

Living and Working Mission

BY LOUISE VAN POLL



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MARTIN

"An awakening without action is just theoretical," said plenary leader Katherine Blankenship as she reflected on what mission needs to be truly transformational.

We must begin seeing with new eyes, said Katherine Blankenship, Housing Case Manager with Homeward Bound in Western, North Carolina, during Friday morning's plenary session. During her keynote, she explored how mission work to the community and the world can be a difficult task unless you can relate it to your life.

Katherine's shared how her first experience with mission work was a trip to Guatemala as a high school student. At first, she was euphoric and happy to be a part of this opportunity to change the world. But after arriving and getting settled into her host home, she began feeling scared and sad. The facilities were so different from what she was used to and she did not know the language. She had never seen or experienced poverty at that level in her hometown. By the last day,

with an opportunity for relaxation and shopping, Katherine said she started to feel angry. She did not understand how this poverty and need could be allowed to exist. She did not know how this experience could relate to her life.

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When (and Where) Do We Eat?

Breakfast*—on your own (each day of the Gathering)

*Cash (or credit card or voucher!) and carry options will be available on Saturday and Sunday mornings, 7–8:30 AM, outside the plenary hall (Suite, 2) and in the conservatory/pedway near Thelma's Deli (pedway, 3rd floor)

Lunch—on your own

Dinner—banquet/plenary session, 6–8:30 PM (doors open at 5:30 PM); be sure to wear the clothing of your favorite decade as we celebrate our amazing history (and future!) And bring your change for the Cents-Ability cups. Your change and prayers will support local hunger ministries as well as national and international projects of the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

What Do We Want? Justice! When Do We Want It? Now!

BY YVONNE HILEMAN



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DARCI MCKINNON

Marchers chanted "This is what our faith looks like!"

More than 350 Presbyterian women and other racial justice allies took off from the west lobby of the Galt House Friday afternoon on PW's march for justice and peace. They marched to highlight the "Ninth Street Divide," focusing on the racial and economic divide that exists in so many cities in the U.S. The march was led by Wanda Beauman, outgoing churchwide vice moderator for justice and peace; Joy Durrant, incoming churchwide moderator for justice

and peace; Dianne White, former PW moderator for Mid-Kentucky Presbytery and resident of west Louisville; Tina Ward-Pugh, former Louisville Metro councilwoman currently staffing Louisville's Office for Women; and a host of volunteers.

As participants gathered for the march, Wanda thanked them for their participation, as we begin our mission of advocacy here in Louisville. Louisville's mayor, Greg Fischer, thanked Presbyterian

Women for coming to Louisville and highlighting such an important issue. He told participants that Louisville is a designated compassionate city committed to removing the divide. He outlined the progress the city has made, the money that has been allocated to addressing the divide, and urged PW attendees to ask for change in their cities. PC(USA) Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson II offered a prayer as marchers eagerly lined up for the march.

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The eagerness to demonstrate their commitment to justice for those who have been pushed to the margins was palpable, as if the women were impatient to get out on the street and put their faith in action. Perhaps they were remembering what they had heard from J. Herbert in the business meeting the day before, as he called Presbyterians to “reclaim the streets” and make the gospel visible.

As they took off, women sang “We Are Marching in the Light of God.” The marchers sang and chanted as reporters from three local television stations filmed the action and the *Louisville Courier-*

Journal reported. They carried signs reading “Redlining is discrimination”; “Poor people’s lives matter”; “Repair and restore”; “Repent, restore, reconcile”; “Black lives matter”; “All made in God’s image” and many others. They used the call and response style so common in marches: “What do we want?” “We want justice!” “When do we want it?” “We want it now!”

Marchers hiked the nearly two-mile round trip from the Galt House to 10th Street and back. At 10th Street, Councilwoman Barbara Sexton Smith spoke to the economic disparity between the East End and West End of Louisville. She spoke of her call

to work on behalf of those who, like she, are from “the ‘wrong’ side of the tracks.” She pledged that Louisville will turn the Ninth Street Divide into the Ninth Street Connector.

The signs (such as “No al racismo”) and call and response chanting drew support from many drivers and pedestrians.

The march concluded at the Muhammad Ali Center where J. Herbert spoke eloquently of our call to end the divide that exists in many communities across the nation. “We are mindful that we do not walk alone.”

*Yvonne Hileman is PW
assistant editor.*

That’s (Not) All, Folks!

While this is the last issue of *Daily Horizons* for the 2018 Churchwide Gathering, read more highlights on the Gathering app, on www.presbyterianwomen.org, in the next quarterly newsletter and in the November/December 2018 issue of *Horizons*.

As always, Gathering coverage could not happen without volunteer reporters and photographers. Thank you to Louise Van Poll and Chris Wolf for writing and Michael Martin, Louise Davidson and Patricia McBride for photography!

Ship It!

Whether you’ve loaded up on souvenirs, items from the PW Library or fair trade gifts, or are determined to take home a silent auction item, the UPS store can help! Bring your items to the UPS Store

(Suite, 2), along with your Gathering name tag, and get 5 to 15 percent off packing and shipping! Restrictions apply; visit store for details.

Silent Auction

You have a few extra hours to get those bids in! The silent auction has been extended until 5 PM on Saturday. Bid early and bid often! All proceeds will benefit the Mission Pledge, PW’s annual fund.

Thank You, Volunteers!

So many volunteers have offered their hands, hearts, voices, talents and expertise to make this Gathering a light- and joy-filled experience. Whether you ushered, distributed handouts, folded, stuffed, directed, restocked, worked the march . . . thank you, thank you, thank you, volunteers!

Special thanks to Mary Rae Thompson (Butler, Pennsylvania)

and Sarah Dennis (Maryville, Tennessee) for their muscles and vision for the PW Library. In true PW fashion, they saw a need and offered many hours of volunteer service to arrange and replenish this showcase of 30 years of PW publications.

Thank you, Presbyterian Women extraordinaire!

Clothesline Project

On your way to plenary or the exhibit hall, take a close look at the Clothesline Project. It is a moving display highlighting the effects of violence against women, in this case victims of rape in Okinawa during and after World War II.

The display may be a trigger for some. Please contact the Gathering chaplain (817/915-3558) for support.

Gathering Generosity

As of our print deadline on Friday night, the Gathering Offering—supporting Presbyterian Women—had received \$32,952 in gifts. Gift card contributions—for The D.I.A.P.E.R. Project, Kentucky Refugee Ministries and Lily's Place—totaled \$11,787, while \$482 was given to Cents-Ability. Thank you for your generosity!

All the Resources, None of the Late Fees!

You may have already visited the PW Library (Suite, 2)—an amazing space where you can “check out” resources and never bring them back! Visit again as more resources have been added, and they may be

just what you need to round out your collection!

Add Your PW History to PW's History

The library at Columbia Theological Seminary has 5,922 Presbyterian Women's local church histories. These histories are more important than ever! And it is easier than ever to preserve your church's history.

Come by booth 24 in the exhibit hall to find out more or contact us by phone 404/687-4628 or email archives@ctsnet.edu.

Tips for Easy Departure

Galt House check-out time is 11 AM. To avoid long lines, plan ahead for luggage and settling the bill.

On Sunday morning, store your luggage in Willis Clements (Suite, 2), near the plenary hall. Place your luggage at one of the numbered stations, remember your number and rest assured that security will monitor the area while you enjoy closing worship.

If you are staying at the Galt House with a roommate (or two!), try to settle your bill on Saturday evening or early Sunday morning.

Lost and Found

Are you missing your water bottle, ornament or phone? Visit the Gathering Office (Suite, 2)! Many wayward items have already been reunited with their owners, and many others await!

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Several years later, and following ordination, Katherine became involved with the Raleigh Youth Mission, which gets groups of youth involved with local mission work. These projects could include helping in a shelter or kitchen, but also included community service work such as cleaning up graffiti and passing out popsicles to children in a park and befriending them.

“It was focused on building community relationships,” Katherine said. The sessions began with education, then came the action, the actual service project, but then it always ended with reflection. The reflection would include discussion, art and prayer.

“You cannot have a spiritual awakening without action,” she exclaimed. “An awakening needs action to interpret it for our lives.”

She now works with veterans who are homeless or are in crisis. This gives her a chance to work

one-on-one and to have a hands-on approach in finding practical solutions and responses.

“To look at mission with new eyes is to reimagine what mission can look like,” said Katherine. “God says, ‘I am with you always’ and God is still speaking to us today.”

Mission is still needed today she continued. She uses a Toppling Tower game to show how poverty affects people and a community.

Katherine began by explaining that our friend Sally has a strong, firm foundation. As long as everything working as it should, she can manage just fine. But then one day, she has a flat tire. That by itself does not sound terrible, but it can lead to the collapse of her world, throwing her into crisis.

The flat tire leads to additional expenses to repair or purchase a new tire, plus Sally loses a day of work. Her next paycheck is smaller

and with the extra expenses, she can't pay for childcare for a week. Now she misses more work. Add another stress, such as a sick parent, and we can see that it wouldn't take long for the fragile balance to topple.

Mission can transform our world as we work to help others, but we must remain grounded in our faith, said Katherine. She explained that sometimes we get involved in social justice, and racial equity and helping the lost, and those issues become our god.

“If we do all this, but don't have faith, what is it for?” she asked. “We need to be grounded in faith while we are called to make a difference in the world.”

See with new eyes, she exhorts us, and “Shine on!”

Louise Van Poll is a freelance writer for Daily Horizons.

Determined Care

BY CARISSA HEROLD



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MARTIN

During her keynote on Friday night plenary, Marisol Jiménez shared sobering truths and personal stories in exploring the complexities of immigration.

Conversations about a broken immigration system often begin and end at the border—as if building walls and barriers would heal the injustices and offer clear answers. In her thoughtful and quietly passionate presentation on Friday night, Marisol Jiménez said that our current immigration conversation is narrow and misguided. We must accept that institutionalized racism is foundational to our current broken immigration system. And rampant consumerism makes us all complicit in a globalized system that exploits workers and

endangers the environment in the service of profits for a few.

The plight of the immigrant is part of her family's personal story. Marisol's parents had a hasty courthouse wedding after her father—an undocumented Mexican worker—was turned in to the authorities by one of her mother's relatives. The money that her parents had saved for another kind of wedding was instead spent on bail. Marisol says that as a young woman, she struggled to find a way to emotionally navigate between her mother's

family—who were proud of their Irish heritage—and her father's Mexican family—who were largely absent from her life.

A mission trip to the border solidified Marisol's commitment to advocate on behalf of a more just immigration system. Resolved to find a way to change legislation, she learned that there are simply not enough legal pathways or sufficiently tall walls to resolve the current backlog (some pending since 1995) of applications for legal residency.

Tepeyac Consulting, founded by Marisol, works to provide a way to connect “communities that are most often marginalized . . . with opportunities to amplify their voices and meaningfully lead social justice efforts.” They “offer the resources, tools and frameworks to develop and deepen organizations' and communities' capacity with an explicit and intentional structural analysis.” Put more simply, Tepeyac offers a sort of sanctuary for the marginalized. Sanctuary, in this sense, is not just a legal ploy to protect undocumented workers and fleeing refugees but a resolve for community and shared care.

For example, Marisol and the people she serves set up a verification system as well as telephone hotlines (with trained volunteers) so that the community can live safely. Even so, recent ICE activity resulted in the deportation of several members of the community. Marisol says that a celebratory barbeque organized by the ICE officials in the very neighborhood where the deported lived was particularly stinging. But even during these very days, “such a time as this,” she revels in God's generous blessings of a funny story, a precious baby, a hopeful day.

Carissa Herold is PW marketing associate.

WiFi Information

Stay connected (and check the Gathering app) with complimentary WiFi. Select “GH Conference” and enter pw2018 in both the username and password fields.

Sisters Around the World

BY YVONNE HILEMAN



PHOTO COURTESY OF YIN-CHIN SHEN

At an April 2018 meeting of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, almost every attendee wore black, showing their support for the campaign to end sexual and other violence against women.

Yin-Chin Shen, moderator of the Women's Ministry Committee in the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT), is one of the mission partners at the 2018 Gathering. With interpretation help from Hsiao-Hsuan Chen for a conversation with *Daily Horizons*, Yin-Chin described how the work of the Women's Ministry Committee in the PCT is similar in some ways to that of PW in the PC(USA)—spiritual nurture, working to end violence against women, leadership development, participation in Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The overarching concern for Yin-Chin's trip is to introduce PW in the PC(USA) to the Presbyterian

Church in Taiwan and its ministries. She wants Presbyterian Women to know that the people of Taiwan have an identity separate from the Chinese, and that this is a justice issue. Yin-Shin also wants to convey that the people of Taiwan are not castaways, but a proud people with a beautiful land, good people, excellent services and a strong faith. They are seeking respect for their identity and the right to claim that identity. Yin-Chin says "We cannot even use our own name." Hsiao-Hsuan pointed to the Olympics as an example. "Our people compete under the Chinese Taipei flag rather than the Taiwanese flag."

Yin-Chin wore the World Council of Churches' Thursdays in Black pin. She says the Women's Ministry Committee began spreading the idea of participating in this campaign to end sexual and other violence against women three years ago. Earlier this year, at an April meeting of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, almost everyone wore black. "Even the men?" we asked. "Yes, even the men," Yin-Chin said. The Women's Ministry Committee also publishes a bimonthly magazine.

Yvonne Hileman is PW assistant editor.

Ed Op Cancellation

Ed Ops 11A and 11C, Creator-created Creativity, have been cancelled. If you are scheduled for one of these, please select another ed op and wait to be seated in the space available.

Breaking the Cycle of Gun Violence Through Story

BY LOUISE VAN POLL



One of the numerous educational opportunities offered at the Gathering was one on gun violence led by David Barnhart. David is trained in story ministry. Story ministry is all about coming together and sharing stories. It is about connecting with others and recognizing each others' humanity.

"The Bible was meant to be heard, not read," he explained. And Jesus is the best example of a storyteller, using stories to teach, to call, to confront, to welcome and to comfort. But the story of God's people in a state of constant change. He commented, "We're still

writing new stories because we are part of a living, evolving religion."

David is part of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance film production arm called Story Productions. They spent seven years working on the film *Trigger*, which focuses on gun violence.

"It is important that we listen to the stories, hear the humanity and connect with the people affected," David said. "Because there is a ripple effect of gun violence."

There are 30,000 gun deaths each year in the U.S. We must remember that gun violence is more than only the mass shootings. It is also the drive-by shootings, gang warfare and personal vendettas.

Trigger offers many surprising facts and figures, as well as letting

the viewer inside the hearts and pain of the families left behind, survivors and first responders. If a strange disease caused as many deaths as gun violence, the CDC would be all over it, said one man in the film. Yet despite the death toll of gun violence, there is silence.

It is David's hope that groups all across the nation will have screenings of this movie to start dialogs about possible solutions. Study guides, discussion forums and information on hosting a screening are all available on www.pcusa.org/storyproductions.

"If anyone can get this topic moving forward it is the PW groups," David said. "It is time for action."

Louise Van Poll is a freelance writer for Daily Horizons.

Be Bold

In their ed op, "Let's Be Bold," 2015–2018 PW Churchwide Moderator Carol Winkler and PW Executive Director Susan Jackson Dowd urged Presbyterian Women to continue being bold witnesses, advocates and problem solvers. In response to Carol and Susan's charge, Pamela Frucci (Grosse Ile, Michigan) shared the following poem that captured the theme of the workshop and the Gathering charge to arise and shine:

Bite off more than you can chew.

Plan on more than you can do.

Hitch your wagon to a star.

Hang on tight and there you are.

Take the Gathering Home

BY CHRIS WOLF

Have you decided how you will be taking the Gathering home?

I don't know about you, but I'm so excited! And it's only Day 2! I want to take Dianne Moffett's advice from Thursday night's plenary and take home some "Jesus Joy"! As she acknowledged, somedays that's hard. We substitute meetings for ministry, and, sometimes, our "decently and in order" can sometimes sidetrack us from our joy.

I believe this is one of the gifts that PW can offer the church—to serve as a reminder of the joy in our faith. And the best way to do that is by *living* our joy.

How are we going to do that? By "taking the gathering home," of course!

Here are a couple of things I'm going to do:

I'm going to share the stories I've heard, like hearing Eugenia Gamble open her plenary keynote by saying, "Thank you for the life you have given me." Wow! To hear Eugenia—a marvelous Bible Study author and leader—say that to PW was powerful. Friends, take Eugenia's example and tell your story of PW! Then invite others to share their stories of the great cloud of witnesses that has formed them.

I plan to share the 30-year history of PW that we heard in the video. I give thanks for all the work that birthed our organization. And this should lead to a discussion about how we are shaping the future!

Mission is both our past and our future. I loved plenary's Glimpses In Time Video that talked about women setting aside a penny from their egg money, then asking who even stops to pick up a penny on the sidewalk. Studies report no one does, yet when we put all our pennies together, we can change lives.

I am getting out my Jenga game when I get home. Katherine Blankenship talked about how this balancing or toppling tower is a marvelous metaphor for mission, homelessness, the church, PW and more.

If you need other "props," visit the Exhibit Hall for tons of resources:

Get a "slap bracelet" so you can talk about PW's Mission

Visit the Pal Craftaid booth (Global Marketplace, Booth GM 6/7). I have an olive wood carving of a hand holding a child. I will be using it with the 2018–2019 *Horizons* Bible Study to illustrate *God's Promise: I Am With You*.

Stop by the Equal Exchange booth (Global Marketplace, Booth GM 13). You need chocolate, but it also makes a great gift or introduction to the significance of fair trade. Maybe your PW group or session will start buying fair trade coffee, tea and snacks

Visit the Special Offerings booth (Booth 4/5) for a fold-up fan. You won't be needing it here, but if you don't have air conditioning at your church, you'll love it and can promote Special Offerings at the same time.

Do you know what ACWC stands for? Visit Booth 7 and get a #ChurchToo button and a copy of the Gender & Leadership in the PC(USA) report. We still need to talk about the status of women in the church.

Books! I bought several from The Presbyterian Bookstore (Combs Chandler; Suite 2)—all needed! Adults and children alike appreciate children's books. Two short books you could read during children's time or to support literacy: *Thank You, God and Where Are You Hiding, God?* Check out Sandy Eisenberg Sasso's books—they are marvelous!

If you're looking for a read for your trip home, pick up *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* by Diana Butler Bass. I just finished it up on the ride to Louisville and loved it!

Friends, it is time for us to "rise and shine" and take the Gathering home! Well, once the Gathering ends on Sunday, that is. Whatever else you take home, I hope a sense of joy stays with you until our next Churchwide Gathering!

Chris Wolf is a Christian educator from Peck, Michigan.

