



SUNRISE



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Woman Shenandoah <http://shenpres.org/presbyterian-women/>
Karen Stevens & Connie Wood, Co-Moderators

March 2022

Pat&Rich Armstrong, Editor

A Moderator's View

As I think back on the last 4 years I am so grateful for the support and friendship I received from the CT Team. I am told the leader is only as good as the people surrounding her and for me, I had the best.

Together we accomplished much in the way of mission work, from donating to Woodrow Wilson Workforce and Rehab Center, Massanetta Refugee resettlement program, Women Empowerment PCUSA and the Heifer Project to name a few.

Sadly, we missed Spring Gatherings, Summer Gatherings and Churchwide Gathering because of Covid. We were able to some degree to be together via Zoom meetings not always the best as transmission was not always satisfactory.

Isiah 6:8 *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, And who will go for us?" And I said "Here am I; send me!"* Isiah willing responded to God's call. Let each of us listen and respond in the affirmative when God calls.

There are openings on the CT Team for ladies to respond to the call. Please listen and lend your talents. We are called to share our love and what we have with others.

Thanking you for everything,
In Christ's Service
Darlene Mason

REPORT FROM THIRD PRESBYTERIAN

The ladies served a soup and sandwich lunch

with a nod to the super bowl. There were 35 guests in attendance. They are busy making plans for a fund raiser to benefit The Sacks of Love, co-sponsored with the Baptist church. We pack 100 bags with food for Bessie Weller students to take home for the weekend.

Thanks
Darlene Mason

NEWS FROM GERRARDSTOWN

Gerrardstown Presbyterian continues the monthly community dinner serving 120 dinners. It has become a drive thru because of Covid. We complete mission projects throughout the year supporting the local elementary school, Empowerment center, Rescue Mission and CCAP.

Worship is in person and zoom and appears on u-tube and Meta. Pews have been moved to social distance and masks are recommended. Improvements have been made to the children's department and the sanctuary.

SHARED BY HARRIET KOOP

SPRING GATHERING

Karen said that she is working on the registration forms this week-end and hopes to get them sent out next week. Just thought I would add that to my last e-mail to you.

This is for speing gathering

Blessings,
Connie

COLLIERSTOWN HAS SUCCESSFUL OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS

January 23, 2022 was “Blanket Sunday” at the Collierstown Presbyterian Church. The CPC Presbyterian Women annually set aside a Sunday in January to encourage the church family to donate funds to purchase blankets for distribution by Church World Service to needy people in the United States and around the world. This year’s goal was to raise \$1200 to purchase 120 CWS blankets. We hoped to make the possibilities of a blanket a reality for more people whether the recipients used them for warmth, shelter, storage, or protection. We also wanted our blankets to be a way of covering those who received them with God’s love. We committed to “Dream Big” and “Give More”! Our Church family embraced this commitment and raised a record breaking total of \$2340 in three weeks making it possible to purchase 234 CWS blankets. We were humbled at what can be done when we open ourselves to God and let Him work through each of us. We were also amazed by this outcome as January 2 and the 16 were Sundays when our building was closed for in person worship due to an increase in Covid cases on January 2 and inclement weather on January 16. Even in the face of the obstacle of not gathering in person the giving seemed to overflow in greater amounts. Our joy has been great as we experienced this outpouring of love and generosity for those in need even when we were limited in gathering together as a group.

Blanket Sunday Children’s Story



Collierstown PW then turned its attention to our church’s annual food drive in support of the “Souper Bowl of Caring” initiative. This year’s drive had as its theme “Pack the Porch” for those with food needs. We used the “railed porch area” at the entrance to our two front doors as our food collection site. We asked members, friends, the neighboring churches, and the community to fill the porch between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 12 with boxes and bags of canned foods, paper products, and monetary gifts. Donations totaled 1400 lbs. of canned and boxed food and \$655 in monetary gifts. Three food banks, RARA (Rockbridge Area Relief Association), Helping Hands—a food ministry of Fairfield Presbyterian Church, and the Natural Bridge/Glasgow Food Pantry were the recipient agencies of the gifts received.



Pack The Punch Kick Off

Our PW and CPC goals for Blanket Sunday and the “Pack the Porch” food drive were twofold. First, we wanted our blanket effort to provide warmth, shelter, and protection to needy individuals and our food drive to supply food to those lacking proper nutrition. Second, we wanted to make each campaign or drive a “community of faith effort” involving all the community’s churches. We had taken the “community of faith” approach with our CWS School Bag effort in the fall with great support coming from the Collierstown United Methodist Church. With our 2022 projects we had a total of four additional congregations offering support. They were the Collierstown & Mt. Horeb United Methodist Churches, Collierstown Baptist, and the Union View Advent Christian Church. We asked them to join with us in covering and surrounding others with God’s love and they answered that call. As a result, our two campaigns were successful and we have developed new friendships and greater

cooperation. Plans are now underway for a multi-church effort to host a Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Day on Saturday, June 4 at the Effinger Volunteer Fire Department.

Delivery to Helping Hands Punker Robertson, Bonnie Wilson, Debbie McCormick



As we have moved through January and February, our Presbyterian Women and our church family have been reminded that our ministry is just one small piece of a much bigger whole. God is always at work to accomplish His eternal purposes. We hold fast to Luke 1:37, "For nothing will be impossible with God." HCSB

Submitted by: Debbie McCormick, PW Communications Coordinator

Work Crew



News from Massanutten Presbyterian Church

The youth have had fun with their competition during the Super Bowl. Two grocery carts were available one for the Rams and one for the Bengals. We are making plans for the open doors

week when we house and provide meals for the homeless folks in my area. The guests stay overnight and leave in the morning with bag lunches and breakfast is provided. The annual congregational meeting is February 27th and lunch will be provided after the meeting. Members can eat in the fellowship hall with much space being left between seating or take-out plates will also be a choice. Circles have been keeping up with the bible study lessons and we also have a zoom choice. Confirmation will be taking place soon and the children have been preparing for this big event in their lives. We are now having choices of when to worship as to come to church is a choice live streaming of worship takes place and it's also recorded to watch on YouTube at a later time. Masks are still required at church and spacing is also encouraged.

SHARED BY PAT ARMSTRONG
MORE PAGES 13-14

Shenandoah Presbytery Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team Meeting 2-14-2022

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Darlene Mason | Connie Wood |
| Karen Stevens | Pam Snyder |
| Donna Parker | Ruth Williams |
| Punker Robertson | Harriet Kopp |
| Paula Osborne | Pat Armstrong |
| Joyce Anderson abs. | Vickana Norton abs |

The Presbyterian Women of the Shenandoah Presbytery in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic (PWSP) met on Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. via zoom. The meeting was called to order by moderator Darlene Mason. Punker Roberson shared the devotional time and lighting of the Christ candle with a reflection of the difficult times we have been living and reading the scripture we are all familiar with, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, A time for everything.

Guest visiting: Nancy Meehan Yao who was invited by Darlene Mason to explain the PW incorporation. The PW pledge was recited in unison.

Nancy Meehan Yao: Nancy explains the Presbytery does not deal with the incorporation of the PW. PW is a separate entity where the Presbytery wants to increase better communication between the two. An example of miscommunication was a change

increase better communication between the two. An example of miscommunication was a change in the Big Event. There was a lot of confusion as to what was going to happen and what was not going to happen. The Presbytery has moved to every second year doing a Big Event that invites a national speaker. In the off years the Presbytery help with what used to be included in the Big Event which was practical more local training, ruling elder training, clerk of session training review and overview of the Horizons Bible Study for the coming year and some work with treasurers. There is no date or place for the Big Event but it is a tentative plan for 2022. Nancy stressed the importance of communicating with each other, meaning the Presbytery and PW.

Nancy shared that the Presbytery is having conversations about appointing some one from PW to have voice and vote at the Presbytery meetings, she refers to the manual which says that moderators of committees have voice on the council but other bodies do not. This is a continuing conversation Presbytery is having. Pam was wondering how might PW be more supported and engaged in events such as the Big Event. Nancy encourages us to share with her any thoughts and ideas ,events and events we have.

Here is the zoom link for the PW Bible study taught by Nancy for **February 22,2022** at 7:00 p.m.
 Meeting ID: 825 9585 5843
 Passcode:74533

Secretary: Vickana Norton was absent and Paula Osborne was the acting secretary
 Approval for the minutes from the last meeting were approved by Pam Snyder and seconded by Pat Armstrong. Motion was approved by consent.

Karen Stevens -Treasurer The report covered November 3, 2021-February12, 2022. The balance in the operating fund is 6967.39. We have receipts into the operating fund of \$209.00. The disbursement's were \$1636.86 The operating fund broken down, \$300.00 to the PCUSA Women's empowerment project,\$250.00 to Heifer International and gave a donation of \$500.00to Massanutten Springs for assistance for their refugee population We received a thank you letter from Clayton. The receipts taken in were donations from Franklyn Presbyterian Church, New Providence and First Presbyterian in Stanton. Two deposits were sent to Massanatta for the Spring Gathering. The first deposit was sent in December of \$251.51. Last week the second deposits was sent in \$335.35. The least coin, birthday offering and the Thank offering which were \$100.00 mission pledge to the Senate. The starting balance on November 3,2021 was \$8395.00 The receipts were \$240853, disbursements43836.39. The balance is \$6739.00 Pat Armstrong moved to approve the treasure's report and Connie Wood seconded the report.

Shenandoah Presbytery PW
 PW. Treasurer's Report
 November 7, 2021 – February 4, 2022

	<u>Balance 11/7/2021</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disburse</u>	<u>Balance 2/4/2022</u>
Operating Fund	8395.25	209.00	1301.51	7302.74
Least Coin	0	356.98	356.98	0
Birthday Offering	0	60.00	60.00	0
Thank Offering	0	313.55	313.55	0
Mission/CW	0	0	0	0
Mission/Synod	0	100	100	0
Honorary Life	0	0	0	0
Misc/Sunnyside Links	0	0	0	0
Misc/Living Waters/Other	0	0	0	0
Misc/Blankets	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	8395.25	939.53	2132.04	7302.74

Connie Wood, Vice-Moderator, Shenandoah PW
VICE-MODERATOR REPORT PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
CT MEETING VIA ZOOM
FEBRUARY 12, 2022

Although plans and details for the Spring Gathering are not 100% complete, they are off to a productive start.

At this time, the PW Spring Gathering will be held in Stewart Hall , at Massanetta Springs, on Saturday, April 9, 2022. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning, a Worship/Program will begin at 9:45 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12:30 in the dining hall. Exhibits and displays can be brought into Stewart Hall on Friday afternoon (the 8th) from 4:40-6:30 p.m. and at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, the 9th.

The theme is “Go Out With Joy and Be Led Forth with Peace!” which is taken from the scriptural reference Isaiah 55:12.

Karen Stevens, my Angel Helper, will be taking care of printing brochures, and programs.

Our very own Pastor Punker Robertson, has graciously consented to lead the Worship Service.

Ruth Williams will be our pianist for the day.

Special Music will be provided by Pastor James Yao, from the Moorefield Presbyterian Church, who will be leading a small group choir from his church.

He is the husband of Associate Presbyter, Nancy Meehan Yao, and is a very talented musician.

I have contacted those who have provided reports, exhibits and displays in the past, and have heard from some of them. Those who plan to be there at this point include:

Clayton Rascoe, Executive Director of Massanetta Springs; and Stan Farthing, of LDA Creations/Silver Lake Workshops “Custom Products Tell Your Story”; Candy Phillips, from First Step, hopes to be there, but will decide closer to the date;

Dale Yontz, Development Director of Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands, Inc. responded, but asked for more information before committing.

It is hoped that other exhibitors will respond soon.

Although Childcare has always been an extra benefit for those wanting to attend the Gathering, there is nothing definite in place yet. The SPYCE organization is no longer operating, according to Rev. Thomas Carrico, Jr. a Co-Chairman for the CER

(Committee on Educational Resources. There are two main requirements for leaders of Childcare: a criminal background check and two unrelated adults with each group of children. Clayton Rascoe did give Massanutten Presbyterian Church Pre-School, as a possible source of teachers to ask.

The Offering collected will go to Food For Thought, a project operated in Mineral County to supply week-end food to children at eight schools.

Hopefully, other details of the Gathering will come together soon, and we will be able to send out registration forms.

Connie Wood
Vice-Moderator, Shenandoah PW

Harriet Kopp: Historian report

All churches have been contacted and 8 have responded to date. Clear Brook and Mt Storm reported that they have no PW and therefore did not complete the survey. Upper Tracy and Bloomery have returned for incorrect address.

Pam Snyder, (Celebration Giving Representative) Shenandoah Presbytery

Horizons Representative Report

February 2022

The latest edition of the *Horizons*, “Rejoice in Hope” is available by an annual subscription and it is also available on the website at www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons. This edition, which focuses on the 2021 Churchwide Gathering theme, includes the following articles and information which spotlights how PW can celebrate hope, joy and community:

A devotion, *Lifted in Song*, which focuses on the little things that matter to many.

A scripture study on Romans 12:12-13: “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.” This was the theme for the 2021 PW Churchwide Gathering, which was held virtually in August 2021. This article “unpacks” the scripture theme for you.

A detailed review of the 2021 virtual Churchwide Gathering, which includes the Plenary Address delivered by Irene Pak Lee; the PW Gathering Sermon on Romans 12:12-13 shared by Diane Moffett (who currently serves as the president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency); and the installation addresses from our new PW Moderator, Kathy Reeves, and our new Vice Moderator, Kathleen Keefer. They were installed by Ruling Elder Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri, Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly (2018). Vilmarie said “Presbyterian Women must be bold, bodacious and unapologetic.” Details of the Business Meeting are also captured in this article, as well as all that occurred to make this event virtual.

Honoring Our Roots – the Bible Study Resources for use in studying Lesson Three of the 2021-2022 PW Bible study, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus*.

Thankful for Thistles is a great article by Lisa Gray and Carissa Herold that compares the variety of life found in a garden to the complexities of Presbyterian Women. They’ve even included a recipe for Artichoke Squares noting that the artichoke is a culinary thistle.

Expanding Mission Outreach shares how the Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church, Cheyenne, Wyoming, made a concerted effort to incorporate mission as an essential element to their gatherings.

PW *Horizons* continues to offer a special magazine subscription rate of \$19.95. A subscription includes 5 issues of *Horizons* magazine plus the PW/*Horizons* Bible study. You also have full access to all digitally.

Pam Snyder, Horizons Representative

Celebration Giving Representative Report

February 2022

Celebrating a Century of the PW Birthday Offering!

This year the Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women celebrates the century mark of generous giving. Launched in 1922 to honor the 100th anniversary of the Woman’s Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Birthday Offering is an annual tradition for givers and receivers around the world. Over the last 100 years, grants funded by Presbyterian Women have impacted the ministries of more than 200 organizations and transformed the lives of countless people.

In 1922, Hallie Paxton Winsborough challenged each member of the Women’s Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States to give a penny for each year of her life as a “birthday gift” and the offering benefitted Miss Dowds School for Girls in Japan and construction of the Montreat Gate in North Carolina. A century later, Presbyterian Women have contributed more than \$37 million to the Birthday Offering and helped improve lives at home and around the world

While Birthday Offering projects and donation amounts have changed, Presbyterian Women's commitment to improving the lives of women and children has not. Support the Birthday Offering so PW can continue funding mission projects for the next 100 years. Consider responding with a modern twist to Hallie Paxton Winsborough's challenge by giving \$100 for 100 years. No matter the amount, all gifts are gratefully received and lovingly shared.

To learn more, visit presbyterianwomen.org/birthday.

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation groups should forward their Birthday Offering gifts to the PW in the Presbytery Treasurer. Our PW Presbytery Treasurer is Karen Stevens, steven-skr2005@yahoo.com or 540-430-1626. Your Birthday Offering gifts should be mailed to:

Karen Stevens, 251 Rosser Avenue, Waynesboro, VA 22980.

February 2022

There are many unique ways to continue to do the work of Presbyterian Women in spite of the size of your group or congregation!

JUSTICE AND PEACE Report – Ruth Williams

What comes to you when you hear the word Justice? Does a courtroom come to mind for a trial. Justice is more than determining the guilt or innocence of someone. The word "justice" is used more than 200 times in the Bible. The book of Micah has a much quoted verse about Justice "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." Justice flows from the steadfast love of God. It is who God is. God's Justice isn't something we deserve or earn; justice is given from the love of God. Having received this gift, our commission is to go out into the world and return this same gift to others by showing the righteousness and justice that God has shown us all.

The Justice and Peace committee of the PW Board of Directors is putting a new twist on pursuing justice through our consumer choices. The PW Board of Directors is recommending our use of Better World Shopper, a public research project that provides helpful information for purchasing from those who sell fair trade products from those who are environmentally conscious.

Together in service: Punker Roberson

Most churches are continuing with their projects. Blankets have been the biggest opportunity during the winter months. Churches have gathered finances for this project. New Providence collected enough funds for 300 blankets. There is an organization called Mission Next Door which is in Rockbridge County. It has been functioning for 10 years. This is a handy man mission which is determined to help neighbors. New Providence is very active with this. The mission will help build handicap ramps, help with mobile homes and or projects people can not afford or do by themselves. Mission Next Door is prevalent in the Southern part of the Presbytery but is eager to help anywhere and anytime where needed. If your church would be interested in either getting help or helping with projects there is a application form provided by New Providence Church. Food stand continues to function despite the weather conditions. Fifteen families attended and received canned goods. The News Gazette in Rockbridge County is doing an article on the food pantry. Prayers and gas cards are graciously appreciated for folks in need also. This is a ministry to neighbors.

Camp Paddy Run is doing well with an active board and a busy year.

Intern Search: Karen Stevens

KAREN STEVENS AND CONNIE WOOD WILL BE CO MODERATORS FOR THE SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY PW COORDINATING TEAM! Karen will also serve as treasurer. Paula will touch base with Tuscarora Presbyterian Church to see if there is any interest with anyone becoming a member for the CT.

Sunrise Editor: Pat and Rich Armstrong

Sunrise Report Presbyterian women meeting CT on February 12th 2022. Thanks so much to the following churches and ladies who contributed to the January 1st sunrise: Connie Wood, Beulah and Monterey, Bunker Hill, Paula Osborne, Massanutten Presbyterian, Darlene Mason moderator, Presbyterian Third Presbyterian, Second Presbyterian, Collierstown Presbyterian. If your church is not listed please make a real effort to get a report in from your church and churches in your Mission District for the next Sunrise which will be March 1st. Sharing through the Sunrise and other ways is so important to bring in new ideas and let others know what's going on. Sharing can be anything from telling about activities, Circle studies, Mission activities, Your thoughts about Presbyterian women and what it means to you, etc Remember Summer Gathering at Massanetta is coming up and should be a great event. Pam and Paula are on the planning team and can share more with us.

Blessings and Joy to all, Sunrise Editor Pat Armstrong

Coordinator Report: Pam Snyder

February 2022

As a reminder, the role of the "Mission Community Coordinators" is to serve as the link between Presbyterian Women in the congregations and the PW Coordinating Team. My role as *Leadership Coordinator* is to stay connected with the Mission Community Coordinators and help strengthen the PW leaders' network within Shenandoah Presbytery. The following information is available for the Mission Community Coordinators, and other members of the Presbytery Coordinating Team, to share with respective congregations. Our goal is to keep all Presbyterian Women connected.

Encourage PW congregational moderators to share what they have been doing, especially during the challenges of COVID. Everyone is looking for a way to provide mission and ministry in their congregations and communities. There are also excellent ideas being shared in the editions of *Horizons!*

Encourage Moderators to submit information for our Presbytery *Sunrise* newsletter.

Remind all of our upcoming PW Synod Summer Gathering which will be held June 9-12, 2022. Please note that our PW Synod CT made the difficult decision to hold this event virtually this year. Paula and I serve on the Gathering Planning Team. We are discerning how we may provide an effective Gathering virtually. Currently we are planning on providing our keynote address by Jimmie Hawkins, mission speaker Cindy Corell (PCUSA Missionary to Haiti from Shenandoah Presbytery), along with a mission support opportunity; the business meeting, worship and hopefully some workshops. We will keep you posted as confirmed information is available.

We received gratitude for the donation to the PCUSA Giving Catalog that was approved at our November 2021 CT meeting. They are seeking permission to spotlight our PW CT and include a picture.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations will again be held virtually this year. I serve on the PW/PCUSA Delegate Planning Team and we have been working diligently on ways to effectively engage those who wish to participate. Since this a virtual event more will be able to participate and there are no limits of NGO participants. We are also providing a parallel event for this CSW and I will provide additional information as it is confirmed. The CSW priority theme is Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. The CSW runs March 14-25, 2022.

We have been approached by a representative of Lexington Presbyterian Church as they are seeking PW Presbytery CT support for a Birthday Offering Grant application. The project is CCAP/Z, the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Zambia Synod. They have a holistic mission to provide for the material needs of its congregants while spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. They operate schools and two health clinics. They are seeking the Birthday Offering grant to support the need for a third clinic in the community of Phalaza. They are separate from, but cooperate with, the Zambia government Ministry of Health. CCAP/Z is a PCUSA partner. I'm attaching a Fact Sheet with my report for your review and for your information.

Mr. Rogers Day Resources: The Office of Christian Formation, Presbyterian Mission Agency, has chosen Fred Rogers' birthday, March 20th, to highlight all we can learn from Mr. Rogers. Fred Rogers was a Presbyterian pastor as well as a pioneer in the world of children's educational television. PCUSA is providing a variety of resources, including liturgy and suggestions for music, a new hymn, a coloring page and Quicksheets with activities and books to read. They are available to use in a variety of settings, including PW groups! All available at <http://ow.ly/S4NB50HQKUC>

Institutional Relationship Agreement Between Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA and the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Several weeks ago, an email conversation queried our status within the PCUSA. There is a thorough explanation of this status/relationship on pages 9-11 of the PW Manual: A Guide for PW Groups. PW incorporated in 2009 as a mission entity related to the PC(USA) as an integrated auxiliary. PW's bylaws link PW closely to the Constitution of the PC(USA). PW's members participate in leadership coordinating teams at all governing body levels from the congregation to the General Assembly. PW is a tax-exempt national women's organization related to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Its members are, first and foremost, members of the PC (USA), as stated in our PW Purpose. It also states that "Presbyterian Women is open to all women who choose to participate in or be supportive of the PW purpose in any way." We can discuss more during our upcoming CT meeting.

The 2024 PW Churchwide Gathering: Plans are underway for the August 2024 PW Churchwide Gathering which is to be held in St. Louis. I will be serving as the Program Chair for this event and our first meeting of the Planning Team is scheduled for next week, virtually. I will keep you posted as details evolve.

Pray for Presbyterian Women in our congregations, Presbytery, Synod and nationally!

PW Newsbytes: Don't forget this valuable resource!

This resource is available to all PW. It was formerly called the PW Quarterly Mailing, and contains "news you can use" from PW Churchwide. This fully digital newsletter is available for printing for those you prefer paper vs. online reading. Share this resource with your congregation PW leaders!

Note that my email address is now pamsnyder1063@gmail.com.

Please immediately delete the psnyder@comsonics.com from your data.

Blessings and peace to all,
Pam Snyder, Leadership Coordinator

History, Current Status, Future, and Request for Action Item from Session.

By Elizabeth Lauck, Member, Outreach Committee
Lexington Presbyterian Church
December 7, 2021

This document was written to summarize information about a health clinic under construction in the community of Phalaza, Zambia, for anyone interested in learning more about the clinic and ongoing efforts to finish the construction and begin providing health care to the community.

Definitions used in this document

LexPres - *Lexington Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Virginia*

Shenandoah Presbytery - *The presbytery of which LexPres is a member*

CCAP Zambia (or CCAP/Z) - *Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Zambia Synod, a partner of PCUSA. CCAP/Z operates a theological college, schools, and two rural health clinics in addition to overseeing its member congregations.*

CCAP/Z Health Department - *The department of CCAP/Z that operates the two health clinics. The health department is separate from but cooperates with the Zambia government Ministry of Health. The director of the CCAP/Z Health department is Mr. Richard Willima.*

Melissa Johnson - *A missionary based in Lundazi, Zambia, supported by LexPres, other PCUSA churches, and PCUSA. Melissa works closely with Mr. Richard Willima, director of the CCAP/Z Health Department.*

PW - *Presbyterian Women, a branch of PCUSA. Their ministries include two funds to support and improve healthcare: the Thank Offering fund and the Birthday Offering fund. Each of these funds awards a number of applicants every year for healthcare-related projects.*

History

CCAP/Z's approach to ministry is holistic, and it trains pastors to meet congregants' material needs as well as their spiritual needs and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Thus, CCAP/Z operates schools and two health clinics and is divided into official departments, including a department of health. For more information, search ccapzambia.org.

For many years, CCAP/Z's health department has operated two rural health clinics, in the communities of Ndaiwala and Egichikeni, dramatically improving health outcomes in their respective catchment areas. Around 2012, the health department identified the need for a third rural health clinic, in the community of Phalaza (sometimes spelled Pharaza). Phalaza is located about 10 miles west of Zambia's border with Malawi.

Two or three years ago, I learned of the need for a clinic at Phalaza from Melissa Johnson, a PCUSA missionary, during one of her visits to LexPres. Moved to help the clinic become a reality, I requested a \$30,000 expenditure from an endowment fund at LexPres. LexPres' finance committee and Session approved this donation. The funding was approved on the condition that I send letters to other churches with a potential interest in this project: other churches in the Shenandoah Presbytery and other churches supporting Melissa Johnson. This fundraising effort yielded another \$30,000, for a total of about \$60,000 toward construction of the clinic.

The "clinic" is really a complex of several structures: 1) clinic building, 2) latrine, 3) drilled water well (borehole), and 4) three houses for clinic staff. The initial cost of construction, around \$120,000 US, includes these structures but not durable equipment such as examination tables and beds. The Zambia government Ministry of Health has committed to providing medical staff to operate the clinic once the staff houses are completed. Staff will not need to wait for this durable equipment to begin providing medical services. CCAP/Z will operate the administrative side of the clinic. This is consistent with how the two existing clinics at Ndaiwala and Egichikeni operate. For more information and photographs of these two existing clinics, search ccapzambia.org.

I believe the Zambia government Ministry of Health provides medications, but I am not certain.

Current Status

Construction of the Phalaza clinic has been partially completed. The clinic building, water well, and latrine are built. The water well is operational and is accessible to the entire community, reducing the need for hauling water from long distances. The foundations for the clinic staff houses have been built, but these buildings are incomplete. In terms of dollars, the complex is half finished. Melissa Johnson estimates that completing the staff houses will cost about \$60,000 US, which is consistent with original estimates.

CCAP/Z and Melissa Johnson are overseeing construction of the clinic on the ground. I believe CCAP/Z is the one who hires contractors and distributes payment, but Melissa is involved in this process. She and Mr. Richard Willima, director of the CCAP/Z health department, have worked together closely on this as well as other projects.

Future of the Phalaza Clinic

I have identified a potential funding source for completing the staff houses: Presbyterian Women, or PW. They offer two levels of grant funding, both targeted to health care. Their Birthday Offering grant is awarded in September of each year to four or five projects above \$75,000 (application deadline the previous May). Their Thank Offering grant is awarded in March to ten or fifteen recipients for projects under \$60,000 (application deadline the previous September).

Melissa and I have discussed the possibility of applying for these grants. She and I plan to pursue Birthday offering grant in the spring of 2022. Completing the staff houses will cost only \$60,000, so we plan to include durable equipment and/or the mother care shelter in the application to reach the \$75,000 threshold. If we are unsuccessful, we plan to apply for the Thank Offering grant in the fall of 2022 for the staff houses only.

It has not been decided whether CCAP/Z or LexPres should be the official applicant. Melissa and I will discuss this further to see what makes the most sense. I plan to do the work of completing the application and overseeing the project, whether on behalf of LexPres or CCAP/Z. I anticipate that Melissa will contribute substantially to this effort in terms of time and information.

One of the requirements for the PW grants is that a PW group endorse this project in writing, either the local group at LexPres or the presbytery or synod level. The presbytery- or synod-level endorsement is preferred but not essential.

If you have questions about this project, please contact me:

Elizabeth Lauck 7caprines@gmail.com 540-817-0607

Member, Outreach Committee, Lexington Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Virginia

Mission Community Report: Eastern Panhandle. Paula Osborne

Berkeley Springs

The PW are meeting every second Saturday morning of the month and are using the Horizons book, What My Grandmother's Taught me. by Magdalena I. Garcia. On the 14th of November, The PW Moderator Adrienne North needs prayers for she lost her son in law, Tony Burkhart on January 22, 2022. He left behind Chantelle his wife and 3 teenage children. The circle is meeting today, 2/12/22

Bunker Hill

The church has not had a Bible study lately. They are working on a scholarship fund for pulpit supply since their pastor Ron Potters retirement.

Charles Town

Has launched weekly youth events for elementary and middle school students. Their goal is to create a pre youth group for the children of their church and community. n hopes that it will feed into middle and high school youth groups as kids age up. Tonight they are having a Pokeman party. Tomorrow will be a Souper Bowl of Caring. The youth will be stationed by the sanctuary exit following

worship to collect t donations for the annual Souper Bowl which will be given to Jefferson County Community Ministries' food pantry.

They are currently worshipping in person and om FB. They have a blended Sunday school also meeting in person and virtually. There is a Wednesday Bible Study also.

Falling Waters

Currently Falling Waters has a PW Bible Study. They are using last years study book, Into The Light The moderator is Cathy Goodell. Her cell phone number is 304 676-5620, her home phone is 304 754-3607 and her emaol is kgoodell47@comcast.net

Shepherdstown

PW are meeting every first Thursday of the month, 10:00 a.m. onsite and online. The book they are studying is Braiding Sweetgrass, Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The PW circle is also contributing to the Bethany House, an emergency house shelter for women and children in Martinsburg. The highest need for the shelter house is, pillows, twin size blankets and umbrellas. They are also in constant need of paper towels, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, bath towels, wash cloths and twin sheet sets.

The PW circle has a prayer shawl ministry and a baby blanket ministry. They also participate in the Birthday Offering in May and the Thank Offering in November.

Mountain Valley and Central Valley: Donna Parker

A Community Wide project, active with Super Bowl Sunday. Where members, wearing their favorite football team shirts and hats generously donate soup cans ,canned goods and cash for the needy. Keyser Presbyterian church spearheaded, The Memory Tree Project, during Christmas time. People are encouraged to remember a loved one who have passed away from COVID-19 within the last two years by placing their names on a Christmas tree white ball ornament. There is a person in the community who places the names on the balls with a machine. Over 500 hundred white Christmas balls adorned the tree.

Highland Report: Pam Snyder Mission Community Coordinator Report E1

During the past several months I have tried to connect with all PW leaders in the E1 Mission Community. This includes Augusta Stone, Bethany, Buffalo Gap, Covenant, Craigsville, Hebron, Loch Willow, Staunton First, Staunton Second, Staunton Third, Union and Zetta. After numerous emails and phone calls I heard from 5 churches. One of my goals was to seek updated PW leadership information for our Directory.

The common denominator is “there is no formal, organized PW organization in our church.” For many, this is a result of an aging congregation and/or low attendance. Some, I’m convinced, don’t understand that all women in PC(USA) congregations are considered Presbyterian Women, if they can support the PW Purpose.

For some churches, the contact for all things PW remains either the pastor or the church secretary. Those I talked with were most willing for us to continue to use them as a contact for sharing pertinent information for the women in their congregations. I will continue to reach out and keep these congregations connected with PCT events and information.

I also volunteered to contact the churches in Mission Community E2, since Joyce was recuperating. There was little response to my inquiries. However, I did leave messages requesting the best contact information for sharing pertinent PW information with their congregation.

Pam Snyder

Mission Community Coordinator for E1

Maury River: Karen Stevens

New Providence has one circle which has not met since Covid-19, They are doing a virtual 10 commandment study. Fairfield is staying active with the Helping Hands program. The Church has an active FB page, NETA. Buena Vista have 2 circles and they do eye care and missionary work. Collierstown has an active PW Bible study. They are active doing the Church World Service School bags. They also gear up programs to celebrate graduates along with weddings.

Moderators Report: Darlene Mason

It is with great sadness that I am writing my last moderator report. Sad that I did not get to visit each of you at your home church. Sad that we missed some special meetings, as in Spring Gatherings, Summer Gatherings and the big one, Churchwide, and most of all seeing everyone in person. Zoom was a great tool we used to continue our business. But second-best substitute for seeing you in person.

We accomplished some mission work. We gathered toiletries, scarves, gloves, hats and snacks for the Woodrow Wilson Workforce and Rehab Center, donated to PDA, donated to the Afghan refugee resettlement program, and to the Harrisonburg Great Give to benefit Massanetta. We gave to Heifer Project and Women Empowerment PCUSA.

We are very thankful for the use of Sunnyside's meeting room. And of course, the excellent Lunches. We have Ruth to thank for securing this room.

During this time of Covid we were asked not to gather in large group and so I was afraid the Bible Study would be absent, but with the introduction of Zoom and other means, we were able to continue the study AND join with other churches thus getting a wonderful broad view and different opinions and ideas.

All in all, I think we did a great job of powering through the hard times. It may not be over but we now have tools at our hands to meet the changing world.

Text from the Belhar Confession: The variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as various languages and cultures are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ. We are called to use all our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Service

Darlene Mason, Moderator

With heavy hearts the PW CT is sad to see our moderator of four years, Darlene Mason retire from her position. Darlene has been a blessing to us all and will be greatly missed. God Bless you Darlene and thank you for all of your hard work.

Submitted Paula and Bob Osborne, acting/ editing Secretaries, pro-temp

PW of Staunton Second

We recently missed 2 Sundays due to weather. As a downtown church, safe parking becomes a real issue with snow and ice!

The PW Coordinating Team met in February and will meet again on March 7th. Two circles are actively meeting at the church.

PW is now collecting donations for the Blanket Fund Feb. 6-March 6, 2022. Also, nominations are being sought for the PW Honorary Life Membership, which will be presented in the fall. We are exploring the possibility of returning to our long tradition of holding a Palm Sunday luncheon following worship. COVID has kept us from holding this event for the past 2 years. We are currently surveying the congregation to see how they feel about returning to congregational meals. PW continue to look for ways to support the local community.

Mary Rainey, PW Moderator

Retreat at Paddy's Run, Virginia

The Retreat at Paddy's Run is nestled on 175 mostly wooded acres in the Cedar Creek Valley of northwestern Virginia, just 90 minutes from the DC area. Paddy Run has a main lodge with kitchen and dining facilities, pool, picnic shelter, barbeque pit, two all-weather sleeping quarters, several summer cabins, and ample space for tent camping. The retreat is located in a hub of outdoor adventure- a short drive to Shenandoah National Park and Skyline Drive, the Shenandoah River, Luray and Endless Caverns, George Washington National Forest and Tuscarora Trail. What campers love most about our property is the abundant space and privacy. The sunsets and star gazing are spectacular. We are also ideal for families with young kids- we have just enough 'creature comforts' that make first-time or new campers feel at home, while conveniences like toilets, showers and access to running water makes life easy on everyone. Furry family members are always welcome too!

