



Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.



# *Sharing God's Abundant Blessings*



## **A MESSAGE FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MODERATOR CAROL WINKLER**

Dear Presbyterian Women,

2018 is an important year for Presbyterian Women as 2018 marks the 30th anniversary of our organization. What we now know and celebrate as PW came to be when faithful women from two separate streams of the church put aside differences and embraced a new vision for a unified organization. Put another way, the 30th anniversary of PW commemorates the healing of a divided church.

The PW Purpose, PW's mission statement, encapsulates the vision of women of faith sharing God's love with the world. This evergreen purpose continues to guide the work of PW in profound, practical and positive ways that moves us forward into the years to come.

The Celebration Giving program was organized around the premise that we are called as God's children to give as we are blessed. For this faith-filled reason, PW giving is expressed through sharing monetary blessings as well as through the priceless gifts of time, participation and presence.

Presbyterian women were active well before 1988, of course, and with God's blessings, will continue well into the future. This report highlights just some of the amazing work that PW gifts made possible during the 2015-2018 triennium. Let us, together, celebrate the blessings that we shared abundantly in Christ's service.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Lloyd Winkler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

### **PW PURPOSE**

The Presbyterian Women (PW) Purpose guides our lives as individuals and as an organization.

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.

# Sharing God's Abundant Blessings



Global Exchange to Indonesia

**During this experience, "I felt a connection to the one God—who is worshipped in so many different ways and places—and to others seeking the divine."**

*—Nancy Thomas, Global Exchange participant, reflecting on her visit to various sacred sites*

Sharing God's abundant blessings is what we do as Presbyterian Women. During this triennium, Presbyterian Women groups and individuals have participated in ministries in West Newton, Pennsylvania; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Charlestown, Indiana; Kisumu, Kenya; Andra Pradesh, India; and many other areas. PW traveled to Indonesia for a Global Exchange and learned about issues of human dignity in San Francisco. While PW's reach may be global, our PW life begins and is nurtured locally—in the fellowship halls and meeting rooms of churches named "First," and "Second," "Arecibo" and "John Knox," "Statesville," "Westminster" and "College Hill." No matter where we can be found on a Sunday morning (or Wednesday evening), we share a common PW Purpose that calls us to faithful service through Christ.

## **NURTURING OUR FAITH**

Communication is key to ministry. That's why Presbyterian Women has proudly supported a vibrant publishing ministry since 1871. Today's multiple-award-winning Horizons Bible study and magazine was launched 30 years ago, in 1988. Do the math! That means that there

are 30 PW/Horizons Bible studies (and hundreds of *Horizons* magazines) that are part of the PW publishing legacy. And these publications bring together PW in all parts of country as they study, reflect on and take inspiration from the same material!

## **SUPPORTING MISSION**

Mission is the heart of PW. From the earliest days of the church, PW has transformed the lives and given hope to the world's most vulnerable people. Hospitals, schools, recreation centers, and food banks are serving communities today because of the generosity of Presbyterian Women. During this triennium ...

### **Building Bridges of Understanding: The Global Exchange**

Nineteen women from twelve synods visited Indonesia to learn ways that people from very diverse traditions intentionally choose—personally and institutionally—to live in harmony alongside one another.

### **Out of the Darkness . . . into the Light: The USA Mission Experience**

Inspired by John 1:5, a group of 25 PW traveled to the Bay Area to learn about immigration, domestic violence, human trafficking and other





related injustices, and to witness the faithful work of people in the area who have dedicated themselves to finding solutions.

### **Together in Service: PW's Hands-On Mission**

Effective hands-on ministry begins with identifying a need. For Presbyterian Women in Newton, Iowa, that need was providing laundry assistance to struggling people. Neighbors Helping Neighbors, supported in

part by Presbyterian women, provides detergent and quarters to neighbors in need.

### **WORKING FOR JUSTICE & PEACE**

Issues of justice and peace are serious concerns for PW. We work to live out our faith through by acting on issues women, children and other marginalized people face.

During this triennium, we wore orange on Orange Days to support the UN's global campaign to end violence against women. We participated in Thursdays in Black, a World Council of Churches initiative that seeks a safer world for women and girls. We held Together in Action Days around issues of human trafficking, children's literacy and women's empowerment. We urged "Courageous Conversations" on gender-based violence, including sexual assault.

We took action to support the PC(USA)'s Educate a Child initiative, collecting and donating books, tutoring schoolchildren, reading to children, and more. We advocated at the national level at Ecumenical Advocacy Days and at the global level at the UN Commission on the Status of Women. We issued

statements on racially motivated violence, sexual harassment and cruel immigration policies. And we marched to expose racist divides in our cities.

"I was in prison and you visited me" (Matt. 25:36b). PWs at First Presbyterian Church Hackensack support women and men committed to rebuilding their lives after incarceration through H.O.P.E. for Ex-Offenders. "Count us in!" must be their motto as they respond to God's call in other ways, as well: providing Christmas gifts to young people and elders in isolation; helping struggling families with utility bills; caring for God's other creatures through support of a local animal shelter and more.

### **BUILDING COMMUNITY**

As disciples of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Presbyterian Women are committed to finding, nurturing and building caring, inclusive community in our circles, cities and throughout the world! That's why PW is fully engaged in ecumenical endeavors! PW celebrates World Day of Prayer (PW staff assist with WDP USA materials) and serves on US and international WDP boards. Each year, PWs can be found standing with women of the world at the UN Commission on the Status of Women. PW's longstanding commitment to the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) even inspired the International Committee of FLC to choose Louisville (the home of PW's national offices) as the site for their 60th anniversary celebration.

During this triennium, a series of light-hearted and happily serious posters were launched to show the range of what it means to be Presbyterian Women. The *Think You Know PW?* educational campaign challenged everyone to rethink what it means to be a part of Presbyterian Women.



**"We spent 90 minutes passing trays to our guests. The impact on my body was minimal, but the impact on my soul was significant. I am confident we made a difference."**

*—Mary Danforth, USAME participant, on serving lunch at Glide Methodist Church, which runs more than 80 services to assist people in crisis, including serving 700,000 meals each year.*

### **DEVELOPING LEADERS**

Presbyterian Women provides six seats for young women on the national board. Many younger women who serve on the board or participate in a Global Exchange, USA Mission Experience, PW work trip, or advocacy action end up in leadership in PW and the PC(USA). Presbyterian Women are deacons, teaching and ruling elders, church educators, members of national church and agency boards, commissioners to and moderators of the General Assembly.

Did you know that PW is one of a few organizations that do not require official membership? PW focuses on participation in mission and ministry that emanates from the PW Purpose. The *PW Manual: A Guide for PW Leaders*—the handbook of PW for leadership at all levels of the organization—and the *PW Manual: A Guide for PW Treasurers* were revised in 2016 to respond to the needs of a changing church (and world).

## STRENGTHENING THE PC(USA)

A partnership between Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Presbyterian Women provides training for women in the congregation so they can serve their congregations

with disaster assistance readiness and information. Thanks to this partnership, 114 trainers have been trained. During this triennium, 8 synods have hosted trainings, and PW in 45 presbyteries have been trained. Sixty women were trained in conjunction with the 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian women.

Throughout the church, Presbyterian women serve on sessions, and presbytery and synod councils. In many synods and presbyteries, the PW organization has a representative with voice and vote. At the national level, Presbyterian Women, Inc., is in covenant relationship and is incorporated as an integrated auxiliary of the PC(USA). PW has a seat on the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board with voice and vote. During the 2016 General Assembly, PW was voted a corresponding member to GA and was recognized as a related corporation in the General Assembly's Organization for Mission.

During the 2018 Assembly, PW's covenant relationship with the Presbyterian Mission Agency was renewed for another four years, PW was given a seat on the Presbyterian Church

(U.S.A.), A Corporation Board (A Corp, a new administrative board), and invited to participate in a Diverse Voices Table that will help the denomination and its agencies reach goals toward a more inclusive community.

## CONNECTED AND CONNECTIONAL

Presbyterian Women is connected and connectional! Put another way, there is a lot of good work happening in PW each and every hour of each and every day! From a local Indiana church stepping up to provide reading materials to local children to the fulfillment of a Thank Offering grant in Kenya! That's because Presbyterian Women's groups are organized (and busy!) at all levels of the denomination—congregation, presbytery, synod and churchwide (national). Information and programming moves in all directions throughout the structure, with local and regional work impacting national work and national work informing regional and local work.

Here is a glimpse of PW at work, ever witnessing to the promise of God's kingdom:

**At the congregation level:** PW of First Presbyterian Church in Jeffersonville, Indiana, in response to the PW/PCUSA Educate a Child campaign, collected and distributed hundreds of children's books at a local school.

**At the presbytery level:** During their spring 2018 PW in the Presbytery of Northern Kansas gathering, participants collected items for CarePortal, an email-based system that helps social workers connect with local churches to provide foster families with essentials for the children in their care. PWs gave t-shirts and diapers, toothbrushes, combs, socks and more.

**At the synod level:** Lily Pad Haven, based in Charlotte, is on the front lines of providing shelter and care for survivors of human trafficking. PW of the Synod of Mid-Atlantic supports Lily Pad Haven through gifts and service.

**At the national level:** PW provided a Thank Offering grant to renovate an imperiled clinic in Kenya that serves thousands. A Thank Offering grant provided not just building materials, but hope for the many who have few options for care.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HAVE TOUCHED LIVES IN THESE PLACES

### North America

Clarksville, AL  
Little Rock, AR  
Los Angeles, CA  
Oakland, CA  
San Francisco, CA  
Miami, FL  
Liberal, KS  
Overland Park, KS  
Comstock Park, MI  
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN  
Smithlake Navajo Reservation, NM  
Albany, NY  
Pittsford, NY  
Cincinnati, OH  
Cottage Grove, OR  
Phoenixville, PA  
Georgetown & Horry Counties, SC  
Cosby, TN  
Hillsboro, TN  
Memphis, TN

### Central/South America

Argentina  
Barranquilla, Columbia  
Nueva Paz, Cuba  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

### Africa

Paynesville Township, Liberia  
Kisumu, Kenya

### Europe/Middle East

Palestine

### Asia

Bali, Indonesia  
Jakarta, Indonesia



## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2015-2018 TRIENNIUM

From August 1, 2015 through the 2018 PW Triennial Business Meeting, Birthday Offering grants were awarded to 10 recipients (8 domestic, 2 international); the total amount granted was \$1,123,750.

From August 1, 2015 through the 2018 PW Triennial Business Meeting, 53 Thank Offering grants were awarded to 36 domestic and 17 international recipients; the total amount granted was \$1,296,069.

Four projects—at the heart of the 2016 USA Mission Experience and 2017 Global Exchange—were supported with \$18,360 in gifts:

- Bay Area Anti-Trafficking (San Francisco, USA)
- Puente Community Resource Center (San Francisco, USA)
- Ciliwung Community Center (Jakarta, Indonesia)
- Suwung School and Clinic (Bali, Indonesia)

### FINANCIALS

#### REVENUE

Mission Pledge	\$2,910,821
Bible Study	\$1,354,346
Foundation & Income	\$64,423
Resource Sales	\$110,271
Birthday Offering	\$1,504,563
Thank Offering	\$1,688,899
Honorary Life Membership	\$323,069
Churchwide Gathering	\$551,320
Other	\$198,747
Subscriptions	\$641,715
<i>Horizons</i> Ads	\$159,089
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$9,484,861</b>

#### EXPENSES

Gathering	\$551,320
Program	\$3,528,658
Leadership	\$245,304
PC(USA) and Rent	\$922,719
Administration and Other	\$2,953,900
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,201,901</b>

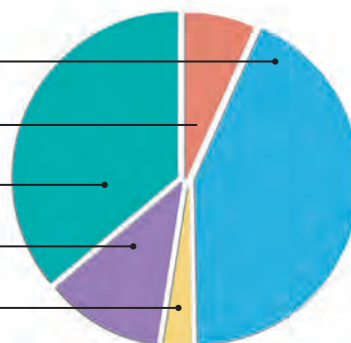
Program

Gathering

Administration and Other

PC(USA) and Rent

Leadership



This report highlights just some of the amazing blessings that PW shared during the 2015-2018 triennium. Your monetary support and participation in PW at any level (whether as a circle member, Bible study field tester, Birthday Offering donor, *Horizons* subscriber, or any of the other ways you choose to participate) ensures that PW—regionally, nationally, even internationally—continues our Spirit-led ministry of sharing God’s abundance.

#### GIVE TO PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- **through your circle;**
- **online**—[www.presbyterianwomen.org/give](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/give);
- **by mail**—  
Presbyterian Women  
Remittance Processing—Giving  
PO Box 643652  
Pittsburgh PA 15264-3652  
(Include “Mission Pledge” or other PW program in the notes line of the check.);
- **by telephone**—Call PW’s finance manager, toll free, 844/PW-PCUSA, ext. 5596;
- **through planned giving**—Call PW’s finance manager, toll free, 844/PW-PCUSA, ext. 5596.

Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc., or simply “PW,” is the women’s organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Through PW, Presbyterian women engage in Christ’s mission in the United States and throughout the world. Guided by a shared Purpose, the programming and resource options for PW offer a variety of ways to live faithfully in an inclusive, caring community.



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