

**PWCFP CT – March 11, 2017 Anchor Point Ecumenical Center
829 East Votaw Road, Apopka, Fl 32703 10:00AM-12:30PM**

Call to Order/Lighting the Christ Candle: Jill Bolander Cohen

Prayer/Devotional: Rosellyn Calvert

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.

Welcome to Anchor Point - Members present:

Rosellyn Calvert, Ruth Ann Stearns, Carol Potter, Jean Evans, Abbie, VanDenBerg, Jill Bolander Cohen, Barbara Joyce, Barbara Miller, Jennifer Jonas, Kay Kennedy, Sharon Williams, Beth Timmons, Karen Hamilton. Absent: Sandy Weil, Olga L. Malave-Radi.

Secretary's Minutes:

Jean Evans- Minutes of 29th Annual Gathering, First DeLand, January 28, 2017: approved, distributed, posted to website.

Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Jonas –

Working on final report from Annual Gathering.

Moderator Report: Karen Hamilton

- February 2 - organized the Scout Sunday service. 4 cubs served as greeters and ushers; 11 scouts read lay leader script; all provided refreshments
- February 14 attended Presbytery Council meeting and gave out programs to churches that did not attend our Annual Gathering. Attended evening circle Bible study at St. Mark's
- February 15 served I-Dignity Seminole- County, Pastor Jarred Witt had a laying on hands healing prayer for me. The team gave me a \$100 gift certificate to Too-Jays

- February 16 served I-Dignity Orange County
- February 18 Spoke to PW Tampa Bay on USAME trip last September/ promoted August 12 Hebrews study/showed off our Annual Gathering PW Program "Bible"
- March 4 - attended Presbytery Meeting at Church of the Lakes/distributed PW Annual Gathering programs to churches who did not attend our Annual Gathering
- March 9 attended update on Thornwell at Maitland Presbyterian
- March 11 attended PWCFP CT meeting at Anchor Point

Vice Moderator Report: Sharon Williams –

Checking into churches to see where PW can be re-established.

Search: Roselyn Calvert –

Positions to be filled on PWCFP CT (Moderator Elect, Secretary. District Coordinators 1,6,and 8). PRAY EVERY MORNING FOR FAMILY, CHURCH MEMBERS & AT MEALTIMES.

SENT LETTERS TO DIST. COORDINATORS 2-3-5-7-8 REMINDING THEM THAT THEY ARE PART OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE. ON THE FIRST SUNDAY HELP REV. JODY NOBLE SERVE COMMUNION AT BROOKDALE NURSING HOME. ALSO ON ASH WED. AND WILL DO EASTER.

AM BIBLE STUDY LEADER FOR ST. LUKE'S PRES. CH. CALL MEMBERS OF FIRST PRES. REMINDING THEM OF PW. MEETING.

PATH FROM JAN. TO DEC. 2016 48 CHURCHES GAVE \$59,013.22. MAILED THE CHURCHES THANK YOU NOTES TODAY.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREWS LENT BOOKLETS HAVE BEEN GIVEN HERE IN TITUSVILLE, LAS VEGAS, JACKSONVILLE, AND COCOA.,

Communications Specialist: Abbie VanDenBerg

Attended the January CT Meeting at St. Marks Created the Annual Gathering Program Re-Typed the ByLaws of PWCFP
Attended the Annual Gathering

Updated the PWCFP Website in the following ways –

- added Birthday Offering notice
- uploaded updated FORMS
- uploaded clean BYLAWS
- uploaded Mission Haven Quarterly Newsletter
- uploaded Gathering Program
- uploaded photos of Rosellyn Calvert getting Lifetime Membership and new Officers Corrected
- uploaded Registration Form for Annual Bible Study
- Corrected Barbara Miller contact info in Gathering Program book
- uploaded PW USA Quarterly newsletter
- updated all calendar details as far as possible

Printed additional Programs for Karen to take to the Synod.

Printed master contact list for CT

Also, I have attached the speech I gave at Presbytery last Saturday on behalf of PWCFP. Thanks you Karen for yielding your time for those words.

A Healthy Thriving PW will help support a Healthy Thriving Church

Thank you Karen Hamilton for yielding your time for me today. I am speaking because of several events....

At the last PWCFP Coordinating Team meeting we had, several stories were shared by District Coordinators about churches who were not supportive of Presbyterian Women or at least not enthusiastic. The question I had was “Come

on! Why on earth would a Pastor or Session not see PW as a powerful ally? One that could be utilized to spur church growth and mission work...”

I don't know why I was surprised. These were hardly the worst things I had heard about in relation to PW and Church polity.

Last year, a few days after the Charleston church shootings, I attended the Churchwide Gathering of PW in Minneapolis. Of all the places to be on the heels of such terrible news, it was ideal. We prayed, sang, cried, and praised together in a 1500 size mass. It was powerful, it changed my worldview, it strengthened my faith.

The last triggering event was re-typing the PWCFP Bylaws because we didn't have a good enough digital file anymore. Scanning the old document created a bizarre text transfer that was unusable. Re-typing the bylaws made it very plain to me that PW is a deliberately careful, purpose-driven organization that operates as any Presbyterian body should, following the democratic model based on the Book of Order and Roberts Rules of Meetings. There is a framework of fairness and free speech that exist within it and it made me humbly proud of PW in general.

I grew up in the church. My grandfather was a Presbyterian minister for over 50 years. My father went to seminary to impress his new Father in Law. He served two churches and then decided he really wanted to be a College Professor in Humanities. So I went from a Pastor's Kid to being a Professor's Kid. PK to PK....

My mother and her Mother belonged to a mysterious organization called a Circle. For most of my young years, I didn't know what a Circle did. I imagined them placing their chairs in a circle and reading the Bible and maybe knitting.... In reality, they sat in each other's living rooms, had punch or tea, read the Bible, prayed, and quietly changed the world. They supported projects around the globe that provided potable water, better agricultural products, the occasional farm animal, tree farms to prevent mudslides, well digging funding, clothing for orphanages, medical supplies to the Red Cross, pennies to Unicef.

Flash forward to the late 90's. My husband and I took part in a cooperative move for my job. We were relocated from East Lansing Michigan to Orlando to better serve the American Hotel and Motel Association's Educational Institute. We moved into a house in South Orlando. I started church shopping as one does.....I attended 3-4 different PCUSA churches in the area. For convenience I went to First Pres downtown about once a month. The birth of our first son meant baptism. Because I hadn't joined yet, First Pres wouldn't give my son a baptism in the church service

but offered us a private service in their chapel. Although I was pleased with the baptism, the church and I didn't connect.

When we moved to Maitland 10 years ago, it was a completely different story. I had signed my son up for Preschool at Maitland Pres based on a recommendation of another mother at a public park in town. As I walked my child in the first day, I thought, well I should try and worship here too. The first Sunday I attended, I was greeted by a woman my age and she invited me to her Circle meeting the following Tuesday night. I agreed feeling pleased about being approached and asked so quickly. That Tuesday, I arrived and another lady asked me if I was looking for the Circle meeting. I said yes, and she started showing me in to her meeting. The lady that invited me, came running up and said, No you don't, that is my new Circle member!" With pleasant smiles, I went to the meeting I was invited to originally.

Boy, what a welcome! What do you think it was like for a tired, homebound mother of a busy four-year-old boy to experience adult conversation and prayer? It was like jumping into a lovely pool of warm water and feeling new and refreshed. These ladies had experienced or were experiencing what I was...raising a child, supporting a husband, keeping house, looking for friendship, and looking for new ways of being in relationship with God.

Now in the last 6-7 years of service in PW from a Circle Chair to Communication Specialist in PWCFP – a title I was given while I was in the ladies room by the way --- never take a bathroom break during a PW CT meetingI am serious!!! In these years I have seen and heard the good the bad and the ugly.

The good is how much good we do in our community, region, state, country, and world. We support a host of missions that do amazing work. Last year, our PWCFP collectively gave over \$34,000 dollars to our mission partners. This doesn't count the money each church PW collected and distributed on their own. At Maitland Pres, in our church PW, that number would probably be in the high Ten thousands....

During various meetings and events, I have heard bad things said about PW. That we are a social club... That we are a rigid clique. That it is comprised of older ladies who never had to work. That PW is an old shoe that divides congregations. That many women feel excluded or unwelcome. That many men don't understand what we do.

And the ugly is that sometimes churches don't treat their PW organizations well at all. They covet the money we raise or have in separate accounts. They take over accounts that are designated PW. They disband the organization through

intimidation. They bad-mouth the group to achieve some nefarious purpose. They question the politics of PW.

Those instances are rare but do occur and have in this Presbytery.

I am here to remind you that

- PW and Churches can work hand in hand to be welcoming.
- Churches and PW can work together to provide money and time for mission.
- PW and Churches help make life's more difficult moments tolerable and even pleasant.
- Churches and PW should find new ways of combining together to build the church.

We recently had a small capital campaign at Maitland Pres to re-carpet the sanctuary. PW and the church membership raised the funds very quickly and even inspired a generous anonymous donor.

By working together, we bring more glory to God.

Lets drop all the clichés about PW and about over-reaching Pastors or Elder and get along. And I know in many ways I am preaching to the choir here....

Healthy Thriving Churches and Healthy Thriving P W ' s are possible and should be a goal of both organizations. So the next time you hear someone badmouth or sneer about PW or a Circle, don't agree, but say

“PW has many fine things to offer. You should join with them here at our church and see what they do.”

Thank you and may the Lord protect and keep you each as you travel home this day and bless all that you do.

Parliamentarian Kay Kennedy:

I have secured three different Parliament Procedure Books and am getting familiar with them.

Interpreters:

Cultural Diversity: Olga L Malave-Radi - no report.

Global Missions: Barbara Joyce –

I attended and chaired the Global Mission Meeting on January 3rd @ Maitland Presbyterian Church.

We continued the discussion about the situation with our Mission Co-workers being called home and how we can help them gain support through passing the information onto churches. Mission Co-Workers are very important in the mission field throughout the world.

I went to Cuba for 8 days with 21 members of CFP. The team split up among the 13 churches in the Central Cuba Presbytery. It was a wonderful experience. The people are warm and friendly and we always felt safe. I highly recommend Cuba as a mission trip for multigenerational groups.

I attended and talked about the Cuba trip at the PWCFP Annual Meeting held in Deland.

I passed on Mission opportunities to the churches in our Presbytery and reminded them of Grants available through CFP. This application has been updated and distributed to the churches.

Justice and Peace: Jill Bolander Cohen

- will attend EAD.

(Asked her for more info to insert here.)

Presbyterian Homes/Schools: Barbara Miller-

received notebooks.

Will request list of students eligible for scholarship from Cheryl Carson, Presbytery Office.

District Coordinators:

District 1: Vacant

District 2: Sandy Weil –

Financial expenditures and receipts turned in to Jennifer Jonas who will prepare 29th Annual Gathering report for Sandy.

District 3: Carol Potter -

I am in e-mail contact with the So. Lake PC reasonably often. They send me copies of their PW minutes and board minutes. If I can arrange it, I will drive down for a combined meeting with other churches in Clermont. Jill Cohen will be speaking. It will depend if my doctor's appt. is finished early enough for me to make the drive and be in time for their meeting. So. Lake continues to have serious divisions within the church with the resulting loss of membership. It has been heartbreaking for the congregation and the PW. Keep them in your prayers.

Haven't had contact with my other churches. Need to update the contacts. Also need to approach each church asking just what are the women of their churches doing with satisfaction, even if it is not PW. Perhaps, with that info, an approach could be found to show just how a PW connection will strengthen their efforts. Several of my churches went through a split when the new Presbyterian denomination was formed and they (the churches) are struggling to regain their strength. For some, the idea of forming another connection just overwhelms them at this time.

I continue to forward materials that Karen sends to the congregations that I do have contacts, even though there is not a functioning PW in their congregation.

The strongest of District 3 churches is North Lake Presbyterian. Our women's organization is functioning well and continues to support a variety of missions. On Feb. 24, we had our annual Fashion Show-Tea with a sold out crowd of app. 400 women. I was out of town for Tuesday's CT meeting, so don't know the final tally on the amount we took in after expenses. This activity is our main fundraiser. However, we begin selling the Mother's Day cards soon which support another mission. We charge \$10 per card and they seem to sell well. (This is especially true when one notes the price of Hallmark and other cards.) Our women

also helped with the "Undie Sunday" for Haiti orphans; weekend meal backpacks for a local school to ensure its students don't go hungry over weekends; and make backpacks and collect personal care supplies for battered women in local shelters. There is no doubt that the size of North Lake's congregation makes our work much easier, but our active Presbyterian Women are just a small percentage of our congregation. Definitely, NLPW is mission oriented.

District 4: Ruth Ann Stearns –

April 30th at 12:30PM Oakland Presbyterian Church PW will have a luncheon. Jill will be speaking on The Life Boat Project. All PWCFP CT members are invited to attend.

District 5: Jean Evans

Jan -7 - Attended PWCFP meeting at St. Marks

9 - Deacon meeting at Maitland Pres

16-24- Cuba Mission trip with Central Florida Presbytery

28- Annual Gathering at First Pres Deland

Feb 15 -Attended Cuba Leadership meeting at Wekiva

26 - PW Council meeting at Maitland Pres

March 7 -Mission Outreach meeting at Maitland Pres

11 - PWCFP meeting at Anchor Point

Forwarded all e-mails from Karen to my District churches.

District 6: Vacant

District 7: Beth Timmons –

I very much enjoyed the PWCFP Annual meeting in Deland. Four District 7 churches had PW representatives: Cocoa, 1st PC Titusville, Pineda, and Riverside. I distributed information that I received from the meeting to the District 7 churches. I met with Eastminster, Good Shepherd, and Palmdale PCs while at a BIRP missions meeting and gave them PW information from the annual meeting. I have emailed the District 7 and 8 churches and invited their Moderators to attend a PW Tea at Cocoa PC on March 25th.

District 8: Vacant

Old Business:

August 12, 2017 Bible Study, Maitland Presbyterian. Caterers: Too-Jays, Panera, Jason's Deli, Buck's, Sonny's and Maitland Breakfast Club. Menu to be decided at May CT meeting. Abbie will arrange for janitors, sound system, etc. Jill provide coffee. Starting time for breakfast will be 9:00AM. Display tables will be set up for Life Boat, Thornwell, USAME, and books.

New Business:

1. PW Global Missions Trip September 2017 to Indonesia. Approved \$200 to support Linda Spencer with her fundraising.
2. Approved \$500 for Jill to attend EAD in April.
3. New Thornwell Program -
4. USAME Report - Karen gave a program to Tampa Bay's Annual Gathering February 18th, and will present at Tropical Florida's annual gathering on March 22.
5. Come See Columbia Day in April will be promoted to the Presbytery. No one from PWCFP CT is able to attend.
6. The next PW Synod Of South Atlantic will be in Savannah, Georgia, April 21-22. Karen will attend. Jill will be at EAD.
7. 2 cents monies collected totaled \$5.45

Next Meeting: May 6, 2017 10:00 a.m.

Cocoa Presbyterian Church 1404 Dixon Blvd. Cocoa, Florida 32922

Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer

Extinguished the Christ Candle