



# Presbytids

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Baltimore

Spring 2016

## Spring Gathering



Patricia Clark (far right), PW Moderator for the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, installs the officers of the Baltimore PW at their Spring Gathering on April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Hope and Change was the theme as Baltimore Presbyterian Women gathered at Catonsville Presbyterian Church for their Spring Gathering, enjoying a delicious brunch and the company of wonderful women. During the business meeting portion of the Gathering, the 2016 budget and by-law amendments were approved. As a reminder, if your church has not submitted their annual pledge, it is not too late. The budget of your coordinating team is entirely reliant on the generous contributions of each individual church. New officers of the Coordinating Team were installed by our special guest, Patricia Clark, Moderator of the Mid-Atlantic Synod. Our featured speaker was Jennifer Pollitt-Hill, Executive Director of Hope Works, the domestic violence center in Howard County. In keeping with PW's focus on eliminating violence against women, Jennifer's presentation was informative and enlightening. Thanks to the generosity of the participants, we were able to present her with a large supply of laundry detergent, pillows and disinfecting wipes for the shelter and a monetary contribution of \$216. During the worship service, led by Joan Berry, we had a special recognition for those PW who died in the past year. Marla Holt and Adrienne Knight provided us with a beautiful recognition ceremony with a butterfly theme. It was a joy to be in the company of so many wonderful women.

---

### Out-going Moderator's Report

What a good year we have had for gathering, worshiping and mission. The 2015 Spring Gathering was held at Hunting Ridge, a church that does not have an active PW group! Yet, we were well fed and warmly welcomed. Your contributions supported the 40 West Resource Center and we learned about the PCUSA peace efforts in Israel/Palestine. In the fall, we tried something different and offered two workshops at the Presbytery gathering. PW who attended had an opportunity to participate in any of the offered workshops and heard from keynote speakers on poverty and racism. Our own PW workshop on the Bible study attracted a standing room only crowd. We had good representation at the Synod Summer Gathering in Masanetta Springs and a contingent of participants at the Churchwide Gathering in Minneapolis. Our 2016 Spring Gathering saw us installing new officers, including a new Moderator, Debbie Salles. Debbie will bring new energy and ideas to our group and we are grateful for her enthusiasm and leadership. It has been my pleasure to serve as your Moderator for the past two years and we are well-positioned with our new leadership for a future of gathering, worshiping and mission. Before we know it, the Synod Summer Gathering will be here and we'll be planning for the fall. I look forward to seeing all of you at these events.

**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.

*Please send articles to Editor: Joan Berry at [berry962@verizon.net](mailto:berry962@verizon.net)*

## Synod Summer Gathering

**June 9 – 12**, the women of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic will, again, gather at Masanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA, for their annual Summer Gathering. This year's theme is "Jesus is Love; We Focus on Him". The Rev. Dr. Judy Yates Siker, author of the 2016/17 Horizons Bible Study, will be featured. There will be workshops on the Bible study, microloans, quilting, basket weaving, incarceration and much, much more. Mothers with young children are especially encouraged to attend. Childcare is provided. ". Scholarship applications for moms attending with children (ages 3-8) have been provided to all church Moderators. Registration material for all attendees will be provided to Moderators as soon as they are received. Hope to see you there. The Gathering website is [www.pwsynodmidatlantic.org](http://www.pwsynodmidatlantic.org) or questions can be directed to Tina Joyner, Registrar, (828) 251-1607.

---

### SAVE THE DATE—It's not too early to think Churchwide!

**August 2 – 5, 2018**, are the planned dates for the Churchwide Gathering to be held in Louisville, KY. The theme will be centered on Light and will also be highlighting the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Presbyterian Women (the combined PW of the North and South churches).

---

### PW \$5 Fund

Richmond Hall at Union Presbyterian Seminary is one of the oldest buildings on campus. It is undergoing renovation to become the offices for the Global Mission Center, housing for single students and a dining facility. PW of the Mid-Atlantic Synod has undertaken to raise money for the renovation by asking every Presbyterian Woman to contribute \$5. Your Baltimore PW has established the \$5 fund and will receive contributions through May. We will dedicate our gifts at the Synod Summer Gathering in June. Your contribution can be mailed to our Treasurer, Paula Crews, who will present our combined gifts at the Gathering.

### Do You Shop Amazon?

If so, you can help PW at the same time. Shop through Amazon-Smile and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to PW in the PCUSA.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/80-0473061>

### Where did it all go and why?

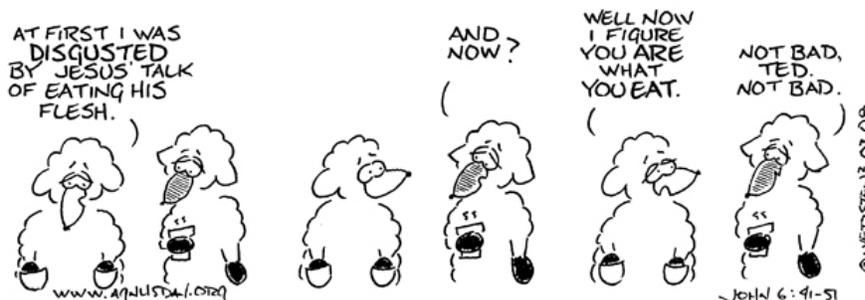
At the Spring Gathering on April 2 at Catonsville church many cleaning items, detergent and pillows were donated. Many thanks to everyone for the generous response of these suggested items.

Where did they donations go and who benefits? **Hope Works**, the recipient, is a new name for a long standing domestic violence refuge in Howard County.

**Hope Works** provides emergency shelter for mostly women and children and a few men. Beyond that they offer many services to help these people get to temporary housing and back on their feet, including counseling, help with children, counseling for children, legal advice, financial advice and employment opportunities.

It doesn't take much to imagine all the parts of a one's life that need to be pulled together after flight from a dangerous home situation. That's why we support this important organization.

Go to [wearehopeworks.org](http://wearehopeworks.org) for further information.



**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.

# Devotion

## Call to Worship :

Leader; Ever shining, lightning bright, God, you made known your son to the disciples and Paul, and to us who are willing to vision. Empower us with the awareness of your presence in our lives.

**ALL: Grant that we may see in the face of our neighbor the brightness of Jesus Christ our Lord.**<sup>1</sup>

Prayer of Confession. **We would much rather talk about you, God of worship. For if we talk with you, we will discover how falsely we deal with others. We will not realize how often we lose heart, simply because we are afraid to come near you. Forgive us, Creator of fairness. Remove the veil from our faces, so we might see you in our midst. Take away the mask of our despair, so we might welcome your hope. Open our ears so we might listen to your Beloved, Jesus Christ, and follow him into the world to serve others.**

Assurance of Pardon: We are assured that God forgives us and offers us healing. By accepting such grace, we are able to experience the love which transforms our lives so that we may share that love with other.

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

<b>Hymns:</b>	Be Thou My Vision	GtG p. 450	PH p. 339
	Change My Heart, O God	GtG p. 695	N/A
	Create in Me a Clean Heart	GtG p. 422	N/A

## **Message:**

**My Story:** Tell a personal story of your encounter with or awareness of the Holy Presence

## **Scriptural Story:**

- The Bible has many stories of prophets (Joseph, Moses, Jeremiah, Elijah, transfiguration for Peter, James and John, Road to Emmaeus, various appearances to disciples after resurrection and lastly to Paul. )
  - In all stories, and in Paul's epistle, these encounters with God or Jesus transform the lives of those touched by the recipient.
- The primary relationship is regularly between people and God by taking Christ as the mirror  
→ As a good and learned Pharisee, Paul knew to look upon God directly was to die, hence it is Jesus to lifts the veil to see truly.

**Our Story:** Talk about the group and how its members see and reflect God to others in their lives.

- What makes your face shine? Whatever it is, it's your passion. Others notice.
  - How do we make sure that we are on the right track? Guidance from the church? Listening to others?
  - Following Christ. Where to we see Christ, e.g., worship, dreams, nature, other people? What impact do such encounters have on you as a person, as a leader in the faith, as a group?
- Paul emphasizes the experience of God to Moses as a vehicle for bearing witness to life-changing experiences for any and every believer who encounters God.  
→ The work of the Christian believer, then, is to allow the love of Christ and the freedom of the Spirit to be manifest in daily living.

**Closing prayer:** Let our encounters with God, however they may occur, create our passions and manifest themselves to all we meet, but most especially to those we lead. Amen.

*Joan Berry, CRE*



<sup>1</sup> Based on Bob Elden, Last Epiphany - February 7, *Worship-RLC*, 1/31/16

