

Farmington Room in the Inn Mission

Farmington Presbyterian Women support Room in the Inn in a variety of ways. Room in the Inn-Memphis is a ministry involving faith based organizations in the Memphis area. Their mission is "Serving people experiencing homelessness in a safe environment of hospitality". The RITI facilities downtown operate a Recuperative Care Center for people experiencing homelessness, a 21 bed unit offering recovery services for those who are released from hospitals throughout Shelby County.

This location also operated the RITI Family Inn which provides shelter and assists families as they journey to find sustainable housing. During the winter months (November-March) various churches and organizations provide shelter for individuals that are screened downtown by RITI and transported to various locations. Farmington Presbyterian has helped RITI in a variety of ways.

We collect wish-list items or help with special requests for the Avery location. These items have ranged from school supplies and sack lunches to baby needs. In addition to our service with the downtown location, we share duties with the RITI Cottage operated by Germantown Methodist Church. The PW of Farmington strive to build an inclusive, caring community of women that witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Farmington volunteers one Saturday a month to make beds, provide meals, host, do laundry, and assist in any way necessary to give the guests a warm accepting place to stay. The women of the church recently donated hand and foot warmers as well as MATA bus passes to the guests they welcome each month.

PW Support Farmington 10 Thousand Villages

The PW of Farmington Presbyterian have helped support Ten Thousand Villages for several years. This year we hosted 3 of their volunteers and helped with display and selling of the various items that were delivered to our facilities. Our PW worked tirelessly to broadcast the event and greet the community while they shopped. Ten Thousand Villages is a fair-trade organization that supports sustainable communities in developing countries. All proceeds go back to the community where the crafts were made. We learned about different societies and purchased handmade items that make excellent gifts for a variety of ages and interests. We encourage your organization to investigate this mission of serving.



Articles by Jinney Hart

PW CONNECTION



Presbyterian Women of the Mid-South

Spring 2024

Issue 34

Moment With The Moderator

2024
Calendar of Events

April 13, 2024
Presbyterian Women Annual Spring Gathering, Germantown PC, 9:30 a.m. registration and refreshments. Meeting at 10 a.m.

May 4, 2024
PWPCT Transitional Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Presbytery of the Mid-South Office

June 1, 2024
Church Information/Moderator/Contact Person Form due.

August 2024
Presbytery of the Md-South Stated Meeting date, place and time TBD.

August 1, 2024
Articles and photos for Newsletter due.

August 3, 2024
PWPCT meeting, 10:00 a.m., Presbytery of the Mid-South Office

August 24, 2024
Bible Study Gathering. Review of *Horizons* Bible Study. Pinecrest Conference and Retreat Center, LaGrange, TN. Registration and refreshments 9:30 a.m.

I hope you all weathered the winter and are looking forward to Spring and the hope of new things. We as Presbyterian Women are so busy with church activities, families, and work. That never changes even as we grow older. It can be so overwhelming at times. I found myself feeling that way over the holidays. I was reminded of how Jesus was being pulled in all directions. The sick asking to be healed, the disciples still needing so much guidance, and the Pharisees trying to discredit Him at every turn. Jesus must have been overwhelmed by all of this. Jesus did what we all should do when life gets to be a bit overwhelming. Matthew 14:23 reads: "After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by himself to pray, and when it was evening, He was there alone."

God wants us to come and spend time with Him. Try to find a quiet place sometime in your busy, overwhelming life and pray. I was speaking to my Associate Pastor Courtney Bowen one day about all the things that were going on in my life and she sent me this prayer. It was exactly what I needed and I hope it will help you as well. It's a prayer from the book called The Seven Sacred Pauses written by Macrina Wiederkehr. It says:

"Oh Holy One, In You I live and move and have my being. Morning's bright beginning has worn away, and I am full of thoughts about the things I must accomplish this day. Remembering how You stole away from the crowd for personal prayer, I take a deep breath. I invite You into the ground of my being. I cannot leave my work right now, but I can breathe. Breathe in me anew. I will follow Your breath to the depth of my being. I will remember to pause. Oh Holy One, enter into the sacred space of my life and abide. Amen."

Spending time with your fellow Presbyterian Women is also an excellent way to recharge, share ideas of how we cope with our busy lives, and pray together. The Presbyterian Women are preparing for the Annual Spring Gathering. This year it will be held at Germantown Presbyterian Church on April 13th. I am looking forward to seeing you all there. It will be a wonderful time for fellowship and reflection on things that we've been doing since we last met. I also hope to see you all at the Pinecrest Bible study which will be held August 24th. While there, we will cover the newest *Horizons* Bible study. Now that we are entering the Season of Lent, let us remember Jesus and what He sacrificed for us.

Peace and Love to you all!

Vivian Pauley Moderator,
PW of the Mid-South

On a very hot August day, PW members from the Mid-South Presbytery met for training on Sacred Encounters, studying the Bible books of Luke and Acts. Because of the heat the ladies were grateful for the shelter of the tall pines and wooed by the glorious natural beauty of Pinecrest. Our 2023 annual Bible study included some 60 women from 11 churches. Our study began in the dramatic chapel that has long wooden beams and glass, which was great for adoring the peaceful surrounding woods.

PW ladies sang, worshipped, ate delicious cinnamon rolls, and learned about our Luke and Acts passages for 2023-24. Our dynamic speaker, Rev. Mary Newburg Gale, detailed and challenged bible leaders on each lesson in Sacred Encounters. Rev. Gale reminded us that although we are all women, we sometimes view our personal choices outside of religious beliefs. Examples are wanting or not wanting children, abortion, life-mate choice. In the study, Rev. Gale reminded us that these are individual choices between us and God.

After singing “My Soul Cries out with a Joyful Shout,” we adjourned to the canteen for a satisfying lunch.

By Patty Jackson



Idlewild PW held its annual Project Day on Saturday, January 27th (postponed a week due to the Big Freeze).

Presbyterian Women had the chance to participate in four projects:

- **Cards** - We created Valentine cards to send to those not able to come to church. We also prepared the birthday cards which Presbyterian Women sends to the children of the church on their birth month. It's always exciting to receive a surprise card in the mail no matter what your age.
- **Knitting Lessons** - Several women learned the basics of knitting or refreshed their skills. Hopefully this will result in additional people joining those who knit baptismal blankets, a project supported by Presbyterian Women.
- **Sandwiches for First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen Ministry** - We made 200+ baloney and cheese sandwiches for the weekly Sunday soup kitchen at First Presbyterian. Serving 60-80 people each Sunday and providing sandwiches to those in need during the week, First Presbyterian is ministering to the food insecure in our community. Their ministry is supported by several churches and other groups. We were glad to help.
- **Flower Arranging** - Led by Jane Roberts, we learned how to make small arrangements. May be one or two of these women will help make the arrangements that we deliver to shut-ins, ill or recovering members each Monday.

After the project work, we enjoyed a lunch of chili and grilled cheese sandwiches. Project Day is always a fun day. It's a great time for fellowship and sharing while creating with our hands.



Make A Joyful Noise – Parkway Gardens

For the past ten years Parkway Gardens United PW has held an annual collection drive for the YWCA Abused Women's Shelter. The Sunburst Circle took the lead in coordinating the drive for 2023. While we did not tackle every item on the shelter's wish list, we concentrated our efforts in collecting commonly needed and practical items, twin sheets, and pillowcases, washing liquid, non-perishable food items, as well as baby care items, including pampers, to name a few things. However, the congregation did so much more.

To assist mothers in providing gifts for their children at Christmas, books for all ages and a nice variety of non-violent toys were collected. Oftentimes families arrive at the shelter with nothing but the clothes on their backs. When they leave the shelter's hope is to restore some dignity to these families. We collected gently used luggage so that when they leave the shelter, they have more than paper or plastic bags in which to carry their personal belongings.

Our congregation's generosity provided goods worth an estimated value of \$2,250.00. In addition, \$550.00 was donated in cash. We are a small church with a big heart.

Submitted by Georgia Harris, PGUPW Moderator



1st Pres Jackson Cookie Swap

On December 4th First Presbyterian Church in Jackson held its Annual Cookie Swap. Presbyterian Women from all the Circles attended. Here are a few of the ladies trying out some of the cookies. From left to right are Mona Campbell, Nelda McCune, Susannah White, Susan Boutwell, Susan Blackmon, Polly Pledger, Catherine Carls, Lark Taylor and Vivian Pauley.

We were entertained by the First Presbyterian Playschool. They sang for us all the Christmas Songs they had been practicing singing for their Parents at their Christmas program.

We also Presented a check to our long-time church housekeeper. She has been such a blessing to the Presbyterian Women and was retiring in December.

Respectfully submitted by:
Vivian Pauley PW Moderator at 1st Pres
And PWPCT



MED CHAPEL REDEDICATION

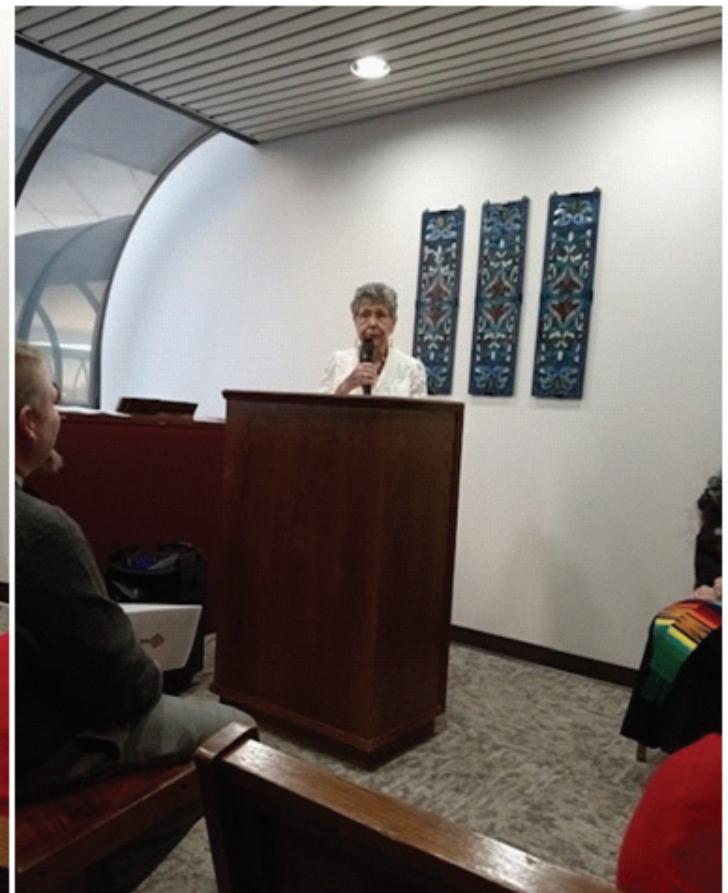
By Bonnie Algee

After extensive renovation, on December 15, 2023 the Alice H. Davies Chapel was rededicated. The original chapel was dedicated at Regional One Health (formerly known as Regional Medical Center - The Med) on November 6, 1981. The Johnson Auxiliary was formed by volunteers from several denominations to serve the poor and sick of the City of Memphis coming to The Med. When a mother named Nancy was in the Emergency Room, she was approached and asked how the Johnson Auxiliary could help. She replied she wanted a quiet place to pray and cry for her son who was seriously hurt and had been brought to The Med. No such place existed and the Johnson Auxiliary made it their mission to see that a chapel was incorporated in the hospital.

Bonnie Blair is a founding member of Johnson Auxiliary which is 50 years old. She was named chair of the original chapel committee. In 2022 when Presbyterian Women began discussing the renovation of the chapel, Bonnie Blair stepped up. She enlisted Nancy Blair-Bonk (her daughter), Pat Gesell (treasurer of Johnson Auxiliary for 47 years) and Summer Hardy, Manager, Volunteer Experience for Regional One as her committee to complete the task.

Rev. Kirsten King, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Kennett, Missouri, conducted the service of rededication, focusing on stewardship of our time and talents.

Trusting in Jesus Christ, the Alice H. Davies Chapel was rededicated to the glory of God.





Mission Haven Update – February 2024

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS: *Then and Now*

Our first building was completed in 1950. On January 27, 1951, Mission Haven was incorporated as a non-profit organization. Since that time, we have had six volunteer Executive Directors (E.D.s):



First Three Executive Directors:
LaVerne Murrah (1972-1990), Jerry Patrick
(1967-1972), Sarah Dennis (1954-1967)

These women have established an incredible legacy for 70 years, each one serving for anywhere from 5 to 23 years!



Second Three Executive Directors:
Susan Adle (2013-2018), Mary Elizabeth Etheridge
(1990-2013), Alice Day (2018-2024)

Sarah Dennis (1906-2000) – The bronze plaque on the entrance marker at Mission Haven is a memorial to her husband, William, who died in 1964. Sarah continued to serve as E.D. for three additional years.

Jerry Patrick (1915-2011) – Jerry began a life of volunteer work in the early 1950's. After serving as the E.D. for five years, she continued on the board of trustees until her death. She was awarded Emeritus Board Member status. The Patrick Foundation was very generous over the years.

LaVerne Murrah (1916-2012) – She was a long-time active member of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, Decatur and attended Westminster Presbyterian Church, Snellville and Macland Presbyterian Church, Powder Springs.

Each woman has had a heart for mission and a dedication to provide housing, hospitality, clothing, and spiritual support for the mission co-workers (formerly missionaries) who served abroad.

Housing ~ Hospitality ~ Clothing ~ Prayer

We've been busy at Pinecrest this month (February). We're training new kitchen staff, leading hikes, and sprucing the place up for spring. We're also building the GEEC (Gale Environmental Education Center). It seems that every day, when I look out of my new She-Shed (the shed that serves as my office now-coming tour when it's finished), new things are happening. The interesting thing is that these things are happening with volunteers! Take Sarah Jordan. She grew up at Shady Grove Church and rode the Pinecrest trails in a Volkswagen back in 1960-something. Now she's back clipping crepe myrtles and helping in the kitchen. Richard Rucker, last member of the First Church in Somerville, uses his biology training to lead hikes our 7-8 miles of trails. Ed McClanahan loads up his big equipment about four times a year and fixes our roads. And all these folks are over 60 years old. They use what they know to fill our needs, and we're so grateful. Your gifts could be used, too. We have envelopes to stuff, classes to teach, things to organize, walls to paint...the list goes on. Let me know when you want to join us.

Speaking of the GEEC, you may remember that Dr. Paula Gale, retired Professor of Soil Sciences (<https://news.utm.edu/2021/03/02/from-dust-to-dust-gale-dedicates-life-to-soil-science/>) at UT Martin, gifted Pinecrest with a new home for our education program. Charity Siebert, Director of Programming at Pinecrest, can't wait to have a space dedicated to microscopes, hides, wasps' nests, and Doodle, the Friendly Noodle (our snake). The GEEC is connected to our existing Arts and Crafts Hut, a building that has got lots of use and needed some care. With the volunteer help of Bud Hurley, Owner of Arc Con Construction and Pinecrest Board member, the whole structure is being made new. (Another reason to come see us in a couple of months!)

And finally, it's summer camp time. Last year, over 500 campers and some 40 staff and volunteers made their way to Pinecrest. This includes your four students from Binghamton Christian Academy. For the past two years, these students have integrated well into our community, learned about God, and braved the great outdoors in ways they usually don't get to. The Presbyterian Women of the Mid-South and various churches have opened brave new worlds for these kids and many others with your Send-a-Kid-to-Camp scholarship donations and your prayers. You have my thanks and the thanks of many families whose kids would never have had the chance to join us if not for you.

