



# Good News for the Pews

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A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

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## Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering Minneapolis, Minnesota

*Pastor Kimberly Elliot*

“One Body, One Spirit”.

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit,  
and there are varieties of services but the same Lord.*

*You are the body of Christ and individually members of it. (1 Cor 12, 4 & 27)*

I have a friend in North Korea. Her name is Dr. Pilju Kim Joo. In 2011, Dr. Joo appeared among Newsweek Magazine’s 150 most significant “Women Who Shake the World.” Dr. Joo, a citizen of the United States, was selected for her pioneering work to support North Korean farmers, women and children recover from its country’s ongoing economic downturn and persistent food shortages through agricultural and economic development. I was very inspired by all that Dr. Joo is doing to bring positive change to the world.



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I also have a new friend from Jamaica. Her name is Niki Ashwood. She is very passionate and full of life. She has music in her soul and vitality in her spirit.



In truth, I feel like I have 1,735 new friends. I met them at the Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering, an international event that happens every three years. Our theme for the Gathering was *One Body, One Spirit* and after our gathering, I did feel part of the larger body of Christ – and the world felt very small indeed. I got to laugh with global partners from Kenya and dance with women from Nigeria. I met Presbyterian Women from my home region of Washington and connected with others from presbyteries across the nation. I also celebrated the opportunity to be present with nine members of our own church including a number of women from the Synod of the Pacific. It seemed, for those few days at least, we were all focused more on our unity than our differences, and that was a very powerful feeling of community indeed.

I have always had an admiration for the organization of Presbyterian Women. I have long been inspired by their advocacy for those in need and their passionate commitment to social justice and to alleviating the suffering of the world wherever possible. At this event I was again inspired to hear the stories of women who are bringing positive change to their communities. And in addition to intellectual stimulation, I also felt like I got an inside peek at the heart and soul of the 'organization', which is really an extended community of passionate Christians seeking to follow Christ in tangible ways. A strong web of cohesive connection was palpable, and I felt very blessed to be part of it.

So many connections with so many women remain in my heart – and one that stays with me is my new friendship with Dr. Kim Joo that I mentioned above. She was my roommate for the Gathering, and as a result we shared stories about family and life and our dreams for the world. I got a whole new vantage point into North Korea. I was moved by the concept underlying the theme itself, *One Body, One Spirit*, which is essentially the notion that 'We are all one'. We may have different contexts, and different circumstances, but at the end of the day, we all want to share connections with family and friends and faith and seek to make the world a better place.

I hope my relationship with Kim Joo continues. I hope to perhaps bring her to the Bay Area to speak to churches in San Francisco. But either way, I will continue to lift up a prayer of gratitude for this web of relationships. All of us, whether women or men, can participate in this web as we remember that we are all members of the Body of Christ with gifts and talents to share. I am grateful to PW for this opportunity to be part of this Churchwide Gathering. Perhaps you will even consider attending it yourself in another three years.



Dr. Pilju Kim Joo with children from Agglobe Association in North Korea

## What Makes Worship Special?

*David Miller*

Worship on Sundays is a special time when we can gather together as a community to thank God for God's presence in our lives, to lay before God our joys and concerns, and to gain spiritual nourishment to go into the world to share the Good News with our words and actions.

Sometimes, worship really moves us and other times, we leave wondering why we went through all the hassle to get to church.

In the worship study session with Reverend Victor Floyd, we explored the idea that we're not all alike in how we know God and how we express our understanding of God. For some, a worship service filled with meditation and chant will be really fantastic but for others a service with a challenging and uplifting sermon will be really fantastic.

Because we know that a healthy church consists of people with different spirituality needs, we try to design a worship service containing aspects that work for each of the spiritual types.

If you are moved by meditation and chant, then the times for centering, silent confession and offering give you the opportunity to shift from all the "noise" of your regular life into a time when you can feel God's presence. If it's too noisy before the service, if the time for silent confession is too short, or if you're worried during offertory that we're running late, you won't be moved by the worship.

If you respond to God with your heart, the Call to Worship, opening hymn, and opening prayer provide you with an opportunity to express the joy you have in your relationship with God. In Prayers of the People, your heart floods with joy and with concern. If the worship starts on a somber note with an opening hymn in a minor key, you're going to feel that you didn't have the opportunity to praise God with all your heart and

soul. Or, if you arrive after the opening hymn, you'll leave feeling the worship service wasn't all that great.

If you have gotten to know God by studying scripture, reading books on faith journeys, or listening to well-crafted sermons, you'll be moved by the words in the service. Maybe the poetry in the hymns perfectly expresses your understanding of God. Or, maybe the sermon pulls you in with its ideas. You're going to go away feeling neutral or negative about the worship if the sermon wasn't interesting and the readings were delivered without expression.

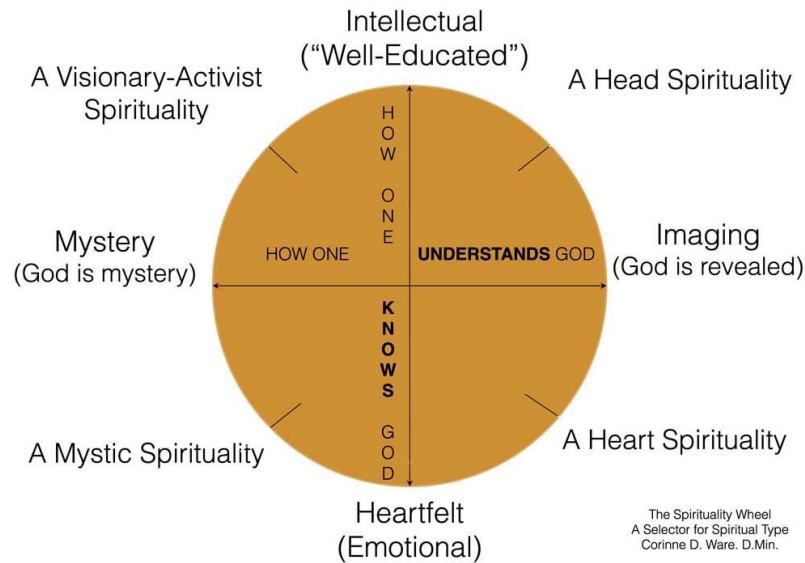
If your spirituality pushes you toward living God's Good News in the world, you'll be moved by calls to action in the sermon, Minute for Mission, or Prayers of the People. The closing hymn and benediction often can express the call by God to go out into the world to live your faith. If the service drops mention of our mission in the wider world because there's not enough time, you won't feel so great about the service.

Yes, a well-planned service has nourishment for all, no matter their spiritual type. And, each of the worship leaders – readers, liturgist, preacher, musicians – have the responsibility to do their best to help you worship. But, worship also requires your active participation. You can't just sit back and expect God to grab you.

Come prepared to find something in the service that matches your spiritual type and focus all your attention on it. Maybe you'll discover that you experience God consistent with more than one spiritual type. Maybe, through increased focus, you'll be able to leave worship *every* week with new vigor and a stronger relationship with God.

*(continued on page 4 with the Spirituality Wheel)*

**What Makes Worship Special?** (continued from page 3)



**NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS**

*Diane Go*

It's that time of year again, when the English Commission's Nominating Committee is searching for those who God is calling to serve as future officers and leaders of our congregation and church. This year's team includes Scott Barlow, Wayne Eng, Mildred Hall, Dayton Leong, and Kimball Wong. Diane Go serves as the committee's Elder representative and chairperson.

The Nominating Committee seeks out those who help to lead and to oversee the routine activities of our congregation. It also seeks out those who help to discern the direction and focus of the English congregation's mission with the input from our membership and through the efforts of various committees, including Worship and Nurture, Mission and Evangelism, Resource Committee, and Personnel Committee. Currently this direction and focus is centered on improving the worship experience for all who attend our worship service and improving Christian Education opportunities for all who are part of our church family.

The committee currently is looking to fill 4 Elder positions, 2 Deacon positions, 2 Personnel Committee positions and at least 2 Nominating Committee positions. The Elder and Deacon positions are usually 3 year terms, but 2 of the Elder positions for this year's search are 2 year terms to complete the Class of 2017.



The committee is optimistic that it can find nominees who will serve our congregation. Many of our congregation members are very busy not only at church but in their jobs, their communities, and their personal pursuits. However, God may still be calling those special people to share their talents in these much needed leadership roles. Perhaps God is calling you to come forward to join the current team of Elders and Deacons. If so, please feel free to contact Pastor Kimberly or any of the Nominating Committee members listed above.

Keep the Nominating Committee in your prayers!



On April 25<sup>th</sup>, our church with 3 other churches in the Bay Area (Christ United, Old First and San Anselmo) brought together 50 volunteers to put together meal packages that would feed 10,000 persons. Each meal cost 29 cents so each church had to raise \$580 pay for 2,000 meals. STOP HUNGER NOW is an international Hunger Relief Organization that coordinates distribution of food and other lifesaving aid around the world. Thanks to Eunice Bejar-Lee, Marie Eng and Pam Jang who prepared food for breakfast and lunch for this group of volunteers. We found out recently that the 10,000+ meals which we packaged in less than 2 hours went to the Philippines. It went to Convoy of Hope, a faith-based nonprofit. Convoy of Hope is able to feed nearly 45,000 children a week in the Philippines and 5,000 children every day. Alongside these feed programs, Convoy of Hope also distributes water filters and conducts lessons in proper hygiene and keeping living environment safe and clean.



Our upcoming project includes our **annual SRO school supplies** in which we will collect and purchase school supplies for the grammar school children living in SROs in Chinatown and the enderloin. We will package 200 bags with pencils, paper, colored markers, colored pens, erasers, spiral notebooks, folders, binder paper, and other supplies. Please pick up a tag with the particular school supply and number of items to be purchased on July 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> and bring them back by August 2<sup>nd</sup> so we know what we have and what school items we need to purchase. Thank you all for helping us with this project.

Sinks and Dinks will be cooking a meal on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Old First Presbyterian Church for their monthly homeless meal or people who may be food insufficient in their neighborhood. Thank you Sinks and Dinks for your support.

Thank you for your extra giving to our three Special Offerings each year. During Easter we collected for **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Monies collected in Presbyterian Churches throughout the United States for OGHS goes to support **PDA** (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) which we have worked with in rebuilding New Orleans, **SDOP** (Self Development of People) and PC(U.S.A.) **Hunger Program**. Our church contributed \$1,694 this year to One Great Hour of Sharing which will be forwarded to the National Office to support the 3 projects listed. We are more than the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown because we are connected to Presbyterian Churches throughout the United States. When we pool together our collective resources, we can do more than any one church alone. Praise God!

Committee members: Eunice Bejar-Lee, Ed Chin, Doreen Der-McLeod, Barb Fong, Shar Hall, Jeanette Huie, Cynthia Joe, Gilbert Lee, Jeanine Lim, and Susie Wong.

## Mandarin Commission's Retreat on July 18

*Sabrina Cheng*  
Photo by *Jeremy Lue*

Unlike the previous years, our Commission Retreat this year was only one day held in our church building. There were no camping, outdoor swimming or hiking. This decision was made to accommodate as many members as possible because most of our elderly members could not sleep away from home, and had not been participating in our church retreats for a number of years.

Surely, we have almost 80 people attending the retreat, this number is double the participants joining in our past retreats. This year, besides our members, we had quite a few non-believers who liked to come to hear from the retreat speaker. What a good opportunity we had in spreading the Good News and reaching out to others!



The theme of our retreat was *To Welcome Jesus's Second Coming*. This topic was chosen to help us to understand what would happen at the end of the world, and what we need to do now to prepare for Jesus's return. Recently, around our world, we see more and more evil and unrighteous happenings, as in 1 John: 18, "Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming"..... Verse 16: ".....the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world." Our hearts are dismayed when we see the rise of killings among men; worldly desires; wars between nations; natural disasters; and man-made destructions these days. Is truly the end of the world coming soon?

Our retreat speaker, Brother Sau-Wing Lam, is well known in the Chinese community. He devotes his time for mission work after retiring from his CEO position and Chairman of the Board of a popular bank at the age of 45. Currently he is the Chief Editor of the Herald Monthly in America's Northwest Region; Person-in-Charge of the Chinese Christian Herald Crusades in North America; Board Member of the Chinese Christian Mission, USA;

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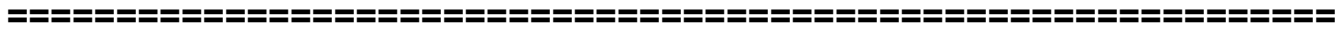


## Mandarin Commission's Retreat *(continued from page 6)*

Consultant/Counselor for money and business management in Chinese radio programs for North California, South California, as well as New York. He is also doing radio evangelical program for the Bay Area. All proceeds from his book *The Greatest Love* are donated to the Chinese Christian Mission.

For the retreat, Brother Lam's first session is titled *The Blue Prints of the End World*, listing the predictions of Jesus' second coming and schedule of happenings including the Great Distress, the Millennialism, and the New Jerusalem. These predictions of Jesus' second coming are more than predictions of Jesus' first coming. His second session is titled *Living Marvelously* teaching us how to live for Christ knowing our mission and the limited time we have in the world, as well as our destined life in the future.

In between the two sessions, we had small group discussions to share our view points. We also had questions and answers, as well as singings, testimonies, and prizes for quiz at the end of the day. We were thankful to God that we had a good turnout and great fellowship among the participants. Brother Lam was excellent in delineating from the Bible what would happen at the end of the world. He taught us what to do in response to the Great Commission. Many participants commented that they have learned a lot, had a much better understanding of the Book of the Revelation. They enjoyed the whole retreat, and of course the very good food provided all day too!



## Memorial Day Retreat

*Liane Chan and Neal Fong*  
Photos by *Stuart Go*

It was a couple weeks before the retreat when we came to terms with the fact that we wouldn't have free time at the retreat this year. Between all the planning, leading and studying for finals, there was just no time to relax. Co-coordinating this year's retreat really tested our time management and leadership skills.

It all started earlier this year when Pastor Kimberly asked us if we were willing to co-coordinate the PCC Memorial Day Retreat. At first we were unsure of whether we wanted to take on such a large task since we had finals coming up. But after talking it over with each other, we decided that it was something that we wanted to do. We've been attending the retreat since we were little, so we thought it would be nice to see what it takes to make the retreat happen every year.



This year the theme was *Unwrapping God's Gifts*. It was about recognizing the traits or skills that God has blessed us with. Pastor Kimberly led a total of 6 sessions to help us determine what these traits and skills are. One of our favorite activities was the personality mapping. Everybody was given a series of questions and depending on your answers, the test would tell you what traits you identified with more.

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## Memorial Day Retreat *(continued from page 7)*

One of the main things we wanted to focus on was getting more young adults involved. As young adults ourselves, we've noticed that our age group is oftentimes underrepresented at the retreat. Not only did we want more young adults to come up, but we also wanted them in more leadership roles. We're happy to say that our efforts were a success and an unprecedented 17 young adults attended the retreat this year. One special thing we did was have a separate session for just the young adults. This allowed the young adults to focus on topics more relevant to them and discuss them within their own peer group.

Something we think is special about the PCC Memorial Day Retreat is that a lot of emphasis is put on intergenerational bonding. Many of the activities that were planned allowed for some sort of mingling. This year we had a couple of extra intergenerational activities, all led by the youth themselves. We had a total of 3 intergenerational activities this year, one of which was led by Tully and Ian Chan as well as Justin Wong. Their fresh perspective was a welcomed addition to this year's retreat. In addition to the new things we tried, we also made sure to bring back a lot of camp favorites. The ever popular soup was made by Josh Hee and tie dying was led by Nancy Chee. As always campfire was a blast every night filled with silly songs, skits, smiles and tons of laughter.

By the end of the weekend we were exhausted, but we left with a new appreciation for how much work and energy goes into planning the retreat every year. Of course this retreat wouldn't have been possible without all the support and help that we got from the church family. It definitely takes more than two people to put a retreat together and we want to let everyone know how much we appreciate everyone that went.





## Haiti Mission Trip

*Samantha Ly*

I remember the feelings of nervousness and excitement on July 22. I was leaving the States for the first time to Fond Doux, Haiti for a mission trip with the UCLA Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship. I joined the fellowship group during my first year of college and found that this group reminded me the most of Cameron House. The group traveling to Haiti consisted of 25 people, a mix of Chi Alpha staff and students. As a first-timer and the youngest person in the group, I was unsure about how the mission trip would turn out and what to expect.

When we arrived in Haiti and drove through Port Au Prince, I witnessed the long term damage that the earthquake had on the people, unemployment, and homes. It was hard to see adults not having a job, children taking care of younger children, and unstable living conditions. After driving three hours to Fond Doux, we arrived at an orphanage full of children, whose eyes lit up when they saw our bus. One of the most touching moments for me was when they chased after our bus with all of their energy, as if Christmas Day had finally come. The kids counted down the days until we arrived because it was a time for them to receive love, attention, and blessings. We brought 75 luggage cases of clothing, food, and toys to Haiti. We also hosted a “bingo night” for every single person to leave with a prize. Each day, we made snacks such as mac and cheese and sandwiches for the children. For most of them, it was their only meal of the day.



Throughout this trip, I felt mixed emotions of joy and heartbreak. I fell in love with the community’s smiles and their faith, but I was heartbroken seeing their daily struggles first-hand. Our group walked from hut to hut, praying for the Haitians and giving families rice and beans. We provided 20 families with rice and beans to last them a couple months. At one of the huts, a middle-aged woman explained that she was unemployed and unable to feed her family. We asked her, “Is there anything you would like us to pray for you about?” She said, “I want to grow in faith.” This was another touching moment for me because she put growing in faith before the hardships that she goes through. Often times, we pray for materialistic things before praying for strength and faith.

We held a three day “revival” with hundreds of people, to uplift their spirits and encourage them to be strong. I was stretched by God to give my testimony multiple times, realizing that He often calls us to do things that we do not want to do. I also noticed amazing things about the people of Fond Doux during this revival. They worship powerfully, sing loudly, and praise God for all that they have. That, to me, was the most inspiring part of the trip. They have the least in wealth, but have the most in faith. At the end of the trip, I tried describing how I felt. I did not know how to explain it, other than that my heart felt full. I am beyond thankful that God called me to serve in Fond Doux, Haiti.

## Working with families: A perspective on a career in Child Protective Service

*Sing Quan*

Many of you know me from my work at Cameron House with the Bilingual Afterschool Program and also as a member of the PCC family. I graduated from San Francisco State University this May with my Master's degree in Social Work.

I started my career in Child Protective Services (CPS) the day we came back from Family Camp (always a highlight of the year for me). I chose to work in CPS because of my passion in working with families. It was the social worker in me, when I stayed late and helped parents at BAP, filling out government forms or being their child's advocate at school. For me, social work is in all aspects of what we do at Cameron House and PCC.



At Cameron House, many of the families we serve come to us for assistance. At CPS, our families become involved often because the law requires us to be involved. CPS is under a lot of constrict, rules and regulations; but it does allow you an amazing opportunity to be invited into families' lives. The decisions that social workers make in CPS have impact on families and not all decisions will be "right", but at the end of the day, we are the ones who have to make these decisions. With all the pressures and stress, people often ask me "how do I do the work?"

I simply tell people that my love and trust in God gets me through the day. I know that God wants me to serve my community and families. This job requires a lot of faith; you need to have faith in the CPS system, the court system, the families and ultimately, faith in yourself.

I truly believe in God's unconditional love and that most people are inherently good. The PCC community has been the support every young adult deserves, the love and encouragement that I feel when I go to church has no equal. My faith and community have been my foundation in my new stressful but rewarding career.

Submitted by Shar Hall, from her column, *A View from the Pew*

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## Drama: Women in the Bible

*Pat Chan*

This was my third PW Churchwide Gathering and I had a good experience. I guess you can say "The third time is a charm". I enjoyed the five workshops that I attended. My second workshop of the day was titled *For Such a Time as This* with Anita Gutschick. Anita presented her own interpretation of Elizabeth's life at Friday's morning plenary. In the afternoon I attended her drama of three different women in the Bible. The first one was Queen Esther, the second was Lot's wife and the third woman was Rahab. Anita was excellent. She made you feel that you were in the middle of the crowd in each performance. She was so believable. She did a quick change of outfits for each woman. Anita goes to many different churches, retreats and conferences to perform her drama. She has visited at least 36 states and has a repertoire of 30 characters. I hope the next Gathering will book her again. She is so enjoyable.



Linda Lee, Doreen Der-McLeod, Lea Lawrence, Jeanette Huie, Dee Shigley, **Pat Chan**, Cindy Joe, Mary Wong Leong.

Photo by *Mildred Hall*

**PW Power!**

***Eunice Bejar-Lee***

The 2015 PW Gathering is indeed an awesome and fun experience for me. I met strong, kind and intelligent women of church power and leadership from our own Synod and all over the country. I met Mary Bighorn and her mother, Cyndi Bighorn of Peever, South Dakota. Mary Bighorn heard about PCC and Cameron House and she would like to volunteer in the Bay Area next year. I also met Rev. Darwin and Ila Wolfe of Bentonville Arizona. We shared a long talk about missions and challenges of minister’s families. Got to sit during lunch with Ms. Marti Abbott of Vacaville.



***Eunice and Stella Webster***

It’s a small world; we know the same people from the Fairfield area and talked about SF housing issues. It’s very inspirational to hear stories, witness

the dedication and work of many women who make positive impact and changes in the world. I learned more about Global Food Security, the United Nation’s agenda on women’s equality, human trafficking and got a new perspectives on dementia and overcoming grief and loss as well as the healing art of laughter. So much to take in, but the experiences are so rich and powerful. I feel more connected to so many more women all over the world. One Body, One Spirit, One Community indeed!

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**PW Gathering**      ***Gilbert Henry Lee***

*“I’m seated at a Minneapolis restaurant with 20 women when the waiter leans over, gestures to all the women and jokingly asks ...so what’s your secret?”* Seriously, I first gave thought to going to the Gathering after I got back from the Philippines 2 years ago and PCC people said I should go to a PW Gathering because I would get

a lot of mission and project ideas. While the Exhibition Hall was a treasure trove of world organizations and a great bookstore (my luggage was so much heavier coming home) my strongest impression was the first night as a speaker proclaimed ”We are not an organization, we’re an organism!” Looking around at the 1500 worshipers in the Hyatt Ballroom, I caught a glimpse of that. Over the next three days it dawned on me these were people who give their hearts and hands to teaching, ministering and supporting vital ministries .We heard tales of outreach to at risk youth, & buildings kept open for over 100 years by women’s efforts, even as the building evolves to serve the changing community. The workshop I attended *When Words Fail: Ministering to People with Dementia and Their Caregivers*, brought home the decentralized efforts of professionals and laypeople in being present to those with this frustrating painful affliction. I’m not trivializing the Gathering, but with utmost respect recall the wonderful, independent eclectic Nun’s choir in *“Sister Act 1”* (*The Gathering itself referenced them with a horrifically funny skit; ask around about it.*) Multiply them by thousands, fling them around the nation and the world, and you get an idea of how God uses what the world may not consider powerful and who is doing a lot of God’s work. I missed the Family Conference in May; this was a nice spiritual boost.



**Doreen, Linda, Gilbert, Jeanette**



## Almerita's Bracelets

*Mary Wong Leong*

One of the plenary speakers, Neddy Astudillo, helped to greatly broaden my thoughts on the theme 'One Body, One Spirit' - not just the eye, the ear, or the arm but we one body. If you see the earth as an astronaut, you see the WHOLE WORLD! No part of this world or its people can be separated from and act independently from the one body. What one country does, affects all the others.

Another experience that I greatly enjoyed was the passing out of Almerita Rout's bracelets. Almerita is a long-time Presbyterian woman who is no longer able to physically participate in gatherings, but she continues to be a part of Presbyterian Women (PW) and its mission by sharing in other ways. At the previous triennium, she made laminated bookmarks for those of us who attended to pass on to others. This year, she made beautiful beaded bracelets, several hundred! We attached a 'PW Presbytery of San Francisco' label on the lovely trinkets and passed them out. My first bracelet went to my roommate, a Racial Ethnic Member of the PW Coordinating Team from Delaware who served the same years I did. The next two bracelets went to elegantly coiffed black women I met in the elevator with beautifully braided hair! The next bracelet went to a woman sitting next to me at plenary 'cheek to cheek'--the seats were made for smaller frames! The next two went to American Indian sisters I had met and worked with on the Churchwide Coordinating team many years ago. And so it went, women whose lives touched mine in some way by sharing of ourselves in workshops: a young lady who was attending a gathering for the first time with her mother from Oklahoma; an Asian Presbyterian sister from Texas; a woman who was lost for decades in her life and finally has found her way back to the church, feeling as if it was 'the right place where she belonged now'. As I'd passed out all 10 of my bracelets. I also gave away a PW logo pin I was wearing. My final gift, a gift to me when I'd finished serving on the National Coordinating Team of PW, was a



Evaline  
Steele &  
Mary

bracelet. I passed this on to a cleaning woman at the hotel's restroom the afternoon upon leaving Minneapolis. She was slim and dark and dressed in Middle Eastern dress with head covering. She emigrated from Somalia as a refugee four years ago and lived in a very small space with her husband and five children, the youngest 8 months old. With no extended family here, she has to pay someone to look after her children while she and her husband worked.

When we take the time to share our stories, we truly enrich each other's lives. The PW Gathering gives us the opportunity to do that. Thanks to PCC for helping to defray the cost of this event!

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**“When two or three are gathered in my name”**  
*Doreen Der-McLeod*

Jesus said: “When two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst” (Matt:18:20). Every Churchwide Gathering I have attended have fulfilled this scriptural reference. From attending the Women's' Triennium in the 70's at Purdue, where 5,000 Presbyterian Women gathered to the most recent Churchwide Gathering in Minneapolis where 1735 women and men gathered, those of us in attendance felt the Spirit of God present in worship, in plenary or in the workshops offered. Churchwide was reduced by one day to keep the cost within our budget, but nevertheless there was so much packed into those three days that those who attended will go back with resources or contacts  
*(continued on page 13)*

**Doreen**, continued from page 12

that may be useful for their local congregations. Churchwide was not only spirit-filled, but it was community building as we remember that the God of creation created us all. We were reminded that God calls us into relationship not only with each other, but also with the whole world. Our church had 10 persons attending including our own Pastor Kimberly who incorporated dance in worship and led us in movement during plenary. If you have not had the opportunity to experience Churchwide, start saving for the 2018 Churchwide!



**One Body, One Spirit**     *Jeanette Huie*

I was installed at the 2012 Churchwide Gathering as one of the Members-at-Large for the Churchwide Coordinating Team (others from PCC who have served on the CCT are Cindy, Mary and Doreen) and it was interesting to observe the hustle and bustle of the Gathering preparations over the past two years. My responsibilities included the Silent Auction, providing Asian-themed items for display, promoting the National Asian PW 2016 Gathering, securing spaces for our Synod PW to meet and a hospitality hour for Asian women attendees. I also met with the incoming Asian Member-at-Large and participated in the installation service for the newly-elected leaders.

I didn't attend workshops, film screenings or visits to a local organization but I did have time for each plenary which were scheduled each morning and evening. Each speaker captured my attention with their knowledge of the subject matter and their motivations for serving others and their communities. I felt challenged to re-examine my priorities in life. I have a better sense of my connection to the global community but need some time for that to really sink in... when there have been natural disasters and people displaced, I would respond with a contribution and feel I've done my part. But deep inside, do I still feel that



PW Synod Installation of Officers,  
**Doreen:** Moderator

Photos by *Eunice*



disaster is "their problem"? If we are to be one global community, that disaster should be "our problem". Considering how dependent we are on other countries, we can't ignore their struggles. When my electronic equipment fails and I call technical support, someone from India or the Philippines helps me get it working again; so much of the food we consume is grown and cultivated thousands of miles away; recent immigrants who still feel tied to their homeland and supporting family members overseas are providing service to us in restaurants, gas stations and stores.

The beauty of the Churchwide Gathering is that it doesn't just take place over a few days and ends when we return home. We bring home new knowledge, stronger friendships and deeper spiritual connections that will continue to grow as a result of the Gathering. For myself, I will

continue to dwell on what it means and how to be "one body, one spirit".



**Jeanette and Cindy**

## Joy in Community: Giving and Receiving *Mildred Hall*



Dee Shigley, **Mildred**, Mary Wong Leong

With 1,735 Presbyterian Women, and a few men, the Nicollet ballroom was packed (!) to the gills for daily plenary sessions, making for mandatory friendliness with seatmates. The enthusiasm was high as the theme *One Body, One Spirit* was carried out with song (lots of singing), a theme weaver (dance movement by Pastor Kimberly), and spiritual reflections.

Workshops to attend covered many current church themes/issues led by various church leaders. There were film screenings, mission tours to take, and the exhibit hall to discover resources and crafts to buy.

The donated Target Gift Cards totaled \$30,890.00. A big THANK YOU to members of our congregation who donated and became a part of this grand total. The cards were dedicated and given to the director of the American Indian Family Center in St. Paul. And, the Gathering offering collected \$32,038.45 for these recipients: ECPAT-USA (an organization that works to eliminate human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children) and *Hogar Clara Lair* (women's shelter in Puerto Rico).

A recognition of the PCC women was printed in the program book. It thanked us for: "stepping up to the plate, keeping our PW Presbytery (PWP) active, and being role models of how to get things done!" It also said "The women of PCC exemplify the concept, 'Sisters in Christ!' It was a nice surprise and we were honored to receive this from PWP San Francisco.

## The Importance of Listening to and Sharing Stories *Linda Lee*

At plenary sessions and workshops the leaders shared personal stories—of making biscuits with their grandmother, of illness and healing, and of hearing God's call on their heart. The Rev. Alika Galloway preached on the calling of the church to be an organism, not an organization. I had additional opportunities to hear her speak in a workshop, *A Critical Conversation on Sex Trading and Trafficking*, and to join a mission tour of the Kwanzaa Community Church (Kwanzaa) where she and her husband are co-pastors. For Alika the church is an organic connection – to be a community and to be in the community.

One of the ministries of Kwanzaa, the Northside Women's Space (NWS), grew out of listening to the stories of women whose family survival depended on their selling sex (less than once a week) in order to buy the milk or diapers, pay the utility bill or the rent. Kwanzaa provided their church space to be a respite place for support and services, a hot meal or hot shower, or just a place to sit. Volunteers provide an ear to listen and a heart to love, no judgement or lectures for these vulnerable women.

Another ministry that includes listening is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Middle-School Academy, an after school program which creates an academically rigorous and delightful learning environment for about 65-70 youth. University tutors and church volunteers strive to create high-impact leaders for the future, keeping these young people away from gangs and street violence and focused on achievement. The youth are engaged in critical conversations and play therapy, often spilling forth experiences of family violence, sexual abuse or urban trauma.

At Kwanzaa 85% of their families are at or below the poverty level, the church as organism engages deeply with the community touching the lives of families and listening to their stories with the love of Christ.



Shirley Couberly and **Linda**



## Found a New Habit

*Cindy Joe*  
Photo by *Mildred Hall*

After a hijacked lunch with the Synod of the Pacific women, I was late to the rendezvous for Mission Tour B. There was only one other woman standing with the leader guide by the free bus stand. The leader guide waved us off to catch the light rail at 5th & Nicollette. Being a senior I paid 75 cents for a ticket to St. Paul, while the young African lady bought a regular ticket for \$2.25. She was at her first Triennium PW Gathering and obviously did not know old ladies wore tennis shoes, since she was dressed fashionably for Prada and wearing heels (ouch). She was from the East Coast and took time off to attend the Gathering. We got off at the St. Paul stop and a lady in an orange T-shirt met us to walk us to the Habit for Humanity office.

We entered a meeting room filled with over 60 people who were also over 60. They grabbed all the back seats and only the front row was left for us arriving in colored people's time. As soon as the two of us sat down, the presentation by Habit of Humanity staff began. At St. Paul, Minnesota they started a new program to have a week of "Women Build". After the foundation is professionally laid, all construction and supervision would be done only by women. The other weeks were any volunteers as usual. When the staff took half our group to the other room to hear about another program, I stayed with the coffee, soda and cookies room for the other program presentation.

I didn't see my African American lady again until Saturday night when she was installed as the new national Secretary to the PW Churchwide Coordinating Team (New Blood for the national governing body).



Mary, Doreen, Pat, **Cindy**, Kimberly, Linda, Mildred

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Website: [www.pccsf.org](http://www.pccsf.org)

Irene Ng, Editor  
David Miller, PDF Assembler, Web Site Posting  
Annie and Peter Wong, Collators  
Email: [ireneyoungng@sonic.net](mailto:ireneyoungng@sonic.net)

Happy Summer!

We want to say Congratulations to our 2015 graduates!

Ian Chan, Samantha Hum, Rene Fong and Dean Shin will start their first year of high school in the Fall.



Robert Hee, Jared Lue and Deanna Ly are heading to college in the Fall.

Irene Ng's granddaughter, Jenny, graduated from New College of Florida in Sarasota. With her son, Steve and family, they had fun sifting for shark's teeth at beautiful, warm Caspersen Beach in the Gulf of Mexico.

Kati Chan, daughter of Greg and Jeanine Lim Chan is doing her Physical Therapy internship in Palo Alto VA's and she told me she loves it.



We have some families who have gone on an Alaskan cruise the past three months. Keith Jew and Pam Jang along with Keith's sister and brother in law. Al and Shar Hall went with some of Shar's extended family. Diane, Stuart, Jeff and Tim Go went on their first cruise.

I will be returning from my cruise to the Grand Mediterranean when you will be reading this article. Ask me about my trip when I get back.

Ruth Wu, her daughter Wendy and granddaughter Isabel went to Chicago to visit Ruth's son David. They all had a great time sightseeing. Richard Jann went on a road trip with one of his daughters and family to the south. Ask him about his trip to Mississippi. Our Laurene Chan will be a guest speaker/preacher at this year's Big Tent which will be held July 30 to August 1 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Stay tuned for Laurene's article in our next issue.

Chelsea Wong and her soon to be husband Andrew will be leaving the United States after their wedding in late August to Edinburgh, Scotland. Andrew will continue his Seminary studies for a few years.



Upcoming Events



- August 2      End of Summer Service Sunday**
- August 9      Sabbath Sunday**
- August 16     Affordable Housing Sunday**
- August 23     Reflection on Westminster Woods**
- October 11    Domestic Violence Awareness, New SafeHouse Director Speaking**
- October 4     Worldwide Communion, Trilingual Worship**