



August 2011

Dear Local Mission Coordinators:

This summer in downtown Little Rock they have painted a chalkboard on one of the empty storefronts with the heading “Before I die I want to.... and invited those who pass by to write something from their “bucket list”. Some people have used this as an opportunity to just be humorous, but a number have written in letters so bold you could read them from your car “to make a difference”. Maybe they should become Presbyterian Women. By supporting mission at the local, synod and worldwide levels PW continues to make a difference. As an ecumenical and connectional church we have many opportunities to impact the lives of others.

The newest imitative of Arkansas PW is the Ukraine-Carpathian Basin Solar/Water Project that has already brought clean water to two villages in Ukraine and, with your support will continue to add more . Last Spring Westover Hills PW issued a challenge to other churches in the presbytery-they will match up to \$3500.00 in donations to this project. A different request for help has come from the Ladies Society of Lacandon in Mexico. They have sent us prayer requests and want us to send our requests to them. In addition they wish to exchange daily devotions. Following is information about these new projects as well as other synod and PCUSA missions.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact me. Let me hear what you are doing. I will try to update this information during the coming year.

In Christ,
Carolyn Nash
Mission Coordinator
6620 Waverly
Little Rock, AR 72207
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CELEBRATION OF FINANCIAL GIVING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

amc.pcusa.org/ministries/pw/gifts/

CELEBRATION OF MISSION GIVING THROUGH PW PLEDGES

Over and above her pledge to the local church, each PW member is encouraged to make an annual pledge through PW in the Congregation for:

#1. Women's Mission Support for the worldwide mission of the PC (USA) through the General Assembly mission budget.

#2. The Basic PW Operating Budget in the congregation, Synod and Church Wide levels. (The operating budget for PW in the Presbytery of Arkansas is included in the budget of Presbytery.) The Mission Pledge Form for 2012– Please complete and send to Linda Bullard, 803 Clark St., Gurdon, AR 71743 by Nov. 15, 2011. The funds can be sent quarterly on March 10, June 10, September 10 and December 10 to Linda Bullard at the above address. The yearly books close on December 15th. The form is on the Presbytery web site.

***CELEBRATION GIVING OF CREATIVE MINISTRIES**

THANK OFFERING 2011. Forty per cent is used to support medical mission throughout the world and 60% is used for new creative ideas of mission, undesignated in advance. These special projects are selected annually by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee from project proposals submitted. Please send to Linda Bullard, 803 Clark St., Gurdon, AR 71743

BIRTHDAY OFFERING 2012 This offering supports predetermined projects selected annually by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee. Each project helps people who are hurting in accordance with mission concerns and policies of the PW USA GIVING OF BELIEVERS

PW HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS may be presented for outstanding service and leadership in the church. Life memberships are \$95 and are given by a church group. The order form and descriptive information is on the Presbytery web site <presbyteryofarkansas.org> Please send order to Linda Bullard, 803 Clark

St., Gurdon, AR 71743. You may expect your pin and certificate within six weeks, so order EARLY.

Recognition and Memorial Gifts are a way to thank or to honor persons for their service in the church. The donor decides on the amount and it is ordered through the Presbytery PW treasurer Linda Bullard at the above address. The order form is on the Presbytery web site.

The Leadership Endowment Fund is invested with the Presbytery Foundation. Women are encouraged to make requests and/or specify this fund in their will.

***CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

Fellowship of the Least Coin links prayer and “least coin” in a very significant way, as the least coin becomes the symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Grants are made by an international committee for special projects of evangelism, service, ecumenical solidarity, awareness building among women, and relief throughout the world. Church Women United is a national movement through which Protestant, Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and other Christian women may express their ecumenical dimensions of their faith and work. PW are encouraged to be active in support of and participate in Church Women United.

PLEASE SEND LEAST COIN OFFERING to Linda Bullard, 803 Clark St., Gurdon, AR 71743 BY JUNE 10.

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/hunger/what-cents-ability/>

Cents-Ability originated in 1976 as "Two-Cents-A-Meal," a project begun by Presbyterian Women to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger. Over the years, presbyteries have developed similar programs entitled Pennies for Hunger, Nickel-A-Meal, etc. Many of these programs benefit local hunger ministries as well as the national and international projects of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. (PHP).

Mail funds to 9 Central Receiving Service, Section 300, and Louisville, KY 40289-0300 with the #H-000107 designation. This is due by December 1

International Health Ministries – Send hospital gowns, layettes, medical supplies to

Presbyterian Church USA, c/o Brethren Service Center, Box 188, Route 31-500 Main,
New Windsor, MD 21776

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pw/together-service-congo/>

Bicycles, mattresses, **Palm Project for the Congo**

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/internationalhealth/healthywomenhealthyfamilies/>

Mothers Day Cards, -formerly known as Networkers **Healthy Women Healthy Families** still provides malaria nets but has expanded to address other women's health issues.

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/international-evangelism/roma-people/>

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pw/missionmatters/>

Roma Baskets-Supporting Roma women through their basket making microenterprise

<http://interfaith.equalexchange.com/>

Purchase **Fair Trade Coffee** to sell to your congregation-order 4 cases and postage is free

<http://www.ferncliff.org/outreach/>

Disaster assistance kits-**Read the list carefully and send exactly what is asked for**



Mission Opportunities of the Synod of the Sun

<http://www.veralloyd.org/>

The mission of **Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home** is to “Share Christ’s healing love with children, youth and families in crisis”, and by supporting them we can be part of this mission. They serve youth who have been referred by the Department of Human Services. Vera Lloyd’s business offices are located in Little Rock and their residential facilities are in Monticello Arkansas. Vera Lloyd's newest program is the Laurence E. Schmidt Center, which provides counseling for pastors and their families.

When children arrive they are given an afghan or quilt to keep. These quilts and Afghanes are provided by Presbyterian Women and they are a continuing need. In addition, the residents are also given a Bible purchased with donated funds.

Donations may also be made to fill needs for school supplies, household items, personal items, and coats.

In the spring, Vera Lloyd hosts “Pink Hat Day” to honor Presbyterian Women. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the youth, tour the facilities, and see the wonderful things that are happening at this special place.

All donations need to be sent to the Vera Lloyd Little Rock office:

1501 N. University, Suite 345

Little Rock, AR 72207

(501) 666 8195

Toll Free: 1 877 353 6430 Fax (501) 666 8198

<http://presbyteryofarkansas.org/frmPresWomen.aspx>

The Carpathian Basin-Ukraine Solar/Water Project had its genesis when Mary Beth Lysobey as part of the 2008 Presbyterian Women Global Exchange to Eastern Europe, visited the southwestern tip of Ukraine known as the Carpathian Basin. She discovered only 4 of the 108 villages in this area have at least one safe drinking water site. It became her dream to work with Living Waters of the World to bring clean water to these communities. The project was begun with the Arkansas Presbytery Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (PWPCT) as the initiating partner.

<http://www.solarunderthesun.org/> **Solar under the Sun** works with nonprofit groups around the globe to provide solar power

<http://www.ferncliff.org/> **Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center** offers many different summer camps as well as retreat facilities. In addition the Solar School for Solar Under the Sun and a Dias aster Assistance Center are located at Fern cliff 1720 Ferncliff Road, Little Rock, AR 72223

<http://www.goodland.org/> **Goodland Academy** Goodland is a year-round K-12 individualized self-paced education program for both day and residential students regardless of socio-economic status. Send supplies and offerings to P.O. Box 1056, Hugo, OK, 74743, Phone 580-326-7568

Higher Education-In Covenant with PCUSA and Synod of the Sun For Presbyterians, higher education is the oldest continuous form of church mission beyond the local congregation. By supporting our institutions of higher learning Lyon College and University of the Ozarks and campus ministries at U of A and UAPB, we are continuing a long tradition of supporting young people as this important time in their life.

• <http://www.lyon.edu/> **Lyon College**- 2300 Highland Road, Batesville, AR 72501-3699

•<http://www.ozarks.edu/> **University of the Ozarks** – 415 North College Avenue, Clarksville, AR 72830

•<http://www.ucmuofa.org/> **United Campus Ministries** – 902 W. Maple St. Fayetteville, AR 72701

• Faith Presbyterian Church – 913 N. University Dr., Pine Bluff, AR 716

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LACANDON LADIES SOCIETY

In March of this year, Susie Wiggins and Liz Branch from Little Rock attended and participated in the bi-annual meeting of the Sociedad Feminil (Ladies Society) of the Presbytery of Lacandon. At that meeting, the women offered to share in two activities with the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Arkansas: 1) They asked us to pray for some of their deep concerns--and for us to send them a list of our deep concerns here in Arkansas so they can lift us up in prayer.

2) They agreed to exchange devotionals with us. We talked about writing a devotional each month. They asked us to write the first three devotionals so that they could use our models to develop their own devotionals, and eventually alternate the monthly responsibility.

We suggest that the devotionals be simple, including a scripture reading, sometimes a hymn or poem, a prayer and a brief meditation. In order to communicate clearly, we Arkansans will need to keep our vocabulary simple, use illustrations common to all women, to families, and to the natural world, and emphasize the grace and mercy of God. Our missionary friend Pablo Feliciano-Cruz will translate the devotionals for us. While he speaks English and Tzeltal fluently, he's translating for rural and village dwellers who for the most part do not watch TV or read books or newspapers. They marry and raise families at an early age and will likely have had no more than a high school education.

These Days and Upper Room are written on the order of what we're envisioning, but these publications often use concepts, illustrations and words that might be difficult for our sisters in Lacandon to understand. On behalf of the Lacandon ladies, we ask that the Arkansas PW share in both these activities.

Email devotionals or questions and prayer requests to cnnash@bjacradio.net

You can become more even more involved by sponsoring or being part of mission trips to Chiapas. The following article by Will Branch explains what our mission has meant to the ladies of Lacandon and the mission trip participants.

Unexpected Gifts - Chiapas - A Partnership in Mission

If you were to ask your friends what mission trips are all about, many would tell you about a call to spread the good news of the gospel or to help those in need. A Presbytery of Arkansas mission trip to Chiapas is not one of these things. Granted, these trips are a response to a call from God, but those who participate are just as likely to see changes in themselves as they are to see change in the people around them. Change does not require great acts or physical strength. Sometimes, change results simply from being present. These trips remind us that the biggest gift we can offer is ourselves. These trips not only change our perspective of the world around us; these trips change lives. Sometimes, change results from seemingly simple acts. Something special happened following an early work trip to Chiapas, when a female mission trip participant, seeing only men involved in the work of the church asked, "What about the women?" Shortly afterwards, with the support of the Presbytery of Arkansas, a movement began to create an organization for the women of the presbytery of Lacandon. Suddenly, a door was opened, and a voice was given to women who previously had none. This change was hammered home with a simple phrase. "Mi esposa." The look of pride was evident in his face, and in his gesture. His wife, an officer of the Lacandon Presbytery Ladies Society, had earned his respect, no small feat in a setting where women had previously been silent. His wife had been instrumental in organizing a Ladies Society for the presbytery. Because of her efforts, she was elected an officer in the new organization. Her husband, angry at this new development, beat her, and demanded that she quit. Her new role was outside of the cultural norm, which kept women in the background. She told him, "You can beat me, but I will continue my work in the church." Powerful words. Small actions. But with the power to change lives. This trip can also affect those who make the journey. A participant from Arkansas reported that the experience had renewed his faith in the people of God. Another participant, moved by what she had seen, funded a scholarship to allow a local woman to attend Bible School. A third re-examined her life, and shortly thereafter, changed careers. Many have remarked on the spirit with which the people of Chiapas have welcomed us into their communities, sharing their time and their hospitality with us. We have found ourselves humbled, yet blessed to be able to witness by our presence with them. This year, we stayed at the Presbytery camp in the village of

Santo Domingo, helping to prepare and pour a floor for the 2nd floor of a dormitory, tying rebar, shoveling sand and gravel and removing debris, picking up trash, hauling water, mixing and shoveling cement, and carrying buckets of cement to be poured. We also held VBS for the local children, leading them in songs and games, telling Bible stories, and making crafts. Local churches opened their doors to us, worshipping with us and sharing a meal. We attended worship in several local communities, sharing the Good News, based on our own life experiences, which was then translated into Teltale. We want you to be involved!

How you can help:

Prayer - Pray for our brothers and sisters in Chiapas, as well as mission participants.

Participate - Work trips are an excellent opportunity for a group of High School Youth or Adults who want to be more active in world mission. There are also opportunities for women from the Presbytery of Arkansas to travel to Chiapas to attend annual meetings of the Abandon Ladies Society.

Donate - Members of Presbyterian Women have been instrumental in this regard, not only traveling to Mexico, but also raising funds for mission trips, the Prison Ministry, and Bible School scholarships.

Do you have questions? We would be happy to give a presentation to your church, cluster, or group.

For more information, please contact Will Branch (wbranch@mac.com), Debbie Freeman (deblc63@gmail.com) or Bill Branch (wbranch@comcast.net).



Presbyterian Women serve locally in many different ways. Each community has different needs and each congregation has a unique set of talents. It is important that we stay involved in our community so we can be aware of new opportunities for mission. It is also important that we make sure we are taking advantage of all the gifts in our congregation and involve the entire church in our projects. At

fitness centers they tell you to keep adding weights or repetitions to your exercises. If you keep doing the same thing and it's not hard you aren't stretching yourself and getting stronger. We all have our favorite mission projects and we need to continue those traditions, but we also have to be open to finding new ways to serve. This might be a project to make money for mission or something as simple as finding the one nursing home resident whose birthday needs celebrating. In all that we do we must remember that we are stewards of God's creation and we must make choices that are good for the earth and its people. By using sound principles of ecology- reducing, recycling, and purchasing biodegradable products we can make a difference.