

February 2010

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Moderator's Mosaic

Greetings:

I am sure that most of you are very tired of all the snow, wind, and ice we are having this winter. I know that I certainly am ready for spring. Well, believe it or not spring is just around the corner and so is our Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery. Sometimes it is hard for us to plan for our Spring Gathering when we are in the midst of January and all the snow. However, after having to postpone our meeting for one week, your PWP Coordinating team did meet and plan our upcoming **Spring Gathering which will be Friday April 9, 2010 at Windsor Presbyterian Church from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

We have a very special day planned for you so I hope many of you will be able to attend. I know we usually have our meeting on Saturday but our speakers were not available to us on April 10 so we decided to try a Friday meeting. I'm hoping this will give those working women who might like to attend enough notice so that they might be able to take a day off and join us. Please read carefully the material in this newsletter (pages 7 & 8) about the Spring Gathering and plan to attend.

Believe it or not by the time we meet at our Spring Gathering we will have already celebrated the resurrection of our Lord, on Easter Sunday, April 4. Last Wednesday, February 17, was Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Lent is a season of preparation.

I like this quote from *The Newsletter Newsletter*:

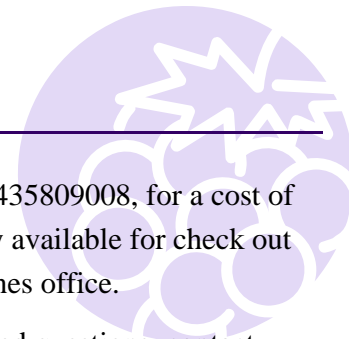
“Advent prepares us for Christ’s birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ’s resurrection. It is what each of us does regarding our spiritual life that makes Lent meaningful. Lent is a good time to read study and inwardly digest the four gospels. (The word gospel means ‘good new.’)”

May the good news of the gospel warm your hearts this Lenten season as we prepare for the warmth of Spring and the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. I'll see you at Spring Gathering.

In Christ's love,

– *Rev. Linda O'Connell, PWP Moderator*

Synod of Lakes & Prairies' Update



Mission Matters: Together in Service UPDATE

2009 PW Congregation Mission Project Reports are due to the PW Presbytery Mission Coordinator by Jan. 31, 2010. Copies of this two-page form can be downloaded from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies web-site at: www.lakesandprairies.org by following the links to Presbyterian Women.

2009 PW Presbytery Mission Project Reports are due to the PW Synod Mission Coordinator, Marilyn Stone, by March 31, 2010. Copies of this form can also be downloaded from the synod website as indicated above.

Gift of Heart Kits: All boxes sent to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD, need to be labeled "Presbyterian Women" and the box contents must be written on the outside of each box. Church World Service reports that donations of hygiene and baby kits are greatly needed.

Yodogawa Christian Hospital in Osaka, Japan has given \$208,577 to the PC(USA) to be used for mission in Asia. The gift represents the same amount PW (through the *Birthday Offering*) contributed in 1956 to the hospital, founded by PC(USA) missionaries.

Piece Work / Peace Work: Working Together for Peace and Sudan is a new curriculum designed for elementary children from grades 1-6. The children will explore the situations facing Sudan's children, learn about Africa's largest country, the challenges it faces, and identify how followers of Jesus can respond. The study considers the relationship between making a quilt from pieces of fabric and making peace in a diverse situation. Copies can be obtained through Presbyterian

Distribution Service, item #2435809008, for a cost of \$8.00 each. There is one copy available for check out in the Presbytery of Des Moines office.

If you have PW mission-related questions, contact Marilyn Stone, PW SLAP mission coordinator, at mmstone52@yahoo.com or 262-763-0918.

Leadership Development Coordinator, Kay Olson

Note: Synod of Lakes & Prairies uses four different titles for PW Cluster Leaders. They are 1) Cluster Leader, 2) Area Coordinator, 3) Network Communicator, and 4) Leadership Development Coordinator. For simplicity, Cluster Leader will be used when providing information to all Presbyteries in our Synod but understand it is regarding all of the above leaders.

How to use the Internet for more PW information:

- Open your Internet browser on your computer
- In the address line, type in the Presbyterian Women's Web site address: www.pcusa.org/pw and "Enter" or "Go".
- PW's Web page comes up. On the right-hand side are several links to go to for information. Select them one by one to review the information each link has available to learn more about PW. Scroll down each page for the information pertinent to you.
- Select "Back" or "Home" to return to the main Web page.
- You can download the quarterly newsletter, make copies to send to all officers or pass on the Web site address. **Use the PW Web site often!**



Your Synod Coordinating Team hard at work

Leadership Enhancement

The following is Cluster Leader information received during the 2007 PW Churchwide Leadership Training in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Cluster Leaders

Prayer: Dear Lord God, the light unto our feet, disciple us that we may go to your people as your witnesses. Illumine our souls that we may assist others in better equipping Presbyterian Women in the congregations to understand the

full value of the connectional church. We pray this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

Reason for having a Cluster Leader: The purpose of the Cluster Leader is to gather small groups within a Presbytery for individual attention to PW detail and serve as a liaison to individually assigned churches. The process is designed to offer a personal touch and act as a resource for PW information. The Cluster Leader can easily see comparisons between congregations and facilitate improvement overall.

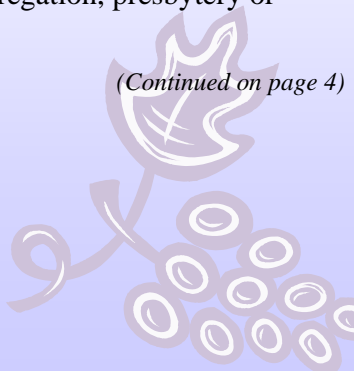
What are the Responsibilities of a PW Cluster Leader in the Presbytery?

- 1) Pray for and encourage congregations, maintaining a personal disciple of prayer and Bible study.
- 2) Establish an active communication with congregations assigned, giving and receiving information about PW programming, interpretation of the *Birthday* and *Thank Offerings*, and install local leadership when needed. Contact each church assigned as needed, but at least quarterly, sharing at least one new bit of info with each contact.
- 3) Train leadership in congregations and convey names for Presbytery involvement to the search committee.

New PW TRIP Program

Transformation in Partnership (TRIP) is PW's new travel/study program. The educational and transformational trips will take groups to Global Exchange and USA Mission Experience sites, as well as other points of interest for Presbyterian Women. You may register online by mailing the downloadable application. Participants will be selected on a first come, first served basis, so apply soon! You may go to www.pcusa.org/pw/resources/trip.pdf to download a flyer to promote the PW TRIP Program in your congregation, presbytery or synod.

(Continued on page 4)



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New PW TRIP Program, continued...

Russia — Moscow, Smolensk & St. Petersburg – May 3–17, 2010

Visit mission projects supported by the PC(USA) and PW, especially those that serve women and children. Meet with PC(USA) mission co-workers and partner churches serving in Russia. Learn about the Russian Orthodox Church and its ministry. Visit the Kremlin in Moscow and the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

Cost: \$3,750 per person, including round-trip airfare from Detroit, shared accommodations, ground transportation in Russia, sightseeing and all meals.

Group size: Minimum 7; maximum 10.

Requirements: Visa to enter Russia; passport valid through at least December 2010. Participants must be able to climb stairs and walk long distances.

Registration deadline: February 1, 2010

Download a registration form at
www.pcusa.org/pw/resources/russiaapp.doc

Women of the Reformation — Geneva, Switzerland and Sommières, France – August 31–September 8, 2010

Learn about Presbyterian faith heritage in the 16th-century Reformation in Switzerland and southern France. Join congregations of the Reformed Church of France at their annual

Assemblée du Desert worship celebration at the Musée du Desert on September 5.

Cost: \$1,500 per person, including shared accommodations, ground transportation, all meals and sightseeing. Airfare is not included.

Group size: Minimum 16, maximum 20.

Requirements: Passport valid through at least October 2010. Participants must be able to climb stairs and walk long distances.

Registration deadline: May 15, 2010

Download a registration form at
www.pcusa.org/pw/resources/czechtrip.doc

Czech Republic, Hungary and Carpath Ukraine – October 5–21, 2010

Follow the same route as the 2008 Global Exchange, *Joined and Knitted Together in Love*. The group will gather in Detroit for orientation before the trans-Atlantic flight to Prague, Czech Republic, and will end the tour with the return flight to Detroit from Budapest, Hungary. Visit mission projects supported by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Presbyterian Women. Meet with mission co-workers serving in the region. Learn about life before and after communism, particularly in regard to the church.

Cost: \$3,250 per person, including round-trip trans-Atlantic air transportation, ground transportation, shared accommodations, all meals and sightseeing. (Cost is subject to change due to inflation.)

Group size: Minimum 16; maximum 24.

Requirements: Passport valid at least through November 2010. Participants must be able to climb stairs and walk long distances.

Registration deadline: June 5, 2010

Download a registration form at
www.pcusa.org/pw/resources/russiaapp.doc

Three additional TRIP tours are planned for 2011:

- Democratic Republic of Congo – February/March 2011
- Egypt – March/April 2011
- Texas-Mexico border (destination of 2008 USA Mission Experience) – May/June 2011



The Wonder of God's Promises

Will be revealed to you at

**The Synod of Lakes and Prairies
Gathering of Women**

June 16-19, 2010

**Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, Iowa**

Marjorie J. Thompson, author of *Soul Feast*, provides guidance and help to those exploring the riches of Christian Spirituality. She offers a framework of understanding of spiritual disciplines through prayer, spiritual reading, worship, fasting, self examination and hospitality.

Louise Lawson Johnson, the author of *Suggestions for Leaders for the 2008-2009 Horizons Bible Study* will present the 2010-2011 *Horizons Bible Study* on the book of Revelation. She will provide additional resources and creative/teaching ideas for participants and study leaders.

The Wonders of God's Promises: of Hope (Missions), Peace (Spirituality), and Joy (Personal Growth) will be explored in the workshops. Also, be ready to relax at the end of the day *Around the Cracker Barrel* or browse in the *Over the Rainbow* resource room, *Soul's Desire Bookstore* and *Ten Thousand Villages* store.

Registration fee for rooms and meals \$250 (suite) or \$230 (dorm room). All rooms are air conditioned. All plenary sessions and workshops will be in the Siebens Center, which is a short walking distance from parking and your rooms.

Scholarships are available, see sidebar.

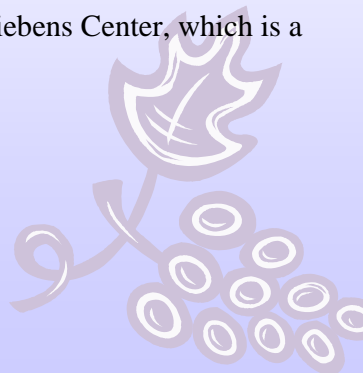
Scholarship Info for Synod Gathering

Scholarships are available from the Des Moines PWP:

- 7 – \$100 Scholarships to first 7 people
- 2 – \$150 Scholarships to new clergy women
- 2 – \$200 scholarships to Sudanese women

If you are interested in a scholarship, contact Linda O'Connell, 641-766-6577 or 641-203-3660, revlinda@iowatelecom.net.

Local churches are also encouraged to help with scholarships and transportation.



Presbytery Women Update

Denise England: Update & Prayer Needs

Denise England, a 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's focus for this second year has been to assist the head nurse (director of nursing) in initiating an ongoing educational program for the nursing department. Denise reports, "The plan is to hold an educational in-service every month. Twelve topics have been selected and set up to be repeated each year, I have provided resources for each topic, and everything has been translated into Arabic so no further preparation will be needed for the head nurse. I have hired a retired Egyptian nurse educator who will present the first several meetings as a training period for the head nurse... hopefully she (head nurse) will start to hold them herself soon." Part of this goal has now become convincing the head nurse and medical director of the need for this ongoing education as well as the need for necessary supplies to be available.

Denise is on the church council at St. Andrews United Church of Cairo, a small English-speaking congregation with a mixture of foreigners and Egyptians, as well as Sudanese and Iraqi Refugees. In addition, Denise teaches conversational English to young Egyptian adults in her neighborhood.

DENISE'S PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for the administrative staff and caregivers that they may find the desire to improve their own knowledge and the motivation to make the needed changes for improved services.

- Pray that Denise will continue to make advances in her language skills, especially decreasing the communication gap with the employees.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT – Denise continues to need \$32,000 to fulfill her three-year term. Please consider partnering with her by financially supporting her work. Contributions can be sent to: Presbyterian Church (USA), Individual Remittance Processing, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Write "Denise England – ID# MI910061" on the memo line. To keep informed of Denise's work, visit her blog at <http://deniseadventure.blogspot.com/>.

Interested in helping God's PW ministry?

Would you like to learn more about the work behind-the-scenes of PW's mission? Currently, our Presbytery's PW Search Committee is taking nominations for individuals interested in volunteering for various positions in our Des Moines Presbytery's PW group: Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Clergywoman Representative, Area Co-Ordinator #1, #2, #3, #4. If interested or if you'd like to nominate someone, contact one of the Search Committee members: Nancy Lister-Settle, Jeanne Beardsley, and Lila Jean Jensen. Their contact information is listed at the right.

Mark your Calendars for the April Spring Gathering (See pg. 8 for details.)

The annual Presbytery Women's Spring Gathering is Friday, April 9, 2010 at the Windsor Presbyterian Church in Windsor Heights. The 1-day event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost for lunch is \$6.00. To make your reservation, call 515-277-8379 today!

Speakers for the Day: Kay Olson was selected to represent the Synod of Lakes and Prairies for the 2008 *Presbyterian Women Global Exchange to Eastern and*

(Continued from page 6)

Central Europe. In September 2008, she traveled to the Czech Republic, Hungary and the Ukraine with 26 other Presbyterian women. Kay will be speaking on her trip and her experiences with the Roma people and their issues. She is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Kathy Mahler is the Designated Mission Co-worker for Des Moines Presbytery at our mission in Berlin, El Salvador. Kathy is a member of the Pastoral Team of La Casa Pastoral Comunitaria there. She also is the liaison between congregations and partner villages and plans and leads delegations who visit El Salvador. Kathy is a member of Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive and will be in Iowa visiting churches April 3-19, 2010.

NOTE: Everyone is encouraged to stick around on Friday, April 9, for the Compañeros fund raising dinner to be held at in Des Moines. It will be a great way for people to experience food and fellowship with El Salvador mission groupies!

Offering for the Day: Compañeros, *Companions in Christ*, is the coordinating body for the Des Moines Presbytery's El Salvador mission. The offering for the day will be given to this mission of our Presbytery.

Gifts for the Day: Gifts for the day are items for CROSS Ministries, including: feminine hygiene products, diapers, and other personal items.

Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church – PW Kitchen Project Update

Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, in Des Moines, has become a place for worship, gathering, assistance, and social life for a growing community of Sudanese refugees and immigrants. Presbyterian Women of Des Moines Presbytery are committed to helping address the serious concerns with the kitchen, a place where the Sudanese women often cook all night for large gatherings at the church.

In October, we learned that the church's boiler was so old and fragile that the inspector wouldn't let the furnace be used. This presented a huge problem for the multiple worship services as well as all the activities and programs held at the church. A new furnace is estimated to cost \$80,000.

Some wonderful things happened over the holidays! Upon hearing about the plight of Cottage Grove, a family donated \$20,000 and also loaned another \$20,000 to replace the furnace. In addition, a local congregation closing their church dedicated \$40,000 from the sale of their property! Once the furnace is replaced, the flooring will be replaced; then additional needs assessed. 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.

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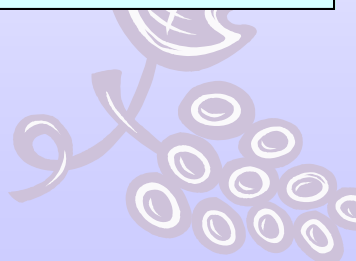
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The Grapevine

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E-mail your questions and suggestions to Editor Kim Coulter at phycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org.

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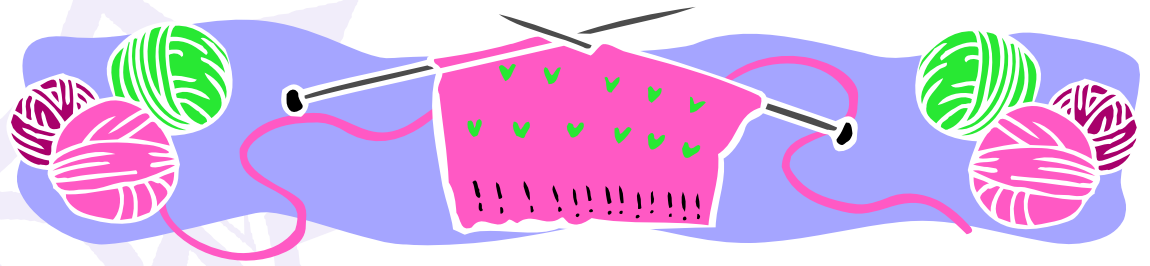
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“Joined and Knitted Together In Love”

Presbytery Women’s Spring Gathering

Friday, April 9, 2010

at

Windsor Presbyterian Church, Windsor Heights

9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Lunch: \$6.00 For lunch reservations, call: 515-277-8379

Speakers include:

Kay Olson, Global Exchange Participant, Eastern Europe

Kathy Mahler, Mission Co-Worker, El Salvador

Offering: Compañeros in El Salvador

*Bring items for CROSS Ministries
feminine hygiene products, diapers, etc.*

Bring Prayer Shawls to Show

Gift Shop

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