

# Song of Salem



MODERATOR, MONICA GREEN

## from the MODERATOR'S CORNER

### Greetings and Happy New Year to All!

This is our first Song of Salem newsletter since before COVID and we are excited and hopeful. Our goal is to have at least two more Song of Salem newsletters in 2025.

2024 was a busy year and our Presbyterian Women (PW) have been working hard throughout Salem Presbytery. Many PWs have been restructuring, rebuilding, and reestablishing goals. Our PW mission continues to be fulfilled throughout our presbytery. Song of Salem has always been a way for us to communicate and share what is going on in our communities and churches.

So, let's continue in this effort to keep our lines of communication open and rejoice in all that we do. I want to thank all of you who have supported me and our Coordinating team to move forward and hopefully fulfill all your needs.

Be blessed and let's continue to pray for each other. As we navigate through 2025, let us look forward to the future and do our best to accomplish all that we can.

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your continued support!



*Monica Green*

In this newsletter you can expect:

Presbytery News

Community News

2024 Gathering Highlights

Salem PW Scholarship

2025 Gathering Dates

A Few Notes to remember

---

# DAYS FOR GIRLS

BY CATHERINE MATTHEWS, PW MODERATOR  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BURLINGTON, NC



## PRESBYTERY NEWS

---

Days for Girls (DfG) works to eliminate the stigma and limitations associated with menstruation so that women and girls have improved health, education, and job opportunities. DfG kits are distributed around the world in places like Kenya, Zambia, and Cuba. They are also distributed in the United States: to the homeless, to the incarcerated, and to women living in poverty. Recently, a DfG shipment was sent to western NC in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Furthermore, most kits can be used for five years making them eco-friendly. DfG kits have been delivered to every continent!

Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church (FPC) in Burlington, NC support Days for Girls as one of our missions. Our work with this organization began in 2016 when our Associate Pastor, Lindsay Conrad, and three of our church members were planning a trip to Zambia. Lindsay was asked to transport DfG kits to Melissa Johnson, a Presbyterian Partner in Mission with the Central Church of Africa Presbyterian. Melissa distributed the kits and taught health education classes in Zambia. Lindsay researched DfG, wanted our church to become involved, and sent the patterns and instructions to our church member and seamstress extraordinaire, Jo Grimley. Finding the instructions clear, Jo shared this mission idea with five friends. Once they passed the sewing requirements, this dream was off and running. Jo runs DfG workshops at our church throughout the year.

One such workshop took place on February 24, 2024. Bobbie Monaco, certified pediatric nurse practitioner and Chapter Lead for Days for Girls in Eagleville, PA, was the keynote speaker for the 2024 Salem Presbytery PW Virtual Enrichment Retreat. Our FPC Presbyterian Women decided to have all of our circles come together to watch the virtual presentation in our fellowship hall. After lunch, we got to work making components for DfG kits. Ladies serged liner strips, pressed liner fabric pieces together, stitched them, cut them into nine-inch squares and marked the corners, clipped shield parts together to prepare for sewing, and marked and cut our shields. Our Presbyterian Women completed many of the over seventy steps involved in the gold standard used to prepare items for the DfG kits. Jo Grimley set up our stations so that each lady had a task that complemented her skill level. Volunteering together while enjoying wonderful fellowship combined for a terrific way to spend a Saturday. Is there a mission project that your circle would like to pursue? Where is your circle being led to serve?



---

# SEEING RED?

BY ELIZABETH COOK

## PRESBYTERY NEWS



**RACIAL  
EQUITY &  
ENGAGEMENT**

---

### Seeing RED? Learn about Racial Equity Dialogues

Picture women of different races sitting in a circle to share life stories and get to know each other. That's what a Racial Equity Dialogue looks like. At the Sept. 28 Fall Gathering, one of the breakout groups spent time engaging in such a discussion. They were led by Catrelia Hunter, 2006-2009 churchwide moderator and now a Racial Equity Dialogue trainer.

Sitting in what is called a "culture circle," the participants took turns answering questions. All eyes and ears were on whoever was holding the "talking piece" that they passed around the circle -- in this case an artificial flower. The questions were simple and straight-forward:

1. Name, church, favorite song/hymn.
2. Where you grew up, family size, family beliefs that shape the way you communicate with others.
3. Where you went to school, high school, college; favorite subject; favorite sport; and extracurricular.
4. Where you work, your profession or skill.
5. Race relations in your church, workplace, or community; changes in the past 20 years. Most pressing issue in our society today?
6. What surprised or intrigued you about others?
7. How do you feel right now. Can circles be used in your church, school, or workplace?

You'd be surprised how answering just a few of these questions can open eyes to the lives and experiences of others. If you'd like to know more about Racial Equity Dialogues, contact Catrelia Hunter at [catreliahunter@outlook.com](mailto:catreliahunter@outlook.com).



Catrelia Hunter

---

### SALEM PRESBYTERY RACIAL EQUITY EQUIPPING

The aim of Salem Presbytery's Racial Equity Equipping is for participants to understand that race is a social construct that impacts all areas of our society and that goes against God's intentions. Our role as leaders of the Church & people of faith is to reorient ourselves toward God's intention.







## Community News - PW Field Trips

by Elizabeth Cook

Presbyterian Women in Salisbury are exploring the environmental message of this year's Bible study, "Let Justice Roll Down," beyond their regular meetings.

Members from First Presbyterian Church and Trinity Presbyterian have visited both the local water plant and Catawba College's Center for the Environment to learn firsthand what local organizations are doing to protect natural resources. The women also learned what they can do to act as better stewards of the environment. For example, it would be hard to overstate the importance of trees to the environment. Trees clean our air, reduce stormwater runoff, provide animal habitat and give us shade. Yet the National Audubon Society says North Carolina is losing urban tree canopy at the rate of 4,500 acres per year to development.

Closer to home, guide Lisa Pope said Charlotte is losing the equivalent of three football fields of tree canopy per day. She talked about the need to protect and promote an equitable tree canopy. We should plant more trees and engage young people in outdoor activities that instill an appreciation for nature.

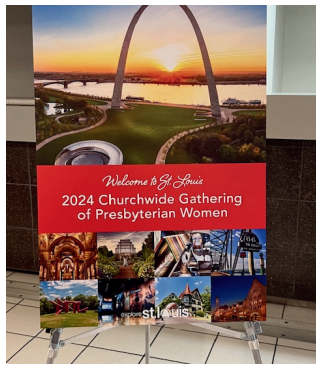
As for water, the women learned at Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) that what we put into the water supply may be more important than the amount of water we take out. Jim Amaral, assistant director of the utility, described how raw water is filtered and cleaned before it flows to local homes and businesses. SRU is using only about a third of its water capacity, he said. He stated that ninety percent of bottled water is tap water. And that doing away with bottled water and drinking water directly from local taps would save money and send less plastic to landfills. If you really want to protect the water supply, he said, don't pour fat, oil, or grease — FOG — down the drain. Put only four things in the toilet: water,

pee, poop, and toilet paper. Items labeled "flushable" usually are not biodegradable, he said. The utility must screen those materials out of wastewater and take them to the landfill. Facial tissue also should not go in the toilet, he said.

The field trips, organized by Denise Fink, have deepened participants' understanding of environmental issues and strengthened their resolve to protect it. To borrow from the subtitle of our Bible study, we must heed "God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation."







---

## CHURCH WIDE GATHERING - St. Louis, MO

by Monica Green

---

The Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women (PW) around the world was held August 8-11, 2024, in St. Louis, Missouri at the Marriott St. Louis Grand. Salem Presbyterian Women who attended this wonderful and grand event were well represented. The theme of Churchwide was "Do Everything In Love" using 1 Corinthians 16; 13-14 (NIV), Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith/ be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

This Gathering held true to the mission and the purpose of PW building an inclusive and caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by giving us the opportunity to sing, celebrate, learn and reflect. There were workshops, plenaries, business meetings, meals, bookstore shopping, silent auctions and walking, walking and more walking. There was fun, fellowship and so much more to help empower, motivate and restore us by using this theme of doing everything in love.

The ministry of PW is truly a blessing and Churchwide 2024 fulfilled this purpose. Salem Presbyterian Women, PW Sisters in the Synod of the Mid Atlantic were everywhere and we thoroughly enjoyed this experience. Attached are pictures from Churchwide to help you understand what a divine experience this was. Hopefully you will find it enjoyable and enlightening. It may also help you to start thinking about the next Churchwide and make plans to attend this event.





# CHURCH WIDE GATHERING - St. Louis, MO







## Fall Gathering September 2024

by Elizabeth Cook

Rev. Kim Priddy, the keynote speaker, used the story of Esther to inspire all participants to seek justice as their calling in life. Esther was obedient, took a stand for justice, and became an advocate for her people, the Jewish people, during a life-threatening time.

Priddy quoted theologian Frederick Buechner, who defined vocation or calling, as the place where “your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” The world’s hunger is all around us, she said. How have we failed to answer that need?

The current PW Bible Study is titled: “Let Justice Roll Down” based on Amos 5:24: “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an every-flowing stream.” (RSV) Priddy, pastor of Sedgfield Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, quoted the Living Word version of the passage: “I want to see a mighty flood of justice — a torrent of doing good.” And from The Message: “I want justice — oceans of it. I want fairness — rivers of it. That’s what I want. That’s all I want.”

How are we to define justice, she asked the women. Answers included giving back, acting without discrimination, fairness, considering everyone, looking out for the marginalized. Have respect for the land, one person said. “Justice is everybody’s responsibility,” one person said. “We are to share everything, from the fruit of the earth and seas to our thoughts and idea. We are to give back and be fair.”

Monica Green, moderator of Salem Presbyterian Women, gave the welcome, which was also offered by the Rev. James Harley of Second Presbyterian. The gathering heard several songs from The Jubilee Choir, led by Kay Wright Norman of Soldier’s Memorial AME Zion Church in Salisbury. Three break-out sessions were held:

- RED (Racial Equity Dialogue), led by Catreli Hunter.
  - PW Updates, led by Monica Green and Betty Agnew-Wasson.
  - Peace & Meditation, led by Anne Smith.
- During the offering, \$470 was collected for Lloyd Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem.

Rev. Kim Priddy  
Keynote Speaker





---

## A FEW NOTES TO REMEMBER



### Spiritual Enrichment

2025 Spiritual Enrichment Retreat will be held on February 22nd via Zoom. Check the Salem Presbyterian Women's page on the Salem Presbytery website for additional information, flyers, and registration forms. Be sure to join us!!

### 2025 Spring & FALL Gatherings

The Salem PW Coordinating Team is hard at work making plans for inspirational 2025 Gatherings. The Spring Gathering will be held at St. James Presbyterian, Greensboro, NC on April 26, 2025. Do you have an idea for a site for our Fall Gathering? Perhaps your church is willing to host. Let us know.

### Salem Presbytery Historian Report

Please remember that historian reports from each PW Church are due by the end of January 2025. The form can be found on the Presbyterian Women's link on the Salem Presbytery Website. Click on the Ministry & Mission Tab to find our PW link.



### 2025 Summer Gathering

Our Synod Summer Gathering and the 36th Annual PWS Business Meeting will be held at Massanetta Camp and Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA on June 12-15, 2025. Additional information is available on the FB page of Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

### Calling Prospective Salem CT Leaders

As we start a new year, the Salem Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team Search Committee is reaching out to you and seeking recommendations and nominations for your women to work on our CT. Nominees should have passion, time and energy for PW's ministry. Would you or a PW you know make a great team player and leader on our CT? Would you or a PW you know like to share fresh ideas? We appreciate your prayers and thank you for nominations in our search efforts. If interested, contact Moderator, Monica Green via email.



### A Few Notes To Remember

- Contact our Salem PW Moderator Monica Green at 704-224-6630 or via email at [monica.green1948@gmail.com](mailto:monica.green1948@gmail.com) with questions, concerns, comments, or ideas for the next issue.
- For future newsletters, send us your articles and pictures of your PW in action.
- Thank you to our Newsletter contributors, Elizabeth Cook, Catherine Matthews, Monica Green and Kaye Anderson.
- Remember....Do Everything In Love!





## Salem Presbyterian Women Offers College Scholarship Opportunity!

Do you know a high school senior looking to pursue higher education? Salem PW offers a college scholarship opportunity for students who demonstrate the financial need, academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to their faith and community.

The PW College Scholarship is designed to help students achieve their educational goals while embracing the values of service, faith, and academic excellence, leadership, and lifelong learning. Scholarships will be awarded to students who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Active participation in a Salem Presbyterian Church
- A minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- A completed application, including an essay, recommendation letters, and official transcripts

This scholarship reflects the Presbyterian Women's mission to nurture faith, support those in need, and empower future leaders.

### How to Apply

Interested students can obtain an application by contacting Tara Reid via the email and phone number below or by visiting the Salem Presbyterian Women's page on the Salem Presbytery website. The application deadline is December 1st of every year, so don't delay! Scholarships are awarded during the Spring Gatherings in April.

For more information, please contact Tara Reid at, [treid8627@gmail.com](mailto:treid8627@gmail.com), 704-682-8956.

Help your senior take the next step to invest in their future and educational journey with the support of Presbyterian Women. Get them to apply today!

*Thank you for reading!*

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS	EDITOR
Elizabeth Cook Monica Green Catherine Matthews	Kaye Anderson