



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

2 Cent - A - Meal: Presbyterian Women and the congregation participate in the Two - Cents- a - Meal program to help alleviate hunger in our Presbytery. **One - fourth of the monies collected stays in the local community, and is administered through the Food Pantry.** The remainder is used in various hunger programs in the Presbytery. Collection dates for Two - Cents - a - Meal in our congregation are the fourth Sundays in February, June, and October.

Thank Offerings: Nationally, Presbyterian Women have been funding medical and health missions with Thank Offerings since 1888. Presbyterian Women in Coldwater have also supported these causes over their long history. Our current method of receiving Thank Offerings is by “dime” formula. In January, place one dime in a small sock or jar; in February, two dimes; in March, 3 dimes, etc., ending in December with twelve dimes. The offerings are turned in at October or November Circle meetings and submitted to the Treasurer, Jan Corey.(Unless changed by attendance)

Birthday Offering: Presbyterian Women participate in Birthday Offerings, a celebration started by Women of the Church in 1922. No more than five projects are selective by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee each year. The projects are not included in on-going General Assembly mission support and are chosen on the basis of meeting the needs of hurting people and with faith that adequate money to fund them will be received. Because of the changes in the value of the money since 1922, it is now suggested that each person give 10 cents for each year lived (or \$10.00 if she prefers not to reveal her age). January/February Horizons announces the project to be funded and the offering is received in the Spring.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The Fellowship of the Least Coin movement began in 1956 when Shanti Soloman of India and a small international group of women met to explore ways to end the deep hostilities which existed among the nations of the world. Feeling helpless to change things on an international level, the women pledged to forgive on a personal level. When hurt by another, each person, instead of harboring resentment, would kneel down to pray to God to give her strength to forgive that person. Shanti believed that by forgiving our neighbors, we spread a ripple of reconciliation that goes out in widening circles, bringing justice and peace in the world.

Inspired by the story of the widow’s mite (Mark 12: 41-44), it was decided each woman would set aside their country’s least coin (a penny in the United States) as a tangible symbol of fellowship and reconciliation. Presbyterian Women in the United States joined the movement in February 1957, and our local Presbyterian Women have participated in it for many years.

In the beginning, it was a prayer movement, not a fund raiser, but the coins multiplied, and each year, various projects throughout the world are funded from the Least Coin offerings. The administration of the funds is done through Church Women United. Christian women from more than 80 countries celebrate this ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation.