

The Newhall Press

First Presbyterian Church
24317 N. Newhall Avenue
Newhall, California 91321-2721

Return Service Requested

May 2014



Sunday Worship Services

Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 10:45 a.m.



Deadline
for the
June
Newsletter is
May 18, 2014

Thank you for your articles and input to the newsletter.

Special thanks to Ellie and Steve Fuller

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The Newhall Press

First Presbyterian Church of Newhall
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Pastor: Bill Barnes (x102)
Pastoral Support: Phil Aijian (x106)
Dir. Christian Educ.: Sarah Bolin (x104)
Assoc. Children's Dir: Lelia Meadows
Assoc. Youth Dir: Ian Fletcher
Youth Worship Leader: Chris Clewett
Office Administrator: Sandy McIntosh (x101)
Music Conductor: Connie Woodson
2nd Service Worship Leader: Sam Besse
Treasurer: Dorothy Ng (x107)
Custodian: Nelson Orellana
Groundskeeper: Steve Fuller
Nursery Care Provider: Linda Weingarten
Little Shepherd's Nursery School
Director: Dyana Vos

THE NEWHALL PRESS



May 2014

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Apostle Paul tells us, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:22).

As I write this article, Pastor Bill is preparing to lead us in a new sermon series exploring the "Fruit of the Spirit." I am looking forward to our journey together as we learn more about the fruit of the Spirit and how God will use this time together to have us become more what He would have us be. Today, I ask you to take a little journey with me, too.

First, think back to what brought you to First Presbyterian Church Newhall. I realize for some of us, it will be a much shorter memory trip than others.... What were you thinking on that first Sunday as you parked your car and started walking across the parking lot? Will anyone notice I am here? Do I want to be noticed? Will the service be to my liking? Will the sermon be too short or too long? Will I fit in and feel comfortable? Will my children like their programs?

Second, think about your drive home. What were your impressions? What was it about the person or persons that you interacted with that first day that made you stop and think, "This might be the place for me.?" What was it about that day that made you stop and say, "I think I need more of this.?"

Third, think about how you began to get involved. What did it look like? What programs piqued your interest? What did it feel like when you realized you were doing what God wanted you to do in this time and in this place? Now, fast forward to the present.

For some of us, many of these questions are just emerging, and I am thrilled to see how God is working in our lives and where He is leading us.

For some of us, we have been invested here for varying degrees of awhile. What does it feel like to be part of this church family for so many years? How important has the love and support of those around us been as we face the many challenges of life? Who in this congregation has been Jesus Christ to you when you most needed to see Him? ...to feel Him? ..to touch Him? ...to cry out to Him? ...to be loved by Him? Who is it in our church family that seems to embody some or all of the fruit of the Spirit? Who in our church family has helped you cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in yourself? How do you see the fruit of the Spirit being used in your own life as you grow more and more in Jesus Christ?

Just as we challenged ourselves during Lent to see Holy Spirit Moments in our lives and share them with one another, let us challenge ourselves to see the fruit of the Spirit in one another, and let us gratefully acknowledge each other when we see it. You might see someone reach out and touch someone just when that person needs comfort and reassurance...a beautiful act of kindness and love. Or...someone brightens your day with a smile and a hug...a wonderful act of love and joy. Or...an unexpected phone call or text arrives to let you know you are loved and are being prayed for...a much needed act of joy, or love, or peace, or kindness, or gentleness...or all of them at once. Or...you are forgiven for a wrong done...an amazing act of love, of peace, of kindness.

Lord God, open our eyes that we would see the fruit of Your Spirit in one another, and give us the courage to give a shout-out to each other on it when we see it. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor 





The Church Life Committee promotes fellowship and fun activities for the church family by providing a variety of church, community, cultural and special events throughout the year.

MEN AT WORK

Next meeting: May 17th.

Join the men of the church on the third Saturday of each month at 8:00 am for breakfast and a time of fellowship.

Each month there will either be a guest speaker or a project at the church or in the community.



LADIES NIGHT OUT

Our gathering for May will be at Buca Di Beppo on May 27th at 6:30 PM. The address is 26940 Theater Drive, Valencia. (Outside the Mall) All women are welcome to join this wonderful time of relaxation and fellowship.

BOOK BUDDIES

“And the Mountains Echoed” by Khaled Hosseini will be discussed at the 4 p.m. May 8th meeting of Book Buddies.

The story begins in an Afghan village but follows the characters from Kabul to Paris to San Francisco to the Greek island of Tinos.

Pam Trammell will host the meeting and salad supper. Address: 22254 Oxford Lane **RSVP** 661-255-1727.



CHURCH BIRTHDAY PICNIC

You are invited to celebrate our Church’s birthday on Sunday June 1st, from 11:30am -2pm. There will be one worship service at 10 am. Then enjoy pulled pork sandwiches, cake, and homemade ice cream from our Deacons. Bring a lawn chair and a side dish or salad to share. Binge on the largest birthday cake ever! Play games and enjoy your church family as we celebrate being 123 years old—and counting!



HAND CRAFTERS

Our meetings are on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 10 am to noon - please feel free to drop in, visit, work on your craft, or learn a new one.

If you have any questions, please call Anne Watts at 252-6420.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

May 4	Youth Sunday
May 8	Book Buddies
May 10	Presbyterian Women’s Tea
May 13 & 27	Crafters
May 17	Men at Work
May 17	Repertory East Playhouse
May 18	Spotlight on Presbyterian Women
May 25	Family Promise Week Begins
May 27	Ladies Night Out
Jun 1	Church Birthday Party—Ice Cream Social

MAY BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

Jim Didrickson	May 6
Richard Kost	May 25
Ed Bolden	May 26

REPERTORY EAST PLAYHOUSE

Save the date! On Saturday, May 17th Church Life is going to the Repertory Theater East to see Tennessee William’s *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Dinner at El Tracaderos at 6pm and the play at 8pm. Tickets are \$20.

GREASE SING-A-LONG

We are going to the Hollywood Bowl on Sunday July 13th for the fun-filled *Grease Sing a long*. Tickets are \$25/person. We’ll start with a picnic dinner in Fellowship Hall at 5pm. Then carpool to the Bowl shuttle bus. Show starts at 7:30. Ticket sales end June 8th. Questions? Call Candy Belcher @ 661-297-2445.



The Adult Education Committee at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall encourages the congregation to mature in their knowledge and practice of their Christian faith as disciples of Jesus Christ both personally and in community with other believers.



Spring Life Academy

The following courses are being presented by the Adult Education Committee. If you are interested in attending, please feel free to drop in.

May 4th

A Travelogue of Israel - 10:45 in the Fellowship Hall
Movie Matinee - CS Lewis - “Mere Christianity” - 4 pm in the Sanctuary

May 11th

A Travelogue of Israel - 10:45 in the Fellowship Hall

May 18th

A Travelogue of Israel - 10:45 in the Fellowship Hall
Teach Me to Pray and Meditate - Rosie Kwak - 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall

We are also offering The Alpha Course at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, May 4th through June 4th at John and Jung Favarella’s home which includes a dinner. This class does require advance registration so that we know how many to expect. If you are interested in attending this class please call Anne Watts at 252-6420 or Gail Stewart at 645-0139.



Little Shepherd’s Nursery School

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall



1967–1997–2014 and Little Shepherd’s Nursery School

What is the significance of these dates?

1967 was the year that First Presbyterian Church of Newhall had the foresight to start the first nursery school in this area.

1997 was the year that the present commemorative tile wall was installed to honor 30 years of serving the church and children of Santa Clarita Valley.

2014 is the year that a second tile wall will be installed, honoring Esther Kloth’s long service to the nursery school. Please see information below about the tile wall. If you are interested in purchasing a tile, please contact Pam Trammell (Nursery School Board member) at 255-1727 and she will get a brochure to you so that you may order. Also, if you would like to donate to the school because it has served so many children in this community, please send a check in any amount to the church, payable to Little Shepherd’s Nursery School

Information about the commemorative tile wall:

Little Shepherd’s Nursery School is honoring Director Emeritus Esther Kloth with a commemorative tile wall. This wall will have tiles 6x6 in size, with five lines available for text. Tiles to add on the wall are available for purchase at \$125.00 per tile. Suggestions for information to include on tiles are as follows.

- Child’s name or teacher that you wish to honor.
- The years attended at Little Shepherd’s
- Quote/ Bible verse
- Song Lyrics

Commemorative tile wall will be dedicated at the start of the 2014-2015 school year.



SECRETS OF "BIBLE SECRETS REVEALED"

By Roland Wrinkle

The History Channel aired a new, six-part "documentary" called *Secrets of the Bible Revealed* for Advent. More followed for Lent. It seems that there's always something like this in the popular culture to deal with. What a wonderful way to spend Advent and Lent—by listening to a swaggle of academic non-believers pontificate on 66 books, the reliability and authority of which they avowedly reject (the few respected theologians used as tokens offered most of their insights to the cutting room floor). But the History Channel won't tell you that. It has adopted a philosophy that high tech razzle dazzle and breathtaking sensationalism can sell commercial air time much more efficiently than biblical truth. The bible is chock full of *revelations*—not secrets. If Jesus had kept all this to himself, He wouldn't have gotten himself killed. He incredulously shook His head at the soldiers who arrested Him and reminded them that, "Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching and you did not arrest me." Allow me to respond to the History Channel and "biblical" hucksterism.

The show's ubiquitous Reza Aslan (who is an associate professor of creative writing at UC Riverside, armed with, among others, a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop, where he was named the Truman Capote Fellow in Fiction) made it to the top of the best seller list (and a whole lot of money) by trotting out the old "Jesus-As-Zealot" trope making folks believe this was something new and astounding when, in fact, it is merely retreading a thoroughly discredited Phantasmagoria which seems to come out of the weeds every 15 years or so. If Jesus was a Zealot (those Jews who actively tried to overthrow the oppressive yoke of Roman imperialism by force during the second temple era—and something, by the way, Jesus told them expressly not to do), then Jesus was just another failed messiah, as those who preceded and succeeded him, thereby proving that the common laborer from Nazareth was not the Son of God, not Israel's Messiah and not the King of the Universe. The show goes as far as to educate us that Jesus instructed that a man should not touch a woman (good luck with "Go forth and procreate!") citing 1 Cor. 7. But that wasn't Jesus talking. It was a distraught missionary (Paul) fretting about sexual immorality getting in the way of spreading the gospel and therefore "marry if you have to." And Paul made it explicit that it was *he* who was talking and not Jesus.

The program's Elaine Pagels is a well-respected Professor of Religion at Princeton who has gained notoriety for popularizing (albeit sensationalized by others) the area of "Lost" or "Secret" gospels—each one providing titillating fodder for other History/Discovery Channel hoo-hah. These are all "gnostic" gospels. Gnosticism (to wildly over simplify things) was an alternative to Christianity as we know it that cropped up very early to challenge the truths of the what later became the four canonical gospels. She wrote (again, best-selling) *The Secret Gospel of Thomas*. In Pagels' interpretation, the Gospel of Thomas claims, along with other apocryphal teachings, that Jesus was not God, but rather, a human teacher who sought to uncover the divine light in all human beings. Her equally sensational *Gospel of Judas* posits that Judas, rather than being Christ's betrayer who subsequently hung himself out of grief and regret was actually Jesus' closest confidant and in whom Jesus entrusted the secret knowledge of the Kingdom of God. If you put away for a moment traditional notions of heaven, you'll read that Jesus (over the span of the four true gospels, therefore considerable overlap) talked about, declared the arrival of and exhorted us to the Kingdom of God over 120 times. If this was a big secret, then Jesus wasn't very good at keeping it. Pagels also wrote *The Gnostic Paul* pushing the idea that, well, Paul was a gnostic and used aliases to make it look like he was anti-gnostic.

You notice three attributes all these breathtaking breakthroughs all share? 1) Whatever they're trying to sell was previously "hidden" or "secret". Somebody was trying to keep all of this from us—the church, Dan Brown or whatever. 2) It was all the result of a conspiracy. Constantine wrote the Bible or dictated what was in or out or whatever (This is not only shabby history it makes no sense. Why didn't Constantine make Christianity the official state religion; he didn't; Theodosius did later.) 3) These all purport to be new discoveries. That would be news to Ireneaus who wrote about the Gospel of Judas in 185 AD from his pulpit in Lyons, France. We've known about all of this stuff for ages. It's just that various archeological discoveries produce manuscripts that we didn't have before but there's nothing new except the manuscript itself. No one ever doubted these heresies existed. They have all been properly debunked over and over again (Guess what Ireneaus called the book in which he talked about the Gospel of Judas 1828 years before these History Channel heroes? *Against Heresies!* How'bout dem' beans?) Besides *Bible Scholars Gone Wild*, we get popular authors of historical fiction like Dan Brown and his best-sellers claiming that Jesus was married and had a kid or the church is hiding secret documents that would destroy Christianity or whatever. Washington Irving (who wrote the Legend of Sleepy Hollow) wrote a fictionalized account of the life of Christopher Columbus and this resulted in me being taught in grade school something that just wasn't true, i.e. that everyone then believed the world to be flat.

Finally, the History Channel show relied heavily on Bart Ehrman. Ehrman is a brilliant expert on the New Testament and has made enormous contributions to NT scholarship. But ya gotta know where he's (now) coming from. According to Ehrman, "The problem of suffering has haunted me for a very long time. It was what made me begin to think about religion when I was young, and it was what led me to question my faith when I was older. Ultimately, it was the reason I lost my faith." Why doesn't The History Channel tell you that? (Not so incidentally, Ehrman graduated from Wheaton College. So did Bill Barnes. See the connection?)

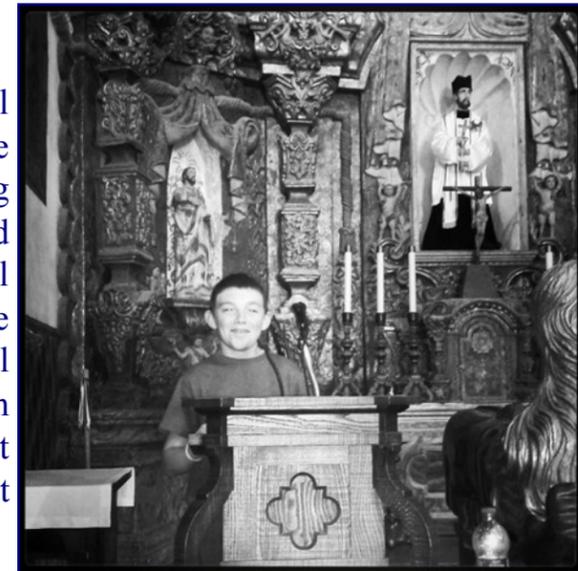
These are all best sellers. 100,000s of copies have been sold. Aslan's recent offering has been translated into 13 languages. Pretty impressive, huh? Oh yeah, I forgot. The book they attempt to deconstruct (the Bible) has sold over six billion copies and has been translated into 1,200 languages. If I'm going to have to bet my life on which to go with, let's just say, "As for me and my eternity, I choose the Lord."



The Youth Committee nurtures the Junior High and Senior High-aged youth as well as the college-aged young adults of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, and the community; by providing a Christ-centered program of worship, education, fellowship, and service in order to equip them with a framework in which they can realize their spiritual gifts and live a Christian life.

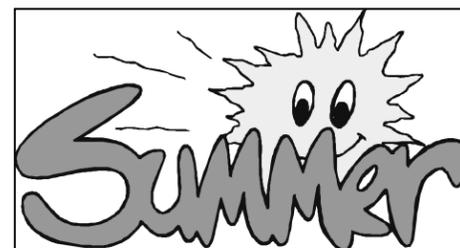
YOUTH GROUP

During this past Spring Break eight of our high school students sacrificed their vacations in order to serve the To'hono Odom people of Sells Arizona. It was an amazing time and we want to thank you all for praying or us, and sending us to an amazing trip. We also want to invite you all to come to Youth Sunday where our youth group will be taking charge of Sunday services on May 4th. Our kids will be speaking, singing, and sharing their hearts with you on this day. Be sure to check out Youth Sunday on May 4th at church.



Not only is our youth group school program booming, but our summer program will be starting soon. Last summer we introduced a new way to do our summer youth group-Praise in the Park. It was a hit, and we will continue our Tuesdays of June through August from 6pm till 8pm. The park locations are still undecided but will be released in the June newsletter as well as in the mailing calendars. It's going to be great, not to

mention that every Thursday we will be doing something FUN-trampoline-ing, picnics, surf trips, and more. Stay tuned for more information on all the summer programs. And don't forget about summer camp- High school camp will be July 13-18 and junior high will be July 27-Aug 1st. Each camp is \$450 per camper and space is





The purpose of The Mission Committee, in order to further share the gospel of Jesus Christ, is to responsibly use the resources of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, wherever we find a neighbor in need. We are committed to meeting mission needs in our local community, across the nation, and globally, by sending money, food, clothing, volunteers, or whatever else is needed.

STANDING TOGETHER



CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The Christian-Muslim Consultative Group, a partnership formed in January 2006 of Christian and Muslim leaders in Southern California, seek: to provide opportunities for dialogue and action between our faith communities that enhance mutual understanding, respect, appreciation, and support of the Sacred in each other. Visit www.thecmcg.org for a listing of events and resource.



KIDS, KIDS, KIDS

The Children's Ministry Committee at First Presbyterian Church will invite children to EMBRACE the Word of God through worship, games, songs, and other activities; ENCOURAGE their spiritual growth to become closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ; and EQUIP them to go out into the world and share God's love.

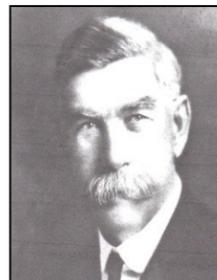
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Can you believe it, summer is almost here! Do you know what that means? Summer equals FUN! There is a ton of things just around the corner for all of our pre-schoolers through 6th graders. Be sure to mark your calendars for each event that is coming up soon!

First, we kick off our summer with **Vacation Bible School**. Our theme this year is "Weird Animals". Sign-ups will start on the patio in between Sunday services in May and all through VBS. VBS is June 23-27th from 9:00 till 12:30 every day. It's going to be a great week for games, crafts, skits, music, and meeting new kids. The price is \$35 per participant for early registration. Early registration ends the Sunday before VBS starts June 22nd. Not only will early registration receive a discount, participants who register early will also receive a small prize. We need participants and we also need volunteers! So please prayerfully consider being a VBS volunteer. There are always spots that need filling, and a kid with whom you will fall in love. Hope to see you there!

Next for the summer, we have summer camp. Summer camp is for children from 4th-6th grade who are excited about a wild adventure. Summer camp is July 20th-25th and the price is \$400 per camper. Scholarships are available based on need. This is a week of sleep-away camp that will be filled with fun, friends, and most of all Jesus! Through hikes, camping, funny skits, skills classes and more, kids will come home crazy jazzed about God's love for them. There are a limited number of spots so be sure to sign up with Ms. Sarah asap. A \$100 deposit is due on July 5th and the remainder amount is due upon our trip. I know our kids will have a great time!

Our last fun event for the summer is our new program called "Fun with the Sun!" This is a program that will be for Kindergarten through 6th graders. We will be participating in crafts, Bible studies and games that will be teaching us all about who God is. It's going to be every Monday in July from 9am till noon. We are hoping to have this program every year so this is our trial run. The Children's Committee is really excited to try it out this summer. The cost is \$15 per day and \$25 per family for each Monday. Well worth the price for a day of crafts and fun! Stay tuned for more information about this awesome new program!



Rev. Wolcott Evans

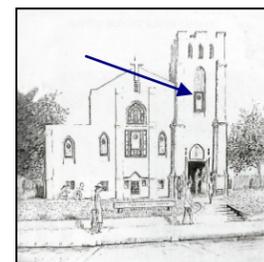
PILLARS OF THE PAST

By Kathy Bressler

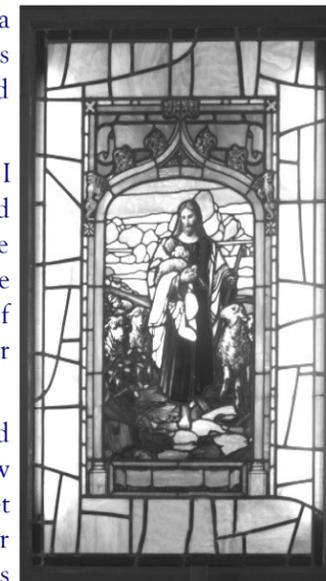


As we are approaching our 123rd birthday, I have been considering writing a series of articles dealing with the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Newhall. Two things interest me in particular: first the impact our church has had in the community over the years, and second how our heritage influences us now as individuals and a congregation.

Last summer during the Sermon Series, *Books or Art That Have Spoken to Our Hearts About God*, I chose the "Good Shepherd Window" in the Church Narthex. At that time I did a little research and learned quite a bit about the heritage of faith from which we now benefit. I would like to know more of the history of this beautiful old-fashioned stained glass window. Who made it? When? Where was it first displayed? Maybe that information is buried in our church archives or in the memory of someone who is reading this. If anyone can contribute to my skimpy knowledge of this, or any other historical subject, I would love to hear from you.



I do know the window resided in a former church building (the second building 1922 to 1976) at the highest point and was lighted at night to show the continual care of God. It presided over Newhall Avenue and Market Street. It was originally dedicated to Alexander Hume, one of the charter members of the church school which predated the church itself. This makes me wonder if the window itself predated the second church building, perhaps even the first.



The Christ portrayed in the window is called "Shepherd of the Hills," a nickname shared with our pastor from 1914 to 1930, **Rev. Wolcott H. Evans**. Rev. Evans was Senior Pastor for the second longest term in our church's history. It is said that he faithfully served the church and community including people of all faiths, while living in poverty. He helped raise the funds for the second church building. History notes that a parsonage was built for Rev. Evans on Market Street, and that he drove around in Fords financed by members of the church and his family members, though he seemed



to prefer a rickety buckboard for local travel.

Rev. Evans is most noted in Santa Clarita Valley history as a "Rock" in the aftermath of the St. Francis Dam disaster, which occurred March 12, 1928. This disaster was dubbed "Mulholland's Folly" after the designer of the dam, William Mulholland, who also designed the California Aqueduct. The face of the dam gave way sending a 200-foot-high wall of water down San Francisquito Canyon, impacting everything in its path for sixty miles to the mouth of the Santa Clara River in Ventura. Nearly 500 people died. It was the second worst disaster in California history after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. The community pulled together led by Rev. Evans (right), superstar William S. Hart (left), Luis Rivera (center) and others. There was a massive rescue effort and comfort was given to impacted families. It was this heroism that led to Rev. Evan's nickname "Shepherd of the Hills." He retired in 1930 to an avocado ranch in San Diego County.

Someone had the insight to name the all-purpose room adjacent to the sanctuary in our current church building, the "Evans Room," presumably after this mostly forgotten hero of our church history.

What little I know of the life of Rev. Wolcott Evans, is an inspiration to me. For the most part he was unsung, serving others as a conduit of the love of Christ without thought of personal gain. As I learn more of the history of our church, I believe many of our early pioneers can be looked to as role models for the mission of the church today, and as personal role models of the Christian Life as taught by Jesus himself. The "Good Shepherd" window which we are privileged to see lighted every Sunday is a symbol of the mission of our church which has existed for over a century. It reminds us to look to our ultimate role model and founder, Jesus Christ.

Presbyterian Women, as forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, 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.

Presbyterian Women

SPOTLIGHT



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Presbyterian Women

SPOTLIGHT



PW – LYDIA CIRCLE by Kay Harris

Being asked to describe Lydia Circle is a difficult request. If I were to give “just the facts” they would look like this:

Lydia Circle was originally part of the Mary Martha Circle. Now before you go thinking there is some scuttlebutt that is behind this “split” let me explain. Mary Martha Circle had grown, and grown, and grown, and we were outgrowing the homes we were meeting in! Concurrently, several of our members had decided it was time to stop driving at night. Therefore Mary Martha Morning Circle was born!

After a few confusing years it was decided that a new name was needed for the morning offshoot. We chose Lydia because she is thought of as an intelligent woman who was a devout follower of Jesus. She was not ashamed of her faith and opened her home to Paul and Silas after their release from prison. Currently there are 16 women on our Roster, and we usually have 10-12 attendees at each meeting. We meet the first Monday of the month at 10:00am in the Evans Room, and our study usually lasts 60 – 90 minutes.

Now for the rest of the story:

We are loud, and we laugh a lot! We “Lydia Ladies” tend to get off topic, but we always have interesting discussions. We come from varied backgrounds and were raised in a variety of religious traditions. We rarely all agree, but we respect each other’s viewpoints and love being challenged by a verse or an idea in our study. We are a family that welcomes newcomers, and we hope that you will join us!



The Ladies of Lydia Circle

PW CIRCLES—ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

Elizabeth: Stephanie Linn (259-3914) – Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the Evans Room. Babysitting is provided.

Lois: Florence Craig (255-1389) – Meets second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.

Lydia: Cathy Johnson (263-7193) & Wanda Lewis (296-2354) – Meets first Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.

Mary Martha: Karen Sandoval (298-7977) – Meets second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in various homes.

Rachel: Tiffany Aune (478-2056) – Meets second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. in various homes and shares a salad dinner.

Annual Presbyterian Women's Tea

Ladies! On Saturday, May 10, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. enjoy a “New to You” Fashion Show and Sale presented by Santa Clarita Assistance League.

If you don't already have your tickets, there's a waiting list.



The Presbyterian Women of the Church (PWC) is made up of all women of the church 18 years and older who choose to participate. The Presbyterian Women of the Synod (PWS) provides leadership and guidance to the PWC. The PWC has a set of bi-laws established to oversee its governance that is supported by the PWS. All of this falls under the Presbyterian Women's Ministry Division of the General Assembly. The PWC is also under the jurisdiction of the Session of the Church.

Each year PWC activities focus on a different theme. This year the theme is “Abiding Hope—The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy.”

The foundation of PWC is our five Circles which meet monthly or bi-monthly. The list of circles can be found on Page 8 along with an article about Lydia Circle. (One circle is featured each month in the newsletter.) Bible study (from the Horizons Bible Study), snacks, supportive friends and lots of fun and laughter keep us looking forward to getting together each time. The circles also contribute to our “Mission Pledge,” supporting our Church and other missions sponsored by the National Organization. (See list on page 7.)

PWC reaches out to all of the ladies of the church with three special events each year, a Spring Tea (see announcement above), a half-day retreat in late summer (last year named “Joy—Living in God's Unfailing Love”), and a Christmas Brunch in December. These events always generate rave reviews. Last year we also sent two representatives to the PW Summer Conference at Chapman University.

If you look at the beautiful plaques in the hallway of our church, you can see the list of Honorary Life Members. The most recent addition was Tina Pulliam, moderator in 2012.

Current moderator, Carol Wheeler, leads a dedicated Coordinating team that meets quarterly.

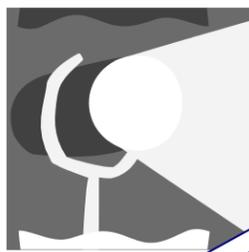
HISTORY OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:

Presbyterian Women has a mission, a voice and a place in the church. Presbyterian Women's predecessor organizations began more than 200 years ago when women had no role outside the home. In the early 1800s the first Presbyterian women's organization defied societal and church conventions. These courageous, dedicated women faced the biases of men and others who felt women should remain at home. In spite of the numerous restrictions, the women's organization gained respect, especially that of missionaries in the field who requested women's donations and prayers.

In the mid-1800s with civil strife in the nation, the church split; it would be many years before the wounds were healed and the northern and southern branches were reunited. The work of Presbyterian women varied with the cultural backgrounds of North and South. Despite regional differences, Presbyterian women have always

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Presbyterian Women, as forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, 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.

SPOTLIGHT

Presbyterian Women



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SPOTLIGHT

Presbyterian Women

Cont. from page 5 been in the forefront of national movements. Presbyterian women have long advocated for women and children, and crusaded for the right to fair, paid work for African Americans, Native Americans, people of Apalachia and immigrants. They went into the field to actively do something about a host of other societal problems.

In the late 1800s the mission work of Presbyterian women broadened to include areas in Alaska and San Francisco, with a particular focus on Asian women. By answering God's call, women's work in the church and in society was validated, and the role of women in both foreign and home missions expanded throughout the 19th century.

In 1872 the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in North America (UPCNA) asked women members to devise some way to systematically raise money to support women missionaries in the field. In 1875 Sarah Foster Hanna spoke to the General Assembly and received permission to establish the first national organization for women in a Presbyterian denomination, the Women's General Missionary Society. Southern women were more hesitant about organizing a church wide missionary society; it took the southern women of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) more than 26 years to get permission to set up a national women's organization, *Women of the Church*. Presbyterian women's financial support of missions was phenomenal and included the Thank Offering (first in 1888) and the Birthday Offering (first in 1922), both of which continue today.

The early 1900s were a time of upheaval and discontent; women gained power, women lost power, but through it all, women remained dedicated to the church. Then in 1930 the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (PCUSA) opened the office of elder to women, thereby expanding the power of women to serve on any board of the General Assembly. The offices of elder and minister were opened to women in the UPCNA when the PCUSA and the UPCNA merged and to women in the PCUS in the sixties.

In the 1930s the definition of the word "missions" was expanded. It began to mean much more than sending out missionaries, preachers and teachers to far away lands. It meant sending workers to work in the inner cities. It meant working to bring people together. It meant working with former enemies after the two great wars. Peace became a continuing emphasis of Presbyterian women as they continued their faith journey through the 20th century and into the 21st century. They also worked to stamp out hunger, exploitation of women and children and war. Presbyterian women were strong women who took tough positions on racism, freedom to choose in problem pregnancies and equal rights for women in society and in the church.

After many years of talk about reunification, it became a reality in 1983 when the two churches rejoined, becoming the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). There were many difficulties in blending two organizations of strong women. Finally in 1988, Presbyterian Women was born, incorporating the best in the United Presbyterian Women and the Women of the Church.

Two centuries after the first Presbyterian Women gathered to pray and give their money to the church, women have voice in the church and in the world. A legacy of devotion to the church and dedication to God are a strong foundation for continuing mission and taking Christ into every area of life in their third century. Presbyterian Women exists today because women are adaptable, determined, proactive, charitable, generous and dedicated to God. The Birthday Offering and the Thank Offering make it possible for new and existing ministry projects around the world to expand their work in new and creative ways.

From www.presbyterianmission.org

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1930—Women ordained ruling elders
- 1956—Women ordained teaching elders clergy
- 1969—Task Force on Women (TFW)
- 1971—Church Employed Women (CEW)
- 1972—Third World Women's Coordinating Committee (TWWCC)
- 1973—Council on Women and the Church (COWAC)
- 1978—Constitutional provision that both men and women be elected elders and deacons in local congregations
- 1964—Women ordained ruling and teaching elders
- 1972—Committee on Women's Concerns (COWC)
- 1976—Church Employed Women (CEW)
- 1981—Committee for Racial Ethnic Women (CREW)
- 1983—Reunion UPCUSA and PCUS
- 1986—UPW and WOC approve the design for Presbyterian Women (PW)
- 1986—Structural Design for Mission adopted by the General Assembly, including the Women's Ministry Unit as one of its nine units
- 1987—Presbyterian Women (PW) approved (with the exception of voice and vote on the General Assembly Mission Council) by the General Assembly
- 1988—Presbyterian Women (PW) comes into being
- 1993—Restructure of General Assembly Mission Council organizations; Presbyterian Women is lodged in Women's Ministries, National Ministries Division
- 1996—General Assembly grants moderator of Presbyterian Women voice and vote on General Assembly Council

AFFILIATIONS:

In addition to supporting the affiliations and ecumenical partnerships of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterian Women works in partnership with various secular and faith-based organizations on issues of faith and social justice.

Agricultural Missions—An ecumenical organization that supports and accompanies rural communities in their efforts to end poverty and address the root causes of injustice, poverty, oppression and exclusion with a strong commitment to gender justice.

Bread for the World—A nationwide Christian movement that seeks justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying our nation's decision makers.

Children's Defense Fund—A nonprofit organization that advocates for children's rights, including education, healthcare, economic security and other social justice issues.

Church Women United—A Christian women's movement that celebrates unity in diversity and works for a world of justice and peace, particularly through World Day of Prayer.

Ecumenical Women at the United Nations—An international coalition of church denominations and ecumenical organizations which have status with the *Economic & Social Council (ECOSSOC)* at the United Nations. Grounded in our faith and commitment to global justice, *Ecumenical Women* trains and empowers our expanding network to advocate for gender equality at the United Nations.

Heifer International—An organization that works with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth.

One Campaign—A campaign in the United States that encourages Americans to be aware of the emergency of AIDs and extreme poverty and to lobby decision-makers on behalf of solving these problems.

World Day of Prayer USA Committee—A Christian women's movement that brings women from around the world together in prayer and service.

World Food Day USA—A worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed year-round action to alleviate hunger.

From www.presbyterianmission.org