

To: Presbytery of Riverside
From: Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Riverside
Respectfully submitted by Debbie Law, Moderator
Subject: September 14, 2019 Presbytery Report



“I tell my students, when you get these jobs that you have been so brilliantly trained for, just remember that your real job is that if you are free, you need to free somebody else.
If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else.”

-Toni Morrison

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Riverside joined their Synod sisters on July 19th-21st for the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii's 2019 Summer Conference, Love Your Neighbor. Together we heard the voices from our national offices in Louisville, Churchwide advocacy committees, and our own Presbyteries speak about how to embody the living word. They welcomed us to join in the many discussions about immigration policies and the Southern California Matthew 25 Initiative, PW's 2019-2020 Bible Study, intersectionality, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, interfaith dialogue, creation care, mission engagement, and Christian education. Together with P-dubs from the Conference and from PWC's, we supported the Churchwide Together In Service Pillowcase Project. Demonstrating our concern and prayers for children affected by Hurricane Maria, we sewed and/or decorated pillowcases. We finished with 90 pillowcases, blessed them during Plenary and mailed them to PW's national office. From the national office, the pillowcases will be sent to Puerto Rico to be distributed through churches and schools in the presbyteries of Puerto Rico. Summer Conference widened our scope and framework on how we, as Presbyterian Women, be the living word and speak truth to the gospel. Twenty-five P-dubs from the PWC's of FPC Hemet, FPC Beaumont, Calvary, Spirit of the Desert, FPC Redlands, FPC San Bernardino and Community Presbyterian Redlands came in community and connection with our Synod sisters.

As our PWC's return from summer break, we begin the Horizons 2019-2020 Bible Study, “Love Carved In Stone, A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments” by Eugenia Gamble. In this study, Eugenia Gamble encourages us to consider how these commandments were understood in their earliest forms and how that understanding may unlock fresh insights for our lives today. Each lesson begins with an exploration of one of the “Ten Words” in its biblical context. The author uses the term “Ten Words” because it is the biblical form and she wants us to look at the Ten Commandments in new ways.

The fall brings the annual Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women, “God Heeds Our Call”. Presbyterian Women have expressed their gratitude for God's blessings in their lives by giving back to people in their communities and around the world. Through the Thank Offering, PW helps fund programs that provide education, safe housing, food, clean water, and health care. Agape Fish Fund, Food as Medicine, a 2019 Thank Offering Grant Recipient is from our Synod of Southern California and Hawaii. Agape Fish Fund is located in Westminster, in the Los Ranchos Presbytery. PWC Redlands will dedicate their Thank Offering on October 12th with guest speaker, Gayle Timilione. Gayle will share her experience from the 2019 USA Mission Experience in the Finger Lakes Region of New York. PWC San Bernardino will dedicate their Thank Offering at their Gathering on November 4th.

As our new Bible Study year begins, we welcome new Coordinating Teams at the PWC's. Welcome to this neighborhood, sharing in the gifts of community, making possible the ongoing Presbyterian Women mission.

PWP Coordinating Team 2017 – 2019

Debbie Law (Moderator, FPSB); Nancy Richmond (Vice Moderator, Victoria); Carol Valentine (Secretary, FPSB); Lou Jolliff (Treasurer, HemetFP); Grace Baldwin (Search, RedlandsFP); Judy Strahan (Mission, BeaumontFP); Alice Munde (Racial/Ethnic, RedlandsFP); Kelsey Law (Hunger, FPSB); Nancy Horstmann (Justice/Peace, FPSB); Judy Strahan (Newsletter, BeaumontFP)