



The Sower

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies

September 2011
editor

Melissa Jensen,

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

By now the fall excitement for our churches has begun. Sunday schools, sessions, committees and meetings that were suspended for the summer are starting again. PW is no different. Many groups do not meet in the summer while others do not meet in the winter months. Some will be starting the new Bible study on the Beatitudes while others will be finishing up with Revelation. In some cases new leaders are already starting and others are still in the thinking stage for finding new leaders to take over in January. These are all examples of the PW way of doing what is best for your particular PW. There is no right or wrong. Only your PW can decide what is best. You don't have to meet monthly to be effective. A coordinating team that meets regularly can be in contact with circles; passing on information from the presbytery, synod and churchwide PW.

Once in a while make a report at your presbytery meetings to let the rest of the presbytery know how important PW is to the life of the church. Most people have no idea how many mission dollars go through PW treasuries. Take time to evaluate your PW. Look back and decide what worked and what didn't; then move forward with that knowledge. Connect with other PW's in your presbytery to provide programming if cost is a problem.

Just remember, whatever you do in word and deed, do everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Joy and peace,
Bev

****Just a note from Joan ****

A great big THANK YOU to all the CT and those who attended the Dakota meeting for you kind words and prayers. I thought of you all during the time you were there and wished I could have been part of it. For the moment I feel fine but do not know how I will feel after treatments begin nor when that will be. Will keep you all posted. Blessings to you all, Joan Berglund

PWS MINI MISSION WHAT AN EXPERIENCE THOUGHTS FROM TWO PARTICIPANTS

From Betty Thorson

What an interesting mini mission we had. I learned many things about the Native American culture and the way they do things that I did not know before. I learned that when we go to our Presbytery meetings, we shouldn't complain if we have to travel a few hours as they have to travel sometimes a few days to get to theirs. They have the same problems we do with poor attendance but theirs is mostly due to lack of funds and ours is from lack of enthusiasm and prioritizing in our busy schedules. I learned that they also have trouble finding leaders and the job keeps getting reshuffled among a few. But most of all I learned that our Native American brothers and sisters are friendly and generous and they are truly working on forgiveness of our forefathers. Are we doing the same?

And Karen Bartel

Rather than give a blow by blow description of the trip, I thought perhaps I'd try to put a finger on my emotional perceptions during the trip. In Flandreau, we were just having PWS meetings, and most of the Native Americans we met, other than members of PWS, were employees of the hotel/casino in which we stayed. I know the image that some people may carry of Native Americans living on a Reservation is one clothed in a loin cloth and carrying a bow and quiver of arrows. I think that would be mostly young people, whose only exposure to the Native American Communities is in the old western movies.

The Native Americans we met there we just hard working people at their everyday job, just like every other American. They live in houses, shop at WALMART, drive cars, and go through life just as the rest of us do. There was no significant opportunity to spend time finding out who they are or how they feel.

When we arrived at the Agency Village in Sisseton, we knew we were on a reservation, but the buildings and houses wouldn't have indicated a particularly different place, except the College on the outskirts was noticeable for a distance. At the 4 corners of the maintenance building close to the road were mounted 4 drummers facing each other with long drumming sticks. We were told that when the wind blew, the sway of the sculptures actually looked like they were drumming. Of course we all had to hop out of our cars and take pictures and imagined the sound of drumming.

It was here that we really got opportunity to mingle with families. Since we were there for two days, we could develop a bit of a relationship. Meals were about the same kinds of food I would prepare in my own home, though I cheat on fry bread, not making it from scratch. I found a table with a family that was 3 generations. Grandpa was a retired Presbyterian Pastor, the son was currently a Presbyterian Pastor, and there were teenagers with the MP3 Players and ear plugs all at that same table. Over the 2 days, I met wives, aunts and uncles; extended family. This family was from Eagle Butte and in Sisseton for the Annual Mission Meeting.

I discovered a wonderful sense of humor, an abiding sense of family and community, and a rich connection to history. I wished I could bottle the system that turns MP3 bearing teenagers into respectful young people. Babies and tots were singing and dancing as a matter of course. The creative eye for art design was incredible. Babies and tots were singing and dancing as a matter of course; and I certainly wish we could bottle the system that made respectful young people out of teenagers with ear plugs. The food prepared was the same as I might serve a large group, but at home, I cheat on fry bread, and don't make it from scratch.

We attended meetings and listened to speakers. One such speaker was David Farmer, a 30 something single parent who had opportunity to ride his horse in the last annual Ride of the Dakota 38. This is a ride for healing and unity for 330 miles that begins Dec. 10th in Lower Brule, SD, and finishes up in Mankato, MN, on Dec. 26th. It commemorates the forced ride of Sioux men in Dec 1962, at the end of which 38 were hanged for what was called an uprising, but it was men protecting their land and families. This event has become cultural memory for the Sioux peoples. Their feeling is that history has been unjust.

We had opportunity to glean knowledge from older Indians and found that even as late as 1920s, Indian youth were taken from their families, forced into school and punished for thinking of their culture or speaking anything but English in an effort to make them "like us". I am grateful that we live now in a more enlightened, tolerant age. I'm not sure where, or how I have known, but I have always seemed to know the Custer wasn't a very nice person, that the US Calvary was guilty of mass murders, the US Government cheated the Native American Tribes out of their land, reneged on treaties, and allowed ruthless greedy people to liaise between the Indians and the Government, stealing most of the value of what the Indians did have. I can be sure that all non-native Americans are aware as well, but we can raise awareness by speaking out.

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS FOR LITTLE ONES

We are Thankful for the THANK OFFERING!! South Dakota Received \$30,000.

Cornerstone recently received a congratulatory letter from The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA) announcing that the Dear Ones Child Care program had been awarded a grant for \$30,000. The Westminster Presbyterian Church here in Rapid City was instrumental in helping Dear Ones apply for the grant. When the grant application was submitted, it was not known if Cornerstone would be successful in purchasing the building currently housing our child care program. In typical Cornerstone style, we took a leap of faith and made an offer to purchase. In our ministry, we often see the need before God gives us the answer, but we are so blessed by having the best and only omnipotent business partner. With the help of this grant and funds from the city's Community Development Block Grant, the Dear Ones Child Care program and building is now officially a part of the Cornerstone Rescue Mission. The expense of child care is difficult for many families, and that is especially true for homeless families trying to get back on their feet. The parents need the assurance that the children are cared for while they pursue self-sufficiency; employment, permanent housing, or going back to school and working, too. Possibly more importantly, the children need the consistency of a safe environment. Their lives have seen more than their share of change and instability, and their parent's adversities have an effect on them. The Dear Ones Child Care program is earning their trust. They are discovering that the same wonderful staff will greet them daily and care for their needs. Both parents and children alike are beginning to experience the hope of a better future. The letter from the Presbyterian Women, Inc., says "We are pleased to participate with you in ministry. May you be blessed as you continue to serve those in need." Cornerstone Rescue Mission is very grateful for this blessing. Anyone who has visited the Dear Ones Child Care program will also walk away being blessed by the beautiful smiles and delightful laughter of the children.

Calendar Corner

- 2011 Installation Service for Presbyterian Women -check out *Horizons*, March/April issue
- 2011 Thank Offering Dedication Service and Thank Offering grant recipients - check out *Horizons*, July/August issue
- 2011 Fellowship of the Least Coin grant recipients - check out *Horizons*, November/December issue
- 2012 Celebrate the Gifts of Women worship resource - check out *Horizons*, November/December issue
- November 15th - PWC moderator sends Mission Pledge form to PWP moderator
- December 1st - PWP moderator sends Mission Pledge form to PWS moderator and PW Financial Assistant (Louisville)
- December 10th - PWC monies due to PWP treasurer
 - ~ Fourth quarter mission pledge payment
 - ~ Thank Offering receipts
 - ~ Fellowship of Least Coin receipts
- December 15th - PWP monies due to PW Remittance Processing
 - ~ Fourth quarter mission pledge payment
 - ~ PWP Thank Offering receipts

A way to evaluate your past PW year. . .

As we evaluate the PW year, looking at what has been done, measuring its effectiveness and finding ways to improve helps us to plan for the new PW year. The following activity found in the *20 Tips to Help Presbyterian Women SOAR to Success* (Tip 9: Evaluate) presents one way to complete the evaluation.

- 1) On a sheet of paper, list the 10 to 12 most meaningful things your PW did this past year.
- 2) On a large chart, list the four parts of the PW Purpose.
 - ❖ Nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study.
 - ❖ Support the mission of the church worldwide.
 - ❖ Work for justice and peace.
 - ❖ Build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.
- 3) Read each of the 10 to 12 things your PW did and list them under the matching area. Example: If you said, "Used the PW Bible Study," put a tally mark under Section A on your chart. Continue until all 10 or 12 are listed on the chart.
- 4) Questions to Ask:
 - ❖ Do you have a well-balanced program for the year?
 - ❖ Are there areas you need to emphasize for the next year?
 - ❖ What has worked well? What has not?

. . . and a way to plan for the new PW year

Another tool that may prove helpful in planning for the new PW year is the Vision Obstacles Direction (VOD) activity which was presented at the August PWSCT meeting.

- 1) Answer these VISION questions:
 - ❖ What is it that you want for your PWP?
 - ❖ What dreams do you have?
 - ❖ What do you want to accomplish?

The key is to focus only on what the dreams are and not get bogged down in "but we can't do that because. . ."

- 2) Answer these OBSTACLE questions:
 - ❖ If _____ is your vision then why aren't you there?
 - ❖ What is it that is stopping you from being there?

For each vision item, list the obstacles.

- 3) Answer DIRECTION questions:
 - ❖ Given your vision and the obstacles you have named, what are some directions you might go to begin to head toward your vision?

Updated PW Manual Available – So What's New?

The *Presbyterian Women Manual* has been revised. It continues to provide all of the fundamentals – structure and relationships, sample by-laws, sample budgets, guide for treasurers, and tips for leaders. The basic difference is that the revised edition also includes the bylaws of incorporation and information for Celebration Giving representatives at all levels, plus a few minor tweaks and updates.

The 2011 edition of the *Presbyterian Women Manual* is now available in print and electronic formats. Purchase the electronic edition, item PWR11116, and save shipping! Download from the Church Store, www.pcusa.org/store, \$6.00. Save your print cartridge and order the print edition from PDS, 800/524-2612 (also available through the Church Store), item PWR11115, \$6.00 each plus shipping.

WHAT WORKS FOR YOU?

The Leadership Committee of the Synod Coordinating Team decided at the August SCT Meeting to put a small article in this "Leadership Edition" of the *SOWER* about "WHAT WORKS FOR US" in our Presbyteries and Congregations for recruiting and training new leaders in Presbyterian Women. We thought it would be helpful to get input from you about what has been successful in recruiting and training new PW leaders.

We would love to hear from you and are hoping to get lots of great ideas that might work for others in this effort to keep our PW's leadership exhilarating and effective as we work towards God's mission for us.

We recently learned from our Synod Coordinating Team (4 of which attended a CCT leadership event) that one of the things we need to stop doing is "stick someone in" or "just get anyone" to fill an office or leadership position in PW. When we do this we demean the importance of the position or the person who held the position. Instead, build them up and let them know this is an important part of the work we do in PW as the Lord's messengers, spreading God's love through the PW mission. When asking someone to take a position, ask them to prayerfully consider "their calling" and listen for God's Holy Spirit wanting to work through them with the time and talents they have been given.

I know of a PW where someone was "just stuck in" as a Treasurer and major problems arose before this person realized they did not have the experience or ability to fill this position.

Something that has worked well for us is to have the incoming officer and/or potential officer sit down with the previous officer and go over the tasks and responsibilities of the position. We even have a small manual for some positions explaining many of the details of certain projects/events of our PW. In this way the incoming or potential officer knows exactly what is expected of them. This also works well as training for new positions.

This is one idea/helpful hint that might work for your PW. Please let us know "WHAT WORKS FOR YOU?" E-mail your thoughts and ideas to me at fatcathyb@yahoo.com and we will share them in the next issues of the *SOWER*. Thanks for your help!

(Submitted by Cathy Bemiss, John Knox Presbytery Synod Rep.)

Churchwide Information:

PW website: www.presbyterianwomen.org

Quarterly Mailing newsletter: www.presbyterianwomen.org
Select About PW Select Quarterly Newsletter

PW on Facebook: www.facebook.com
Search Presbyterian Women Select Like

Synod Information:

Synod website: www.lakesandprairies.org

PW information and *The Sower* newsletter: www.lakesandprairies.org
Select Links and Resources Scroll to Presbyterian

Women

PW Synod Information:

To receive *The Sower*, contact: Melissa Jensen superiorpresby@gmail.com
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Superior, NE 68978

Synod PW Moderator: Bev Raske baraske@hotmail.com
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Renville, MN 56284

Leadership Enhancement Coordinator: Marilyn Stone mmstone52@yahoo.com
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Leading like Geese



At this time of year it's not uncommon to see geese flying across the evening sky and gathering on our lake. Watching them brought to mind a fascinating story that appeared in our local newspaper several years ago about geese and how they demonstrate leadership. . . leadership reminders that we can apply to our work with Presbyterian Women.

Tom Worsham, the author of the story, shares that there is good reason for geese to fly in a "V" formation. "Research has revealed that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately behind it. By flying in a 'V' formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the point position.

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. And finally, when a goose gets sick or wounded and falls out, two other geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with the goose until it is either able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own with another formation or catch up with the flock. Whoever was the first to call another person a 'silly goose' didn't know much about geese."

In as much as the story of the geese is not new, neither are the leadership lessons we learn from them. These are simple reminders that will help keep us on course. Consider these five observations.

- People who share a common direction and sense of community can go further and get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of each other. Work as a team.
- We accomplish more when we work together in unity.
- It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks.
- We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging, not something less than helpful.
- Stand by each other and lend a hand when needed.

I am "honking" encouragement for all you are doing through Presbyterian Women!

(Submitted by Marilyn Stone, PWS Leadership Enhancement Coordinator)

Do you have PW leadership questions? Contact Marilyn Stone, Synod Leadership Enhancement Coordinator at mmstone52@yahoo.com or 262-763-0918 (home phone). The PW Synod Leadership Enhancement Team is available to provide support for your leadership needs.

**Have you ever been looking for new ideas, something different?
Thought what else can we do?
Read and see what other Presbyterian Women are doing!**

NORTHERN PLAINS PRESBYTERY PW REPORT

On August 10, 2011 35 ladies journeyed to Flandreau, SD where the Presbyterian Synod Coordinating Team Meeting was held. From there we traveled by bus and vans to the Sisseton-Wahpeton Reservation to begin our Mission Experience. We visited the Dakota Presbyterian churches in the area. Singing, speakers, meals and fellowship was a big part of the experience. They sand to us and us to them. Listening to them tell their stories about life on the reservation was an education. The time spent with families around the meal tables was a joy.

A remarkable 93 year old Native American Pastor, Sidney Byrd enlightened us with stories and laughter of his ministry days and told about the troubled, serious times in the history of the Native Americans.

We ladies participated in a "Hands on Project" by helping prepare one of the noon meals.

They showered us with gifts and gratitude for being part of their meetings as we joined the PW of Dakota Presbytery for their PW Fall Gathering, and sat amongst them at their Presbytery Meeting. And the list goes on and on of things we heard, felt, and experienced.

This was a beautiful, loving experience as we meet new friends of a different culture and being with those friends we already knew. Now Doreen Larson and I will be sharing this experience at the PW of the Northern Plains Presbytery Fall Cluster Gatherings. Many thanks from Doreen and I for the excellent planning for the Mission Trip and the opportunity to be a part of it.

The Northern Plains Presbytery PW have been busy working on their Fall Cluster Gatherings. The theme is : Support, Outreach, And, Renewal. It is my hope that the 8 Clusters will have fun and be inspired by this Leadership Theme. Most of the Cluster Gatherings will be held in October and the end of October the Coordinating Team will meet to plan for the Spring Gathering. The PW of the Presbytery keeps active and involved. Jane Pierce, Northern Plains Presbytery PW Moderator.

East Iowa

Will be having their Fall Gathering October 8, hosted by the Muscatine, Iowa, PWC. Our Featured Speaker is The Reverend Peter Tibi, Missionary recently returned from South Sudan. His topic is "Ministers of Reconciliation".

Karen Bartel

John Knox

Presbytery Women Coordinating Team met at the Presbyterian Church of West Salem on August 4. Plans for the Fall Workshops to be held in Maynard, IA on Sept. 20 and in Baraboo, WI on Sept. 22 were finalized with the theme being "International Friendship". Eric Eller from Upper Iowa University and students from U. of W., Baraboo will be speakers.

"The Best Kept Secret", a skit with audience participation will be one of the workshops with children's dresses from pillow cases and diapers from T-shirts another workshop and items for Health kits, the third workshop. The program will be summarized with "Think AND instead of BUT", another skit. A handout of "20 Tips to Help Presbyterian Women SOAR" will be given out. The NewsSpan will include a questionnaire entitled, "Are You Leadership Material"?

It was announced that Linda Hora from Ogden, IA will be our speaker at the Spring Gathering on April 14, 2012. Terri Krueger, the new moderator of First Presbyterian Church, Waukon, IA invited us to her church for the gathering.

\$100 will be sent to the synod treasurer to help with Linda's expenses to the Global Exchange to India. \$100 was given to La Donna Letourneau for her trip to the mini mission trip to South Dakota. Tuition will be paid for Cathy Bemis and Helen Harold to attend the church wide gathering in Orlando in July, 2012. The \$300 we receive from the Synod for the church wide gathering will be put into the scholarship fund. Everyone signed a card to be sent to Nancy Johnson, JKPW former moderator, who suffered a heart attack and a stroke and is now in a nursing home until she can go home.

Helen Harold

Moderator, John Knox Presbyterian Women

Northern Waters

The PWPNW Coordinating Team met at United Presbyterian- Superior for their Feb. 2011 meeting. At our meetings we always share happenings in the lives of our members . We planned our PW Annual Meeting.

This meeting was held at Glen Avon Pres. in Duluth. Our theme was All Hearts Beat The Same , with a panel called Daughters of Abraham. These women meet regularly from Temple Israel, Islamic Center of the Twin Ports and Christian-Interfaith Community Ministry. This discussion gave us a feel for some of the commonalities we share. An enlightening morning. We also heard from the director of Agape House of Hope - a ministry near the prison that houses families of prisoners, who are visiting those incarcerated. Our offering for the day was for this ministry.

Our Feb. CT meeting also began planning for our Clearwater Forest Retreat for the end of Aug .with a strong, able planning team led by Donneta Wickstrom. The theme is Be Still and Know That I Am God& Ps. 46:10 to be held Aug. 26-28, 2011. Two gift certificates for meals and two for lodgings will be given at the Annual Meeting in April. Reports were given by the seven clusters of the PW of last fall gatherings.

Our CT met again the month, and at this time our main item on the agenda was - Do we have the retreat, or not? Numbers were way below last time and lower than financially feasible. We struggled with whether we have it for a few, but doing the numbers crunch , our team felt we would not be good stewards of our funds to continue planning and cancelled with much sadness, and will go back to our clusters to get their feedback for why registrations were down. Timing, economy, etc.

We have set dates and places for the fall gatherings.

We did planning for the Annual Meeting April 26, 2012 at United Presbyterian Church-Superior with a theme God Is The Potter - We Are The Clay . Our afternoon programs will include Nashville Mission Trip and a report of the South Dakota Mini-Mission Trip. As always each gatherings bring in a colorful display of quilts, mission hand work and items for the seafarers in our Twin Ports area.

ta Mini-Mission Trip.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemary Moody, Moderator of PW of Presbytery of Northern Waters

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

"Reaching Out to the Poorest of the Poor with God's Love" was the theme for the spring gathering of PW/PTCA April 9 at the Presbyterian Home at Boutwell's Landing in Oak Park Heights. The morning speaker was Pastor Heidi McGinness, Outreach Director of Christian Solidarity International's US affiliate. Her topic was "Walking Alongside One Another in Sudan". In the afternoon there was a panel discussion featuring Ruth Jones of No. Presbyterian Church, No. St. Paul and Tina Brown of First Presbyterian, Rochester. The topic was "Remember Niger and Haiti". These women had been on mission trips to these countries. We were pleased to find out that the Remember Niger Coalition, of which Ruth is a part, is one of the grant recipients for the 2011 Thank Offering. (See HORIZONS, July/August , p. 28) Sheets were collected for African hospitals, an ongoing project of our presbytery. The offering of \$1025 was given to the Barbara Tilton Scholarship Fund to aid women seminarians in our presbytery.

On June 11 the Coordinating Team met at Calvin Presbyterian Church, Long Lake, to plan the Fall Gathering, which will be held at Calvin Presbyterian on October 15. The theme will be "Faith Empowers Community: Serving Our Sisters in Christ". Our gathering co-chairs are working to secure a speaker from the Kwanzaa Presbyterian Church, North Minneapolis, to speak about a new project of theirs, the Northside Women's Space, which is a refuge for victims of prostitution. Minnesota Public Radio and the St. Paul PIONEER PRESS have done features on human trafficking, and they will try to get a speaker from one of those. The Peace and Justice Committee's emphasis this year is on homelessness and domestic abuse. Women attending the fall gathering will be asked to bring a purse with items women need, including a small New Testament.

Marilyn Youel of Westminster Presbyterian in Minneapolis and I will be attending the Mini PW Mission Experience in South Dakota August 10-14.

Sylvia Swede, Rochester, MN

Report of PW in the Presbytery of Milwaukee

The women of PW in the presbytery of Milwaukee held their Spring Gathering at Grace Presbyterian Church in Beaver Dam on Sat. April 9. This was a half day event serving a brunch and concluding by 12:30. The theme for the day was "Justice for All: Imprisonment and Justice". Women were introduced to the concept of Restorative Justice through a presentation by speaker, Nancy Franke. The offering of the day was donated through Nancy Franke to further the work of restorative justice within that community. Other events of the day included a sharing time at the tables following registration as the women were to sit with those from other congregations and share stories of their PW programming and mission activities. This was very well received and provided new suggestions to take back to the local PWs.

A tradition was begun in the Milwaukee PW several years ago of offering a short memorial service for the women who have passed on during the previous year. These women served the Lord faithfully, in the capacity of leadership, teaching, loving and caring. They all deserve to be remembered.

The 2012 Churchwide Gathering was promoted with a 'Gathering Fan' given to each attendee and a short skit presented by women of the Coordinating Team.

Plans are under way for the Fall Gathering which will be held at Kettle Moraine UPC in rural Hartland. This will be a full day Gathering with a speaker and workshops in the morning and a special presentation following lunch.

Following through with the justice theme, Cathy Mathei will speak to us on 'NOT in OUR Pews: An advocate's on Domestic Violence'. The offering of the day will go to the Women's Shelter in Waukesha.

During opening devotions, we will again be honoring 'Women of Distinction'. Each

PWC is encouraged to select one woman from its congregation who is outstanding in her life of faith and service to the church and the Christian calling. These women are then presented with a certificate and a PW pin.

Workshop offerings will be 'Sharing Ideas for Mission' led by mission coordinator Betty Dean, and 'Deepening Your Faith through Prayer' led by Chris Siler.

Following lunch a presentation will be given by Betty Dean, Helen McMasters, and Marilyn Stone sharing experiences and impressions from the Mini-mission Experience in SD in August. Each women is asked to bring a 8"x 8" square of solid colored fabric to be shared with our sisters on the Indian Reservation for use in their quilting endeavors. The women are also asked to bring empty pill bottles and other items for the Bread of Healing Clinics in Milwaukee.

The PWPCT continues to publish its newsletter, the Grapevine, four times per year. As per the Sower, information is passed on from other levels of PW as well as news which is happening with the women of PW in the Presbytery of Milwaukee. Articles include comments from the moderator, Book reading lists and reviews, Going Green, Mission suggestions, etc.

Submitted by Helen McMasters, representative to Synod

Homestead Presbytery

The Presbyterian Women of the Homestead Presbytery held 4 spring gatherings in April 2011. Each are planned their own event using a suggested agenda that was put together by the PWPH. All but one of the meetings was held on Saturday. At each spring gathering we asked the ladies to bring items to fill hygiene kits. A total of 174 kits were put together. The kits from Homestead, Central, Mo River Valley and Prospect Hill were then taken to Church World Service in the "2nd Great Truck Haul". We also included \$348 for \$2.00/kit and added \$200 to help with transportation of the kits.

Just last weekend the PWPH met to plan our Fall Gathering using the theme of "Bridging The Gap". The event will be held at camp Calvin Crest on Saturday, October 15th with an optional camp work activity will be held the day before with the board meeting that evening to make final arrangements.

Maggie Horak from Good Shepard in Lincoln Nebraska will be attending the Mini-Mission trips in the Dakota Presbytery. We are anxious for her to return and be one of our guest speakers at our Fall Gathering.

Respectfully submitted, Terri Sherman, Moderator of Homestead Presbyterian Women

Mission Matters: Together in Service

TECATE MISSION

Tecate Mission can use Bar Codes, Box Tops for Education, Canceled Postage Stamps and Used Ink Cartridges. These items that are useless to us can help support their mission school. The bar codes should be from grocery store items and trimmed around the edges. The stamps should have a ¼ inch paper left around the edges when trimmed. Please mail these items to Tecate Mission, P.O. Box 1000, Tecate, CA 91980.

Frontera de Cristo Border Ministry

<http://www.fronteradecristo.org>

Submitted by Jean McMaken

Frontera de Cristo is one of six border ministries of the **National Presbyterian Church of Mexico** partnering with **Presbyterian Church-USA**. Frontera de Cristo is centered in Agua Prieta, Sonora and Douglas, Arizona.

It strives to share and live the Good News of Jesus Christ through six ministries:

Church Development – working to start 2 new churches in Agua Prieta and Hermosillo, and nurturing continued growth of Lily of the Valley Presbyterian, Agua Prieta and First Presbyterian, Douglas AZ. Both Lily of the Valley and First, Douglas are multi-cultural churches.

Health ministry – For 15 years working to educate residents and provide screening and medical care to prevent cervical and breast cancers, control diabetes and high blood pressure, and improve dental hygiene.

Family Ministry – sharing the Gospel with unchurched people through weekly Bible school for 30 children, monthly marriage workshops, women's self-esteem workshops, parenting classes in the schools, emergency assistance, and pastoral counseling.

New Hope Community Center – educational, cultural and development activities for the larger community: aerobics, guitar, cake decorating, sewing and barbering.

Mission Education – building relationships across borders, provides immersion experiences for universities, leadership groups and schools. Promotes faithful responses to the immigration crisis.

Just Trade Center – works to help other groups set up farmer cooperatives in Mexico and Haiti.

The farmers own the business, earn more money than if they sold their coffee to a broker, and also are able to provide health insurance for their families and retirement benefits.

Migrant Resource Center – works to bring different groups together to help migrants, especially those recently deported. Provide food, clothes, basic medical care if needed. Document abuse of migrants; help victims of violent crimes pursue legal actions.

Anne Volker, member of **Collegiate Presbyterian, Ames, IA** (North Central Iowa Presbytery) is working as the Mission Education Coordinator with Frontera de Cristo. You can visit her blog online at:

<http://agvinmexico.blogspot.com/> **Collegiate Presbyterian** purchases coffee from the cooperative- **Café Justo**, to serve during fellowship hour and at other church events. The **CPC** college group also sells it to raise money for their mission trips. Visit the **Café Justo** website: <http://www.justcoffee.org/> for details on ordering coffee.

Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar are the current mission coworkers at Frontera de Cristo.

You can read about them and their work at Frontera de Cristo on the General Assembly Mission Council website:

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/missionconnections/adams-mark/>

Mark, Miriam and their three children would love to hear from you:

mark.adams@pcusa.org

You can write them at:

miriam.maldonado@pcusa.org

Frontera de Cristo

P.O. Box 1112

Douglas, AZ 85608

To learn more about PC-USA Border Mission history/goals/projects, visit:

http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/mission_profiles/mission_detail.aspx?id=156

More resources to help you connect with PC-USA missions and mission coworkers:

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/global/world-mission-resource-catalogue/>

Geneva John

(308)268-7439

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Jan Beran and Pat

Hauser visited

Frontera de Cristo

with the January 2009

PC-USA Mission

SHARING CORNER

Book Review: *“The Emptiness of our hands: a Lent Lived on the Streets”*

by Phyllis Cole-dai and James Murray.

Imagine your life without a home! For the duration of Lent in 1999, Phyllis and James voluntarily lived on the streets as homeless people. They went for one primary reason: to be as present as possible to everyone they met – homeless person, volunteer, university president, cop. They set out to love their neighbor as themselves. Done so, they were reminded just how difficult the practice of compassion can be, especially because of personal judgments, assumptions, fears and desires, all habits of mind that harden one’s regard for and behavior toward other people.

This book will thrust you out the door of your comfortable life, straight into the unknown.

By Helen McMasters

God Has a Mission. God Needs a Church

The Bible talks about people working, praying and worshipping together as the Body of Christ. Christ taught that his purpose is not to be served, but to serve. As the body of Christ, congregations are called to serve according to God will.

God has lots of work for congregations. God brings congregations into being because God has a mission in the world. God needs congregations to carry out that mission. Unfortunately, many congregations have lost sight of their reason for existence.

The Quad presbyteries (Prospect Hill, Missouri River Valley, Homestead and Central Nebraska) have contracted with the Center of Parish Development (www.missionalchurch.org) to take advantage of its theological and organizational systems, research and experience to help churches learn to discern and participate in God’s mission more faithfully and effectively. The process is called “Journey of the People of God.”

Each presbytery has several coach volunteers, pastors and lay leaders, who gather for study and practice at Calvin Crest Camp near Fremont, Nebraska, led by Ray Schulte of the Center. They then work with congregations, other than their own, to help those congregations through a three step process.

Discovering happens when local church coordinating teams design a local journey. They get organized and communicate with local leaders and their congregations.

Discerning happens when members get involved, sharing their personal visions of what their church might be and do. They spend time together in Bible study and then identify new perspectives.

With all that insight developed, the congregations can imagine a local vision, putting it in writing with a structure in light of a missional strategy. Innovations and concrete recommendations develop as they plan a transition into a new church design.

Some truths that often come to light are that in North America, Christian churches are changing. Intentional change is the result when we recognize that we are dissatisfied with the present. We need to face that and seek to understand it.

According to Ray, “It is more fearful for some churches to transform than it is to die.” Let us go be the hands of Jesus.

Help restore hope in New Orleans

Make plans now to join the next PW mission trip to New Orleans! In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, you will help build homes from March 12–18, 2012. Marta Rodríguez, PW Churchwide moderator, will lead the group, which will be hosted by St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church through its RHINO program (Restore Hope in New Orleans). The cost of this mission opportunity is \$500 per person, including shared accommodations at the Brent House Hotel, most meals and local transportation. Round-trip transportation to New Orleans is not included in the cost. Contact Kathy Reeves at katharine.reeves@pcusa.org for information about registration.

Churchwide Gathering is only a year away and the excitement is building!

One year and counting! Registration booklets will be distributed in September, so be sure to keep a lookout. Online registration will open in December. Plan and promote now! **Churchwide Gathering promotional resources** Just a reminder! There are lots of resources available to you to promote the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in 2012. The **Churchwide Gathering promotional pack** (with DVD) is still available from Presbyterian Distribution Service (800/524-2612; item CWG12032), and from the PC(USA)'s Church Store (www.pcusa.org/store). Or download from www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering.

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HAVE A FALL RETREAT, WINTER GETAWAY OR A FAMILY GATHERING??

LOOK NO FATHER HOW ABOUT

GREEN LAKE BIBLE CAMP:

BUILT ON THE SHORES OF THE BEAUTIFUL GREEN LAKE NEAR WILLMAR, MINNESOTA:

FACILITIES INCLUDE A HISTORIC CHAPEL WHICH THEY JUST RENOVATED A FEW YEARS AGO. IT SEATS 250 AND IS DONE IN NORTHERN PINE. THEY HAVE A LODGE AND A RETREAT CENTER. THIS IS ALL LOCATED ON 62 ACRES OF WOODED LAND ON THE SOUTH SHORE OF GREEN LAKE IN SPICER, MINNESOTA. THE RETREAT HOUSE IS AVAILABLE FOR USE BY ANY CHURCH GROUP OF ANY FAITH AND FOR SPECIAL FUNCTIONS. IT IS COMFORTABLE, AFFORDABLE AND IS YEAR AROUND. IT HAS SINGLE, DOUBLE AND DORM ROOMS. IT ALSO HAS MEETING ROOMS AND LOUNGES. THE STAFF IS RUN BY STUDENTS MOSTLY OF NEARBY COLLEGES. THEY ARE CURTEOUS AND THE COOKS ARE GREAT. I HAVE BEEN THERE EVERY YEAR FOR THE LAST 10 OR MORE AND HAVE NEVER HAD A BAD MEAL OR GONE AWAY HUNGRY. THEY HAVE GAMES FOR YOUNGER GROUPS ALSO. I WOULD RECOMMEND THIS CAMP FOR ANY GROUP THAT IS LOOKING FOR A RETREAT PLACE. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT THE ONLY BAD THING ABOUT THIS PLACE IS THAT THE LARGE MEETING ROOM HAS FULL LENGTH WINDOWS FACING THE LAKE AND IT REALLY MAKES CONCENTRATION HARD.

BY BETTY THORSON

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

****Note the change in email address for the Sower!! superiorpresby@gmail.com****

If you are or have been on the email list for the Sower and do not get it please let me know All my contacts were wiped out!! I am working on getting everyone back in I am sorry If I missed you!

Please make copies of this Sower and give those in your PW group a copy. Urge them to share it with others. Don't keep this info a secret!!

Moderators,

DON'T THROW ANYTHING AWAY! If you receive something in the mail and you don't know what it is, ask someone!

If you are no longer the moderator or don't wish to receive this newsletter, please let Melissa Jensen know who the current moderator is or request to be taken off the mailing list at superiorpresby@gmail.com or call 402-879-1070.

**We would like to send it by e-mail to as many as possible.
Let Melissa know if you can receive it by e-mail. Thank you**