



The Bridger is the official publication of the Presbyterian Women of the Missouri River Valley Presbytery

**Fall MRV PW Cluster Meetings**  
**"God Will do Wonders - The Wonder of Hope"**

Thursday, October 21 - Peace Presbyterian, Elkhorn, NE  
Saturday, October 23 - United Church of Avoca, IA

Speaker: Kathleen Keefer - "Stork's Nest"

**8:45 a.m. Coffee & Registration**  
**9:30 a.m. Day Begins**

*HOPE as a Community* - PW Worship  
*HOPE in Jesus Christ* - Horizon's Bible Study Preview  
*HOPE for Sisters & Brothers in Need* - Together in Service - Stork's Nest "Baby Shower"  
HELP Adult Services  
*HOPE for Revitalization* - PW Synod Gathering Review, Introduction of PWP Leaders,  
Horizons Magazine, Call for volunteers

**Noon(ish) - Break for Lunch\***

**Following Lunch - Optional Question & Answer time for PW Leadership**

*\*Lunch will be available at both Peace and Avoca for \$6.00 per person. Please choose a day and a church and use the reservation form on the last page.*



## Fall Meeting Focus: Stork's Nest "Baby Shower"

The Clarinda Stork's Nest is based on the "Best Practice" model developed by the March of Dimes. The program promotes healthy pregnancies by developing healthy habits, life style, and nutrition in order to have a smooth delivery and a healthy baby. We work with pregnant moms and new moms until the children turn one. We have 6 educational programs lasting about an hour every month, topics range from Child Abuse prevention, brain development of the fetus and newborn, failure to thrive, the effects of drugs and alcohol on the fetus, Domestic Violence, Shaken Baby Syndrome.

Since we are incentive based...the women receive points each time they go to a prenatal doctor appointment, they quit smoking, have a working smoke alarm in their home, have a smoke free environment, exercise, read, ultra sound, etc. The women are able to shop in our Nest Shop for diapers, wipes, baby care items (syringe, combs, shampoo, nail clippers ,etc.) clothing, car seats, cribs, strollers, etc. We take special precaution to have the safest products for our moms, so their children are safe.

We receive some of our funding from the March of Dimes (not much though), some through Corner Counties Empowerment, and a lot through the community donations and support. We have churches in the two county area that have a baby shower every year and provide the incentive items.

We do not have financial guidelines for the program so anyone is eligible to participate. However, 85% of our moms live well below the poverty level. All of the items we distribute cannot be purchased with food stamps. We mark all items so they cannot be returned for cash!

We do accept gently used items, especially clothing, and furniture. ***No used car seats or stuffed animals as these can not be distributed.*** Below is a list of items that we ask of churches doing the baby showers.

Please bring your donations to the Fall Meeting "BABY SHOWER."

Diapers - all sizes  
Thermometers  
Orajel  
Vaporizers  
Carbon Monoxide Detectors  
Smoke Alarms  
Outlet Covers  
Security Gate  
Car Seats - infant, convertible and High Back boosters  
Baby Monitors  
Baby books  
night lights  
Pack-n-Play  
Crib bedding - sheets and mattress pads  
baby bath, lotion and shampoo  
washcloths  
bottles - any style Nursing Pads





## MODERATOR'S REPORT

Joan Hackett

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, twenty four (24) PWs from MRV traveled to Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa to join 140 other PWs at the Synod Gathering. The theme of the event was “The Wonders of God’s Promises”. This year’s event was outstanding. We are looking forward to sharing highlights with you at our October meetings.

Over the years, the assumption has become that since there are workshops for moderators, treasurers, and Together In Service (TIS) coordinators .....the event is primarily for officers. This year we have so much information and enthusiasm that we want to share it with all PWs! We decided to try something different. After lunch, we will hold an OPTIONAL workshop for Moderators / Treasurers, and one-on-one time with the TIS coordinator. Your CT will be interested in your thoughts on this.

Please read *the Bridger* for meeting details and information about our “baby shower” for “The Stork’s Nest” in Clarinda, Iowa.

Be sure to fill your car with fellow PWs and meet us at either Avoca United Church or Peace Presbyterian.

Peace be with you,  
Joan Hackett  
MRV PW Moderator  
[JoanH@WhiteTrout.net](mailto:JoanH@WhiteTrout.net)  
402-681-5224

PS Stay informed—keep reading your *HORIZONS* magazine. To read the latest Synod and Presbytery news, go to [www.pmr.org](http://www.pmr.org) and then click on “newsletters” or click on “Presbyterian Women” for PW up-dates.



## Horizons Bible Study

Journeys through  
Revelation  
Apocalyptic Hope  
for Today  
by Barbara R.  
Rossing

### Suggestions for Leaders

by Louise Lawson Johnson

What comes to mind when you think of the book of Revelation? Scary images? The four horsemen come to unleash destruction? Mysterious numbers such as “666”? The endtime battle of Armageddon? In recent years, an enormous prophecy industry has marketed frightening images of Revelation, leaving many people intimidated by this amazing and often misunderstood book. Although brimming with mysterious symbolism, Revelation ultimately is a book of hope that throughout history has sustained people who are oppressed. It is a wonderfully Christ centered book, full of worship and praise.

In the 2010–2011 Horizons Bible study, *Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today*, Barbara Rossing guides us on a journey to meet the crucified Lamb, Jesus. In a journey reminiscent of the ancient Israelites’ exodus from slavery, we are led from an unjust empire and its system of domination, through mythic battles and plagues, until, ultimately, we find ourselves in a renewed creation where God comes to live with us on earth. This brilliantly hope filled vision speaks to us in the midst of the urgent crises of our day. In a time when all of creation stands at a turning point, a kairos moment, Revelation can help guide the choices we make each day as we seek to live into the renewal that God has for the whole world.

## About the Authors

**Barbara R. Rossing** is a Lutheran pastor and professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she has taught since 1994. She holds a doctor of theology degree from Harvard Divinity School, a master of divinity degree from Yale Divinity School, and a bachelor of arts degree from Carleton College, with a major in geology. She is the author of *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation*. Her publications include *The Choice Between Two Cities: Whore, Bride and Empire in the Apocalypse*, as well as articles and book chapters on *Revelation*, early Christian prophecy, biblical preaching, and ecology.

Barbara has served as chaplain at Harvard Divinity School, pastor at Holden Village retreat center, and assistant pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. She serves on the executive committee and council of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). She lectures and travels extensively, including leading trips to the Middle East and joining the LWF delegation to the 2009 United Nations Copenhagen summit on global climate change. She and her husband, Lauren Johnson, spend summers in Washington's Cascade Mountains where they love to hike and cross-country ski. She has three stepchildren and one grandson.

**Louise Lawson Johnson** is an ordained PC (USA) minister who has served four congregations for more than thirty years of ministry. Louise has a special love for studying and teaching the Bible; she taught a weekly community-wide Bible study in the Memphis area for twenty-five years. Louise is a graduate of Duke University. She holds a master of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a doctor of ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. She has served the church at General Assembly and at synod and presbytery levels, including fifteen

years on Princeton Theological Seminary's board of trustees, with twelve years as secretary. She was project coordinator for a grant funded by the Lilly Endowment, has served as adjunct faculty at Princeton Theological Seminary, and has written adult church school curricula, Bible study leaders' guides, and articles and chapters for a variety of publications. Louise and her husband, William Stacy Johnson, have four wonderful children and a beloved Labrador retriever.

## About the Artist

**Martha Kelly** is a lifelong Presbyterian from Memphis, Tennessee, who shows her paintings in galleries around the Southeast. Martha became artist-in-residence at Idlewild Presbyterian Church in 2009, and began creating biblically-based woodcuts and ink drawings for use on Sunday bulletin covers. Martha's liturgical designs and landscapes are available for viewing or for purchase at [marthakellyart.com](http://marthakellyart.com).

## "Mission Shorts" ....a DVD coming to a PW near you! Joan Hackett

At the PW Synod Gathering this summer, a short mission video was played before each of our gathering times. The purpose was to raise awareness of the variety of mission being done by PC(USA) and its partners. An assortment of these original DVDs was given to each Presbytery at the conclusion of the Gathering. All of the MRV PW members attending the Gathering thought that these "Mission Shorts" (each one is from 3 to 9 minutes long) would be useful to raise awareness or start discussions in our congregations.

To simplify the handling of all of the DVDs, my husband put all 6 DVD clips onto one disc which we call "Mission Shorts". You may borrow a copy of this DVD to use at your church. Simply contact your Cluster Leader—Kathleen Keefer (SW Iowa) or Helen Severin

(Omaha). If you are in an area without a Cluster Leader, contact Together In Service (TIS) Coordinator Ruth Madison. The Coordinating Team will be interested in your evaluation of this tool.



### **Christmas Stockings**

HELP Adult Services needs 3,000 stockings for the prison ministry this year. They also need monetary donations in order to purchase "prison approved" items to fill them. Finished stockings can be brought to the Fall Cluster Meetings, or send them along with your checks to: **HELP Adult Services**, 8447 Lake Street, Omaha, NE 68134. Phone (402)341-655

### **PW's in the Presbytery**

**Plattsmouth - First Presbyterian** The **111th Chicken Pie Dinner** - October 21st. The same recipe for the chicken pie has been used all 111 years!. This all church fundraising event has helpers ranging in age from 10 year olds to folks in their 80's From 4:45 to 7:00, cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

**Trinity Presbyterian Church:** In September, the Keepers' will be presenting a program on their trip to the UK, focusing on Coventry and the history of Coventry Cathedral and the Society of the Cross of Nails, and interdenominational Peace movement that began out of the ashes of the bombed Cathedral. In October, Teresa Minard will present a program on the history of aprons. In December, they will host the Clarinda Academy girls for a Christmas Brunch - an annual affair!

**Westminster Presbyterian Women (Clarinda)** - We are hoping to have "Social Gatherings" once a quarter. These gatherings will be a time of fun and fellowship, and they will be held in the evenings or on Saturday morning. The first one will be in late October or early November. Lois Jean Ellison will be teaching the art of making your own gift wrap using stencils, cut paper, ink and imagination. We have already started on the Christmas Stocking project and have made Tee-Shirt diapers to be sent overseas. Our mission project this fall is Children's Square, we are collecting used clothing, backpack and other items for teens

**PCOC(Omaha)** At our September Gathering on September 9, PCOC is going to be doing an Introduction to Revelations in the form of an "Antique Road Show. Several women in our PW will return from Russia on Aug. 21 where they helped with the camp program for the orphanage that our partner church in Gnezdovo helps to support.

**Walnut** Presbyterian Women will begin their meetings (after a summer break) with a September 1st outing/tour traveling the circle to visit the Pottawattamie County Veterans Eagle Monuments that are completed— Hancock, Oakland, Carson, Treynor, Carter Lake, Crescent, Underwood, Neola and Minden. They are truly an honor to all veterans -past, present and future. Monuments in Walnut, Avoca and McClelland are in the construction stages and will be dedicated yet this year.

**Mt. View Presbyterian Women** are sewing baby gowns, blankets & t-shirt diapers for mission kits.

## Calendar of Events

Sept. 8 & 9 - Rummage Sale -  
**Bethany, CB.**

September 30th - Rummage Sale -  
**New Horizon, CB** 4-7 p.m. Oct. 1st 8:30  
to 2:00, Sat. Oct 2nd, 8:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Oct. 1,2 - Garage Sale, **Mount View**

Oct. 14 - Soup Supper, **Bethany, CB**

Oct. 19 -Walnut PW will host a luncheon  
for **Walnut/Avoca** Joint Church Council,  
"Golden Oldies" 11:30 a.m.

Oct. 21- Chicken Pie Dinner - see page 5  
for details. **Plattsmouth**

Nov. 21st - Bake Sale **PCOM (Omaha)**  
Dec.4th Women's Christmas Gathering

Nov. 17- Mini Bazaar 1:30, Turkey/Ham  
Dinner 4:30 -7:30 **Walnut**

Dec. 13- 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Cookie Walk-Candy-  
Craft Sale 9:30-11:30 **Westminster, CB**

Dec.11 - Annual PW Cookie Walk (candy  
& crafts) 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
**Westminster, CB**



**GO  
GREEN**  
Bring your own  
bag to the Fall  
Meetings to  
collect your  
paperwork/handouts.



### Joyce Zach

Oct 30, 1932 - Aug 25,  
2010

As many of you know  
Joyce Zach passed away

on the evening of August 25th, 2010.  
Services were held at New Horizon  
Presbyterian Church the following Monday.

Joyce was a lifelong resident of Council  
Bluffs as well as a lifelong member of; (the)  
former Grace Presbyterian (now New  
Horizon) Church.

She was an active member of the Church and  
of PW. A life member of PW she served as a  
past Grace PW moderator, current NHPW  
circle leader & funeral lunch coordinator.  
She was also part of the Prayer Shawl  
Ministry, a Mariner, and a member of the  
Solitaires. At the Presbytery level she was  
our Mission Yearbook of Prayer reporter.

She was also active in PEO and was a Dodge  
House General's Lady. She enjoyed  
shopping, gardening, and cooking (she made  
the best apricot scones ever!) She had a  
fondness for Victorian design and the color  
pink!

Please keep her family in your prayers.



### Horizons Magazine

Every PW should have at least one  
subscription to Horizons. Each moderator  
should use it to keep up with the year's  
programs. Use money from your treasury to  
insure that your moderator has a copy.  
Then she can pass it on so others can read  
and enjoy this wonderful magazine.  
Call 1-800-524-2612.

### RESOURCE MATERIALS

Check out [www.pcusa.org/pw](http://www.pcusa.org/pw) for  
information on resource materials or use  
the toll-free number 1-800-524-2612.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21 - *Peace Presbyterian Church***  
333 South 204th St. Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022  
(402)289-1104

***Peace Presbyterian*** is located between Dodge and Pacific Streets on Highway 31  
(204th Street) in Elkhorn

To reserve your lunch - please fill out and return this form along with your check(s)  
(\$6.00 per person) and return NO later than October 15, 2010

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CHURCH NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

PARTICIPANTS \_\_\_\_\_

Use reverse side for additional names ►

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Peace Presbyterian Women**

Send reservations & checks to : Jamie Duckert, 4628 S. 187th St.  
Omaha, NE 68135  
Phone number 402-895-6785.

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**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 - *The United Church of Avoca***  
304 N. Elm (Box 206), Avoca, Iowa 51521  
(712)343-6945

***The United Church of Avoca*** can be found just off interstate 80 at exit 40. Elm Street is one  
block west of Highway 59 which runs north and south through Avoca. We are catty-cornered  
from the library and a block north of the post office.

To reserve your lunch - please fill out and return this form along with  
your check(s) (\$6.00 per person) and return NO later than October 15, 2010

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CHURCH NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

PARTICIPANTS \_\_\_\_\_

Use reverse side for additional names ►

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Avoca Presbyterian Women**

Send reservations & checks to: United Church of Avoca, attn: Lois Anson,  
304 N. Elm (Box 206) Avoca, IA 51521