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Moderator's Mosaic

Greetings:

The destruction of a church through fire is an especially emotional happening. Our daughter and son-in-law attend the historical Portland Avenue Presbyterian in Louisville, Kentucky which was completely destroyed by fire the weekend of January 16.

As their pastor, Willa Fae Williams was interviewed by reporters and camera crews took pictures of the church ablaze in the background, she said, "This is a pastors worst nightmare. But we know that the presence of God is here. The church is not a building, the church is the people. God will work wonderful things in us and our community."

How was this congregation to know that when they voted to build an addition to their building just a month earlier...and had struggled with how to merge the old building with a new one, that there was a better plan in the works. God's plan.

How did they know that the food pantry and clothes closet and prison ministry they provided in the church would become a witness to the fire fighters, who helped them find a place to worship the next day, and then returned to worship with them and bring to the service the baptismal font and large wooden cross the

fire fighters had been able to save from the burning sanctuary.

How did the pastor know when she chose the hymns on Thursday, for the service on Sunday, that "Great is Thy Faithfulness" would be sung with such heart-rending strength by the congregation.

Yes, the church is the people and we don't know God's plans for us, but we can be so sure that they are the best plans there can possibly be. We know as Presbyterian Women that we are the people of God and we can make a difference wherever we live.

I invite you to attend our Presbytery's *Spring Gathering* on April 25 at Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines and see and hear that "Mission IS Possible".

Emily Seeger
PWP Moderator



National PW News

2009 Birthday Offering Update

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee (CMOC) of Presbyterian Women met in September 2008 and chose two recipients for the 2009 Birthday Offering:

“His Kids Too!” Children’s Home for Orphans—Dzerzhinsk, Ukraine. Focusing on the Eastern European country of Ukraine, “His Kids Too!” is a Christian organization committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with more than 5,000 orphans by providing humanitarian aid, health care and educational opportunities.

Centro de Obrero Fronterizo d.b.a. La Mujer Obrera Centro Mayapan Project—El Paso, Texas. Centro Mayapan assists women in their struggles to support themselves and their children by teaching the women not only new trade skills but also how to market the fruits of their labors. The project encompasses community revitalization, economic justice and women’s leadership, and is reviving Mexican cultural heritage.

Both of these recipients are in locations visited by the 2008 Global Exchange to Central and Eastern Europe, and PW’s 2008 U.S.A. Mission Experience in El Paso/ Ciudad Juárez. For a full report on these two projects, see the January/February 2009 issue of *HORIZONS*.

2009 Birthday Offering Goal

A goal of \$800,000 has been set for these projects. How about offering 10 cents a year for your life or \$10 if you prefer not to reveal your age. Bring your Birthday Offering to the Des Moines Presbytery’s Spring Gathering at **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** on April 25, 2009, for dedication.

Jane Parker Huber dies at 82: Indianan was renowned hymn writer, women’s advocate

by Jerry L. Van Marter, Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — Jane Parker Huber, 82, renowned Presbyterian hymn writer and tireless advocate for women in the PC(USA), died Nov. 16 in Hanover, IN.

Born to missionary parents in China, Jane descends from a long line of Presbyterian leaders. She has served as interim program coordinator for Presbyterian Women, as well as on the PC(USA)’s Council on Women and the Church, Joint Committee on Women, Social Justice and Peacemaking Ministry Unit, and the General Assembly Council. She has been recognized as a “Valiant Woman” by Church Women United and in 2002 received the PC(USA)’s “Woman of Faith Award.”

For many years, she was recognized as a respected sage through her regular column, “Ask Jane,” in *HORIZONS*, the magazine for Presbyterian Women.

She was probably best known for the scores of hymns she wrote to familiar tunes. Her “Women of Faith” citation states: “Jane Parker Huber’s creative renderings of “fresh words to familiar tunes” have inspired Christians to sing hymns with expansive, gender-inclusive language and rethink all of the images used for God and people.”

Parker Huber attended Wellesley College and received her B.A. and an honorary doctorate from Hanover College in Indiana. In 1992, she and her husband, Bill, received Hanover’s “Alumni Achievement Award.” In addition to Bill, Jane Parker Huber is survived by six children and lots of grandchildren, other relatives and friends.



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A Call to Advocacy and Action from the CCT Justice and Peace Committee

- Remember the **Good Deed Foundation's** cell phone recycling efforts. Request a free postage-paid envelope for one to seven phones. The project funds women's economic development. Visit www.gooddeedfoundation.org/recycle for information. Make this a justice project of your PW.
- Learn about the **Think Outside the Bottle Campaign** to combat privatization of water, plastic waste and use of fossil fuels. Take the pledge at www.thinkoutsidethebottle.org.
- Want to know about social justice policies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) supported by actions recommended to Presbyterian Women? See the Web site for the **Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy**, www.pcusa.org/acswp.

World Mission Events

Presbyterian Women are invited to support three key World Mission events in 2009 through their prayers and participation. Be sure your church is on **board for all three!**

Presbytery World Mission Advocate Gathering: May 7–9, 2009

This event is for presbytery-named mission advocates. They are invited to come and engage in theological reflection and discuss “best practices” with peers and experts. Topics of discussion will center on questions most commonly raised by presbytery and congregational mission committees. For details, contact: Lis Valle, Associate Director, Equipping for Mission

Involvement, Presbyterian World Mission, PC(USA), 888-728-7228, ext. 5729, lis.valle@pcusa.org.

World Mission Challenge: September–October 2009

Similar to Mission Challenge '07, the event will provide opportunities for congregations and presbyteries to hear the stories of how God is at work in and through our mission workers and global partners. Please urge your presbyteries to participate, and offer your assistance. For details, contact: Ellen Dozier, Missionary in Residence, Mission Connections, Presbyterian World Mission, PC(USA), 888-728 7228, ext. 5619, ellen.dozier@pcusa.org.

World Mission Celebration: October 21–24, 2009

This conference will bring together Presbyterians from across the church who are passionate about mission.

“Celebrate the Gifts of Women”

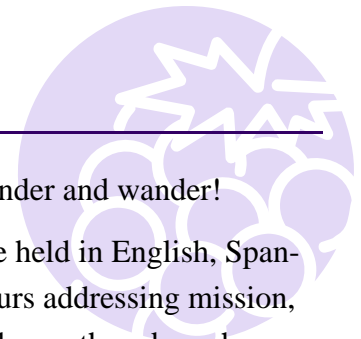
This is the Year of Calvin's Jubilee. On Sunday, March 8, we'll celebrate the 500th birthday of John Calvin, Protestant Reformer and foreparent of the Presbyterian Church. Resources are available at www.pcusa.org.

Presbyterian Disaster Response was busy in 2008

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has responded to 39 disasters this past year with:

- 3266 cleanup buckets to the Gulf Coast
- 5000 hygiene kits to Haiti
- 864 school kits to Louisiana
- 11420 hygiene kits to the Gulf Coast
- 5000 school kits to Haiti

The 2009 Churchwide Gathering News



The 2009 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held on July 11-15, 2009 in Louisville, Ky. Early bird registration cost is \$380, plus transportation and housing. After that, registration will be \$430. One-day is \$140 and weekend registration is \$150 (Saturday evening and Sunday). Registration for the full event includes 10 meals, all programs, tote bag, and program book. Registration for children (six months through 12 years) and youth (13–18 years) is also available as needed. Some scholarships for adults are available, **early bird deadline is Feb. 10**; hotel, travel and other meals are additional.

“God Will Do Wonders Among You!” based on Joshua 3:5

Go to the Great Room to see exhibits about justice and peace issues and mission opportunities. Shop for fair trade gifts in the Global Marketplace. Visit the *HORIZONS* space to learn more about your favorite magazine and Bible study. Buy PW and PC(USA) resources. Enjoy crafts and snacks. The Great Room

will be a terrific place to wonder and wander!

Gathering workshops will be held in English, Spanish and Korean as well as tours addressing mission, leadership, personal spiritual growth and much more. Learn from plenary speakers and Bible study leaders who will explore the theme.

More than 3,000 women (and children, youth and a few men!) will participate in the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, which is being held in partnership with the National Presbyterian Association of Clergywomen.

As well as the many exciting opportunities during the Gathering, you’ll also have the chance to explore Louisville — see the Presbyterian Center, the Speed Art Museum, Churchill Downs, the Kentucky Derby Museum, the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, the Muhammad Ali Center and much more!

Registration forms are available from your Presbytery’s PW moderator and in *HORIZONS*; beginning Jan. 15, 2009, mail or fax your registration, or register online.

10 Reasons to Attend the PW Gathering

1. To nurture your faith
2. To be in community with other women
3. To broaden your PW involvement
4. To gather resources and learn new skills as a PW leader
5. To learn about current issues in the church and the world
6. To learn about missions and mission opportunities
7. To be part of an exciting churchwide event.
8. To participate in the business meeting as a voting representative
9. To meet international participants
10. To participate in Bible Study

