

# **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT**

*Nurture faith, support mission, work for justice & peace, & build community*



...Message from our Moderator, Patsy Gaines

## **News and information you need to know**

Dear PW Sisters,

It was wonderful seeing so many of you at the Gathering in Columbus a few weeks ago. It was an enjoyable time for sharing, learning, getting reacquainted and doing the work of PW. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Gathering in Michigan. Many wonderful things are happening in PW. Some are:

### **GLOBAL EXCHANGE 2008**

On Sept. 8, 2008, 28 Presbyterian Women, representing all 16 Synods, will embark on a two-and-a-half-week journey to the Czech Republic, Hungary and Carpath, Ukraine. They will learn more about PC(USA) partner churches and their ministries in that part of Europe.

Each person participating in the exchange has made a commitment to share her experience for two years after the trip. Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about the issues facing our partners in Eastern Europe by inviting your synod's representative to talk to your group. The Synod of the Covenant representative is: Sara Juntune from Bellaire, Michigan. Please keep Sara and the others in your prayers as they make this journey.

### **LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE**

Approximately 3,500 invitations to participate in or revitalize PW, with return postcards enclosed, were sent to Presbyterian women in congregations in December 2007. Also, a Web page entitled "Join PW" was created as part of the PW web site. Some responses (about 3) have come from the Synod of the Covenant. There are about 5 new groups a month joining PW, or one new group a week. Considering an average of 20 per group, we would have 320 new Presbyterian Women. Many are revitalizing from a downhill trend, which will create more active attendance at PW presbytery, synod and Churchwide gatherings. We welcome these new groups!

### **CELEBRATION GIVING**

#### **Birthday Offering 2008**

Please remember to use the new Birthday Offering DVD as a part of your celebration for the Birthday Offering this spring. To order a copy, contact Cindy Goodman at 888-728-7228, ext. 5387 or by email at [cindy.goodman@pcusa.org](mailto:cindy.goodman@pcusa.org). To order resources for the Birthday Offering, call PDS at 800-524-2612.

#### **Thank Offering 2008**

The PW Creative Ministries Offering Committee met in February 2008 and approved 28 grants from the 2007 Thank Offering. The Thank Offering packets will be available by June 30th, 2008 and can be ordered through PDS by calling 800-524-2612. A new DVD will be included in the promotional packet. The deadline to submit an application for the 2009 Thank Offering is September 15, 2008.

#### **Honorary Life Membership**

The new rate for the Honorary Life Membership is \$95 for the silver level and \$250 for the gold level. Nancy McWhorter is the new Honorary Life Membership PW staff member. You can contact her by email at [nancy.mcwhorter@pcusa.org](mailto:nancy.mcwhorter@pcusa.org) or by phone at 888-728-7228, ext. 8014.

### **WANTED; FIELD TESTERS FOR THE 2010-2011 HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY ON REVELATION!**

As field testers, you and your PW group (Circle, Sunday school class, small group) will read the first draft of the study. You will have the opportunity to share your thoughts, questions and suggestions with PW staff and with the author. Groups will be invited in June 2008. Field testing occurs between Nov. 2008 and Feb. 2009, so apply today.

Applications are available online at [www.pcusa.org/horizons](http://www.pcusa.org/horizons) or contact Ashley Meyer, 888-728-7228, ext. 5366, or [ashley.meyer@pcusa.org](mailto:ashley.meyer@pcusa.org).

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Moderator's Message continued from Page 1...

## PEACEMAKING SCHOLARSHIPS

A \$1,000 scholarship is available to each presbytery (that supports the synod peacemaking) providing the means for a person to attend the National Peacemaking Conference being held at Chapman College in Orange, CA, July 15, 2008. The Conference theme is "Sewing Mustard Seeds: Working for God's Justice - Confronting Poverty." This conference is an excellent way for peacemakers to learn in depth about peacemaking issues supported by PC(USA).

The Synod may ask participants to attend the Sept. MRJ meeting and/or submit something in writing about what they learned and what they will do with what they learned. Contact Janet Chapman in the synod office to apply. [j.chapman@synodofthecovenant.org](mailto:j.chapman@synodofthecovenant.org) or 800-848-1030.

These are just some of the activities of PW. There are so many exciting things happening that we should/want to be part of but space does not permit me to list all of them.

It is a wonderful feeling knowing that PW is alive, growing, active, informed, speaking out and being heard, supporting mission, caring for the sick and needy, being a voice for peace and justice and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

My three year term as Moderator is coming to a close (at the Michigan Gathering). It has been an interesting time, a learning time and an opportunity to get to know so many of you.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve you.  
Patsy Gaines

*[Editor's note: While technically Patsy is now our past Moderator, this newsletter was in process as her term was ending. Patsy was unable to attend the Michigan Gathering due to illness. Please keep her in your prayers.]*

From Historian, Sally Abbotts...

## A Big "THANKS!" to all who sent in information!!!

### THANKS to:

#### Western Reserve Presbytery:

- Parma-South Presbyterian Church for the name of Jean Renard to be mentioned during the 2008 20-year celebration of PW Honorarium list.

#### Mackinac Presbytery:

- First Presbyterian Church in Newberry for the name of Joy Sleeper.
- \*Spruce Presbyterian Church in Spruce for the name of Romona Clark-Holsworth.
- Pickford Presbyterian in Pickford for the name of Kay Morrison.

### Thanks to:

- Eastminster Presbytery's First Presbyterian Church in Youngstown, Ohio for their PW list of PW Moderators for the 20-year celebration.
- Lake Huron Presbytery's list of Moderators & Co-Moderators of 61 churches (past and present) for the last 20 years. I will not list all of them to save space but I thank Kathy Nichol for her help and the history record she has kept for the last 20 years.
- Macinac Presbytery, Michigan, for the list of 10 churches from: Gould City, Harrisville, Iron County, Ishpeming, Marquette, Newberry, Pickford, Roger City, Spruce and Sault Ste. Marie.
- Western Reserve Presbytery's Parma South Presbyterian Church in Parma Heights, Ohio.

### Thanks also to:

- All the Presbyteries in Michigan and Ohio that sent corrections to the lists of PW Presbyteries Moderators and Co-Moderators.

Thanks again to you all for your good works!

In Christ's Service,

Your appreciative Historian, Elder Sally Abbotts

### Note:

The lists were available to be seen at the Michigan Synod 24 Hour Retreat in Clare only, as the info was not available, nor organized, before May 2, 2008.

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*...from Vice Moderator for Studies & Spiritual Development, Christel Hilgarth*

## Learn about Jubilee as we study together

In the Old Testament Book of Leviticus, God ordained Jubilee every fifty years for the return of property, the forgiveness of financial obligations and the canceling of all debts, and the granting of freedom from slavery. The ram's horn was blown to announce this festival. It was a time of jubilation and recognition that God was the owner of the land.

### The 2008-2009 Horizons Bible Study

Jubilee!

Luke's Gospel for the Poor

Dale Lindsay Morgan

Suggestions for Leaders by Louise Lawson Johnson

The new PW Horizons 2008-09 Bible Study is available. This year's study is taken from the Gospel of Luke in which Jesus announces the Year of Jubilee. In this, he reminds us that today, just as it was for ancient Israel, the Year of the Jubilee (Luke 4:16-30) remains just as valid for us.

Jubilee is good news. It is the Lord who is lifted up. Everyone is invited - you and me - no one is left out. For the poor, because their debts are forgiven; for the captives because they are set free. In Jubilee, those that were once enemies now become neighbors. Those that had been oppressed experiences freedom. Those who are mighty are brought down. Jubilee is exciting and life changing. Studying Jubilee through Jesus in Luke's gospel is thought provoking as we get a real picture of Jubilee with all it promises and excitement. The Bible Study is \$6. Added resources include:

- Eyewitness News: Transcripts of Live Interviews with Those Who Saw Jesus compiled by Dale Lindsay Morgan, (\$5).
- On the Road : A Storytelling Journey with Luke by Kikanza Nuri Robins and Anna H. Bedford, (\$5).
- Out of the Abundance of the Heart: A Jubilee Journal, (\$5).

You can order the 2008-09 Bible Study and added resources at <http://www.pcusa.org/horizons/>

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## Knitting Requests

Two requests have come to the PW Synod CT. The first is from the Global Exchange Committee for six scarves to be given as gifts on the Global Exchange. The presbyteries in Ohio have volunteered to work on this project. Please send to Sarah Juntune, P.O. Box 1137, Bellaire, MI 49615, by August 15, 2008. Sarah is Synod of the Covenant's representative to the Global Exchange.

The second knitting project is to make prayer shawls for the Spirituality Center at the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville in July of 2009. This request was made to the Synod Gathering in Michigan. Information regarding the number needed and where they are to be sent will come at a later date.

Please email your new PWS Moderator, Florence Morrison, whether you or your PWP are working on one of these knitting projects. [FlorenceMorrison@aol.com](mailto:FlorenceMorrison@aol.com)



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*from Synod Gathering Coordinator, Carol Winker...*

## Highlights from the 2008 PW/SOC Gatherings

Empowering Women in 24 Hours sums up the unique Presbyterian Women in the Synod Gatherings recently held in Columbus, Ohio (April 5-6) and Clare, Michigan (May 17-18). This year's events were regionally-centered in two hotel locations. While the same program was offered at both locations, over 125 women from ALL OVER the synod were welcomed and treated to leadership from regional leaders as well as the synod gathering planning team.

The events were two-fold, a new idea to give women a chance to create their own experience. Leadership training for PW leaders was offered along with a spiritual renewal program. With the flexible schedule, all the women had the opportunity to experience both if they chose. The evaluations were informative and it looks like the gatherings were successful.

Five women from the synod went to a leadership training event in Albuquerque in 2007. The information they received was shared with presbytery leaders and the women attending the gatherings through workshops and panel presentations. In addition there were workshops for developing new leaders, motivating participation, and examining new leadership styles such as consensus. Hopefully, this leadership training will continue in the presbyteries for the local PW leaders. The information will make Presbyterian Women stronger and better informed.

If women didn't chose leadership training, they had the opportunity to experience a time of spiritual renewal led by Christel Hilgarth, Vice Moderator for Studies & Spiritual Development. She led the women in discernment and spiritual practices. Christel created a spirituality center where the women had a tremendous time experiencing what they chose of the offerings: the labyrinth, worship center, knitting prayer shawls, making prayer bracelets and creating mandalas as well as other spiritual experiences.

Katie Kinnison stirred our interest at the Ohio gathering with her introduction to the new HORIZONS Bible study on Luke. The women in Michigan were energized and introduced to Luke by Chris Wolf. Both talented women gave the attendees a hunger for the Bible study. Several women were overheard saying they would be willing to lead the study thanks to these wonderful introductions.

During the business meetings, Presbyterian women in the Synod elected Florence Morrison as Moderator, Martha Pool as Synod Representative to the PW Churchwide Coordinating Team, Carol Reed as Secretary, and Sylvia Will as Communicator. Installations were held at both locations, thanks to Louise Davidson and Carol Hylkema. The event was rounded out with fellowship and worship. The Reverend Yvette Dalton led worship in Ohio with remembrances of The Aroma Therapy Woman. In Michigan the women were awed by glimpses of the Reverend Brenda Jarvis' recent trip to Israel. The Palm Project will receive over \$1200 from the offering.

Thanks to Sylvia Jones and Winona Willing for sharing their music gifts in leading music. As synod gathering coordinator, I want to thank all of the women highlighted above as well as a very talented planning team. Without them, these gatherings would not have happened: Mary Jane Boettcher, Goldie Burrier, Patsy Gaines, Jennifer Grumelot, Christel Hilgarth, Carol Pierce, Martha Pool, and Jean Snyder.

Each event was truly an empowering 24 hours of meaningful experiences for all.

Carol Winkler

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## **News from Mackinac Presbytery**

Mackinac Presbytery PW held our 2008 Spring Gathering on April 19 at First Presbyterian Church in Newberry, Michigan. We were happy to welcome 55 women on a sunny spring day. Our theme was "Time and Stress Management." Our keynote speaker was Marie Anderson, MSW. Marie gave us a thorough understanding of many things that cause stress and gave us many ideas on how to deal with and lessen stress. In the afternoon, Marie led a workshop on the same theme and Rev. Deborah Haffner Hubbard introduced the new Horizons Bible Study on Luke. Rev. Nancy Barkat, pastor of the Newberry Church, installed our new officers and closed the day with communion. The Newberry women welcomed us warmly and fed us deliciously!

Mackinac PW has two reasons to be very proud. Sarah Juntune, a member of Church in the Hills in Bellaire, Michigan, has been selected to travel with the PW Global Exchange trip to Eastern Europe. Sarah is very excited to be going on this trip and is reading many books in preparation. Sarah taught German to high school students for 33 years and has previously traveled several times to some of the Eastern European countries. Not only is Sarah looking forward to traveling, she is also looking forward to and hoping to share the story of the Global Exchange trip with PW groups in the Synod of the Covenant. Sarah's phone number is 231-533-9403 and email is [juntune@torchlale.com](mailto:juntune@torchlale.com). Let her know she will be in your thoughts and prayers as she travels to Eastern Europe in September.

Florence Morrison, a member of The Presbyterian Church in Traverse City, was elected and installed as the new Moderator of PW in the Synod of the Covenant at the Spring Gatherings held the first weekend in Ohio and in mid-May in Clare, Michigan. Congratulations, Florence! Florence has been very active at all levels of Presbyterian Women. She has held many offices on the CT of Mackinac Presbytery, has served as Secretary of the Churchwide CT, served on several special committees for the Churchwide CT, and held other positions on the Synod CT! I won't even get into all her other services to the church, except to say that she is a very capable, talented, busy person! We all hope you will support Florence as she begins this term at PWSOC Moderator.

## **May is "Send in Your PW Roster" Month**

Synod Moderators, Presbytery Moderators and Congregational PW's are to send in their rosters of leaders during the month of May to the Louisville office. This is a new change. In previous years, Synod Moderators and Presbytery Moderators sent their rosters in, but congregational PWs did not (they reported to the Presbytery).

Now all PW bodies will report in May and then any changes again in September. (For example, Jane Doe is replacing Betty Smith as Treasurer and here is her contact info...)

Your rosters should include

- Who is reporting (e.g. Miami Presbytery or Trinity PW, Goodland, Michigan)
- All leaders: first & last name, address, phone number and email address.

Please send the information to: **Patricia Longfellow**, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville KY 40202-1396, or call 1-888-728-7228 (ext. 8015), or email: [patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org](mailto:patricia.longfellow@pcusa.org)

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## **News from Lake Huron Presbytery**

2008 Fall Gathering  
of the

Presbyterian Women in Lake Huron Presbytery

OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

10:00 AM to 2:00 p.m.

“Making the Net Work”

Held at: Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Flint Michigan

Just off I-75 expressway on the corner of

Linden and Lennon Roads

**SPECIAL GUEST AND WORSHIP LEADER**

The Reverend Dr. Rhashell D. Hunter

Director of Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries

Cost: \$8:00 for program and lunch

Payable to PW/LHP

Registration forms due by October 13<sup>th</sup>

Send to:

Marydeanna Duckworth

1304 South Drive, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

### **Attention PW Synod Coordinating Team members, including Presbytery Moderators**

The PWS CT will be meeting at the Synod office in Maumee, Ohio, on Friday, October 3 and 4, 2008. We will begin at noon with lunch and conclude the next day following lunch. Registration and housing arrangement information will be sent to you at a later date. Save the October 3 and 4 dates and plan to be present.

**Deadline for the next Synod Newsletter:**

**August 1, 2008**

**Send articles to [info@pwsoc.org](mailto:info@pwsoc.org)**