

Presbyterian Women Presbytery Middle Tennessee Annual Report October 2009

Due to restructuring of the Presbytery Middle Tennessee, Presbyterian Women were removed from Coordinating Council after 10 years, however, the PW Moderator, if an elder, still has voice and vote at Presbytery. The Lord stood by our side during this time as PW received new acknowledgements never before given to our organization. Incorporated statements for the amended Presbytery of Middle Tennessee "Mission Handbook" include PWs' connection in the General Organization, The Work of the Presbytery, as well as a Presbyterian Women Statement.

Fellowship, worship and mission continue to be the heart of our PW Gatherings. During the Spring Gathering, Rob Moreland, Tullahoma First, a member of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team spoke on the importance of PDA's mission after a disaster strikes. Through a grant from Middle Tennessee Presbytery (the first ever), PW's mission giving and the offering, our women were able to complete the mission project of making 75 PDA "Gift of the Heart" clean up buckets.

At the Fall Gathering September 12th, a liturgical dance by six young girls from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church set the mood for the worship service. Besides the Horizon Bible Study review "Joshua, A Journey of Faith", by Rev. Dr. Sandra Randleman, the gathering focused on mission opportunities with ten displays from various organizations supported by our Presbyterian Women. Speakers were a native of Rwanda, Ebraille Minerva telling of the survival of her family during the Rwandan genocide in 1994. She shared how God is continuing to use her in His work opening one door when another is closed. Also speaking was Director, Rico X from The Village Church in Nashville which received \$50,000 from Presbyterian Women's 2009 Thank Offering. He shared with the gathering women the work of the church for the youth in their inner city neighborhood and how the funds are being used for programs and materials.

Claudia Torrey, Justice for Women and Peacemaking representative from Presbyterian Women Middle Tennessee Presbytery was selected as one of seventeen members from throughout the United States to the National Presbyterian Women's Delegation to the 53rd United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Fifteen women from the Middle Tennessee Presbytery attended the 2009 Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, with an additional four coming Sunday afternoon. Participants found inspiration, laughter, challenges and spiritual growth during the plenary sessions. Praise God for the fellowship, prayer, study time and fun shared together.

Cluster Leaders and CT members have begun meeting with church moderators to plan Spring Cluster Gatherings. This new venture will be more inclusive of all women as PW reaches out to them in their own neighborhoods. We will continue to have one Fall Gathering for all women in the Middle Tennessee Presbytery.

Bonnie Watts, Moderator Presbyterian Women
Presbytery Middle Tennessee

Presbyterian Women Statement Middle Tennessee Presbytery

Purpose: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

*to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study
to support the Mission of the church worldwide,
to work for justice and peace, and
to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's
kingdom.*

Presbyterian Women (PW) has a unique, historical and covenantal relationship with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and shares a common interest in the mission of the church. The organization has long supported the denomination's policies, interpreting mission, proclaiming the gospel and giving of time and talents, with a desire to serve God and others.

Like our denomination, PW is connectional at the church, presbytery, synod and churchwide levels, and is an all-inclusive body supporting Bible study, mission and worshipful work. PW and the Presbytery of Middle TN share common ministry and mission goals.

PW promotes local church Circles as a basic design for bringing women together and connecting women to governing bodies of the denomination and ecumenical groups. Churches in Middle TN are grouped into seven geographic "Clusters" to nurture communication and fellowship. PW of Middle TN is the primary communication link between Presbyterian women and the Presbytery of Middle TN.

The PW of Middle TN Coordinating Team also provides program support and resources to PW in the local congregations. Team members are elected by women in the Presbytery, or appointed by the Moderator according to PW Middle TN by-laws. Leadership positions include Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, Spiritual Growth, Together in Service (Missions), Justice for Women and Peacemaking, Anti-Racism, Women's Advocacy, Cluster Leaders and other leadership positions which promote mission interpretation and education.

The ministry and work of Presbyterian Women of Middle TN are performed with the purpose of building an inclusive, caring community that strengthens the Presbytery of Middle TN and the Presbyterian Church (USA), and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.