

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT

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



...Message from our Moderator, Patsy Gaines

Synod participant chosen for Global Exchange

PW in the Synod of the Covenant is very excited to announce that Sarah L. Juntune of Bellaire, Michigan, has been chosen as one of the participants for the PW Global Exchange to Eastern Europe, which will entail three weeks of travel in September 2008. The group will be visiting the Czech Republic, Hungary and Ukraine with focus on how the changing political climate of Eastern Europe has affected women, the Church and the Roma people. The Roma people are itinerant ethnic groups in Europe, previously referred to in North America as Gypsies. A group of women from Eastern Europe will be invited to attend the 2009 Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, KY. The theme of this Global Exchange is "Joined and knit together in love."

The cost of the trip is \$4500 for each participant. Please support Sarah by contributing financially with a check designated for U.S.A. Mission Experience sent to the PW Synod Treasurer. After Sarah returns she will be happy and eager to share her experiences with you. Plan to include her as one of your programs.

Gift Card for Congo

For the Holidays give a gift that will help spread the promise of peace and prosperity in Congo. Donate funds to the Together in Service programs to help purchase bicycles, mattresses or palms for our Presbyterian partners in Congo and send a card to your loved ones telling them that you made a gift in their honor. Brochures for the PW Palm Project are now available from PDS 800-524-2612 Item PWR-07-420, Free.

Horizons Bible Study 2008-2009

The 2008-2009 Horizons Bible Study is JUBILEE! LUKE'S GOSPEL FOR THE POOR, by Dale Lindsay Morgan. Many of you will remember Dale Lindsay Morgan as the "Gathering Lady" for the 2006 Churchwide Gathering in Louisville. This Bible study will be available March 15, 2008.

Synod Coordinating Team met in October

Your Synod Coordinating Team met in Maumee at the Synod Office and made the decision to have two Gatherings in 2008...one in Michigan and one in Ohio. Since summer is a busy time the meetings will be scheduled in April and May. These Gatherings will provide Leadership Training for the PW CT as well as Spirituality experiences. A planning committee met Oct. 30-31 to start planning. Details have not been completed as yet. You will be receiving information as soon as all is in place.

Gold Honorary Life Membership Pin

On the occasion of the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of PW in 2008, the Churchwide Coordinating Team has approved a new 10K Gold Honorary Life Membership pin (\$250.) The silver pin will remain available for \$95. Revenue from this program supports the Leadership Development Grant program.

Eministry

The Churchwide Coordinating Team of PW voted in March to enter into a pilot project to offer live, low-cost training to PW around the country through eMinistry. eMinistry is low-tech, low-cost, personal and convenient. Classes are conducted over the telephone—most classes are between \$12 and \$15 an hour...class size is limited to 10-12 people...with no travel and no need to get dressed up!

Sitting in the comfort of your home, you dial the number to get in the class, press in your ID number and spend the next hour listening, sharing and asking questions with the class leader and other PW from around the country.

The first PW eMinistry teleclass will help answer the question, "How do we get younger women involved in PW?" This class will be held Thursday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. Eastern Time. All synod and presbytery moderators will receive an e-mail with cost and registration information. If interested, please notify your PW moderator for details.

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Moderator's message continued from page 1...

DVD purchased for Synod

PWS CT purchased a DVD entitled, "The Ten Commandments of Communicating with People with Disabilities" for the Synod so that the synod can make it available to anyone who wants to use it. This is an excellent 'piece' to use at one of your meetings. For information contact the Synod Office at 1-800-848-1030.

Churchwide Gathering – July 11-15, 2009

Continue to make plans to attend the Churchwide Gathering in 2009 in Louisville, Ky. NOTE: The 2012 PW Churchwide Gathering will be held at the Gaylord Palms, Orlando, Florida.

PW is providing so many new and exciting projects, happenings and ideas for our use. How can we not get excited about being PW? We have much to offer and share with the women in our churches. Let's begin to tell our stories and involve other women in the work of PW. This is truly an exciting time to be a Presbyterian Woman!

I hope to see all of you at our Synod Gatherings in Michigan and Ohio.

Patsy Gaines, PWS Moderator

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

Courageous Mary

Advent is approaching quickly, and with its coming, I have been focusing on Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Luke shares the miracle of Mary with us in Scripture (Luke 1:26-38) as he tells us the story of God creating in Mary, and of her willingness and faith to trust God.

Since the Reformation, Protestant denominations have taken their eye off Mary, but she remains a wonderful example of a young woman who listened to, and who followed, God in faith. I might say that she was quite courageous at her tender young age. How many of us would listen and follow God blindly in faith without knowing what is ahead of us and where it is leading us? She is a fine example for us because she accepted a dangerous mission in a culture that did not tolerate a woman to go against the cultural norm. The penalty for what she did could have been death. But that God charged her to birth his Son, he protected her so that no harm

should befall her. Just imagine if she had refused? In my life, I am sure that I have missed a call or ignored the nudging of the Holy Spirit, though I do believe that I am right where God wants me at this time in my life. Mary is an example for all women to follow. In her willingness to serve, she served not only God, but all of humanity. In faith all things are possible with God. God is with us, even when we go against society's norm. Through us, God births his love in our ministry in the name of Jesus Christ. All we have to do is be present, open, receive his word, and say "Yes."

In the coming week I will have more Advent studies on the PW Synod web <http://www.pwsoc.org/> under Studies.

Shalom, Christel

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News from Detroit Presbyterian Women

The Second Mile Center is an outreach of the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Detroit (PWPD). A few years ago the women of Detroit were entrusted with a very generous bequest from one of our very active members, Katherine Doll. As you can imagine, much time was spent on trying to discern where the money would best serve our Lord. Ruth Azar, then the Moderator for PWPD, had a vision for a center to be located on the east side of Detroit. After much prayer, the PWPD CT decided to invest in the center to further God's Kingdom. There have been a number of attempts by the Presbytery to utilize this property that had been unsuccessful, so it took a great leap of faith for the trustees of the Presbytery to allow the women to give it a go. To date, we have had over 20 programs running out of the center, some long term, some short term. We have been rewarded with watching God work miracles within this community and in our own hearts. The following is just one example of how God has used this center to touch lives.

This is a testimony from Ariane, a member of the church that worships at The Second Mile Center. As you read, ask yourself, 'if Ariane had not been walking to The Second Mile Center on that Wednesday, what would have happened to Sam? If we are disobedient to God's call and did not open the Center, what would have happened to Sam?'

Samuel B. Rucker-Wilson was someone I'd see daily in my neighborhood. I'd always speak to him and be on my way. On Wednesday, July 11, 2007, as I was walking with my bible in hand, he asked me where I was going. I told him I was going The Second Mile Center to attend bible study; I asked if he'd like to come. He told me he couldn't and that he'd go to church with me on Sunday.

I saw him the next day with his friends and he said "church on Sunday, right?" I said "Uh-huh," because guys are weird about going to church. Their favorite line is usually, "say a prayer for me, alright."

Well Sunday, July 15th came and he was there on time in the sanctuary in The Second Mile Center. I was ushering so I couldn't sit with him so he sat in a pew alone. The sermon was about repenting for your sins and asking God for forgiveness. He was really moved by the service. He sang and turned to his neighbor repeating words. He left right after service because he felt he didn't have the right to ask

forgiveness and receive our Lord on that day and that he had time so he said he'd be back again. Everyone got to repent and confess to the Lord. There wasn't a dry eye in the church; you could feel the presence of God among us.

Later on that night I went out with him and his friends. He asked how I could leave church and go to a bar. I told him, "it's not where you go but it's what you do when you get there." If I'm saved how can others be saved if I don't go where they are? He agreed. Our conversation was eerie and deep for where we were, a bar. He asked if I thought he was a bad person because he sold drugs. I told him, "no, you're making bad decisions and everyone is guilty of that." I told him he would be a bad person if he didn't have any concerns about his lifestyle." He told me that he really wanted to receive our Lord and join the church but felt God would not forgive him for his sins and he felt bad about what he does. I told him that was all the reason to join the church: to have people to turn to and talk to; I told him that's what I have. Sam said he would turn his life to Christ, join church that following Sunday and go to Cedar Point with us. I shared with him something Pastor shared with me: you shouldn't condemn yourself or you will destroy yourself. Sam felt really good and shared his hospitality bag with his friends. He spoke with them how real Pastor is and they laughed about how much he looks like Kirk Franklin.

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Sadly, Sam didn't make it to church on the 22nd.
He was murdered here on Wednesday, July 18th.
He died in the arms of his cousin who said his
last words were things we had said to him,
"Lord, please forgive me for all my sins and all
the things I've done, Lord forgive me."

"For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus
is Lord and believe in your heart that God
raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
Romans 10:9

"A soul saved for eternity!"

As you can see, God is working miracles here. I am pleased to report that Ruth Azar is the Executive Director for The Second Mile Center. She is available to address your local group or Presbytery. We hope that when you are making out your budget, that you will keep The Center in mind so we may continue to uplift this community.

Your sister in Christ, Kari Gorman, Moderator PWPD

Articles for the next PW/SOC Newsletter
are due February 1, 2008
They may be emailed to info@pwsoc.org

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