



# SUNRISE



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Woman Shenandoah

Pat Armstrong, Moderator

<http://shenpres.org/presbyterian-women/>

February 2016

Pat Armstrong, Editor

## Moderators Letter

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As I write this letter, the snow is falling and the beauty as I look out the window is breathtaking. How blessed we are to have such beauty in our lives. Our sisters in Presbyterian Women with the wonderful fellowship, mission projects, support and encouragement for each other and worship of Our Lord have enriched our lives and been a true blessing. It's so exciting to think of a new year and all the opportunities to serve God in gratitude for all His many blessings. Also, we will have many opportunities to share our lives with each other and have true fellowship with our sisters in PW.

The PW **Spring Gathering** to be held at Massanetta Springs is scheduled for **April 9, 2015**. Be sure to save this date and let me or Mary Lou Cox (Chair of Planning Team for Spring Gathering) know if you would like to help with this uplifting event.

The next meeting of the Shenandoah PWCT will be held on Feb. 6 at 10 AM in the Blue Ridge Room of the Highlands at Sunnyside. Coffee, tea, etc. will be ready at 9:15 so come early for fellowship and coffee, goodies, etc. Be sure to let me know if you plan to have lunch in dining room at noon. All women are welcome to join us even if you are not on CT--maybe you want to learn more about PW and their activities.

The **PW Summer Synod Gathering** is scheduled for **June 9-12, 2016 at Massanetta Springs**. The Planning Team is busy planning an awesome event including Horizon's bible study author for 2016-17, inspiring and fun work-

shops, beautiful worship music, fellowship time and so much more. Watch for more information and start saving for registration. You don't want to miss this time to join other PW as we worship our Lord.

There are so many mission activities and ways of Glorifying Our Precious Lord, and trust you are involved in these. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, etc. My email is [armstrong.richpat@gmail.com](mailto:armstrong.richpat@gmail.com) and phone number is 540 437-8813.

I hope February 2016 will be a month of true joy and peace as we serve Him together.

Joyfully as we serve God together,  
Pat Armstrong (PW Moderator for Shenandoah Presbytery)

## MT. Horeb Women Share

By the time this is read, the first month of 2016 will more or less be history. It is amazing how fast time flies, especially when everyone is actively involved in the life and projects of the church. We have always invited the congregation to join us in our yearly mission projects, and we hope that they will carry on the tradition again this year. Once again, we will be supplying baby hats, baby gowns, health kits, clean-up kits, sheets and blankets for those in need both here and abroad. The April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline seems far off right now, but it will be here before we know it, so we are not wasting any time getting started.

Our two women's circles continue to work hard for the community. The Hope Circle supplied food for a local family for Thanksgiving, and has

## News from PIEDMONT PRESBYTERIAN

hosted numerous parties and events for the Cardinal House, which they have supported for many years. They have on the average of fifteen members present at most of their meetings, and they are always looking for a good cause to sponsor. On several occasions they have prepared and served meals to residents at the Valley Mission in Staunton, and they regularly support several members of our community with monetary and food gifts throughout the year. Hope Circle members contribute many articles each year for our mission project.

The Joy Circle has a total of six members, but just because it is small does not make it any less productive. If Joy Circle did not exist, there would not be a circle for those members who still work during the day. Through the Salvation Army, Joy Circle was able to sponsor a family of four at Christmas, and to supply gifts for each person in that family. At the present time, the finishing touches are being put on a beautiful stained-glass window which is to be installed somewhere within the church. This window will be a gift to Mt. Horeb from the Joy Circle, but has only become a reality because of the dedication and hard work of the Joy Circle chairperson, Linda Eutsler. She has spent in excess of 400 hours fashioning this lovely masterpiece from glass that was salvaged from our old church, which burned in 2002. Once it is in place, it will surely be a blessing to all who see it. In addition, Joy Circle will once again supply many articles for the mission project, and may also be contributing to Heifer International, a project it has supported in the past.

In 2016, the women of Mt. Horeb will continue to plan and work for the good of the church and our community. We will be sharing our progress with you throughout the year. May God's blessings be with all of us now and in the months to come.

Johanna Bailey, Recording Secretary  
Mt. Horeb Coordinating Team

Piedmont Presbyterian Women just finished their largest event of the year. A "Lights of Love" and Christmas Concert are held each year on the first Sunday of Advent. The Lights of Love reaches out to anyone in the community or people who have moved from the community to light a Christmas tree in the front yard. A light cost \$5 and is lit in honor or memory of a loved one of those donating. At the beginning of the Christmas Concert the "lights" are symbolically lit in our sanctuary. The concert offers a wide talented group from all around the area who lend their time and talent to this event. A free will offering is taken. Refreshments are served after the concert (more like a lunch with lots of desserts). Everyone seems to enjoy it and this year we donated \$945 to our local Toys for Joy, and \$945 to our local Warm the Children. The PW sponsor this event, but could not do it without the help of others in the congregation and the talented people who volunteer to perform.

Shared by Cindy Scheermesser

### Dear PW family,

Your presence in my life means more to me than words can ever express. My son, Douglas Alan, was baptized in this church, and you were his church family. It is appropriate that on this church hill he should rest with a beautiful memorial service.



Thanks to all of you for your many acts of kindness. I appreciate your time and sacrifice to attend the service and prepare food. The meal after the service was delicious and everyone who attended felt welcome. Thanks for all the left overs for my family who were in town!! I read every card you sent and now I continue to

get comfort from your hugs and words of comfort and your many acts of kindness.

*Psalms 57:1-2 - Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. I cry out to God most High, to God, who vindicates me.*

Submitted by Carola Stephens

## **News from Olivet Presbyterian Church Staunton, VA**

Happy Winter Greetings from Olivet! Our little church with the big heart has been quite busy over the past couple months with preparing for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, welcoming new members, several baptisms and electing a new panel of Elders for 2017. A group of our youth and adults went caroling just prior to Christmas and visited with our shut-ins and members in nursing homes. Our circles collected items and money and distributed to needy families in the area, and gave to the Salvation Army, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, and Western State hospital patients. We worked on Baby Kits as part of our international mission work. One of our church members, Rhonda Richie, made her semi-annual trip to Guatemala back in December to help with the Living Waters project. And plans are underway for another group of our members to head to Baja, Mexico in the summer for our annual mission work in that region.

Speaking of the Food Bank, each year the choirs of Olivet and the Staunton Church of the Brethren combine their practices for performances at each church prior to Christmas. An encore performance is held again in January as a benefit for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. This is always a blessing to experience the true meaning of the season in word and song. I'm happy to report that this year's benefit performance raised over \$6000.00, a record amount, for the Food Bank!! We are already looking forward to this October when practice will begin again!

Currently our circles are meeting each month and studying the Horizons lessons and other scripture based works. They are busy preparing for a couple of fundraisers, one being our annual Super Bowl Hoagie Sale and a basket fundraiser in the spring. Every Tuesdaynight, a Bible study is offered and is well attended church-wide. They are studying the book of Romans right now.

As we prepare for the snow and cold weather this time of year brings, how comforting to know the warmth and protection our Savior provides for us, no charge! Keep your hearts and minds open to the needs of others and watch over your neighbors. As always, make sure to give back to Him in word, deed, and much thanksgiving!

Blessings to all!  
Karen Stevens  
Moderator, Olivet Presbyterian Church

## **Meet MPC Member Dorothy Dobroth**

Dorothy was born on January 17, 1954 in Owensboro, Kentucky. She grew up with an older brother and sister in the same house outside of town all of her childhood. Dorothy helped her family in raising tobacco as they planted, cared for, cut, hung, stripped the leaves and took it to auction yearly. The family belonged to a Presbyterian church in town.

Dorothy graduated from Murray State University in Kentucky, with a major in home economics (which she says doesn't even exist anymore!). During that time she met the son of an Air Force officer from Illinois who was majoring in biology. The two eventually decided to engage in their own home economics venture of marriage in 1976. They moved to Richmond where Dorothy completed a dietetics internship at MCV. Later Dale got a job with an environmental consulting firm in Newport News and Dorothy became a dietitian at Riverside Hospital. They were relieved to have Dorothy's brother and sister-in-law nearby in Roanoke. Dale eventually accepted a job at Merck, and Dorothy with Western State,

which meant the couple became valley transplants in 1980. Dale and Dorothy began seeking a church home and explored both Presbyterian and Episcopalian (Dale's background) options. They happened upon Massanutten Presbyterian church and were greeted by neighbors John and Sally Brown. Dorothy was pregnant with their first son, Christopher in 1984, and as is the case with many young couples in that situation, they felt led to join the church and bring up baby in that friendly, comfortable, spiritual environment. Michael joined the family in 1986, followed by Rachel in 1989.

Again, as is customary in young families with children, the parents became involved in leadership within the children's church activities. "If you want your children to be a part of good things, you need to be willing to help," advises Dorothy. Thus Dorothy helped with Sunday school classes, youth groups, bell choirs, Bible School, nursery, youth education ministries, mission trips with youth to Baja, Mississippi, and local tornado stricken areas. She and Dale led a joint middle and senior high school youth group when Rachel was in middle school and John McDonald's focus was on involving youth in mission work. Dorothy became part of the original Shoshana circle which was started by Sherry Gordon and was primarily a large group of young mothers with children at home. She found it to be a monthly evening away from home with ladies of similar interests seeking fellowship and support. Recently Dorothy has been on the nominating committee for elders and also regularly helps with the food pantry at Massanutten.

Dorothy feels that Massanutten is a community of people who are always there for support. She is also grateful that the church has provided enriching activities for her children in music, mission work and healthy friendships. And her family has felt blessed to give back to the church. Dorothy's middle son Michael built the outdoor chapel on site as his Eagle Scout project. Dorothy says it has been rewarding to see church members utilize the chapel. Jessica Jones was married there; John Brown's Masonic ceremony was held there at his death; and youth have held church lock-in worship services in the chapel environs. So from new life to death and everything in-between, the

chapel has become a lasting legacy for the Do-broth's thirty plus year connection to Massanutten Presbyterian Church.

Submitted by Marta Armstrong

## Cooks Creek Presbyterian Women

Cooks Creek Presbyterian Women are currently busy with the Church World Service Blanket Drive, and during February, we will begin our emphasis on Sunnyside Links of Love. Also during the next two winter months, we will be making and filling tote bags for school kits for Church World Service.

On February 8, we will prepare and serve dinner to the West Rockingham Ruritan Club, and the proceeds that we receive from this meal will be used for our Church kitchen needs or other important designated projects.

A special event that our PW will be sponsoring is a soup and sandwich dinner prior to our Church observing World Day of Prayer on March 4. We are very happy about this new project and look forward to our members and guests joining us that evening for food, fellowship, and prayer.

Our women are still enjoying this year's Bible study, *Come to the Waters*, very much, and we invite all of our members to join us as we look at this very pleasant study.

As with most Presbyterian Women's groups, Cooks Creek PW continue to compete with family commitments, sports, and other member responsibilities in our quest for PW leadership and participation.

SHARED BY EVELYN TRAVIS, MODERATOR



## **STAMPS FOR MISSIONS ENDING FEB. 1, 2016**

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS The Stamps for Missions Project is ending on February 1, 2016. The project was started in the mid-1980s by Rev. and Mrs. Robert W. Reinhold, retired Presbyterian Missionaries to the Congo. Donations of cancelled stamps raised over \$1500 in the first half of 2015 for Christian Education in the Congo.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AT IVANHOE PRESBYTERIAN**

I am very proud of our Sunday School at Ivanhoe Presbyterian Church at Lost City, West Virginia. Although we have not had younger children for several years, our adults enjoy an interesting class every Sunday morning. We have 4 members who share the responsibility of teaching the lesson each week. They are: Blanche Sager, Woodrow Webster, Anne Webster, and Connie Wood. Joyce Strawderman sometimes fills in for any teacher who is absent. We usually have at least 7 participants but sometimes have 12. We have recently studied some interesting stories from the Old Testament which have included the theme of weddings, brides, and love. I only wish that more of our congregation came to Sunday School, where the real learning of the Bible takes place. No matter how eloquent and well-learned our ministers are when giving the sermons and leading the Worship Service, the true foundation of learning is done in Sunday School Class. The groups who attend Sunday School often have a closer bond with one another since they meet every week, rather than a hit and miss attendance in Worship. Though we usually think of Sunday School being more for the younger children of our churches, grown-ups can benefit as well from hearing and re-hearing the stories and scriptures of the Bible that are taught each week.

Submitted by Connie Wood