



THE GRAPEVINE



Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Northern New England
Spring 2023

Planting Faith Seeds in the Next Generation

This year's annual Spring Retreat will be held at the Calumet Lutheran Camp and Conference Center in Ossipee, New Hampshire. It is in a beautiful setting, with excellent buffet foods, and bathroom in each room.

The full retreat experience begins with registration from 3:00 to 5:30 on Friday, May 12. Women arriving between those hours will have a chance to check out the pre retreat activities, the silent auction items and the "Prayer Toolbox" where you can explore different prayer traditions and aids. After registration all will gather for dinner in Calumet's fellowship hall.

After dinner an ice breaker with the Rev. Heather Prince Doss will introduce the theme of the retreat, Planting Faith Seeds in the Next Generation. Heather will guide us through several activities, and provide opportunities for each woman to share her unique journey through faith that has lived for generations. After Heather's part of the program there will be free time, games and a time for relaxation or meditation. Saturday attendees will join the Friday night group for activities led by Beth Kidd, a long-time nurse and missionary, who founded Place of Promise in Dorchester, MA in 1994 and moved it to Lowell in

2000. Today, Place of Promise operates four long-term residential homes, offers programming for children from elementary through high school, and provides training and internships for churches, ministries, and the next generation of ministry



leadership. This part of our program will include a very special panel discussion of youth members from our presbytery who

will share their own faith journey and how it impacts their lives and the lives of those around them. Saturday will also include the annual business meeting where new officers will be elected. There will be breakout sessions that include "soil stations" to explore what we need for faith to grow in hard soil, rocky soil, weedy soil, and good soil. Lunch will be served, and the day will conclude with the results of the silent auction and a worship service with communion.

These are the question we will explore:

1. What is the faith that we want to pass on? What makes it worthy of being passed on?
2. How do we not conform to our culture? How do we stay in the narrow path vs wide

way?

Kingdom of darkness vs kingdom of light?

3. How do we live the Christian faith and teach it to our children and grandchildren?

4. Practical ways to encourage the next generations to stay on the narrow way and make the faith their own.

The retreat will end around 3:30 following the worship service as we depart for home.

Beth Kidd – long-time missionary will lead Saturday Retreat

Beth Kidd, a long-time nurse and missionary, founded Place of Promise and serves as Founding Director providing clinical and spiritual direction for residents, children, and staff, as well as training for the next generation of ministry leadership. Place of Promise was founded in 1994 in Dorchester, MA, after Beth had already spent years as a neighborhood nurse, caring for the sick in the streets, in their homes, as well as bringing the more severely sick and injured into her own home. Additionally, Beth and Jeff, her husband, had hosted a home church and started a children's bible program and a coffee house to serve their local neighborhood. In order to meet

growing needs, Place of Promise moved to Lowell in 2000.

Today, Place of Promise operates four long-term residential homes, offers programming for children elementary through high school, and provides training and internships for churches, ministries, and the next generation of ministry leadership.

Beth and Jeff have been married for 46 years, have 4 grown children, and 6 grandchildren. Beth has mothered and grand-mothered countless more.

This last bit of information is what drew our committee to select Beth as our main speaker this year. Besides facing head-on the challenges of offering healing through Jesus to multiply-injured people, Beth has walked with generations of people of all ages, inviting them into a life of faith, and accompanying them on the journey cross generationally.

Rev. Heather Prince Doss our Friday night workshop facilitator

Rev. Heather Prince Doss brings a great deal of experience in

planning and executing outreach programs and involving the full church in ministries with youth. She came to Eliot Presbyterian Church in Lowell in October 2015. Preaching is one of her particular strengths; she has also developed curriculum for youth confirmation class, family faith formation, new member workshops, as well as a lectionary-based adult Sunday school class. In addition to serving Eliot Church, Pastor Heather is also the owner of Progressive Pilgrimage, a company that organizes group travel to the Holy Land that deepens faith, stimulates the intellect, and builds cross-cultural relationships. What she brings to our retreat is a delight in using art as an expression of faith and she will be leading the Friday evening workshop on expressions of our faith journeys.

*The Presbyterian Women of the
Presbytery of Northern New England
(PNNE PW)
HAS A NEW WEB SITE!*

After several years of struggling to set up an online presence we finally

have one, thanks to George Huggins the webminder for the Presbytery of Northern New England.

To locate the site: first go to the home page www.pnne.org for the Presbytery of Northern New England. Across the banner at the top of the page you will find the word “Community”. Click on that and drop down to PNNE Presbyterian Women (PW). Once you click on that you will come to our PW home page. From that page you can find many things of interest: contact information for the Coordinating Team, updated news about this year's Annual Spring Retreat together with a registration form as well as the latest and past Grapevines (the PNNE PW newsletter) which goes out three times a year.

You will also find links to the Synod PW and a link to our Facebook page. I just scrolled through our Facebook page again. It is well worth doing. There are posts of activities from different churches, individual posts from PW members around the Presbytery, some from Cindy Kohlmann, the co-moderator of the General Assembly. There are many posts from past retreats including Lucy Mennona's very amusing videos.

There are plans to add a history section as well as the Heritage Project which honors women who had been especially active in PNNE PW or in their own churches. The Heritage Project was created to honor those women so that they will not be forgotten. If you know someone you think should be included in the Heritage Project, please contact Joanna Damon (Qmab222@gmail.com). Better yet, speak to her at the Retreat!!!

Be sure to visit our new web page to keep up with our activities, our history and our commitment to support the mission of the church and build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the PCUSA with our witness to the promise of God's kingdom.

SAVE THE DATE!!

**Triennial Gathering
PW in Synod of NE
July 14-15, 2023**

**Churchwide
PW Gathering
Aug 8-11, 2024**

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/build-community/churchwide-gathering/