

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

You are Cordially Invited to the MRV Presbyterian Women's

SPRING GATHERING

"Discerning God's Call"

hosted by:

First Presbyterian Church, Plattsmouth, NE

SATURDAY, April 16 2011

Registration 8:45 - Welcome/Introductions 9:30 - Business Meeting 10:00 - (Optional)Lunch 12:15

featured speaker: Pat Hammond

"Hearing God's call through Rahab's Rope"

*Amazing stories of God's transforming love in action
in Bangalore, Goa, and Mumbai, India.*



Pat Hammond is a lifelong Presbyterian, an ordained elder and full time seminary student attending Dubuque Theological Seminary through the Distance Learning Program. Pat is a member of First Presbyterian Church, Sioux Falls and is active in the Presbytery of South Dakota, currently serving as the moderator of the Presbytery's Mission Coordination Committee. Pat is also moderator-elect of the Presbytery of South Dakota and will be enjoying that role beginning in June, 2011. After a career as a hydrogeologist, Pat's interests in ministry now center on mission spirituality. Pat, an Iowa native, lives in Brandon, South Dakota with her husband and their 13 year old daughter.

Rahab's Rope is an international mission and a recipient of a PW Thank Offering Grant. It extends services to the most vulnerable, abused and harassed sections of people: women and children forced into prostitution. The *emphasis* of Rahab's Rope is on extending compassionate care and the love and forgiveness of Jesus, responding to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of these especially vulnerable people. The *focus* is to reintegrate them back into the mainstream of the society, empowered-spiritually, socially and economically. The *hope* is to achieve a group of people who are no longer forced into prostitution and feel that it is the only resort to a livelihood, who are not threatened, defenseless or without support.

Our Mission

The mission of Rahab's Rope is to give hope and opportunity to women and girls that have been forced into the commercial sex trade of India by providing a safe and loving environment that will enable them to grow and develop both physically and spiritually.

Our Vision

Our vision is to see lives transformed by God's love in action, to reveal God's love in a way they can see, understand and respond to in faith. We see this transformation as a process through meeting emotional and physical needs by nurturing them in God's love and faith. And then disciple them and provide training in vocational skills and education so they may re-enter their communities in a positive and contributing way.



Moderator's Report

It is our hope that many of you will plan to attend this year's Spring Gathering. We (the coordinating team) think that you will be amazed at the impact your Thank Offering donation

has had on the Rahab's Rope Project in India. Presbyterian Women are known for listening to God's call, seeing a problem, and working toward a solution. When we work together, our donations of time, talent, and treasure can have a huge impact. We hope that you will find the day inspiring!

Last summer, Churchwide PW offered a USA Mission Experience to South Dakota to meet with our Native American sisters. Only one representative from each synod could attend. It was so interesting that this August, our PW of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies is planning a second PW Mission Experience to visit our Dakota Presbyterian sisters! MRV PW can send two representatives. Would you like to attend? Watch for an application and more information. (The PWS is meeting in March, so we should have info at April's meeting.)

PW has much to offer--including Faith, Spirituality, Mission, and Fellowship. PW is not just for circle members. All MRV Presbytery women are invited. In fact, if you are a woman and Presbyterian, then you are a PW! How easy is that? Share "The Bridger" with all women in your church. Then, gather a car full of PW and join us on April 16 in Plattsmouth for an inspiring morning with Pat Hammond.

Call me at 402-681-5224 or email me at joanh@whitetroun.net anytime.

Thank you for all that you do as Presbyterian Women!

Joan Hackett

BY- LAW REVISIONS Please review carefully the revised MRV PW BY-LAWS. We will vote on accepting them at the Spring Meeting. Need a copy-contact Cathy Born (712)325-4710.



Together in Service - As of February, 20 churches had submitted their TIS reports for 2010. Highlights include: Hygiene kits, baby supplies, Church World Service support, cool collars, Pakistan Relief, Guideposts to enlisted men, supporting a child overseas, helping pay for cookie shipments to the military. New mission opportunities include: little dresses for Africa and "camo" quilts. T-shirt diapers are still needed along with baby kits and "gift of heart" kits. - Ruth Madison

Opportunity - Healthy Women Healthy Families - Mother's Day 2011



In 2010 International Health & Development and Presbyterian Women partnered to launch Healthy Women Healthy Families as a way to support health projects that care for women and children in Africa. The Mother's Day Project will be offered again this year to support Healthy Women Healthy Families. Thanks to your support funds were raised for a project in Malawi that provides malaria prevention plus education on nutrition, hygiene and accident prevention in rural villages. Also, mosquito nets were shipped to an isolated region of Southern Sudan. Funding was also made available for cervical cancer screening, immunizations, fistula surgery and other health services that improve the lives of women and children

Information about this important Mother's Day Project and Mother's Day donation cards will be available at the Spring Gathering. Visit <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/internationalhealth/healthywomenhealthyfamilies/> or call TIS Coordinator, Ruth Madison. Send your checks (memo Mother's Day) to PWP Treasurer Lois Feddersen. She will then send one large check to PC(USA). Together, we can help protect and restore the health of women and children in Africa.

Around the Presbytery

CLARINDA - Westminster PW have a lot going on this spring: Lenten Breakfast and Study: Each Saturday at 9 am we will meet for a delicious breakfast and fellowship. At 9:30 we will have a Lenten Study led by Rev. Keefer. He has chosen "Seven Days to Glory: Holy Week". It is by Blair R. Monie, a well-respected Presbyterian minister. "This study focuses on the days of Holy Week from Monday through Sunday, the day of resurrection. Here we walk through Jesus' experiences as well as reflect on what these mean to us as Christians."(Donald K McKim). The study will end at around 10:15-10:30 am. The Lenten Study begins on March 12th and will end on April 16th.

Gathering with the **Women of Trinity** Presbyterian Church: This is our annual evening meeting with the ladies of our sister church. We always have a great time and they always serve wonderful food!

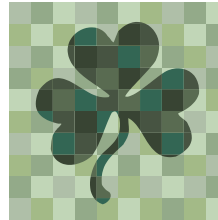
Gatherings: PW meets the first Thursday of every month at 2 pm for a Gathering. We have a short meeting, an informative program and then great dessert-type snacks. Coming up on March 3, 2011, Marla Mattes will present an interesting program about the

recent trip she and Marty took to Germany (Oberammergau) and Austria. The Trinity event takes the place of our Gathering in April. On May 5, 2011, we will host a baby shower to benefit the Stork's Nest and will hear about the Nest from the Coordinator, Angie Lutt.

COUNCIL BLUFFS

Westminster Presbyterian Church

517 South 32nd St. CB, IA



14TH ANNUAL
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
CORNEBEEF AND
CABBAGE DINNER -
THURSDAY, MARCH 17,
2011 - 4:30 – 7:00 P.M. Dinner
includes dessert and

beverage. Adults - \$7.00 Children 12 and under - \$3.00.

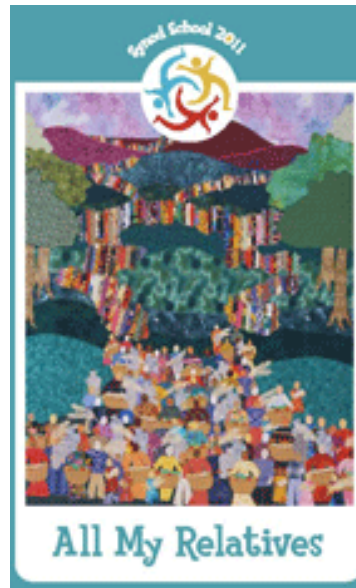
Tickets available from General Missions Committee

Members or may be purchased at the door.

Profit will be used for special mission projects.

New Horizon, 30 Valley View Drive, CB IA - Annual Spring Rummage Sale, Thursday March 31 (evening) - Saturday, April 2.

Synod School 2011 is 'All My Relatives'



The first word has gone out from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Synod School Committee for Synod School 2011, "All My Relatives." The annual education event of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies will run July 24-29, 2011, at the Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa. Anna Carter Florence,

associate professor of preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga., will be convocation speaker. Evening worship leaders are Susan Phillips, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Shawano, Wis., and Mara Liz Rivera, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Winneconne, Wis. Sara Dickinson, pastor of Mosher-Pilgrim Presbyterian Church, Papillion, Neb., will lead evening worship.



GO GREEN

Bring your own bag to the Spring Gathering to collect your paperwork/handouts.

Calvin Crest

Got a note from the folks at Calvin Crest and they have a new logo which sports a campfire and "lasso like" rope. Each year they host groups of all sizes-from quilters to family reunions to session and youth retreats. In addition, they offer a variety of activities open to all. Here's a few highlights: June-July-Summer Camp for all ages, June 3-5 Scrapbooking Retreat, August 27-Annual BBQ and Quilt Auction, Sept. 20-21, OWLS Celebration for Senior Adults. For more information contact: Craig Huffman toll free at (877)795-7635 or send him an Email - calvincrest@calvincrest.org



Save the Date: July 18 - 22, 2012

What is the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women?

The Gathering, held once every three years, is an opportunity for Presbyterian women from across the country (and around the

world!) to gather for worship, education, community-building, fun and renewal. Participants will enjoy workshops, tours, forums, plenary sessions with inspiring speakers and worship. PW's triennial Business Meeting also takes place during the Gathering, where budget, leadership and programmatic emphases will be decided. In 2012, the Gathering will be held July 18-22 in Orlando, Florida, (all under one roof) at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center. Themed "River of Hope," the 2012 Gathering will renew our hope and explore Psalm 46:4-5:

- There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
- the holy habitation of the Most High.
- God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

Websites to Remember-

Presbyterian Church USA/PW
<http://www.pcusa.org/pw/>

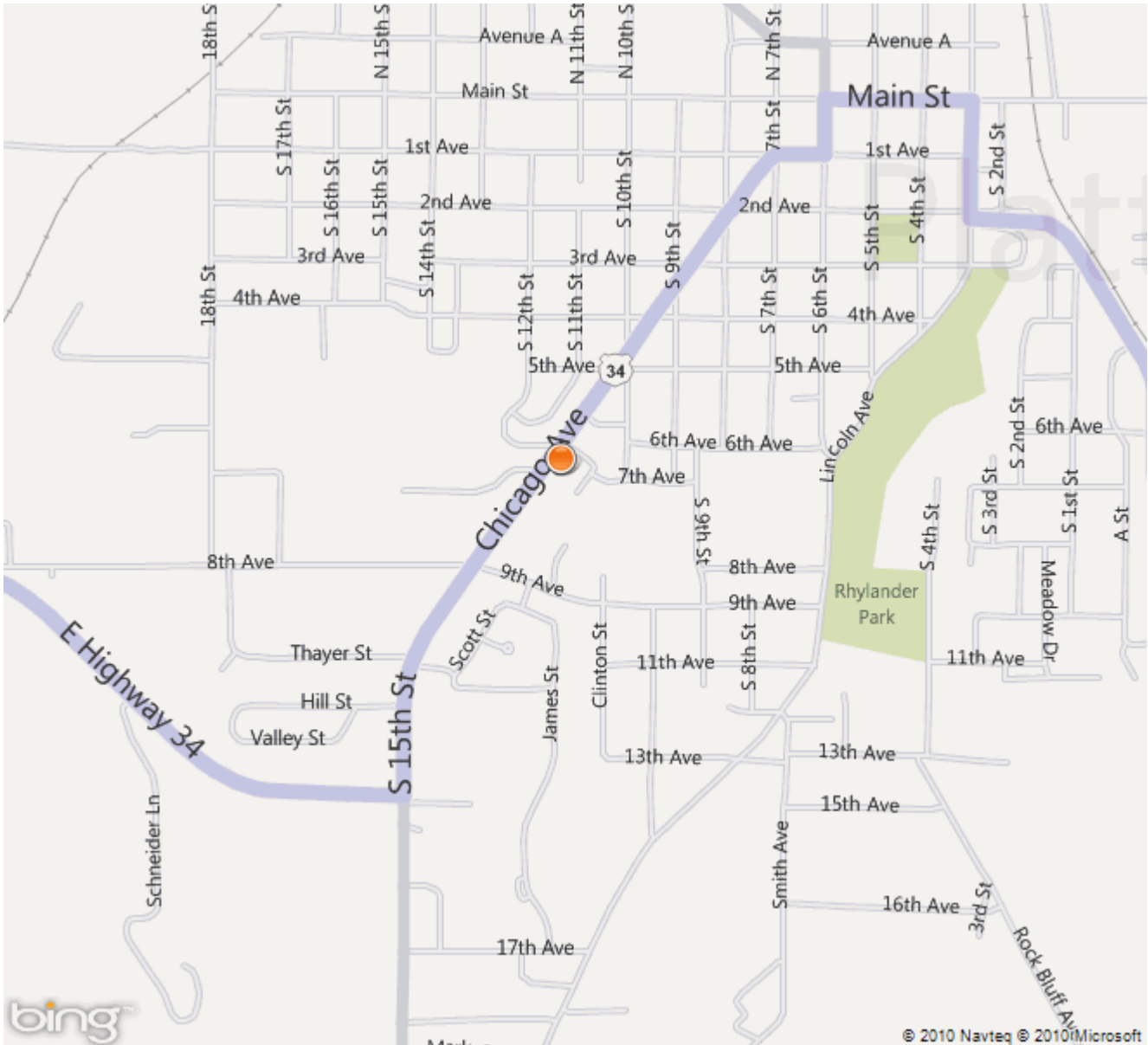
Synod of Lakes and Prairies
http://www.lakesandprairies.org/resources_women.html

Missouri River Valley Presbytery
<http://www.pmr.org>

<http://pmrv.org/pwomen.htm>

To receive **The Sower** contact:
Melissa Jensen
515 N Central
Superior, NE 68978
superiorpresby@yahoo.com

First Presbyterian Church, Plattsmouth
701 Chicago Avenue



A Salad Luncheon will be provided at a cost of \$6.00 per person.

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 April 10, 2011

CHURCH NAME _____

CONTACT PHONE # _____

PARTICIPANTS _____

Use reverse side for additional names ►

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____ PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: First Presbyterian Church Platt-

smouth and return this portion with your check(s) to: First Presbyterian Church
Cheryl Henry/PW Lunch
701 Chicago Avenue
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

► DIRECTIONS from Iowa I-80

Merge onto I-29 S toward KANSAS CITY.

Take the US-34 W exit, EXIT 32, toward PLATTSMOUTH/PACIFIC JCT.

Merge onto US-34 toward PLATTSMOUTH (Portions toll) (Crossing into NEBRASKA).

Turn RIGHT onto S 3RD ST.

Turn LEFT onto US-34/MAIN ST.

Take the 3rd LEFT onto US-34/S 6TH ST.

Take the 1st RIGHT onto US-34/1ST AVE.

Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto US-34/CHICAGO AVE.

701 CHICAGO AVE.

Your destination is 0.1 miles past 5TH AVE

► DIRECTIONS from Nebraska I-80

Take US-75 S toward I-80 E/KENNEDY FRWY/OFFUTT AFB/DES MOINES.

Turn LEFT onto US-34. *US-34 is 0.5 miles past 1ST AVE*

Turn LEFT onto S 15TH ST/CHICAGO AVE/US-34. Continue to follow US-34. 701 CHICAGO AVE.