



Cecilia Casal, Moderator

Perfect Friendship



Every time I read the Book of Ruth, it comes to mind the faithful loyalty of a stranger who devoted love, respect and obedience to an old woman, Naomi, who didn't have any direct relation to her. The book also makes a contrast between the attitude of Ruth and the other daughters-in-law of Naomi, who were released by Naomi and left the old woman, but Ruth in spite of the offer stayed loyally with her mother-in-law.

Let us take a look at the story and let's start with the names of these two women. Their names say it all. Ruth, believed to be a short version of "retut," which means "lovely friend", was the widowed daughter-in-law. Naomi, also a widow, was exiled from Moab because of famine and had returned to Bethlehem after the death of her sons. She told old friends, "Call me Mara, for the Lord has made it very bitter for me." What Naomi missed is the sweetness of a special gift: Ruth. Naomi had released her grieving daughters-in-law to return to their people, but Ruth declared, "Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Fortunately for Ruth, Boaz, a close friend of the family of Naomi's husband, noticed her charms and blessed her. That got Naomi's attention, which goes to show you: a lovely friend can turn the heart of a bitter woman. Naomi hatched a successful plan to bring her kinsman, Boaz, and Ruth together. The couple later had a son, Obed, the grandfather of David. Ruth disappeared from the story, only to be remembered later as one of four women named in Matthew's lineage of Jesus.

Ruth's lesson to us? Steadfast love and loyalty may just lead you into a glorious destiny. Today when it is so difficult to find loyalty, the examples of Ruth remind us that our Christian faith demands a lot of loyalties: Loyalty to our God; Loyalty with our Christian brothers and sisters; Loyalty to our family; Loyalty to our Church. Perfect friendship is founded on loyalty. Let's be friends of each other; let's be friends of God!

Coordinating Team

Moderator 2010-2012

Cecilia Casal

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Moderator in Nomination-2012, *Bea Torres*

Secretary-2012, *Karen Bartholomeo*

Treasurer-2013, *Mona Rood*

Historian-2013, *Helen Glass*

Horizons Representative-2012, *Cindy Dunagan*

Mission Opportunity-2013, *Karen Boozer*

Mark your Calendar

Fall Gathering 2011

First Presbyterian Church, Midland

November 11-12, 2011

Churchwide Gathering, 2012

Gaylor Palms Resort, Orlando FL

July 18-22, 2012

Synod Spring Gathering, 2013

First Presbyterian Church in Houston

Cluster Coordinators

Desert Rose-2013, *Mary Grube-Beard*

Crossroads - 2012, *Sue Stroman*

Concho Valley-2011, *Molly Owen*

Creation-2012, *JoAnn Laird*

Mountain-2012, *Linda Allen*

Search Team

Concho Valley-2012, *Roberta James, Coord.*

Crossroads-2011, *JoDell Myrick*

Desert Rose-2011, *Jane Sturgis*

Mountain-2012, *Louadah Waggoner*

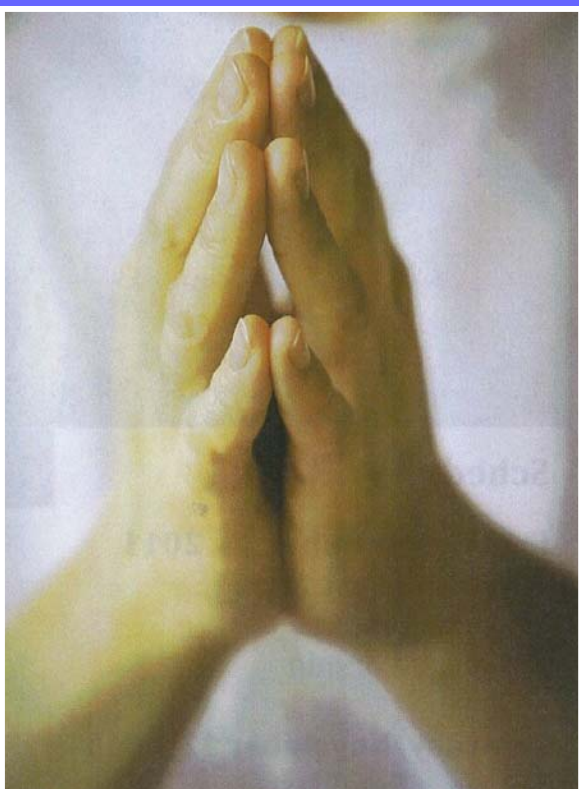
Creation-2012, *JoAnn Laird*

Presbyterian Women - Fall Retreat, 2011



Tres Rios and Palo Duro Presbyteries
November 11-12, 2011

"Growing Towards God Through Prayer"



Registration Form

Please complete the registration form and mail it to Sue Stroman. P.O. Box 4, Sterling City, TX 76951
Phone (325) 277-3515

theoldladyonthehill@yahoo.com

The deadline for registration is Oct. 30, 2011. The cost is \$50.00. Make checks payable to *Presbyterian Women of Tres Rios* with the notation "Women's Retreat 2011".

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Church: _____

Hilton Hotel - \$112.00 (plus tax) 2 beds
117 West Wall Street, Midland 79701. Phones:
800-722-6131 / 432-683-0424

Each person is responsible for making her own reservation. These should be made by Oct 21, 2011.

Main Speakers



At the session morning, **Carol Toombs** will help us to use the method of Dr. Corrine Ware for spiritual growth. She will teach us different ways to pray to enhance our knowledge and love for God. During the afternoon session, **Amy Allen Park** will take the group through spiritual centers in which participants will be able to experience the prayer method they normally use and also new ways to experience's God presence.



Thoughts about Fall Retreat, 2011



It is my belief that our endeavor with Palo Duro shows that PWs are thinking outside the box. When we confronted with a new challenge, we step up to the plate. I realize that it is time for a new vision for PW. We need to start reaching for the same goals but on a different avenue. And by partnering up with Palo Duro, we are trying to do this.

Baby steps. We are not going to reinvent the wheel over-night, but at least we are taking the first step in the right direction. Doors opening, bridges being crossed, a new idea of what it is to be a PW, revitalization, a new vision.

We have to start somewhere and this is the first step. I do believe that PW can be as great or more than it's ever been. We need to take the message to the ladies in our churches and keep asking and keep talking about what we do. Invite and get them involved. I know I don't always do all these things but I think our challenge to get 60 women to this event in Midland will give us the motivation to do this. I believe it is an excellent idea to create more interest among those who have lost interest. We can encourage one another.

I expect a well-organized, smooth-running function with less time spent in reports and business matters which



can be handled by the PWCT.

I would like to see a lot of women from Palo Duro Presbytery and women from Tres Rios who don't usually attend come together in fellowship and joint purposes of service.

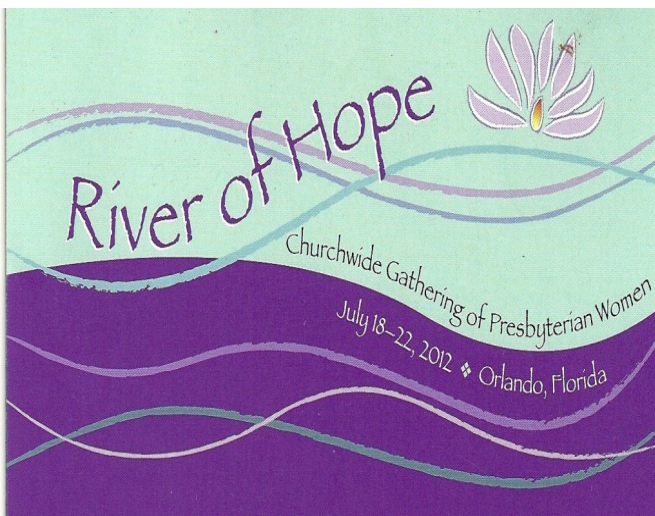
I would like to experience an interesting program that inspires women to come together in Christian fellowship and become better acquainted with one another and God's purpose for us.

Being more inclusive will attract more younger women if that is their need in life and if the gathering's program offers things of interest to them. It must fill their needs. If a presbytery's women don't show an interest, the younger women will not feel the attraction felt by some of us. Make our retreats more sustainable, instead of having to cancel because we don't have enough women.

Renew everyone's enthusiasm for the retreat. I want the ladies to have fun, feel nurtured and soul-fed and get to the women from our own presbytery and Palo Duro. I hope so I know they are not always interested in the Bible study. I also think they are interested in personal growth, stress-relief, crafts, and activities that nurture them.



2012 Churchwide Gathering of PW



When you gather to celebrate "River of Hope"; there will be opportunities for you to enrich your soul through plenary and workshops. You can nurture and affirm your faith in prayer and uplifting song during worship services. You can "live the PW purpose" through mission projects, advocacy work and Bible study. You can recharge and rejuvenate as you connect with other women of faith, including global partners.

Scholarships: Early decisions: applications postmarked by October 1, 2011; applicants notified by November 30, 2011. Late decisions: applications postmarked by March 30, 2012; applicants notified by April 30, 2012. No application will be considered after March 30, 2012. If you are interest, please ask to your Cluster Coordinator for the booked of this event and the scholarship form. Also you can apply to Synod of the Sun for scholarship .

“Confessing the Beatitudes”

Beatriz Torres, CLP of Nazareth Presbyterian Church



The Beatitudes are some of the most beloved teachings of Jesus, yet they may be some of the most pointed. We may miss their point, however, if we do not study them within their literary, historical, and cultural contexts. In this study,

Margaret Aymer invites us to consider the Beatitudes as they might have been heard when Jesus spoke them during the time of the Roman Empire. While great in many respects, Rome was a cruel and brutal regime that did not stop short of executing anyone who challenged its authority. As you study the Beatitudes, it will be important to remember the context.

Confessing the Beatitudes is aptly named, as we are invited at the end of each lesson to enter into a process of confession. The ancient practice of confession marks Christians as people who recognize the truth, learn about the truth and speak the truth both about God and about ourselves. Through reading the Accra Confession of 2004, and creating our own

confessions, we live out our trust in the grace of God through Jesus Christ. Confessing in this heartfelt manner is a concrete way for us to make the Beatitudes part of our journey of discipleship as we move from confession to action.

About the author. Margret Aymer is associate professor of New Testament and chair of biblical studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. She is an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), serving within the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Author of *First Pure, Then Peaceable: Fredrick Douglass, Darkness and the Epistle of James* (NY, T&T, 2007), as well as various academic and liturgical articles, and other resources.

Resources. Confessing the Beatitudes companion DVD Margret Aymer teaches each lesson of the study and includes questions for the group to consider. Also includes lesson summaries, main point outline for each lesson and role playing skits; \$20.00 and promoting poster; free

Workshops for leaders - An introduction to this study by Heeja; free, also available as a free download at <http://www.horizons.pcusa.org/bible.htm>. Check the Horizons Bible study web pages for more support material as they become available, including a video introduction by the author.



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