



## THE HAPPENINGS

*Nurture faith, Support mission, Work for justice and peace, Build community*  
Newsletter of Presbyterian Women of Middle Tennessee Presbytery  
Winter 2009

Email – [pwmidtn@aim.com](mailto:pwmidtn@aim.com) Website -<http://presbyterymidtn.org/preswomen.html>

### Greetings from the Moderator:

It's hard to believe that we're already more than a month into the New Year. I pray the Lord blessed each of your families as He did ours during the Christmas Season.

The Necrology Report and Honorary Life Members Reports are due. **Please send your names to Alice Ann Barge 763 Greely Drive Nashville, TN 37205 or email [mimibarge@aol.com](mailto:mimibarge@aol.com).**

The Coordinating Team would like to thank the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee for the \$1,500 grant to be used **Mission Saturday, March 14, 2009 our Spring Gathering in Smyrna.** This "hands on" mission project will benefit the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. There is an urgent need for Gift of the Heart Kits. We will assemble 100 (or as many possible) "Clean-up bucket" kits to replace those used after Hurricanes Gustav and Ike last year. For more information regarding this PDA project go to [www.pcusa.org/pda/help/goh.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/help/goh.htm).

A special thanks to Mary Harmon, FPC Tullahoma, Wanda Stacy and Donna Deaton, FPC McMinnville for making quilt squares for the 2009 Churchwide Gathering in Louisville. If you would like to view the quilt squares go to the Synod web page at [www.pwslivingwaters.org](http://www.pwslivingwaters.org) and select "messages from PWSC". Go to "quilt square #2" and "6 more quilt squares" to view the beautiful squares. Quilt squares are being made by all Synods and will be given to women who come to the 2009 Churchwide Gathering from other countries as part of the Global Exchange program.

Moderators please copy this newsletter and give one to each of your CT members for their circles. Also, be sure to check out these websites often to keep better informed on what's going on in PW [www.presbyterymidtn.org/preswomen.html](http://www.presbyterymidtn.org/preswomen.html) and [www.pwlivingwaters.org](http://www.pwlivingwaters.org).

*I hope to see you in Smyrna.  
Yours in Christ, Bonnie Watts, Moderator*

### **PW Middle TN, Spring Gathering, Saturday March 14, 2009**

**\*\*\*\*\* REGISTRATION FORMS NOW AVAILABLE \*\*\*\*\***

#### **"TOGETHER IN SERVICE - MISSION SATURDAY: OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE"**

Join Presbyterian Women throughout Middle Tennessee for a day dedicated to mission and an afternoon of 'Together in Service'! Our speakers will be **Rob Moreland from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Mary Langford, Chair, Outreach Mission Unit, Presbytery of Middle TN.** Both will provide their unique perspectives on the work of PDA and the status of mission work in Middle Tennessee.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church USA. **(For more information, see the "Support Mission – Together in Service" section below!)**

After our morning worship and lunch, **plan to stay and work with other Middle Tennessee Presbyterian Women** for an afternoon of hand-on mission work. In keeping with our theme of **Mission Saturday, we will be assembling "Gift of the Heart" Clean-up bucket kits.** These kits are issued to families affected by storms and other disasters. **As well as assembling the buckets you may want to add notes of encouragement or your favorite Bible verse with those who need hope!**

*You won't want to miss this Gathering day, dedicated to learning about and acting on mission through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance organization. Questions? Please contact your Cluster Leader or Bonnie Watts, Moderator at 931-393-3224 or [bbwatts@charter.net](mailto:bbwatts@charter.net) with any questions.*

## Nurturing Our Faith

Mary Eidson serves as the Spiritual Growth Coordinator for PW of Middle TN Coordinating Team. She shares the following excerpt from "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis.

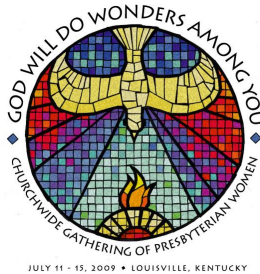
*"I find I must borrow yet another parable from George MacDonald. Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on: you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently he starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come in and live in it Himself. "*

*"The command 'Be ye perfect' is not idealistic gas. Nor is it a command to do the impossible. He is going to make us into creatures that can obey that command. He said (in the bible) that we were 'gods' and He is going to make good His Words. If we let Him—for we can prevent Him, if we choose—He will make the feeblest and filthiest of us into a god or goddess, a dazzling, radiant, immortal creature, pulsating all through with such energy and joy and wisdom and love as we cannot now imagine, a bright stainless mirror which reflects back to God perfectly (though, of course, on a smaller scale) His own boundless power and delight and goodness. The process will be long and in parts very painful, but that is what we are in for. Nothing less. He meant what He said."*

## Upcoming Events – PW of MIDDLE TN-Save the Dates!!!

Mark your calendars now for 2009 opportunities for worship and fellowship:

- Spring Gathering 2009 – First Presbyterian Church, Smyrna, March 14, 2009. Registration forms now available!
- Fall Gathering 2009 – First Presbyterian Church, Nashville. More details available at our Spring Gathering.



### **2009 PW Churchwide Gathering**

**God Will Do Wonders Among You!** (*Joshua 3:5*).

Yes, God does wonders among us every day! Next summer in Louisville, Kentucky, Presbyterian Women will gather from near and far to explore the ways we see God working among us all the time. Dynamic speakers, inspiring worship and Bible study, workshops covering mission, leadership, personal spiritual growth and more will nurture and challenge PW July 11 - 15, 2009. Meet partners from around the world! Visit mission sites in Louisville! Gather with friends new and old for fellowship and growth. Visit [www.pcusa.org/pwgathering](http://www.pcusa.org/pwgathering) for details.

*"The King will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me." Matthew 25:40, (CEV)*

## Support Mission - "Together in Service"

Joyce Harris serves as the Together in Service Coordinator for the PW of Middle TN and is coordinating PW's efforts to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance through 'hands-on' mission work...

### **Out of Chaos, Hope: Middle Tennessee Presbyterian Women Assemble Clean Up Buckets**



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events. PDA focuses on the long term recovery of disaster impacted communities.

One major project of PDA is the provision of "Gift of the Heart Kits" nationally and internationally to families who are affected by crisis or disasters. "Gift of the Heart" Kits such as Baby Kits, Clean-Up Buckets, School Kits and Hygiene Kits, are kept in supply in centers in Arkansas and Maryland for dissemination as needed. ***Presbyterian Disaster Assistance urgently needs help in replenishing its supply of Gift of the Heart Kits; especially needed at this time are Clean-Up Buckets***, which are five gallon buckets with resealable lids, filled with 14 useful cleaning items ranging from scouring pads to trash bags. Just last year, 3,266 clean up buckets were sent to Louisiana and Texas alone to families who were affected by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

***We need your help!*** As part of our Spring **Mission Saturday** service project, The Presbyterian Women of Middle Tennessee plans to assemble **100 Clean-Up Buckets** for PDA at the **Spring Gathering @ Smyrna FPC on Saturday, March 14, 2009. All items needed to fill these kits will be provided by PW Mid TN. All are invited to stay after lunch to help assemble these kits.**

***Please join us in this effort as Middle Tennessee Presbyterian Women assist PDA in helping others, you can have a "hands on experience" of helping families move out of chaos to hope! (Editor's Note: Spring Gathering Registration form is attached.)*** For more information on PDA needs, kit projects or special giving needs, please go to [www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda).

***PW Circle - Mission Projects*** - PW needs your mission stories. To encourage others in mission, please consider sharing your mission story with all PW. Stories can be mailed to emailed to Bonnie Watts, [bbwatts@charter.net](mailto:bbwatts@charter.net) or [pwmidtn@aim.com](mailto:pwmidtn@aim.com), Mary Weber, [hillsidetwo@roadrunner.com](mailto:hillsidetwo@roadrunner.com) or Polly Banks, Synod Secretary, [pbanks1957@charter.net](mailto:pbanks1957@charter.net) who will even write the story for you, if you want help.

### **Build Community - Celebration Giving**



**Honorary Life Membership** - An Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is conferred upon an individual in recognition of faithful service in some area of church work. Moderators, leaders, teachers, officers, pastors, and missionaries have been among the recipients of this honor.

Funds derived from Honorary Life Memberships are used for Presbyterian Women leadership training costs, support of leadership development events for women and assistance training leaders for mission interpretation and support.

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Presbyterian Women in 2008, the Churchwide Coordinating Team has approved a new 10K Gold Honorary Life Membership pin (\$250.00). The popular silver pin will remain available for \$95.00.

The church group conferring this honor should send an [Honorary Life Membership form](#) with a check (payable to Treasurer of Presbyterian Women) to: **Becky Petty, Middle TN PWP Treasurer, 208 Blackberry Hill Rd, Silver Point, TN 38582**. An Honorary Life Membership pin and certificate will be mailed to the person indicated on the form for later presentation to the honoree. Please mail the form and check at least six weeks prior to the presentation date.

For Questions, you can contact Becky Petty at **931-858-5125** or email: [beckypetty44@yahoo.com](mailto:beckypetty44@yahoo.com) or **Bonnie Watts** at **931-393-3224** or [bbwatts@charter.net](mailto:bbwatts@charter.net)

**Prayers and Pledges** – The PW Middle TN budget will be presented at the Spring Gathering March 14, 2009. We thank each of the PW groups who have lovingly chosen to support PW through the grace of giving at the Presbytery, Synod and Churchwide levels.

If your PW group has not already submitted a 2009 Pledge Form, there's still time to do so. It is through gifts of prayer, talents and through the pledge process that PW in Middle TN continues to serve.

*We appreciate the prayerful consideration of each circle in the pledge process.* Pledge forms, Remittance Forms and an overview of PW Coordinating Team giving can be found on our website at [www.presbyteryidtn.org/preswomen.html](http://www.presbyteryidtn.org/preswomen.html). Forms should be forwarded as soon as possible to **Becky Petty, Treasurer, PW of Middle TN, 208 Blackberry Hill Rd, Silver Point, TN 38582.**

**How can the Middle TN Coordinating Team serve your church?** – By providing resources and support for new and existing circles, mission interpretation and ideas, assistance with new officer installation, and more! Please contact your Cluster Leader or any member of the Coordinating Team for more information.

**We want to hear from you!** Has your PW Circle changed leadership recently? Starting new Circles? Want to share mission stories? Help improve our communications with you by sending a letter, email or phone call. We are all blessed and inspired to learn of the work being done by Presbyterian Women in other churches. Contact you PW Cluster Leader or Bonnie Watts, Moderator at 931-393-3224 or [pwmidtn@aim.com](mailto:pwmidtn@aim.com), or one of our other PW Coordinating Team members.

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