

THE GENEVA LINK



Newsletter for PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

in the Presbytery of Geneva
Summer/Fall 2016



Greetings from Your New Moderator . . .

Hello! I'm Linda Werts from Park Presbyterian Church in Newark where I am an elder serving as Chair of the Mission Team and Moderator of Presbyterian Women. I am happy now to be serving PW of the Geneva Presbytery as your Moderator and I look forward to our time together in mission and ministry. There was such a buzz of energy at the Spring Gathering in Elmira when new officers were installed and continuing officers rededicated—they are listed in this newsletter. Please feel free to reach out to any of us with ideas, suggestions, questions or comments.

It has been a joy to meet many of you as I have visited around speaking with groups about the Birthday Offering, the Majok-Keen Girls School in South Sudan and the Light up South Sudan initiative. Some have also had the opportunity to meet **Sebastian Maroundit** of *Building Minds in South Sudan* and experience his passion for rebuilding schools in South Sudan. As you may be aware, conflict again broke out in this newest nation on July 7th. Although Twic State, where our school is being built, remains conflict free, other states and especially the capitol area around Juba are not. Our PC (USA) mission co-workers all remain out of the country but are hoping to return to continue their work. Please keep them, the South Sudanese peoples and all humanitarian aid workers in your thoughts and prayers.

Looking forward . . . I hope you will find your presence at our **Fall Gathering, Friday, September 16**, at Park Presbyterian Church in Newark. We are one "stop" along **Judy Persons'** trip through upstate New York presbyteries. I haven't met her personally but we've spoken by phone and I feel a warm connection, which will both energize us and link her to all of the wonderful mission initiatives being fostered in our churches. Opportunities to welcome someone from our Churchwide Coordinating Team are not the norm, so I encourage you to join the Gathering and spend some time with Judy. She currently serves as Vice-Moderator for Mission Relations, as well as PW Moderator in the Presbytery of South Alabama. She will bring us fresh perspectives on mission gained from her vast mission experiences. (More about Judy on page 4.)

I invite and encourage you to bring displays of your own mission initiatives as a part of our morning "show and tell." The afternoon portion from 1-2pm is planned as a "hands-on" mission activity. **Stop Hunger Now** is an international hunger relief organization and the meal packaging event in which we will participate is an amazing experience. Meals, consisting of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a nutrition packet, are packaged by groups of volunteers and are distributed to school feeding programs in 73 participating countries, including the U.S. Please trust me . . . you won't want to miss this activity! Contact me before **September 9th** with your reservations for the luncheon and the afternoon activity.

I have just learned that our own **Virginia Champlin** has submitted an application for the **2017 Global Exchange in Indonesia**. She will learn this fall if she is chosen as a participant. Let's send our prayers of support her way. She would represent us well.

I close with a reminder of the importance of supporting the **PW Mission Pledge**—PW's Annual Fund. Your donation to our shared ministry is the "financial lifeblood of Presbyterian Women" at all levels. I join Churchwide Moderator Carol Winkler in asking you to "prayerfully reflect on the importance of Presbyterian Women in your life and in the world," and give as your heart and your purse permit.

*Blessings,
Linda Werts*



Presbytery of Geneva Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team:

Moderator

Linda Werts lwerts@aol.com 321 West Ave, Newark, NY 14513 H: 315-331-6999
C: 315-447-0276

Vice Moderator
(position open)

Secretary

Mary Cree marycree@hotmail.com PO Box 536, Newark, NY 14513 H. 315-331-7735
C: 585-330-5501

Treasurer

Jessica Lou Tarr jajltarr@verizon.net 0505 Waterloo-Geneva Rd, Waterloo, NY 13165 H:315-789-1252
C:585-944-8252

Together in Service

Lois Carter carterlois@hotmail.com 3979 Chase Rd, Burdett, NY 14818 H:607-546-2048

Horizons Representative

Virginia Champlin danvirginiac@aol.com 4381 Wabash Rd, Geneva, NY 14456 H:585-526-5841

Celebration Giving

Deb Compher debcompher@gmail.com 516 Woodhill, Newark, NY 14513 H:315-573-8937

Historian

Joann Braun texasyellowrose14512@yahoo.com PO Box 1, Naples, NY 14512 H:585-374-5193

At Large Member(s)

Carol Limner cmljfl@hotmail.com PO Box 153, Ovid, NY 14521 H:607-869-5228
Lisa Sanford 314sanford@gmail.com 5079 State Rd 248, Canisteo, NY 14823 H: 607-698-9969
Pam Postle lppostle@aol.com 2285 Trumansburg Rd, Trumansburg NY 14886 H: 607-387-5356
C: 607-229-5514



***YOU ARE INVITED TO THE NEXT
COORDINATING TEAM MEETING!***

*Come to the next CT meeting, Saturday, 10/8/16,
9:30 AM at Presbyterian Church in Geneva,
24 Park Place (off South Main St)*

*Agenda: Review the Fall Gathering and Set up our
Calendar for 2017! Lunch will be provided.
Kindly let a team member above know you're coming!*

From our Treasurer . . .

Each year In November we send out a letter and **PW Mission Pledge** form (“card”) to all the churches in Geneva Presbytery who have active Presbyterian Women groups (similar to pledging in your church’s Stewardship campaign) and to women in the congregations having no active PW. Those who do not have active groups may send a pledge individually or from their congregation. In November I will again send the pledge request for 2017 to everyone. **NO MONEY** is required with this pledge—only a **COMMITMENT** you feel you will be able to fulfill **NEXT YEAR**.



The PW Mission Pledge helps fund the mission work of the Presbyterian Church USA and largely finances the operating budgets of Presbyterian Women at the church-wide, synod, presbytery and congregation levels. Contributions to the Mission Pledge support the church’s evangelism, church planning , education and justice & peace work, as well as ministry to children, youth, older adults, new immigrants, rural, urban and suburban populations across the United States and around the world.

The largest beneficiary of the PW Mission Pledge is the denomination. Without the mission pledge, the church’s ministry in the world would shrink. For Presbyterian Women, the mission pledge makes possible programs, resources, scholarships, events and much more.

Please watch for my letter and prayerfully consider how your PW group, your congregation or you as an individual can help fund our PW Mission in 2017, creating and nurturing mission partnerships, training leaders in new directions and making faithful connections via the PW/Horizons Bible Study. Your pledge will also support the common operating expenses for PW managing a national nonprofit organization with a global impact.

Please send all 2017 pledge forms or cards to me:

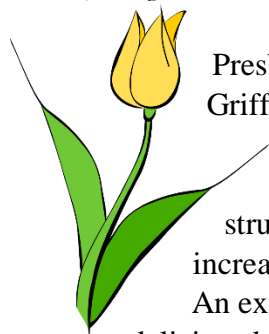
Jessica L. Tarr, 0505 Waterloo-Geneva Road, Waterloo, New York 13165.

We will be grateful for all support.

Low

To donate online with a credit card or bank account, go to presbyterianmission.org , select the “blue” DONATE button, scroll down to “Give to a Specific Ministry” and type “Mission Pledge” in the search window. Select the “yellow” Give button. Individuals or groups may donate this way.

PW Spring Gathering Update . . .

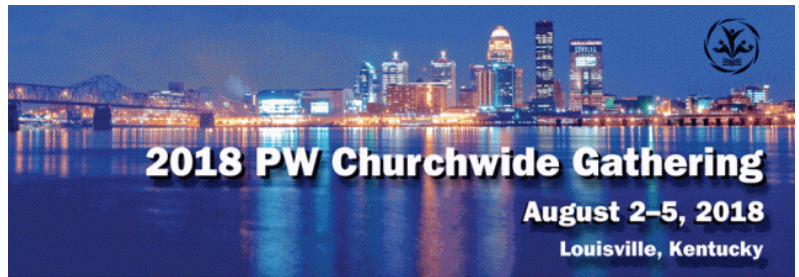


On Saturday, April 30, we gathered at the First Presbyterian Church in Elmira for our PW Presbytery of Geneva 2016 Spring Gathering. Many thanks to our worship leader Rev. Katherine Griffis from Hornell and our guest speaker, Sebastian Maroundit, co-founder of Building Minds in South Sudan, and one of the recipients of the PW Birthday Offering 2016 to benefit the Majok-Keen Girls School in South Sudan! Sebastian shared his personal story of tremendous struggles as a “lost boy,” to his learning a new way of life in the U.S., to his current mission of increasing access to education for girls and boys in his home country of South Sudan.

An extra special thanks to our brothers and sisters in Elmira for their warm hospitality and the delicious buffet lunch!

This and That:

- Upcoming Geneva **Presbytery meetings** are Tues. Sept 27 at Camp Whitman and Saturday, Nov. 12 at Corning, 9:30am-3pm. Confirm with the Presbytery office time & location. (315-536-7753 or email kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org).
- For submissions to the **Spring 2017 Geneva Link**, or corrections to the 2016 Directory, please email marycree@hotmail.com. The next *Link* will be published in March 2017.
- Observe **Orange Day** on the 25th of every month, as part of the international campaign to end violence against women and girls. **Raise awareness!** Wear orange on the 25th of every month and say NO to violence against women and girls!
- **Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes** by Judy Siker, 2016-2017 PW Horizons Bible Study is available to order online at www.pcusa.org/store (\$8.00+shipping) or by calling the Presbyterian Distribution Service 800-524-2612.
- Do we have your email address to send you the next *Link* digitally? You will get the *The Link* faster and PW will save the postage! E-mail marycree@hotmail.com with "my address for The Link" in the subject header. (Of course, if you don't use email, we will still mail you a copy.)
- **Pray** for our "adopted" Mission Co-Worker, Rev. Jo Ella Holman and the people of the Caribbean—Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica. www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/jo-ella-holman/



Save the date and start saving \$\$ now for the next Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women! Start saving a dollar a day for the next 30 months to put toward your Gathering expenses!



... a recipe enjoyed at the last Coordinating Team meeting! Thank you to Lois Carter for sharing with us!

Quick Cranberry Gelatin Salad

Serves 8-10

- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) raspberry or cherry gelatin
- 1 ½ C. boiling water
- 1 can (20 oz.) crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1 can (14 oz.) whole berry cranberry sauce
- 1 C seedless grapes, halved
- ½ C coarsely chopped walnuts or pecans

In a large bowl, dissolve gelatin in water. Stir in pineapple and cranberry sauce. Refrigerate for 30-40 minutes. Stir in grapes and nuts. Pour into a 2 qt. serving bowl. Refrigerate until firm.



Come meet Judy Persons September 16 . . .

Our Fall Gathering Guest Speaker!

Judy is currently serving as Vice-Moderator for Mission Relations for the Churchwide Coordinating Team as well as the Moderator for Pres. Women in the Presbytery of South Alabama. She has led or participated in more than a dozen national and international mission trips including a USA Mission Experience and a Global Exchange. She has also served as the Together In Service Coordinator and Leadership Development Coordinator for the Synod of Living Waters, Vice Moderator for Missions for the Presbytery of South Alabama and VM Missions for Spanish Fort Presbyterian Church. Judy is a member of Spanish Fort Presbyterian Church in Spanish Fort, Alabama where she is an Elder and has been the chairman of the Missions Committee, the Alternative Gift Fair and is a leader in the Prayer Shawl Ministry. She is also a regular Liturgist for worship. Judy and her husband Alex live in Jackson, Alabama where they moved to in 2007 from Maryland.

CWS Kits Will Be Collected at Fall Gathering September 16



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

To assemble a School Kit you will need:

(All items must be new)

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (**no loose-leaf or filler paper**)
- One 12" ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- One 12"x14" to 14"x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)

→ **A donation of \$2 for each kit for shipping is also requested and appreciated**—that money is to be given or sent to Treasurer Lou Tarr so your group can receive credit for the donation.

→ See the Church World Service web site www.cwsglobal.org for more information.

→ **Questions?? Contact Lois Carter 607-742-0301 or carterlois@hotmail.com**



Have you HEARD what's going on around the Geneva Presbytery?

- **Arkport** is a meeting place for MOPS--Mothers of Pre-schoolers--twice a month. Mothers meet to share ideas, encouragement and activities while their children are cared for by volunteers.
- **Burdett** is a relay station for Operation Christmas Child. Last year they processed over 600 shoe boxes of gifts from churches & individuals. See www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/.
- **Elmira North** hosts a Food Pantry three days a week, serving residents of Elmira & Elmira Heights. In September, they have a neighborhood block party with games, food and free school supplies.
- **Hector** sent teenagers and adults on mission to Broad Street Ministries in Philadelphia this summer, to participate in service projects at the church and surrounding neighborhoods.
- **United Presbyterian Church of Hornell** partners with seven area churches to provide a free meal to anyone in the community **every Sunday afternoon**. Folks socialize, play games, share fellowship and a meal. Special activities are planned for children.
- **First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses, Trumansburg** holds their spring "Annual Clothing Sale" and fall "Annual Rummage Sale." These events provide the community with an opportunity to buy clothes and household items at affordable prices. The proceeds fund mission projects and contribute to the general church budget.
- **Watkins Glen** PW led worship on June 26, and at the women's banquet in May, the Annual Woman of Faith Award was presented to Rose Chedzoy.
- **Park Presbyterian PW in Newark** is supporting our denomination's **Educate a Child Initiative** by partnering with the Newark Public Library & Our Community Reads program to promote early literacy by hosting a Family Fun Literacy Event on September 26 at church. An evening of stories, activities, snacks and book giveaways is planned.
- **The Presbyterian Church in Geneva** hosted an interdenominational, environmentally-focused book group this summer to meet and discuss "Serve God, Save the Planet: A Christian Call to Action" by J. Matthew Sleeth.

Email what's happening in your PW group or at your church to marycree@hotmail.com (with "Link" in the subject line) by February 27, and we'll print it in the Winter/Spring The Geneva Link newsletter!

(A big thanks to Lois Carter for gathering all this good news to share!)



The Thank Offering is part of PW's Creative Ministries and is received in the fall each year.

The Thank Offering has long been a tradition of Presbyterian Women. It has provided and continues to provide much-needed financial assistance to numerous worthwhile programs not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. Each year, domestic and international projects are carefully and prayerfully selected by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee to help meet a crucial need. Forty percent (40%) of this offering is used to support hospitals and community health programs that place priority in helping the most needy members of God's community. The remaining 60% is used for new creative ideas for mission, undesignated in advance. The generosity of Presbyterian women and their families and congregations as demonstrated through their Thank Offering gifts help chosen recipients find real solutions for projects related to health, education, economic development, and needs of women and children.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 36:7 (NRSV)

Bring your individual gift or your PW's Thank Offering to the Fall Gathering for dedication.

A note from Deb Compher (CT Celebration): *"Your generous contribution to the Thank Offering makes a huge difference in the lives of those touched by the ministries funded. There were 20 recipients of grants in 2015. Please help PW meet or exceed its goal!"*



Looking for a daily devotionals?

Did you know that resources for spiritual growth are available online?

Devotions & Prayers suggested for daily meditation & prayer:

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotions/>

Read today's Mission Yearbook story about mission and ministry:

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/>

Daily Prayer PC(USA) App for I-Phones or Androids

\$2.99 from iTunes app store/Google Play/Amazon app store

Provides liturgies of Daily Prayer based on the Book of Common Worship including psalms for the day, readings from the daily lectionary, and prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.



Another chance to go—

Mission Tour of Ferncliff in Little Rock, AR!


October 24-28, 2016

Sponsored by Presbyterian Women PC(U.S.A.)

\$350.00 per person, includes shared lodging and most meals. (Travel expenses are not included.)

Consider joining a hands-on mission tour of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Center, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, October 24–28, 2016. You will tour the facility, which is related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Arkansas; assemble Gifts of the Heart kits; receive PDA disaster response training; and visit the Heifer Project’s headquarters and Clinton Library. Participation is limited to 20, so apply soon!

The application (due no later than September 24) includes a full itinerary and cost information. Download the application at <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/application-october-2016-mission-tour-ferncliff/>. Contact Kathy Reeves, PW’s associate for mission, at 502/569-5402 or by [email](#) for additional information.



Save the Date!
August 18-August 19, 2017

Synod of the Northeast
**2017 TRIENNIAL GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST**

Desmond Hotel Conference Center, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12211

MISSION MATTERS!

Let Your Light Shine *Sept. 16 at the Fall Gathering . . .*

Do you or your church have a mission/outreach program that you would like to share with other churches in our Presbytery at our Fall Gathering? Bring examples of what you make (knit, sew, etc) and directions or information on what you do (provide meals, rides, care, etc) or support (agencies or organizations that provide water, health care or supplies, etc). Free yarn (and patterns for caps, mittens, etc) will be available for mission projects; if you have yarn to share, bring it to add to what we already have.

Contact Lois Carter (carterlois@hotmail.com) or Linda Werts (lwerts@aol.com) to tell us what you will bring so we know how many tables to set up!

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Presbyterian Women of the Geneva Presbytery



2016 Fall Gathering



“Mission Matters”

Friday, September 16 • 9:30am-2pm

Note: Updated Location!

Park Presbyterian Church, 110 Maple Court, Newark, NY

Church Phone: 315-331-2255

- 9:00 am Registration (\$5.00 donation) & morning refreshment
9:30 am Worship led by Rev. Deb Grohman, Ontario Center, NY
10:30 am Mission Initiatives—Show and Tell
11:30 am Lunch & Message: *God’s Call to Mission—*

What a Difference a Lens Makes from Judy Persons,

Vice-Moderator for Mission Relations of PW, Churchwide CT

- 1:00-2:00pm Stop Hunger Now—a “hands on” Mission Activity.

Walk /Carpool to **St. Mark’s Episcopal Church**

400 South Main Street, Newark, NY

Bring CWS School & Health Kits & PW Thank Offering!



STOP HUNGER NOW.

www.stophungernow.org

To register for Gathering & Mission Activity, please contact Linda Werts
(315-331-6999) or email lwerts@aol.com. Please mention any dietary needs.

Pre-registration is appreciated by September 9th!

