

## PWHP e-CONNECTION

November 10, 2017



### PWHP FALL GATHERING

Showers of thanks to all who contributed to the Fall Gathering at Grace Covenant. The soups were delicious as was the birthday cake (for our 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary)! And we were welcomed by a bagpiping pastor – gave me goose bumps. It was just perfect. Singing and worshiping and communing and learning was the order of the day. Glenda challenged us to be PW – Pushy Women, like Caleb's daughter. That comes easier to some of us than others 😊 Thanks to Judy Robinett, Shannon Roe and Gail Cunningham (see additional article) for sharing their experiences in PW travels. Then, lastly, we packed school supplies for Church World Service and were instructed by Judy Robinett on how to make reusable sani pads that will be shipped to Africa. It was a busy, informative and fun morning. Blessings abounded to those who were able to attend. **Hope to see you in the spring in Leavenworth on April 21!**

### GLOBAL EXCHANGE TO INDONESIA

Thank You, Presbyterian Women in Heartland Presbytery, for the opportunity to be a part of the 2017 PW Global Exchange to Indonesia. There were so many new sights, sounds, tastes and feelings I experienced. The main question I took with me was (along with the least luggage of anyone), "how can Christians keep the faith and live in peace in a Muslim majority multicultural country/society?" The answer? "With a lot of trying, with government urging, and sometimes with great difficulty."

Indonesia is a rather unlikely country. It consists of over 17,000 islands, with over 700 native tribes and languages and religions, and a population of 255 million people. It was invaded in turns by Indians, Malaysians, Dutch, Portuguese, Arabs, Chinese, and briefly by the Japanese. The invaders brought Hinduism, Buddhism, Protestantism, Catholicism, Islam and Confucianism and went away with spices and minerals.

The 5 pillars of Indonesian society were explained to us in various ways by various people, including the government's Minister of Religious Harmony, Musdah Mulia, a Muslim. He implied that embracing religious diversity can be accomplished through education, and meeting and sharing lunches regularly.

*Pancasila*, the first pillar, seeks to acknowledge and recognize its five major religions. Panc(h)asila suggests that all Indonesians are deeply religious, and that all five religions believe in One God, but with different names for God. Indonesia provides these five major religions with constitutional protections and guarantees. Proselytizing is against the law. Just having a Minister of Religious Diversity suggests that no one religion has all the truth, making Indonesia a progressive model of religious harmony in the Muslim world.

The Indonesian Constitution states "every person shall be free to choose and to practice the religion of his/her choice" and "guarantees all persons the freedom of worship, each according to his/her own religion or belief." The government, however, officially only recognizes six religions: [Islam](#), [Protestantism](#), [Catholicism](#), [Hinduism](#), Buddhism and [Confucianism](#). About 85% of the population is Muslim, but with a population of 255 million people (the USA has 323.1 million) there are also large populations of the other faiths.

Three women from an Indonesian Presbyterian Church in Maryland accompanied us, and the Rev. Desiree Youngblood, the pastor of Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church in Pickerington, Ohio, was one of our two "young" participants. Desiree's church is becoming an Indonesian Immigrant church. I understand that some of these Presbyterian church members are refugees from anti-Christian jihad in or near Manado in Sulawesi. The jihadists, who were from other regions and countries, were forced to leave the area, and the problem went with them, I was told.

The Protestant (GPIB) Church in Indonesia, descended from the Dutch Reformed tradition, is very much alive and well. The services we attended included both formality and liveliness; traditional and newer music; proclamation and interaction. There were people of all ages, all engaged and active. They seemed to want to share their customs and traditions, their arts and their food. It was good.

There will be more.  
Blessings and Peace,  
Gail Cunningham



## JOYS & CONCERNS

**Cinda Atwater**, our sister in Osawatomie, needs our uplifting prayers of healing and strength. She is awaiting a surgery date for a heart procedure.

## AMAZON SMILE

Christmas is just around the corner! So remember to log into Amazon by typing [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Then just select Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA) as your recipient. And, of course, it remembers it every time you log into Amazon beginning with a smile!



## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter PW CHURCHWIDE NEWSLETTER

As always, there is a massive amount of information in the PW quarterly newsletter. [Click here](#) to download the fourth quarter's installment dated Nov 2017-January 2018.

### 2018 CHURCHWIDE GATHERING

[Click here](#) to visit the most recent email sent regarding the Churchwide Gathering in 2018. One of the highlights of this communication is the word that the new improved PW website is up and running!

Take a look at [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org)!

## NOVEMBER BOOK REVIEW by Judy Klamm – *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*

The continent of Africa has many problems with clean water, famine and conflict. William Kamkwamba in *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* describes how he built a windmill for his village in Malawi. The author grew up poor with few options. A severe drought and famine meant his family could not afford to send him to secondary school. By reading books from the small library in the village, he taught himself how to build a windmill to provide electricity for his family. Using spare parts scavenged from everywhere, he saw his dream come true. He traveled to several countries telling his story and receiving his education. This is an inspiring story of the determination of a teenager to change his life.

## NOVEMBER DEVOTION by Rev Glenda Watts – *Thanks for Presbyterian Women*

**Scripture:** Joshua 15:15-19; Judges 1:12-15; Proverbs 31:25; Psalm 46:5; Luke 1:45; Joshua 1:9; Psalm 139:14; 2 Timothy 1:7; Jeremiah 29:11; Exodus 14:14; Song of Songs 4:7

In this season before Thanksgiving, our thoughts turn to the many reasons we have to be thankful. For one thing, I am thankful that in the patriarchal time the Bible was written, there is still a presence of women who can be role models for us.

We know Mary, Jesus' mother, for her obedience and trust; Ruth's loyalty to Naomi; Esther's courage and wisdom; Hagar, the first person to name God; Mary Magdalene, devoted disciple; Mary of Bethany, spiritual learner; and many others, named and unnamed.

I recently found a woman I wasn't aware of - Caleb's daughter Achsah, called a pushy woman. Her story appears twice in Hebrew Scriptures – in Joshua and Judges.

Her story is typical of the times. Her father Caleb promised her as a bride to anyone who would conquer a certain city. His nephew Othniel won her as his wife. Caleb gave them some land but it was desert land. She demanded some water and her father gave them two springs. She didn't give up and just accept what her father gave them. She knew they needed water and she persevered and got it.

I told her story at the Fall Gathering because we need women like Achsah who stood up to the Canaanites, fighting when necessary

- women like Achsah who carved out a new life in the Wild West of America
- whatever misgivings we have about the way Indians were treated, most of the new immigrants were just settlers in a harsh land which they turned into fertile fields
- women like Achsah were at the forefront of many missionary movements
- brave women served Jesus abroad when they weren't allowed to serve at home
- and women like Achsah now serve in all branches of the church
- where would the church be without them?

We are PWs, pushy women, too, and are guided by our PW purpose:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- 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 that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Thanks be to God for pushy women.

**PWHP TREASURER**

Anything to do with PWHP money now needs to go to our treasurer:

**Judy Robinett**  
 12720 W 102<sup>nd</sup> Street  
 Overland Park, KS 66212  
[JudyLR@hotmail.com](mailto:JudyLR@hotmail.com)

**LOOK HERE!** Here's the link to the [Mission Remittance Form](#).

Oh, and I attached it as well. If you have questions, please contact Judy Robinett (see left).

***If your PW group has new contact information or new moderators or treasurers, please let me know, [pnitsche@kc.rr.com](mailto:pnitsche@kc.rr.com). Please send me Name, Address, Phone, Email Address and Church Affiliation.***



Presbyterian Women's next Churchwide Gathering will be held August 2-5, 2018 in Louisville, Kentucky! Won't you join us?

"Arise, shine, your light has come!" (based on Isaiah 60:1) is the theme for the Gathering. Held every three years, PW's Churchwide Gathering is an event that celebrates and can deepen your engagement in all that Presbyterian Women does. Participants enjoy workshops, tours, forums, resource gathering (and shopping!), plenary sessions with inspiring speakers, worship and more. PW's triennial Business Meeting also takes place during the Churchwide Gathering, where budget, leadership and programmatic emphases for the next triennium are decided.

**PWHP Spring Gathering • Saturday, April 21, 2018 • First Presbyterian, Leavenworth, KS**

If you have trouble opening attachments, please check to see that you have the newest version of Adobe Reader. You can get it at <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>. I typically un-check the boxes under Optional Offers as I update my Adobe Reader.