



The Sower

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

October 2015

Editor: Karen Bartel

Message from the Moderator

What value does Presbyterian Women have in your life? Have you benefitted from the fellowship, Bible study, prayer, and connection with women in your PW circle? Have you “been challenged to consider new ideas, to do more and to lend your voice to help others”? Have you experienced personal growth, been “affirmed and invited to do and be more in witness to God’s love”? Did you attend the PW Churchwide Gathering? Did you connect with the international guests and learn about the education and health needs in their countries and the role their faith plays in their daily living? Have you heard Denise England, our Global Exchange synod representative or LaVonne Looking Elk, our USA Mission Experience synod representative, share about their experiences with women in the Caribbean and the Appalachia respectively? Are you planning on attending the PW Synod Gathering? What has being part of Presbyterian Women provided you?

It’s time to complete our PW pledge forms for 2016 which includes mission pledges to support the work of Presbyterian Women at the Churchwide, Synod and Presbytery levels. We are part of a connectional church and bear the joy and responsibility of supporting the work of PW at all levels. With the theme, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21), Presbyterian Women in the congregations are asked to support the work of PW by “giving as you have been blessed”. How have you been “blessed” by Presbyterian Women?

The 2012-2015 Triennial Report of PW Churchwide, entitled, “Feed my sheep. . . Presbyterian Women responding to Christ’s call”, clearly identifies how the PW Mission Pledge makes possible every program and ministry at the PW Churchwide level. This triennial report can be downloaded at www.presbyterianwomen.org.

Perhaps it’s not as easy to make connections with our giving to and the benefits we receive from PW at the Synod level. Your gifts to the Mission Pledge at the Synod level provide scholarships for attendance at the Churchwide Gathering, Synod Gathering, and other educational events. These events include insights in leading a Bible Study, expanded leadership skill development, awareness of justice and peace initiatives and advocacy opportunities, and mission opportunities around the globe. Your pledge to PW Synod supports our representative to the Global Exchange and to the USA Mission Experience. It also supports our biannual PW Synod Coordinating Team meetings which have representatives from each presbytery, where leadership training and educational opportunities occur, critical information and ideas are shared and decisions are made that impact PW in our presbyteries and congregations.

Through your support of Presbyterian Women, you affirm that your heart and treasure are united in answering God’s call to be Christ’s witness to the world in the PW way. Your support of the PW Mission Pledge is crucial to Presbyterian Women continuing to be a faithful witness to God’s love in the world. Please prayerfully consider your PW Pledge! PWP Pledges should be returned to me by November 15th or as soon thereafter as possible.

Blessings, Marilyn Stone

Ask Ms. PW

Dear Ms. PW,

What is the Synod Gathering of Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies?

Dear PW Moderator,

The Synod Gathering is held every three years and is held the year after the Churchwide Gathering. It is for women of all ages who would like to join in Christian Fellowship and are looking for a spiritually enriching experience. The theme for this gathering on June 15-18, 2016 at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Sioux Fall, South Dakota will be The Power of Presbyterian Women with Susan Jackson Dowd, Executive Director of Presbyterian Women, as the key note speaker. There will be a selection of workshops including a new look at Presbyterian Women of Today and what they are doing. This is a wonderful opportunity for women from SLAP (Synod of Lakes and Prairies) to meet other women from our Synod in fellowship, Bible Study, and worship. Ms. PW

Did you know?

Kathleen Keefer has put some **great meditations** on the PW section of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies website? <http://lakesandprairies.org> Click on PresbyterianWomenintheSynod at the bottom of the list on the left. Find the Meditations for Moderators link. These are great if you need a meditation to open a meeting!

About the upcoming **Mission Tours at Ferncliff** that are scheduled for March 28 - April 1, 2016? Volunteers for hands-on mission of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Center, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, near Little Rock, Arkansas, will receive training. While at Ferncliff, you will tour the facility, which is related to the PC(USA) and the Arkansas Presbytery; assemble Gifts of the Heart Kits; receive PDA disaster response training; and visit the Heifer Project's headquarters and Clinton Library. Housing will be at Ferncliff's Eco Center, the largest straw-bale-walled structure in the United States. This green building was built with funds from Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering, as was the PDA building.

The cost for the trip is \$325 per person, based on shared housing, and includes most meals. Contact Kathy Reeves, mission associate for PW, for a registration form (kathleen.reeves@pcusa.org) or call 844-797-2872, ext 5402). The tour is limited to 20 participants. The deadline for sign-up is January 21, 2016.

Sue Medsker-Nedderman has been selected to be the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Representative on the **2016 USA Mission Experience**? She'll be in San Francisco...

That **first time subscribers** to "The Horizons" may get their subscription for free? The free subscription would not include the Horizon's Bible Study though.

Are you aware that the **Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT) Nominating Committee** is looking for a few good women? Do you know a woman who stands out as you have worked with her in your congregation, presbytery or synod? If so, would you please share their names with the PW Search Regional representative by November 1st?

Positions which need filled are:

Moderator, Vice Moderator - Justice and Peace, Vice Moderator - Mission Relations, Board Secretary/Historian, Finance Committee Chair, Moderator of the Search Committee, Five Regional Search Committee Members, Six Racial Ethnic Members at Large (representing

African American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino American, Korea American, Middle East American or Native American)

They also need 2 Young Women At Large (one racial ethnic) and a New Immigrant Woman in the USA for 3 years or less).

Contact Nola Ross: nross@gmail.com or call 512-892-0802

How to Access PW Resources?

On PW's website: www.presbyterianwomen.org

On Horizons' website: www.pcusa.org/horizons (Blog access too!!)

On YouTube: www.youtube.com/pesbyterianwomen

On Facebook: www.facebook.com

search for the "Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)" like

search for "Horizons"

Be sure to 'like'.

On Twitter: www.twitter.com sign up, then search for PWPCUSA, and "follow"

On Pinterest: www.pinterest.com sign up, then search for Presbyterian Women

On Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/presbyterianwomen

From the PC(USA) online store: www.pcusa.org/store

Cloud Witnesses, is looking for your stories to include. All of us have a 'cloud of witnesses' that has helped us along the way and who, even though no longer with us, still inspire. Think about a story of a woman, now deceased, who had a good influence on your life or on the life of someone you know. Tell her story on the form attached along with this newsletter.

For more information, contact betsy.ensign-george@pcusa.org

Orange Day - the 25th Day of Every Month.

Awareness to congregations to end violence against women and children.

October - use orange pumpkins or gourds as center pieces that day.

November - ask local artists and members of your congregation to create a 2D or 3D/multimedia piece on violence against women or children. Display and celebrate those who work for justice.

December - (Jesus' birthday) provide a bowl of homemade orange decorations for the kids to hang on the tree.

LORD MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE

Synod Gathering of Lakes & Prairies

June 15-18, 2016

Sioux Falls, SD

Imagine walking into the dining room at the Synod Gathering on Wednesday evening and seeing dining tables set with white table clothes, gleaming dinnerware, lovely goodie bags and fantastic centerpieces. The vivid purple against the white table clothes, makes a dramatic setting and a change from dining in a cafeteria!

This will be your greeting on the opening of the 2016 Synod Gathering at Sioux Falls, SD at the Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, located at 3200 West Maple St. You can soon start to make reservations as the registration booklet should be coming to you by the end of November.

Registration fee is \$200. You will need to make your own hotel reservations. Hotel room is \$85 plus tax and you can have as many as you want in your room.

Our keynote speaker is Susan Jackson Dowd who is the Executive Director of Presbyterian Women. She will be speaking on the power of Presbyterian Women, our past and the future to look forward to.

Others participating are the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Visser, Worship Leader; Kristi Holler, Music Director; Rev. Stephanie Anthony, bible study leader; Rev. Danelle Crawford McKinney, plenary speaker; Rev. Alika Galloway, plenary speaker, and Mary Cook Jorgensen, past Moderator of Churchwide.

Workshops will be given by all of these speakers plus you will have your choice of spiritual workshops, mission, justice & peace, leadership and a few fun things to fill you days. If you don't want to attend all of the workshops, the hotel offers a water park and a pool for you to relax and enjoy. Or, you can visit other interesting places. Sioux Falls has The Great Plains Zoo, Northern Plains Indian Art Market, The Sertoma Butterfly House, Old Courthouse Museum and many other attractions. We plan a trip for those of you who wish to go to the Falls after Thursday nights plenary.

There will be a hands on project. You can bring fat quarters of 100% cotton to be cut into blocks for quilts, lap quilts, etc. No sewing on site, but cutting into blocks would be hands-on. Anyone wishing to complete a project with your group at home could take blocks and then donate the finished item to one of your local projects. What ever is left will be completed by the South Dakota women.

The gathering will end with a wonderful, spiritual worship service and communion.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JUNE 15-18, 2016! SEE YOU IN SIOUX FALLS, SD!



Kay Olson - Synod Gathering skit at
CWG Synod Luncheon



Donna Preston
Volunteering
at the
Churchwide
Gathering

Images from the Churchwide Gathering



Jan Beran sharing UN Commission on the
Status of Women, Spring 2015



Jean McMaken and Maggie Horak
Snack Personality Test

Suggested reading by Helen McMasters

“Wine to Water: How One Man Saved Himself While Trying to Save the World” By Doc Hendley
In 2004, Hendley, a small town bartender, launched a series of wine-tasting events to raise funds for clean-water projects and bring awareness to the world’s freshwater crises. Doc is a regular, rough-and-tumble guy who loves booze, music, and his Harley – but he also wanted to help. Wine to Water is a gripping story about braving tribal warfare and natural disasters and encountering fascinating characters in far-flung regions of the world. It is also an authoritative account of a global crisis and an inspirational tale that proves how ordinary people can improve the world.

Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study 2016

This book will no longer be available in print form but will be available on the PC(USA) website: www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionyearbook/
(Then click on the appropriate date.)

TOOLS FOR LEADERS AT www.presbyterianwomen.org

Once you have discovered PW’s website, you will find a wealth of information. For leaders and leadership information, go to the left-hand side of the home page. Locate *Tools for Leaders*. Left-click once and you will be taken to a new page with information and links to even more! Wherever the words are in **red** you will find a link to a new page and more information. To get back to where you started, click on the back arrow at the top left of the page.

Blue boxes that say “Download” take you to other pages where you can click on the **red** box--“Download PDF”—to download the document available on that page.

A PDF is a document that has been saved in the Portable Document Format, a document that you can then print or save on your computer. You do need Adobe Acrobat (a free program) to open the file.*



Equip yourself as a leader to equip those who follow you and for the benefit of the church you serve.

*This is a portion of a handout available at the Churchwide Gathering, prepared by the CCT Leadership Enhancement Committee for the 2015 Gathering.

Accessing Spiritual Power to Change the World

Workshop at 2015 PW Churchwide Gathering presented by Joan S. Gray

Another title for this educational event could have been, *Allowing God to Work*. In John 14:12, some of Jesus' last words to his disciples were "the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do..." We must intentionally be in partnership with the living God and allow God's power to transform the church, including us. We must pay attention to the gentle nudges of God speaking to us.

Some necessities are:

1. God is the boss. I must turn loose of control.
2. Repent of the need to be comfortable; we must move forward with the wind of the Holy Spirit. How is God calling us to grow?
3. Church is not all about us. We must accept the opportunity to work for/with God. The church must be committed to God. The God who calls us is the God who provides.
4. Exercise some choices:
 - a) Make friends with the Holy Spirit
 - b) Put prayer at the center of my life and at the center of the church; gather to pray.
 - c) Discern; ask God for insight; expect God to give guidance in decision making.

Submitted by Annabelle Wells

As your **PW Leadership Development** Coordinator of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, I am always on the lookout for ways to enhance you as you lead others. I went "all the way" to Minneapolis, MN this past week to attend the PW Churchwide Gathering, where I was surrounded by wonderful leaders from all over our world. You can almost "feel" the leadership by osmosis as you sit by others in the plenaries or in the classrooms or share a space at the supper table. God has used Presbyterian Women's minds, hands, feet and every part of the body to coordinate such a rich event of leaders called Churchwide Gathering.

One of the classes that I immediately registered for was *Innovative Leadership for the 21st Century's Changing Landscapes*, led by Raafat Girgis (Co-moderator for an Ecumenical Network for Multicultural Ministry). Raafat talked about the current challenges presented to the church; one of them being that we have become a multi-cultural society. Rather than throwing up our arms in despair, he delivered great peace to our hearts when he said that the church *started* "at a time like this." Also, in Revelations 7:9, "...a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language..." a church of multitudes is what God envisioned. The church has grown a lot in the past, but it cannot sustain us as it has in the past. It requires a "leadershift," or change of rules, if it is to carry on. Each church needs to look at our community to discover our paradigm shift and it is smart to use outside resources to determine them. He had five lessons for leaders in the 21st Century:

- *Lesson One*- focus the majority of your efforts on the Future. Leader's primary responsibility is to take care of tomorrow. Build bridges between today and tomorrow. Find, recognize and secure the future. If you cannot see, you cannot lead. Be open-minded, inclusive, and flexible. (Remember, PW leaders ADAPT!)
- *Lesson Two*- understand the nature of the fundamental change that is occurring in your community. A paradigm shift in which the basic "rules of the game" are changed. The rules for a new paradigm will be delivered by someone you wouldn't expect, with little or no credibility (a stranger; ie. Steven Jobs changed the communication world. Who would have thought?).
- *Lesson Three*- appreciate the complex systems and how they work. Small actions can create great destruction (consider what the millennial bug upset). No matter what level you

are leading, you must understand that small actions can affect a PW for a long time. The church thirty years ago was building HUGE buildings, not manageable and they became a financial burden to keep up. Also, consider the language you use when naming churches or activities, as it can exclude others.

- *Lesson Four-* examine your leadership style to see how it affects growth. There are three criteria: how leaders exert control (positive, with excitement, making sure all have their resources and shared decision-making); those who work for a charismatic leader will be productive. What kind of stress you create, as a leader; leaders have a profound impact on the group of workers they lead. Be a woman of vision.
- *Lesson Five-* create a shared vision to build bridges to the future. Out-perform PW assets. Invest and focus on visionary organizations that are “built to last.” Everyone benefits. Creating a shared vision is beneficial.

Leaders build bridges made of hope, ideas and opportunity. As a leader, you have choices; it is always your decision to on how you will live and conduct yourself in a way that others would want to follow you. Build a foundation of courage, communication, trust, inspiration and more.

Reflection for leaders:

My definition of a leader is...

A leader is someone who builds bridges that help us move from where we are to where we want to be. Am I building a safe bridge for those who are following?

Is the bridge I am building for others broad enough and strong enough so all who want to cross can do so safely?

What are we doing in our church or ministry to send a message that the bridge to the future is wide enough for all to cross?

What do I do with these thoughts now?

PAST

FUTURE



Like a bridge under strong flexible leadership, we find out where we are and where we want to be. The bridge should have a foundation of loyalty, compassion, communication, courage, commitment, confidence, integrity, inspiration, and more. True leadership will lead diverse communities

If you have questions regarding this leadership material, you may contact Mr. Girgis at this email address: raafatgirgis85@yahoo.com. A DVD called Leadershift is available to PWs for half the cost of a corporation, as well as other leadership material.

Submitted by Sue Kimball

Recommended Reading: "The Sailboat Church" by Joan S Gray

PW: Where We've Been and Where We're Going Presentation

During the 2015 PW Churchwide Gathering in Minneapolis 2012–2015 PW Churchwide Moderator Mary Cook Jorgenson and PW Executive Director Susan Jackson Dowd led workshops on the history, current work and future of Presbyterian Women. The presentation includes specifics on many of PW's programs and ministries and information about the PC(USA), including the change in the number of synods and how women can stay engaged in PW if their church leaves the PC(USA). The presentation is available for your use as well as general information. If you have questions, contact Susan Jackson Dowd. susan.jackson-dowd@pcusa.org

The presentation may be downloaded at:

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/presbyterian-women-presentation/>

We are looking forward to hearing both Susan Dowd and Mary Cook Jorgenson at our Synod Gathering in 2016. Lots of exciting speakers and workshop presenters to learn from!!

Get the latest news from Presbyterian Women

The third quarterly newsletter of 2015 is now available! Read highlights of the 2015 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, get information on promoting the 2015 Thank Offering, learn about applying to be part of the delegation for the 60th session of UN CSW next spring in New York, get PW mission program updates and much more. Learn about the worthwhile and exciting work of Presbyterian Women, from mission and justice to offerings and publications. You'll be in the know about all the latest leadership and mission opportunities, new resources, giving opportunities, training and much more!

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/pw-quarterly-newsletter-third-quarter-2015/>

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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://www.lakesandprairies.org/>

“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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The Sower

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This newsletter is being sent by e-mail to all who have provided an e-mail address. Please forward to the members of your PW make copies of this Sower and give those in your PW group a copy. Urge them to share it with others. Don't keep this info a secret!!

If you are no longer the moderator or don't wish to receive this newsletter, please let Karen Bartel know who the current Moderator is or your request to be taken off the mailing list at bartelkrue@yahoo.com or call 563-508-7698.

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