



# SUNRISE



Presbyterian Women

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

May 2022  
Pat&Rich Armstrong, Editor

## COLLIERSTOWN EMBRACES NEW OPPORTUNITIES

As winter gave way to spring, the Collierstown congregation and the Presbyterian Women have embraced and moved forward on several mission opportunities. In 2015 the six community churches worked together to hold a “meal packing day” in support of STOP HUNGER NOW. A total of 11, 880 meals were packaged and an annual community effort to overcome hunger was born. The annual meal packing day became an important event that grew each year. In 2019 the last “packing day” prior to COVID, produced 24, 830 meals for delivery by RISE AGAINST HUNGER (formerly STOP HUNGER NOW). In 2022 the annual “Packing Day” will return on Saturday, June 4 and be held at the Effinger Volunteer Fire Department. The Collierstown Presbyterian congregation designated a weekly four cents a meal offering be taken each Sunday in March to raise funds to purchase the food supplies needed for the meals that will be packaged. A total of \$985 was collected. The PW will be working with the preparation of a hot dog lunch for workers and will assist with the recruitment of the volunteer work force for the morning event.

The Collierstown PW and its Circle Bible groups gave their support to the churchwide effort to raise funds for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering collected on Palm Sunday, April 10. This year’s offering generated \$1159 exceeding the \$1000 goal that had been set.

In April under the leadership of PW member Rosalea Potter, an Effinger Community Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 16 in the field across from the Effinger Volunteer Fire Department with one hundred children hunting eggs. Approximately 100 volunteers and parents also took part in the morning’s activities. The congregations of the Collierstown Baptist, Collierstown Presbyterian, Collierstown United Methodist, Mt. Horeb United Methodist, Oxford Presbyterian, and Union View Advent Christian worked together providing games, activities, and treats for the children in attendance. Support from the Effinger Ruritan Club was also received to provide a free photo opportunity for children with the Easter Bunny.

The Presbyterian Women held its spring meeting on Thursday, April 21. A report on the Presbytery’s PW Spring Gathering held at Massanetta Springs on April 9 was given by Debbie McCormick and Louise Tardy who joined Janet Scott in attending the event. Plans were made to recognize the congregation’s four Rockbridge County High School seniors on Sunday, May 22. Each will receive an ESV Study Bible engraved with their name and will be celebrated with Lemonade on the Lawn at the conclusion of the morning worship service. In addition to other business relating to spring and summer activities the group voted to hold its Annual Church Dinner on Saturday, November 5 following a two-year postponement due to Covid 19 concerns. The Annual Church Dinner is sponsored by the PW but is a total church undertaking. It has been a source of fellowship and outreach for the church family since 1925 when the first Chrysanthemum Show and Dinner was held. We look forward to welcoming our community and friends to enjoy delicious food and hospitality at Collierstown Presbyterian Church. Be sure to save the date!

Each day we are reminded that what is happening in and around us is just a small piece of a much bigger whole. We take comfort and are challenged by the reality that God is always at work to accomplish his eternal purposes. We embrace Proverbs 3:5-6,

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.” HCSB*

*Submitted by: Debbie McCormick,  
PW Communications Coordinator*



## **NEWS FROM BETHANY PC**

The ladies of Bethany PC, Staunton meet at 10:30 on the second Tuesday of each month for fellowship. We are enjoying this study focused on women in the bible.

We are now bringing our own brown bag lunch. On a volunteer basis we rotate who brings dessert. Our attendance averages about 10. As always great conversation is enjoyed with our food.

We continue to benefit from three ladies sharing teaching. .

At our last meeting many expressed much concern for the people of Ukraine. In addition to prayers a unanimous vote sent \$1000 to PDA marked for Ukraine.

Our next gathering is May 10 and any who wish to attend are welcome.

Submitted by Mimi Moring, Moderator

## News from Massanutten Presbyterian Church

We have been doing a wonderful Bible study called Living through Lent. The Bible study has been offered several times during the week and is also offered on Zoom. The youth had a silent auction to make money to use to go to Middle School Conference at Massanetta and do a mission trip during the summer. They served a light lunch after worship so folks would not be hungry as they are going around bidding. Easter morning was glorious. The morning started with an early outside worship service a delicious breakfast Easter egg hunt and a glorious worship. The youth provided to breakfast and donations will be used for their projects. The outside cross was decorated with flowers as people came for Church Easter morning. Massanetta cares day was held on April 23rd as folks went out to serve those in the community. This included visiting, taking food to folks and working at Massanetta.

Shared by Pat Armstrong

## MAY CT MEETING

Our next PW CT Meeting will be held at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Staunton, VA on Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 10 AM. The address of the church is 2001 N. Coalter Street and the phone number is (540)885-2138 A big thank-you to Frances Craig, who invited us and had the meeting approved. I hope to see all of you there. In the meantime, take care.

Blessings,  
Connie

## THIRD PRESBYTERIAN STAUNTON SHARES

Our March Meeting and Bible Study group enjoyed a luncheon prepared by Pastor Jacob and wife Ashley.

Enjoyed a Sunrise Service and a breakfast prepared by the CT ladies.

We are preparing to honor Pastor Jacob on May 1st, 2022 with a luncheon for all celebrating his 5 years of pastoring 3rd Pres. Yes we are truly a Presbyterian eating congregation.. LOL

Blessings to all

Darlene Mason

## BIRTHDAY OFFERING

The Birthday Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the spring each year, it gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives. The Birthday Offering funds up to five projects each year, in amounts of \$75,000 to \$150,000 each.

### GIVE TO THE BIRTHDAY OFFERING

See a list of projects funded by the Birthday Offering

2022 Birthday Offering Recipients  
Mission at the Eastward (MATE)  
McCleary House Transitional Housing, Farmington, Maine

The Birthday Offering grant will help renovate McCleary House for people experiencing homelessness. Poverty has been increasing in Maine, with a growing number of vulnerable people losing their homes due to job loss, eviction, sickness or economic hardship—all complicated in the last years by the pandemic. This transitional home will provide a warm and healthy place to live for 3-4 families or 6-8 individuals over the course of the year, as most guests stay just a few months. The renovated home will provide a safe space for individuals to begin the psycho-social, educational and vocational work needed to move forward with their lives.

Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares, Puerto Rico  
Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand, Lares,  
Puerto Rico

Following Hurricane Maria in 2017 and the January 2020 earthquakes in Puerto Rico, the Presbyterian Church in Lares has become the go-to location in the community for food, purified water and personal items. With much of the population elderly and infirmed, they rely on the church for help with necessities. Because the church's kitchen is small, dated and not code compliant, upgrades are needed to continue providing this ministry. With funding from the Birthday Offering, all appliances, wiring, lighting and plumbing will be replaced and the facility will be made ADA accessible. Solar panels and a heavy-duty generator will be installed to provide uninterrupted electrical service and water availability.

[Click here to see the promotional video on the Presbyterian Women YouTube channel](#)

**Applying for a Birthday Offering Grant**  
Grant requests come from a variety of national and international sources, such as PC(USA) governing bodies, health agencies, overseas churches, ecumenical councils, community groups, educational institutions, and church-related groups.

Please note: The COVID-19 pandemic has not affected the Birthday Offering application process. The deadline for submission remains May 15, and materials should be sent to the PW offices in Louisville, KY, as directed in the application packet.  
Projects must meet the criteria outlined in the grant application.

Learn about giving to the Birthday Offering or applying for a Birthday Offering grant by contacting Cheri Harper.

**Presbyterian Women of  
Shenandoah Presbytery  
"Going Out With Joy and Being Led Forth  
With Peace"**

Connie Wood, Co-Moderator

One of my favorite scripture verses taken from Isaiah 55:12 tells us: "For ye shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their

hands." As a retired Early Childhood Teacher and basically still a child at heart, the thought of mountains singing and the trees of the field clapping their hands is fascinating. It was with much joy, peace, and faith that the Presbyterian Women of Shenandoah held their annual Spring Gathering in Stewart Hall, at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, Saturday, April 9, 2022. This in-person event followed a two-year hiatus.

A big thank-you was given to all who helped make this day and event possible, including Karen Stevens, Co-Moderator, members of the Coordinating Team and many who worked behind the scenes. The Massanetta Springs Director Clayton Rascoe and staff did an outstanding job of making participants feel welcome, concluding with a healthy, as well as delicious and comforting lunch served at the hotel.

Recognition was given to outgoing Moderator Darlene Mason whose dedicated and faithful efforts helped keep our CT together as she carried out duties and responsibilities during her time as Moderator, especially during these past two difficult years of the Pandemic.

The event was blessed to have Ruth Williams as pianist, Special Music provided by Pastor James Yao from Moorefield, Presbyterian Church, and Pastor Punker Robertson, who led the Worship Service and Communion. Other guests and exhibitors included: Dr. Rev. Bronwen Boswell, General Presbyter, Shenandoah Presbytery; Dr. Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate Presbyter; Jennifer Holden for Sunnyside Communities; Candy Phillips for First Step; Stan Farthing, for LDA: Custom Products tell your story; and Louise Tardy, from Collierstown Presbyterian Church, who had made many school kit bags for children. The recipient for the offering was Food for Thought, Mineral County, WV.

Pam Snyder conducted an inspirational installation service for incoming officers. Vickana Norton was presented the Honorary Life Membership Award. Both of these ladies wear many hats in their duties as PW, which seems to be a norm for current members of Shenandoah PW Coordinating Team. We know that many of you out there would make wonderful officers of our team. Come!

# **THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING**

## **Presbyterian Women of Shenandoah Presbytery**

### **Synod of the Mid-Atlantic**

April 9, 2022

The Thirty-Second Annual Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women of the Shenandoah Presbytery was held in Stewart Hall at Massanetta Springs on Saturday, April 9, 2022. The theme for this Gathering was “Go out with Joy and be led forth in Peace”, based on Isaiah 55. Twenty-one women representing the churches in the Shenandoah Presbytery Synod of the Mid-Atlantic attended. Registration, tended by Harriet Kopp, exhibits (3), and refreshments (provided by Karen Stevens from the students at Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation), started at 8:30 AM. From 9:30 – 9:45AM a beautiful piano prelude was presented by Ruth Williams. Ruth provided all piano accompaniments for the day. Connie Wood, incoming Co-Moderator/outgoing Vice Moderator, opened the meeting at 9:45 AM with a gracious welcome to everyone. It has been 2 years since we were able to have a Gathering due to Covid-19 and the pandemic. It was great to get together again at beautiful Massanetta Springs. The Summer Gathering of the Mid-Atlantic will be held virtually in June this year. Be sure to plan on “tuning in”.

The Christ Candle was “lit” by incoming Co-Moderator, Karen Stevens who is also Treasurer, and Connie read from Corinthians and gave thanks to our outgoing Moderator, Darlene Mason, who unfortunately was not able to be with us on this day. Recognition was given to Darlene in meeting the challenges posed in being Moderator mostly during a pandemic and how she kept meetings and the Coordinating Team going and with excellent assistance from Donna at the Presbytery office, the meetings were able to commence via zoom, a wonderful alternative. The PW Pledge and Purpose was recited together. Rev. Clayton Rascoe, Executive Director of Massanetta Springs, welcomed us and gave a brief update on all the current happenings at the Springs and the 100 year celebration going on this summer.

Following the hymn, “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”, Connie Wood, incoming Co-Moderator, introduced guests in our midst: General Presbyter and Stated Clerk, Bronwen Boswell and Associate General Presbyter, Nancy Meehan Yao and exhibitors: Jennifer Holden with Sunnyside, LDA Custom Products – Stan Farthing, Candy Phillips with First Steps, about their exhibits. Louise Tardy let us know about her mission to provide hand sewn bags for the Church World Service School Kit bags and had several there in which attendees were encouraged to take with them to fill.

The offering (\$295.70) was received and dedicated to FOOD FOR THOUGHT in Mineral County, WV. The Food for Thought program provides weekend food to 8 schools in the county. Following the Doxology, the prayer of dedication was given by Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao.

The Roll Call of the Mission Communities was taken by incoming Co-Moderator, Karen Stevens: Eastern Panhandle (4), Potomac Highlands (0), Mountain Valley (3), Central Valley (2), Highland Augusta (3), and Maury River (4). Karen Stevens, Treasurer as well as incoming Co-Moderator, reported a balance of \$5,889.15 as of April 9, 2022.

Karen Stevens, also interim Chairperson of the Search Committee, reported that there were many open officer positions. Pam Snyder, Chair of Leadership Coordinators, presented the slate of officers'. There being no other nominations from the floor, the elections of officers' presented were accepted and installed by Pam Snyder.

Thank you to the following:

Co-moderator: Karen Stevens

Co-moderator: Connie Woods

Secretary: Vickana Norton

Treasurer: Karen Stevens

Historian: Harriet Kopp

Justice & Peace: Ruth Williams

Chairperson of Leadership Coordinators: Pam Snyder

Interim Search Committee Chair: Karen Stevens

Together in Service: Punker Robertson

Sunrise Editor: Pat Armstrong

Leadership Coordinators: Paula Osborne, Donna Parker, Joyce Anderson,  
Pam Snyder, Karen Stevens.

Open positions: Moderator Elect, Worship Resources, Leadership Coordinators, Search Committee Chair and members.

This year's Honorary Life Membership was presented to Vickana Norton, Secretary of the Coordinating Team. Vickana has been a member of the Coordinating Team in a few positions over the last couple of years. Before Secretary, she was Historian and first came on the CT as Chair of the Search Committee. Vickana is a member and Elder of Bunker Hill Presbyterian Church in Berkeley Co., Bunker Hill, WV, and lives in Back Creek Valley near Gerrardstown with her husband Rob, 4 cats and dog named Buddy.

Special music was performed by Pastor James Yao of Moorefield Presbyterian Church and enjoyed immensely. Followed by a scripture reading from Isaiah 55: 1-13 and hymn, "Blessed Assurance". Rev. Punker Robertson gave our message for the day, "Knowing Joy", followed by the hymn "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart". Rev. Robertson then presided over the serving of Communion, assisted by Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao. After a benediction and blessing by Rev. Robertson, the postlude was "Let There Be Peace on Earth". There was time to talk with the exhibitors and visit with one another prior to a wonderful lunch at 12:00, being served in the dining room of the main hotel.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickana Norton, Secretary

*Glad to be back at this event together with others in the Shenandoah Presbytery*

