



The Presbytery of St. Andrew P. W. Pipeline

Pipeline Editor Martha Knichel

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Spring 2020 Issue

*Happy
Easter*



PWP Moderator Message Hardie Frankel:

As a little girl, I learned the saying:

“If the month of March comes in like a lion that it will go out like a lamb.”

However, for 2020 this is not the case! I saw a quote on Facebook that said “March came in like a lion and is going out like a wild apocalyptic four-headed green dragon lion six-legged doom beast!” At any rate, we are definitely in an unprecedented time. It is during this time that Christians rally around each other. Right now, our rallying has to be done electronically, but none the less we are rallying. The Coordinating Team met via conference call and shared ways that we are all coping with social distancing and have made some plans for the Fall. Since we are having to postpone our Annual Spring Gathering, we are working on having our Annual Meeting in the Fall at Camp Hopewell on August 29, 2020. We are still working on the activities for the day, but do plan to have officer training for our PW groups. Please mark your calendars for August 29 and plan to attend.

The Presbyterian Women website (www.presbyterianwomen.org) has a plethora of information that will help to keep us all connected. When you have a moment, hop on there and check it out. If you have questions about PW feel free to contact any member of the PWP

Coordinating Team. Each church should have a copy of the PW Directory with contact information for them.

Stay safe and Wash your Hands! Remember that God has the final say and He is looking out for us!

Submitted,

Hardie Frankel, Moderator 2018-2020

PWP Moderator Elect Allison Whitten Ashmore:

First Presbyterian Church held its 49th year of Holy Week services in a totally different way. Ministers from various churches brought the meditation each day along with special music; this was all videotaped well before Holy Week actually began with each minister taped alone except for film crew of 2. The special services were then broadcast at noon on the local cable channel, First Presbyterian church's Facebook page, and First Presbyterians You tube channel. Churches that participated were from First Baptist Church, Christ Community Church, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Burning Bush M. B. Church, New Life Christian Church, Faith and Grace Missionary Baptist Church, and First Presbyterian Church of Grenada. Services can be seen at other times too. At this point we do not know how many have been reached, but God knows. God is good, but also so Great that he has put the technology in our hands to reach across our communities (even when house-bound) we can still be connected in this unusual time and situation. Happy Glorious Easter to all near and far.

Allison Ashmore in Grenada, MS

PWP Secretary Wendy Jue:

My family's coronavirus experience started during Spring Break. As a family we were traveling to Utah to go snow skiing. Members of my husband's family were expected to join us; however, they all canceled for very understandable reasons. So, it was just us. We took Lysol wipes onto the airplane to wipe down seats, seatbelts, and tray tables. Everyone else on the plane was doing the same. While we were in Utah, it seemed that the situation was swiftly escalating. I was a little scared that flights would be canceled, and we would be stuck in Utah. The ski resort actually shut down the day we were scheduled to leave. Fortunately for us, the flights were still running, and they were packed! Social distancing was not possible.

During the suggested isolation period I have found the initiative to work on projects that I have been putting off. A bedroom needed cleaning out to make room for a home office. My flower beds, in atrocious shape, needed some serious attention. I have the sore hamstrings to prove it. To make room for the groceries I was able to buy, I had to clean out my refrigerator. It looks really good now. Next up will be my pantry. Probably the most fun project has been building an Adirondack chair with my 16-year-old daughter. She is in Construction Technology at school, and it was a project they completed earlier in the school year, when they were actually attending classes.

We are homebodies, so spending this time at home has not been as difficult as I am sure it has been for some. I have thoroughly enjoyed spending concentrated time with my family. I hope when the forced isolation ends, that we won't go back to the old normal. I miss seeing my parents. I deliver them groceries and get their mail, but it is just not the same as going and visiting them for a while. I miss my church family. FPC Hernando has been live streaming worship on Sunday mornings, but it is definitely not the same as being there. Rob, our minister, has been preaching for some time about the church being outside the doors. We are really living that truth now! May God strengthen our faith and put it to work during these difficult times!

PWP Treasurer Martha Knichel:

Deuteronomy 16: 17... Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD you God has blessed you.

This verse is good for all of us to remember. We have to continue to support our churches, even when we can't attend and our Presbyterian Women, as well. We can do this in a number of ways, by praying for each other and our churches and church leader, and our P. W. Leaders.

I am sad to say that some of you are still sending your funds to Sandra Darby, the former Treasurer, and she is forward those funds to me. Please Moderators let your Treasurer know that these funds need to be sent to Martha Knichel, at 3550 Plum Point Dr. E., Olive Branch, MS 38654. Sandra resigned from the position because of health reasons, so take it easy on her and send your fund to me.

Thank you to each of you for all that you do for Presbyterian Women and the Church.

PWP Historian Helen Worsham:

During my Covid-19, I have done numerous projects. I have a blind, deaf pet, so I tried to stay home for her. Some of my activities included yard work, housecleaning, sewing & knitting projects, sorting out items for our church Rummage Sale, planning our Church History, and preparing letters plus coloring sheets for my Sunday School kids.

God played a daily role in my day. I always had a devotional early in the a.m.

The most challenging experience for me was preparing meals for myself without a refrigerator, microwave or stove! I had an electrical problem in my kitchen, but recently had everything checked. Now I will be able to replace some appliances.

PWP Cluster Leaders/Search Committee

Cluster Leader Coordinator Ann DeVoe:

These are challenging times for all of us and I think staying connected is of the utmost importance.

I am trying to FaceTime or zoom with different friend/ groups while puzzling, painting or planting. Our families busy MAY has halted -no graduation, no weddings, no trips. They have all been

canceled or postponed and especially for my 26 year old this has been hard. I find myself wearing an auxiliary support hat and would take suggestions on what that might look like - maybe one of those obnoxious purple hats that people wear. I find myself trying to emotionally support everyone around me rather than focusing on myself and I think that is a good place to be right now. My house has never been cleaner and my roots have never been grayer. I can't wait to see you all soon at our next PW gathering. Blessing and stay well.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Ann DeVoe

PW Cluster Coordinator

Alpha Region Gail Lyons:

Beta Regions Sara Branlett:

First Presbyterian Church, Cluster Leader for Beta Region. Sara reports that she is so thankful to live in a rural area where we are able to get outside to enjoy the beauty of the season. All the budding, blooming and greening is such a hopeful reminder of the new life we can have as Easter People. I have been sending cards to church members, friends, family, and especially those in nursing homes with words of encouragement and assurance. Our God is still sovereign. He sees us and knows our needs. His love, grace, and mercy are still available. We can be 100% sure that He is working out all the details of His perfect plan and Holy purpose. So rejoice, again I say Rejoice! Ephesians 3:20. God can do anything, you know- -far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, His Spirit works deeply and gently within us.

Let us not be anxious, but fully trust Him! Let us each one try to pray for our Presbyterian Women and for each other. Let us begin now to pray for all the planning ahead so that our PW Gathering in the Fall will be a wonderful time together. I just realized that I can sing a hymn out loud and not worry about not hitting all the notes exactly right. It feels so great to sing those words of praise and thanksgiving in full voice as I worship on the porch or in the yard. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.

Delta Region Debi Honnoll:

Our Batesville PW Morning Circle is still going strong. Our Afternoon Circle has disbanded as well as our Night Circle. Our morning ladies are adamant about keeping our Bible Study going, but it's getting harder and harder to do so. This month obviously we can't get together. I'm going to try to connect us somehow. I'm technologically challenged, so I'm going to have to be creative!

It's a trying time for sure, but it's also a great time for reflection. We women are strong and resourceful. Let's stay in touch with each other. Call or text your friends and family daily. Don't forget your shut ins.

May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other.

Debi

Gamma Region Marthalie Porter:

Marthalie has provided us with two poems. Enjoy!

“And the People Stayed Home”

“And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply.

Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

Countries successful in slowing the spread of the virus—most notably China and South Korea—have done so by being vigilant and aggressive. We must do the same. It’s beyond understanding to know there are those out there who still take this pandemic lightly.

Limit your encounters with others as much as possible and when you do, keep your distance. Wash your hands.

This, too, shall pass. In the meantime take this slowdown as an opportunity for introspection, to get out in nature, read, exercise and focus on loved ones.

“On Being”

“There’s a way a disaster throws people in the present and gives them this supersaturated immediacy that also includes a deep sense of connection. It’s as though, in some violent gift, you’ve been given a kind of spiritual awakening where you’re close to mortality in a way that makes you feel more alive.”

By Rebecca Solnit

These two poems and the article were found in the *The Commercial Dispatch*.

Members-at-Large

Education/Resources Debbie Connolly:

I tried to think of a clever quip to begin my update, but couldn’t, so I’ll jump right in. Tippah County is small in population, but a hotspot for COVID-19 so my husband Bill and I are staying in and staying safe. We’ve been blessed and lack only hugs and sleepovers with our granddaughter Carter! My habit of buying food when it’s on sale has served us well and we bought a case of toilet paper at Sam’s in February so are well stocked in that department too. I have also taken advantage of Kroger’s pickup service at the store in Tupelo. What a blessing!

Since Bill and I are both retired, having to stay in has not been a great hardship but of course we miss close contact with our son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter, and also our church family. Bill is a retired minister but serves as stated supply for the New Prospect PC outside of Ripley near Dumas. It is a small congregation so we have been checking up with everyone weekly by phone. Our worship each Sunday has been on TV, Facebook and Dropbox. We have enjoyed worshipping together and listening to several sermons instead of the usual one. This Holy Week has meant noonday services sponsored by the Ripley P C, and we are looking forward to "virtual" communion on Maundy Thursday.

I will miss seeing you all at the Spring Gathering but want us all to stay safe and "lower the curve." Till we meet again.

Debbie Connolly

Giving;Mission Pledge Vacant:

Here is an opportunity for you! We need someone to step up and be our Cheerleader for our offering that we receive. Presbyterian Women have always been very generous, but they need to know where their money is going, and you can provide them with this knowledge.

Please contact Ann DeVoe and volunteer. Ann's email address is grrx01@gmail.com.

Peace & Justice/Racial Ethnic:Dr. Michelle Higgins: Call Michelle to get an update.

Pipline Editor Martha Knichel:

I would love to receive an article from you ladies in the pew. We need to hear stories of what your Presbyterian Women are doing in these days of *Social Distancing*. I have been spending time working on my Family's History. I have been on Ancestry and Family Search so much that my computer just goes right to those sites when I turn it on. I have found it to be most interesting. I have been working on this project for several years now, but lately I have been sorting papers and putting them in order and making a list of each family. The more you do the more there is to do, so I am afraid that this project will never end.

As many of you know my husband, Bill Knichel as a healthy man who is always with me, well he has been having a few health problems. He will be having a Watchman put into his heart later in the summer. He has an irregular heart beat and the Cardiologist thinks this will keep him from having a stroke. He is feeling much better now and looking forward to getting back to good health.

A special thank you to all who have made this issue possible!

Martha

Together In Service Docia England:

Greetings from Docia England, a brand new appointee to the St. Andrew PW Coordinating Team, who is looking forward to growing my knowledge and participation of PW at the Presbytery level. Although I have been actively involved in leadership roles, especially those

involving Christian Education and Mission at First Presbyterian, Greenville, my participation outside of my community has been limited. Last fall while attending a PW Cluster Gathering, I heard Hardy Frankel mention the need for a chairperson for Together in Service; I immediately felt the call tugging at my heart...and the rest, as they say, is history. Whether it was motivating my student leaders during my years of teaching or getting our local congregation excited about local and world mission projects, I have always had a love for SERVICE and inspiring others to find true purpose and fulfillment in it. I look forward to getting to know the gifted women throughout this Presbytery as we join Together in Service. For as in all endeavors, we are truly at our best when we are working together for God's kingdom.



Thank you goes to Charles M. Schulz.