



The Sower

*Newsletter for the Presbyterian
Women in the Synod of Lakes &
Prairies*

April 2015

Editor: Karen Bartel

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS by Marilyn Stone

Excitement is building as the 2015 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women is less than two months away! Our Synod of Lakes and Prairies is hosting this spiritually uplifting and educational event June 18-21, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis, MN.

Thanksgiving abounds as the number of registrants thus far from our synod has surpassed our goal. Currently over 180 women are registered from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. If you have not yet registered, there is still time – register TODAY at [www/presbyterianwomen.org/gathering!](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering!) You too can join in this opportunity to make and renew friendships, enrich your mind and soul, and engage in new ways to live out our PW Purpose through mission opportunities, advocacy work and Bible study.

As the hosting synod, we also are gifted with the responsibility of fulfilling the many volunteer tasks. . . and volunteer opportunities are plentiful! In a separate article, you will discover a list of volunteer needs and how you can sign-up to fill one or more of them. By completing the form included with that article, you will see how you can reduce your registration costs for the day you volunteer. Your volunteer efforts are needed – please check the list and decide how you can help! Please note: A reduction in registration costs does NOT apply to volunteer ushers, communion servers, choir participants, etc. that are listed on the registration form.

If you are unable to attend the Churchwide Gathering, you can still participate in indirect ways! Consider sending \$10 Target gift cards for the American Indian Family Center in St. Paul. Also, you might provide scholarship funds to help another person with their Gathering expenses.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Churchwide Gathering in Minneapolis!

Blessings,
Marilyn Stone

Churchwide Gathering – June 18-21, 2015 – Hyatt Regency Minneapolis – “One Body, One Spirit”

Ask Ms. PW

Dear Ms. PW,

What is the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women?

Dear PW Moderator,

The Churchwide Gathering is a wonderful time for Presbyterian women from all over the world to meet in fellowship and worship, to renew themselves as an important body within the Church, and to be made aware of all the missions supported by the Presbyterian Women (there are sooooo many).

It is also the PW Business meeting where the voting representatives meet to vote on issues and elect new national leaders. There is a get-together for all who wish to meet and greet the incoming and outgoing national leaders.

The Gathering meets every three years and this year it will be meeting on June 18-21 in Minneapolis, MN, at the Hyatt Regency.

So, pack your bag and come join Presbyterian women worldwide for fellowship, worship, educational opportunities through a choice of many workshops and mission tours, shopping at the Global Marketplace and Presbyterian Bookstore, lots of good food and much, much more.

Ms. PW

From Around the Presbyteries:

Northern Plains PW

Practicing God's Hospitality was the theme this year for Presbyterian Women of the Northern Plains' Spring Gathering at Colgate Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 11, 2015. Fifty-two women participated in worship, presentations, interactive prayer, and a business meeting. Clothing items were donated and over \$700 was given in offering to the Bdecan Presbyterian Church. Personal care items were donated to the prison ministry of Presbyterian Women in Jamestown.

Challenge for the Presbyteries!!! One Small Gift (Card!)

Consider bringing a \$10 prepaid Target gift card to the Gathering for the American Indian Family Center (AIFC) in St. Paul. This St. Paul program supports Native American families by valuing and strengthening the American Indian community and its culture. The AIFC runs the Wakanyeja Kin Wakan Pi (Our Children Are Sacred) Program, which provides direct services to Native American women during the prenatal and postnatal periods. Culturally-specific case management services help ensure healthy birth outcomes and good health for the mother and baby. Wakanyeja Kin Wakan Pi coordinates mothers' support groups and offers classes on parenting, nutrition and good health. Should you wish to donate more than \$10, please purchase additional gift cards in the amount of \$10 each. The gift cards will be collected at the Gathering registration area and dedicated during a worship service at the Gathering. These small cards are easy to pack, but they pack a very big impact!

Even if you aren't attending, you can still send a gift card or 2 with your Presbytery Representatives that are going.

Just a reminder to everyone that there is a website for people to volunteer for different activities at the Churchwide Gathering. It is www.pwsignup.com If you have questions, contact Belinda Breit by email belinda.breit@comcast.net or phone 612-306-5961.

It isn't too late to sign up!!

Volunteer for the gathering on the website pwsignup.com. If you are planning to attend only the day you volunteer, you need to fill out this form as well as page 19 from the registration booklet and either mail both pages to Theresa Underwood or send the information to the email address at the bottom of the page. If you will be attending other days of the gathering, send your payment to Theresa along with this form and your registration.

Volunteer Registration Form for Churchwide Gathering 2015

(Please include this sheet with the registration form found in the booklet.)

Name:

Day(s) I will volunteer: (circle)

Wednesday – No meal included

Thursday – Dinner included

Friday – Dinner included

Saturday – Lunch included

Sunday – No meal included

I wish to register for the remainder of the Gathering. My check for \$270, payable to Presbyterian Women, is enclosed.

I wish to register for only one day of the Gathering. My check for \$125, payable to Presbyterian Women, is enclosed.

I wish to register for two days of the Gathering. My check for \$250, payable to Presbyterian Women, is enclosed.

(If you wish to purchase a tote bag or participate in one or more of the local mission tours, please add the appropriate fees to your payment.)

Please mail this sheet, along with the registration form found in the Registration Booklet, to:
Theresa Underwood, PO Box 733, Buchanan, VA 24066
pw2015cwq@aol.com

This page is printable. If you've already registered and want to volunteer, contact Theresa.

Volunteering also has benefits

Opportunities to volunteer at the Churchwide Gathering-June 17-21, 2015

You can be part of the behind-the-scenes group who will help to make the Gathering a huge success for everyone. If you volunteer for an activity on a particular day, you may attend the plenary session in the morning and the afternoon sessions of your choice. Check the registration booklets to see what the afternoon activities are. If you volunteer to help with setup on Wednesday, you can choose one of the days of the gathering to attend for free. You will also be given a lunch or supper depending on which is being served on the day you help out.

If you want to register for the rest of the gathering, you should deduct \$125 from the registration fee of \$395, meaning that you would pay \$270 to register for the rest of the Gathering. As far as meals are concerned, Theresa Underwood, Gathering Registrar, has developed a special volunteer form that will assure that the volunteers are included in the group meal for the day they work. Each volunteer should complete the volunteer form above, and send it to Theresa, who will manually check the various meals. If you haven't already registered, you need to send the volunteer form with your registration. If you are attending only the day you volunteer or if you have already sent in your registration, you still need to send the volunteer registration form.

If there is an extra cost for an activity, such as the mission trips, you would not be able to attend those for free. To sign-up, go to the website www.pwsignup.com and choose the positions you would like to fill. If you don't have access to a computer, ask your church secretary or a friend to help you. One of the requirements of the registration is an email address. If you don't have one, use your church's email address or the address of a friend.

If you were planning to attend the Gathering, you may deduct \$125 from the registration fee for the day you are working. There is a special form, Volunteer Registration Form for Churchwide Gathering, that needs to be filled out and sent to Theresa Underwood, along with your regular registration form. Belinda Breit is working on how to handle the finances if you have already sent in your registration.

As of April 8, these volunteer opportunities are open:

4 openings for gathering setup on Wednesday

13 openings for hosting international guests-we've don't have the names or countries yet for the international guests

4 openings for airport greeters on Wednesday and Thursday

1 opening for registration assistance on Wednesday, 11 for Thursday morning

10 openings for registration assistance on Thursday afternoon, Friday and Saturday

2 openings for delivering offering plates and hymnals from Westminster on Friday

5 opportunities to help interpret the Clothesline project Wednesday through Friday

3 opportunities for people to count attendees at afternoon sessions and check name tags for lunch on Saturday

2 leaders needed for each of 3 book groups, one each Thurs, Fri & Sat

1 prayer partner for Friday and 1 for Saturday

1 person for Fri and 1 for Sat for mission tour bus check-in

24 people with knowledge of the hotel and city to serve at the information stations

10 helpers to check name tags for Thurs and Fri evening meals and Saturday lunch

1 person for Fri and 1 for Saturday to help pass out box meals at Westminster

2 people to assemble communion for Sunday

6 people to help with teardown on Sunday afternoon

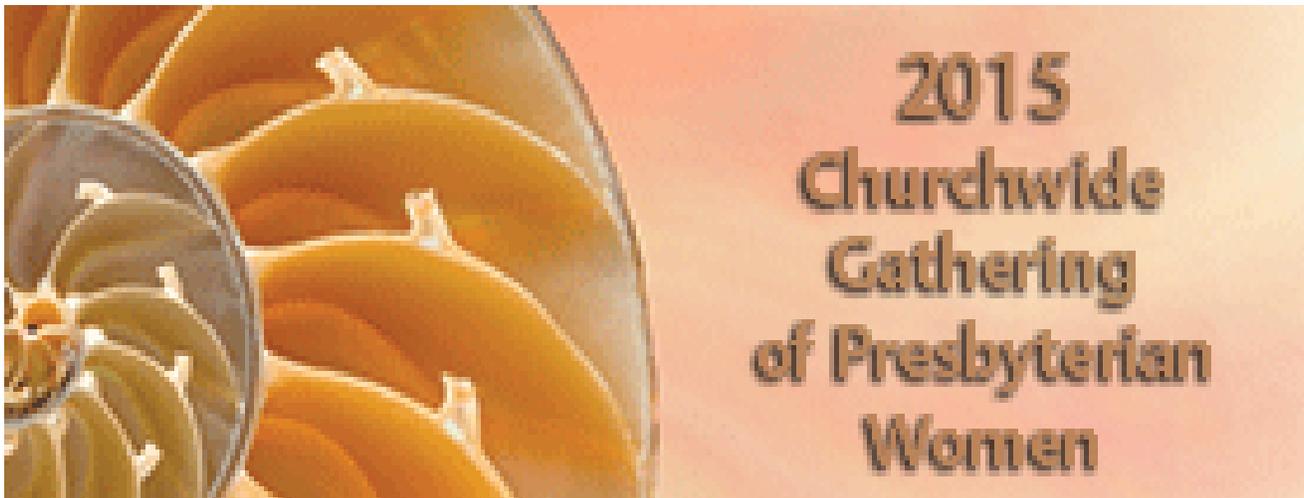
Double check on the financial end of things, there are some Volunteer Activities that won't qualify for a reduction to your attendance costs.



Minnie the Moose (the Gathering's official moose-cot) invites you to join women from all over the US and the World for some great days of fellowship and spiritual refreshment.

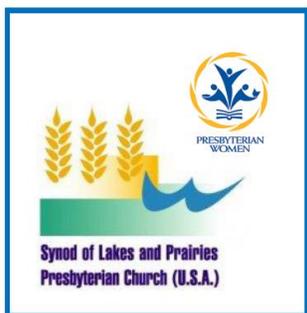
The CWG Volunteer t-shirt order form is separately attached with this newsletter.

2015 Churchwide Gathering



Registration for the 2015 PW Churchwide Gathering is still open!

Turn on your GPS, turn off your hectic schedule and follow Minnie the Moose (the 2015 CWG moose-cot) to the lovely Hyatt Regency Minneapolis June 18–21 for worship, fun, fellowship, connection and spiritual uplift! The theme of the Gathering is “One Body, One Spirit,” based on 1 Corinthians 12:12–27. Registration for the event is just \$395 (less than in 2012!), with hotel rooms at the Hyatt Regency (Gathering site) and Hilton Minneapolis at \$169 per night (up to four guests per room).



If you would like to order a Gathering Tote Bag, please send your order in by May 15th.

The 15" x 15" bags would be "Reflex Blue" (a bright blue), with the artwork in full color, heat transfer, complete with white background and an inset blue border. Selling price will be \$3.

If you would like one, even if you aren't attending, get your order in to your Presbytery Moderator. She has to have her completed order in to Synod by May 15th.



PW Synod CT Meeting April 16-18, 2015: Installation of our new officers, Jan Nelson – treasurer, Helen McMasters – Historian, and Annabelle Wells – Search Committee.

Meet the new Officers:

Annabelle Wells is Moderator of PWP in Central Nebraska. She is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Kearney, NE. She is a retired counselor/social worker who worked mainly with the elderly and families. She is a pastor's wife, mother of three, and grandmother of eight.

Helen McMasters was born into a family with a long tradition as Presbyterians, and met her husband's family while attending a Presbyterian church during summer employment while in college. It came naturally to her to be active and involved in the church while raising a family. Throughout the years she has served in varying capacities in the PCUSA, Elder & Deacon and later in PW. Accepting leadership roles at the PWP level naturally led to serving at the synod level. She has found PW to be holistic in its approach to mission and service to our Lord.

The 2015 Birthday Offering Recipients

We invite you to open your hearts to the Community of St. Therese of Lisieux (Memphis, Tennessee) and Bethesda Christian Community Center (Barranquilla, Colombia). These two projects, which support women who are overcoming oppressive situations, have been selected as recipients for the 2015 Birthday Offering. The grant amounts for these worthwhile projects will depend on gifts offered during 2015. The goal is \$500,000.

Recommended Reading

Three books have been recommended for book group discussions at the Churchwide Gathering. The books are listed in the Gathering registration book but with no descriptions. The books are varied in type and content. They are sure to be worthwhile reads whether attending the CWG or not.

The Submission by Amy Waldman – a novel - A dazzling, kaleidoscopic novel reimagines the aftermath of 9/11 and deliberations about selection of the memorial.

Paula by Isabel Allende – an autobiography - When Isabel's daughter, Paula, became gravely ill and fell into a coma, the author began to write the story of her family for her unconscious daughter.

Learning to Walk in the Dark – by Barbara Brown Taylor – a Bible Study - As a part of the Bible study series Come and See this commentary brings life and understanding, and insight to the lesson.

God is Orange

ORANGE has no rhyming word in the English language,
So the word is unique just as God is unique.

ORANGE is made up of two colors, red and yellow.

Red stands for the fire of the Holy Spirit and Yellow stands for the light of Christ.

These two colors come together to form a third color.

Thus, ORANGE is a mystery. Like the mystery of our God as the Trinity:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Science has discovered that ORANGE is the only color that does not disappear
or fade into the atmosphere.

Therefore it is always with us, just as God is always with us.

So take notice of the presence of ORANGE all around you.

As you come and go into God's world, remember that God is truly there with you.

Submitted by Shirley Lloyd

(Found on the Facebook® page for Praying for Jadon Community, but may not be the original source.)

The PWS Prayer Request line is: slapprayerrequest@gmail.com

Every three years, a group of Presbyterian Women travels within the United States to connect concerns raised by past Global Exchanges with similar issues in the United States. With local mission projects as partners, the participants combine education with hands-on ministry during the week long trip. Participants encounter challenges to God's promise of a beloved community and witness the faithful responses of Christians living and working in difficult situations.

For two years following the trip, participants are available to share their experiences in their synods and raise awareness of the ways people of faith confront the issues that divide us.



The SLAP 2014 Global Exchange Representative, Denise England, is available for speaking engagements. Contact Denise at: deniseengland@mchsi.com

Leila Mansarally from Guyana, will be a guest in our Synod, June 10-17th. The Des Moines Presbytery will be hosting her. Contact Ann McGowan, at akmcgowan@msn.com to schedule an event.

Hold these dates for the Synod gathering next year:

June 15-18, 2016 in Sioux Falls, SD at the Ramkota Inn and Conference Center.

Hurry! Hurry!

**2016 USA Mission Experience to San Francisco Bay Area
Out of the Darkness . . . into the Light**

A group of Presbyterian women will travel to the San Francisco Bay Area in California, September 22–30, 2016, for PW's fourth USA Mission Experience. They will connect concerns raised by past USA Mission Experiences and Global Exchanges with similar issues in the Bay Area. Participants will encounter challenges to God's promise of a beloved community and witness to the faithful work being done by our sisters in the San Francisco and San Jose presbyteries.

The USA Mission Experience equips women with an understanding of the region's history and culture, the existing ministry of the church and the challenges faced by local women and children. On this trip, participants will

- learn about human trafficking, domestic violence and immigration issues;
- develop skills to advocate for immigrants and survivors of human trafficking;
- identify resources women can use to help eliminate slavery and domestic violence;
- examine the myths and realities of immigration; and
- explore personal immigration stories.

Attached is a copy of the application with the distribution emails, or you can find it at:

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/2016-pw-usa-mission-experience-application/>

Applications are due to our PW Synod moderator, Marilyn Stone, by July 15, 2015

A special note: attendees must be able to walk a fair distance and carry their own luggage.

Did you Know? The Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study is now available on-line at www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook. We also heard that it will only be available on-line starting next year. Interestingly, the page for June 20, 2015 is dedicated to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. Beginning June 21 a Presbytery in SLAP will be highlighted. We're not giving a spoiler alert here. You'll have to read it.

Greetings PWP Moderators, PWS Rep's, PWS Officer, and Gathering Attendees;

Ruth Wrynski has been busy at work ironing out all the details of our PW Synod Lunch at the Churchwide Gathering. She has done an outstanding job of getting this all pulled together very quickly. The details are listed below. We will have a room for the luncheon and plans for a speaker and program are underway.

Place: Westminster Presbyterian Church (across from the Hyatt)

Date and Time: Friday, June 19th, 12:00-1:30 PM

Cost per person: \$13, this includes the box lunch, delivery charge, gratuity, table rental and additional expenses for the church

Dietary restrictions: reservations should indicate how many vegetarian or gluten free lunches are needed

Sandwich choices: Turkey and ham sandwiches will be ordered, without reservation for specific choice

Beverages: water, lemonade, and coffee will be provided by the church, people can feel free to bring a beverage in

Directions to our room: Enter directly from the Hyatt. Directions on posters will be at the entrances to let groups know where they will be, room greeters and hall captains will help us get there.

Reservations: Due by May 15th

Send to PWS Treasurer, Jan Nelson by May 15th: From each PWP, a list of names for reservations and check covering \$13 per person, clearly marked on check "for CWG Synod Luncheon"

Email to Ruth Wrynski ruthiewry@charter.net by May 15th: From each PWP, a list of names for reservations, also indicating vegetarian or gluten free lunches needed

Westminster walk about: The church will have 100's of people there that day, we are welcome to look around respectfully then and on Thursday.

Officers & Appointed Positions April, 2015

Moderator:

Marilyn Stone (2013-16)

-Milwaukee-

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Burlington, WI 53105

262-763-0918 H;

262-492-7921 C

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-N. Central Iowa-

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Coordinator

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(daughter)

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2016 Synod Gathering

Co-coordinators:

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Kay Olson

Sue Kimball

Terri Sherman

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Lincoln NE 68517

Presbytery Moderators/ PWSCT Representatives April, 2015

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Dakota	Annette (Hopa) Crawford (m/r) Box 601, Agency Village Sisseton, SD 57262	605-698-3766 hopacrawford@yahoo.com
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**Note: “m” indicates PWP Moderator
“r” stands for PWS Presbytery Representative**

Learn about Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women (PW) is the national women’s organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). With more than 300,000 members and 25 years as an organization, PW is organized at all levels of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Learn more about PW and consider joining your local group. It’s a good read at our website. <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pw/>

Here is a link to the Who-Ya-Gonna-Call? The Who’s Who at PW National

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/pw-staff-who-ya-gonna-call/>

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies website,

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/mid-councils/lakes-prairies/>

“Like” Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies on Facebook!!!

“The Sower” publishing dates are January, April, July & October. If you have an article or would like to have an article or information on any particular subject, please send the Editor your article or question by/before the first of each of the above cited months. thesower.slap@yahoo.com

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