



# The Pilgrimage



## From our Moderator

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

You will be receiving this newsletter just after Easter. Rejoice in the Risen Lord and in all the Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Pacific! The 2019 PW Spring Gathering of these women took place at Mercy Center in Burlingame the first weekend of April. There were 50 women in attendance who were led in worship, ritual, prayer and song by the Rev. Sharon Edwards. The Bible study by the Rev. Eugenia Gamble was presented using recorded video sessions by the author. She certainly whetted our appetites for further study of the 2019-2020 PW/Horizons Bible Study: Love Carved in Stone: a Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments.

This gathering came together because of the hard work of every member of the Synod Coordinating Team. To you we own our sincerest thanks.

Presbytery Moderators gave reports. Corinne Quinn, who will attend the USA Mission Experience in the Finger Lakes region of New York State in July, was commissioned. Mary Davis and Kay Woods, who attended the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women in NYC, told us about what they learned and volunteered to visit us upon our invitation. Barbara Clark, PWSCT CCT representative, reviewed the Churchwide Coordinating Team's many projects.

New members of the PWS coordinating team were installed. Corinne Quinn is the new Mission Interpretation Coordinator and Karen Vied is the new Leadership Enhancement Coordinator. Constance Rubio and Eunice Brabec, outgoing members of the PWSCT, were thanked for their years of service.

Vicki Hautala accomplished a yeoman's job dealing with Mercy Center and its new staff. In addition, she made a Power-Point presentation of the music chosen by Rev. Edwards and maintained a list of registrants.

Itineration of the USA Mission Experience representative will be paid by the Synod budget. Please continue to send donations to Vicki Hautala, 31865 Little Valley Road, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

Synod PW Moderator,  
Jacquelyn Benjamin

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## Easter Sunday from the Gospel of Mark

<sup>5</sup> Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled.

<sup>6</sup> But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.<sup>u</sup> He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him.

<sup>7</sup> Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you."<sup>8</sup> Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

[\*Common English Bible\*](#). (2011). (Mk 16:5-8). Nashville, TN: Common English Bible.

**REALLY ???  
Women who don't talk?  
We know better ....**



**Do you know what I want? I want justice—oceans of it.**

**I want fairness—rivers of it.**

**That's what I want. That's *all* I want.**

**—God**

**(Amos 5:21-24, The Message)**

Like all of you, these past few months I have heard God's people cry... from Indonesia and Rwanda, at our nation's border, in Cameroon and Guatemala, from victims of gun violence in our communities and from ex-military women of Colombia.

Why? Presbyterian Women have responded. Why?

There is another voice I hear again and again. You can hear this call of God on **You Tube: Michael Frost: The Purpose of the Church**. This missional pastor from Australia says it so much better than I can. The purpose of God's people is to alert the world to the universal, non-negotiable reality of the Reign of God through Christ. We do that by declaring it in worship, but also by demonstrating what that Reign of God looks like here on our earth through acts of mercy, kindness, love, peace, justice, joy, celebration.

That is why we listen to each other as they (we) mourn the loss of lives through bullets. And we work for a world that has safer laws about gun safety for all. We listen to each other when military intervention replaces diplomacy and dialogue. We listen to those who are living in neighborhoods filled with fear and to those in our communities who have no hope. We listen to those whose farms, lives and futures have been devastated by natural disasters caused by climate change or by human disasters caused by the greed of consumers and corporations, governments, and drug cartels. We accompany them. We share our resources bringing clean water, planting trees, starting bakeries and farms, sharing Bible studies, learning new ways to sing and dance and pray....and so much more.

My goal this year is to listen more. Especially important are conversations about violence. I know some of you also want to have more of these uncomfortable, difficult dialogues in your churches and communities. Let's do it together. Please let me know your questions; PC(USA) and Presbyterian Peace Fellowship have many resources. Let me know when and how these conversations take place, so we can share experiences, successes and failures.

[tubahunt@comcast.net](mailto:tubahunt@comcast.net)). At the next Synod Gathering we can together present a tool-kit on how to have conversations.

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# Mission Interpretation

## Celebrations

We see every day celebrations of some sort. Whether it is celebrations for births, anniversaries, marriage, a business (celebrating 50 years), birthdays, personal and group accomplishments, holidays, etc., and some areas celebrating the best tacos, beer, and donuts in town.

And then you have celebrating world water day. This is part of theWaterProject.org celebration which occurred on March 22, 2019, but then again, I see no rule that we cannot celebrate water on a daily bases giving it is part of our lifeline. And with that being said, everyone should have excess to water at all times, no matter what kind of environment you may live in. The Water Project Organization has been serving those who have to struggle on a daily bases to have access to clean and safe water. The Water Project helps provide clean water to the communities and schools, by providing ways to dig wells, build a hand pump, protect spring water, provide rainwater catchment and build sand dams to achieve the goal of obtaining safe and reliable water. In another words, this is a project to look into if your Church is looking at other projects to help with in respect to donations, volunteering, and time.

## Disasters

There are times when celebrations of any kind will not take the pain away any time soon for some. We have in California our own disasters. So many people have lost their homes, friends, family members, animals and pets due to fires. Flooding in other areas in California has also occurred. The people that were in those communities affected by the fires, still need help and so you may want to discuss with your Church or community on how you may be able to assist in helping those in need.

Other states have suffered greatly from hurricanes in which they cause so much destruction in the communities and it takes years to recover. The Florida Panhandle area and South Carolina were affected greatly. And yes, New Orleans is still trying to recover from Hurricane Katrina which occurred in 2005. There is a group called Team Rubicon USA in which they provide disaster relief via volunteering, donations and even a career if interested. And before you decide to donate to any organization, please look into the organization further to ensure they are doing what they state they are doing. Haiti was hit with an earthquake in which Mercy Beyond Borders is helping the community to rebuild. The earthquake did significant structural damage which left many adults and children sleeping in the streets for they were too afraid to sleep in the buildings. You can follow their progress by going to their website and facebook page. The website is [www.mercybeyondborders.org](http://www.mercybeyondborders.org)

## Presbyterian information

The Presbyterian website has many resources for ministry work. The Horizons is full of resources and if you would like to receive a copy of the magazine, please go to [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org). Mission connections is a wealth of information regarding mission work at [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/mission-connections](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/mission-connections). And please do not forget about the PCUSA website for news and additional information you may be seeking.

Sincerely,  
Constance Rubio



## **PW Board/Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT) Report**

By Barbara Clark, Synod of the Pacific (SOP) CCT Representative

### **ZOOM Board Meeting Saves PW \$30,000 !!**

Eleven committees reported at the February 20, 2019 National PW Board Zoom meeting. There were 42 total attendees. The ZOOM meeting took less than 3 hours with NO TRAVEL EXPENSE, NO HOTEL EXPENSE, NO FOOD COSTS and thus saved the organization about \$30,000. The individual committees also met at various times by ZOOM prior to the Board Meeting. More Savings!!

ZOOM information is available from the PW National Office. Zoom has a web page with information and tips for use at <https://zoom.us/resources> Stephanie (Morris) Patterson is the national PW office Multimedia Associate/Designer. Stephanie can be contacted for Zoom information and training. Her email address is:

[stephanie.Patterson@pcusa.org](mailto:stephanie.Patterson@pcusa.org)

An appointment can be set up for training with Stephanie's training scheduler so that you can learn all about Zoom. <https://presbyterianwomeninc.youcanbook.me>

**The Creative Ministries Offering Committee (CMOC)** holds the record as the longest PW Zoom meeting so far. This committee makes the Birthday Offering and Thank Offering selections. Horizon's Magazine has additional information about the 2018-19 grant awards together with a brief dedication service to be used in PW Circle meetings.

The 2019 Thank Offering awards went to 18 projects chosen from 75 completed applications.

12 domestic projects were awarded for a total of \$238,825 and

6 international projects for a total of \$152,987.

\$170,237 was given to health-related projects.

\$391,812 in total was dispersed for the Thank Offering 2019.

**The Racial Equity Committee (REC)** has been reading and recommends **"Anxious to Talk About It"** for book discussion and racism study. They also request PW to write about experiences of racism for the Racial Equity Page of the PW website.

### **Connections for All of Us**

\*\*\****Online PW News Letters***\*\*\*

National PW: *Quarterly News for Presbyterian Women Leaders*

Synod of the Pacific PW: *The Pilgrimage*

PW Presbytery of San Jose: *The Linkage*

PW Presbytery of San Francisco: *Spirit*

PW Presbytery of Boise: *Spirit Weaving*

PW Presbytery of the Redwoods: *Redwoods Review*

PW Presbytery of Kendall



## **Welcome New Synod Coordinating Team Members**

Three new leaders for the PW Synod Coordinating Team were installed at the Synod Gathering, April 5-7, 2019. They were elected to the Class of 2022 by “Electors” from each PW Presbytery and the PW Synod Coordinating Team and begin their three-year terms immediately. We are excited to welcome these outstanding women to leadership for Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Pacific.

### **Becky Jewel – Secretary/Historian**

Becky was appointed to her position last year by Moderator Jackie Benjamin to finish the term of Marian Stratton. She now begins a full term with skills honed in the Presbytery of Western Reserve and churches in Ohio and Kentucky. Becky lives in Portland, Oregon where she serves as PW Moderator at Kenilworth Presbyterian Church and is a member of the PW Presbytery of the Cascades Coordinating Team. She is an Elder, Deacon, Contemporary Worship Leader, and sings in the choir. She is a retired dietitian, volunteers with the Oregon Food Bank, and enjoys reading, hiking, doing math logic problems and eating good food. She has been married to her husband, David, for nearly 50 years and they have two children and two grandchildren.

### **Corinne Quinn – Mission Interpretation Coordinator**

Corinne is a member of Community Presbyterian Church, Vallejo, California where she chairs the Church and World Committee. She is trying to pull together women from her congregation and Heritage Presbyterian Church in Benicia to form a circle. Corinne will be our PW Synod representative to the 2019 USA Mission Experience to the Finger Lakes area in New York. She uses her extensive educational background in Nutrition Education in the Vallejo City Unified School District where she manages a district-wide nutrition education program targeting 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Corinne volunteers with Girls Scouts and the National Council of Negro Women.

### **Karen Vied – Leadership Enhancement Coordinator**

Karen is an active member of First Presbyterian Church, Livermore, California, serving as an Elder and Deacon. Her leadership in Presbyterian Women includes Moderator of her congregation PW (three terms) and leader of its Prayer Shawl Ministry (now part of Together in Service). She has served as PW Moderator for San Francisco Presbytery and is currently Cluster Coordinator. She is a member of P.E.O. and spends one day a week as a volunteer at a local hospital information desk. Karen and her husband have one daughter and a granddaughter. Karen loves time to play with family and friends, to read, and always has a prayer shawl to finish.

**The Search is On** – The Search Committee continues its work as it begins searching for Class of 2023 members for Moderator, Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT) Representative, and Search Committee Moderator. Watch for the nominating form in the Fall *Pilgrimage*.

*Lea Lawrence-Moiso*

# UN Commission on the Status of Women

April 11, 2019

To *The Pilgrimage*,

From P Kay Woods

Three Rivers Community Presbyterian Church,  
San Joaquin Presbytery

Delegate for Presbyterian Women ngo to the UN Women Commission on the Status of Women 63,  
United Nations, New York City

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

After-Glow is not how I would describe my present state now that three weeks have gone by since I joined with more than 7000 women and men coalesced at the United Nations in New York City for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women. I went there, filled with a spirit I hardly could contain: excitement and positive anticipation, trepidation, a heavy feeling of responsibility to the precious families, friends, and even unknown people who had financially and spiritually sent me on the endeavor. Just think of it! The United Nations. (and as I saw it, for Christ!) Presbyterian women and men all of whom care so much for human rights, equity for women and girls, a healthy stewardship of our Creator's planet. And so many women from around the world, really truly diverse in the flesh with their flashing smiles, confident ideas and frustrating reports to focus together toward goals to work into new and different vigor for us all. Because of course if women's lives are made more happy, healthy, independent so are families, villages, nations and even rivers. And so we memorized our Priority Theme: Social Protection Systems, Access to Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructures toward the equality and empowerment of all women and girls. We studied the many issues which these priorities put forth, ready for forums, speeches by UN Women staff, other experts and our peers relating troubled conditions or amazing solutions in many lands, and we read many background papers by brilliant, educated, caring women.

I prayed. I was prayed for and prayed over. We all gathered with Hope. My intention here is not to describe the important, meaningful issues we discussed and rumbled over, or even list them. But as I write my Event Reports, share with family, church and friends some of the CSW memories a cloth is beginning to waft around my shoulders, a light cloth, it feels like the fibers of hope from the CSW delegates. Yes, I realize that sounds pretty "airy fairy" as some would say. I disagree. Hope that flows from Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is of a substance we can't truly fathom. But we can believe in it. Yes, faith and hope are what I took to the CSW 63 and sure enough here it still is. Perhaps because we are in the Lenten Season and the Hope of Resurrection for Jesus and for us is among us, I feel this so strongly. And where else but to you Presbyterian Woman can I bare my soul and my faith? We have much to do, dear Sisters and Brothers, as the hands and hearts and feet of Jesus here on earth right now. What I bring home from the United Nations is the knowledge that there are many of us to do the work and share the joys. You aren't alone; when climate change or worsening political and humanitarian conflicts seem a heavy burden, there we all are, together. And for us as PW we have the promises of God.

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In our PCUSA UN Mission offices just across the street from the UN Buildings complex there hangs a copy of a piece of art from inside the United Nations halls. It is of people of various colors and ages and styles of clothes. Superimposed on it in gold letters are the words “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” The original is made up of thousands of tiny ceramic mosaic tiles and took the artist many months to create. As Christians we move forward together, along with other people of faiths, and those without any, toward a more loving, healthy, happy and more equitable humanity, like those tiny tiles creating one intact vision. I step forward with hope, and faith, with joy.

Rejoicing with you in the promises of Jesus Christ,

P Kay Woods

p.s. I would love to come share details of our work at the UN and hear of your hopes and prayers on these many issues. Mary Lemm Davis, our other PW delegate from our Synod of the Pacific also offers the same and we are a fine duo if your group prefers us both. We focused our time on diverse topics at CSW so have a broad set to offer.



## Reports from the Workshops at the 2019 Synod of the Pacific Gathering

In addition to the two Bible Study sessions with Eugenia Gamble on “Love Carved in Stone,” the 2019-20 Horizon Bible Study, there were two workshops: ***Loving Care of the Earth*** and ***Loving Care of Others***.

### ***Loving Care of the Earth: Faithfully Responding to Climate Change*** – Rev. abby mohaupt

Rev. abby mohaupt began the session by asking us what we knew about climate change. Our answers included

- People don't believe in it
- It's happening
- It's causing problems such as flooding, in new places or at unprecedented rates
- The ice caps and permafrost are melting
- There's drought in wet places, such as Africa, California, Central America and Australia
- Oceans are rising and acidifying
- Forest fires
- Its affecting all life: plants, animals, humans, our food supply, breathing

After considering all the problems, abby encouraged us to have hope, to get engaged, to do something. Individual actions do matter as much as group actions, so what we do does make a difference. Two of the best things we can do is to eat less beef and fly less.

Using Deuteronomy 6: 4b-5 “*The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might,*” we built a list of ways the PC(USA) is responding to the crisis. We should love not only our God, but all that God created with our hearts, minds (souls), and strength, which includes our wallets.

The PC(USA) has created many resources to help us love the earth with our minds. Check out some of the materials available through the Presbyterian Hunger Program. There are lectionary helps and Lenten devotionals.

Did you know that all the Presbyterian seminaries require their students take a course on the environment. We are the only denomination that does this. And Horizon Magazine is noted for many articles and issues featuring earth care.

Loving the earth with our hearts suggests going on mission trips to learn about what others are experiencing, participating in Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, praying and singing about creation, opening our hearts to messages spoken at conferences and becoming an Earth Care Congregation.

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If we change soul to sole, there are many ways we can love the earth as individuals, such as recycling, walking more, protesting and demonstrating for the earth, and helping raise awareness of things that damage creation. You can calculate your own carbon footprint using programs found online. Check out the website for “Living the Change: faith-based guidance on how to live our best lives.

Strength comes when we combine our efforts with others such as the Office of Public Witness, Presbyterian Women, and other groups, such as MRTI, the Mission Responsibility through Investment program which believes our investments are an instrument of mission.

Some in the PC(USA) have been working on getting the church to divest in fossil fuels. In 2014, thirteen presbyteries supported an overture to the General Assembly. By 2016, although thirty-one presbyteries supported renewable energy, the overture did not pass. At the 2016 GA, with forty presbyteries supporting the issue, the GA said it was not ready to divest. As an act of support for the overture at the 2018 GA, a group walked from Louisville to St. Louis. Maybe in 2020.

Some Presbyteries are divesting on their own, such as San Francisco and Boston. Cascades Presbytery is poised to be the next presbytery to divest.

### ***Loving Care of Others: Preventing Gun Violence – Cheryl Hunt***

Cheryl began by acknowledging that gun violence affects us all, and that those who follow Jesus Christ (the church) must respond. Our last General Assembly called on congregations to take action.

We were encouraged to use the many resources available through PC(USA) and Presbyterian Peace Fellowship such as Bible studies and pastoral guides.

We were invited to join the national Count Me In Network of people working on this issue. They receive a monthly update of opportunities for current actions. (Over 20 people signed up. If you signed up but do not hear anything within two months, email Cheryl.)

There is the Gun Violence Prevention Congregation Tool kit that is downloadable free from the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. It includes Bible studies, pastoral resources, detailed examples of actions churches have taken, films, webinars, church policies. It is in use in 600 congregations in every state.

There was a time of asking questions and of sharing what individuals and congregations are already doing, including a discussion of how to respond to active shooting events in our churches. (If you want a copy of the handout about the second amendment, public health and gun control, email Cheryl.) We concluded the most important thing is to form or join local community groups concerned about gun violence.

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Our time ended with the reminder that it isn't about getting rid of all guns, but about gun safety. We can choose welcome, not fear in our churches. The hardest part is getting all parties to come together to talk.

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Treasurer's Report

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Presbyterian Women Synod of the Pacific

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Treasurer's Report – March 31, 2019

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**ASSETS**

Bank/Cash	\$12,225.25	
Synod on demand Investment Account	<u>10,640.91</u>	
TOTAL		22,866.16

**DESIGNATED FUNDS**

USAME	1,969.71	
Global Exchange	1,195.62	
PW/UN	<u>1,000.00</u>	
TOTAL		4,165.33

**ASSETS LESS DESIGNATED FUNDS**

\$18,700.83

Vicki Hautala, Treasurer  
Presbyterian Women Synod of the Pacific

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Justice & Peace Report,,, cont.

But Why? We must be clear why we work for peace and reconciliation. Every time we have a conversation we must begin by proclaiming our real purpose: We are here together because our God in Christ Reigns, but this is not what God's Kin-dom looks like. We seek a place (a home) where generosity, hospitality, and reconciliation (peace) abound. We know it exists because we know God's Promises: God is present, God protects, God provides, God brings peace.

This is the Day! Let us rejoice and be glad!  
Cheryl Hunt, Justice and Peace Coordinator

**Wanted: Circle Stories to Create More Circles**

Submitted by Barbara Clark, SOP CCT Representative

**The Inclusive Community Committee** (ICC) of the national Churchwide PW Board is creating a new resource for women interested in organizing a PW circle and/or learning more about PW circles. Having stories of how current circles were created, including the uniqueness of particular circles, is critical to completing this new resource that is under production.

Each member of the PW Board was asked to submit a "Circle Story". And now I'm asking our Synod of the Pacific PW's to likewise submit Circle Stories. A "Circle Story" is to include responses to any of the following questions, as well as anything else you choose to share.

- What is the origin of your Circle – how and when it started, what was the inspiration behind it, any interesting information about why it was formed?
- What makes it unique and different from other organizations or clubs?
- What draws you to it, in contrast to other groups or organizations?
- What attracts others to it?
- Anything else that makes your Circle special to the women in it.

If you are not a participant in a PW Circle, what do you know about those who are that draws them to the circle, or how are you engaged in PW if you do not have PW Circles in your church?

One Synod of the Pacific Story has been submitted and follows.

**A New Circle Born in the First Presbyterian Church of Pendleton, Oregon**

*Sarah Circle was begun in the fall 2018 by a committed group of young women of the church. They are busy wives, moms and have careers, so a common gathering time was especially hard to find. They settled on a noon hour monthly meeting. As Presbyterian Women's moderator, I knew that they craved a Bible study. Since I was already preparing and giving the Horizon's study to Ruth Circle, I simply offered it again during the month. Like all Circles, the best thing about Sarah circle is the closeness, trust and love that has blossomed among us. We chose the name Sarah because when Sarah heard about the plan God had for her- she laughed! We laugh a lot, too!* Submitted by  
*Lori Powell*

**Please submit your stories to:**

Barbara Clark, Synod of the Pacific CCT/PW Board member at [bainbrid@gmail.com](mailto:bainbrid@gmail.com),

Susan Jackson-Dowd, PW Executive Director at

[Susan.Jackson-Dowd@pcusa.org](mailto:Susan.Jackson-Dowd@pcusa.org)

Marilyn Stone, Chairman of ICC at [mmstone52@att.net](mailto:mmstone52@att.net).

Hi, All!

I am Karen Vied, from Livermore, California, and I am looking forward to the privilege of serving PWS in the position of Leadership Enhancement. Hopefully, I can assist with needed resources along the way.

Our Pilgrimage publication will keep us up to date with what is going on in our Synod. Of course, our newsletter depends on what all of our Presbyteries share!

There will be a Quarterly Newsletter for Presbyterian Women Leaders that will be sent out also. I would like to make the effort to get more email addresses. Please help out by sending your email, or a friend's email that you know we don't have.

Besides a child of God, I am a wife, mother, grandmother, and retired school teacher. I have served my church as an elder, Moderator of PW, and now I am an active deacon, (not that a deacon is ever really inactive!), and a co-leader of our Together In Service Group. At the Presbytery level, I have been Moderator and am now acting as a Cluster Communicator. I enjoy volunteering at our local hospital information desk weekly and in a P.E.O. Chapter.

I love to travel with my husband, Dennis, and that often involves Bluegrass music and great times with special friends.

We are blessed to have our daughter's family in town, and have had the privilege of being involved in our two granddaughter's lives; not so much now, as the oldest can drive to classes after school. We enjoy concerts and plays they are in. Family times together are just the best.

My best wishes to all for your PW year!

Karen Vied

[kvied@comcast.net](mailto:kvied@comcast.net)



Karen Vied  
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Livermore, CA 94550