



## **Peace River Presbytery**

### **Presbyterian Women**

**October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023**

Oh, how blessed we have been since Hurricane Ian hit Sept. 28, 2022. Our Presbyterian Women have not only been striving to continue our PW activities, but are now THRIVING one year later. Everything we do reflects our PW Purpose. Our women continue to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide; to work for justice and peace; and to build an inclusive, caring community of women.

Nineteen (19) women from PRP PW attended the **PW Synod of South Atlantic (SOSA)** Triennial Gathering at Epworth by the Sea, October 21-23, 2022 where we gathered with other PW from Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida for worship, education, fellowship, and fun.

Following Hurricane Ian, our ladies were not able to support planning and preparation of our Annual Gathering to be held in Feb. so we combined our Annual Meeting with our Spring Retreat held Mar. 20, 2023 at Siesta Key Chapel. Our theme: **“Embracing New Beginnings.”** The worship service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Ruth Smalt – the sermon was entitled “Sing a New Song,” followed by The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> PRP PW Annual Meeting was called to order and Jef Farlow was then introduced as a very creative and talented lady who designed and made our new PRP PW banner. Forty-five (45) Presbyterian Women representing nine (9) churches were in attendance. Both our General Presbyter and Presbytery Moderator attended and brought greetings from Peace River Presbytery.

The Search Committee presented a slate of four nominees:

Betty Mangos – Treasurer; Kathy Shannon – Secretary; Francie Hall and Janet Steenrod – Co-Cluster Leaders, Districts 1 & 2

The Search Committee was unsuccessful in finding a Moderator-Elect, therefore, I am continuing to serve in the role of Moderator in 2023. All were elected and the installation service was conducted by issuing them a charge of declaring their willingness to serve as PW leaders and by asking them to affirm their call by reciting the Presbyterian Women Purpose.

2022 PRP PW Year End Financial Report reflected income of \$16,825.29 and expenses of \$14,849.51. Of the total expenses, \$12,690.21 was given to missions. This includes our Thank offering, Birthday offering, our Least Coin offering as well as money committed to our eight missions (Columbia Friendship Circle, Duvall Home, Mission Haven, Thornwell Home, Mision Peniel, Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance, Cedarkirk, and Beth-el Farmworkers). This is an

awesome amount contributed to fulfill our PW Purpose of supporting the mission of the church worldwide. Appreciation was expressed to all PW who gave so generously.

Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance (IFHA) – received a \$50,000 grant from PC(USA) PW “Thank Offering.” This is truly an answer to prayer to begin providing safe, clean and affordable housing to our farmworkers. Betty Mangos, Vice Chair of IFHA, was recognized for her dedicated work of this mission.

Our Spring Retreat focused on new beginnings and mission work in the afternoon - recognizing Mision Peniel and Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance (IFHA). Joyce Botchford gave a presentation for Mision Peniel and Betty Mangos for IFHA. Our mission project that day was to decorate white gift bags for the ladies of Mision Peniel – each PW brought items to fill at least one bag. Over fifty (50) were completed that afternoon.

PRP PW Leadership Training was held May 20<sup>th</sup> at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church. Our theme was “Love God ... Love People” focused on Matthew 22: 36-40 *Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: ““Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.”* As our leadership training ensued, we considered how PW leaders could support and love our Presbyterian Women.

October 7<sup>th</sup> is our kick-off for the 2023-2024 year at our PRP PW Autumn Retreat to be held at Moorings PC and hosted by PW from both Moorings and First PC of Naples. Our theme is “PW Embracing Sacred Encounters” with speaker Rev. Denise Sawyer, Director of Spiritual Services for Lee Health.

***Sacred Encounters*** - The 2023–2024 PW/*Horizons* Bible study by author Olive Mahabir invites readers to consider Jesus, “the good shepherd” (Luke 10:15), who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people.

We are grateful for the support PW receive from our local pastors and sessions. We also truly appreciate the support of our PRP PW by Rev. Melana Scruggs, General Presbyter, and Carson Brown, PRP Moderator.

*Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all you do be done in love.*

I Cor. 16:13–14

We seek your prayers of support as we serve our Lord together.

God’s peace,

Sandy Wharton, PW Moderator

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