

Moderator's Musings

The coordinating team of MRV PW has been working hard to prepare for our Spring Meeting on April 10th. We are excited that Kay Olson, from Sioux Falls, S.D. will be sharing stories and photos of her 2008 trip to Eastern and Central Europe on behalf of Presbyterian Women.

This meeting is not just for Circle members or PW leaders, it's for all Women in your churches. PW is not an exclusive club, nor does PW collect dues. If you are Presbyterian and you are a woman, then you are a PW! It is that easy. ☺ So, fill your car with other PW's and join us on April 10th. I'm sure you'll be glad you did.

As you read the remainder of "The Bridger", you will see that MRV-PW has much to offer—including Mission, Faith, Spirituality and Fellowship. Choose what you are interested in, invite a friend, and renew your interest in PW.

Please email (JoanH@WhiteTrout.net) or call me (402)681-5224 with your questions or comments. After April 10, I will be available to visit your church.

Thank you for all that you are doing as Presbyterian Women.

Joan Hackett



Do you have a subscription? Check out www.lakesandprairies.org or www.pcusa.org/pw for information on resource materials or use the toll-free number 1-800-524-2612

PW'S AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

PCM-Omaha -On the evening of December 7th we had our Annual Christmas Gathering with a Soup & Salad meal followed by a program of music, awarding our 2 Honorary Members and a Christmas message by Sally Carlson, who is an ordained Presbyterian minister and Chaplain at Immanuel Hospital.

Also on Saturday, January 30 we made 30 beautiful fleece blankets to be given to charity.

Peace Presbyterian (Elkhorn NE) Annual Garage Sale is April 22, 23 and 24th. The 24th is until noon only.

Peace Presbyterian Women's Annual Salad Luncheon is May 7th. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Cost is \$7.00.

Carson (IA) Presbyterian - Last Monday of each month the Carson Presbyterian church and PW serve a free meal to anyone in the Carson community, in the hopes of helping under-privileged..

Walnut (IA) Presbyterian will again share a meal, fellowship and Lenten message throughout the Lenten season with Walnut Peace United Church of Christ. Walnut PW hosts the first on Ash Wednesday evening, February 17 at 6:00 p m.

We also participates in the rotation of Sunday evening Lenten services with the Walnut Peace United Church of Christ and St Patrick's Catholic Church and the four churches in Avoca. Walnut PW will host the six churches on Sunday, March 14 5:00 p m. message followed by soup and fellowship.

Walnut Presbyterian Women will entertain Peace Haven Retirement Home residents with bingo and refreshments in April. Honored guests will be those celebrating April birthdays.

Walnut PW will honor our church graduating seniors and their family with a short program and lunch after school May 5, 4:00 p m.

New Horizon- Annual Rummage Sale, Thursday April 29-May 1st

Westminster Presbyterian Church - Clarinda are responding to the call from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the devastation in Haiti. We will be making Hygiene and Baby kits to send to the PDA office in Arkansas. PDA has sent all the kits they had in storage to Haiti and are in need of more. We will also make a plea to the congregation at large to sponsor kits through a monetary donation. We plan to meet in fellowship to put the kits together and offer prayers for the vulnerable people of the world who will be receiving the kits we have made.

Westminster Presbyterian Church - CB, Iowa
CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE
DINNER WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17 - 4:30 -7:00 P.M.
Adults - \$7.00 Children 12 and under - \$3.00



ROTATION SCHEDULE

WHAT IS IT?

When you receive your new MRV PW Booklet at the Spring Meeting there will be a page entitled: ROTATION OF LOCAL MODERATORS TO COORDINATING TEAM.

Then it will have a schedule and a list of Church names. This is the Coordinating Team's way of getting all churches involved in the business of running the MRV PW. If your church is listed in the **APRIL 2010** schedule, then you, or anyone from your church is invited to attend the CT meetings for this year beginning in May. It is a way to connect to the Presbytery leadership and a way to get your ideas known. It keeps more people "in the loop." (and we always go out to lunch afterward!!)

So, don't be intimidated by this invitation, we welcome your presence and your input. More about this in the Spring Booklet.

SWIA has a New Cluster Leader!

Welcome Kathleen Keefer as our new SWIA Cluster Leader. Kathleen is the PW Moderator of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Clarinda. She can be reached at (712)542-2564 or online at twocatsandadog@iowatelecom.net She is replacing Marjorie Douthit. Our heartfelt thanks to Marjorie for her many years of service!

HELP Adult Services - Christmas

Stockings For the past 20 years, volunteers throughout eastern Nebraska and southwest Iowa have sewn Christmas stockings for distribution to incarcerated individuals. Various volunteers have also helped "stuff" the stockings that are filled with candy or other types of sweets, inspirational reading material, and personal care items. This small gift is sometimes the only "good-tiding" an inmate may receive during the holiday.

"I'm glad there is really someone out there that does care for us. I truly appreciate what you did for me. It was the only thing that gave me hope this Christmas."

"..thank you for the present, I feel a little different cuz of this. It's hard to explain. I will

pray and thank the Lord for this also, but it is you who has done this. I think it is one of the greatest presents I have ever got."

"A special thank you goes out to the Presbyterian Women's groups for providing the majority of the Christmas stockings"

TIS-TOGETHER IN SERVICE - Ruth Madison

Who are the ROMA? The Roma are a much-maligned people who live primarily in Eastern Europe but who exist all over the world: Russia, Spain, the United States and Brazil, among other places. The word Rom means man, and Roma is the plural, meaning men or humankind.



The Roma are probably more commonly known as Gypsies, a name that derives from the mistaken belief that they originate from Egypt. Actually they probably emerged from central India in the 11th or 12th century. From Gypsy we derive our word gyp, meaning cheat, referring to the commonplace thought that Gypsies are thieves. A nomadic, wandering people, they were feared not only as thieves but as baby-stealers and fortunetellers. This led to their enslavement in Romania and much persecution throughout Europe, culminating in the Holocaust in which the Nazis killed between 220,000 and 1.5 million. Their reputation for undesirability even passed to the United States, which barred their immigration in 1885.

The Roma community has formally organized under the name, "Opre Roma" ("Stand up, Roma) Opre Roma Self-Housing Initiative is a Roma project in Debrecen, eastern Hungary, where the Roma community of 5 families (13 adults and 19 children) faces eviction. They have no running water, gas or electricity in their homes. One outdoor tap serves all and they share one single privy. Our offering the day of the Spring Gathering will go towards and initiative for training programs for design, construction, accounting, and managements skills would be provided and with these skills they would be able to obtain employment to support their families and provide funds to maintain their homes.

SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE- Marge Adey

The Spring meeting will be held in Oskaloosa, IA in March. The PW Synod Gathering will center on "The Wonder of God's Promises" and will be held June 16-19, 2010 at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, IA. By the time you read this you should have received your brochure.

Guest Speakers; Marjorie Thompson, author of "Soul Feast" and Louise Lawson Johnson who will present the 2010 – 2011 Horizons Bible Study on the book of Revelation.

A topic to be discussed at the Gathering will be an effort by PW's to "go Green" the focus will be on eliminating plastic water bottle use, along with plastic bag use.

2010 USA Mission Experience



In September 2010, a group of Presbyterian women will travel to South Dakota for the second USA Mission Experience. The participants will meet Native American women and learn about the issues that concern them, including land development, farming, church leadership and more.

SYNOD OF LAKES AND
PRAIRIES
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
GATHERING
BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY,
STORM LAKE, IOWA
JUNE 16-19, 2010

What is Cents-ability?



A strategy for raising awareness — and funds — for the fight against hunger. Cents-Ability is a small first step in the battle against hunger and poverty. Congregations invite every member — of all ages — to contribute a

few cents at every meal. This simple act is an expression of thanks for what we have received. It is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command "You give them something to eat." When members bring their offerings to church on the appointed Sunday, all of those coins "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" as they are received and dedicated.

These small acts of faithfulness can add up: One hundred persons in a congregation will contribute \$180 a month at two cents a meal. That's \$2,160 dollars a year. A 30,000-member presbytery has the potential of raising over \$1.6 million annually at a nickel a meal.

Cents-Ability originated in 1976 as "Two-Cents-A-Meal," a project begun by Presbyterian Women to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger. Over the years, presbyteries have developed similar programs entitled Pennies for Hunger, Nickel-A-Meal, etc. Many of these programs benefit local hunger ministries as well as the national and international projects of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. (PHP).

Look for Cents-ability containers on the lunch tables at the Spring Meeting. All money collected that day will go to the food pantry at Gethsemane Presbyterian Church in Council Bluffs.

By-Law Change - During the Business portion of the Spring Meeting we will be putting a motion to the group which states "That we suspend the By-Laws and Standing Rules for 1 year pending revision." A committee is forming to review and update the By-Laws and Standing rules.

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Our "hands on" offering on April 10 will go to the **Mission For All Nations (Love in Action) located at 5210 So. 21st Street in Omaha.** They are desperately in need of hygiene products such a bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and feminine products. They cannot keep enough of them on the shelves so we are asking all women to help.

MRV PW Coordinating Team 2010

MODERATOR

Joan Hackett
22735 Rifle Ridge
Elkhorn, NE 68022
(402)681-5224
JoanH@whitetroun.net

VICE MODERATOR/SYNOD REP.

Marge Adey
14809 Camden Court
Omaha, NE 68116
(402)397-6126
MargeAdey@AOL.com

SECRETARY

Cathy Born
1600 Skyline Drive
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
(712)325-4710
cfborn@gmail.com

TREASURER

Lois Feddersen
11635 Douglas St.
Omaha, NE 68154-3128
(402)333-6452
lefeddersen@cox.net

FINANCIAL SECRETARY/ BY LAWS

Mary Alice Fehr
701 Parkwild Drive
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
(712)322-7913
Lmafehr@cox.net

MISSION YEARBOOK OF PRAYER

Joyce Zach
107 Arbor Ridge Lane
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
(712)323-5762

MEETING CO-ORD

Marge Finch
9312 Parker St.
Omaha, NE 68114
(402)391-7935
megfinchbird@cs.com

MEETING CO-ORD/ RESOURCE & SPIRITUAL LIFE

Barb Rooker
7803 Park View
LaVista, NE 68128
(402)339-0386

TOGETHER IN SERVICE

Ruth Madison
18711 Swallow Hill Point
Plattsmouth, NE 68048-7244
(402)298-8208
Cm31102@windstream.net

CLUSTER LEADER - SWIA

Kathleen Keefer
315 North 19th
Clarinda, IA 51632
(712)542-2564
twocatsandadog@iowatelecom.net

CLUSTER LEADER - OMAHA

Helen Severin
7632 Lawndale Drive
Omaha, NE 68134
402-572-8097
AHSeverin3@netzero.net

The following Coordinating Team Positions remain unfilled. Please consider being a part of the team.

CLUSTER LEADER/NWIA

Be the liaison between Churches in NW Iowa and the MRV PW CT.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Need 3 people
Help find new leadership for the MRV PW CT.