

PW Synod of the Covenant Newsletter February 2010

Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice and Peace and Build Community

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From the Synod PW Moderator: Florence Morrison:

Greetings from snowy northern Michigan! Six more weeks of winter is the prediction. My husband and I are enjoying the snow by going out at least three times a week to snow shoe in the woods by our house. The woods are a beautiful place to “stand still and think of the wonders of God.”

And I witness the wonders of God as I represent PW in the Synod of the Covenant on the Synod Assembly and more especially on the Multicultural, Racial Ethnic and Justice Committee as we’ve given out peacemaking scholarships throughout the Synod for peacemaking events and mission trips that promote peacemaking. The reports from participants tell of life changing experiences.

And I witness the wonders of God as I receive your presbytery newsletters and see all the projects and programs you have sponsored. As our 2009 Churchwide Gathering theme expressed, “God can do wonders among you.” He is doing wonders among you!

Mission to the USA:

This week I mailed in Ginny McCook’s application for the USA Mission Experience “Meeting Our Sisters in South Dakota.”, September 9-16, 2010. Many know Ginny as she is the past Moderator of PW in Maumee Valley and served on the Synod PWCT. She is the only applicant from our Synod. If approved by the CCT committee, she will need our help as our Synod representative to cover her costs for the trip. Financial help should be sent to our Synod PW treasurer, Sara Gresh, 31729 Commodore Ct., Avon Lake, OH 44012, and indicate it is for the USA Mission Experience line item. Ginny is eager to share her experience so do call on her for congregational PW meetings as well as a speaker for your PW presbytery meeting. She is committed to interpret her

experience for a two years period. She can be reached at 3230 Stone Wall Road, Maumee, OH 43537 and her home phone is 419-882-2693, email is John.McCook@msn.com.

Global Exchange:

I received an email from Kathy Reeves, Program Associate for Mission for Presbyterian Women in Louisville, regarding the Global Exchange October, 2011 to India. She noted that they were in the process of printing the promotional piece for the Global Exchange 2011, the application form and reference form for a more inclusive mailing. But you can start promoting the exchange now throughout your presbytery. June 1, 2010 is the deadline for the Synod Moderators to receive the applications and Synod Moderators need to have applications to Louisville by August 1, 2010. Remember that a Synod committee selects the three applicants it moves on to the Global Exchange Committee and one person is selected to represent the Synod. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$5000 and again presbyteries and the synod will be encouraged to help with financial support. To download fliers, applications and more information use the PW web site at www.pcusa.org/pw.

Horizons

I hope you are keeping up to date regarding PW through *Horizons*? Are you planning to use the resource for the March 7, 2010, “Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday” in the November/December issue?

I found the January/February issue on Simplicity challenging to my thinking. I really want my children to read some of the articles as helps on living a simplified life style in this time and age. I am so comfortable in the life I lead now. Can I make some changes that better my life and the world?

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Synod Gathering:

And I hope you are encouraging women to attend the Synodwide Gathering at Dearborn Presbyterian Church, June 25-27, 2010. It promises to be an exciting opportunity with the challenge to new mission opportunities not only "hands on" but also through field trips. We have kept the costs as low as possible. Why not encourage younger women to attend and provide them with scholarship help. Presbytery moderators have information and registration forms.

Mother's Day Project;

Word just in from Gail Bingham, Associate for Constituency Relations, International Health and Development, that "the decision was made to change the well-established Mother's Day Project, in consultation with Presbyterian Women and World Mission, because we want to do a better job of supporting our African church partners' health programs for women and children. Malaria continues to be a pervasive health treat and the Healthy Women Healthy Families Mother's Day Project will continue to support malaria prevention activities. But families in Africa need help with other health issues as well." Gail lists other health concerns and continues by saying, "Presbyterian Women have clearly demonstrated the power of the Mother's Day Project to help protect families in Africa from malaria. Now that protection and care can extend to other health issues."

A new Mother's Day card for 2010 and a selection of fresh new resources for promoting the Mother's Day Project are ready. To learn more visit www.pcusa.org/health/international.

Grace and peace, Florence

From the moderator of Justice and Peace, Ruth Azar:

"Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment." John 7:24 (NIV)

Let us not assume who our sisters and brothers are. We cannot presume anything about them. Justice can only begin when we are willing to take the time to share our stories. Emotions begin to rise when people hear or see words "justice and peace" depending on where they have been in their lives. It is different for each one of us.

The words "justice and peace" cries out discrimination to me. As a Middle Eastern woman I have been discriminated since my earliest memories. My family spoke different. Looked different, ate different, music is different, etc. Even in my household I was discriminated due to the fact of being a female, born number five child among eight children and being the first born American. In later years, entering the work force the discrimination of being Middle Eastern became even more apparent to me. Since a child I have been called names like D.P. (deported person) and then later years asked to leave offices just because of who I am. Even today, with every terrorist attack the discrimination heightens. People judge based on appearances and who they think I am and who they say they are.

The good news is Jesus Christ walked among us to teach us. One of the things he taught is "justice and peace" and how we should be as sister and brothers in Christ. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." Luke 6:37.

So the challenge is we must not become bitter or hold everyone else accountable for our past. We must forgive. We must not judge or condemn others for their appearance or ethnic background. Love is the fulfillment of the law so let us go in love. We need to take the time out to share our stories and hear their stories and maybe we will find out how much we are alike. This can lead to peace and to mutual edification and then we will not put any stumbling block or obstacle in their way as the book of Romans, chapter 14, advises us. So what provokes you when you hear the words, "justice and peace?"

From the Vice Moderator for Studies and Spiritual Development:

The Protestant Stations of the Cross:

Early Christian pilgrims to Jerusalem wanted to retrace the route of Jesus as he carried his cross to his death. There were considerable differences among the routes used, and it was not until the sixteenth century that a definite route with a definite name (the *Via Dolorosa* or Way of Sorrow) was established for the pilgrims. Along this Way certain places (stations) were associated with specific events and became known as the Stations of the Cross.

Of course, not everyone could actually get to Jerusalem, so depictions of these events began to appear in churches all over Christendom, allowing worshippers to follow a parallel devotional journey. Today the Stations of the Cross can be found in almost every Catholic church, but for many Protestants they seem quite foreign. Perhaps this is because the final determination of the Stations (and their subsequent use as a way to obtain indulgences) occurred at about the same time as the Reformation, so Protestants ignored them in order to distance themselves from the Catholic church of the time. Perhaps the Protestant choice to have little ornamentation in the church building led to their abandonment. Or perhaps the Protestant theological emphasis on the Resurrection caused the Stations of the Cross to be ignored. (The final traditional Station is the laying of Christ in the tomb.)

Regardless of the reason, for many Protestants today, following the Stations of the Cross has become "something only the Catholics do." This is a shame, because it is not the depictions of the events (or even the events themselves) that is important; it is the remembrance of God's great sacrificial love as we follow our own spiritual journey. Nor is it important how many Stations there are. (They've been numbered from 8 to 15.) What is important today's increasingly secularized world is a true devotional piety (not just emotionalism) that allows us to encounter God and to become more aware of the sufferings of each of us in our respective faith journeys.

Please join us at the Synod Gathering for your own private devotional journey along the Protestant Stations of the Cross.

From Carol Winkler: Vice Moderator for Mission Interpretation

With all that is going on in the world these days, here are a few pieces of information that folks might find useful in the area of mission.

Have you heard of Mission Crossroads? This is an interactive website from Presbyterian World Mission. Don't miss visiting this website at: www.pcusa.org/missioncrossroads Once you are there read what is happening in the Presbyterian world of

mission. Be sure to sign up to be a mission partner. This is one of the best ways to be able to interpret and keep up to date on Presbyterian World Mission!

While World Mission is reporting on Haiti in regards to our mission co-workers serving in this devastated area, there is another source for great recovery information. Try a visit to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This is a terrific way to learn exactly how funding is being helpful in partnerships with Church World Service and in other ecumenical efforts. You can also donate at the website to further the Presbyterian effort in Haiti. Remember that your gift given before February 28th is deductible on your 2009 tax return!

If you would like to share your mission stories with others, please send your messages to winksmama@insightbb.com and I will include in the next newsletter. We are always looking for great ways that Presbyterians are doing mission.

Be a mission partner today!

From Martha Pool: Synod of the Covenant's Representative to the Churchwide Coordinating Team: Martha Pool

If you have any questions about leadership and what is going on at the CCT level, please contact me at poolfam@verizon.net, or 740-569-7691.

Here is some resource information:

First the PW website (www.pcusa.org/pw) has quite a number of resources at your fingertips. Click on "Soar in Leadership" on the right-hand side of the page to access most of this information.

A reminder is the need to send in current leadership rosters with current contact information (name, address, phone, email address) to Patricia Longfellow (PW Staff) (Patricia.Longfellow@pcusa.org). There continues to be a desire to get as many leaders into the system as possible. **When new leaders come on board, let the Louisville office know.**

There is a Leadership Development Training coming up in September 2010. There are specific guidelines as to who should attend. June 5, 2010 is the deadline to send in the synod's three selections. If you have an interest to become involved, contact Florence Morrison at florencemorrison@aol.com. Your request will be forwarded to the synod selection committee.

News from the Churchwide Coordinating Team: In September 2009 I attended my third Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT) meeting, which means I am midway through my term. This year I am serving on three committees: Leadership Enhancement Committee (LEC), Communications Committee (as liaison from LEC) and the Global Exchange Committee. Our next meeting is in mid-March 2010.

Besides being recorder for LEC, I have worked within LEC on the Sisters Stand & Walk Together

Program which awarded three synods grants to implement this program with immigrant, racial-ethnic women in their synods. By next year we hope to have not only the pilot program but each of these three other programs that have their own unique ways of training women available on the website for any presbytery or synod to use.

We have begun planning for **churchwide leadership training** that will be held late September 2010. Synod moderators have information on choosing three women from our synod by June 1, 2010. It is our vision to provide training that can be passed on that will be able to help women in congregations be able to self-evaluate and then create strategies for strengthening their groups. It is a big task and there have been several times we almost threw in the towel because the task seemed so daunting. But we persevered and feel some exciting things will come out of this training aimed specifically at congregations.

We continue to work with young women to find ways to make PW more open to them. We are looking into intergenerational dialogues as a way to listen across the generations as a starting place.

We will work more with Newly Retired Women to see how their needs/gifts can be met/used within PW.

I attended a **Global Exchange committee** meeting in November in Louisville, KY. The area chosen for the Global Exchange is North India and the trip in 2011 will focus on human trafficking and environmental issues (especially water shortage). If you are interested in applying for a spot on the Global Exchange team, visit our website (www.pwsoc.org) and download several pieces of information. Deadline to apply is June 1, 2010.

One of the biggest news items out of the **Communications Committee** was the adoption of new subscription prices for Horizons magazine and the annual Bible study. Beginning January 1, 2010, the rates are: 1-year, \$24.95; 2-year, \$44; 3-year, \$63; and the Bible study, \$8. This is the first increase in ten years and is needed to keep up with the rising costs of production as well as to keep the excellent content and size of the magazine.

For a more complete summary of the CCT meeting, visit our website (www.pwsoc.org) and download the CCT Summary from the CCT News page.

Please invite me to a gathering so that I may share more about my experiences on the CCT. I would love to come visit your presbytery! In April I have a visit planned to Eastminster Presbytery for their Spring Gathering.

I almost forgot, I have been asked to chair the Hospitality Team for the next **Churchwide Gathering** in Orlando, FL, in 2012. The chairs met in Orlando Feb. 4-6 to see the Gaylord Palm Hotel and Conference Center. It will be like no other PW gathering you have

ever attended! Plan now on going (July 18-22, 2012) and start saving your money. Remember, more than likely you'll have to have airline tickets to get you there on top of registration and hotel fees.

Synodwide Gathering Coordinator's update:

The Bible Study leader for the *Horizons* Bible Study on Revelations at the Synodwide Gathering in June is the Rev. Traci Smith, Associate Pastor of the Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit.

Musical performance of Joshua - May 2, 2010 Fort Street Presbyterian Church, Detroit, MI

The Fort Street Chorale and Chamber Orchestra, in its 31st season, on Sunday, May 2 at 3 p.m. will perform George Frederick Handel's rarely performed oratorio, *Joshua*. Guest conductor Waleriy Turbin-Leonoff will be joined by four professional soloists and an 80 voice choir. Handel wrote many works based on Jewish historical and Biblical stories. *Messiah*, *Judas Maccabeus* and *Joshua* are among Handel's most popular oratorios during his lifetime.

Tickets are \$18 for general admission. Patron seating, group, student and senior rates are available. Order tickets by calling 313-961-4533. The church is wheelchair-accessible. Free, secure parking is available next to the church. For more information go to: www.fortstreet.org.

Motoko Hutahwaite, Moderator of Detroit Presbytery PW, suggests a bus or car pooling group could be encouraged to attend especially since PW groups are studying the excellent *Horizons* Bible Study *Joshua*. Motoko has offered to house 3 to 5 persons if they need to stay overnight. Her email is mhuthwaite@aol.com.

News from the Presbyteries in the Synod:

Detroit: Motoko Hutahwaite, Moderator

The outstanding event by far for the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Detroit was the annual ingather, co-chaired by Emily Nietering and Kathy Gage. Due to the sale of the Redford Presbyterian Church, the 2009 Ingathering was held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, in the same building that houses the Presbytery of Detroit offices, a good central location.

Donations from the PW in churches across the metro Detroit area were delivered steadily from 9 to 2 on Monday, keeping an army of PW volunteers busy unpacking boxes and bags, sorting them, and placing them on tables clearly marked with signs from infant and toddler clothes, diaper, and baby food to quilts, afghans and lap robes for nursing homes. On Tuesday, the sorted items were then repacked and labeled for their destinations: some 35 local agencies and a few overseas.

Tuesday afternoon, volunteer drivers came to pick up the boxes and deliver them to women's shelters, nursing homes, hospitals, havens for addicts, etc. I remember the year I stayed to the bitter end to clean up and wound up with all the leftovers – boxes of socks for men, hygiene kits, and happily took them all to the Open Door at my church where we serve Detroit's homeless. While I was still unloading my trunk, the then director of the Open Door came leaping up the basement stairs joyfully shouting, "And we were just out of socks. Hooray!"

As our hardworking co-coordinators point out, we are one of the few presbyteries in the land that still hold an ingathering. All our PWs are urged to invite other church members to come see our ingathering. It is a great way to get our women excited about mission and the work of our PW.

Now we are looking forward to "The Many Faces of Mission" at Dearborn First in June. See you all then!

Lake Michigan: Kathryn Wylie & Carol Hutton, Co-Moderators

Report to Lake Michigan Presbytery, February 2010

The Lake Michigan Presbyterian Women continue to be active but as with all organizations everywhere we are struggling to find new members and members willing to step into leadership positions. We continue with our mission projects and would like to share with you what we have accomplished over the last year. Our disbursements have included: *\$19,457.21 Mission Pledge*. Presbyterian Women have always cared about the mission of the church in a special way. From our early beginnings as "missionary societies" to our work with hospitals and schools, and our concerns for social justice issues, our caring has been tangible. Our caring has manifested itself in prayer, study, interpretation, advocacy and giving. We are challenged by our purpose to continue that caring. One response is to make a PW Celebration of Mission pledge that is over and above the pledge or tithe a woman makes to her congregation. This money is given through PWCs at circle meetings and gatherings and forwarded to the LMPW Celebrations Treasurer. Funds are used to support the mission of the PC(USA) worldwide. This includes mission programs at the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly levels of the PC(USA). The only support from the Presbytery is for the LMPW Moderator's responsibilities towards the Presbytery. In addition donations from this fund were given to the Synod of the Covenant and the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

\$5,571.01 Thank Offering. The Thank Offering is received every fall in thankfulness for God's many blessings. At least 40% of the Thank Offering receipts are allocated for health ministries. These funds are sent to hospitals and community health programs that place priority on helping the most needy members of God's community. The remainder of the offering is used to

fund proposals that deal with issues such as child care, the elderly, violence, hopelessness, and injustice.

\$3,070.46 Birthday Offering. We celebrate the birthday of PW every spring. There are no more than 5 projects selected by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee each year. The projects are not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support and are chosen on the basis on meeting the needs of hurting people and with the faith that adequate money to fund them will be received.

\$861.00 The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a worldwide fellowship of women who, through prayer and giving the least coin of their country, provide funding for mission projects and human needs. These funds are distributed ecumenically through Church Women United. The Circle of Prayer booklet has monthly devotionals to read while members pray and set aside a penny as a symbol for oneness on an equal level with women around the world. Many PWCs carry on this project at circle meetings or local gatherings. Local Least Coin offerings are forwarded through the LMPW Celebrations Treasurer.

\$860.00 Honorary Members & Memorial. Honorary Life Memberships are presented for outstanding service and leadership in the church. A life membership is given by a church group and may be purchased for women, men, or youth. Recipients receive a pin and certificate. Recognition and memorial gifts are a way to thank or to honor persons for their service to the church.

\$149.69 Two Cents a Meal (cents ability). This is a hunger ministry of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. By contributing two cents per person each time we enjoy the goodness of food, we are reminded that hunger is a daily reality for many. Proceeds are shared in partnership with congregations retaining up to 25% for local hunger relief, education and ministry. 25% goes to worldwide program through the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the remaining is divided between Advent House (Lansing), Ministry with Community (Kalamazoo) and the Presbytery's Mission Partnership with Nueva Guinea, Nicaragua.

\$147.97 for the Leprosy Project.

\$40.00 Networkers Mother's Day Cards. This represents a donation made to the Networkers Malaria Prevention Program, which provides mosquito nets and malaria prevention education for mothers and children in Africa.

Also, this year we were fortunate to be able to give these additional one time only funds:

\$676.75 scholarships to the 2009 Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering

\$400.00 gift cards from Lowe's & Target for the Churchwide Gathering

\$1,000 for "Reaching Out in a Networked World" Book for the churches in the Presbytery

\$1,000 Ruth Azar's Second Mile Center in Detroit

\$1,000 PC(USA) National Disaster Relief
 \$1,000 Synod of the Covenant Mobile Health Fair
 \$2,500 Presbytery of Lake Michigan Camp for
 Greenwood Scholarships
 \$2,000 Presbytery of Lake Michigan, Covenant
 Partners
 \$2,000 Heifer International, WILD Project
 \$2,000 International Aid, Clean Water Project
 \$2,000 Coalition for Appalachian Ministries
 \$1,500 The Charitable Union, Battle Creek
 \$1,500 Ministry with Community, Kalamazoo
 \$1,500 Kids Food Basket, Grand Rapids
 \$50.00 Alma College, V. Schultz Scholarship Fund

In July we had seven (?) women attend the 2009 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, Ky. The theme was "God Will Do Wonders Among Us." Among the highlights was an Honorary Life Membership presented to Charlotte Johnston, author of "Dispatches from Forbearance Church," for Horizons Magazine, for her years of moving readers to tears, laughter and insights on what all churches have in common. Also, Marta Rodriguez, 2009-2012 Moderator, is the first Hispanic Latin America woman to be elected a churchwide moderator. The gathering was filled with music, inspiration, and fellowship with many old and new friends. The next gathering will be in 2012 in Orlando, Florida.

We continue to hold annual Spring Gatherings with excellent programs. This year's gathering will be in Okemos, on Saturday, April 17.

The Coordinating Team will be working on our goals for the next five years and what PW will be to the women in the future.

Mackinac: Marilyn Kelley, Moderator

Greetings to all PW sisters in the Synod of the Covenant"

As we write and read this newsletter, I am sure we are all making plans for our Spring Gatherings. Mackinac Presbytery is no exception. We are planning our Spring Gathering for Saturday, April 24 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rogers City. Our theme is "New Mission Projects in the churches of the Presbytery." Projects to be highlighted are: "Supper at His House" in Iron River, a meals program in Bellaire, the community garden in Newberry, Kid's Hope Project in Boyne City, free medical clinic in Alpena, the homeless shelter in Marquette, and the prayer shawl project in Elk Rapids. Several other mission projects have not been confirmed. Every woman attending will get to learn and ask questions about all these projects. What a great way to generate ideas to take back to our own congregations.

We all know the Synod Gathering planning team is using the mission theme of "The Many Faces of Mission" which will take place at the Dearborn First Presbyterian Church on June 25-27, 2010. From reading

the brochure prepared for the Gathering, it is obvious that the planning team has worked very hard to plan activities that are varied and everyone attending will be able to find something that is of interest to them. We look forward to seeing many of our Michigan and Ohio PW friends in Dearborn!

We in snowy Mackinac Presbytery, hope you all have had a safe and healthy winter. Think Spring!

Maumee Valley: Alyce Ann Schmidt, Moderator

Plans are being made for the Spring Gathering to be held at First Presbyterian Church, Defiance OH on Saturday, April 17. Our theme "God Will Do Wonders Among You" will be addressed with a presentation from Sara's Garden, a non-profit organization at Wauseon OH that specializes in Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy. It has been described as action that came about in times of tragedy and has brought better life to many people. An afternoon session will focus on those doing wonders among us for justice and peace.

The search committee will be presenting names for Moderator, Vice Moderator, Justice and Peace coordinator and 2 for the search team to be elected at Spring Gathering.

At our recent CT meeting we worked through the By-laws and standing rules.

We are pleased that one of our CT has shown an interest in and applied for the South Dakota Mission trip.

We have been especially concerned about the adoption process that has been slowed in Haiti as Lyn Long, our Together In Mission coordinator, has reason to follow this closely. She has traveled to Haiti with her son as they visited and made preparations to adopt an 11 year old girl. The 3 year process was nearing completion when the earthquake hit. They know the girl is safe but have been unable to make headway in completing the adoption to bring her to the U.S. We continue in prayer for this family.

Scioto Valley: Judy Oeder, Moderator

PW/PSV is having a very good program year. We started off with a wonderful Spiritual Retreat in August 2009 at the Lancaster Presbyterian Church where we heard a Bible Study overview of the Joshua Study and then had a choice of five different workshops on Prayer.

We moved our fall Mission Gathering up a few weeks and met in early October at the Gallopolis Presbyterian Church to hear an excellent presentation by Mission Co-worker Mark Hare, who works in Haiti. It was a timely report in light of the devastating earthquake there in January. Mare and his family, who work in the countryside, were not affected by the quake but the work in this very poor country is even more vital now. Louise Davidson also gave an interesting and informative presentation on Global Partners.

We are very excited to have Ruth Farrell of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, as our guest speaker and workshop leader on February 20, 2010 at the Worthington Presbyterian Church. The theme of this Gathering is Justice and Peace.

We will end our program year on April 29, 2010 with a program of "Building Community" at the Marysville Presbyterian Church. God is surely doing wonders among us as we continue to listen, learn and act on behalf of our faith in God through Jesus Christ.

Dates to Remember, 2010:

Saturday, February 20: Scioto Valley in Worthington, PW Gathering with Ruth Farrell, Director of the Presbyterian Hunger Program as speaker.

Friday, March 5: World Day of Prayer – Look for a service in your area.

Sunday, March 7: "Gifts of Women Sunday" – Use this Sunday or some other Sunday to recognize women.

March 19-22: Ecumenical Advocacy Days, Washington DC. "A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees, and Displaced Peoples." Register on line at www.advocacydays.org.

Saturday, April 17: Maumee Valley Spring Gathering in Defiance, Ohio – theme, "God Will Do Wonders Among You"

Saturday, April 17: Lake Michigan Spring Gathering in Okemos.

Saturday, April 24: Mackinac Spring Gathering in Rogers City – program, "New Mission Projects".

Friday, April 29: Scioto Valley at Marysville Presbyterian Church – program "Building Community"

Spring, 2010: Birthday Offering received in congregations going to Kindergarten and Child Care Center in Iraq and Peace Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY. Order promotional material from PDS at 800-5224-2612.

May 1: Deadline for next PWSOC Newsletter

May 9: Mother's Day Project. Visit www.pcusa.org/health/international for promotional material

Saturday, May 22: Lake Huron, West area Spring Gathering in Beaverton, - program: The Second Mile Ministry, Detroit.

June 1: Deadline for submitting application for the Global Exchange to India. Promotional flier and application form available at www.pcusa.org/pw

June 24 – 27: Synodwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women at Dearborn First Presbyterian Church. "The Many Faces of Mission" with Ruth Farrell, Coordinator for Presbyterian Hunger Program, as keynote speaker and much, much more. Go to www.pcsoc.org for brochure and registration.

September 24-16: Three women from our Synod to be chosen to attend the National PW Leadership Training Event.

2010 PW travel/study tour!: application/registration is available through ABC Sign-up. Email Kathy Reeves (Katharine.reeves@pcusa.org) for more information and the link to ABC Sign-up.

- Russia – May 3-17
- Switzerland and France/Women of the Reformation – August 31-Sept. 8
- Czech Republic, Hungary and Carpath Ukraine – October 5-21.

Friday & Saturday, October 8 -9: Synod PW Coordinating Team meeting in Maumee at the Synod Office.

Be sure to check out the Synod PW website. It contains valuable information. www.pwsoc.org.