

CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER FOR
PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



FALL 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

Greetings and Peace in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Life is not meant to be lived consistently moving without pausing for times of refreshing and relaxation. Therefore, it is very important to take a break when you can. Even, Jesus took time to rest and spend time with His father.

For most of us, the summer months never seem to last quite as long as we would like. Now, here we are September 9, 2023, at the Presbytery Women in the Presbytery of Charlotte's 35th Annual Fall Spiritual Gathering and Leadership Connection Workshops. The overview of our 2023-2024 Horizons Bible Study: "Sacred Encounters, The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts" written by Olive Mahabir will be led by Mary Kate Sykes, Pastoral Resident for Education at Covenant Presbyterian Church (USA).

We welcome you to come and start experiencing your Sacred Encounters with Jesus Christ as you read and meditate on Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts.

Let us continue to live out the PW Purpose:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- to nurture our faith through prayer and bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Your Sister in Christ,

Edna Wigfall Cruté, Moderator

Presbytery Women Presbytery of Charlotte NC



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
PRESBYTERY OF CHARLOTTE**

ANNUAL  **GATHERING**

September 9, 2023

8:30AM Registration & Fellowship

9:00-9:55AM LEADERSHIP CONNECTION Workshops

10:00AM 2023-2024 Horizons Bible Study

"Sacred Encounters

The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts"

Written by Olive Mahabir

**Bible Study Leader: Mary Kate Sykes
Pastoral Resident for Education
Covenant Presbyterian Church (USA) Charlotte**

Join us at

**MT. OLIVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
5125 MT. OLIVE CHURCH ROAD, CHARLOTTE, NC 28278**

We Welcome Your Presence

Presbyterian Women
Presbytery of Charlotte
Saturday, September 9, 2023

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION

Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church (USA)
5125 Mt. Olive Church Rd. Charlotte, NC 28278

8:30am Registration and Fellowship

9:00am-9:55am LEADERSHIP CONNECTION WORKSHOPS

Moderators and Vice-Moderators
Secretaries and Historians
Treasurers and Special Givings
Mission/Issues and Racial Equity
Cluster Leaders and Search
Spiritual Enhancement and Bible Study Leaders

10:00am **ANNUAL FALL SPIRITUAL GATHERING**
Including 6 Small Group Sessions

Fellowship of 7 Counties

Anson, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Richmond, Stanly, Union

Directions to Mt. Olive—I-77S/US-21 S ramp to Rock Hill;

Take exit 1B for I-485/James G Martin Freeway toward Pineville/Huntersville;

Keep right at fork, follow signs for Goode Frwy/I-485Inner N/Huntersville;

Take exit 6 for West Blvd, turn right on West Blvd.; Turn left onto Wallace Neel Rd.;

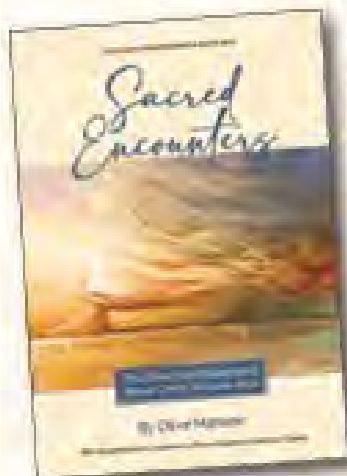
Turn left onto Dixie River Rd., Turn right onto Mt. Olive Church Rd.

Sacred Encounters

The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

by Olive Mahabir

With Suggestions for Leaders by Wilma Angélica Quiñonez Cubero



Within the pages of this study, Olive Mahabir invites you to consider Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people.

The Gospel According to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, or Luke-Acts "one story in two parts," demonstrate the unfolding of God's redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope-filled.

Further, this message invites the church to deeper, compassionate engagement with the world. "What are the potential implications for the church if we treat our interactions as sacred encounters that demonstrate the transformative love of Christ Jesus?" (from the introduction)

About the Authors



Olive Mahabir is a fourth-generation Presbyterian and the first in her family to be an ordained minister. She was born on the island of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean. In ministry for more than 20 years she has pastored churches in Michigan, Atlanta, and Jonesboro, Georgia. She's a graduate of St. Andrew's Theological College in

Trinidad, the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, and Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.



Wilma Angélica Quiñonez Cubero is ordained as minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). She is from Puerto Rico and has served Iglesia Presbiteriana en Country Club since 2009. A specialist in ministry with people who are functionally diverse, Wilma is also an associate professor at the Seminario Evangélico de Puerto

Rico. She served the larger church as a member of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People.



Additional helps in *Horizons* magazine begin with the Summer 2023 issue. Subscribe to *Horizons* magazine and receive in each upcoming issue* the Anna H. Bedford Bible Study Resource. Written by a prominent theologian, the Bible Study Resources provide even deeper engagement with the study.

*Issue	Lessons
Summer 2023	1 and 2
September/October 2023	3 and 4
November/December 2023	5 and 6
January/February 2024	7 and 8
March/April 2024	9

To subscribe, renew, or give a gift subscription, call toll free 866/802-3635 or visit presbyterianwomen.org/horizons. Each print subscriber will receive a copy of the annual PW/*Horizons* Bible study with subscription (subscribe by April 1, 2023 to receive *Sacred Encounters*).

Horizons Magazine

Horizons is the magazine (and Bible study) by and for Presbyterian Women. It's the resource for helping you explore where faith and life connect. Focusing on issues of faith—from the interplay between literature and theology to violence against women—*Horizons* gives you insights from women around the world and inspiration to live boldly. Within the pages of *Horizons*, you will find a wealth of information you need to live in faith as a Presbyterian Woman. Inside you will find mission stories, ideas for justice and peace work, information about Presbyterian Women and our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), devotions, Bible study resources (to support the annual PW/*Horizons* Bible study) and a short Bible study on the issue's theme! *Horizons* is just for you because *Horizons* is about you and your sisters in faith, amazing Presbyterian Women!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Since 2021, the print subscription to *Horizons* has included five issues of the award-winning magazine and the annual Bible study.

Presbyterian Women uses so many channels of communication—*Horizons* magazine, a newsletter, a vibrant social media presence, eblasts and this feature-rich website (that includes a shop, free downloads, a blog, and more). Those outlets mean you're always in the know about what's new with Presbyterian Women, and *Horizons* can focus on deeper theme-based explorations of how we live out our faith.

In addition to the PW/*Horizons* Bible study mailing in March, *Horizons* magazines will be published:

- January/February—includes the Birthday Offering, the *Horizons* index for the previous year
- March/April—watch for Honorary Life Membership honorees and the Installation Service for PW leaders
- Summer—features the Thank Offering, as well as the start of Bible study resources for the current year's PW/*Horizons* Bible study
- September/October— includes an Annual Fund (Mission Pledge) highlight
- November/December—highlights the Fellowship of the Least Coin prayer movement and grants, as well as the Celebrate the Gifts of Women liturgy

www.presbyterianwomen.org

Do everything in love



1 Corinthians 16:14



2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women
August 8–11, 2024 • St. Louis, Missouri



MASSANETTA SPRINGS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As shared with you at both our Annual PW Spring Gathering and the Synod Summer Gathering we have just held, Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center has begun its *Building a Place for All Capital Campaign*. Funding a new lodging building to replace most of Richardson Hall is a major part of the campaign. Updated lodging at Massanetta has been a dream of PW sisters for some time.

A new, nearly 50-room hotel style building will more than double the number of rooms on campus. The building will also include several extended stay suites with kitchens. A generous courtyard is planned between two towers, providing informal gathering space. As you can imagine, this is a major undertaking. Yet, it is an important upgrade that will certainly make Massanetta more welcoming. PW has a rich heritage of supporting Massanetta through the years. At the same time, Massanetta has promoted and celebrated PW through the years.

At the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic PW Coordinating Team (CT) meeting at Massanetta in October of 2022, members of the CT came together and individually pledged funding for the project, either a one-time pledge or a pledge to be paid over a three-year period. In addition, the CT voted to challenge PW by setting a goal for PW throughout the Synod to raise funds in the total amount of \$250,000 towards the project. Currently, PW members have pledged over \$84,000 to the campaign. The organization of Presbyterian Women has a reputation of accomplishing goals. If Presbyterian Women in each of the 13 presbyteries raise \$12,000 - \$13,000, the remaining challenge goal of \$166,000 will be easily met.

MASSANETTA SPRINGS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN \$20 A MONTH STRATEGY

HOW CAN YOU HELP PW IN YOUR PRESBYTERY REACH ITS GOAL?

IT WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU MAKE A ONE-TIME DONATION OR PLEDGE FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS IN ANY AMOUNT YOU CAN.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH JUST \$20 A MONTH!

IF JUST 19 PEOPLE CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR 3 YEARS (2023-2025), THE GOAL WILL BE REACHED.

\$20 X 12 MONTHS (1 YEAR) = \$240 \$240 X 3 YEARS = \$720 \$720 X 19 PEOPLE = \$13,680

IF 28 PEOPLE CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR 2 YEARS (2023-2024), THE GOAL WILL BE REACHED.

\$20 x 12 MONTHS (1 YEAR) = \$240 \$240 X 2 YEARS = \$480 \$480 X 28 PEOPLE = \$13,440

(UPDATE on the PW Challenge Goal: To date, PW has raised \$128,195 of the \$250,000 goal!!)



Presbyterian Women Synod of the Mid Atlantic Intent Form

In response to the goodness of God, in celebration of the ministry of Massanetta Springs and in support of this important Campaign effort to elevate the message of Good News, I/we intend to contribute (personal, business and economic conditions permitting):

\$ _____ to the Campaign.

Gift will be made in the following manner:

Herewith \$ _____

In equal installments of \$ _____ per year for _____ years.

on a monthly quarterly semi-annual annual schedule

with the first payment on (date): _____

Other timetable: _____

(Optional) This gift given:

in honor of: _____

in memory of: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____ Telephone: _____

Congregation: _____

Presbytery: _____

Signature(s) _____

Gifts may be made payable to:

**Massanetta Springs
712 Massanetta Springs Road
Harrisonburg, VA 22801**

Return form to BPA@massanettasprings.org

Building a Place for All

From our PWCT SEARCH COMMITTEE

“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” 2 Timothy 1:6-7

My Sisters, I greet you in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit!
I appeal to you to “stir up your gifts.” As Paul told Timothy to “kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you.”

As the Search Committee Moderator, I am charged with communicating the leadership needs for the Coordinating Team and contacting potential leaders. Every member of the Team is a Mentor/Coach/Encourager. We are a Team working to fulfill our commitments to Presbyterian Women and the PC (USA).

The positions on the Coordinating Team are described in the By-laws of PW in the Presbytery of Charlotte. Each Church Moderator has a PW Directory that includes the By-laws. This information can also be found on the PW page/Presbytery of Charlotte website: www.presbyofcharlotte.org or the PW website: www.presbyterianwomen.org

The following leadership positions are available:

Cluster Leaders: Deborah and Ruth

The Cluster Leader has a key role in Presbyterian Women. Clusters are formed in presbyteries to manage the size and workload of the area. The PW Moderator is the contact at the local church and the Cluster Leader is the “bridge” that conveys information between the Coordinating Team and individual Church Moderators.

Anyone who is interested in serving on the Coordinating Team can self-nominate. Feel free to contact me:

Corita Younge Floyd, Search Committee Coordinator PWP/CT
cmyf675@yahoo.com 704.527.0544

News from HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Women of Hopewell Presbyterian Church have been busy the past year!

Starting in October of 2022, they welcomed their new Pastor from South Africa, Alistair Anquetil along with his beautiful family. The congregation created a drive by experience upon their arrival to showcase the excitement and joy of their arrival. Members and children of the church made signs and lined up in the parking lot to shout and wave signs of welcome!

In January, Hopewell came together for the Installation of Pastor Alistair. Over 70 women and 12 men assisted with cooking, set-up, and clean up just to name a few.

In April, the women of Hopewell traveled to Montreat for the 5th Annual Women's Retreat. They enjoyed fellowship, study, and relaxation in a beautiful mountain setting. Their very own, Sarah Scoggin, Director of Family Ministries was the study leader for the weekend.

Throughout the year, the women of Hopewell continue to support Angels and Sparrows, a local community table and resource center through physical and monetary donations. Angels and Sparrows helps families and individuals who need assistance with food, health, education, housing, finances, and more.

Looking forward to September, Hopewell will host their 13th Annual Moderators' Tea - "Tea with Pearls and Lace" on Sunday, September 24th at 3:00PM in the Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Family Life Center.

Thank you,
Amy Mork

News from GRIER HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Presbyterian Women of Grier Heights Presbyterian Church, 325 Skyland Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28205, will celebrate the gifts of women during the morning worship on Sunday, October 29, 2023, 10:30AM. Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill, Associate General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Charlotte, will be the guest preacher for Women's Day as the PW and congregants receive inspiration from the *Horizons* bible study theme of *Sharing the Good News Through Sacred Encounters with Jesus*. Women are asked to wear black accessorized with pink in awareness of women's breast health. A reception will follow the morning worship. Everyone is invited to share in the fellowship!

Submitted by Genora Fant, PW Moderator

*Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill (pictured above) also serves as a chaplain in the U.S. Airforce Reserve. She **was** the founding pastor of New Faith, the only African American congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Greenwood County, S. C.*

News from MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Memorial PW continued our monthly Bible Study lessons from September through May via Zoom. Beginning in February we continued our support of our Victory Vision Eyeglass Project which accepts gently used prescription eyewear and monetary contributions for people of rural Ghana.

On Friday, March 3, we observed World Day of Prayer at the church at 12pm. The women of Taiwan were represented with various prayer concerns.

We had a wonderful Women's Day program on Sunday, March 12th at 11am, Reverend Doctor Alice Ridgill was our speaker for this occasion.

In June our PW hosted a Rainbow Tea fundraiser, which was a success. Approximately 100 people attended. Our PW will continue to glorify God utilizing our PW Purpose.

Janet L. Springs, PW Moderator



News from STATESVILLE AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Statesville Avenue Presbyterian Church (USA)
3435 Nevin Rd. Charlotte, NC 28269 704.596.4550

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch, Herbert Boeckl



Sacred Encounters

Presbyterian Women in your congregation are warmly invited to join with family and friends of Presbyterian Women at SAPC in observance of our annual Women's Day worship service on

Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

**Guest speaker: Reverend Dr. Alice Ridgill
Associate General Presbyter**

The theme will center on the 2023-2024 PW Horizons Bible Study

We hope you plan to stay and enjoy a time of fellowship, as we share as partners in Christ, at a reception immediately following worship

EVERYONE IS INVITED