

June 2010

Volume 15 / Issue 2

Moderator's Mosaic

Greetings!

My how fast the time flies when you are having fun!

It seems like only yesterday when Presbyterian Women in Des Moines Presbytery held their Spring Gathering on Friday April 9, at **Windsor Heights Presbyterian Church**. The theme of our gathering was Joined and Knitted Together in Love. Sixty-one women were present. Our morning speaker was Kay Olson from Sioux Falls, S.D., who told us about her Global Exchange experience to Eastern Europe. Our afternoon speaker was **Kathy Mahler** our Mission Co-Worker in El Salvador. Our offering for the day went to Compañeros. We also collected personal hygiene items for CROSS Ministry. **Rev. Shamaine Chambers King** led the opening worship and closing communion. New officers elected and installed were **Sue Kimball**, recording secretary; **Amanda Wetterling**, corresponding secretary, **Marilyn Ehram**, Area #1 Coordinator, and **Rev. Julie Sterling**, clergy representative from Sigourney First Presbyterian Church.

I want to thank Des Moines Presbyterian Women for their generous giving to our offerings at the Spring meeting. A large amount of items including such things as diapers, feminine hygiene products. In addition, \$203 was collected for CROSS Ministries.

The amount collected for Compañeros was \$251.50.

To date the amount received for the Birthday Offering is \$1,270.72.

Oskaloosa Presbyterian Women hosted the meeting for the Coordinating Team of the Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies on March 18-20. An offering was taken for assistance to the people in Dakota Presbytery because of the hardships they have suffered due a severe snow storm and loss of electricity. A love offering was also taken for the **Oskaloosa Presbyterian Women** to designate to a mission and they chose the Sudanese Kitchen.

In just a few days I will be attending the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Gathering of Women, June 16-19 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Marjorie J. Thompson, author of "Soul Feast" and Louise Lawson Johnson, the author of Suggestions for leaders of the 2009-2010 will present 2010-2011 Horizon Bible Study will be the key note speakers. Offering recipients will be **Denise England**, Mattresses for the Congo, and **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church** PW Sudanese Kitchen Project. We will be making fleece baby blankets for The Mustard Seed Project.

(Continued on page 2)

Presbytery Moderator's Mosaic continued...

It's not too late to register for the Synod's PW Gathering! Registration forms and booklet may be found online at: www.lakesandprairies.org/PDFFiles/2010PWGATHERING.pdf.

Please encourage the Presbyterian Women you know to join us at this gathering. We still have several scholarships available:

- 1 clergy woman scholarship for \$150
- 2 scholarships for Sudanese women of \$200
- 5 scholarships for any woman \$100

Scholarships are given at first come first served basis. Apply by contacting Rev. Linda O'Connell at: revlinda@iowatelecom.net or 641-203-3660, or 641-766-6577. Local churches are also encouraged to help with scholarships and transportation.

Yours in His Service,

~Rev. Linda O'Connell, PWP Moderator

Photos on right include: Kathy Mahler speaking at the Spring Gathering. Kay Olson giving her presentation in costume from the Czech Republic. Rev. Shamaine Chambers King and Rev. Julie Sterling serve communion. And Emily Seeger installing Rev. Julie Sterling, Marilyn Ersham, Sue Kimball.



Synod of Lakes & Prairies' Update

How Green Am I?

*Submitted by Phyllis VanGerpen,
PWP moderator of East Iowa*

Do you think this whole "green" thing is a lot of humbug? Suggestion: take several friends and drive out to your landfill. Be sure one is on each side of the car so they can look in the ditches as you move at minimum

speed limit. Ask them to count all the plastic bottles, soda cans and bags they spot. You will know when you get closer to the landfill because the fence will be lined with plastic bags, go more slowly and count quickly. If you are really brave, enter the gate and look at the piles and piles of non-degradable objects. You may feel like turning around as you feel disgusted or even nauseous. Is this what we want the next generation to inherit?

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

You have probably been behind someone in a checkout line who carried bags or baskets. You might have thought it was a nuisance or you might have thought them environmental nuts. But a second thought would have praised them for avoiding spoiling the face of mother earth. If so, then you can loudly join in singing “For the beauty of the earth...” next Sunday.

It is so easy to forget to take your own bags or baskets from home. Keeping some in your car would be one possibility to avoid forgetting. Hang one on your coat hanger or get one that folds up very small and carry it along in your purse for the time you unexpectedly make a purchase. If all that fails, ask for paper instead of plastic at the grocery store, it disintegrates.

So what can each of us do to preserve the beautiful earth God created? Stop for a moment to think what disposable things you buy? Will they degrade? Could you avoid buying them and use something in your cupboard even if it means clean up will be a bit longer?

Some congregations have decided to join the fight against Styrofoam cups and use ceramic mugs for coffee time. Plastic and Styrofoam plates are “verboden” in favor of the forgotten dishes in the cupboards. The lovely stainless cutlery is so much nicer to use; the tines don’t break off the forks and the knives don’t break when food is cut. Yes, it takes a bit longer to clean up but remember the trip to the landfill? How many fewer bags of garbage will you have? (Garbage bags are usually plastic too!) IF you really feel compelled to use disposable, use paper.

Please feel obligated to give it more than a passing thought. Yes, your little bit will count.

“For the beauty of the earth... Christ our God, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.” ThanksGiving or thanksLiving?

“Thinking Outside the Bottle” – Plastic Water Bottles

To support PW’s desire to discourage the use of plastic water bottles that pollute the environment and to encourage the use of tap water, the PW Synod Coordinating Team voted at it’s November 2009 meeting to no longer provide plastic water bottles for use at PWSCT meetings and encourage carryover to individual daily life.

The following facts were taken into consideration in making this decision to “think outside the bottle”:

- Much bottled water is simply filtered or purified tap water
- Producing plastic bottles uses petroleum and energy
- Tons of plastic bottles go to landfills and are not biodegradable
- Most tap water is closely monitored to meet high health and safety standards, yet bottled water is not closely monitored



PWP Executive Officers

PW Moderator

Rev. Linda O’Connell
Lucas & Chariton, First PCs
641-766-6577
revlinda@iowatelecom.net

Vice Moderator

Vacant

Recording Secretary

Sue Kimball
Indianola, Trinity United PC
515-961-2493
kimballsusan53@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Angela Williams
Audubon, First PC
712-563-2213
awills37@hotmail.com

Area Co-Ordinating Team members

Area #1

Marilyn Ersham
508 N.E. Elm St.
Greenfield, IA 50849
641-743-2525

Area #2

Vivian Thatcher
8031 Garrison Rd.
Clive, IA 50325
515-276-7869
vthatcher292@aol.com

Area #3

Caroline McNamar
245 West St. N., Box 88
Hartford, IA 50118
515-989-0149
bill_mcnamar@msn.com

Area #4

Rev. Sara Speer Palmer
18039 510th St.
Chariton, IA 50049
641-774-5414
jspalmer@Lisco.com

Synod of Lakes & Prairies' Update continued...



- The cost to buy bottled water adds up quickly; this money could go to greater needs
- The profit for companies producing bottled water is greater than that of the pharmaceutical industry (see “Nothing is Sacred: The Privatization of Water” in *Horizons* March/April 2005 issue on water)
- The consumption of bottled water encourages privatization of a basic commodity that may become less accessible to people without the means to purchase it.

For additional information, including a copy of the brochure *H2O: How to Overcome the Bottled Water Habit*, visit www.presbyearthcare.org, click on “Advocacy”, then “H2O”. Or see *Tap Water Challenge Kit*, by visiting www.ThinkOutsidetheBottle.org.

Quilts for Bellewood

Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children which headquarters are in Louisville, KY, has served abused, at-risk and homeless youth for 159 years. It is their hope that a handmade quilt can be provided to each youth entering care at Bellewood, as something they can have as their own and take with them when they leave. To learn more about Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children, visit their Web site at: www.bellewood.org.

Quilts need to be twin-sized (65” x 80”), of any pattern or material as long as they can withstand regular use and occasional laundering. The quilts will be given to male and female residents between the ages of 13 and 18. Generally there are more male than female residents at any given time. Contact Quilt Ministry Coordinator Margaret Coggin at: mcoggin@bellewood.org, if you have questions. Quilts should be mailed to Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children, 11103 Park Road, P.O. Box 23309, Louisville, KY 40223.

“Gift of the Heart” Kits

One of the ways Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has responded to the devastation in Haiti created by the January 12th earthquake, is by sending 35,000 hygiene kits and baby kits to 15 distribution sites in Haiti. As you can imagine, this has depleted the supply of these “Gift of the Heart” kits stored in their warehouses awaiting the next “disaster”. You can help replenish the hygiene kits and baby kits by visiting the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Web site at:

www.pcusa.org/pda/help/goh.htm for updated lists of items to include in each kit, as well as how and where to ship them. Be certain to include requested items ONLY (no substitutes) and use only NEW items.

Be creative by hosting a “Baby Shower for Haiti” or some other event to gather the needed items and assemble the kits! Perhaps you can think of a creative way to collect the \$2 per kit “airfare” as well.

CCT Summary

Report by LaDonna Fay, Synod of Lakes and Prairies Representative to the Churchwide Coordinating Team

The Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT) met March 9–14, 2010, in Louisville, Ky. Along with the usual business there were educational modules on trafficking (Noelle Damico), the Sudan (Debbie Braaksma), Haiti (K.T. Ockels and Lionel Derenoncourt) and a sample of the upcoming Leadership Training provided by consultants Sara Moore-Nokes and Verstan Choy.

An offering was received during closing worship for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to aid relief efforts in Haiti.

PW logo water bottles were provided to the CCT to support efforts to eliminate use of plastic water bottles and to raise awareness about the injustice of turning

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

water into a commodity. To order additional PW stainless steel water bottles, call Presbyterian Distribution Services (PDS), 800-524-2612, item PWR-09-404, \$10 each, plus shipping.

Complimentary copies of the *Horizons* PW magazine will no longer be sent to CCT members. CCT members are asked to subscribe to the magazine. As of January 2010, an annual subscription to *Horizons* is \$2,4.95; two years \$44 and three years, \$63.

Here is a report of my activities. Most of my time from last November until March was spent making plans for the USAME 2010. I was in contact with three of our sisters in South Dakota making plans for visits and places to stay. Kathy Reeves is our staff representative on the committee and she has been a big help. Other members of the committee were Alice Wyatt, Mary Lou Williams, Janis Quinn and Martha Knickel.

A flyer was prepared and application blanks were made available on the internet. Fifteen synods sent in their three or less applications. Kathy copied these and the committee had time to review these before our March meeting. We met two days before the CCT meeting. Guide lines were reviewed and the selection process started. When all selections were made, there was a good mix of ages and ethnic backgrounds. Plans are still being finalized and the committee will meet again at the time of our September meeting.

I also serve on the Bible Study Committee. We too met before our March meeting. The selection of the writer for the 2013-2014 study and the topic for the 2014-2015 study was accomplished. There were many good applicants for the writer and many topics were suggested for the study. A careful and prayerful selection process is used.

As a member of the Mission Relations Committee we reviewed projects for this triennium. The Mothers' Day Card project has been expanded. Cards may be ordered at no charge from gail.bingham@pcusa.org or (toll free) 888-728-7228, ext. 5573. Promotional materials may be downloaded from the PC(USA) Web site at: www.pcusa.org/health/international.

This spring I will be attending three spring gatherings. This will be the last of my two year obligation to speak about the first USAME which was the 2008 trip to the border ministry of El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico. This has led to much discussion of immigration. I want to remind you that Julia Thorne, the immigration attorney employed by the PC(USA) will have a workshop at our Synod gathering in June. She is very interesting and has a wealth of information.

This is a reminder to get your registrations in for the gathering at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. In addition to the great speakers and programs planned, it is a special time to greet friends and get acquainted with new ones. It is a very worthwhile four days. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Co-Ordinating Team members

Corresponding Secretary

Amanda Wetterling
LeRoy, First PC
641-877-9002
trinityparish
@iowatelecom.net

Mission Matters

Dianne Van Gorp
Oskaloosa, First PC
641-673-7864
vangorpd@mahaska.org

Resources & HORIZONS

Margaret Welsh
Clive, Heartland PC
515-210-3331
margaret2909@hotmail.com

Justice and Peace

Barbara Taylor
Newton, First PC
641-792-6990
barbjohn@pcpartner.net

Historian

Rev. Pat Summers
Honorably Retired
641-792-7536
patsummers@pcpartner.net

Clergywoman Rep

Rev. Julie Sterling
Sigourney, First PC
641-622-3029
ejsterling@iowatelecom.net

Search Committee

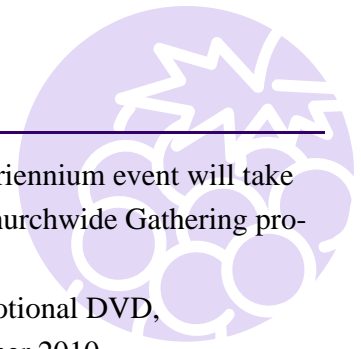
Nancy Lister-Settle
Dallas Center, First PC
515-992-3639
neitherthecat@gmail.com

Lila Jean Jensen
Audubon, First PC
712-563-2779
paul_lila@iowatelecom.net

Jeanne Beardsley
Des Moines, First PC
515-262-7029
edb-jmb@q.com



PC(USA) PW Churchwide Gathering



Save the date for Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering, July 18–22, 2012. This triennium event will take place at Gaylord Palms Hotel in Orlando, Florida (near Kissimmee). Look for upcoming Churchwide Gathering promotions to include:

- Watch the Gathering Web site for updates, www.pcusa.org/pwgathering
- Call to the Gathering, September/October 2010 *Horizons*
- Postcard, Summer 2010
- Promotional packet, December 2010
- Promotional DVD, Summer 2010
- Registration Booklet, September/October 2011 *Horizons*

Presbytery Women Update

PW Cottage Grove Avenue Kitchen Project

Now that the winter furnace crisis is behind us, we're making lots of progress on the kitchen at Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church in Des Moines!

The new tile flooring will be laid the week of June 7th. Thanks to Aaron Waltman of Floor Pro Services who negotiated with the supplier, we got the tile at cost, and he will install it at a discount. **Ginny Hancock** and **Louise Gately** of **Central Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** are organizing work crews to scrub the floor with degreaser and to move some of the heavy kitchen equipment out of the room before installation.

My son, Morgan Johnson who is an apprentice plumber and my husband, Jack Settle, an experienced carpenter are poised to replace plumbing and counter top for one of the large sinks as soon as the flooring project is finished. And we have someone lined up to diagnose the problems with the 10-burner, double-oven range so that when we move it out to install the flooring we will know whether we will move it back in (to repair) or move it on out (to replace).

Future plans include electrical and lighting work, and a thorough cleaning and organizing of the cupboards.

This ongoing project is being supported by Presbytery Women of the Des Moines Presbytery and of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

Questions? Contact **Nancy Lister-Settle** at:

neitherthecat@gmail.com or 515-992-3639. Send financial donations to the Des Moines Presbytery, 2400 86th St., Ste. 20, Urbandale, IA, 50322-4306.

PC(USA) Co-Mission Worker Denise England

Denise England, a PC(USA) mission co-worker from the Presbytery of Des Moines and our Synod of Lakes and Prairies, is currently serving in her second year at the Cairo Geriatric Medical Center in Cairo, Egypt. The majority of her time is spent on the Geriatric unit, although she also monitors nursing care on two other medical floors within the hospital.

Denise would like to start a PW circle there. She is asking the Des Moines Presbytery Presbyterian Women's groups to donate their old *Horizon's Bible Studies* for her to take back to Egypt. She will be back in Des Moines, Audubon and Manning, Iowa, in August. Please bring or send your study books to the **Des Moines Presbytery Office, 2400 86th St., Ste. #20, Urbandale, IA 50322**, (call first, 515-276-4991) or to the **Audubon First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 9, Audubon, IA 50025-0009**, (call first 712-563-3475) so that she can pick them up and take them back with her.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Below are two of Mission Co-worker Denise England's recent blog posts. To keep informed of Denise's work, visit her blog at: <http://deniseeadventure.blogspot.com/>.

Another Good Samaritan Story – May 8 Blog Post

Most every time I attempt to walk to a new place or take a new route, I end up lost and have to ask people on the street for directions. In an effort to be culturally correct I try to ask other women for this information. More times than not, the women will just ignore me and or walk away without speaking to me and I end up having to ask a man for my directions. I have tried to figure out why: I'm not Muslim, I'm a foreigner, my Arabic isn't good enough for them to understand, women don't speak on the streets... No reason really seems to make sense so I just keep on trying the women first.

Today I was blessed with a wonderful Muslim woman and her 5-year-old daughter, Salma. I approached them and asked for directions. The woman yelled ahead to a man walking in front of her and they conferred about how I should go. The woman then told me to follow her and off we went. After about a half block we arrived at her car and she insisted that I allow them to give me a ride. It is 97° F (36° C) and sunny today so I was more than happy to accept the offer. The ride was only about seven minutes long but we managed to get in a great conversation and parted friends.

I am extremely humbled by the actions of this good Samaritan woman; I am almost certain I would never make an offer to drive out of my way, in the crowded traffic of Cairo, for a stranger. May I never forget the unselfish actions of this woman.

Tell me it isn't so! – May 6 Blog Post

Some things are just too amazing to let slide, even in Egypt. Family is one of the most (if not the most) important thing to Egyptians. And, I really do agree with this theology. However, as a nurse, I do feel the need to draw the line at some point. At the hospital yesterday, we were blessed with the presence of three different children from three different families. Normally that would excite me and I'd find some inter-generational angle to use them as entertainment for my geriatric residents but each of these kids were brought to work with their mothers because they were too ill to go to school.

Which brings me to the amazing thing: I am the only one who sees any irony in bringing sick children to a hospital and geriatric unit. When I inquired into this system I was informed that, "there is no problem, the patients are already sick and the mothers need to work." For those of you who know me well, you know it takes a lot to make me speechless, but I'm telling you, I am still speechless today. I pray that when my voice returns, I'll come up with a better plan that I can sell to the hospital staff.



PWP has New Secretary

Welcome to the new Presbyterian Women's Corresponding Secretary **Amanda Wetterling**, member of the **LeRoy/Humeston United Trinity Parish**.

All PW church groups need to send their new officer list to Amanda instead of **Emily Seeger** due to Emily and her husband Don's move to Louisville, Ky., in May.

Take note of Amanda's contact information:

406 S. Eaton,
Humeston, IA 50123,
641-877-9002 (H);
641-877-4641 (M),
[trinityparish](http://trinityparish.iowatelecom.net)
@iowatelecom.net.

A big "Thank you" to **Emily Seeger** for all her volunteer work over the years with the Presbyterian's PW and the Atlantic Church PW group. She will be missed!

Emily's new contact information is:
204 Southwood Terrace,
Louisville, KY 40214,
dseeger123
@insightbb.com,
712-243-4519.

