

Installation of Convention Officers
June, 2010

Will the newly elected officers come forward please?

You have indicated your willingness to serve as leaders of the women of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church from June 2010 until June 2011. Just as Joshua selected 12 men to represent the 12 tribes of Israel and build a memorial as a testament of how God provided guidance to his people, so you too have been chosen to represent the women of our denomination. And just as each of those representatives picked up the biggest rock he could find to create this memorial, so you too will select the biggest and heaviest tasks to do in the upcoming year.

The purpose of the memorial created by Joshua was to be a visual and physical sign to God's people. Every time they saw the memorial, they would remember the blessings and care that God gave them over the years. Later, it would also serve to remind those who had made the journey to tell the story to the younger ones – an on-going reminder of the story never to be forgotten.

In serving as leaders of the Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry this year, you will also have many opportunities to share your individual stories of how God has cared for you. By sharing the stories of our lives, we add to the foundation begun 200 years ago in this place by Rev. McAdow, Rev. Ewing & Rev. King.

The men chosen by Joshua did not use their stones for their own memorials. There weren't 12 little memorials built that day. Instead, they each brought their stones together to build a large memorial to show the greatness of God's care. As CPWM leaders, you too will focus on the team effort needed for effective leadership. While each of you has specific roles and duties, those roles and duties must always be carried out in conjunction with the others on your team. The secretary and secretary-elect need to keep an accurate and unbiased account of the activities and decisions of the group so that those who come afterwards understand why things were put into place as they were. They cannot write what they want, but must reflect the decisions of the team. Likewise, the president-elect serves to support the president and fill in when necessary. She is building and adding to her foundation and knowledge about the needs and abilities of the women she will soon lead. The president will continue to provide direction for the group's activities of this coming year as well as participate in making plans for the future. Our past-president will mentor and guide the new president to ensure that past planning and visions can go forward smoothly.

As officers for 2010-2011, you will serve as a team to provide leadership to all the women in your sphere of influence. Are you willing to devote your time, energy and abilities to these women and accept the jobs to which you have been elected? If so, answer "I will."

It is my pleasure to declare that you are duly installed Convention Officers who are charged with the duty and responsibility to work together this year ahead. I challenge each of you to individually and collectively search for innovative ways to add to the story of our women's ministry as we work together to share our story of God's faithfulness and care.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father, we come before you with thanks for these women who have accepted your call to serve as leaders of our CPWM in 2010-2011. We pray for your spirit to guide them and provide them with the abilities and guidance they will need as leaders. We ask that all their plans and efforts will be pleasing to you and will serve to glorify you to everyone we know. Thank you for this opportunity to serve you. In Jesus' precious name, amen.

Mary Lyn, as the Convention Past President, will you please present the President medallion to our new President, Martha Chambers? Ladies of this 2010 Convention, I am delighted to present to you the Executive Committee and your leadership team for 2010 – 2011.