

January 13, 2012

Dear Friends,

Greetings to all of you ladies in First Presbyterial! We hope your year is off to a wonderful start! Be encouraged, because we have extra time in this year of transition! Our current "year" does not end in August--it will extend until December 31, 2012! Thereafter, our year will go from January-December. We have extra months to complete our Bible studies and whatever else God directs! Perhaps we can leave some of this time "unfilled", and just enjoy fellowship together with our Heavenly Father! Imagine how happy that would make Him!

Much of our correspondence is now by e-mail. It would be wonderful, if you have not already done so, to share your e-mail contact information with Susan Jenkins, who is in charge of local church contacts. Her e-mail is: susanojenkins@bellsouth.net. Please visit our website: firstarpwm.info and/ arp.org. On the first website you will find our current officers and our e-mails and contact information. Laura Navarro has done a wonderful job of providing all kinds of information for us on this site.

Our first upcoming event is February 18, 2012 in Gastonia- ***You are a Woman, You are a Christian, You are Invited***. Please mark your calendars! Information is in our current ARP magazine and will be on the website. Much is being planned for Synod, the annual meeting, and the Family Bible Conference. Synodical president, Elaine Reed, writes: "Speaking of the Family Bible Conference the committee has asked us to supply them with a list of local church contacts. It is their desire to email the local churches (particularly a WM contact) a FBC brochure. Please email Eve ehuffman@firstprescolumbia.org any contact list you may have." I have already sent a list, so if you do not hear soon, please contact Eve.

In addition to this information, please mark your calendars now for two (2) VERY IMPORTANT dates for the fall. First Presbyterial's annual meeting will be **October 20, 2012** in Huntersville; our third First Presbyterial retreat will be **November 2, 2012** at Bonclarken. We know that these dates are just weeks apart. Bonclarken reserved this date for us before we voted to change our calendar year. We are currently working to space the meetings further apart; but for this year it seemed unfeasible to make a change.

If you are receiving this, and your church has not been hearing from us, PLEASE let me know. As we are in a transition year with dates, we are also in a time of transition as most people now prefer e-mail correspondence--but not everyone has a computer! Please bear with us and let us know if we are missing you.

Some of you may be beginning your study of David this month. Books are still available. Others of you may not be doing the suggested study. That is fine, but we pray that Bible study is a central focus of your women. Remember our Bible verse for the year, I Sam. 16:7b: "For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Our vision statement says women's ministry exists to encourage and equip our women so they can minister together for God's glory and purpose. That means we need to spend time together, and invest our lives in one another, pray for each other, and become family. If your ladies do not have a prayer group, ask God to begin one. He can do what we cannot.

Our board members are available to come and visit churches. Please contact any of us if we can support you in any way. We want to have area meet and greet opportunities this year. If your church is willing to be a host, our board will do the rest. Please think of inviting churches near you to share in some of your events. That is a wonderful way to get to know ladies in neighboring churches.

One last note of business: First Presbyterial is in charge of the historical display at Bonclarken this July (2012). It would be a great time to work on your church's history. If you do not have a historian, do you have someone who could log events from bulletins and newsletters? Anyone who loves to take pictures could be asked to snap the shots and keep them in a little notebook. Doesn't this make keeping a history sound a lot easier? Let's help Cathy Houck as she is in charge of gathering material for this display. Thank you!

We look forward to getting to know you this year!

In Christ,
Lynn Robinson
First Presbyterial President
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