



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

THE LINKLETTER

PRESBYTERY GIDDINGS-LOVEJOY

November 2025, Winter Issue

“Pass It On...The Fire of Our Foremothers” PWGL 2025 Fall Gathering

Ann Schmid, Co-editor of The Linkletter

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, 60 women, from churches all over the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, gathered at St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Ballwin, Missouri. The women of St. Mark Presbyterian Church were excited to host this gathering which provided joyful music, spiritual reflection and fellowship! The theme of this PWGL 2025 Gathering, “Pass It On...The Fire of Our Foremothers”, utilized the concept of genealogy to stimulate remembrance of women from ones past that gave spiritual strength and guidance. The Gathering began with a spirited presentation including songs by a trio from St. Mark, leading the attendees in the singing of “Pass It On”. Reverend Dr. Dave Burgess, St. Mark PC, warmly welcomed everyone to the Gathering. A representative from the Synod of Mid America enlightened everyone on the structure of Presbytery Women from the National Level to the Local Churches!

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Women trio from St Mark's leading "Pass It On"



Women lighting candle



Fellowship

2025 Fall Gathering

Mary Beth Powell, from St. Mark, talked about “What is Past is Prologue...PW’s Birthday Offering!” She included her experiences participating in a youth mission trip to Ferncliff Disaster Response Center in Paron, Arkansas, hoping to inspire others to support this valuable mission! Reverend Melanie Smith from Trinity Presbyterian Church in University City, shared an inspirational address that focused on the Biblical Genealogy of Jesus and women mentioned in the Bible. Candles were lit in remembrance of women influencers in everyone’s lives. Reverend Janet Riley presented a Lifetime Award and pin to Vicky Michaels, previous member of the PWGL Coordinating Team who offered her guidance and expertise in all she did for PW. The women of St. Mark presented a corresponding award to Mary Beth Powell thanking for her years of dedicated service to Presbyterian Women.

Carol Gruber shared a thank you from the PWGL Coordinating Team for Deanna Vincent’s excellent work as Treasurer! Communion was offered by the Reverend Melanie Smith. Of course, thank you to the Pendo Presbyterian Women Singers for their joyful and inspiring music during lunch! A free-will offering was collected with \$296.25 going to the PWGL Scholarship Fund and \$888.75 to the mission, Ferncliff PDA Distribution Center. Special thanks to the women of the St. Mark Presbyterian Church for hosting such a delicious lunch, uplifting music and hospitality. Stay-tuned for future plans for the PWGL 2026 Spring Gathering. We would like to see everyone join us!



Reverend Melanie Smith

Honorary Life Membership for Reverend Vicky Michaels

Reverend Janet Riley

With her master's degree in nursing and close to twenty years of teaching nursing at Jefferson College, Vicky started feeling the nudge of doing something more with her life. The idea of serving in international mission tugged at her heart. When she shared that idea with the interim pastor at her church, he told her he felt that she had a call to the ministry. After an initial period of resistance, Vicky decided to get her feet wet and take one class at Eden Theological Seminary. Something took root, and Vicky continued to take classes even while she was still teaching. Within five years, Vicky had earned her M.Div. from Eden Theological Seminary.

After finishing seminary, Vicky did a year long Clinical Pastoral Education Residency as a chaplain at Lutheran Senior Services focusing on geriatrics. This experience led her to



Reverend Vicky Michaels

serve 5 years as chaplain at Sara Community Catholic Senior Living facility during the most difficult years of lockdown during COVID. Soon, churches looking for a minister began knocking at Vicky's door. In discernment, she realized it was time for a change. Coming full circle, Vicky accepted a call to serve as pastor in her home church, Grace Presbyterian in Crystal City. Her ministry has brought healing, new life, and energy to this congregation. Today, the Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women wishes to present Reverend Vicky Michaels with an Honorary Life Membership in gratitude for 5 years of service

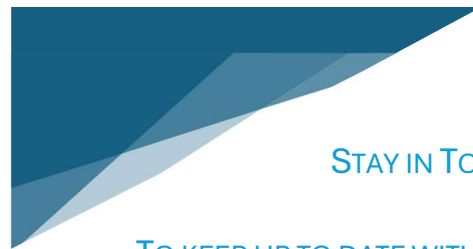
Honorary Life Membership...

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and her dedication to the work and purpose of P.W. Vicky is an embodiment of grace under pressure. During her tenure on the Coordinating Team, Vicky experienced the loss of her husband and then both her parents who lived in Denver. During this time of tremendous loss, Vicky continued to participate in PW and share her life with us. She offered the story of her journey of grief and healing through loss at one of our presbytery PW gatherings. Her vulnerability and willingness to share her pain has been a gift that has brought us all closer together. Vicky's commitment to justice and creative leadership is evident throughout her ministry. She has worked tirelessly on the Guns to Gardens Project. Leading her congregation through the process of becoming a certified Earth Care Congregation, Vicky inspired other congregations to join suite

as one of the presenters at another PW gathering.

On a personal level, Vicky has the gift of hospitality- inviting others into a space where they are both seen and heard. Vicky has generously opened her home as a place to live to those experiencing the financial demands of attending seminary. Her deep commitment and faith are a witness to the power of resurrection and the work of the Holy Spirit who sustains us.



STAY IN TOUCH WITH PW!

TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN GIDDINGS-LOVEJOY, PLEASE
FOLLOW THESE STEPS ON-LINE:

1. SEARCH FOR GLPBY.ORG
2. CLICK ON "PRESBYTERY MINISTRIES"
3. IN THE DROP-DOWN WINDOW, CLICK ON "PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN"
4. SCROLL DOWN TO CLICK ON THE TAB FOR THE "CURRENT LINKLETTER", THE 2025-2026 YEARBOOK AND VIEW THE PWGL COORDINATING TEAM!

IT IS ALWAYS GOOD TO STAY
CONNECTED!

Mary Beth Powell receives Lifetime Membership in PW

Mary Beth has served Presbyterian Women for over 20 years with creative ideas, enthusiasm and joy. As a retired schoolteacher, she has put all her skills to work on PW and St. Mark events. As St. Mark's PW Program Director, she annually comes up with programs for a January tea, a winter retreat, an all ladies brunch each September, and then a "Fall outing". These programs keep our members active and involved, as well as entertained! She includes terrific affirmations for events—often using stuffed animals which are then sold to benefit missions. Examples of her affirmations include: "Hang Out with PW, sometimes you just need to look at life from a new perspective." She made magnets of a sloth hanging upside down and had little sloths for purchase. Another example was "She who is wise, listens". (Proverbs 12:15) This magnet included a picture of an owl. This year's theme

as "Silly goose on the Loose with PW" and the magnet said "Today I'm a Serious Goose" with the scripture verse from Hebrews 3:13 "Encourage one another daily". Of course there were stuffed goose animals for sale. Mary Beth's enthusiasm for projects makes the work easy and fun— whether it is cutting out a Bible scene to be



Mary Beth Powell

projected as part of a "Journey to the Cross" exhibit, designing table decorations, or dancing to a theme song for our brunch event. We have prepared telephone booths, worn silly costumes and allowed silliness to bring joy to events created by Mary Beth. She has proven that messages of faith can be couched in fun, music and decorations. We are honored to give her a lifetime membership in PW.

TREASURER'S CORNER

Deanna Vincent

The organization of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy is supported by contributions from Presbyterian Women in each congregation. These contributions may be designated for the ministry of PW churchwide:

1. The MISSION PLEDGE which supports national programs for justice, peace, and leadership development, global exchanges, the Horizons magazine and Bible study, the Churchwide Gathering, and national staff and offices.
2. The BIRTHDAY OFFERING which is received in the spring and supports projects addressing needs such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, economic justice, elder care, employment training, and literacy. Up to five projects are chosen annually and gifted \$75,000- \$150,000. This offering was begun in 1922 with the appeal to “give a penny for every year you have lived, and if that is a secret, bring a dollar!”
3. The THANK OFFERING which is received in the fall and awards grants (\$5000-\$50,000) to help hospitals, schools, health programs, domestic violence shelters, child and youth development programs, hunger programs, and homeless shelters. At least, 40% of the offering is used for health ministries. This offering began in 1888 and women were urged to give one dollar over and above their usual contribution as a “thank offering to the Lord”.
4. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS and MEMORIALS which honor individuals in the churches.
5. The LEAST COIN offering which is a global, ecumenical ministry that supports programs for women and children through the World Council of Churches.

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The ministry of PW in the Synod of Mid-America:

This regional organization includes 6 Presbyteries, and each one is assessed a contingent fee of \$.15 times $\frac{1}{2}$ the membership number of that Presbytery. The annual fee for PWGL for 2025 is \$706.00 computation: $\$.15 \times \frac{1}{2} (9411) = \705.83 .

Churches are encouraged to pay their share of this fee: \$.15 times $\frac{1}{2}$ their membership.

The ministry of PW in the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy:

These funds are used to cover expenses for the coordinating team and the Spring and Fall Gatherings. Monies are also used to provide scholarships for PW events such as the Churchwide Gathering. In 2024, \$4900.00 was given in scholarships to assist 21 ladies to attend the Churchwide Gathering held in St Louis in person and 2 churches to host online participation. (25% of the offering at PW Presbytery Gatherings is set aside for scholarships and 75% donated to a ministry chosen by the host church.)



Carol Gruber and Deanna Vincent

SEND ALL CONTRIBUTIONS

- USING THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION REMITTANCE FORM
- CHECKS PAYABLE TO PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE PRESBYTERY OF GIDDINGS-LOVEJOY (PWGL)
- MAIL TO: DEANNA VINCENT (TREASURER) 1101 WEST 5TH STREET WASHINGTON, MO 63090

The Linkletter Editors:

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Presbyterian Women in the Congregation Remittance Form

(Use this form for your next remittance.)

Please check if

- ☐ New treasurer
- ☐ New address

Mail to

Deanna Vincent
Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy
PW Treasurer
1101 West 5th Street
Washington MO 63090

Make checks payable to **Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy (PWGL)**

Enclosed is check # _____ Total amount \$ _____

Congregation: _____ Date: _____

Treasurer's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____ Email: _____

Please fill in the amount of where you want the money to go.

Presbyterian Women	Mission Pledge \$ _____	Honorary Life Membership(s) \$ _____
Churchwide	Thank Offering \$ _____	Memorial/Recognition \$ _____
	Birthday Offering \$ _____	Least Coin \$ _____
Together in Service _____, \$ _____	Other _____, \$ _____	

Presbyterian Women

Local/Regional

Presbyterian Woman of Giddings-Lovejoy Operating Expenses \$ _____
Synod Assessment (15 cents for each Presbyterian Woman in our Presbytery) \$ _____

Quarterly remittances and summaries should be mailed in time to reach the PW in the Presbytery treasurer not later than March 1____, June 1____, September 1____ and December 1____. They may be mailed earlier, if possible.

Send to: Deanna Vincent 1101 West 5th Street Washington MO 63090 Phone: 636-667-0342

