

Quarterly Newsletter
for Presbyterian Women Leaders
"PW 101" Series

If you are so moved to share an idea or two that you think should be part of this series, please email carissa.herold@pcusa.org.

PW 101.6: We Gather

Presbyterian Women is connectional, and that means we gather! This is such an important part of our shared journey of faith that coordinating teams at each level of the organization (congregation, presbytery, synod and churchwide) are equally tasked with promoting "attendance at PW events at the presbytery, synod and churchwide levels."

What happens at gatherings? Depends! Sometimes a business meeting is part of a presbytery or synod gathering; the business meeting deals with, well, the business of the group, which often includes the installation of new leadership. Gatherings are also the place to learn about the organization (and the organization's resources such as *Horizons* magazine and Bible study, which are promoted by the assigned and invited *Horizons* representative) and activities of the organization (Bible study, service projects and more). Workshops, presentations, community projects, stewardship opportunities, Bible study and fellowship are important components of gatherings. Gatherings are serious business in the most joyful, PW Purpose-full way! Stay connected with your PW circle so you can learn when your presbytery or synod plan to gather as gathering frequencies differ by region.

At the national level, Presbyterian Women gather every three years. In 2018 (this year!), Presbyterian Women will gather in Louisville from August 2-5, 2018. Visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering to register for a truly faith-affirming experience!

Please join us for the
Presbyterian Women's
Salad Supper
And Installation of Officers

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

6:30pm

Fellowship Hall
Mount Vernon Presbyterian
Church



**Please bring a salad to share and a serving utensil. We will also have a community project - assembling hygiene bags for the youth to give to the homeless.*



Future 2018-19 MVPC PW Moderator Sarah Chalpan celebrates a great year with Outgoing 2017-18 MVPC PW Moderator, Pat Bartee

**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

**POWERFUL KNOWLEDGE TO
EMPOWER WOMEN**

SUMMER QUARTER 2018

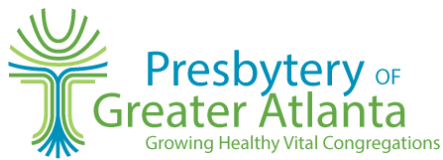
State of PW Summary~Pat Bartee

In the past two years, Mount Vernon Presbyterian Women have reviewed and amended Bylaws, increased the number of Circles from three to six, expanded our community mission (including doing a joint clothing drive with our Youth and providing knitted products from the new Knitting Circle to Youth homeless drives), experienced two successful Missions lunches and two Retreats, participated in collecting clothes for Mission Haven and for Drake House and jewelry for the Mother's Day Shops, gathered items for Family Promise "starter baskets" and Presbyterian Homes auction and Christmas projects.

(continued inside)

Presbyterian women are always encouraged to give as we are blessed!

www.presbyterianwomen.org/missionpledge for more information.



<http://www.atlpcusa.org/pw.html>

Mount Vernon District Report Summer 2018: Pat Bartee, Moderator

MVPW has experienced an active Winter & Spring:

*Our annual Missions Lunch this year featured a Sandy Springs police officer and a victim advocate to discuss human trafficking issues in our area.

*The annual Retreat was held at The Lost Corner Preserve in Sandy Springs. Our Youth minister led our Horizons lesson and a great discussion and we had sandwiches and dessert outside on the beautiful property.

* Clothes in good condition were gathered for Mission Haven and for Drake House, where many of our church's Family Promise participants go after their time in our program. Our Circle of Grace had their March meeting at the Drake Closet to learn more about the extraordinary support that is given to families at Drake House in Roswell.

*Collections of jewelry for the Mother's Day Shops at four elementary schools, where most children receive free lunch, involved us, our congregation, and friends in nearby Senior Communities. It is a joint project with several Jewish Women's organizations in Sandy Springs.

*We continue to receive positive responses from our churchwide quarterly MVPC PW Newsletter.

*The MVPC CT has been engaged in some lively discussions this Spring of finding ways to reinvent and rejuvenate ourselves and how to make our churchwide events more accessible and welcoming to all women. It has been a good experience for us.

*The annual Salad Supper is again in June. While mostly a social event, this includes the installation of new PW officers and the naming of the Honorary Life Membership award recipient. We look forward to having two special guests, Gwen Mesimer, new Moderator for the Atlanta area and Faye Cashwell, new District 1 Leader.

MVPC PW 63 Years Strong! Linda Bhame, Spiritual Growth

During the 1970s, our church was rapidly growing as more and more people moved into Sandy Springs. PW Circles met in members' homes and then had a general monthly meeting at the church. Our minister held a study group for the women who would be Bible Teachers for the various Circles. Our children were growing up and the church had more and more college students so PW decided to 'adopt' these college kids to keep them in touch with Mount Vernon, their home church. We packed care packages for them—homemade cookies, candy, bubble gum, instant coffee, along with a church bulletin, the newsletter and little notes to say they were in our thoughts and prayers.

WHAT WE ARE READING Daily Devotionals

Living The Message
Eugene Peterson

**Healing After Loss: Daily Meditations for
Working Through Grief**
Martha Whitmore Hickman

**The Power of Being Thankful
and
Wake Up to the Word: 365 Devotions to
Inspire You Each Day**
Joyce Meyer

The Prayer Tree
Michael Leunig

**Guideposts Daily Devotions
and
These Days**
Various Authors

**PW Celebrates 30th Anniversary
2018 Churchwide Gathering of PW
August 2-5, 2018 in Louisville, KY**

State of PW Summary~Pat Bartee (continued)

We have given nearly a thousand dollars in offerings to National and International Presbyterian USA PW and local Atlanta Presbytery missions, and have been involved in crisis care for present and former PW members, as we continued our Bible Study of the Gospels and Hebrews, believing that action must accompany belief. It has been an active and rewarding time. We ended the year with some soul-searching and lively conversation about the way forward and ***we have made some changes that we hope will make PW more welcoming and enticing for more women of the church in the future.***

Changes to expect in 2018-2019:

* No lesson books. The theme is ***Loving God in Different Ways*** and utilizes staff and member talent to explore the roles of music, church history and current policy, care for the homeless, and caretaking of the congregation and our own parents. We look forward to this new format.

* Simplifying guidelines for refreshments at Circle meetings and providing funds in the budget for them. Dropping unnecessary events (Kickoff lunch and Birthday lunch).

* Looking carefully at general meetings and retreats to plan them at times that are more accessible to all women. Seeking feedback and taking surveys to get new ideas and times.

Presbyterian Women is the oldest, continuing group at Mount Vernon and we look forward to joyfully carrying that tradition into the future!



Women's Connection 2018, Through the Valley August 10 - 12, 2018 will seek to be a time for women to find encouragement, empowerment, connection, comfort, and challenge. We will do this through powerful and authentic worship led by women, providing space for honest and faithful conversation, and allowing time for discernment and renewing rest.

<http://www.montreat.org/women>