



# SEEDS

The Newsletter of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Los Ranchos

Editor: Linda Becker [lindafbecker@prodigy.net](mailto:lindafbecker@prodigy.net)

August, 2015

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Summer has come and gone and September begins another year for Presbyterian Women!

As we begin another year of Presbyterian Women, these are my hopes and prayers for all:

- Elect a moderator for Los Ranchos Presbytery
- Be blessed with a wonderful year of fellowship with the women in your group
- Be blessed and grow in your faith from this year's exciting Horizons Bible Study, "Come to the Waters"
- Become more aware of what is happening with PW in our Presbytery, Synod and nation by attending our fall, winter and spring gatherings.
- Become more aware of each other's PWCs through SEEDS, by sharing your events and reading the newsletters.

**SEEDS newsletter deadlines in 2016 are January 11, March 7, and June 6.**

Here are some important dates to put on your calendars for our Presbytery gatherings:

- **Saturday, September 26** – Fall Gathering for the Synod and Presbytery at Placentia. Jeanne Hatfield will be speaking on the Horizons Bible Study, "Come to the Waters." Be sure to bring your copy. **Look for the flyer in this issue on pages 8 & 9.**
- **Saturday, February 27, 2016** – Presbytery Winter Gathering at St. Mark in Newport Beach. Shari Stump will do a presentation on her global mission experience in the Caribbean
- **Saturday, April 23, 2016** – Presbytery Spring Gathering at Norwalk Presbyterian Church
- **January, 2016** – Synod, "Together in Action Day"
- **July 15-17, 2016** – Summer Conference at Chapman University

The Fall Gathering will be held in Los Ranchos Presbytery at my church in Placentia. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Blessings and Peace,

*Sharon Wakamoto, PWP Vice Moderator*



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PRESBYTERY OF LOS RANCHOS**  
**\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS TREASURER \$\$\$\$\$\$**  
**2015 PWP BOGIE GRANTS**

PWP at its April 25 meeting voted to give the 2015 Kathryn Bogie grants to the following:

Angel Interfaith Network	\$1,500
Faucett Family Ministry to Thailand	\$1,500
Hope for Life Chapel (RV Ministry)	\$1,500
Long Beach Human Trafficking Task Force (Emergency Transportation for Victims)	\$1,500
Norwalk Deacons' Sack Lunch Ministries	\$1,000
Power4Youth Mentoring	\$1,500
Rising Tide Summer Bible Club	\$1,500

We have received several notes of thanks from our recipients.

“Your contribution truly helps students to become their best each week.” (Power4Youth)

“This grant will help support our Summer Bible Club Program in a significant way. Our the me is 'All Children Matter to God'.” (Rising Tide)

“Your gift will make a difference for patients and families as they recover from hospitalization at LAC+USC Medical Center.” (Angel Interfaith Network)

“The donation is greatly appreciated and will help provide sack lunches to the homeless and needy in our community.” (Norwalk Presbyterian Women for the Norwalk Deacons)

“Thank you for your generous grant to the Long Beach Human Trafficking Task Force to care for for victims who are exploited in our back yard. In particular we will be seeking to help with victim transportation and shelter. Your partnership is timely and essential.” (Kingdom Causes as the lead agency for Long Beach Human Trafficking Task Force)

*Submitted by: Judy Schmidt, Operations Treasurer*

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN  
PRESBYTERY OF LOS RANCHOS**

**OPERATIONS TREASURER'S REPORT**

June 30, 2015

Beginning Bank Balance	March 31, 2015	\$5,807.34
Receipts		<u>15,843.00</u>
		\$21,650.34
Disbursements		<u>12,937.00</u>
Ending Bank Balance	June 30, 2015	<u>\$8,713.34</u>

Bank Account Distribution:

Minimum Bank Balance	\$5,000.00
Operations	467.26
Bogie – Operations	2,000.00
Designated Churchwide	1,105.00
Designaed Prentice Fund	141.08
Designated Bogie Mission	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$8,713.34

**PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION (BOGIE FUNDS)**

Balance	June 30, 2015	\$58,924.24
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Notes:

1. For a more detailed report check out the Presbyterian Women on Presbytery of Los Ranchos website.
2. \$15,000 was taken out of the Presbyterian Foundation in April, \$10,000 for the Bogie Mission Grants and \$5,000 for the minimum bank balance.

**THANKS TO THESE PWC'S**

The following PWC's made an Operations Pledge and all of them have fulfilled their pledge:  
 Anaheim Canyon Hills, Costa Mesa Covenant, Fullerton First, Fullerton Morningside,  
 Laguna Hills Geneva, Long Beach Covenant, Long Beach Grace First, Norwalk,  
 San Juan Capistrano Community, Santa Ana First, Yorba Linda and East Whittier.

*Submitted by:* Judy Schmidt, Operations Treasurer



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PRESBYTERY OF LOS RANCHOS**  
**\$\$\$\$\$\$ REPORT FROM THE MISSIONS TREASURER \$\$\$\$\$\$**

**June 30, 2015**  
**SECOND QUARTER**

**Beginning Bank Balance March 31, 2015** **\$1,437.73**

**RECEIPTS**

<b>Mission</b>	<b>\$2,880.50</b>
<b>Birthday Offering</b>	<b>981.78</b>
<b>Thank Offering</b>	<b>21.30</b>
<b>Honorary Life</b>	<b>95.00</b>
<b>Memorial</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>Least Coin</b>	<b>416.13</b>
<b>Hunger</b>	<b>247.81</b>
<b>Bank fee reimbursed</b>	<b>12.00</b>

**DISBURSED**

<b>Mission</b>	<b>\$2,880.50</b>
<b>Birthday Offering</b>	<b>981.78</b>
<b>Thank Offering</b>	<b>21.30</b>
<b>Honorary Life</b>	<b>95.00</b>
<b>Memorial</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>Least Coin</b>	<b>416.13</b>
<b>Hunger</b>	<b>247.81</b>
<b>Bank fee</b>	<b>12.00</b>

**Second Quarter to Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)** **\$4,547.52**

**Ending Bank Balance June 30, 2015** **\$1,337.28**

*Submitted By:* Donna Reina, Missions Treasurer

**REMINDER TO MISSIONS TREASURERS: Please send your pledges and other monies to:**

Donna Reina, PWP Missions Treasurer  
 3161 Marna Ave.  
 Long Beach, CA 90808

## INCARCERATION

This is something to read and consider – let's share our ideas:

On July 26, 2015, five Presbyterian women and myself attended a seminar on Incarceration at the Irvine United Church of Christ. It began with several speakers: Donald Craig, President of the Orange County NAACP; Monica Brasov-Curca of OCCCO (Orange County Church Community Organization) and David Gist of Bread for the World.

Bread for the World has focused on incarceration as part of their Hunger Project. A fact sheet informed us that the US population accounts for only 5% of the world's population but nearly 22% of the prison population. Since 1980 the US prison population has quadrupled, an increase largely due to higher penalties for non-violent offenses. While prison building costs escalate, many states have reduced funding for education, rehabilitation, and other programs. 2.2 million people reside in prisons or jails, a 500% increase over the past 30 years. Over 60% of people in prison are people of color. Nearly half of all federal prisoners are serving time for drug offenses. African-Americans make up 14% of drug users but comprise 37% of those arrested for drug offenses. All of these statements were documented.

What can we do to reform this situation? Bread for the World says we should reduce the prison population and eliminate bias that leads to discriminatory incarceration. We should treat incarcerated people humanely in ways that reduce recidivism and promote a successful reentry into the community. Reduce hunger and poverty among the formerly incarcerated population and their families.

Bread for the World also informed us of pending bi-partisan bills before Congress affecting criminal justice and urged us to write letters/emails of support to our local legislators and further, to pay them a visit.

Donald Craig of the NAACP spoke about how the criminal justice system affects African-Americans. Monica Brasov-Curca spoke about white privilege, race riots, and the Three Strikes law.

It was an impressive program and motivated those/us present to do something, beginning with educating our churches. I wanted to propose that we offer a similar program to Presbyterian women, perhaps on Feb. 27 at St. Mark if you all agree and the church is available. I think there is some urgency to this subject as we are spending more on prisons than education, the growth of private prisons with little federal jurisdiction is accelerating. I feel sure that we could get these speakers or others equally competent for our program.

Progressive Christians Uniting sponsored a talk by Michelle Alexander who wrote the book, *The New Jim Crow*, which I also recommend reading.

Suzanne Darweesh

# Angel Interfaith Network News

**Welcome to summer!** We hope your family is enjoying a change of pace—vacation, camp, reunions, gardening, the beach, mission trips—whatever makes summer special to you. For our patients and their families who may not have vacation or even paid sick leave, summer may not be so special. But with your help we can be there for them. Please consider becoming a Sustaining Angel—it would be one less thing to think about as you enjoy your summer schedule and would ease our budget uncertainties, especially through the summer months.



**Who We Serve:** Mrs. Smith\* is

91 years old and still lives independently, with daily visits from her son and Meals on Wheels. Lately she's getting more frail and her stomach is bothering her. Her social worker asked for a bedside commode, adult diapers and Ensure. AIN provided all she requested, along with a friendly home visit. Jeremy\* survived a gunshot wound a year ago. He is part of a trauma support group at LAC+ USC medical center that meets every Friday. One Friday the group was throwing a baby shower for Jeremy and his partner. His social worker requested a "starter kit" with baby things. AIN sent a lovely gift bag with a few essentials. After all they'd been through it was a treat for the trauma group and Jeremy's family to have something to celebrate.

David\* fell off a roof top and fractured his heel. Unable to work for a few months and sole provider for his family, he was falling behind in his rent. AIN was able to help with \$100.00 to help his family keep their home until David gets back to work.

\*Not their real names



**Urgent needs:** food certificates (for people like Mrs. Smith), baby socks and toiletries (for people like Jeremy), laundry baskets to hold baby things, and Sustaining Angels' cash donations (for people like David).



**FOOD4LESS.**



Submitted by: Hagar



## NEWS FROM OUR SYNOD MODERATOR . . .

Hello Everyone,

At the PWS Coordinating Team meeting yesterday at Covenant Presbyterian of Westchester, we agreed to recommend suspension of our bylaws (posted on pages 20-23 of our Directory for 2014-2015). We came to this decision because of changes in the need for certain positions and a desire to remain flexible to adapt to the needs of the women within our bounds. We do not know how the General Assembly will deal with the realignment of the Synods. We felt it made no sense to spend time on redoing the current bylaws when the environment remains uncertain. We will take this to the membership on September 26, 2015, at our Fall Gathering "One Body, One Spirit" in Placentia Presbyterian Church beginning at 9:30 a.m. This announcement should be circulated widely among all the membership so that all are aware of this proposed action. We will also be voting on the budget for 2016-2018. Our budget is for 3 calendar years. A flyer is attached so that the information about the Fall Gathering is available.

The Coordinating Team is excited about the direction we are moving to live into "One Body." We particularly commend the latest issue of Horizons magazine for July/August 2015, on Mission and Racism. We will be sending more information out soon. By the way, save the dates of July 15-17, 2016, for our summer conference featuring Judy Siker, author of the 2016-2017 Bible study on "Who is Jesus, What a Difference a Lens Makes".

Because of a commitment I had made before I was elected Moderator, I will be unable to attend the Fall Gathering. I will miss being a part of this great day. I wish you all a terrific experience.

Blessings,

Susan Skoglund

*PWS Fall Gathering*



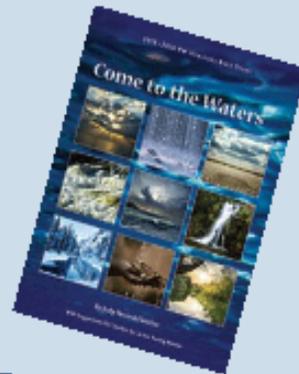
# One Body, One Spirit

*featuring*

**Jeanne Hatfield**

*speaking on*

## "Come to the Waters"



*Horizons Bible Study for 2015/2016*

*And hear stories of the 2015 Churchwide Gathering from participants  
Judith Muller, Dana Monk, Linda Craig and Carol Nord*

# Saturday, September 26, 2015

## 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

**Placentia Presbyterian Church**

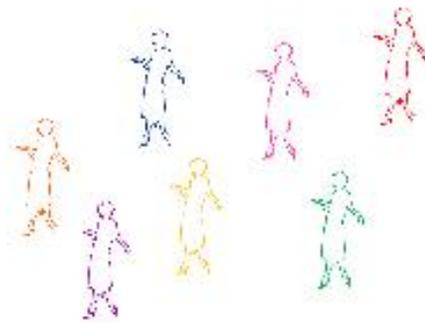
849 Bradford Ave, Placentia, CA 92870

**Cost: \$12 (pay in advance), \$15 (pay at door)**

Lunch included. Advance Registration Deadline: September 15. Additional details see reverse side.

## Let's Be Fashionably Colorful

There's going to be a fashion show! Starring you! Each Presbytery has been assigned a color to wear. Show off your presbytery's color in your most fashionable way with a scarf, hat, or entire outfit. There will be an impromptu fashion show so we can appreciate everyone's creativity.



Los Ranchos—Orange or Coral

Pacific—Purple or Lavender

Riverside—Green

San Diego—Yellow

San Fernando—Blue

San Gabriel—Red

Santa Barbara—Pink

## Location:

### Placentia Presbyterian Church

849 Bradford Ave,  
Placentia, CA 92870  
(714) 528-1438



## Registration:

Send check made out to PWS along with your name, phone number and church to:  
Registrar, Nancy Phillips, 2874 Fidler Ave, Long Beach, CA 90815, (562)429-1981

**Bring a friend!**  
**So they can enjoy all the fun, too!**



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