

# **SUNRISE MAY 2018**

**Moderator: Darlene Mason**

**Editor: Pat Armstrong**

## **Greetings from Darlene Mason**

I want to thank everyone for allowing me to be your moderator for the next two years. I will need your help and prayers.

The Spring Gathering was very well attended. The vendors being in the same room made a cozy setting and I think more traffic to each display.

I especially enjoyed the message from the Rev. Rose Wayland. On the ride to the Gathering I was talking to Pam concerning something I was having a hard time letting go and that was her message. Letting Go.

Make your plan for the Summer Gathering the 8<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup> of June. And also The Churchwide Gathering of PW August 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup>. Remember there is A 300.00 scholarship for first time attendees.

Blessings to all  
Darlene Mason

## **Great Spring Gathering**

### **It was a great gathering!**

A few of the highlights:

Theme of "Create in Me a Clean Heart" was carried through from decor to sermon.

Rose Wayland, our speaker, was wonderful.

The exhibitors were a huge addition.

Attendance was 50.

Offering for New Creations, which works against sex trafficking, was \$400.85.

Honorary Life Membership was awarded to Beverly Thompson! Her daughter, granddaughters, great-granddaughter, and cousins were there to celebrate with her. She received her honor while at UVA Hospital, April 5, but it only added to the celebration at the gathering.

Connie Wood's sister and daughter provided special music.

Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate General Presbyter, installed the new officers.

Bronwen Boswell, Shenandoah's General Presbyter, was with us and gave the benediction and blessing.

We honored Gladys Wonderley and Elaine Quick, whom we will miss on the CT, but installed Karen Stevens as treasurer and Darlene Mason, moderator, both of whom are very qualified.

**There was a wonderful Spirit among all!**

**Shared by Mary Lou Cox**

## **Bee Colonies for Heifer International**

Massanutten's Presbyterian Women invite you to make a gift toward a goal of purchasing 50 colonies of bees through Heifer International. This year's BEE focus also helps support the bee population around the world.

**Please make your gift by Sunday, April 22nd.**

Pick-up an envelope from the display in the Narthex  
or add your gift to your regular offering.

**1 Share of a Colony = \$10, 1 Colony of Bees = \$30, 50 Colonies = \$1500**

## **Second Church Staunton shares**

Second Church Staunton Saw the baptism of Pastor Evan Smith and wife Maria's third child Asher. A beautiful service and another child of God.

PW of the Shenandoah saw two members of 2nd Church installed on the CT Pam Snyder, Justice and Peace and Darlene Mason, Moderator.

We are currently collecting articles of need for the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, of which Pam Snyder is on the board.

The Friendship Circle took Easter baskets to our shut-in. and had lunch with them.

Shared by: Darlene Mason

## **BEVERLY THOMPSON SHARED BY HER PASTOR, GWEN CARR**

Attached are the pictures of Beverly receiving the Lifetime Membership in the hospital These are the pictures we had on the screen at the Spring Gathering. Below is the prayer that Mary Lou Cox prayed for Beverly in the hospital and that she prayed again at the meeting.

*We are so thankful for Beverly; for the way you have shown your grace through her all these years; for letting us be her friends and know her through Presbyterian Women before that Women of the Church and before that whatever it was then. We are grateful. We pray that you will wrap her in your love. Give her your comfort. We thank you for pain free days and we thank you for each day. Use each of us to share your love. Through Christ our Lord Amen.*

Gwen Carr                      540.470.0439  
Pastor Craigsville Presbyterian Church  
Craigsville VA and  
Buffalo Gap Presbyterian Church  
Swoope, VA



***As regards work: find a balance between work that touches your soul and work the world needs.***

Source: anonymous

Blessings,  
Mimi Moring

### **OUR Hearts**

In March, OUR Hearts (the Craigsville Presbyterian Church mission opportunity partnering with other congregations and organizations) opened its doors to the first visiting group. The group came from Tinkling Spring with 9 middle school students led by Harriet Thomson and Roy Groah. The weekend started on Friday evening with introductions and tour. I hear that there was hide and seek and a movie with popcorn after I left. Harriet also used the time during the weekend for the youth to

engage in the Appreciative Inquiry process that the congregation is using to prepare for a new pastor. After sharing a bit about our history, I encouraged the youth to let the weekend help them imagine/dream of ways that God could be calling them and using them in their community.

On Saturday morning they shared breakfast together before heading out to work in the Craigsville Area Food Pantry. They bagged dog and cat food, put eggs in cartons and sorted a carton of cans and boxed food that was so big the middlers needed to climb inside of it to get the food products out. Lunch of chili and sandwiches provided a nice break in the middle of the day before finishing up our morning work to "shop", box and deliver three of the shut in boxes in the community.

Since our showers are not ready, the group made their way to the Craigsville Fire Department for showers before heading to Loch Willow to share a delicious covered dish meal, worship and communion with their congregation. This was a spirit filled evening and it was especially fun when we worked in groups to act out a Bible story for the others. We learned blessings in Hebrew and prayed them together when we received the bread and cup. As we parted ways for the evening I encouraged the youth to think about all the times that they had heard about or experienced Christians working in partnership that day. I challenged them to consider and begin to pray about the ways other Christians could join with them to make God's call (that they imagined the night before) become a reality. After a good night's sleep we gathered for worship with the Craigsville Presbyterian Church congregation. Each of the youth participated in leading worship - several offered our scripture reading through readers theater, they led the call to worship, prelude, Lord's prayer, benediction, the offering, and participated in our act of confession. One of my congregants came to me and said, "When the young man began to play the prelude, I nearly cried. It's been so long since we've had young people in the church." I can tell you that they led worship beautifully!!! It was fun to fill in the little gaps between them and then step back and follow along under their very capable leadership. I am quite sure that the word proclaimed was important but the worship service that morning was healing and brought hope in so many ways for a group of mature worshipers who had poured their energy, prayers and hearts into getting ready for this young group.

My favorite part was when I asked for what the congregation would like to pray for during our joys and concerns time of worship. Harriet had encouraged the congregation by sharing that what the young people had witnessed and experienced and learned from them was perseverance. The members of the congregation offered prayers of thanksgiving for leadership, the congregation's willingness to embrace God's call, the help of the young people with jobs that would have taken Justine many more hours to do on her own, thankfulness for the encouragement we have received from so many others - presbytery, other congregations, etc. And prayers were offered up for Tinkling Spring as they embark on electing their PNC, for its work and for the future they are looking

forward to as well. It was a beautiful prayer time filled with praise for God's goodness in all of our lives.

Our histories and our lives are now woven together within God's amazing story of the Church. It was sad to see them drive off but our hearts were filled with glory to God for God's goodness and grace. We will continue to pray for these young people as they grow in their faith and answer God's call in their lives. This was an amazing weekend and the group was absolutely the very best group ever for our first visit.

Thank you for all of your prayers and support as we begin this new chapter in the life of our church and in service to God. May all that we do bring God glory!  
Blessings, Gwen

Since this original report to the Committee on Church Redevelopment, OUR Hearts has been blessed to have a group visit us in April through Massanutten Cares. The group arrived and after introductions they moved toward the sanctuary in a brief tour and to hear a little bit about the story of our congregation and what led to this new chapter in our faith life. Then they went to work for a day of painting in our largest room that will be used by visiting groups. In addition, a couple of the team members went to do some yard work for a 96 year old member of our community whose son is battling cancer and can no longer help her. It was a delight to spend time with Mrs. Lasher and hear her story as we gathered sticks and worked around the yard.

It was also a delight for the entire group to fellowship around the lunch table as we shared a meal provided by Justine Tilghman, a member of the congregation. Outreach. Understanding. Rejoicing. were all part of the day and Craigsville Presbyterian Church members have hearts filled with gratitude for the gifts of Massanutten Presbyterian members who came alongside of us in this journey! Thank you Massanutten Presbyterian!!!! For me, one of the God moments in the day was when someone looked up in our sanctuary and said "You have a heart in the window up there." Amazing!! I've looked at the decorative window high above the pulpit many times and yet never noticed the heart! God has been so good to us during this journey through the many folks who have encouraged and supported us! You can find out about our heart shaped potato at our website <http://www.craigsvillepres.org/o-u-r-hearts/why-potatoes/> and you'll know why finding a heart in our window was a special blessing!

We look forward to many more adventures to come!



THIRTIETH ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING  
Presbyterian Women of Shenandoah Presbytery  
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic

April 14, 2018

The Thirtieth Annual Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women of the Shenandoah Presbytery was held in Stewart Hall at Massanetta Springs on Saturday, April 14, 2018. The theme for this meeting was “A Spring Cleaning of the Heart and Soul” based on Psalm 51:10. Forty eight women representing the churches in the Shenandoah Presbytery Synod of the Mid-Atlantic attended. Registration, exhibits, and refreshments started at 8:30 AM. From 9:30 – 9:45AM a piano prelude of beautiful hymns was presented by Ruth Williams. Elaine Quick, Moderator, opened the meeting at 9:45 AM with a gracious welcome to everyone and a huge thanks to the Spring Gathering committee for a wonderful job putting this gathering together: Connie Wood, Mary Campbell, Karen Stevens, and Mary Lou Cox. Elaine gave us information concerning the 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, August 2-5, 2018 in Louisville, Kentucky. Mary Lou Cox and Darlene Mason are attending. There will be five \$300.00 scholarships for ladies who would like to attend for the first time. Elaine also invited Carolyn Thalman to inform us about Disaster Response and PDA. Disaster kits can be turned in at any of the Presbytery meetings.

Mary Lou Cox, Worship and Resources, lit the Christ Candle and gave an enlightening devotion from 2 Corinthians 4:7. “Cracked Pot” We recited the PW Pledge and Purpose together. Bill Vance, Director of Administration of Massanetta Springs, welcomed us and gave a brief update on the happenings at the Springs: electric door, new chairs, new programs coming up, and Massanetta Swing Fundraiser on April 18, 2018. Mission Statement: Renewal, Discovery, and Hospitality

Following the hymn, “Create in Me a Clean Heart”, accompanied by Ruth Williams on the piano, Connie Wood, Vice Moderator, thanked the planning committee for the work that they had done on the Spring Gathering: Connie Wood, Mary Campbell, Karen Stevens, and Mary Lou Cox. Connie also introduced the exhibitors, and they spoke briefly about their exhibits.

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Sunnyside Retirement Communities              | Lynda McMillen |
| LDA: Custom products tell your story          | Stan Farthing  |
| Green Humming Fair Trade (Clothing for Women) | Eleanor Held   |
| Ornaments for Orphans                         | Kathy Bush     |
| Fair Trade (Trades of Hope)                   | Shelley Mills  |
| Horizons & Celebration Giving                 | Mary           |

Campbell

iCare  
Moring

Mimi

New Creations  
Dorman-Andrew

Sabrina

Bread for the World

Louise Whipple

Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands

Zach Carter

Vickana Norton, Historian, presented our Honorary Life Membership to Beverly Thompson, Leadership Coordinator of Highland Augusta. Beverly has been a member of the Coordinating Team dedicating her time to working for Justice and Peace. She spent fourteen years of her life working on the Navaho Reservation. She is a member of Craigsville Presbyterian Church. Her family was present to support her in receiving this great honor.

Mimi Moring, Chairperson of the Search Committee, gave the following report:

Moderator: Darlene Mason

Secretary: Joan Van Brunt

Treasurer: Karen Stevens

Historian: Vickana Norton

Justice & Peace: Pam Snyder

Mission: Punker Robertson

Sunrise Editor: Pat Armstrong

Search Committee: Harriet Kopp

Chairperson of Leadership Coordinators: Ruth Williams

L.C. Potomac Highlands: Donna Parker

L.C. Central Valley: Mary Ann Brown

The report was accepted and the officers on the slate were elected. Officers were installed by Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate General Presbyter.

The offering (\$400.85) was received and dedicated to NEW CREATION. New Creation is a faith based non-profit, counteracting human trafficking through prevention education, awareness, and most importantly, the hope of Christ. Following the Doxology, the prayer of dedication was given by Gladys Wonderley.

The Roll Call of the Mission Communities was taken: Eastern Panhandle (2), Potomac Highlands (2), Mountain Valley (11), Central Valley (16), Highland Augusta (16), and Maury River (1). Gladys Wonderley, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$10,146.03 as of April 1, 2018.

Special Presentations were made to Gladys Wonderley and Elaine Quick for their many years of service to the Presbyterian Women of Shenandoah Presbytery. Gladys was the first woman to serve as an officer at Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church. Elaine has played the organ at that same church since 1972.

Special musical guests were Angela Tavares and Ramona Daugherty. They joined us all the way from Mathias, West Virginia to provide music that inspired and uplifted our souls. They were accompanied on the piano by Connie Wood. Connie is the sister and mother of these lovely ladies.

For the Scripture Reading, Rev. Rose Wayland, Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church, read Psalm 51 especially verse 10. We then sang "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" accompanied by Ruth Williams.

Rev. Wayland's message addressed "CLEANING": mid-week-a lick and a promise, weekly starting after school on Friday through Saturday, and semiannual-remove everything and clean, and put it back. This was her cleaning experience as a child. When we ask God in Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me," what sort of cleaning are we praying for? Let go of stuff (old sinful ways) and trust our Savior more. Find joy in the cleansing. Rev. Wayland then presided over the serving of Communion. After the hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling", the meeting was adjourned with a benediction and a meal blessing by Bronwen Boswell, Shenandoah's general presbyter and stated clerk. At 12:30, a wonderful meal was served in the dining room.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Reid (substituting for Joan Van Brunt, Secretary)