



SUNRISE



Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Woman Shenandoah

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

September 2023

Connie Wood & Karen Stevens, CO Moderators

Pat&Rich Armstrong, Editor

NEWS FROM IVANHOE PRESBYTERIAN

One of the highlights of Ivanhoe Presbyterian Church this summer was our VBS held at Lost River State Park. The theme was "God's Amazing Animals" and we put together a curriculum from some resource books we had on hand plus the Bible. The VBS Bible Lessons included: God Created Animals and cares for the animals He created, taken from Genesis 1:20-28; Ravens Feed Elijah from 1 Kings 17:1-7 where God took care of Elijah and He takes care of us; Jonah and the Great Fish (Whale) from Jonah 1:17 and 2:1-10, where Jonah prayed to God and God gave and still gives help in times of trouble; The Lost Sheep from Luke 15:1-7 where there was rejoicing for the finding of the lost sheep and God looks for us wherever we are; and Balaam and the Talking Donkey from Numbers 22: 21-35 where we see that God uses anyone-even a talking donkey. Such a miracle!

It was a time of learning and fun from crafts; games; prayer time; singing; a healthy lunch, and swimming in the park pool. The leaders also had a wonderful time of fellowship and being in God's Great Outdoors. God and His Son Jesus Christ were glorified as His favorite people (children) spent the week with Him.

SHARED BY CONNIE WOOD

NEWS FROM THIRD PRESBYTERIAN, STAUNTON

IN CONJUNCTION WITH AUGUSTA HEALTH, WE FILLED 30 GALLON SIZE PLASTIC BAGS WITH CARE ITEMS FOR PEOPLE THAT ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS. 15 FOR

MEN AND 15 FOR WOMEN. THIS WILL BE AN ONGOING MISSION.

THIRD IS AGAIN PARTNERING WITH FIRST BAPTIST OF STAUNTON IN THE SACKS OF LOVE MINISTRY. WE FILL 100 SACKS WITH 2 BREAKFASTS, 2 LUNCHES AND 2 SNACKS FOR CHILDREN WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM TO TAKE HOME FOR THE WEEKEND.

THE CHURCH PICNIC WAS HELD ON AUGUST 26TH WITH OVER 50 ADULTS AND CHILDREN ATTENDING. GAMES, BINGO, MUSIC AND TONS OF FOOD. A WONDERFUL TIME OF FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL.

IN CHRIST'S SERVICE
DARLENE MASON

NEWS FROM MASSANUTTEN PRESBYTERIAN

Massanutten Presbyterian Women will begin the year with a potluck supper on August 28. Pastor Keith Phillips will introduce the study book. Circles will begin in September.

COLLIERSTOWN SCHOOL BAGS READY FOR STUDENTS!

The Collierstown Presbyterian Women concluded their annual "School Bag Campaign" on Sunday, August 20. Each year the PW works with Church World Service to fill and deliver canvas tote bags with seven basic school supplies needed by students in the United States and around the world. The PW set as its 2023 goal to make 200 school bags, an increase of 23

bags over the 177 bags prepared in the 2022 campaign. The church family was invited on July 23 to take canvas tote bags and fill them with the required school supplies or to make a financial contribution that could be used to purchase supplies for the bags or to pay for the shipping and handling costs incurred in sending them to students around the world. On August 27 a record breaking TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY school bags had been returned to the church sanctuary filling the first pew and the floor surrounding the organ. Special thanks to PW member Louise Tardy for making the sturdy and attractive canvas totes that were filled for the students that will receive these special gifts. (Louise has made over 5000 totes that have been used in the CWS school bag campaigns.) A team of PW members checked each bag's contents and packaged them for their journey to Church World Service who will handle their delivery to needy students. Each bag was sent on its way with a prayer that the student who receives it will come to know Jesus.

children playing could be heard as summer at CPC ended.



Ready For Lunch



School Bags

On Sunday, August 27 the Church family gathered on the church lawn for its annual outdoor worship service and church picnic. This year the congregation decided to return to the church grounds for the event rather than go to nearby Lake Robertson as has been done for several years. It proved to be a wonderful day with the children of the church enjoying the new play structure beside the church building as the adults enjoyed watching them. Games, fellowship under the trees, and the squeals and laughter of



Good Food!



Fellowship



Girl Talk



Martha & Deborah at Playground



Playground fun

The two Presbyterian Women Circles will begin the 2023-24 Bible study year this month. Both will meet in person at the church. The Night Circle will be involved in a study entitled "Christian Virtues" by Cindy Bunch, a senior editor for InterVarsity Press. One of the fruits of knowing God is that he grows us into people of virtue. This year's study begins with the inner virtues of faith, hope, and love and then moves to wisdom, justice, courage, moderation, integrity, and perseverance. The focus will be on what each of these virtues are and how they impact the Christian Walk.

The C & F Circle will be using the PW Horizons study entitled "Sacred Encounters; The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke -Acts" written by Reverend Dr. Olive Mahabir, a Presbyterian pastor. The study invites members to consider Jesus, "the good shepherd" who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people.

The Night Circle holds its monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month with members gathering at 6:30 p.m. for a light supper followed by the Bible study at 7:00 p.m. The Night Circle will air its monthly Bible study on Facebook Live from the church's Facebook page. The C & F Circle gathers at 1:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday for the Bible Study followed by a hospitality time. This year's C & F study will begin on Tuesday, September 19.

Plans for the Collierstown Annual Church Dinner continue to move forward. This year's event will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023, with meals being served continuously from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The day's menu will feature country ham, fried oysters, and turkey with all the trimmings. An array of home cooked vegetables will be offered that include sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, and greens beans along with hot turkey gravy, coleslaw, applesauce, pickles, homemade bread, and beverages. The finishing touch for this dining experience is the offering of an assortment of homemade cakes for dessert. The same meals will be available as take out dinners for those that cannot come to the church to dine. A team of people will be assembling and packaging meals for pick up. Take out dinners can be

ordered by calling the church's phone number (540-463-5918) and meals can be picked up beginning at 11:30 a.m.

As a part of the day, patrons will want to visit the Bazaar that will have items for sale like home-made baked goods (breads, rolls, pies, cakes, cookies), jars of fresh soups, handcrafted items (wood work, knitted and crocheted goods, Holiday decorations), jewelrygarden produce, and apple butter.

The Annual Church Dinner is sponsored by the Presbyterian Women but is a total church effort with CPC men, women, youth, and children working together. Proceeds from the dinner are used to fund mission projects locally and abroad. Proceeds from the day are used to fund PW mission projects locally and abroad. As the air becomes crisp and leaves start to change colors, we are thankful for the sustaining hand of God on our church family. We are entering our third year without a minister and yet we have experienced a growth in membership, had nine babies and toddlers baptized, and seven of their parents become church members. We have been blessed by the growth in our women's Bible studies with approximately twenty-eight women participating, a vibrant Children's Church program is in place, and Adult Sunday School has returned after Covid. We ask for your prayers as we continue to follow the Holy Spirit's leading. We believe God created us to live in community – with Him and with others.

Submitted by: Debbie McCormick,
PW Communications Coordinator



Leadership Coordinator

August 2023

The role of the “Leadership Coordinator” is to stay connected with the Mission Community Coordinators and help strengthen the PW leaders’ network within Shenandoah Presbytery. The role of “Mission Community Coordinators” is to serve as the link between Presbyterian Women in the congregations and the PW Coordinating Team. The following information is available for the Mission Community Coordinators, other members of the Presbytery Coordinating Team, and PW in the congregations of Shenandoah Presbytery. Our goal is to keep all Presbyterian Women connected.

Presbytery sponsored Horizons Bible Study: The 2023-2024 PW Horizon’s Bible Study is Sacred Encounters, The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts by Olive Mahabir. An overview of the Bible Study, with suggestions for leaders, will be held by zoom on Tuesday, August 29, at 7 pm, and is led by Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao. ALL are welcome. For more information, please contact Nancy at assocgp@shenpres.org

Newsletter: PW congregational leaders are encouraged to share what they have been doing. The easiest way to share is to submit information for our Presbytery Sunrise newsletter. We also want to ensure that all congregations in your Mission Community are receiving the newsletter.

Shenandoah Presbytery’s Big Event: Our Presbyterys Big Event this year will be on Saturday, September 9th, 2023 at Massanetta Springs Conference Center. The conference theme is Faithful Decisions in Difficult Times; as we consider the ways Christians are called to join Gods work amidst 21st Century challenges. You may register at www.shenpres.org.

Churchwide PW Gathering: August 8-11, 2024 in St. Louis! Start planning to attend now. Our theme is Do Everything In Love, inspired by 1 Cor. 16:13-14. I am chairing the Program Work Group and we have a diverse selection of workshops and speakers lined up for you. Registration materials will be available in early 2024.

New PW Essentials available online! PW Essentials: A Guide for PW Groups is a fresh and new PW manual. It provides a framework to help answer the question, “How do you PW?” PW Essentials encourages faithful flexibility with leader support for mission (PW Purpose), structure of PW, relationships, giving, mission, and more. This can be found on the PW website and at <https://bit.ly/3Luf3A4>. I encourage all PW leaders to download this now for use in our church and Presbytery PW groups.

Continue to pray for Presbyterian Women in our congregations, Presbytery, Synod and nationally as we help meet the many needs in our communities and around the world! PW Newsbytes: Don’t forget this valuable resource! This resource is available to all PW. Formerly called the PW Quarterly Mailing, it contains “news you can use” from PW Church-wide. Share this resource with your congregation PW leaders! PW Newsbytes is available digitally at Presbyterianwomen.org
* * * *

I’m available to assist anyone who is interested in looking for new and creative ways to participate in the current Bible Study or to effectively serve in community and fellowship as PW. There are many unique ways to continue to do the work of Presbyterian Women in spite of the size of your group or congregation!

Note that my email address is pamsnyder1063@gmail.com and my phone number is 540-480-3029.

Blessings and peace to all,
Pam Snyder, Leadership Coordinator

Have a safe and happy Labor Day Weekend!

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING

April 15, 2023

The Thirty-Third Annual Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women of the Shenandoah Presbytery was held in the Welford Room at Massanetta Springs on Saturday, April 25, 2023. The theme for this Gathering was "Clothe Yourself with a Holy Way of Life", based on Colossians 3:12. Thirty-Four women representing the churches in the Shenandoah Presbytery Synod of the Mid-Atlantic attended. Registration, tended by Harriet Kopp, exhibits (6), and refreshments, 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, Co-Moderator, opened the meeting at 9:45 AM with a gracious welcome to everyone. It was great to get together again at beautiful Massanetta Springs. The Summer Gathering of the Mid-Atlantic will be held June 8-11 in person this year at Massanetta Springs. Be sure to plan on enjoying this event together again. Last year was virtual and the pandemic had of course disrupted things prior. The Mid-Atlantic Synod has pledged to support the Capital Campaign of Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center for 2023, Building a Place for All. So far, over \$80,000 has already been pledged against the \$250,000 total pledge. Prayerfully consider a gift to this cause.

The Christ Candle was "lit" by Connie Wood. The PW Purpose was recited in unison. Rev. Clayton Rascoe, Executive Director of Massanetta Springs, welcomed us and updated all on the current happenings and gave more information on the Building a Place for All campaign. A new 50 room hotel featuring some extended stay suites is planned in the place of current Richardson, as well as other improvements and amenities. Clayton shared a wonderful video outlining more details for the campaign. Following the hymn, "For All the Saints", Connie Wood, Co-Moderator, introduced guests in our midst: Synod Moderator, Nancy Long, joined us from Delaware and brought greetings from the Synod CT and shared some Synod news and happenings as well as an invitation to the Synod Summer Gathering in June at Massanetta. It will be the first in person Summer Gathering since a

virtual was held last year and the pandemic prevented the previous. 2024 marks the Churchwide Gathering in MO, so a Synod Gathering will be skipped for 2024. Connie also welcomed and introduced our well known Associate General Presbyter, Nancy Meehan Yao and the exhibitors we had on hand for the day.

The offering (\$440.00) was received and dedicated to The Martinsburg Rescue Mission in Berkeley County, WV. Following the Doxology, the prayer of dedication was given by Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao.

The Roll Call of the Mission Communities was taken by Karen Stevens, Co-Moderator: Eastern Panhandle, Mountain Valley, Central Valley, Highland Augusta, and Maury River all had ladies present except Potomac Highlands.

Karen Stevens, Treasurer as well as incoming Co-Moderator, reported a balance of \$7128.28 as of April 15, 2023. The treasurer's report was included in the meeting program. Please note that the fees to Massanetta Springs for the Gathering are not included in that report and balance. Pam Snyder moved the Treasurers report be approved as submitted with second from Darlene Mason. Vote passed.

Karen Stevens, Co-Moderator, reported that there were many open officer positions. Spiritual Nurture position was introduced and received unanimous approval for this new position created on the Coordinating Team. This encompasses the previous Worship Resources position. Pam Snyder, Chair of Leadership Coordinators, presented the slate of officers'. There being no other nominations from the floor, the election 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
Spiritual Nurture: Paula Osborne
Justice & Peace: Ruth Williams
Chairperson of Leadership Coordinators: Pam Snyder
Celebrations Giving & Horizons: Pam Snyder
Interim Search Committee Chair: Karen Stevens

Leadership Coordinators: Frances Craig, Paula Osborne, Donna Parker asb., Pam Snyder, and Karen Stevens.
Open positions: Moderator Elect, Leadership Co-Moderators, Search Committee Chair and members.

Connie Wood and Karen Stevens, Co-Moderators of the Shenandoah Presbyterian Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, included their annual report of the Moderator(s) in the meeting program.

Outgoing Historian, Harriet Kopp, made the presentation of the Honorary Life Membership. This year's Honorary Life Membership was presented to Karen Stevens. A longtime member of Olivet Presbyterian Church, Karen has served as elder, moderator of Olivet Presbyterian Women, member of Circle 4, and a choir member. Retired from Wilson Workforce and Rehab Center, she worked for over 30 years with the state of Virginia in various agencies. Karen also volunteers with the Lions Club. Loving to travel, retirement has brought her the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. Karen provides love, support and strength to her family. Daughters Stephanie and Rebecca, along with their spouses are truly important. The highlight of her life is her grandchildren: Ashlynn, Easton, Carter, and Jordan. We must also mention her canine companion, Bella. Currently Karen serves as co-moderator and treasurer of Shenandoah Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, as well as other duties thrown her way. Deserved congratulations to Karen Stevens on receiving the Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership.

Special music was performed by Teresa Whitesell of Olivet Presbyterian Church. What an enjoyment it is to have Teresa perform at the Spring Gathering again with her soulful voice and guitar. Followed by scripture read by Rev. Joel Thornton of Lost City and Wardensville churches, and the singing of hymn, "Jesus Loves me", Rev. Thornton introduced himself by telling a most true and humorous story of property and PW and delivering a moving message during the sermon time. Rev. Thornton then presided over the serving of Communion, assisted by Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao. A delicious lunch a short walk away on the other side of the dining room was enjoyed

by all after a benediction, blessing and postlude. Our time of fellowship continued through our breaking bread until we wished each other good bye and safe travels home.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickana Norton, Secretary

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SHARED BY CONNIE WOOD



Touch in Church

What is all this touching in church?

It used to be a person could come to church and sit in a pew and not be bothered by all this friendliness and certainly not by touching.

I used to come to church and leave untouched.

Now I have to be nervous about what's expected of me.

I have to worry about responding to the person sitting next to me.

Oh, I wish it could be the way it used to be;

I could just ask the person sitting next to me: How are you?

And the person could answer: Oh, just fine,

And we'd both go home... strangers who have known each other for twenty years.

But now the minister asks us to look at each other.

I'm worried about that hurt look I saw in that woman's eyes.

Now I'm concerned, because when the minister asks us to pass the peace,

The man next to me held my hand so tightly I wondered if he had been touched in years.

Now I'm upset because the lady next to me cried and then apologized

And said it was because I was so kind and that she needed A friend right now.

Now I have to get involved.

Now I have to suffer when the community suffers.

Now I have to be more than a person coming to observe a service.

That man last week told me I'd never know how much I'd touched his life.

All I did was smile and tell him I understood what it was to be lonely.

Lord, I'm not big enough to touch and be touched!

The stretching scares me.

What if I disappoint somebody?

What if I'm too pushy?

What if I cling too much?

What if somebody ignores me?

"Pass the peace."

"The peace of God be with you." "And with you."

And mean it.

Lord, I can't resist meaning it!

I'm touched by it, I'm enveloped by it!

I find I do care about that person next to me!

I find I am involved!

And I'm scared.

O Lord, be here beside me.

You touch me, Lord, so that I can touch and be touched!

So that I can care and be cared for!

So that I can share my life with all those others that belong to you!

All this touching in church—Lord, it's changing me!

~by Ann Weems~

From *Reaching for Rainbows* pp. 35-36

In the lectionary text for this morning, Christ's hands are outstretched, Thomas touches, and in that touch Thomas is changed. This is our first hands on glimpse of just how incarnational Christianity is and will forever be. Christ's hands weren't just extended to Thomas, but are also extended to us. We, too, have touched and been touched by Christ. Think about it for a moment. Doesn't Christianity become most real for us through the touch of another—whether it a handshake in the middle of

worship, a hug of welcome, a hand-held before surgery, or even a meal made by the hands of your deacon. It is through this physical actions that the radical love and presence of Christ is seen and felt. And through this touch, we are changed. And In that small and maybe quick exchange, we become an extension—we become the hands of Christ in the here and now. We are the hands that are called to reach out and touch the places in the world where hurt and pain dominate, those places where hearts are cold, those places where most dare not journey, and those places that might be as close as the person sitting next to us. This touch, filled with peace and love, makes Christ known. This touch is life changing.

SHARED BY PAULAN OSBORNE

Horizons Representative Report

August 2023

Two editions of our Horizons magazine have been distributed since our last PW CT meeting:

1. March/April 2023 – this issue focuses on Reconciliation. What does it mean to reconcile? How do we as Christians grapple with and actively address the consequences of wrongs from our actions, inactions or carelessness? Reconciliation requires us to open our minds and hearts and ears to the truth of the world, to confess, and to commit to the difficult and arduous work required toward healing and wholeness. Learn more about how we can move forward faithful change in our churches in this edition. Other articles of interest are:

Land Acknowledgements, the Belhar Confession and Reconciliation - Cynthia Holder Rich reflects on the intents and origins of land acknowledgements. She looks to the PC (USA)'s newest confession – the Belhar Confession – and its roots in South Africa's apartheid era for ways that the practice of land acknowledgements can be a first step of many to bring about inclusion and justice for all. In Full Bloom - Carissa Herold unveils "Build a Bouquet," a new campaign that both celebrates the many ministries and individuals that make Presbyterian Women vibrant and strengthens the organization through financial gifts.

Called into Community, Called for Service – this is an excellent Service of Installation for PW Leaders, including Call to Worship, hymn suggestions, prayers as well as the installation of leaders and a charge and blessing. This was used to install our PW Leaders at our Presbytery Spring Gathering.

Bible Study Resource – Reflections and questions for use in studying Lesson Nine of the Celebrating Sabbath study.

2. Summer 2023 Edition: Holistic Health is the main focus for this edition of Horizons. The writers and artists for this edition consider the many aspects of health – communal, physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual well-being. They focus on timeless components of health, like Jesus' healing miracles, and time-specific, like the rising rates of depression and anxiety among young people. Their insights are invitation to care for ourselves (and to extent the invitation to others) so that we – individually and as a community – may more fully and freely connect with God, God's creation and with one another. Articles include:

Health as Shalom: A Theological Understanding of Wholeness – A theologically grounded understanding of health, rooted in concepts of wholeness and well-being is offered in this article.

Reactivity, Responsiveness and Spiritual Practice: Rev. Diane Pennington draws insights from psychology, biology and her work as spiritual director to consider how we collectively experienced Covid-19 as trauma. She suggests mind and body practices to help us heal so we can open fully to God's presence and call on our lives.

Thank Offering Dedication Service and 2023 Recipients: "Embracing the We in Empowering Love" is a dedication service which can be used as you dedicate your Thank Offering in your various congregations this fall. Also, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of PW, Inc. selected seven projects for funding through the Thank Offering. They include six projects to serve people in the US and one is international. See how your Thank Offering donations are making a difference around the world!

Bible Study: Reflections and questions for use in studying Lessons One and Two of the 2023-24 PW/Horizons Bible study, Sacred Encounters, are provided in this issue.

After the Offering: See how the Thank Offering helped train 25 educators, distribute more than 700 high-quality children's books, and spread the joy of reading throughout Guatemala through a \$50,000 grant made to Puerta Abierta Atitlan located in Santiago, Guatemala.

Safety and Equity for Women and Girls the World Over: This is a recap of PW's engagement at the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations and focuses on the 67th Commission held in the spring of 2023. This year, Presbyterian Women's delegation included 17 participants attending in-person at the UN and another 11 delegates participating online. I am honored to serve on the annual PW/PCUSA Planning Team and was an in-person participant this year.

Acting Stated Clerk News: We are delighted that our own Bronwen Bosell, general presbyter/stated clerk for Shenandoah Presbytery, was named Acting Stated Clerk of the PC(USA)'s General Assembly. Bronwen began her new role on July 10th, and will serve as interim until a new Stated Clerk is elected at the 226th General Assembly in June/July 2024 in Salt Lake.

Horizons is available by an annual subscription and it is also available on the website at www.presbyterianwomen.org/horizons. I encourage all PW, especially PW leaders in the Presbytery and congregations, to subscribe to this excellent resource. Currently subscriptions are \$19.95 for five issues of the magazine, PLUS the PW/Horizons Bible study annually, as part of your subscription.

Dates to remember: PW Churchwide Gathering: August 8-11, 2024. St. Louis, Missouri. The theme is Do Everything in Love! Inspired by 1 Cor. 16:13-14. Details and registration information are available at presbyterianwomen.org or you may contact me for additional information.

Pam Snyder, Horizons Representative

PW Coordinating Team Meeting August 25

Guest Speaker

Janet Rakes is Chair along with Theresa Underwood for Presbyterian Gifts on the Massanetta Springs Capital Campaign Steering Team announced the campaign was halfway there

Moderator Report

Karen would like churches to have a copy of Horizons. For if we keep doing the same thing, that we have always done, we will get what we have always got. The returns are diminishing. Francis suggested an ad hoc group meets and listens and comes up with innovative ideas. Karen says we have opportunities to cut and combine opportunities and do the things that we are doing in a different way. For instance at the November meeting just highlight the reports. We will discuss this at the November meeting.

Old and New BUSINESS:

PWCT Re-Organization
Massanetta Campaign (Janet Rakes and Teresa Underwood Synod CT)
PW Giving
Francis made the proposal to donate \$1000.00 from our operation fund of \$6000.00 to the Massanetta Springs Capital Campaign.
The motion was passed.

2024 CW Gathering of PW (St. Louis, 8/08-11, 2024)

Planning for November PWP meeting with invited congregational PW leaders
Francis proposed to have our November meeting at Massanetta Springs. Karen will call Rachel to reserve a room for November 4, 2023. She will also call Dave about box lunches. Once we know we have a room Pam will make a flyer for the November meeting. Once the flyer is created, coordinators will share the flyer with their churches. Pam also encouraged coordinators to remind their churches that Clayton will preach the message of upgrading Massanetta Springs to their churches.