



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE DES MOINES PRESBYTERY
GRAPEVINE March 1, 2007 Volume 12 Issue 1

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Des Moines

Spring Gathering Saturday, April 21, 2007

Registration begins at 8:45 am at
Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church
4601 Douglas Ave Des Moines, IA
515-276-4289

Reservations by Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Schedule

9:15 a.m. Gathering Singing
9:30 Opening Worship
9:45 Welcome
10:20 Break
10:30 Global Exchange Speaker: Gina Gustavson
11:30 Lunch \$5.00
12:15 PraiSing Music Group from Ottumwa
12:45-1:45 Workshop I
1:50-2:50 Workshop II
2:55 Communion

Workshop Choices:

1. Don Justo Coffee With Dignity Program and Our Sister Parish - Kathy Mahler
2. CIPO School in Brazil, recipient of Birthday Offering money - Gil and Virginia Dietz
3. Older Adult Ministries - Darlene Shepherd

Emily Seeger

Moderator of PW Des Moines Presbytery

701 Cedar Street, Atlantic, IA 50022,

712-243-4519

seeger@metc.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS . . .

At the PWP-CT meeting on January 27, 2007 as we worked with the By-Laws and Goals, we felt it would be best for us to meet again. The CT will meet at First Presbyterian Church, 3100 Easton Blvd, Des Moines, IA on March 10, 2007 at 9 a.m. for about 3 hours.

We are saddened by the news of Sally Woodcock's son, Stephen, who died from complications of heart surgery on January 12, 2007. Sally is a devoted member of PW.

Historian's Notes from Dianne Van Gorp, Historian, PW in Des Moines Presbytery

Thank you to all of you who sent me reports of what your PW has done in the past year. It's very rewarding for the historian to read, so the Coordinating Team decided to share your successes and ideas with the rest of the presbytery.

As usual, all PW's focused on mission outreach and Bible study, providing opportunities for fellowship for all the women of their churches. Most PW's use the Horizons Bible Study. Many have actively supported **Denise England's** quest to become a mission co-worker in Egypt. Some also contributed to their local congregations by decorating or cleaning the sanctuary, helping their congregation make its budget, or making new purchases for the kitchen. They were also busy raising money and providing meals. Many members have attended the presbytery PW meetings, as well as the Church-wide Gathering last summer. Mission contributions begin with pledges to the mission of PC(USA), as well as to mission opportunities in their local neighborhoods.

It is our honor to have Des Moines Presbytery represented on the PW Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT). **Margaret Welsh** of **Heartland Church** in **Clive** represents our synod, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, on this team. She is working with the Peace and Justice Committee, and, along with the rest of the CCT, made a work trip to New Orleans. **Dianne Van Gorp** is the current vice moderator of the Synod PW Coordinating Team (SCT), **Lois Williams** is the SCT Historian and **Emily Seeger** represents our presbytery at the Synod CT meetings. She is also the chair of the Synod PW Gathering, which is being planned for **July 11 – 14, 2007 at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake**. One of our Enablers, **Lila Jean Jensen**, has been the Moderator of the Presbytery this year.

Here are some specifics from some of the PW's in Des Moines Presbytery:

Park Avenue Church held a towel shower for Hansen House and also had a mitten tree besides contributing \$100 a month to the church's budget. They have rummage sales, brunches, a fall dinner and a salad luncheon to accomplish all of this. Last year they also refurbished the lounge at the church. They have two circles & the larger group meets four times a year.

Allerton PW take desserts to a local nursing home every April, contribute to Heart & Hands and make tray favors for the county hospital.

Mount Ayr United Baptist Presbyterian Church women tied quilts for fire victims, helped with Vacation Bible School and sponsored a mission soup lunch after church one Sunday. They had a "Bits and Pieces" workshop, with four members presenting scrapbooking, flower arranging, cooking with chocolate and painting. They also gave Christmas gifts to two families. They hosted a "Book Bag Brunch" for area women and asked the women to bring fabric book bags for children in Des Moines. 600 bags were collected. Carmen Lampe-Zeitler, former pastor there, and currently of Children and Family Urban Ministries in Des Moines was the speaker. They also collected toiletries for the youth group project in Clarinda and sent items to Indian missions in Oklahoma.

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines has about 150 women in their 8 circles. On the first Thursday of the month, all women come together for lunch and a program. Each circle has its own local mission project, and especially support Calvin Community, Westminster House and Church Women United. Their biggest fundraiser is a craft fair and food bazaar in November.

A fund raising letter mailed to all members of the congregation had a good result for **Sigourney** PW. They donated to Heart and Hands, Children's Square in Council Bluffs and the local hospice. They participate in Church Women United, and help out at its Lord's Pantry and Clothes Closet, and special community Lenten services. There is a fund raising breakfast each spring.

Grimes PW's fund raisers include pie sales and an ice cream social. They have an active prayer chain. They have decided to open the Bible study to both women and men. Their annual soup supper in March also included a "Talent Sprouts" program. They have an annual Night Out at Maxie's.

Douglas Avenue PW held a spring luncheon at Calvin Community, and go there twice a year to play bingo. Their Christmas luncheon was also held at Calvin, when they conducted a Christmas program for the residents. At Christmas they also collected cleaning supplies and personal items for the people served by CROSS ministries. In May they collected the cancelled stamps, eyeglasses and pop can tabs they'd accumulated during the year.

PW in **Dallas Center** contributed to CROSS Ministries, AIDS Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Africa, medical kits, Church World Service, and Denise England. They provide cookies for the weekly Logos group and other meals when requested. They have had a secret prayer sisters program for many years.

The PW in **Ewart**, with only six active members met seven times during the year, and hosted 3 potluck noon luncheons for the entire congregation. This past year was the church's 130th anniversary. Many members and friends returned and enjoyed an afternoon of reminiscing and fellowship. Two women decorate the church.

Knoxville PW's activities include a lot of hosting of community and church meetings, which include preparing and serving food, of course. They held a rummage sale and silent auction, purchasing Christmas boxes for needy families, making quilts, helping with Bible School, making quilts and remembering shut-ins with gifts, calls, cards and visits. They purchased a new refrigerator for the church and were able to contribute \$1,000 to their church's general fund.

Covenant Presbyterian Church's fundraising projects included a One Day Dollar (rummage) Sale, a salad luncheon with theme tables, catering a rehearsal dinner, and their Wednesday night dinners. All women of the church were invited by letter and phone to participate in one of the circles. E-mail addresses were collected and shared with all women of the church; they were asked via an email survey to name the major social concern in Des Moines. The CT used this information to determine a focus for their mission dollars. Monthly meeting minutes are printed in the church newsletter. PW works closely with the church's mission committee and adult-ed classes to coordinate mission efforts and learning experiences. They provided thirteen volunteers for Calvin Community's summer reading program and collected Yo-plait lids for cancer research.

Hartford PW members decorated their church for Christmas, had a potato supper and bake sale and smorgasbord. They served several funeral lunches and a birthday celebration. They were able to help out local families in need.

PW in **Creston** still has three circles, although not many attend each one, and have four general meetings a year, serve funeral lunches, help with the Christmas program team and continue with their prayer chain. They also are responsible for keeping the kitchen supplied and for fellowship time following worship.

Highland Park PW holds a fall dinner and bazaar each fall to finance its mission projects. They also gathered school supplies for CROSS ministries and cook and serve one Wednesday night dinner a month.

PW in **Centerville** served seven dinners for Men's Brotherhood and a baptismal dinner, provided food for Secretary's Day luncheon, sandwiches for the blood drive, food for the children's lock-in and cleaned the kitchen. PW provides a meal for church members released from the hospital. They collected items for Children's Square in Council Bluffs and donated to Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Africa.

Bedford PW sent bandages, sheets and hospital supplies for overseas missions, purchased and delivered flowers to shut-ins, hosted Church Women United and helped with the UNICEF drive. They purchased advent and Upper Room devotionals and Horizon Bible Studies. They supported Children's Square in Council Bluffs, CROSS Ministries and Morris Fork Crafts in Kentucky.

Local missions benefiting from **Chariton PW**'s fundraising are the NEST program for parents and young children, Christmas food boxes, CROP Walk, and Children's Square in Council Bluffs. They hosted one of the Fall Workshops for PW in the presbytery.

Monroe PW supported Camp Courageous, Camp Sunnyside, Progress Industries and other local projects.

Winterset PW's circles were busy with mission projects, making quilts, hospital gowns, rolling bandages and collecting materials for Presbyterian Border Ministry and Children's Square in Council Bluffs. They provided financial support for Denise England. One of their groups, Hands to God, meets each month for dessert, conversation and working on craft projects. They also plan the yearly bazaar. One of the circles keeps the kitchen supplied, decorated the church for Christmas and this year studied "Bad Girls of the Bible." Another circle holds its meetings at a local café. They hosted a birthday party at Westbridge and packaged and delivered 36 plates of cookies and 36 bags of fruit at Christmas. One of their members was an elder representative from Des Moines Presbytery to General Assembly.

Oskaloosa PW contributed to Church World Service kits and collected items for Heart and Hands Clinic in Des Moines. A spring lunch was held at a tea room in Pella the week before Tulip Time. They had a mini-retreat in February.

Audubon PW initiated a mitten and stocking cap Christmas tree at their church, played bingo with residents at Friendship Home, followed by lunch, supported fellow church member Denise England in her fund-raising, had a salad supper for members and guests and planned the church service to Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday. They held a bakeless bake sale and provided funds for members to attend the Churchwide Gathering.

Ideas from Margaret Magill

Resource book for knitters – "Knitting for Peace"

Available from www.knitpicks.com. Order number 30834. Cost \$13.57.

Included are patterns and references for agencies that need small items such as slippers and hats for military personnel (www.theshipsproject.com) and for war torn countries (www.afghansforAfghans.org). There are patterns for elementary school mittens and caps and caps for preemies and cancer patients and much more.

Other resources including patterns and references can be found at www.lionbrand.com, www.interweave.com and www.woolworks.org. In the menu of these sites look under 'charity knitting'.

To teach knitting, to re-energize those who haven't knit for awhile and to use up those left over balls of yarn, have people knit a 7" x 9" rectangle of any pattern. Adjustments will have to be made for needle size to retain the 7 x 9 size. Sew these together to make an afghan to give to a local nursing home or a homebound member of your congregation. This is a skill that can involve children to the elderly.

The www.knitpicks.com site also has yarn, free patterns, needles and other books.

Together In Service

As you all know we have had a name change for Mission Opportunities to "Together in Service". Rather than the old model of PWs national office assigning projects, Presbyterian Women are challenged to use the freedom to choose our own mission projects. Look around your community and dialogue with your church and PW group about what needs you can answer. Included are a few suggestions which we would like to share...

*Take soup to homebound friends on Valentines Day

*Make "lap & nap" fleece blankets for nursing home and day care centers

*Provide mission interpretation and education to the whole church by using the Mission Yearbook in worship

*Participate in the Fellowship of the Least Coin, Heifer Project International, Habitat for Humanity

* Provide personal kernels for a women's shelter (sanitary products, deodorant, gift cards for birthdays)

Here are a few other suggestions and Internet sites you might want to look at:

1. Teddy Bears for Tragedies - Knitted teddy bears are needed for distribution by police officers to children in emergency situations. www.teddicsfortragedics.org
2. Peace X Peace - In the PEACE X PEACE Global Network, Circles inside the United States communicate directly with their Sister Circles outside the U.S. via the Internet. Translation services are provided when there are language barriers. Strangers become friends, compassion replaces fear, positive actions occur, and peace expands. www.neacexncacc.org
3. Faces of Children - An ecumenical prayer ministry (under the auspices of First Presbyterian Church of Midland, Texas) that intercedes for children at risk around the world. A weekly prayer list is e-mailed and answers to prayer are provided when available. www.facesofchildren.net
4. Living Waters for the World - a mission project of the Synod of Living Waters of PC(USA) that provides a simplified water purification system and related educational programs to address the critical water crisis for communities that have available but contaminated water. www.livingwaterfortheworld.org
5. Aids International - The fight against HIV/AIDS is about much more than distributing anti-retroviral drugs and condoms. For African churches, it's about delivering hope rooted in Jesus Christ. See how bicycles, backpacks and Bible Studies are powerful tools in the church's battle against AIDS. www.pcusa.org/aids-international
(A portion of the offering received at the Synod Gathering 2007 will go towards a bicycle for this ministry.)

6. Shallow Well Program - This program provides a permanent source of safe drinking water to remote African Villages. For only \$300 you can furnish a shallow well for a village in Malawi, Tanzania or Zambia through Marion Medical Mission. <http://marionmedical.org>



The 2006 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women was based on scripture from Genesis 1 and John 1. The goal for attendees was to feed the power of God's Word, and through it, hear the living God speaking to us. Susan Andrews, the opening speaker, used the creation story to illustrate that through chaos God shows creativity and molds disciples.

God's Word began to emerge as a Light for the Journey for the next four days,

The second day's message dwelt on "Getting Along in the Garden" on diversity and inclusiveness, assessing spirituality in your environment, valuing diverse spirituality, managing differences so that we can make room at the table for those who may have differences.

Other speakers brought messages relating to work being done and needing to be done for peace, justice, health, education, and evangelism. Hearing speakers from around the world brought home the significance of God's Word and the inclusiveness of PW.

The Gathering Lady, the Forbearance Church Lady, the Trainer, the Song leader, and pianist, and dancer all added to the beautiful interpretations of God's Word.

So many new and exciting things to show that God is among us and supporting us and helping us to find our way to do His will for our lives.

**July 11 – 14, 2007
You're Invited to the
Synod of Lakes and Prairies
Presbyterian Women's Gathering**



“Celebrating the Patchwork of Life”
(see flier)

Registration Booklet Correction:

On **Thursday** morning:

Workshop #3: The Warmth of Quilts led by Mary Tatem will be offered.

Workshop #7: Quilt of Happiness led by Mary Tatem will not be offered. (cross out 7)

On **Friday** morning

Workshop #7 Quilt of Happiness will be offered.

Workshop #3 The Warmth of Quilts will not be offered. (cross out 3)

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Scholarships Available

\$1,200 in scholarship monies has been made available for those who would like assistance in order to attend the Synod Gathering. Maximum amount is \$100.00. If you would like to be a recipient please e-mail Emily Seeger, seeger@metc.net or Kate Dukelow, kdukelo@msn.com for more information. Application deadline is May 1.

Registration begins on March 1, 2007 and is due June 15, 2007 to:

**Virginia Dietz
2236 Fairway Drive #101
Muscatine, IA 52761
563-263-5499
gvdietz@earthlink.net**

GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER
PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES
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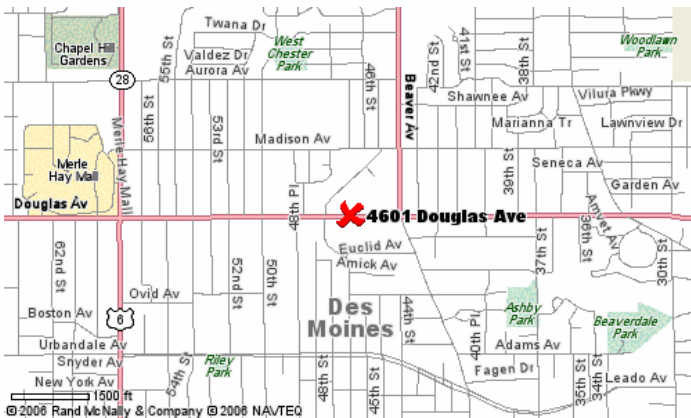
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FROM THE EDITOR

ADDRESS CHANGES: Please send address changes to me, Jeanne Beardsley, 435 Tyler Blvd, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327-2049 or call (515)262-7029.

Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church
4601 Douglas Ave Des Moines, IA
515-276-4289



From I35/80 exit 131 Merle Hay Road
Turn South on Merle Hay to Douglas Avenue
(Merle Hay Mall is at this intersection)
Turn left (East) on Douglas Ave.
Church will be on your left at 46th Street

Lunch \$5.00
Reservations by April 17, 2007
515-276-4289