

The Lighthouse

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN of the SYNOD of the NORTHEAST

August 2009

Moderator's Message....

Were you there? Did you experience it? Did your heart sing?? I am writing this the week we came back from the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, KY. It was truly AWESOME in the real sense of the word. I have said time and again, if we could only bottle the feeling you get at that event, all of our PW groups as well as our churches would be filled to overflowing. Rita Hooper sent daily email messages with a recap of each day's activities. If you were not on her email list, contact her or let me know and I will be happy to share those emails with you. These writings are terrific even if you were there – brings back wonderful memories. To our own Lois Carter, the chair of the event, job very well done!

Now it is time to get back into the real world and down to the business of the church and Presbyterian Women, as well as the rest of life! At your Fall Gatherings, tell your women that did not attend how wonderful it was in Louisville, share your experiences with them, make them feel just a little of the wonder we felt. It is also not too early to start talking about next year's Presbytery Partnership Group (PPG) Gatherings. Every group now has a plan and they all sound exciting. While we will all share a common theme "Gather at the River", each group will interpret it as they see fit. The five gatherings are taking place from early spring to late fall. I am planning to attend all of them; I think it will be exciting to see how each one comes to life. I am sure we will see God's hand in the plans. Be sure to spread the word. If your women don't know about the PPG Gathering or understand what it is, they can't come and that would be a great loss to both them and to your gathering. Let's make sure each and every presbytery is well represented!

If I can help you in any way, please feel free to contact me. As I visit more and more of the presbyteries, I am really enjoying getting to know all of you. We truly are an incredible group of women doing wonderful things for the church and for Presbyterian Women. Tell others what your group is up to – how will they know otherwise? Let's not be a light under a basket. See you in November!

Sandy Grillo,

PWSNE Moderator

Leadership Network Coordinator Report

August 2009

From the Churchwide Gathering:

- *Presbyterian Women are now incorporated giving PW oversight of, among other things, our finances.
- *Look for your Fall gatherings to bring new ideas and information from the gathering.
- *The Great Room was a great room! Besides the PC(USA) organizations, it had a wonderful Global Marketplace. I hope your gatherings will include mini-global marketplaces. There were wonderful items that can be obtained from, to name a few, South America, Thailand (whose women made our gathering bags), Africa, Pakistan and Palestine. It is a wonderful way to do your holiday shopping AND provide hope and \$\$ to women and children.
- *The CCT will be meeting in August. Watch for Virginia Champlin's report shortly after the conclusion of the meeting.
- *There are plans to hold another training event, date/place TBD, similar to the one held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Three new participants are to be selected from each Synod.
- *PW's current focus is also on involving "newly retired" women.
- *I attended the Network Leadership forum and have a sheet of ideas for involving young and newly retired women. It will be available at the PW Synod of the Northeast moderator's training. If you would like a copy prior to that time, please contact me.

PW SYNOD MODERATORS' TRAINING is scheduled for the second weekend in November (6/7) in Albany, NY. Time will be structured into the training to do more planning for your PPG gatherings in 2010. Watch for more specific information from our Moderator, Sandy Grillo.

I hope you have all completed your reviews and revisions suggested in the 2006-2009 Strategic Plan for PW. This is a "gentle reminder" that if you have changes or updates for your PWP/CT that you send them on to our moderator (sandyg0105@earthlink.net), our secretary (sfine42@yahoo.com), our webservant (slamans@optonline.net) and me (danjudithc@aol.com). These changes are sent on to Churchwide and keep the communication chain accurate.

This report is my last one to you as my term ends with the November 2009 Moderator's training. It has been interesting bridging from the old Enabler program to the new Network! PW on all levels has wonderful, talented, and dedicated women.

Judy Cunningham
danjudithc@aol.com

HORIZONS MAGAZINE

Remember ladies that to stay informed with what is going on in the world; your church; lives of women and children all over our plane, and with Presbyterian Women, you must subscribe to Horizon's Magazine. This is the best bargain of 2009, so subscribe! Be part of the crowd that knows what's happening!

-Jo Ann Burrell, Horizons Representative

TOGETHER IN SERVICE

Together in Service is our Presbyterian Women's hands-on Mission Opportunities program. The focus was changed at the 2006 Churchwide Gathering. This gives women the opportunity to be more creative in the Mission they do locally and around the world. Instead of assignments being given to fulfill missions at various places here and abroad, it permits the women to provide for missions most meaningful for their group.

It is important to remember all projects are sent directly to your project recipient and not to me. A report and/or photos of unique mission projects/events are needed. This way others may have ideas for their projects they wish to begin.

Responses were not gathered from many of the presbyteries in our Synod but the mission you are doing is wide and varied. It will be too numerous to list every project, I will attempt to summarize the compilation I have received from the Presbyteries.

Many PW groups are continuing to participate in Church World Service kit projects, the Heifer Project, Food Pantry project, shelter projects, helping low income college students, PW Networkers, Interreligious/Interfaith groups, Shelter contributions, sponsoring a family or children, Soup kitchen volunteering, all of the offering of Presbyterian Women and the PC(USA), sending diapers to Honduras, caring for divorce support group, various walks, like Crop Walk and blood bank walks, preparing or putting on Thanksgiving dinner for those who have no one to share the holiday with, Original T-bag Ministry, collecting box tops for schools and one for the Menaul School in New Mexico

Keep up with your projects and send in your ideas to me to share with others. Those who need more information, please contact me. Susan Silliman Smith, PO Box 295, Mexico, NY 13114 or august13sss@aol.com. Your *Together in Service* Coordinator, Susan.

and one in Appalachia, the Armenian Missionary Association of America, contributing to help abused women and children, contributing to a Dress for Success program, an underwear project for a shelter in Harlem, NY and many more projects.

Some of the hands-on projects are: It appears there are many groups knitting prayer shawls for various groups ranging from cancer victims to long term hospitalized persons or grieving persons and others. Another popular knitting project is knitting caps for babies and preemies at local hospitals, and Heart to Heart Scarves. One group made shoulder covers for oncology patients, another gathered backpacks for school children, some groups made baby gowns for some overseas projects and another for a local group.

We, Presbyterian Women do many missions. Everyone who attended the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville this summer saw many mission ideas. We also contributed over \$60,000 in gift cards for the Bellwood Children's Home and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program. Presbyterian Women contribute greatly to the missions of the PC(USA) as well.

Some of you may know about the Original TBag Project but did you also know you could host a Tea Party to assist in this project. There are several different tea parties in a box of the TBag products you can sell at your party at the suggested cost or higher to go for your own group project in addition to the TBag Project. Go to www.originaltbagdesigns.com or call Jodee Thompson at 610-246-2744 for more information.

GLOBAL EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

On July 1st, Jana Buzkova arrived in Glens Falls, New York from The Czech Republic. She was hosted by Aldo and Gloria Ghirarduzzi for 7 days. Jana continued her journey to the PW Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, Kentucky.

Jana was here as part of the Presbyterian Women Global Exchange of Eastern Europe. Every three years, a group of Presbyterian Women travels to another part of the world to listen to the pain and the joy their sisters experienced and to share faith stories and ministries with each other. It is a Global Exchange because the following year, a group of women from the same part of the world are invited to attend the Churchwide Gathering to tell their stories to their North American sisters.

While in Glens Falls, Jana shadowed Gloria and witnessed what life is like in America. Jana was one of the guests that was sponsored by the Synod of the Northeast Presbyterian Women. It was an honor and a privilege to be asked to be a host to a Global Exchange Partner. We may be worlds apart but the love of Jesus gave us common ground. Through our faith, a handprint was placed forever in our hearts. We met as strangers at the Albany Airport and we parted as sisters in Christ with the knowledge that we are not so different after all. I hope to be able to visit Jana and her family in the near future. This was an experience that I will never forget and I will cherish for the rest of my life.

submitted by: Gloria Ghirarduzzi

PW Gathering Includes Synod Partnership Guest from Madagascar

By Cathryn T. Surgenor

The four-day triennial Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, entitled God Will Do Wonders Among You, lived up to its name. I had been told to expect great things. I found that the women, from many walks of life and many parts of the nation and the world, had powerful stories, a lively sense of fun, and a strong commitment to healing the world. The title God Will do Wonders comes from the promise given to the Israelites in Joshua 3:5, as they are about to enter the Promised Land.

As a member of the Synod Committee on Partnership with Madagascar, I was especially pleased to host and share a room with Zoé Rasendrasina, our guest from Madagascar who came to the USA last March after the coup in Madagascar. (The Synod of the Northeast and the PC(USA) brought her family to the United States for their safety.) Zoe's husband Lala Rasendrasina, is President of the FJKM (the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar.) Zoe attended all of the sessions and enjoyed seeing her countrywoman Ivaline Lalanirina Ramahefarivo and several other women who had come to the conference from around the world as Global Partners.

A wide range of workshops, forums and plenary sessions were offered along with a bookstore, and an exhibit hall which hosted many Presbyterian resources. The worship segments of the plenary were especially wonderful with 2500 hundred women singing hymns old and new – led by Tracy Keenan and Dave Powers. Preachers such as Margaret Aymer encouraged us to keep *meddlin'* in the search for justice and Cynthia Rigby reminded us that sometimes back talk is needed and is almost always more helpful than the alternative of complaining/gossiping behind another's back. We learned about the progress that is finally being made against human trafficking and how we can help from Carol Smolenski. The courage of Puah and Shiprah who both meddled and cleverly talked back to Pharaoh so that Hebrew babies might live, came to life in a wonderful production of *Puah's Midwife Crisis*.

Women of the Synod of the North East were well represented at the Gathering, filling a large room to enjoy lunch and conversation and to hear from Sandy Grillo, moderator of the PW of the Synod of the Northeast and several other women who spontaneously spoke about what was on their hearts



Report of the Churchwide Coordinating Team

Virginia “Ginny” Champlin, PWSNE Representative 2008-2011

I want to welcome all our PWSNE Sisters: Joanne Schnaudt, Jenny Lee, Janis Quinn, and Nydia Murphy to the Churchwide Coordinating Team. We all have various committee assignments:

Joanne = Secretary, Leadership Enhancement, Administrative, By-laws

Jenny = Mission, Global Exchange Chair, Translation

Janis = Nurture, History, Translation, USA Mission Exchange

Nydia = Leadership Enhancement, Translation, Funds Development

Virginia = Nurture, Communications, Horizons Editorial Chair, & LEC for Leadership Training

You can see that we have quite a lot of work ahead and we are all eager to dig our feet in and get going or continuing (in my case).

At the Business Meeting, we voted to Incorporate. This has taken many years of preparation to get to this point. As one of my Methodist women friends said their women have been incorporated for a least a decade now. Committee reports were heard, budget passed, and election of new CCT members.

The Leadership Enhancement Committee is working toward a new Leadership Training coming next fall with a concentration on “how to get PW into the churches.” The last Training accomplished training all of the Synod Leadership and most of the Presbyteries. But, that is where most of the training stopped. If you have any ideas or thoughts, please share with Joanne, Nydia, or myself. This training event, we are working with less than half the budget we had for the training in 2007.

You will be hearing more from Janis in the next *Lighthouse* about the next USA Mission Exchange planned for the Dakotas in September 2010. If you are interested, please let Janis know.

The Nurture Committee is looking into ideas of how to Nurture the women in the pew. If you have any thoughts, please share with Janis or myself.

Stay tuned, Jenny will be working on the next Global Exchange. Soon, the Committee will be divulging the location for 2011. All that have gone on a Global Exchange have shared with us some of the greatest programs and experiences.



Churchwide Gathering

Ginny Champlin

The meal at our Synod luncheon at Churchwide was so delicious. There were nearly 200. And meeting all of our PWSNE Sisters and the Global visitors was just the Best. Thank You Global Partners Committee members from our Synod: Roberta Mansfield and Rita Oestreich. Thank You Sandy and Jane MacDonald for all of the luncheon arrangements and program.

The Churchwide Gathering was quite the undertaking. When you are in the middle, get a real sense of what it takes to put this on. My portion was the Youth Programs. Anne Reynolds' help with the Youth Programs was priceless. It was successful: no lost or injured young ones and many cried on the last day (they didn't want this to end). We had a dozen Youth Participants complete with an Ice Cream Sundae Social for them on the first night. We also invited NNPCE, REWYT and Toot the Clown. That was a very nice way to end the evening of the first Plenary.

We all need to recognize Lois Carter for her tremendous leadership as Chair of this Gathering. At the closing dinner, Roberta announced that she is from the Synod of the Northeast and then I announced that she is from Geneva Presbytery.

Did you know that one of the Sign Language Translators is from Western New York, Marilyn Koszarek? And lastly, one of the photographers was Diane Nafash. We had secured permission for her to be in the right spot for some of the greatest photos. I cannot wait to see if she puts them into one of her awesome videos. She has already sent me some shots for my memorybook. They are great.

I almost forgot all the knowledgeable PWSNE volunteers at the LEC patio tables in the Great Room: Anne Reynolds, Charolette Hasselbarth, Jenny Lee, Sandy Grillo, and Sharon Hsu. The saying goes, "many hands make lighter work."

Jenny Lee was very busy with the Korean PW as was Janis Quinn with the Native American PW.

The offerings at the Churchwide Gathering were terrific:

Gathering Offering = over \$35,000 plus a \$20,000 gift

Wonder-filled Gift Cards = nearly \$70,000

Cents-Ability (2 cents meal) = nearly \$3,000



Speaking from the Heart

Ginny Champlin

The end of April began weeks of testing and doctors' appointments. The first part of June, I was informed that I had stage 2 endometrial carcinoma (uterus cancer). Who would have believed it, certainly not me. After calling my family, the first person I called was Anne Reynolds. She volunteered to help with the Gathering if we needed her. The next call was Lois Carter, then Ann Ferguson. (Both Lois and Ann said Anne was hired to assist me in any way.) That very evening Sandy Grillo called and made the very same offer. Now, isn't the leadership in our Synod the VERY BEST. I didn't know if I could make the Gathering. But, I did with the help of God and our wonderful Sisters from the PWSNE.

I cannot tell you enough how much all of your prayers, e-mails, and cards have meant to me. Daily, I can feel all of your hugs and prayers.

Upon return from the Gathering, I had surgery and the doctors said they have removed it all. Next week, I go for a follow up doctor visit where he will discuss my future course, if needed.

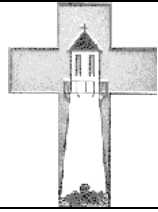
You ask "what can you do". Keep up your own local PW mission and leadership work. That is so important to me and it benefits so many. I do ask that you make and keep your regular doctor's appointments. I was a year and a half behind. I thought nothing was going to happen to me.

Don't forget that I am willing to travel to visit your Presbyteries. I have two years left in my term. And please keep me informed of your information. I need it for the report from our Synod to the CCT.

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.pwsne.org

for up-to-date information as well as dates of up-coming events!



Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast



**CALENDAR
OPPORTUNITIES AND REMINDERS
EVENTS / ACTIONS**

| 2009 | EVENT | FOR | Location |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Wed. Sept.2 | Geneva, Day of Inspiration, Rev. Tim & Ann Johnson, "Palestine as We Saw It" | All Women | Camp Whitman, Seneca Lake, NY |
| Sept. 10-11 | Cayuga-Syracuse PWP retreat "Women of the Bible Alive" | All Women | Vanderkamp |
| Sept. 19 | Newton PW Fall Gathering, 9–2:30pm | All Women | Branchville PC, NJ |
| Sept. 26 | New Brunswick PWP, 11-2:30 pm Kathy Ulrich --Spirit Song | All Women | Kingston PC, NJ |
| Oct. 6-7 | Long Island PWP – overnight retreat, Rev. Jeanne Baum, Leader | All Women | Sag Harbor, NY |
| Oct. 14 | Utica Fall Gathering; 10 a.m. | All Women | Lyons, NY |
| Oct. 10 | Newark – Lynn Hasselbarth | All Women | Trinity PC |
| Oct. 17 | Albany PWP Fall Gathering. 9:30 - 1:30 pm Lynn Hasselbarth, YAV Peru | All Women | Schoharie United PC, NY |
| Oct. 17 | Eliz. PW - Fall Gathering, 9–12:30pm | All Women | 1st PC, Cranford, NJ |
| Oct. 17 | West Jersey Fall Gathering "Here I Am, Lord" – Lucy Janjigian, Speaker | All Women | Haddon Hts PC, NJ |
| Oct. 17 | Monmouth PWP | All Women | Belmar PC |
| Oct. 17 | Western NY PWP – "God Will Do Wonders Among You: Winds of Change, " \$5 registration and lunch, 10:30-2 p.m. Janis Quinn "How Things Have Changed on the Reservation" | All Women | McAlpine PC Buffalo, NY |
| Oct.22 | Geneva PWP – "God Did Wonders Among Us" program by Churchwide Gathering attendees | All Women | Ovid Federated Church, Ovid, NY |
| Oct. 24 | Southern New England, 9:30–1 pm, Rev. Eileen Epperson | All Women | Christ PC, Springfield, MA |
| Oct. 24 | Palisades PWP Retreat, 9am-1:30pm, Rev. Dr. Eileen Lindner "An Encounter with the Risen Christ: the Post-Resurrection Stories" | All Women | 1st PC Edgewater, NJ |
| Oct. 26 | Newton PWP Fall Gathering. | All Women | Morristown PC, NJ |
| Oct. 29 | Long Island PWP – Fall Gathering | All Women | 1st PC, Southold, NY |
| Nov. 6-7 | PWSNE Moderators Training and CT Meeting | PWSNE CT and PWP Moderators | Albany, NY |
| Nov. 14 | Hudson River PWP Fall Gathering, 1-4 pm – Wellness and Parish Nursing | All Women | First PC, Ossining, NY |
| 2010: Jan. 9 | New Brunswick PWP Touch of Haiti luncheon; Katie Wolfe, MD Missionary | All Women | Dutch Neck PC, NJ |
| Jan. 29 | Southern New England PWP Winter Retreat, Rev. Marilyn McNaughton | All Women | TBA |
| February 6 | Western NY PWP; Winter Gathering, \$5 reg., 10:30-2 pm "God Will Do Wonders Among You – Welcome The Stranger" | All Women | Orchard Park PC, Orchard Park, NY |
| February 27 | Newark PWP, Winter Gathering (snow date 3/6) | All Women | TBA |
| Apr. 8 | Albany PWP, Spring Gathering; Jenny Lee | All Women | 1st PC, Valatie, NY |
| Apr. 10 | Newark PWP, Spring Gathering; Sandy Grillo | All Women | TBA |
| Apr. 23-24 | Spring Spiritual Retreat, at Christ the King | All Women | Syracuse, NY |
| Apr. 24 10:30-2 pm | Western NY, Spring Gathering "God Will Do Wonders Among You: My Story Past, Present & Future" | All Women | Randolph PC, NY |
| Sept. 25 | Western NY, Geneva, Genessee Valley PPG Gathering | All Women | Silver Lake |
| Oct. 2 | PPG Gathering -- New York, Long Island and Hudson River | All Women | Holmes, NY |
| 2011: July | PW in the Synod of the Northeast: Gathering | All Women | The Desmond |
| 2012: July | Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women | All Women | Orlando, Florida |

Annual Recurring Deadlines

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|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan. 15 | Deadline for Women of Faith endorsements |
| Feb. 1, Aug. 1 | Lighthouse articles due to Gail Banks |
| Feb. 1, Aug. 1 | PWP Historian reports due to Jo Ann Braun |
| Mar. 15 | Pledges due to Treasurer Sharon Hsu |
| Mar. 15 | PWSCT expense vouchers due to Treasurer Sharon Hsu |
| Mar. 25 | Pledge Payments due to Central Receiving and PWS Treasurer |
| May 1 | PWP Directory due to Churchwide Program Assistant Patricia.Longfellow@pcusa.org |
| May 15 | Annual Reports due to PWS from PWP Moderators, send to Shirley Fine sfine42@yahoo.com |
| June 1 | Mission Reports due to PWS from PWP Mission Coordinators, send to Susan Silliman Smith |