW gatherings in the congregation, presbytery and synod, including a poster, impact stories, invitation letter, overview of grant recipients, dedication service (in English and Spanish, Korean is available on the web www.pcusa.org/store (type "Birthday Offering" in the search box), ways to support the Birthday Offering, the order form and more. | free | _____ |
| _____ | PWR00507 | Book: Messages of Reconciliation and Hope: 75 Years of Birthday Offerings, 1922-1997 by Catherine Stewart Vaughn | \$12* | _____ |

SUBTOTAL _____

SALES TAX _____

(APPROPRIATE SALES TAX IS REQUIRED FOR THOSE RESIDENTS OF CA, DC, KY, NY AND PA WHO ARE ORDERING ON PERSONAL ACCOUNTS.)

*SHIPPING/HANDLING _____

(ADD 10% OF ORDER TOTAL, \$5.25 MIN., \$65 MAX.;

NO SHIPPING CHARGES FOR FREE/PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS)

TOTAL _____

SHIP TO

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

(Please use a street address—UPS cannot deliver to a PO Box.)

PROMO CODE BO16

To order by mail, complete this form, make check payable to **Presbyterian Women**, and mail to:

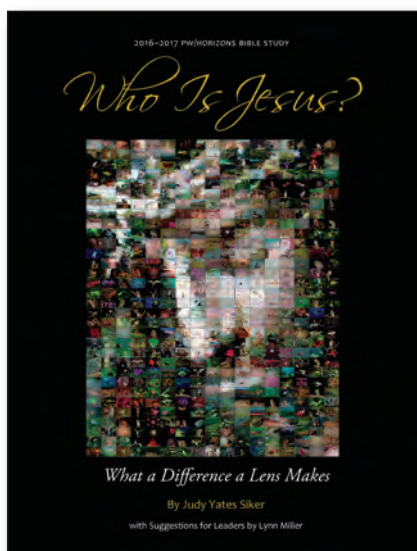
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PDS Prepaid Processing
PO Box 643674
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3674

To order by phone, call 800/524-2612.

To order online, go to www.pcusa.org/store (type "Birthday Offering" in the search box).

PWR16457

Introducing the 2016–2017 PW/*Horizons* Bible study



Who Is Jesus?

What a Difference a Lens Makes

By Judy Yates Siker

With Suggestions for Leaders by Lynn Miller

Welcome to the 2016–2017 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *Who Is Jesus?* Author Judy Yates Siker invites us to join her on “a journey to expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is—a journey of our hearts and our minds, a journey that we will take together. I invite you to be good conversation partners along the way, sharing with one another how you see and experience the various lenses and how these different perspectives impact your understanding of who Jesus is.”

Each of the study’s nine lessons explores the question “Who is Jesus?” through a particular theological lens. Who is Jesus . . .

1. . . **according to Mark?** Jesus is God’s son.
2. . . **according to Matthew?** Jesus is the long-awaited Jewish messiah whose teachings open the kingdom of heaven to us here and now.
3. . . **according to Luke?** Rejected by his own—Jesus, prophet of God, turns the world upside down with his teachings.
4. . . **according to John?** Jesus and God are one.
5. . . **according to Paul?** Paul stresses the centrality of the cross of Christ in understanding true discipleship.
6. . . **according to Hebrews?** Believers are to hold fast to their faith in times of adversity, and remain firm in their commitment to Jesus who has run this race before them and now reigns in glory with God.
7. . . **according to the non-canonical gospels?** Early Christians held diverse views of who Jesus was.
8. . . **according to the other Abrahamic faiths?** Judaism, Christianity, and Islam understand Jesus in very different ways.
9. . . **according to contemporary cultural interpretations?** Each of us who reads the New Testament is an interpreter of the text; how we interpret depends in part on who we are.

About the Authors



Judy Yates Siker teaches New Testament at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California. She is a teaching elder in the PC(USA) and can be found preaching, teaching, and leading spiritual retreats for churches throughout northern and southern California. She has published work geared both to the church and the academy. Her most recent publication is a curriculum titled *Images of Israel*, a work co-authored for North American Christian churches as part of her work with the Shalom Hartman Institute of Jerusalem and the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania.



Lynn Miller attended her first Presbyterian women’s conference (then Women of the Church) as an eighth-grader. She is a teaching elder in the PC(USA) and has been a practicing artist for more than 25 years. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in fine arts and art history. Her work is in private and church collections throughout the country. She has served as workshop leader, graphic designer, and keynote speaker for conferences and gatherings on theology, worship, spirituality, education, and the arts. A long, long time ago, she designed the PW Honorary Life Membership pin.

Subscribe to *Horizons* by April 1, 2016, to receive a copy of *Who Is Jesus?* as part of your subscription (after April 1, you will receive next year’s study)! Subscribers also receive additional Bible study resources in five consecutive issues of the magazine, beginning with the July/August 2016 issue, and have digital access to the magazine (including select back issues). To subscribe, call toll-free 866/802-3635 or visit www.pcusa.org/horizons.



Order Form

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| Item | PDS # | Qty. | Price | Subtotal |
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| English edition | HZNI6100 | | \$8.00 | |
| Workshop for Leaders | HZNI6101 | | free | |
| Large-print edition | HZNI6150 | | \$12.00 | |
| Ecumenical edition | HZNI6102 | | \$8.00 | |
| Spanish edition | HZNI6110 | | \$8.00 | |
| Audio edition Slightly abridged; no Suggestions for Leaders. Order http://store.pcusa.org | HZNI6172 | | \$15.00 | download only |
| Companion DVD Includes discussion starters, lesson summaries, and more | HZNI6103 | | \$20.00/set | |
| Bulletin cover—8.5" x 11" download at www.pcusa.org/horizons | | | free | download only |
| Promotional poster | HZNI6410 | | free | |
| Promotional flier | HZNI6411 | | free | |
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| Total your order | | | | |
| | | | Subtotal | \$ |
| Appropriate sales tax is required for those residents of CA, DC, KY, NY and PA who are ordering on personal accounts. | | | Sales tax | \$ |
| (10% of order total, \$5.25 min., \$65 max. International orders will incur additional shipping charges.) | | | Shipping/handling | \$ |
| | | | Your total | \$ |

Complete this order form and mail to

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PDS Prepaid Processing
PO Box 643674
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3674

Or call 800/524-2612.

Credit card info

- Visa MasterCard
 Discover American Express

Name on credit card _____

Credit card number _____

Expiration date _____ Security code _____

Signature _____

Ordered by

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Ship to

(Please use a street address—UPS cannot deliver to a PO box)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

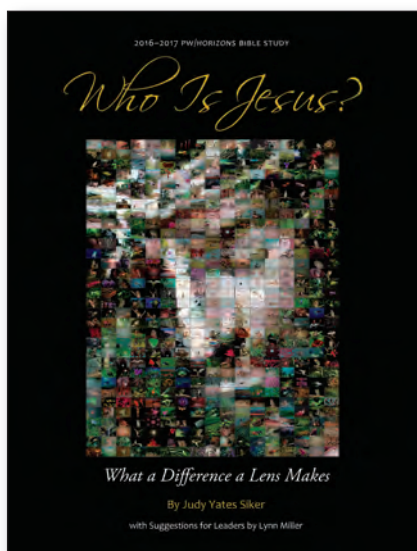
Zip _____ Telephone _____

If paying by check, make payable to **Presbyterian Women** and include with your order.

Promo code **HB**

HZNI6411

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Signature _____

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Zip _____ Telephone _____

If paying by check, make payable to **Presbyterian Women** and include with your order.

Promo code **HB**

HZNI6411



MOTHER'S DAY CARDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

The annual Mother's Day Project is a special mission opportunity to help transform the lives of women and children through **Healthy Women Healthy Families**, a global poverty alleviation ministry, co-sponsored by Presbyterian World Mission and Presbyterian Women since 2001.

Your previous donations helped women in a rural village create a savings and loan program that enabled them to start vegetable businesses to support the health and well-being of their families. This is just one of many examples of women across the globe who have benefited from this program.

Request your Mother's Day cards today. Send them to wonderful women who have supported, inspired and encouraged you. Visit pcusa.org/mothersdayproject to learn more.

Mother's Day Project contact:



Healthy Women Healthy Families is supported through year-round donations to the **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**. Please write **E052136 Mother's Day Project** in the memo line of your check to ensure your donation is designated correctly.

Support Healthy Women Healthy Families



ORDER YOUR ASSORTED NOTE CARDS TODAY!

Healthy Women Healthy Families, a year-round support ministry of the global poverty alleviation program of Presbyterian World Mission and Presbyterian Women, enables global partners to implement programs that directly impact the lives of vulnerable community members. These programs include primary and pre-primary education, prenatal and obstetric services, trauma healing and psychosocial support, early childhood health and nutrition programs, health and hygiene education, food security, and fistula repair surgery.

World Mission is offering assorted note cards (five designs, blank inside), available in packets of 25. Use these cards to support, inspire, and encourage your friends and loved ones. Visit pcusa.org/hwhf or call **800-728-7228 x5279** to learn more or to place your order.



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