**Go!**

By Jamie Kay Berkley, President

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How fitting is it that our theme this year is “Go!” I don’t know about you, but it seems as if that is all that I do—go, go, go. And even on days that I am going as fast and as much as I can, I often feel as if someone is behind me urging me (usually not very nicely) to *Go* even more. But in the quiet moments, I hear the Lord urging me softly to *Go*—to follow his path, to hear his voice, to *be* his voice, to do his will.

Chapter 13 of Hebrews seems to offer fairly basic advice for being a better Christian—forget the material things, don’t take things for granted, share what you have, stay on good terms with others, and offer hospitality when it is needed. I read all of those verses, and I feel pretty good about what God is asking me to do.

In a little closer reading, God seems to ask more from us. Hebrews 13:13*a* urges us to *go outside where Jesus is* and where the action is. We are told not to forget the prisoners or the abused, and to treat their plights as if they were our own.

This brings to mind one of the verses that I repeat to myself on a daily basis, Matthew 25:40, “*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*” Who are the most marginalized in society other than the hungry, thirsty, homeless, naked, sick, and imprisoned? As Mother Teresa said of the poor, “Each one of them is Jesus in disguise.”

As Christians and Cumberland Presbyterian Women, we are supposed to be *out there*—outside our comfort zones—praising and serving God in *acts of worship,* in the kitchen and in the workplace and in the streets.

I am inspired and amazed that so many in our denomination are continually serving God with acts of worship—burrito ministries, homeless ministries, food pantries, ministries for broken families, for children, for the poor and the needy, and for those who are emotionally and spiritually hungry. If you are leery of stepping outside your comfort zone, I can promise that there is another Cumberland Presbyterian who will take your hand and go with you.

Perhaps you will hear a harsh voice while you are serving—instead of God’s quiet voice urging you on. When you hear that voice, I ask that you think of Mother Teresa words,

People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

So **GO!** and serve the Lord through your acts of worship while singing his praises. Walk with the “least of these”, not with your head held high, but with your head bowed in humility for all the gifts and opportunities that God has bestowed on you to share.

