

June 2008

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Moderator's Mosaic

The Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women, on April 12 at Winterset, was well attended and a wonderful time of good speakers, fellowship, and resources. Because we felt that the program booklet from the event was so full of helpful information, each moderator in the Presbytery received a copy whether they were in attendance or not.

The theme "Catch the Wind" was carried out throughout the day. **Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy** and **Rev. Shamaine Chambers-King** provided opening worship and closing communion, "to nurture our faith through prayer". Using the section of our PW Purpose "to support the mission of the Church", **Denise England** shared with us her call to the mission field in Egypt. Our representative to the Churchwide CoOrdinating Team, **Margaret Welsh**, spoke on her participation at a recent UN conference "to work for justice and peace". And **State Representative Jodi Tymeson**, used the theme of "to build an inclusive, caring community", to talk about her faith walk and work in the legislature.

As we celebrated 20 years of PW, special recognition was made of women who had served as past PW Presbytery Moderators. Past Moderator **Jo Rainer**, 1988-1990, installed new Co-Ordinating Team members.

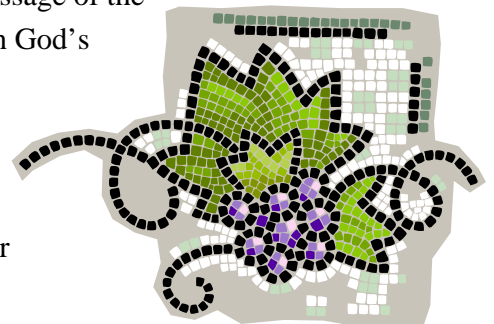
A generous offering of \$490 was collected and split between our designated missionary **Denise England** and **CROSS ministries** in Des Moines. Many boxes of items were collected and delivered for CROSS Ministries that day as well. Also as is our tradition we dedicated the Birthday offering to be sent to the Presbyterian Church Congo and the Presbyterian Church of Kinshasha, as well as Lakeview Presbyterian Church Weekday School in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Rev. Linda O'Connell became "Presbyterian Women" of many hats for us several times during the day, sharing history of PW groups and women in our Presbytery.

The PWP Co-Ordinating Team will be meeting July 12 at **Windsor Presbyterian Church in Windsor Heights**, at which time we will be planning our Fall Workshops. Please keep us in prayer as we seek to move the message of the Gospel ahead in God's World.

Sincerely,

Emily Seeger
PWP Moderator



National PW News

HORIZONS Bible Study needs Field Testers for 2010-2011

The 2010 *HORIZONS* study will be on *Revelations!* and written by Barbara Rossing. As field testers, you and your PW group will read the first draft of the study. You will have the opportunity to share your thoughts, questions, and suggestions with PW staff and with the author. Groups will be invited in June 2008. Field testing occurs between November 2008 and February 2009. Applications are available online at www.pcusa.org/horizons or contact Ashley Meyer, 888-728-7228, ext. 5366.

New! Spring/Summer PW Resource Mini Catalog

The new PW resource mini catalog is ready. It includes both Birthday and Thank Offering item numbers. The catalog, item PWR-08-001, is downloadable at www.pcusa.org/resources or order through PDS, 800-524-2612.

New Resource on Africa's Children

International Health Ministries has a new mission resource available. **Africa's Children: A Church Re-**

sponse to Children's Issues in Sub-Saharan Africa.

It contains three Bible study guides, stories about children in Africa, factors that put children at risk, models of care for orphaned and vulnerable children, and discernment questions for congregations or individuals who want to help. You can order or download the resource, (PDS 24384-07-003) or by going to www.pcusa.org/aids-international.

Working for Justice and Peace

The Churchwide Coordinating Team's Justice and Peace Committee is working to help PW become knowledgeable about the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000. It is hoped that the 8 goals will be achieved by 2015. The goals are as follows:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

New PW *HORIZONS* Bible Study for 2008-09

Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor by Dale Lindsay Morgan. In the nine lessons of this study, the author highlights Jesus' message of jubilee: "...he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor... to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free..." Learn about the many ways that Christ's jubilee message turned the world upside down, exalting the poor and including outsiders, bringing the love of God to ALL. There are many resources available for this study, including:

- * *Eyewitness News: Transcripts of Live Interviews with Those Who Saw Jesus* – Fictional interviews with those who witnessed Jesus' healings, teachings and miracles.
- * *Out of the Abundance of the Heart: A Jubilee Journal* – The author has created a journal to be used to tell of Jesus' long journey to Jerusalem. Could be used during Lent or the 40 weeks of the Bible Study.
- * *On the Road: A Storytelling Journey with Luke* – Kikanza Nuri Robins has created this workbook to help participants understand how they and others experience inclusion and exclusion, privilege and powerlessness.
- * **Printed Bulletin Covers** of the cover of the of the study, can be downloaded at www.pcusa.org/horizons.

2009 Churchwide Gathering

“God Will Do Wonders Among You” – Joshua 3:5

July 11-15

Louisville, Ky.

Next summer in Louisville, Kentucky, Presbyterian Women will gather from near and far to explore the ways we see God working among us all the time. Dynamic speakers, inspiring worship and Bible study, and workshops covering mission, leadership, personal spiritual growth and more will nurture and challenge us.

Scholarships will be available through the Des Moines Presbytery PW!

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Synod PW Update

The Sower Now Posted On Synod Web Site

The Sower, the newsletter of the Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, is now being posted on the synod's Web site. The first issue posted March 2008, is the group's mission issue. It contains multiple opportunities for both service and gifts. Among the stories in *The Sower* is one by Marilyn Stone, mission coordinator for the group. She wrote, "It didn't matter where I went, there was always a shortage of volunteers and the need for them is very great!" The complete issue can be found at: www.lakesandprairies.org/PDFFiles/Sower.pdf.

Milwaukee Group Supports Ugandan Grandmothers

Grandmothers don't often expect to raise their grandchildren, but in Africa, where the AIDS epidemic has killed the parents of thousands of children, it happens too frequently. But a group in Milwaukee is doing what they can to help. Called *Grandmothers Beyond Borders*, and only a little more than 2 years old, the organization is building relationships with grandmothers who are raising grandchildren in Uganda, increasing awareness of the impact of AIDS in Africa and working to improve the African grandmothers' standard of living. The organization describes itself as a volunteer, grass-roots effort, which started through the efforts of Amy Peterson of Milwaukee, who heard of the plight of Ugandan grandmothers through a National Public Radio broadcast. The origins are more fully described at the organization's Web site, www.grandmothersbeyond.com. All funds donated to *Grandmothers Beyond Borders* support the Ugandan grandmothers and grandchildren who have been affected by AIDS. Donations provide the basic necessities of raising children, including food, bedding, clothing, school supplies and school fees. Administrative costs are currently covered by donors and sponsoring organizations. Jerusalem Presbyterian Church, Wales, Wis., is actively participating in the program. The Grandmothers Beyond Borders group at the church recently worked on book bags that it will sell at the church's Donna Lexa Memorial Art Fair in August. All proceeds from the sale of the bags will go to *Grandmothers Beyond Borders*.



Local News

Honorary Life Memberships

The new rate for the Honorary Life Membership is \$95 for the silver pin and \$250 for the gold pin. Please contact **Kate Dukelow**, 515-334-9441 or kdukelo@msn.com for applications and more information.

Spring Gathering Offering Totals \$590

The offering from the Spring Gathering in Winterset totaled \$590. That total was divided between support for **Denise England** and **CROSS Ministries**. Thank you to all who contributed, and don't forget that there is always a need for supplies at CROSS ministries.

Kudos to Margaret!

Margaret Welsh (Heartland, Clive) recently attended the 52nd meeting of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, held Feb. 25-March 7, 2008, in New York City. The meeting focused on funding for gender equality and the empowerment of women. National missions and nongovernmental organizations from across the world attended to report achieve-

ments, best practices and continuing problems. Margaret reported on her experiences at the Spring Gathering in Winterset on April 12. Margaret is completing her 3-year term as the Synod Representative to the Churchwide Coordinating Team. Thanks Margaret for your faithful service!

Whatcha Doin'?

We would love to hear what things you are doing in your local PW. Please send program ideas to **Margaret Welsh** at margaret2909@hotmail.com. Send mission ideas and questions to **Evelyn McKenna** at 515-274-6276. Part of being a Presbyterian Woman is networking, so let's get busy!

Attention All Churches...

At the November meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines, we will be celebrating our 165th anniversary of the Presbytery. We need your help with some historical and little known facts about each church in the Presbytery. Please be on the look out for information to use, and send to **Emily Seeger**, seeger@q.com.

Synod of Lakes and Prairies PW Report

To: Synod of Lakes and Prairies Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, PW Moderators, and Co-Moderators

From: Margaret Welsh, Presbyterian Women of Lakes and Prairies Representative to the CCT (2005-2008)

Date: April 11, 2008

This is my 6th and last report to Presbyterian Women in the Lakes and Prairies Synod. I feel that I've done a good job these past three years but I also have that gnawing in the pit of my stomach wishing I could have done more. It's been almost a full time job; not a day has gone by that I haven't been doing something related to my work. My committee for three years has been Justice and Peace. The past two years the *Horizons* Bible Study was added to my duties and this past year I was the chairman of the Bible Study. I've written three articles for the *Horizons* magazine. Two have appeared over the past two years and the third one will be published sometime this summer.

The Churchwide Gathering planning teams had met in Louisville, Ky. Jan. 12-13, 2008. We previewed the new Gathering promotional packet and DVD. These items are now available from PDS 800-524-2612; item CWG-09-032. The packet is also available as a download from the PW Churchwide Gathering Web site, www.pcusa.org/pwgathering. The Gathering registration form will be available in the September/October issue of *Horizons*. The CWG 2009 logo won a 2008 Award of Excellence from the Religion Communicator's Council.

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The Churchwide Coordinating Team met in Alexandria, Va., March 4-9, a summary follows:

- Catreia Hunter has stated that the Antiracism Task Group has become a CCT working committee. It will focus on actions that Presbyterian Women, individually and as a group can take to combat racism in their churches and communities.
- Ellen Newbold, chairman, asked that we vote to continue the *Blessings Without Boundaries Mission Pledge* Campaign. The new theme and the materials for the 2009-2112 triennium will be introduced at the 2009 Churchwide Gathering.
- Eveline Steele, chairman, tells us that a new, brief PW organizational overview piece is being created. The resource is being translated into Spanish, Korean, Taiwanese, Arabic, and Portuguese.
- **Margaret Welsh**, Chairman of the Bible Study Committee, reports that the author for the 2011-2012 *Horizons* Bible Study Committee will be Dr. Margaret Aymer Oget, which is on the Beatitudes. She lives in Atlanta, GA. The topic for the 2012-2013 Bible Study will be *Christian Community* as understood through the epistles.
- Polly Shafer, chairman of the Finance Committee gave this three year income comparison:

Mission Pledge	2005	2006	2007
Birthday Offering	\$2,350,000	\$2,155,000	\$2,085,000
- Hagar Benitez, chairman of Justice and Peace reports that Presbyterian Women have signed up with the Good Deed foundation of the Women's Funding Network to promote simple acts about consumer actions that lift women and girls out of poverty. Soon, items with the Good Deed logo will be available in stores. Purchase of these items will provide funds for the 125 nonprofit organizations working to dismantle poverty or provide solutions to climate change. Visit www.GoodDeedFoundation.org/ for details.
- The Coalition of Immokalee Workers has launched a petition campaign calling on Burger King and other food industry leaders to work with the CIW to:
 - * pay a penny more per pound to farm workers harvesting tomatoes
 - * establish an enforceable, human rights based code of conduct to end modern day slavery and other abuses in the fields.
- Signers would indicate their intention to stop patronizing Burger King now and possibly other food industry leaders in the future. Petitions will be delivered in late spring to Burger King headquarters in Miami, Fla. in a peaceful action, so act now!
- For more, PW has received an update on Nestle, S.A., and its relations with cocoa farmers in West Africa. "Global confectioners Mars and Nestle have joined a sustainable cocoa program, which aims to establish a traceability program for all farmers in the Ivory Coast." For more information visit www.foodnavigator.com/news/printNewsBis.asp?id=83094.
- The CCT delegates gave reports on the 52nd Commission on the Status of Women. They have asked to become informed about the Millennium Development Goals, the Millennium Campaign, and Voices Against Poverty.
- Mission Relationships Committee, **Judia Foreman**, chairman:
 - * Information on *Bread for the World* and its *Offering of Letters* campaign will be placed on the Together in Service Web site, www.pcusa.org/pw/missionmatters/tis/.
 - * The committee encourages Presbyterian Women at all levels to purchase and read the daily *Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study*.
 - * Palm Project: \$20,000 has been sent for purchase of palm trees to be planted in the Congo: another \$12,000 has been received for additional palm trees (money will be sent when \$20,000 has been received).
 - * Each MRC committee member will develop relationships with Mission Relationships SCT members in two assigned synods.
- The CCT attended the Ecumenical Advocacy Days event in Alexandria, Va. on Friday night, March 7 for open plenary and Sunday morning, March 9, for worship and workshops. Two of us, Judia Foreman and I, participated in Congressional visits on Monday, March 10 on Capitol Hill.
- On Saturday evening I did the devotions using our *Horizons* Bible Study and Ruth as the theme for being just an ordinary woman but called by God to do extraordinary tasks. We all fit into that category sometimes in our life. A party was given to the six of us who will no longer be on the CCT.

The next CCT meeting is Aug. 20-26, 2008 in the Minneapolis area, in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

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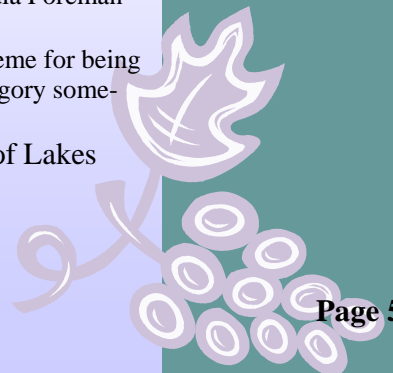
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The Grapevine

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Please e-mail your questions and suggestions to Editor Kim Coulter at pbycommunication@qwestoffice.net.

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New PWC Co-Ordinating Team members

It's that time of year again when new CT members are elected. In order to keep our mailing lists current, we are asking that you please send names of new officers to **Sherry Templeman** at sherryt@wildblue.net and to **Kim Coulter**, editor of *The Grapevine* at pbycommunication@qwestoffice.net. Newly installed Co-Ordinating Team members are:

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