



SUNRISE

Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Woman Shenandoah
Elaine Quick, Moderator

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

July 2017
Pat Armstrong, Editor

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

One cool morning last week my husband was working in the garden. Unexpectedly I suddenly heard him calling from the basement. I hurried to see what had happened. (He walks like grandpa McCoy from the Walton's and his balance is a little off.) Excited, he instructed me to bring my camera right away. As our garden sits down the hill I knew it took him some effort to come and fetch me. The result is printed here. Rejoice, God has made my and your day!

Over the years I have taken many photos of fawns that are up and about. This one is just a couple of days old and did not move even an eyelash while we observed him. We love to watch the deer, almost daily. We also hunt and eat venison. It is a balance of life. One I believe God intended when He provided food for humans. I know some disagree. Prefer barbecue chicken? Or hamburgers?

When we moved to *the Valley* in 1993, we chose to live close to nature. Seeing how little forest land was available for wildlife outside the national forests, we chose to keep most of our lot in woods. Sometimes I think it should really be called a jungle with all of the vines. The reward is seeing deer, turkey, squirrels, fox, many birds, etc., regularly.

The pollen from trees covered our porch this Spring. This was a nuisance, but allowed the bear and a raccoon to leave their footprints. Yikes! On the porch. We saw the bear at 4:30 am.

We have moved from Spring to Summer. The porch is washed. The bear has found other interest – we think. Now we enjoy early morning coffee in our rockers on the same porch. We look at Elliott's knob and remember the day on our honeymoon when we hiked to the top many years ago. Life moves forward and we move with it – remembering yesterdays and today's – all days the Lord made.

Shared by Mimi Moring



BIRTHDAY EVENT CELEBRATION AT MASSANUTTEN PW

Massanutten Presbyterian Women met on Sunday evening, May 21st, for the annual PW Birthday Celebration. The event was held in Meredith Chapel at Sunnyside, and the 2017 Birthday offering recipients were presented, and the offering was received. Clayton Rascoe, Executive Director of Massanetta Springs Conference Center, was guest speaker for the evening. He presented

PW SYNOD SUMMER GATHERING JUNE 15-18, 2017 MASSANETTA SPRINGS

an informative talk about the current programs and happenings at Massanetta, including a new conference beginning this summer for clergy couples who are both in professional ministry. Exciting things are happening, and he expressed deep appreciation for churches who support the ministry there.

Shared By Carol Lown Secretary Massanutten Presby Church PWCT

2ND PRESBYTERIAN IN STAUNTON SHARES

On the way home from the Presbytery Meeting on the 9th of May I was driving on Rt. 11 (Motor Mile) in Harrisonburg when a duck and her babies were trying to cross the road. I had to stop and Pastor Karen Alamon from 1st Pres. in Staunton who was with me, got out of the car and held up her hand and stopped all traffic in both directions. She tried to Shoo the bunch across the road to the other side but the mother had a injured leg and kept fluttering causing the babies to wonder. Another motorist got out of his car and helped get the bunch across. All ended safely on the side of the road. Darlene Mason

On May11, 2nd Pres hosted the PDA Training for churches led by Pam Snyder. Some of our Ethiopia Partners were in attendance. A light dinner was served.

Shared by Darlene Mason



**Shenandoah
Presbytery
Banner**

Some of the
Shenandoah
Presbytery
Attendees

What a delightful time we had at Gathering 2017-time to worship, learn about the new Horizon's Bible Study, pray, and enjoy time with new and old friends. Many comments were expressed about this being one of the best gatherings ever. Thanks to all the planning team which was headed up by Darlene Mason, Pam Synder, Mary Lou Cox (serving as Moderators) with Vickana Norton heading up Communications (all of these ladies from Shenandoah Presbytery).

Rev. Lynn Miller served as Bible Study and Worship Leader Lynn has authored previous Horizons Bible Studies and is currently working on the Study on Lament for 2020. She also designed the PW Life Membership pin. Lynn presented the Study on Hebrews in a most interesting and exciting way.

We were honored to have the Rev. Denise Anderson, Co-Moderator of General Assembly, as our Keynote Speaker. Denise presented such an informative and interesting message full of humor too. We had a bag piper (son-in-law of Mary Lou Cox) and Lindsay Sensabaugh working closely with Rich Armstrong (sound technician) did an outstanding job as music director. There was lots of discussion related to variety of great workshops. As always, Massanetta food was delicious and fellowship was a true blessings.

So much more enriched our Gathering. Worship on Sunday was a blessing and joy.

Great Memories and blessings will be part of our lives from our time at PW Synod Summer Gathering of 2017.



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Submitted by Pat Armstrong

SPRING CLEANING

When it came time for the Clean-Up Buckets in May, the PW of New Providence Presbyterian Church needed to come up with a creative idea to get everyone involved. And that is precisely what happened!

Debbie Mynes (Chair of Creative Ministry), cut small bucket shapes out of craft foam of all colors. On each bucket was attached a white slip of paper with three to four items for the Clean-Up Buckets. For several Sundays, the congregation picked the "little" buckets from a basket and purchased the items needed for this very worthy mission. All items were brought back to church so that the large Clean-Up Buckets could be filled. (As you know, each bucket requires many different items.)

You can imagine our great joy and surprise when



our very small congregation filled 11 CLEAN-UP BUCKETS. Praise the Lord!

Shared by Betsy Reid

NEWS FROM MOSSY CREEK PRESBYTERIAN

Mossy Creek Church is again sponsoring a Story Club. This summer 52 students from the community enrolled. The program runs for five weeks. Three groups of Students ranging in age from 2 to 10 rotate between reading, worship, art, music, recreation and snacks. The children have a good time and improve their reading skills while having fun. Our women who are experienced teachers work with the students in the different areas of study.

The Community Bible School program this summer was held at the Sangersville Church of the Brethren. Fourteen churches work together to sponsor the program. This year there was an average of 97 children participating with 62 volunteers helping. Supper was served each evening to about 150 persons. This summer the mission project was the Local Rescue Squad. Women from Mossy Creek were again among the helpers each summer.

Shared by Ruth Williams

NEWS FROM MOUNT OLIVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hello from Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church:

May 2 Served Rockingham Male Chorus

May 9 Hosted Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting--very good turnout

May 12 Had a tenderloin dinner--last one until Fall

May 12-15 Worked hot dog stand

May 23 Had senior get together

June 11 Fun day for youth--good turnout. Food was good including homemade ice cream. All kinds of water games and enjoyed by all

July 10-15 Summer Bible School

Submitted by Sarah Lange Moderator for PW

OLIVET PW HAS BEEN BUSY

Olivet Presbyterian started the month on a sad note by saying goodbye to a dear church member and friend. Marjorie Balsley, longtime member, past Sunday School teacher, choir member, and all around Mom to many, passed away in early May. The Women of Olivet provided a lunch for the family following the service. Marjorie will be greatly missed by all of us here at Olivet. Also, long time member Bobby Bradley passed away this month. He had served on Session for many years and will leave many friends.

We had occasions to celebrate as well. The Women of Olivet bestowed this year's Honorary Lifetime Membership in Presbyterian Women to Pat Balsley. Pat has served as Secretary and Clerk of the Session for over 20 years at Olivet. She records the minutes for Session meetings, types up the bulletin each week, fields announcements, notifies those who are on the Prayer Chain, and works in tandem with the Pastor to make sure all is good and well with the workings of the church. She can also be seen on occasion helping her husband, David, mow the grass at church. Pat is certainly deserving of this award and we congratulate her on the Lifetime Membership honor.

Olivet also celebrated our annual Birthday Objective with a tasty luncheon in honor of our graduates. Sara Sabo graduated from R. E. Lee High School and will be attending Hampton University in the Fall. She will be a member of the Women's Soccer Team and majoring in Nursing. Martha Wells graduated from R. E. Lee High with an advanced diploma, an advanced mathematics and technology seal, as well as a civic seal. She will be leaving on July 18, 2017 for Lakeland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX where she will start her life in the Air Force. She will eventually be working for the Aerospace Medical Service with plans to become a surgeon.

Pastor Lee and his wife Amy will be co-directing an inter-generational Bible School each evening from Monday, June 19, 2017 through Friday, June 23, 2017 from 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. A light

supper will begin at 5:30 p.m. There will be classes for all ages. The closing program and picnic will be held during the morning worship service on Sunday, June 25, 2017.

Olivet Women are sponsoring a church-wide yard sale on Saturday, August 12, 2017 from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. All spaces are \$10.00 each and we will set up in front of the church. No charge for tables, however, each participant will be in charge of their own setup of tables and breakdown. Olivet Women will once again take donations for their space with all proceeds going to their operating fund.

And finally Olivet Women will be publishing an Olivet Cookbook. Members are asked to submit ten recipes. They plan to look through previous Olivet cookbooks and add recipes from people who are no longer with us. The goal is 200-250 recipes. Hopefully the cookbooks will be available by Christmas.

Karen Stevens
Moderator, Olivet Presbyterian Church
Staunton, VA

iCare Needs Help

Ladies, a number of you have sponsored a child or contributed special offerings to the iCARE program through your circles, Sunday school classes, family groups, etc. The committee thanks you and wishes to share this update with you.

The Gore Home in Gore, Ethiopia has more children that need sponsors. The Home, which is located in Western Ethiopia, cares for orphaned children, providing them with a home, food, friendship, tutoring, Christian instruction, and a "family". The children attend the local public school, which is within walking distance.

The iCARE Program, part of the Ethiopian Partnership Committee, has been facilitating sponsorships since 1999. Currently, individuals and

churches sponsor 54 children there. The cost per child is \$925/year. Sponsorship by groups is encouraged.

Because we've been sponsoring for quite a number of years, we are now getting graduates for University and College. (If children in Ethiopia score well on a national test, the Ethiopian government pays for their education.) Below is a young man who just graduated from Jimma University.

If you are interested, please contact a member of the iCARE Committee.

Thank you! Lou Dolive

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I CARE NEWS

Dear Sponsors and Interested Parties,

This year the Gore Home in Ethiopia has had 3 graduates. Dinku Kenea and Bula Yadeta have graduated from Mettu Teachers College and Samuel Kasa has graduated (or shortly will graduate) from Jimma University. These young adults will graduate with degrees and will be readily employable, ready to start their adult lives. Rather than be a problem because their parents were not available, they have made the most of their time of study, and now are productive members of their society. Many thanks to those who sponsored them, making it possible for them to succeed!

This year Ethiopia had an inflation rate of 7%. This means the money we send to them buys 7% less than before – this often translates into fewer clothes, lower quality food, fewer tutoring sessions.

Also happening at the same time, a quarter of a million Sudanese refugees have sought asylum in Ethiopia. These folks are living near the Western border, not that far from Gore. The International Aid organizations that are helping with the refugees buy agricultural products to feed the refugees – as they should. There is an unintended consequence, however, that local Ethiopians have trouble buying food for themselves because the aid groups can afford to pay more money for food than the locals can.

Ethiopians do not like to be the bearers of bad news. Over the years we have learned that Ethiopians are reticent about telling you if there's a problem. The iCARE Committee has discussed this situation at length and we feel we should be pro-active. Therefore, we are raising the cost of sponsoring a child from \$850 to \$925 – which is a 7% increase. We feel that if we don't tackle this head-on, then next year and the year after that we will really be socked for a large increase. Our children at Gore are not responsible for national inflation rates and they will succeed so much better if they are not at the poverty line.

Sponsorships are due in July, so that we can get the Gore Home its money before the school year starts. (Their school year is roughly equivalent to ours.) Thank you so much for your support! It means so much to these children.

The Gore Home has more children to sponsor! If you know of someone who would like to sponsor, please tell them of your experience and send them to talk to a member of the iCARE Committee. With more children, the Home can make more use of the economies of scale.

Yours in Christ,

Lou Dolive

MINUTES FROM MAY 6 SPWCT MEETING

Shenandoah Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team Meeting - May 6, 2017

The Shenandoah Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team met at Sunnyside Retirement Community in Harrisonburg, VA on May 6, 2017 at 10AM with the following 13 members present: Elaine Quick, Gladys Wonderley, Connie Wood, Ruth Williams, Jane Karicofe, Mary Lou Cox, Vickana Norton, Mimi Moring, Punker Robertson, Betsy Reid, Dot Martin, Beverly Thompson and Joan Van Brunt. Those absent were: Mary Ann Brown, Sue Hotinger, Mary Campbell, Pat Armstrong, Paula Osborne, Donna Parker and Harriet Kopp.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM by Moderator, Elaine Quick as she lit the Christ candle. Mary Lou Cox, Worship and Resources, introduced guest, Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao, Shenandoah Presbytery's new Associate General Presbyter who led devotions. She talked about community, emphasizing the upcoming Horizons Bible study on Hebrews and mentioning the Book of Order definition of the congregation as "the fellowship of women, men, and children united in covenant relationship with one another and with God through Jesus Christ. The organization rests on the fellowship and is not designed to work without trust and love." (G-1.010 - G-1.0102) She then led in prayer.

Everyone recited the PW Pledge. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as distributed. Treasurer, Gladys Wonderley, presented her report with a balance of \$12,438.50 as of May 1, 2017.

Reports

Vice Moderator Connie Wood, explained that she is beginning to understand the scope of her newly elected position. She will be working on the Big Event along with Punker Robertson, member of the Presbytery's Committee on Educational Resources, Hank Hogmire (Mission Fair) and Mary Lou Cox, former Vice Moderator (in the interest of continuity).

Historian Vickana Norton, reported that her annual report to Synod was available at the Spring Gathering registration table. She received less reports from local moderators this year than last. One statistic noted by our Synod is that there have been 600 women who have died this past year and will be remembered in the memorial service at the Summer Gathering in June.

Justice and Peace is still an unfilled office formerly filled by Beverly Thompson who urged everyone to stay involved in issues.

Punker Robertson, Together in Service, will be setting up a booth at the Big Event in September. In response to her asking for new mission ideas, two were suggested: Knitting 4 Peace and SOLE HOPE. Other ideas were: sponsoring a child's lunch, backpack food programs and book bags.

Pat Armstrong Sunrise Editor, unable to attend, sent a request and suggestions for more article submissions for the newsletter.

Mimi Moring, Search Committee Moderator, reported that the committee continues to work on filling the open positions.

Mary Campbell, Horizons and Celebration Giving Representative, having been very recently widowed and unable to attend, is working on the contacts. This update was given by Vickana Norton.

Ruth Williams, Leadership Coordinator Moderator, continues to send materials from Louisville with an emphasis on reading the Quarterly Newsletter. Most recently her communications to the Leadership Coordinators and also the whole of the CT emphasized reading to children.

Jane Karicofe, Highland/Augusta (E1) Co-Coordinator, expressed appreciation to Mimi for taking the primary role in the mission community in the past year and also to Beverly for agreeing to help this year. She reported that Zetta Chapel is struggling. In her own church (Union) she is seeking to combine the circles.

Betsy Reid and Dorothy Martin, Co-Coordinators, explained how they divide their contacts: Betsy keeps up by computer with 10 churches and Dot calls those who are not online. Betsy has called each church also. In their church they conducted a Bucket Brigade, filling 11 Church World Service bucket with designated cleaning supplies. (Bucket shaped item request notes were made available for each item which church members could pick then purchase and contribute.)

Elaine Quick, Moderator, reported on the March Synod Coordinating Team meeting. To provide more Synod funding there will be a silent auction at the Summer Gathering, each presbytery donating a basket of items. There also will be a live auction with each presbytery providing one or two items of value. The Justice, Peace and Mission Committee is proposing that each presbytery adopt a single teen mother to help reduce the barriers facing her - to empower and equip her and her family to live successfully and productively (*Helping One Woman Become Empowered*).

Business

In discussing the Synod's suggestion to adopt a teen mother it was agreed that more needed to be learned. Mary Lou and Punker will look into the possibilities and practicalities. Mary Lou and Vickana will collect gift basket items related to our presbytery for the silent auction. We are to contact them.

The PW Churchwide Gathering, August 2-5, 2018, will include a celebration of Presbyterian Women's 30th anniversary. Keep watching for the latest information. Nightly room rates at the Gait House will be \$149/room. Registration will be \$425/person.

A location is needed for the November CT meeting with local moderators. Mary Lou proposed McDowell but will confirm.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Mary Lou Cox. Many gathered at the Sunnyside dining room for lunch following.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Van Brunt, Secretary

WHAT PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE

Article on the next two pages was published in Presbyterian Today

The Rev. Dr. Charles Wiley III is associate director of Theology, Formation and Evangelism for the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

WHAT PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE

Is the prosperity gospel good theology?

By Charles Wiley | *Presbyterians Today*

LOUISVILLE – Presbyterians are generally allergic to the prosperity gospel, the belief among many Christians that God blesses those who bless God. Prosperity gospel is a good idea, but it begins to get tricky when we believe that those who are faithful to God will always be blessed by financial wealth and good health.

Where would someone get such an idea? Look at Deuteronomy 28 — Moses addresses the people of Israel in a covenant-making rite. Moses says:

If you will only obey the Lord your God, by diligently observing all his commandments that I am commanding you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth; ² all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the Lord your God:

³ *Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.*

⁴ *Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your ground, and the fruit of your livestock, both the increase of your cattle and the issue of your flock.*

⁵ *Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.*

⁶ *Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.*

A key verse comes a bit later in verse 11a: “The Lord will make good things abound for you” (Common English Bible) or “And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods” (King James Version). There is a clear thread in Deuteronomy that material blessings are a sign of God’s blessing on the people of God.

The prosperity gospel is usually marked by charismatic ministers who do seem to prosper in all outward ways due to the generosity of members who seek prosperity through generous giving. Prosperity can be attained by any believer given that they exercise sufficient faith, speak prosperity into reality and give to churches (and ministries) to ensure this prosperity.

Is it heresy?

The prosperity gospel is a dangerous heresy because it is so close to the truth. The promises of Deuteronomy 28 need to be put alongside the stories of the prophets, the righteous remnant, the crucifixion of Jesus and the stories of other people of faith who do not prosper materially as a result of their fidelity to God. This is the profound point of Hebrews 11.

In this narrative of great people of faith, the triumphs of Abraham, Sarah, and Moses are recounted. But then the author qualifies the notion of the saints of the faith: “What more can I say? I would run out of time if I told you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets. Through faith, they conquered kingdoms, brought about justice, realized promises, shut the mouths of lions” (vv. 32–33)



Not all triumph in this outward manner: “But others experienced public shame by being taunted and whipped; they were even put in chains and in prison. They were stoned to death, they were cut in two, and they died by being murdered with swords. . . . All these people didn’t receive what was promised, though they were given approval for their faith.” (vv. 36-39)

There is a tension in Scripture. Those who are faithful will often be blessed, often in outward ways. And those who are faithful will suffer, sometimes in outward ways.

But there is also another Biblical thread that needs to be woven into our tapestry of understanding. The prophets are clear: often those who are hungry, those who suffer economic deprivation, often are in this state because they are oppressed by those who might see their outward material prosperity as a sign of God’s blessing. Proverbs 30:14 speaks of those who “devour the needy from the earth, and the poor from humanity.” Material wealth and material poverty are often a product of an unjust economy.

Further, the idea that prosperity can be spoken into reality by the believer misunderstands the relationship between the human creature and God. God is not obligated, is not forced, to give us material blessing simply because we say it out loud. How else can we make sense of Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemane where Jesus asks that the cup of suffering be taken from him? It is not.

Presbyterians need to be careful

So, there is good reason to be theologically suspicious of the prosperity gospel; however, there is good reason for Presbyterians to tread lightly when criticizing the prosperity gospel.

One of the deep ironies of Presbyterian aversion to the prosperity gospel is that we have our own version of it. Reformed Christians were at the forefront of the modern capitalist economy. We Reformed people took up the practice of lending money at interest with vigor and theological justification in the emerging middle class in 16th century Europe. What are the birthplaces of the Reformed movement? Zurich and Geneva. What are Zurich and Geneva known for? Swiss banks.

Furthermore, for centuries we Presbyterians have, more often than not, considered material blessings signs of God’s favor on us. And we, at least in Europe and North America, have, more than any other stream of Christianity, enjoyed the fruits of material wealth that have come as capitalism has grown.

Max Weber, the influential German sociologist and economist, argued for this positive relationship between Calvinism and western capitalism in his monumental book, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. We Reformed people are not just subject to a modern, capitalist economy. We helped create it. This economy brought forth wealth because it often rewarded those who worked hard (the work ethic), but also because it built wealth on the backs of others. The wealth of the United States grew, in great part, because of the cheap labor supply provided by African slaves.

Where do we end up?

Not all Presbyterians are wealthy. Not all enjoy the fruits of our capitalistic system. But we know that, as a group, Presbyterians are often near the top of the economic ladder in their communities. We have good theological reasons to object to the prosperity gospel. And we have good biblical backing for criticizing health and wealth preachers for fleecing their flocks for their own gain.

However, we must also be modest in our criticism of those who may not have benefited as much by our economic system who believe, for some good reasons, that God wants good things for them. Perhaps our concern over how others understand blessing should turn back on us and how we understand God’s blessings in our life.