



# The Linkage

Presbyterian Women  
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley



The Linkage

Winter 2017

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## Message from Moderator, Dotty Lessley

**Greetings Ladies!** It has been an exciting experience serving as your Moderator! I started the summer in June with traveling to Franklin, TN to attend the Triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Living Waters.

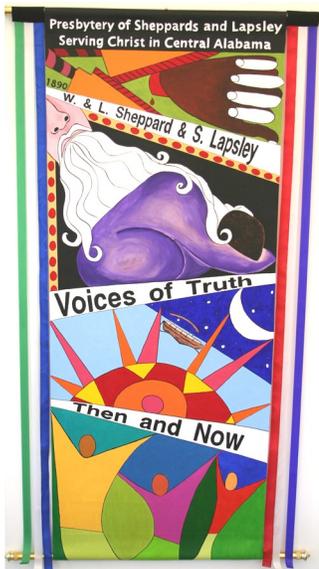
In July, the Alabama/Mississippi Conference was beyond fantastic, which was sponsored by South Highland Presbyterian Church PW. Rev. Lynn Miller is an inspirational Bible Study Leader who gave us great insight into the Horizons Study, *Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes*. And check out the September/October issue of Horizons. Horizons printed Lynn's opening lecture on the history up to Mark's Gospel. I was personally left with chills and a profound sense of reverence for the determination of the first Christians.

This year's Alabama/Mississippi Conference will be held **July 19 – 21, 2017** at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, AL. Be on the lookout for more information about this conference. I ask each congregation to donate five handmade items for the Gift Shop. We need home made items: canned, baked, cooked, knitted, crocheted, sewn, woodworked, painted, photographed, pottery, or anything made with love! All proceeds from the Gift Shop, Offering and Cents-ability will be divided between National Children's Advocacy Center and Riah Rose Home for Children. Both of these recipients were beneficiaries of previous denominational PW Offerings.

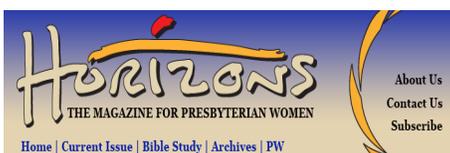
Save these Dates!! **August 2 – 8, 2018** for the *Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women*, home again in Louisville, KY!! If you haven't been to a Churchwide Gathering, I strongly encourage you to come and check it out. You will not regret it! And - mark your calendars for Wednesday – Saturday, **June 12 – June 15, 2019** for the *5<sup>th</sup> Triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Living Waters* at First Presbyterian Church of Tupelo, MS.

I leave you with this thought. I love a nice cup of tea, particularly peppermint tea. I'm reading a devotional book titled *Stories Of Faith And Courage From The Homefront From The French and Indian War to the Wars of Iraq and Afghanistan*. The January 21<sup>st</sup> entry is titled Colonial Teas. It speaks to the traditions of preparing, serving and drinking of tea. We still love a nice warm brew and chatting with one another, don't we? We share our hopes, dreams, burdens, sorrows. We lift one another up and pray for each other. Let us remember 1 Corinthians 16: 7. "I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits."

Blessings, *Dotty Lessley*



*Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.*



## ANNISTON CLUSTER

### Christmas Celebrations!

The PW of First Presbyterian Church of Sylacauga, AL, in partnership with Civitan and ARC Of South Talladega County, sponsored the 3rd Annual Christmas Party for Children with Special Needs on Saturday, December 3, 2016. This party began through the generosity of the Harry Murphy Grant. The ladies of FPC and Civitan have continued sharing the love. Everyone had a joyously wonderful time! Children, parents and volunteers enjoyed the activities, food, fellowship and a special visit from Santa Claus!

Dottie Lessley, FPC  
Sylacauga PW member



On December 12, the students at Ascension Leadership Academy were treated to lunch by the PW at First Presbyterian, Talladega. The menu was soups - tomato, chicken noodle - chili, and yummy grilled cheese sandwiches. Some of the children went back for seconds! The children received individualized gift bags. The boys couldn't wait to put on their new ties! All were adorable, appreciative, and so very polite. Young and old thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each other better.



On December 20<sup>th</sup>, the students presented a wonderful Christmas program for family, church members, and many other people in the community. They are very talented and seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Not only did they sing, they played rhythm instruments while singing. The

music program at the academy is proving to be very successful.

Sandy Godbey,  
Cluster Leader



*Christmas lunch at 1st Presbyterian Talladega*

**Here is a blurb that appears on the PW(USA) website. If we see any strangers in Talladega, let's give thanks!**



### Join a mission tour to Alabama's Presbyterian Home for Children

Tour and support the Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega, Alabama, March 27-31, 2017. This home started offering care for Civil War orphans and widows, and over the years has continued to care for children in a loving, Christian atmosphere. The trip is limited to 14 participants, based on date registration is received, and costs \$250.

Apply today! The application deadline is February 27, 2017.

## AUBURN/EUFAULA CLUSTER

Talking to the churches in this cluster, most are chugging along, were busy during Advent and taking a breath before Lent and Easter. Like many of our churches, here at First Eufaula, we enjoy our study of *Who Is Jesus?* We continue with our regular activities of providing for our homebound and collecting food items in our "Can Cross", box tops for education and stamps for Dotty. Our next project will be providing soup and sandwiches for Lenten suppers. We're looking forward to the Spring Gathering in Trussville.

Zoe Powell, Cluster Leader

## BIRMINGHAM EAST CLUSTER BIRMINGHAM WEST CLUSTER

**Friends, the following are some posts from our sisters in the Birmingham area.**

*Paula Haynes, East Cluster Leader*

As some of you know, I was diagnosed this fall with advanced lung cancer, unrelated to the breast cancer I fought eight years ago. This came as quite a shock and the past months have been very challenging. While not taking traditional chemo, I am taking a targeted chemo in pill form daily, which comes with its own set of side effects to which I am slowly getting adjusted. I feel it necessary to rotate off the CT this time; I have truly enjoyed working with you all but it is time for a fresh face as your cluster leader. Please prayerfully consider joining the CT in this role. It is a great experience to join with other Presbyterian Women to serve God's kingdom! I have thoroughly enjoyed working on the team for the past eight years meeting so many wonderful Presbyterian Women from across our state. I know that God will call the right person to take this opportunity to serve, and to be blessed in the process. -Blessings

*Mary Southerland, West Cluster Leader*

If you want to join women who are dedicated to the work of the Presbyterian Women, then you may want to consider becoming the West Cluster Leader. (I am leaving this office because my Church has now joined the ECO.) My years as the West Cluster Leader were filled with love, joy and wonderful fellowship as I worked with the wonderful women on the coordinating team and connected with the Churches in the West Cluster - a priceless experience and such a blessing.

*Shirley Jones, PWP Search Co-coordinator*

It is with regret that I leave the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team but also with thankfulness and gratitude for the opportunity to serve with the wonderful women from our different churches. I am impressed with the dedication and commitment of each of the women who I love and will miss. I will miss our fun times together. I especially enjoyed serving as the West Cluster leader. Paula Haynes was a wonderful

mentor. This is how I got to know all of you! During my tenure, I was most impressed with the distribution of the Harry Murphy Memorial Fund. This was under Carolyn Jordan's leadership, who was an inspiration and a wonderful example of service. When we lost Carolyn, a very capable and sweet Dotty Lessley stepped up to the plate. It isn't easy to leave so many good friends and I will always treasure my memories of the PWCT and each of you. -With love.

*Paula's service with us will be missed. Shirley and Mary, members of Good Shepherd of the Valley, McCalla, will also be missed. It is with sadness that we bid our sisters farewell, but also with gratitude for the opportunities to have known them and witnessed their faith.*

*South Highland Presbyterian, Birmingham* For our spring meeting, our CT called Rev. Lynn Miller, the keynote speaker at the 2016 AL/MS Conference to re-unite with our Associate Pastor, Rev. Dr. Jim Truesdale and bring to SHPC on **April 30th at 11:00** their version of an 'artful worship.' Please join us for a truly inspiring Sunday morning with Rev. Jim preaching and leading us in a post-Easter worship and Rev. Lynn interpreting his message on canvas. Afterwards, join us for lunch and conversation with Rev. Lynn. More information to follow at the Spring Gathering in March.  
*Kathy Tracey, SHPC PW*

*First Presbyterian, Gardendale* We are busy this year, with ministries here and around the world.  
Firehouse Shelter for Men: Every other month we prepare, cook and serve a home-cooked meal.  
Presbyterian Manor: Once a quarter, or on special holidays, we bring dinner to the residents. We serve the food and then join them in fellowship.  
Presbyterian Children's Home: Each Spring we have a Bazaar and sell homemade items, with the proceeds for the Home. Also, handmade items are donated for their Welcome Baskets. Every month items are taken to the Thrift Store.  
First Light: Requested items are given by members of our church and taken to First Light. These include toothpaste, pillows, tissues, lozenges, etc.  
World Mission: We support Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Emily Seitz, mission co-workers in Taiwan.

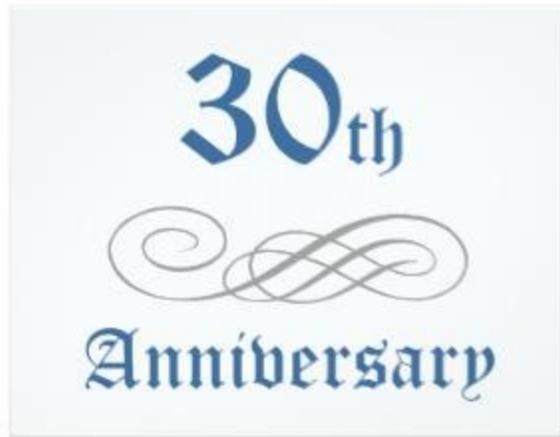
*Jeanne Holloway, FPG PW*

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**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Gathering**

***Presbyterian Women  
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley***

**Saturday, March 4, 2017  
“Pearls of Wisdom”**



**Cahaba Springs Presbyterian Church  
6110 Deerfoot Parkway  
Trussville, AL 35173**

Registration begins at 9:30 am Program begins at 10:00 am

Worship Service at 11:00 am Lunch at 12:30 pm

Please make pre-paid lunch reservations with  
Anne Thomas, 1487 Jones Road, Springville, AL 35146

Lunch is \$7.00 per person

*-Continued from page 3 -*

The Women of Center Point Presbyterian have had a busy winter! We participated in two craft shows, after months of work. The money goes to missions (including the Congo Necklace Project). We have a book/Bible study every Monday (love our Horizons lessons with different insights) and a knitting group meets Fridays. In addition, our knitters made 7 afghans for the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Women's Shelter. We sent goody bags to the 47 members of the Center Point High School Chorale on Halloween, and will do for Valentine's Day. We host and provide a reception when the chorale worships with us in February. With the men of the church, once a month we provide a meal at the Firehouse Men's Shelter. We donate to GBM, collect toiletries for the Well House, and have an ongoing collection for the Presbyterian Children's Home. *Elizabeth McKean, CPP PW*

*Bold Springs Presbyterian* is involved in ministries at Presbyterian Home for Children, The Well House, and First Light. This fall they held a craft fair and white elephant sale at the church.

## TUSCALOOSA CLUSTER

*First Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa* Our PW Coordinating Team is planning our first ever **Celebrate the Gifts of Women luncheon** following the **11 am service on April 2**. All women and girls ages 6 and above are invited with a nursery provided for younger children. We will ask for reservations and sell prepaid tickets for the catered lunch. Women's work will be displayed (painting, needlework, pottery, fiber arts, etc.) and two women will be surprised with the PW Honorary Life Membership award. So that we may learn more about each other, we are asking women of the church to complete a survey. The goal of the survey is to recognize our accomplishments, gifts and commonalities with the purpose of enriching our friendships and mentoring younger women. We plan to recognize volunteer efforts, various professions and other talents during this time. We will send pictures for the next edition of the Linkage and let you all know how it worked out!!!! Right now it is a fun work in progress.

*Shelley Hancock, Cluster Leader*



## PRESBYTERY WOMEN HAPPENINGS

03/04/2017

Annual Spring Gathering @ Cahaba Springs Presbyterian; Trussville, AL

03/27/2017 - 03/31/2017

PH4C Mission Tour

04/02/2017

Celebrate the Gifts of Women @ First Presbyterian; Tuscaloosa, AL

04/09/2017 Palm Sunday

04/16/2017 Easter

04/30/2017 Rev. Lynn Miller @ South Highland Presbyterian; Birmingham

07/19/2017 - 07/21/2017

AL / MS Conference @ Covenant Presbyterian; Huntsville, AL



*This year we have an opportunity to bring fresh voices to the CT of the PW Presbytery. Anyone with a heart to serve and meet other women from congregations in the area is invited to join us! If you are interested, please contact Dottie Lessley, PWP Moderator, or any of the members of the team. Service openings and contact information is on the last page.*



# Presbyterian Women

*Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community*

## Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley—2017 PWP Coordinating Team

### ELECTED LEADERS

**Moderator : Dotty Lessley**

E-Mail: d.j.lessley@att.net  
904 Country Club Rd., Sylacauga, AL 35150  
Telephone: 256-249-2872

**Recording Secretary: Anne Thomas**

E-Mail: atrn@windstream.net  
14787 Jones Road, Springville, AL 35146  
Telephone: 205-467-7345 (H), 205-863-9852 (C)

**Treasurer: Zoe Powell**

E-Mail: zoempowell@gmail.com  
605 N. Randolph, Eufaula, AL 36027  
Telephone: 334-695-2975

**Financial Secretary/Directory Editor: Judy Boyes**

E-Mail: judyboyes@charter.net  
4047 Somerset Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242  
Telephone: 205-995-2154 (H); 205-901-4184 (C)

**Historian: Dotty Lessley**

E-Mail: d.j.lessley@att.net  
904 Country Club Rd., Sylacauga, AL 35150  
Telephone: 256-249-2872

**Coordinator of Gatherings: TBA**

**Coordinator of Missions: TBA**

**Co-Coordinator of Justice and Peace—Bessie Goggins**

E-Mail: b\_gogginsb@att.net  
817 W. 16th Street, Anniston, AL 36201  
Telephone: 256-235-2938

**Co-Coordinator of Justice and Peace—Carrie Hutcherson**

E-mail: hutlove@cableone.net  
1427 Pine Avenue, Anniston, AL 36201  
Telephone: 256-236-6812

**Coordinator of Search Committee— TBA**

### PW CLUSTER LEADERS

**Anniston Co-Leader: Sandy W. Godbey**

E-Mail: sgodbey0118@charter.net  
4101 Brecon Circle, Talladega 35160  
Telephone: 256-649-0971

**Anniston Co-Leader: Sidney E. Thompson**

E-Mail: set411@gmail.com  
411 E. South Street, Talladega 35160  
Telephone: 256-368-8985 (H), 256-589-2419 (C)

**Eufaula / Auburn: Zoe Powell**

E-Mail: zoempowell@gmail.com  
605 N. Randolph, Eufaula, AL 36027  
Telephone: 334-695-2975

**Birmingham-East: TBA**

**Birmingham-West: TBA**

**Montgomery/Selma: Lucinda (Cindy) Hoffmaster**

E-mail: l.hoffmaster@yahoo.com  
2207 Walbash Drive, Montgomery, AL 36116  
Telephone: 334-395-9919 (H), 334-312-2651 (C)

**Montgomery/Selma Co-Leader: Bette Lewis**

E-Mail: b\_lewis@knology.net  
1565 South Perry St., Montgomery, AL 36104  
Telephone: 334-264-4740

**Tuscaloosa: Shelley Hancock**

E-mail: shelleyhancock@comcast.net  
1010 Valleyforge Rd., Tuscaloosa, AL 35406  
Telephone: 205-752-6869

### APPOINTED

**Horizons Representative: TBA**

**Linkage Editor: Kathy Tracey**

E-mail: dobbes@bellsouth.net  
3305 Marlboro Dr., Birmingham, AL 35223  
Telephone: 205-969-2264 (H); 205-903-1970 (C)