



# Spiritweaving

## From the Moderator

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Twenty-six women from the Boise Presbytery attended the PW retreat the first weekend of October. One subject of our focus was diversity. We as human beings are surrounded by diversity; even within families we are not exact clones of each other. This is where diversity starts for us as a small child. Yet there are times when culture keeps us apart from the wider context of diversity, and we are in a time when we are challenged to learn how others feel so that we may change our behavior toward them. We are amazed when we get to know others who don't look like us yet have some of the same feelings and experiences that we have had. Yes we are called to reach out, to get to know, to not be afraid, to learn from, to serve together, and to grow in understanding of one another.

Rabindranath Tagore was a Bengali poet born in 1861 in Calcutta, British India and dying in 1941 in the same city. He was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. He is often referred to as "the Bard of Bengal". It has always amazed me to read poetry from another country and even written by a person of another religion that conveys the same ideas as I was taught in Sunday school.

Here is one of my favorite Tagore poems:  
"Go Not" - by Rabindranath Tagore

Go not to the temple to put flowers upon the feet of God,  
First fill your own house with the Fragrance of love...

Go not to the temple to light candles before the altar of God,  
First remove the darkness of sin from your heart ...

Go not to the temple to bow down your head in prayer,

First learn to bow in humility before your fellowmen...

Go not to the temple to pray on bended knees,  
First bend down to lift someone who is down-trodden...

Go not to the temple to ask for forgiveness for your sins,  
First forgive from your heart those who have sinned against you.

I continue to give great thanks for the committed and involved women in the Presbytery of Boise. We are thankful for the PW groups developing at the Bethany Church in Ontario and in the Boone PC(USA) women's group. We continue to pray for the women of Covenant as they enjoy their new pastor. The current officers on the Boise Presbytery PW coordinating team are: **Moderator**, Jacquelyn Benjamin, [jacquelyn.benjamin@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelyn.benjamin@gmail.com); **Vice Moderator**, Patricia Thompson, [lepith@gmail.com](mailto:lepith@gmail.com); **Secretary**, Marilyn Lolley, [rafterho@ruralnetwork.net](mailto:rafterho@ruralnetwork.net); **Treasurer**, Katharyn Mattson, [katharynmattson@msn.com](mailto:katharynmattson@msn.com); **Search Moderator**, Carol Collins, [ccollins2@frontiernet.net](mailto:ccollins2@frontiernet.net); **Spiritual Growth Leader**, Jody Goode, [faithpoet@gmail.com](mailto:faithpoet@gmail.com); **Justice and Peace**, Priscilla Oja, [pojaidaho@aol.com](mailto:pojaidaho@aol.com); **Horizons**, Sharon Lamm; and **Newsletter**, Joya Hill, [joyahill@gmail.com](mailto:joyahill@gmail.com).

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# From the Treasurer

ALL (well, lots of) THOSE THINGS A PW TREASURER NEEDS TO KNOW-----

First of all, the best place to find information, dates, and resources - some information resources are free for the asking--is [presbyterianwomen.org](http://presbyterianwomen.org) -that is the internet site for Presbyterian Women. Take some time to just click on all the pretty icons!

Currently, each PW in the Congregation is about to collect the Thank Offering 2018. Each PWC should have received the information folder by now. If not, you can order one from the internet site. These funds should be collected this fall and then sent to your PWP/Boise Treasurer—who is Katharyn Mattson. I should receive them by early December so I can pass everything on before the end of the year to PW in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Also, the forms for the 2018 Pledge of Support has been sent out by our PWP/Boise Moderator, Jacquelyn Benjamin. The deadline for returning these to her is Nov 15. She needs to send a total of PW/Boise's support to Synod and Churchwide before mid-December.

Some have questioned about when to send your pledged support checks to PWP/Boise treasurer. You all have financial affairs of your own that you care for—the various PW organizations are no different. If it is at all possible, your total support to Churchwide (PW in PC(USA), PW Synod, and PWP/Boise is appreciated at the first of the year. We all have many programs and meetings for which the support funds are used at the first of the year.

If you are the treasurer for your PWC, remember to keep careful records of your activities so that when you pass your position on to the next person, they can easily see what has happened in the past. I haven't

seen a "shoebox record" in a long time, but I did follow someone who did that over 20 years ago --- not an easy job to unsnarl records just tossed willy-nilly into a folder or box. Try to keep something like a cash journal with each receipt or distribution listed by date and under a column of the source. Checkbook registers only are extremely hard to collate into an understandable report. Certainly use a spreadsheet like Excel to help you form a report, but be sure to make hard copies and keep in a folder. Unfortunately, computers crash, programs change, and not everyone who might volunteer to be a treasurer next has a computer to use. I have a couple of tape decks that there is no longer anything available to play them. So you understand that technical things don't stand still. And some computers do not "speak" to others!

Let me know if you don't have remittal sheets to send with your checks and I will mail one to you to copy over and over. Also, be sure that on your envelopes that you do not include Treasurer after my name. Can't be too careful these days. We never know who is checking our mail sometimes. If you have questions, call me and we can meet over coffee or whatever!

Katharyn Mattson, 2912 Myrtlewood Way, Nampa, Idaho  
83686—208-463-9231

## Southminister

Southminster ladies in Boise are having a busy fall. There were 13 of us attending the wonderful Fall Retreat with Priscilla Oja, Carol Brunlinger, Phyllis Sanderson and Evelyn Cates involved in organizing it.

We recently had a successful Holiday Bazaar which was lead by Lindy Reagan and Gloria Levis. We're so lucky to have a supportive congregation and community for this activity.

Our monthly Gathering have in-

cluded Jacqueline Benjamin presenting an introduction to this year's Bible Study, a speaker telling us of women who helped in the establishment of Boise as a city and learning about what's going on with our next door neighbor, Grace Jordan elementary school. Our church partners with the school throughout the year with volunteer help for many activities.

We've been collecting mittens, hats, gloves and scarves for the Agency for New Americans and con-

tinue our collection of eye glasses for the Lion's Club, toiletries for Corpus Christi House and a number of other mission activities.

Our main Gathering is the first Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the church. We would love to have you visit any time. We have a short business meeting, lunch and program. Reservations are never required.

Best wishes,  
Carolyn Warner  
Moderator

## Report of Boise Presbytery Presbyterian Women's Retreat

In August of 2016 the Retreat Planning Committee met in Nampa at Kathy Mattson's home (central location for travel from across the Presbytery) to start to plan the 2017 Boise Presbytery Presbyterian Women's Retreat. An email was sent to the PW Moderators in the Boise Presbytery asking for volunteers. Those who stepped forth to become committee members were: Boise First Pres., Sharon Lamm, Church of the Redeemer, Pat Thompson, Emmett First Pres., Jackie Benjamin, Nampa First Pres., Kathy Mattson, Parma Kirkpatrick Church, Sandy Burmeister, and Southminster, Carol Brunlinger, Phyllis Sanderson, and Priscilla Oja, Chairperson.

We reviewed the suggestions that were given us on the evaluations from the 2013 Retreat. We also considered current events. We chose to enlighten ourselves with information from refugees and an article about a summer camp in the *Statesman* earlier that summer called *Under the Tent of Abraham*. UTA was, and still is six women, two each representing the Christian, Jewish, and Islamic faiths. The theme of the weekend was "Growing in our Faiths, Coexist." We wanted an interfaith dialogue to inform ourselves about events happening in mainstream religions today as well as learning about the experiences of refugees. Our theme song was "Let there be peace on earth." Pat Thompson and Evelyn Cates (our on-site musician) chose hymns from *the Glory of God* that expressed the theme of the weekend.

We also decided to hold the event again at the Nazareth Center off Five Mile Road in Boise the same place the 2014 Retreat was held. The retreat started with registration between four and six in the afternoon where attendees had opted to stay for two nights at the facility or register as a day attendee with meals but no bed.

A publicity/registration flyer was prepared by Sandy Burmeister and her brother. It was distributed at the Spring PW Gathering in Parma and via email to PW moderators in the Boise Presbytery. Follow up letters with the registration and information regarding sharing artifacts and stories of our own heritage were also sent via email to PW moderators.

Marianne Paul was our Pastor in Residence and helped set the tone for the weekend with scripture that reminded us that except for Native Americans, we all are immigrants - perhaps not all refugees; however our ancestors did leave their homeland to come to America for a better life. We each brought an artifact or story that represented our family's heritage. We shared those items as part of our Friday evening worship/gathering.

On Saturday after worship again with Marianne guiding us with scripture readings regarding inclu-

siveness, we divided into two groups determined by a color on our nametags. One group went with Rev. Kim Maslin-Cran, pastor of UCC Congregational Church, Jan Nelson, Director of Residence Life at College of Idaho, Dalia Elgamel, Islamic Center of Boise outreach director, and Kiki Lyus, head of Education at the Islamic Center of Boise, Becky Groves, member of Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel, and Dr. Janet Kaufman, author and educator on empowerment of self-regulating our behavior. These women started with a quiz on our knowledge of the similarities and differences among our three faiths all of which started Under the Tent of Abraham. When we got the answers we were surprised at the many parts of our religious heritage that are similar. Abraham, Moses, and Noah are all part of all three faiths. We learned about their model for summer education of children and adults, as well as the Grump Meter, which is a Family Tool for Anger Control. The other group went with Christina Bruce-Bennion, Service Coordination Program Manager at the Idaho Office for Refugees and Dalia Alnajjar from Egypt and pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering at BSU. In the afternoon the two groups switched places and got to hear from the other presenters. The afternoon Refugee leaders were Kara Fink, Outreach and Partnership Manager, Idaho Office of Refugees and Salome (Sally) Mwangi from Kenya. We learned about the refugee program and from refugees who shared their experiences of adjustment to a new country. The information shared let us know how much we have in common and helped us better understand what happens with refugees and immigrants.

After the workshops, Jackie Benjamin, who has lived and traveled around the world led us in a wrap-up discussion of what we had heard with the presenters. It was an enlightening event that helped us have a better understanding of each other.

After dinner on Saturday we watched the movie *The Lion*. A true story about a five year old who get lost in the city of Calcutta, survives the streets and end up in an orphanage that is not really a safe haven. He is eventually adopted by an Australian couple and there finds love and security. Not wanting to hurt his adoptive parents he searches for reunification with his biological family. Using the Google Earth and his sketchy memory he finds his biological family. Both families end up knowing about each other and it is a happy ending.

Sunday morning after breakfast we had a worship and communion led by Marianne. Her words and centering exercises helped all of us get the most out of the weekend's information. The next retreat will be in 2020. Plan to attend.

Contact information for the speakers:

**Under the Tent of Abraham** Contact: Kim Maslin-Cran, ph 208-344-5731 2201 West Woodlawn, Boise 83702  
[kim.cran@boisefirstucc.org](mailto:kim.cran@boisefirstucc.org)

**Refugees who are in Boise:** Contact: Kara Fink, ph 208-336-4222 ex 4 1607 W Jefferson, Boise 83702  
[kfink@idahorefugees.org](mailto:kfink@idahorefugees.org)



Jacquelyn Benjamin being installed as Moderator for the Synod of the Pacific at the Moderator +1 Gathering.

Picture from Pat Thompson

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## News from Weiser

On April 28-30, Jackie Benjamin and Pat Thompson flew to San Francisco to attend the Mod Plus One Gathering at Mercy Centre. They met with ladies from PW Women to the Synod of the Pacific. Our National leaders were present. We learned that many of us share the same problems whether it be our poor attendance at Fall and Spring

gatherings, or the average age of our members. One of the big items was the installation of Jackie Benjamin as our new Moderator of the Synod of the Pacific. Congratulations!

Church of the Redeemer ladies may be small in numbers, but very active within our congregation. We hosted

a pie and ice cream social after church in August, celebrated the high school graduation of Mackey Aubrey, and now are planning our annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner.

Pat Thompson, moderator

## Notes from Mary Lemm Davis

Hello Friends and Supporters from Presbyterian Women Synod of the Pacific,

This is a short letter to thank each of you, your Churches, and Presbyteries for giving me the opportunity to represent you in the Global Exchange to Indonesia on September 12-29, 2017.

The theme of the Exchange was to "Build Bridges of Understanding...so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine". The theme from many of the women we met in Indonesia was expanded to "Building Relationship as Women in an Intercultural World." The goals were twofold: to learn how to live respectfully in a multi-faith culture, and to encourage and accompany one another as together we seek a more peaceful and just world.

From the moment we arrived in Jakarta we were taken into the hearts of the Indonesian women! The women from GPIB, Gereja Protestan di Indonesia Bagian, or the Protestan Church in Western Part of Indonesia, never let us forget that we had been invited to Indonesia and they were

there to support us in every way possible. We had amazing Worship Services accompanied by the voices and instruments of the congregations. We met with both female and male leaders of Indonesia who spoke of the challenges and joys of living in a multi-cultural society that extends over an archipelago of 17, 508 islands and a population of 255, 993,675 people. It has the largest Muslim population in the world, but it also has more than 25 million Christians and many Hindu, Buddhists, Confucianists, and followers of Indigenous religions.

We met, heard, and were able to ask questions from people who practice each of these religions. We went into the communities in Jakarta, Solo, Yogyakarta, and Bali to visit universities, schools and health centers for the poor, culturally related businesses, tea and coffee farms, and other businesses that train, support, and employ many Indonesians. We visited ceremonies for the changing of the Sultan's responsibilities in Solo. We prayed with concern and compassion as less than 50 miles from our location in Bali the volcano, Mt. Agung, prepares to erupt. Over 140,000 peo-

ple have been evacuated. As a consequence of these events and my own private conversations, I will forever be changed. Indonesia is not "way over there". I see faces of people I grew to care about and want to stay in touch with.

Over the next two years I plan to visit each of your churches and communities. I want to share reflections from your colorful and creative necklaces that brought smiles to dozens of women of all faiths all over Indonesia because women of all faiths attended our meetings and stopped us in the streets. We are all more alike than we are not. Please reach out to me at [mlemmdavis@gmail.com](mailto:mlemmdavis@gmail.com).

With my gratitude and love,

Mary

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## 2018 Spring Gathering

2018 PW Spring Gathering

April 14, 2018

Nampa First United Presby-  
terian Church

Speakers:

Lorraine Diehl, Nampa who  
served in the Army in Vietnam  
for 15 months during 1968-69

Barbara Clark, Pendleton who  
traveled to Syria and Pakistan  
in 2018.



## 2018 Churchwide Gathering



Spiritweaving

Joya Hill

Newsletter Editor

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[www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org)

Look there for information on  
*Horizons Magazine*

### The Presbyterian Women Logo

In July 1988, voting delegates to the organizing meeting of Presbyterian Women adopted the organization's original logo, designed by Sarah Abbot of the Synod of the Covenant. Updated in 1999, the logo continues to serve Presbyterian Women as it illustrates PW's Purpose.

#### *A Logo with Purpose*

*Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ*, Forgiven and freed by grace through faith, the central figure stands in praise.

*and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves*: Rooted in faith, the trio of women emerges. The outline of the central figure forms a cross. We are Presbyterian women engrafted in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us.

*to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study*, The right figure holds a book to guide her reading, studying, praying or meditating.

*to support the mission of the church worldwide*, The left figure reaches out to care for others as she shares, nurtures and heals. The circle represents the church worldwide where women offer their gifts and talents in the midst of the global community.

*to work for justice and peace*, The uplifted arms of the central figure reach out to embrace a just peace. The relationship between the three figures depicts lives of wholeness rather than turmoil.

*and to build an inclusive, caring, community of women* The three women have no distinct features. They represent all women. The shapes surrounding them express energy, strength and openness.

*that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* Our name, Presbyterian Women, ties us to our denomination. The Bible resembles the Bible depicted in the PC(USA) Seal.

*and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom*. Guided by the Purpose, Presbyterian Women witnesses to the reality of God's present realm.

