Forty-four Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Boise met for their Fall Gathering at the Kirkpatrick Memorial Community Church (KMCC) in Parma the second weekend of September. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful day God provided for this event, and the drive from our homes to the Parma church seemed to take no time at all!

The greatest joy we have at these gatherings is seeing friends from other churches and meeting and talking with a new person. We sing together, pray together, eat together and listen together. At this gathering we listened to the pain of a young woman who lost all members of her family in a horrific automobile accident in Italy. Jill Hill Kraft Thompson described the emotional pain of loss, the physical pain of injury, the ease of addiction when the pain of body or emotion became too great. She described how friends helped in her recovery, especially on the day when opting out of life seemed the only viable choice. We rejoiced with her that with God’s strength she regained her health and has the joy of a new marriage and another son. Her story gave us a perspective on our own personal pain and helped us rejoice with her!

Karen Cornwell, the Moderator of PW at KMCC, has known Jill since 1974 “when her family became our endear neighbors.” They had moved from Michigan to Weiser, a move that was not easy for anyone in the family; however, the two families became family to each other. “Jill was four years old and my youngest, Susan, was two years old. They are still very close friends. Sweetly, their only little boys are two years apart, just like Jill and Susan.” Karen goes on: “I cannot tell her story. It is probably the most heartbreaking time in our lives. The accident in Italy, losing her mother, her husband, her two adorable little toe-headed boys and her niece was in 2002, and through her faith in God she has been able to grasp a miraculous recovery. Her story is well told in her book, Finding Jill, available on Amazon (see page 2).

As Moderator of PW in the Presbytery of Boise, I am happy to announce that a general chairperson for the 2014 Fall Retreat has been found. Priscilla Oja of Southminster has signed up for the task, recruited by Phyllis Sanderson. We rejoice that Priscilla is on board with her talents. Priscilla has been a Presbyterian her whole life, married in the same church as her mother and grandmother in Dayton, Ohio. She moved to Idaho in 1962 and has been active in Southminster since 1968. She has a daughter in Chicago and a son in Boise; one grandson at Fort Bragg, NC and another grandson a senior at Borah High in Boise. This year she retired from fifty years of public school teaching. Welcome, Priscilla!

The Spring Gathering will be at the First United Presbyterian Church in Nampa, with the date still to be decided. Thank you to the three churches who have submitted their 2014 Mission Offering pledges. November 15th is the deadline. Please contact me at jacquelyn.benjamin@gmail.com if you need a Mission Pledge form.

Jacquelyn Benjamin
Moderator
The 2014 Mission Pledge promotional packet was available in July. They were mailed to every PC(USA) congregation (addressed to “PW/Women’s Group”), as well as to all PW leaders including the moderators, co-moderators and treasurers in the presbytery.

Every year PW’s wonder where their packet has gone. It may be that you have not kept the PW office in Louisville up to date with the names of your current leaders. PW Churchwide office depends on you to keep the PW database up to date. Please contact Patricia Longfellow, patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org or call 888.728.7228, ext. 8015, to update your leader or group contact information.

It is easy to forget about this task when you change leaders, but a simple step will save time wondering where the packet is and searching the church office to find it.

If you still don’t have a packet, contact Jackie Benjamin or click on the PW link at www.presbyteryofboise.org. All materials are available for download under “PW in the Congregation Checklist”.

The largest beneficiary of the PW mission pledge is the denomination. Without the mission pledge, the church’s ministry in the world would shrink. For Presbyterian Women, the mission pledge makes possible programs, resources, scholarships, events and much more. 2014 pledges are due to Jackie by November 15, 2013.

**Legacy Christmas**

A PW Birthday Offering recipient gives back

Legacy Christmas is a collection of Celtic-inspired Christmas Carols important to Presbyterians throughout the generations — “treasured carols of the Kirk.” Produced by Living Waters for the World (LWW) through the generosity of an anonymous donor, Legacy Christmas is performed by some of Nashville’s and Ireland’s top musicians; it features acclaimed vocalist Alyth McCormack (of The Chieftains) on three of the ten tracks.

Living Waters for the World, a ministry of the Synod of Living Waters, PC(USA), has received PW financial support at critical times throughout its 20 years of ministry, most notably a Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering grant in 2007. As a way to give back, LWW is offering PW the opportunity to share the proceeds from Legacy Christmas. CDs are available through direct order. Contact the PW marketing office, carissa.herold@pcusa.org or call 888.728.7228, ext. 5322. Proceeds will be shared 50/50 between the PW Birthday Offering and LWW.

PW’s in the Congregation might consider selling the CDs as part of a Christmas Bazaar or for members to use as Christmas gifts. They are available to sell on consignment. Simply make the CDs available for a suggested donation of $15 each and return a check made payable to “Presbyterian Women” along with any unsold CDs (if you have any unsold CDs)

You will receive a kit comprising: 10 CDs with black cardboard display, two posters, gift cards and brochures. You may order additional sets of ten CDs with your consignment. To consign, please visit the Legacy Christmas website (www.legacychristmas.net) or contact Carissa Herold.

You may obtain single copies of Legacy Christmas outside consignment for a minimum $15.00 (each CD donation. Please add $5.00 for shipping for one to four CDs; $7.50 for five to ten CDs; $10.00 for 11 to 20 CDs.)
A meditation on time

By Jacquelyn Benjamin

It’s the time of year when the fall colors are appearing. Have you noticed the reds and yellows? It’s almost time to set the clocks back and return to ‘standard time.’ And a month after that we will enter the time of Advent when we not only look toward the remembrance of the birth of Jesus, but also seek greater understanding of the ‘end time’ talked about in Scripture.

We talk about ‘God’s time’ as being different from ‘human time.’ Time is experienced differently based on our culture, our age, our geography. We in Boise have longer days in the summer than where my sister lives near Denver. What is time to a family in an igloo in a winter without sun? What is time to a Syrian family just inside Turkey, with no tent to sleep under? What is time to a person trapped in a collapsed building, as recently happened in Mumbai? What is time to a kidnapped 12-year old girl imprisoned in a dark basement? What is time to a Muslim young woman who can excel at college, but then can’t work because her father says she cannot mix with strangers!

Our lives are full. We are busy. We don’t have enough time. Time is getting away from us. So, when will we ‘make time’ to do something important? When will we decide who and how we will be missionaries this year? The time has arrived, we cannot delay, it is urgent that we learn to ‘make time’ for God today and each and every day. May God richly bless you as we work together in our mission during 2013/14.

News from PWs in the congregations

First United Presbyterian, Nampa

Submitted by Karen Winter

During the summer, PW hosted the lunch and coffee hour when the Presbytery met at First United Presbyterian Church in Nampa. We also held our annual summer picnic at the home of Barbara and Gary Hindman. Remember the heat in July? We were really smart and held the picnic indoors, overlooking their beautiful gardens.

We are actively planning our Christmas Bazaar, to be held Saturday, November 2. This is our second annual Bazaar, and we have commitments for 20 tables of crafts, home decor items, jewelry and much, much more. This is up from 13 tables last year! A soup lunch will be served, slices of pie will be available for purchase, and coffee is free all day. We rely on congregation members who are not necessarily active in PW to help us with home-baked goods to sell plus crafts etc. at our own sale table.

Our annual Christmas Tea will be held the first Tuesday in December in the evening and includes a musical program by the Encore Carolers. Other things we do:

- Friendship Gathering in February to introduce people to PW’s projects
- Spring Gathering in March 2014
- Birthday Offering, which was dedicated at our PWC Birthday Gathering in April.
- Donated 20 new teddy bears to Nampa Fire Department Station 2
- Thank Offering
- Support the Mission, PW Presbytery and PW Synod with our pledges
- Support the Menaul School in Arizona with coupons and a project in the Congo with commemorative and collectible stamps.

The congregation supports our annual Christmas projects, which may include any or all of the following:

- Family in need
- Crisis Center
- Salvation Army bell ringing.
- Salvation Army barrel for canned and boxed foods

Church of the Redeemer, Weiser

Submitted by Pat Thompson

Our local PW meets four times a year, but we are active members Churchwide. In October, we are starting a sewing group that will meet weekly. The women are encouraged to bring their knitting, crocheting or other projects to work on in a social setting. Some of us will be making quilts that will go to Maple Tree House, a shelter for victims of domestic violence. Each person who stays there is sent home with the quilt that is on her bed. We are (Continued on page 4)
PW in the congregations (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

using denim to make the quilts, and are inviting our friends and neighbors to join us in this project.

Bethany Presbyterian, Ontario
Submitted by Kathryn Baker

It has been some years since Bethany has had an organized PW group although women of the church have been continuously involved in mission. One mission is a Prayers for Squares ministry, in which a quilt is prepared to give comfort to those in need because of illness or loss. After the quilt is pieced, it is tied with a prayer by members of the congregation.

Invited and encouraged by Gayle Van Weerdhuizen, who attended the 2012 Churchwide Gathering, Bethany women will meet on Saturday, October 19 to enjoy a day at the Pumpkin Palooza at Andrews Seed in Ontario followed by coffee at a local coffee shop. At that time they will consider forming a group that could continue the Prayers for Squares project with Presbyterian Women. We will decide together how often to meet and whether to include a Bible study. It is also conceivable that those non-quilters might bring their own projects to work on while the quilters quilt. Plans will proceed as we do all things together.

The spirit of justice & peace

Immigration

The Senate passed an immigration reform bill in June. The bill passed by the Senate is not perfect, but it is an important step in the right direction toward embracing all of our brothers and sisters. The PC(USA) has long supported comprehensive immigration reform that provides a pathway to citizenship, protects family unity and does not unnecessarily militarize our southern border. People of faith need to contact their Congressional representatives asking them to focus on immigration legislation that creates a pathway to citizenship and reunites families. A sample letter can be found by clicking on the Presbyterian Women link at www.presbyteryofboise.org and then on the link to the Quarterly Newsletter (August-October 2013).

Gun violence

Gun violence is a disastrous, uniquely American phenomenon, largely ignored by the faith community despite mass shootings and everyday carnage and destruction of families and neighborhoods across the country. Learn about Heeding God’s Call (www.heedinggodscall.org), a faith-based movement endorsed by the PC(USA) that is working to end gun violence.

The PC(USA) has recently released TRIGGER; The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence. To host a screening, order the documentary or order promotional material, contact Sara Sotelo, 502.569.5648 or sara.sotelo@pcusa.org.

Words matter

Based in storytelling and intentional listening, the Words Matter process explores how we can choose words that give life and bring healing. Download this ecumenical tool at www.pcusa.org/resource/words-matter.

Equal pay

June 10, 2013, marked the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Although a wonderful beginning, the bill needs some updating. The updated version of the Paycheck Fairness Act failed to reach the 60 votes needed in the Senate for its passage on June 5, 2013. You are encouraged to reach out to your senators and House representative urging them to support equal pay for equal work.

ECPAT postcards

End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT), in partnership with the PC (USA) has produced postcards that you can bring to hotels you visit urging the hotels to sign on to ECPAT’s code to prevent human trafficking. Obtain postcards from Mark Koenig, director of the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, mark.koenig@pcusa.org. Cards are free plus shipping.
The spirit of mission

Creative Ministries Blog now online

PW receives the nicest notes from our Thank Offering and Birthday Offering recipients and the mission coworkers who work with them. Some of those are shared on Facebook, but as you know, those posts roll over, and you might miss them. With that in mind, PW has launched a Creative Ministries blog that is all-things-Birthday-and-Thank-Offering. Subscribe or check back periodically for stories, letters news and other items at http://pwpcusa.typepad.com/emoc.

2012-13 Thank Offering

PW gave $719,532 to the 2012 Thank Offering. Thirty-six grant recipients from around the world were selected to receive grants ranging from $4,144 to $50,000. Half of the recipients are health ministries.

Together in Service (TIS) updates

Church World Service prefers infant t-shirts to onesies for baby kits.

Little Dresses for Africa has a new project that addresses the critical need for reusable sanitary supplies for school girls. Remember when you worried about untimely periods and boys noticing? Imagine if you have no supplies and the worry of “showing” at school keeps you from class. PW can help by sewing sani-panties. Find patterns at www.littledressesforafrica.org/blog/sani-panti-sewing-instructions. Or for more information contact Katharine Reeves at Katharine.reeves@pcusa.org; 800.728.7228, Ext. 5402.

Churchwide Coordinating Team members pledge too

At their spring meeting members of the Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT) gave an offering of $3,828 to support the PW Mission Pledge. In addition the CCT members and staff pledged $4,045 for 2013, reaching 84 percent participation in giving/pledging!

The spirit of Horizons

The theme of the September/October issue of Horizons magazine is “Unto These Hills.” The featured articles deal particularly with the 2013 USA Mission Experience to Appalachia.

The story of the southern highlands of the United States is a fascinating tale of migration, native resilience, church history and social policy. Though the tales of triumph and challenge are universal human tales, issues remain for people of faith. A group representing Presbyterian Women in 15 of the 16 synods of the PC(USA), as well as national PW leadership, visited people and programs in central Appalachia in June. In this issue you will read about the joys and concerns of the people living in this region, as well as the work of the church and its impact on the lives of families in that area.

To subscribe or order the Bible study only, call 866.802.3635 or go to www.pcusa.org/horizons. The annual PW Bible study is free with a subscription (special one-year offer available for $19.95). Order by April 1, 2014 to receive the 2014-2015 Bible study.
Celebrate PW’s 25th anniversary with us!

For 25 years, Presbyterian women have worked together to transform the church and the world! How will you celebrate? Here are a few ideas:

- Order the free PW 25th anniversary poster that shows how Presbyterian women witness to God’s promise!
- Order the PW 25th anniversary participation pin—available singly for $4 or in a pack of five for $15.
- Download the “PW...Witnessing to the promise for 25 years” logo for your fliers, bulletin boards, etc.
- Download PW’s 25th anniversary liturgy for use in your congregation or PW groups.
- Download the “25 Years of Presbyterian Women” timeline in either an 11”x17” or 8.5” x 11” format to share at your next event.
- Tell us how you’re celebrating 25 years of Presbyterian Women. Send your historical photos and/or your celebration photos (with captions, please) for posting on PW’s 25th anniversary Pinterest board and PW’s Facebook page!
- Post your own photos (with identifying information and a 25th anniversary tagline) on PW’s Facebook page.
- Order the 2013 edition of PW’s Amazing Heritage history exhibit kit, now with 200 Years of Presbyterian Women on DVD.
- Order the 25th anniversary magnetic bookmark!
- Download “25 Programming Ideas to Celebrate 25 Years of Presbyterian Women” for even more ways to celebrate.

MOVING FORWARD: $25 FOR 25

Another exciting part of PW’s recognition of this milestone year is a new fundraising/stewardship campaign—$25 for 25. All gifts from the campaign benefit PW’s Mission Pledge, which supports every PW mission and ministry—no exceptions. Recognize this milestone year and support the $25-for-25 campaign in two ways:

1. Give a gift of $25 (or more). You can donate online or send a check with “$25 for 25” written in the memo line to Presbyterian Women Remittance Processing, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh PA 15264-3652.

2. Pledge to match gifts received in your synod from this campaign, at a level of your choosing. You can be recognized or remain anonymous—it’s up to you. Just think—you could double the gifts from your synod for PW mission and ministry!

To receive an email with links directly to all the items listed in the article, contact Kathryn Baker at 208.549.2091 or email kathrynbaker99@msn.com