

Patterns

Presbyterian Women of Western New York

GREETINGS FROM YOUR MODERATOR!

"Winds of Change": Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

Our 10:30 a.m. start time enabled us all to have a cup of coffee and comfortable conversation before the program began at 11. Our hostesses at MacAlpine Church provided a warm and inviting atmosphere for the 68 women from 22 churches who attended, as well as an outstanding lunch! Thank you to Betty Johnson and her crew who made it happen!

Janis Quinn, the Churchwide PW Ethnic-Racial Representative for Native Americans, told us about the changes on the Reservation in WNY and answered questions we had about how Native Americans are coping with drug abuse and identity issues. She took home a car trunk load of fabrics and yarns brought in by the women for the Sewing Group there.

Kenmore Church's Motion Choir used yards of flowing colorful scarves to help us "see" the "Winds of Change" as Worship led by Amy Jelensberger began. We prayed that God's Spirit would enter our lives, refreshing, renewing, and healing us so that we could live with purpose, enthusiasm, and courage.

The Winter Gathering will be another opportunity for us to get together at Orchard Park Church on February 6, 10:30am to "Welcome the Stranger". Please post the flyer you find elsewhere in this newsletter on your church bulletin board and talk it up! Our focus will be on those who have been forced to flee from their homes in foreign countries, and those who find themselves homeless here in WNY. Dr. Pat Townsend will lead us in worship. Please bring postage stamps to be given to Family Promise AND kitchen utensils which will be given to Journeys End. Contact your Cluster Leader ASAP with how many folks will be coming from your church!

Thank you for your Tea Bags!

"When life gives you tea bags... make art!" The artists of Original T-Bag Designs live near Cape Town, South Africa. They use empty, dry tea bags as their canvas to decorate a variety of gift items from boxes to notepads which are sold in gift, Fair Trade, and tea shops in 27 states, as well as the Smithsonian Institute National Museum of African Art. Sales support 125 people.

See www.originaltbagdesigns.com for more information on this interesting project.

Marilyn Koszarek

With Sympathy to the families and friends of
Elaine Mattar's 103 year-old mother.



She was a mentor and model for us all at Westminster and also Central Presbyterian Church women.

SPECIAL DONATIONS FOR THE WINTER GATHERING

The Winter Gathering Team have asked our February speakers what their agencies' current needs are that we might help with some donations.

Family Promise (a/k/a Interfaith Hospitality) needs 44-cent postage stamps (or forever stamps) to aid their effort in recruiting just four more churches so they can re-open their program.

Journey's End needs our help on February 6 (and beyond)! Because they resettle people in apartments, they need more kitchen utensils (new or used) and stainless flatware (mismatched is fine). Currently their need for blankets has been met.

Cluster Leaders please remind your churches to bring these to our February gathering. Either or both. This mission opportunity is too good to pass up!

Let's surprise them with an outpouring of love and gifts on February 6!

Co-chairs Joyce and Mary Louise

LOUISVILLE - Virginia West Davidson, a diminutive and feisty mother of four who became a towering figure in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for her tireless advocacy of full inclusion of gay, lesbian bisexual and trans-gendered members in the life of the church, died Oct. 19 at her home in Rochester, N.Y. She was 93.

A native of Rochester - she and her two sisters were known as "the three West women" - Davidson was an active part of Downtown United Presbyterian Church her entire life. After graduating from Wellesley College in Massachusetts, she returned to Rochester to work for Kodak. During World War II she traveled to London to help the International Red Cross set up recuperation centers for tired and wounded soldiers.

She married Samuel B. Davidson and soon became active in Genesee Valley Presbytery serving on many committees and eventually as moderator. In 1974 she was elected commissioner to General Assembly, where she was tapped by Moderator Robert C. Lamar to serve as his vice-moderator.

Virginia West Davidson was predeceased by Samuel Davidson and her two sisters, EJ and Janet. She is survived by four children - James, John, Eleanor (Nell) and Peter; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Oct. 24 at Downtown United Presbyterian Church in Rochester.

Winter Gathering

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE
PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NEW YORK

ORCHARD PARK PRESBYTERIAN

4369 South Buffalo Street
Orchard Park, NY 14127
662-9481

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010

10:30 AM REGISTRATION**

"WELCOME THE STRANGER"

SPEAKERS

*Molly Anthony, President, Board of Trustees,
Family Promise of WNY*

and

*John Harbison, Chairman, Board of Directors
Journeys End Refugee Resettlement Services*

Worship Leader

DR. PAT TOWNSEND, Certified Lay Pastor

**\$ 5.00 donation for the host church
Call PW CLUSTER LEADER or Joyce Bailey (662-7380)
By JANUARY 27



FROM OUR SYNOD MODERATOR, SANDY GRILLO!

IT'S OFFICIAL! Anne Reynolds is now a Commissioned Lay Pastor. Join me in congratulating Anne on all of her hard work and this wonderful accomplishment!

* ECPAT has TassaTags available for Christmas gifts. I bought a couple and they are great gifts! For more information, email them at tassatag@gmail.com.

* ECPAT also did a survey in NYC about traveling for purposes of child abuse/trafficking. If you would like to read it, very interesting, let me know and I can email it to you. Amazing how many people do not have a clue what is going on!

* To be part of the USA Mission Experience to South Dakota, either contact me and I'll email the application or go to the pcusa.org/pw website for details. Remember the deadline to apply is JANUARY 15 and it has to be endorsed first by a Moderator.

* February 1 - deadline for articles for The Lighthouse

* World Day of Prayer is March 5, 2010

* Spiritual Retreat - Syracuse, NY - April 23-25, 2010

* Horizons Bible Study - May 14-16, 2010

Did you know the 2010 Mission Yearbook will have a 16 page color insert titled Presbyterian Women: Together, We Witness to the Promise- Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. Now isn't that something?



THE FOLLOWING PROVIDED BY:
Joyce Bailey



Dear Joyce,
The New Year presents us with fresh opportunities to win changes that will reduce hunger in the United States and around the world.

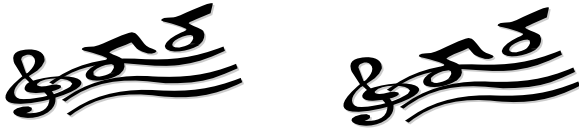
Bread for the World's 2010 Offering of Letters urges Congress to change U.S. tax policy to benefit low-income families. What do taxes have to do with hunger? We know that food assistance is vital, but it is not enough. Progress against hunger requires **broader efforts** to reduce poverty. Bread will be urging Congress to expand and protect the Earned Income Tax Credit, which **lifts more than 5 million people out of poverty** each year. [Learn more](#) about Bread's 2010 Offering of Letters.

In 2010, we also have the opportunity to **improve school meals** and **feed more children** in the summer by weighing in as Congress reauthorizes our national child nutrition programs.

Finally, our work to **reform foreign aid** to make it **more effective in reducing hunger and poverty**—the focus of Bread's 2009 Offering of Letters—is not over. As a result of your efforts, bipartisan bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate to begin the process of reforming the Foreign Assistance Act. The president and the State Department have ordered reviews to better coordinate how the United States delivers foreign assistance. Bread will push for continued action to make sure our **development dollars stretch as far as possible** to address the causes of global hunger and poverty.

Our capacity to carry out this work in 2010 depends on the generous contributions we receive from you and other Bread members. [Please donate](#) to support these campaigns.

In Hope,



SING UNTO THE LORD

*Open your hymnal,
Stand on your feet,
Open your mouth
And sing!*

*Can't carry a tune
In a basket, you say?
Go ahead---
Sing anyway!*

*God will bless
Each note you sing
High, low or between
So, let sincerity ring!*

*Sing with devotion!
Sing with praise!
Sing with 'thusiasm!
Your voices raise.*

*And worship our Risen Lord!
Ann Luce*

**Ann is a member of the
United Presbyterian Church of Randolph
and often writes little ditties for their
newsletter. Used by permission.**

SAVE THESE DATES!

**April 24 - Spring Gathering &
Annual Meeting**

"My Story: Past, Present, Future"
United Presbyterian of Randolph

**June 8 - New Moderator of Presbytery Installed
Connie Lockwood,
Southeast Cluster Leader and
Member of Randolph UPC.**

Countdown to Copenhagen

For those who attended the Fall Gathering here is a news report about the Countdown to Copenhagen campaign postcards you signed:

14,000 signatures delivered to President and Congress; Persons of faith call for effective response to climate crisis

Washington, November 6, 2009 – With the United Nations climate change negotiations only five weeks away, more than 14,000 signatures were delivered to President Obama and Congress Thursday calling for an effective and moral response to the emerging climate crisis.



GOOD NEWS

from your Search Committee

At mid-term we are glad to say that Paula Jack has agreed to be on the Search Committee of PWP. Her address is 285 Crestmont Ave., Apt. 166, Tonawanda, NY 14150; phone number 694-1293; e-mail: pwjack@juno.com. Paula has served Presbyterian Women in many ways and is currently a member of Deerhurst Presbyterian.

Another faithful Presbyterian woman will join the Coordinating Team in the person of Gail Wheaton of Hamburg Presbyterian. She will be our new Historian but cannot begin her term until the Spring Gathering. Her address is 76 Raymond St., Hamburg, NY 14075; phone number 649-3462; her

e-mail address is nwheaton1 @roadrunner.com. We are very happy to have both of these fine additions to the Coordinating Team.

Please squeeze their names into your blue quadrafold !

PW in the Synod of the Northeast Moderator's Training

Marilyn Koszarek and Sylvia Volk were among 58 Women gathered at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church for this event to see what wonders God has done among us! Led by the Synod Coordinating Team and Sandy Grillo, we:
Worshiped (and had fun!) together,
Learned about Horizons and Church wide Incorporation and activity,
Discussed future tri-presbytery and synod gatherings,
Had workshops on Inclusive Language, and Computer Savvy,
and Heard from our Hispanic/Latino, Korean, and Seminarian representatives.

Obviously, we cannot list ALL the wonderful ideas that we heard, so below is a shortened summary of the information we received:

Horizons (Jo Ann Burrell):

The big news is that the rates will increase to \$24 a year starting on January 1, 2010! If you want to take advantage of this year's \$18 rates, do it NOW!

Church wide PW (Jo Ann Schnaudt and Ginny Champlin):

During the business meeting at the Church wide Gathering in Louisville, it was agreed by consensus, that the Church wide Presbyterian Women would become incorporated. What does that mean to you at the local level? It should not impact you at all. You already have separate funds/ bank accounts from you local churches so you can administer them yourselves. You share your tax exemption number with your church, but your mission monies are distributed by YOU! That did not happen at the Church wide level before, but now it will. The elected officers will become the Board of Directors, and members of Presbyterian Women become the voting members of the corporation. Mission monies will be dispersed by the Treasurer.

Watch for dates of upcoming World and National Mission trips, Thank and Birthday Offerings, the WNY, Geneva, and Genesee Valley PW Presbyterian Gathering, and upcoming Synod

Events, in Synod and Presbytery PW Newsletters.

Next Church wide PW Gathering will be July of 2012

in Orlando Florida!

Inclusive Language (Helenmarie Sunkenburg):

Believe it or not, inclusive language is still a sensitive issue for many women and churches.

It opens the door of the "boxes" we're in.

It includes the "others" in our midst, all races, all income levels, all outcasts.

Read Bart Ehrman's books: Misquoting Jesus and Interrupted Jesus

Hispanic/Latino Representative (Paula Damiano):

This group represents a vast variety of cultures, nuances, and dialects that have been here for 3 or 4 generations and some, since Christopher Columbus!

Many identify with Joshua in that they come out of exile seeking a place of promise.

They are the voices of poverty and pain with the same purposes that are stated in our PW Purpose Statement.

They live in a world of borders and boundaries; different, yes, but all one in Christ.

Korean Representative:

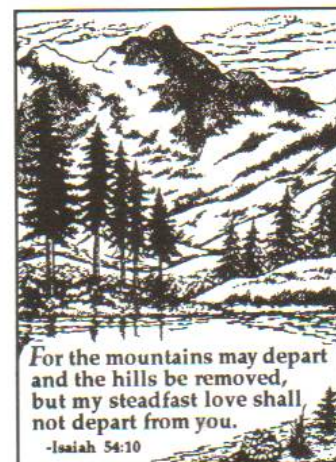
There are so many meetings for these churches because they are members of both Geographic (churches that are within state and other boundaries) and Non-Geographic (grouped by Nationalities, e.g. Asian & Native American) Presbyteries.

Seminary Representative (Brenna Nickel):

How do you talk to the young women at church?

Ask them what **THEY** are interested in and find a **meaningful** way to use it.

They want to talk about, hear about, and be involved with something that **matters**.



Joshua

Fit de Battle—or did he?

Our PW Bible study for the 2009-2010 season truly is a "Journey of Faith," as we tackle the Old Testament book of Joshua.

Where are you now, on that journey?

If you are on the monthly schedule with me, we have reviewed basic attributes of God, and then examined traits of leaders who heed God's call. We have considered the blessings and risks in following God from wilderness wanderings into a land of promise.

The remaining lessons tackle very thorny issues: can war be holy? who deserves justice? where can peace be found?

And throughout this fascinating study, we are confronted repeatedly with the consequences of biblical interpretation for the land of Israel/ Palestine. If you feel so led, please consider expanding your study to include the current history and politics of Israel/Palestine. The Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the PC(USA) offers several important resources for such study. I highly recommend "Steadfast Hope: the Palestinian Quest for Just Peace"

--which is available now in both print and DVD from

www.IsraelPalestineMissionNetwork.org/hope.

I hope that you are accepting this study as an opportunity to learn and re-learn the ways of God with the people of God. And as we go, please share with all of us some of the ways that God's messages in the book of Joshua surprise and challenge you.

Shalom,

Gladys Gifford,
PW Vice-Moderator/Spiritual Life

TAKING HORIZON BIBLE STUDY TO SENIORS IN THEIR RESIDENCES:

Adult HORIZON Bible Study Comes to Trinity Tower Senior Apartments in Buffalo, NY

Weekly or monthly Bible Studies are sometimes difficult for the elderly to participate in: either they have no way to get to their own church during the week (especially in inclement weather), many are unable to drive at night when many bible studies are held or they can't leave their senior building at all. A solution for senior residents is to hold a bible study right in their own building! This is what Trinity Tower residents have done by using a world-wide Ecumenically published study which currently is published in English, Korean and Spanish and also available in Braille or on CD's, led each month by calling upon Buffalo's diverse group of ministers, pastors, rabbis and Imans.

Tackling one of the more difficult Old Testament books, Joshua, the participants wrestle with the many issues that arise in the scripture, including: "Is there a difference between The Land of Promise or The Promised Land?" Pastoral leaders, using the printed HORIZON Ecumenical Bible Study Workbook (published by Presbyterian Women, PC-USA) and the accompanying scripture to work through these issues, include Assistant Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman of Temple Beth Zion, Ms. Debbie Katz, Christian Educator of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr. Bruce McCabe of Pilgrim St. Luke's United Church of Christ, Fr. Paul Bassi of Blessed Sacrament RC Church, Lay Preacher Rhonda Henderson of True Bethel Baptist Church, and invited ministers from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, First Shiloh Baptist Church, and Trinity Tower residents Sister Virginia Taylor, Order of Grey Nuns and Sister Donna, a Lay Preacher for the Lutheran Synod..

Comments from the participating leaders run from (please furnish a comment of participation or expected participation).

This year's study (in its first year) is organized under the auspices of the Trinity Tower Residents Association and will conclude in July with a gathering of ministers, pastors, leaders and participants in A Biblical Feast featuring foods from Biblical times. For referencing this study see: <http://www.pcusa.org/horizons/bible.htm>.

Betty Johnson and Sylvia Volk,
PW CT Buffalo Cluster Co-Leaders

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