

Celebration Giving

Mission the Presbyterian Women Way

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.*



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



Celebration Giving

Mission the Presbyterian Women Way

Whenever Christians respond to God's love, we celebrate and we share. This may be a prayer of thanksgiving, an outpouring of kindness or a gift of money. Whatever the response, it is an act of sharing and celebration.

As Presbyterian women, we celebrate God's love by "doing mission" the PW way—that is, responding in love to the needs of God's creation through the PW Celebration Giving program. Celebration Giving provides many opportunities for Presbyterian women to give and receive.

Each opportunity offered through Celebration Giving meets vital needs in the world, and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom. All are modeled on Jesus' own ministry, where he always gave his best, freely and abundantly. From the wedding at Cana, where Jesus turned water into wine—a miracle in itself—of the best quality (*John 2:1–11*), to the gathering where Jesus did not heed advice to turn away the hungry crowd, and, instead, fed them in abundance with just five loaves and two fishes (*Matthew 14:14–21*), Jesus gave his best, abundantly and freely, even when practical wisdom suggested it was not feasible. Here are some ways we can give our best, freely and abundantly!

PW Celebration Giving is made up of five components: **Celebration of Mission through Women's Pledges** (the PW Mission Pledge); **Celebration of Creative Ministries** (the Birthday and Thank Offerings); **Celebration of Believers** (memorial gifts, etc.); and **Celebration of Christian Community** (ecumenical efforts like Fellowship of the Least Coin). Presbyterian women also are involved actively in **Together in Service** (formerly Mission Opportunities), PW's hands-on mission program where women are actively involved in various mission projects.


Celebration of Mission through Women's Pledges

THE PW MISSION PLEDGE

Presbyterian Women has always cared about the mission of our church in a special way. From our early beginnings as “missionary societies” to our work with hospitals and schools, and our concerns for social justice issues, our caring is tangible. Giving to the Mission Pledge financially supports our organization at all levels and undergirds the work of our denomination. If the Mission Pledge declines, so does the opportunity for PW and the PC(USA) to stay relevant and engaged in the world.

The PW Purpose—our mission statement—calls us to prayer, Bible study, mission support, justice and peace work and community building. Making this mission a reality requires participation and “second-mile giving”—that is, above and beyond one’s pledge to a congregation—from every Presbyterian woman in every congregation.

Contributions to the Mission Pledge traditionally are given through the PW in the Congregation at circle meetings or gatherings, and sent to the treasurer of PW in the Congregation. As times have changed, so have the ways PW can participate. Women who are not part of a circle or who are in a church without an active PW group can give to the Mission Pledge at any time by sending a check, with “Mission Pledge” and the name of their presbytery in the notes line, to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterian Women Remittance Processing, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh PA 15264-3652, or by giving online at www.pcusa.org/pw/giving/mission-pledge. Specially designed envelopes are now available for times when making them available outside the circle makes sense (for example, after a presentation to a congregation or at a synod coordinating meeting). These envelopes also provide a way to contribute with a credit card. They are available in packs of 10 from Presbyterian Distribution Service, 800/524-2612; item PWR-09-500.



Christmas ornaments,
made by the Mission
Emanuel Women's
Cooperative in
República Dominicana
— 2008 Thank Offering
recipient



Celebration of Creative Ministries

Two special PW offerings—the Birthday and Thank Offerings—are received each year to fund specific mission projects selected from among a number of proposals.

The Birthday Offering supports up to five projects each year to meet a major mission need. Collected in the spring of each year, the offering supports projects that are not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. These projects address such needs as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elder care, employment training, assistance for those who are homeless, literacy, and needs of particular concern to women.

Collected in the fall of each year, the Thank Offering supports more projects each year with smaller grants—hospitals, schools, women’s health programs, domestic violence shelters, child and youth development programs, elder care programs, hunger programs, homeless shelters and more. At least 40 percent of the offering collected supports health ministries throughout the world, and the remaining 60 percent funds new and creative ideas for mission.

Celebration of Believers

Several programs exist to honor individuals' commitments to PW and/or the PC(USA). Income from these programs provides funding for leadership development, including the Churchwide Gathering and other event scholarships.

Honorary Life Memberships honor women (and a few men!) for outstanding service and leadership in the church's work. Recipients receive a silver or gold pin and a certificate.

Memorial gifts pay tribute to the deceased.

Recognition gifts provide special acknowledgement of an achievement or are given in lieu of an honorarium.

The Leadership Endowment Fund allows individuals to make financial commitments to developing PW leadership. Women also can make a bequest to this fund in their will.

The Widening the Circle Fund supports programs to equip and enable younger women and women of diverse backgrounds for leadership roles in the church; networking programs that build a community to address common concerns and advocate for issues unique to women; and collection of theological insights from a diverse community of women.

To learn more about these programs, visit the PW web pages at www.pcusa.org/pw/giving.



Children in the village of Xkeulil in the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico celebrate their first cup of clean water from their Living Waters for the World water system.

— 2007 Birthday Offering recipient



Celebration of Christian Community

PW works to build an inclusive and caring community of women through various ecumenical incentives.

Fellowship of the Least Coin asks women to pray and share their smallest coin to support women and children around the world.

World Day of Prayer, held the first Friday in March, is an international ecumenical movement. Offerings are collected from around the world to fund projects that address concerns for women and children.

Church Women United brings together women from 26 Christian denominations for fellowship, prayer, advocacy and action for peace and justice.

To learn more about these programs, visit the PW web pages at www.pcusa.org/pw/giving.

Together in Service

For generations, Presbyterian women have responded to God's love by offering this love back to the world in tangible ways. With our wide variety of talents, resources and our sincere desire to help others, we can continue to make a difference.

Through the Together in Service program (formerly Mission Opportunities), Presbyterian women can participate in a whole range of projects. From sewing hats for newborns in Africa to selling fair-trade coffee at church events, to lending a hand at a local food bank, we all can find a place to offer our gifts.

If you are seeking ideas on where to lend your support or want to share your ideas, check out the Together in Service web pages: www.pcusa.org/pw/tis or consult your copy of the Together in Service Guidebook (order from Presbyterian Distribution Service, 800/524-2612; item PWR-06-433, \$5.00; check for updates to the program on the PW web site).

One idea is to lend support to the Roma Development Project, a Together in Service program that provides Roma women in Eastern Europe the gift of self-sufficiency and, in turn, enriches their families and communities. Other PW groups act "together in service" through participation in various PW and PC(USA) programs, including the PC(USA) Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Enough for Everyone, Presbyterian Peacemaking Program; and ecumenical initiatives such as Fellowship of the Least Coin, Heifer Project International, Habitat for Humanity, Bread for the World and Church World Service.

Of special note, the Healthy Women Healthy Families Mother's Day Project supports a variety of health programs in Africa, including malaria prevention and treatment, obstetrical care, fistula surgery, cervical cancer screening and family health education for women. (The NetWorkers Malaria Prevention Program is now supported through the Healthy Women Healthy Families Mother's Day Project.) Contact Gail Bingham at gail.bingham@pcusa.org or 888/728-7228, ext. 5573, to order cards or for more information.



The Roma Development Project will purchase school supplies for Roma schoolchildren and include financial assistance for the establishment of a microenterprise for Roma women.

GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERSHIPS

As Presbyterian Women, we do mission in partnership based on mutual respect and sharing with women around the world. PW groups invest in partnerships with women in international partner churches; some groups correspond with their global partners or even visit them to learn about their life, faith and concerns. Other international partners travel to visit PW groups in the United States.

To learn more about international partnerships or to learn about the PW TRIP Program, contact Kathy Reeves at kathy.reeves@pcusa.org or 888/728-7228, ext. 5402.



For information about
PW Celebration Giving,
please visit the PW web pages at
www.pcusa.org/pw/giving,
or call toll-free 888/728-7228, ext. 8015.



Presbyterian Women, Inc.
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
100 Witherspoon St.
Louisville, KY 40202-1396

Revised 2010
PWR-10-030



Front and Back Cover:
Congo Palm Development Project participants