

Spring 2010



GREETINGS FROM YOUR MODERATOR!

Marilyn Koszarek

“Welcome the Stranger”: PWP Winter Gathering

Orchard Park Women and a sunny day welcomed the 56+ women who attended our Winter Gathering! We were all touched by the presentations of Molly Anthony and Elaine Mattar (Family Promise of WNY) and John Harbison (Journey’s End Refugee Resettlement Services). They put faces on the homeless and refugees who find themselves frightened and worn out right here in WNY. We were reminded by Pat Townsend, that we all, except for the Native Americans among us, have people in our past who were strangers in this land. Please contact these faith warriors to find out how YOUR church can help. On behalf of both Family Promise and Journey’s End, THANK YOU for bringing in stamps and kitchen utensils! We were ALL overwhelmed by your generosity!

The Spring Gathering will be another opportunity for us to get together at PW’s Annual Meeting at Randolph Church on April 24, 10:30am. Our theme is, “My Story: Past, Present and Future”. Please post the flyer you find elsewhere in this newsletter on your church bulletin board and talk it up! Also, please bring gifts of **paper products and cleaning supplies** to be given to Genesis House. Contact your Cluster Leader ASAP with how many folks will be coming from your church!

Women in Mission

We know that Presbyterian Women have always supported Mission projects. The first organized PW Group was the Women’s General Missionary Society formed in 1875 to support missionaries in the field. In 1988, we inherited the legacies of strong mission programs like the Thank Offering from United PW of the northern churches, and The Birthday Offering, from the Women of the Church in the South. In 2010, Mission programs are still the heart of who we are. Our women work tirelessly to do justice, love kindness, and make sure those things are not forgotten in our churches today; Hooray for Presbyterian Women! Every time you work on Mission Projects, put together CWS Kits, and contribute to our Celebration Giving Opportunities, YOU make a difference and keep the Kingdom of God alive in our world today.

What on earth are you doing for heaven’s sake? Do it today!

Thank you's from Winter Gathering

FROM JOURNEY'S END,

I want to thank you for making it possible for me to speak to the Presbyterian Women of Western New York at Orchard Park's Presbyterian Church on February 6. It was a great opportunity to speak about the needs of refugees. The audience was very receptive and in many cases in a position that they are able to be very helpful. It is my hope that several might be

successful in encouraging people from their congregations to help in some way. They may call me at 773-7002 or 957-7038, or they may contact Elaine at Journey's End, 882-4963. Thanks again for the generous donation of \$250.

John Harbison



FROM FAMILY PROMISE,

Elaine and I very much appreciated the opportunity to talk with such a receptive group about Family Promise. We are also grateful for the donation of \$250 which will help our restricted start-up fund to grow toward our goal. Our resolve to start up Family Promise of Western New York is strong

and that is why your generous gift is so meaningful and encouraging. It is individuals and groups like yours that are the backbone of Family Promise of Western New York. Please share this thanks with Marilyn Koszarek and all the fine Presbyterian Women. We look forward to the day when we can share the reopening with you all.

Molly Anthony

2010 SPRING GATHERING

The Spring Gathering Committee has put together a special program for you as we join together on April 24 in Randolph, New York to celebrate the Easter Season and the arrival of Spring in Western New York.

This will be our annual meeting where we introduce the new members of the leadership team and thank those who will

be retiring from their tasks. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan, new pastor for Olean Presbyterian. She will be telling us "My Story, Past, Present and Future. Leading us in worship will be Rev. Marilyn Hale, pastor for Portville Presbyterian. Come and join the celebration.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S SPRING GATHERING

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

186 Main Street
Randolph, New York 14772
716 358-4255

ANNUAL MEETING & INSTALLATION
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010
10:30 A.M. REGISTRATION

"My Story, Past, Present, and Future"

GUEST SPEAKER

Rev. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan,
Olean Presbyterian Church

Worship Leader

Rev. Marian Hale, Pastor,
Portville Presbyterian church



Reservation to Cluster Leader by April 18

\$5.00 at Registration

FOR GENESIS HOUSE: PAPER PRODUCTS
AND CLEANING SUPPLIES



**The PW April 24 Spring Gathering focuses on
"My Story: Past, Present, Future"**

This focus invites us all to reflect on the story of our lives in relation to God's purposes, to bring the good news of Jesus to everyone we touch and thereby to "witness to the promise of God's kingdom."

My story has recently added a surprising chapter: successful double knee surgery, Feb. 11, 2010, followed by intensive rehabilitation for two weeks plus out-patient physical therapy for several more weeks. This chapter is probably part of the story for many of our Presbyterian Women; my situation simply compresses the work of two knee surgeries into one overall experience.

So how does this particular instance of medical care "witness to the promise of God's kingdom," in the words of the PW Purpose?

At least two ways.

First, I experienced first-hand both the positives and negatives of our current health care system. Excellent care at the hospital, using the most up-to-date equipment and techniques. Fine nursing care, at both the hospital and the rehab center, but always with a shortage of nursing staff and an underlying concern for working conditions--whether hours of continuous working or adequate health insurance to cover injuries incurred on the job. Does the nursing staff receive an adequate wage?

I kept remembering--this is the health care system now debated by Congress. Surely, this country can do better. Will our PW step up to engage the debate and add our voice to witness for a better health care system?

Second, I observed the other patients who were involved in daily physical and occupational therapy at the rehab center. Some, like me, had planned ahead for the experience and were able to adjust to the situation with little stress. Others arrived as the result of an emergency, and had few resources for their personal well-being. We were all well-served for our physical needs. Nursing staff and therapy specialists filled our days with the routine of meals and pills and hours of therapy.

But there were a few hours when we were alone in a day. Some relied on a constant television presence. Others slept. I had my books and my Lenten devotional guide.

But my roommates did not fare so well. My first roommate was nearly blind and losing her hearing, but she was able to walk and talk. Her family visited daily, providing opportunity to chat, but when they left, what resource did she have? My second roommate had little eyesight and was nearly stone deaf, and was not able to walk at all. But she had memorized the Rosary. Perhaps that memory kept her mind active in the hours of silence. Perhaps the years of her devotion to her faith allowed her to share a sweet spirit with everyone.

This experience has brought me face-to-face with aging. "Aging is for everyone," said the slogan. Are we prepared? Are we ready to bring the "promise of God's kingdom" into our experience of aging? After all, the mental and spiritual challenges we face as we age are as great as the physical--and healing is as much the work of the Spirit as it is the work of the body.

From this brief experience, I gleaned a few ideas for successful aging:

enrich the mind with memorized scripture, poetry, to feed the spirit when eyes and ears fail;
keep the body fit, learn how muscles work and do regular exercise;
cultivate a habit of daily devotions and prayer.

I came away from these past few weeks convinced that my walk with God has prepared me to deal with the stresses of aging. And I am also convinced that the work and organization of Presbyterian Women can serve to strengthen the women we serve to be ready for the bumps and bruises of aging.

Let's renew our commitment to faithfully share in devotions and prayer and Bible study during every PW meeting--and remind our women to make these activities an essential part of daily living.

Let's be mindful that we bring our witness to God's kingdom into every avenue of life, every day.

Let's look for an avenue to minister to aging populations among us, who are too frequently isolated in institutions away from normal involvement with others.

That's my story, for now. I look forward to hearing the stories of others at our spring gathering, April 24, in Randolph.

Shalom,

Gladys Gifford, Spiritual Life

PC(USA)'s 'Women of Faith' named

Four women honored for work that transforms the church and society

by **Beth Newberry**

Associate, Mission Communications

LOUISVILLE – Four women have been named recipients of the 2010 Women of Faith Awards by the General Assembly Mission Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

. The four 2010 Women of Faith recipients are:

- The Rev. **Margaret E. Howland**, Yonkers, N.Y., Hudson River Presbytery, Synod of the Northeast –
- The Rev. **Elizabeth Knott**, Indianola, Iowa, Presbytery of Des Moines, Synod of Lakes and Prairies –
- Elder **Elona Street-Stewart**, Eagan, M.N., Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, Synod of Lakes and Prairies –
- Elder **Joyce Uyeda**, Sacramento, Calif., Presbytery of Sacramento, Synod of the Pacific –

"These remarkable women have dedicated their lives to guiding paths of peace," said Ruth Lane, chair of the awards selection committee. "Their faithful lives and accomplishments have made a difference, not only in their local church but in the global community. They are true peacemakers witnessing God's call."

The selection committee is comprised of representatives from groups related to the Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women ministry area. Selection criteria include racial ethnic and geographic diversity.

<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2010/10181.htm>

Kits for Church World Service. There will be two drop-off



AMHERST:

April 20,21,22
from: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Amherst Community Church
77 Washington Hwy, Amherst, NY 14226
Contact: Jean Haller 716-633-9178

FREDONIA:

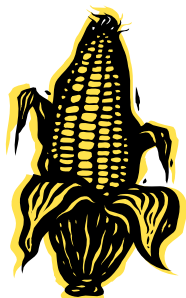
March 9,11,12,16,18,19,23,26
from 9:30 to 2:20 PM
First Presbyterian Church
219 Center Ave., Fredonia, NY 14063
Contact: Susan Pepe 716-679-9929

BOX THEM, PLEASE: Please box your kits before taking them to the drop-off site. The truck can not accept kits in bags (paper or plastic).

FUNDS FOR PROCESSING/SHIPPING: Funds are needed to cover processing and shipping kits to their final destination. Please, if you can, give at least \$2.00 for each school ,hygiene, or baby kit you send and \$3.00 for each emergency clean-up bucket. **DO NOT** put shipping fees inside kits. You will receive a receipt and an envelope to send your shipping fee directly to Church World Service.

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WNY Presbyterian Women Newsletter
186 Main Street
Randolph, NY 14772

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