



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Newsletter of Presbyterian Women's Ministries, First Presbyterian Church, Portland, Oregon

Fall 2006

Presbyterian Women's Ministries Welcomes You to a Year of Fellowship and Achievement

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All women who are members of First Presbyterian Church are automatically members of Presbyterian Women's Ministries, which is part of the larger national organization Presbyterian Women, affiliated with Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to:

- Nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study
- Support the mission of the church worldwide in its efforts to assist women
- Work for justice and peace, especially for women and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that

strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

As a member you are welcome to participate in the many enjoyable and rewarding activities throughout the year that our chapter offers to achieve these goals.

Fall Tea and Business Meeting Will Begin Eventful Year

With cool nights, shorter days, and vacations behind us, we can settle back into Fall and look to the coming year.

The Fourth Annual Tea and 2006 Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 7th in Geneva Hall.

This lovely occasion has always been a favorite among the women of First Presbyterian Church.

With more than just great food and musical entertainment, it features our yearly planning event, where we reflect

on the work of PWM during the past year and plan for the year to come. Our main topic will be this year's Triennial in Louisville.



In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Prov.

Christmas Bazaar To Raise Money for Operating Budget

This year's Christmas Bazaar is scheduled for November 12th, 2006 after worship.

Each year, the Christmas Bazaar raises funds for the PWM annual operat-

ing budget, to assist PWM with its ongoing mission work.

Members of FPC donate handmade items or monetary gifts. If you love to bake, this year's

Bazaar will also feature a baked goods sale, back by popular demand!

Start now to plan your contribution. Your gifts are always be appreciated.



2007 Winter Women's Retreat Scheduled for March

Mark your calendar for our annual Winter Retreat at Menucha, March 3-4 in 2007.

After a long winter, we will be ready to enjoy a temporary escape from our lives as working

women, mothers, and grandmothers for a brief couple of days of good food, lively conversation, and warm fellowship.

Spring Luncheon Planned for May 5th

Our Spring Luncheon is scheduled for May 5th 2007 in Geneva Hall.

Like luncheons in the

past, this year's event will feature great food and fellowship, with a guest speaker.

This year, the PWM Board will hold a plant sale before the luncheon on the patio of our FPC garage.

PWM Fellowship Groups for Everyone

We invite you to explore our many fellowship groups to find one that fits your schedule and interests.

Open Circle: a loving, caring, praying community of women of all ages who want to deepen their relationship with God through Bible study, prayer, and discussion.

Tuesday Evening Women's Group: a discussion group that meets the first Tuesday of each month to share dinner and return to the church for lively discussion of religious books and current topics.

Mystery Book Club: a group that meets at the church the 4th Tuesday of the month to explore the work of mystery writers.

Quilters Group: an inter-generational group with members ranging in age from 20s to 80s that meets Friday mornings in the Parish House Study.

The following PWM groups reach out in service to others.

Prayer Partners: an out-growth of Open Circle, through which one-on-one partnerships support each other in faith by praying with and for each other.

Women of Cheer: formed for the purpose of sending greetings, congratulations, notes of encouragement, get well messages, and condolence cards to women of First Presbyterian Church.

Mom's Angels: nurturing for each new mother and baby in our congregation for a three-month period with a note, flower, small gift, or phone call.

Linen Ladies and Silver Stewards: loving care for the four silver tea services and linens owned by the church.

Childcare is provided at meeting times for most of these groups.

For more information, contact Ann Walsh or Jenni Bergmann through the church office.

"This is my commandment. That ye love one another, as I have loved you".

John 15:12

Presbyterian Women Together in Service

Our national affiliate organization, Presbyterian Women has created a new name, Together in Service, and a new vision for its hands-on mission opportunities program.

For generations, Presbyterian women have offered God's love to the world by working to pursue God's vision of justice and peace.

Now we can be together in service to make a difference in the lives of others by:

- Making or purchasing items and sending them where needed,

both locally and internationally

- Donating money to fund mission initiatives such as healthcare, education, and Bible study
- Supporting existing denominational and ecumenical programs
- Providing mission interpretation and education to the whole church
- Developing personal relationships with mission workers
- Sharing stories and wisdom gained from service experiences

Assembling health kits and knitting and sewing baby caps, lap robes, blankets, and prayer shawls to send locally and abroad to areas in need are Together in Service projects that Presbyterian Women in other areas of the US are involved in.

Through the PC(USA) web site, www.pcusa.org, we can make connections with other Presbyterian Women to motivate and support one another in mission activities.

Global Exchange a Time of Sharing

Every three years, a group of Presbyterian Women travels to another part of the world to hear about the lives of their sisters and share faith stories and ministries with each other.


The following year, a group of women from the same part of the world are invited to attend the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women to tell their stories to their North American sisters.

In 2005 the PW Global Exchange sent Presbyterian Women to Brazil to focus on how United States social, economic,

political, and educational policies impact people in that country by:

- Hearing the cries of our sisters and responding with compassion
- Working for the end of all forms of violence
- Advocating for the rights of women and children
- Supporting our global partners
- Allowing ourselves to be transformed by partnership experiences

This year, Jenni Bergemann, Lois Shamberger, Sharon Brown, Mary Weaver, and Jane Von-Buskirk attended the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women (Triennium), held July 7-11 in Louisville, Kentucky, where they listened to words of inspiration and mission success and met some of our Brazilian Global Partners. For more information about this year's event, see the FPC web site at www.fpcpdx.org.



“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

I Cor. 13:13



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WOMEN

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Decade of the Child 2001-2011

This year the Decade of the Child (2001-2011) focuses on Encouraging Health and Wellbeing for all children, both those within and those beyond our church walls. By nurturing families as they seek to raise healthy children, actively standing against violence, and working to fight poverty we can live out our promise to God to care for the most vulnerable.

"All children are a gift of God, created by God and created good. All children are a gift to the whole of the human community." (A Vision for Children and the Church, 205th General Assembly 1993)

Consider giving us your email address so we can email you this newsletter.

2006 PWM Board Members and Staff

The following board members were elected at the October 2005 Fall Tea and Business

Ann Walsh
Moderator

Ann Witchel
Corresponding Secretary

Jenni Bergemann
Vice Moderator

Sheryl Freedlund
Member at Large

Sharon Brown
Treasurer

Betty Jo Lee
Member at Large

Suellen Bergdorf
Recording Secretary

STAFF
Rev. Anne Stewart Miller



Thy word is a lamp
unto my feet
and a light
unto my path.
Psalm 119:105