



The Sower

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

July 2015

Editor: Karen Bartel

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS by Marilyn Stone

The 2015 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women brought over 1700 women (and a few men) from across the United States and around the world to Minneapolis, MN, to learn and refresh their faith through worship, music, educational opportunities, mission tours, plenary sessions, visits with Mission Partners, Spirituality Center, exhibits, Global Marketplace, and Presbyterian Bookstore! I hope you were one of the well over 250 attendees from our synod alone! I am excited about the potential impact of this experience as it unfolds across our synod, rippling through our churches and women's groups. What difference are you choosing to make as a result of attending the Churchwide Gathering? What idea(s) might you implement? What connections do you plan to strengthen? I challenge you to carry your experience forward!

Thank you so much to all those who responded to the call to volunteer for the Churchwide Gathering! I don't know the grand total of volunteers from our synod, although I know it was substantial. Thank you so much to each and every one of you – this event could not have happened without all your help. I trust your volunteer efforts were a positive experience.

REMINDER – 2016 USA Mission Experience application deadline is July 15, 2015! The 2016 USA Mission Experience will occur September 22-30, 2016 in the San Francisco Bay Area. Download an application at www.presbyterianwomen.org/missionmatters and mail completed application to Marilyn Stone (contact information can be found later in this newsletter). Prayerfully consider applying to represent our synod on this Mission Experience, keeping in mind that one needs ability to walk, handle own luggage and commit to sharing your experience throughout the synod for two years following the trip. I look forward to receiving your application!

May these days and weeks of summer bring opportunities for reflection, renewal, and reconnecting with family and friends.

Blessings,

Marilyn Stone

Ask Ms. PW

**Dear Ms. PW,
How do PW leaders adapt to change?**

Dear PW Moderator,

The book, The Practice of Adaptive Leadership, by Ronald Heifetz, Martin Linsky, and Alexander Grashow (Cambridge: Harvard Business, 2009) can be a useful handbook to meeting the demands of leadership. It is a hands-on practical guide containing stories, tools, diagrams, cases, and worksheets to help you develop your skills as an adaptive leader, able to take people outside their comfort zones and assess and address the toughest challenges.

Other suggestions: Observe what is working and what is not - drop what isn't working; Ask women what their needs are; Invite women to brainstorm new ideas and what needs to go; Be open to new ideas and ways to do things; Communicate what is going on. We've attached a good article on Leadership as well.

Ms. PW

From Around the Presbyteries – Remarks about the CWG

The Church Wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women 2015 was AWESOME! The theme, One Body One Spirit bringing 1735 people together internationally, was overwhelming. The Plenary Sessions were most inspiring and well planned. I did miss singing one or two familiar songs. Anita Gutschick did her awesome take on Women in the Bible. Melissa Bane Sevier on day 2 did a wonderful Bible Study (Hebrews) on her family "biscuits"; quite clever. My six workshops lived up to my expectations. It was a wonderful journey. Jan Wicks Iowa City

The Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering 2015 was an amazing three days, as it has been in previous years. It was a time for me to make new friends, enjoy old friends in a new setting, while renewing both my mind and my spirit as I participated in the multitude of educational and worship opportunities.

As I look over my notes the following have given me a chance for further reflection ...hopefully they will for you as well.

Have you ever felt like the "I'm not"....

She's smart.....I'm not
She's a good cook.....I'm not
She's pretty.....I'm not
She's rich.....I'm not
She's a "Super Mom".....I'm not

But I AM a creature of God and I AM playing an important role in our oneness with God.

We need a new normal –

.....in our church
.....in our country
.....in our world
.....persistent women can help accomplish this

The Ecological Crisis is really a Spiritual Crisis as we look for....

.....oneness of creation
.....oneness with creation
.....oneness in creation

Remember: Unity is not Uniformity

Nancy Ross - Iowa City

One of the highlights of the CWG for me was meeting Judy Record Fletcher, the author of our 2015 Horizon Bible Study, "Come to the Waters". Judy has a pleasant southern accent and is a joy to listen to. She is a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and grew up in Texarkana, Texas.

Judy said that as she prepared to write this Bible Study she was transported back to the 1950s when she and her sister would help their mother clean the house to get ready for the circle meeting she would host that night. They hoped there would be some of the "special dessert" that their mother made for the meeting left over for them. Her mother was in that circle for over 40 years where the women fed and nourished each other. Judy considers it a privilege to be part of Presbyterian Women today. I can so relate to that story in my own life.

In "Come to the Waters", each lesson includes one or more Bible passages that deal with water and each lesson also focuses on a primary theological theme or issue. She begins with Birthing Waters-Creation and ends with River of Life- Hope.

It is my hope that many of you will be able to enjoy this study. Sharon Getty

2015 Churchwide Gathering Highlights

I have been to five Churchwide Gatherings. Each one has its own "flavor". They are similar but never the same. Because of my position as Representative to CCT, this Gathering put me behind the scenes doing odd jobs at different times and places. I loved visiting with so many women at the Leadership Table as they selected a snack and then were told about their personality based on the snack choice. Wonderful to visit with so many women!

Kay Olson, Sioux Falls, SD

Accessing Spiritual Power to Change the World was a workshop given by Joan S. Gray. Another title for it could have been, Allowing God to Work. John 14:12, part of Jesus's last words to his disciples, says "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.

Other necessities

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 on 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

Another short talk at the Churchwide Gathering in Minneapolis was given by Pilju Kim Joo on Food Sovereignty. She is an amazing person, born in North Korea and lived there till age 7 when her family moved to South Korea. She received her education there through college, when few women were attending college; then she came to the USA and earned her Ph.D. as a seed scientist from Cornell University. She worked for some of the leading agricultural corporations developing cutting-edge seed science and technologies.

For the last 26 years she has made over 100 trips to North Korea and brought agricultural knowledge, technology and supplies to several large cooperative farms.

Poverty comes from lack of sharing; one billion people are hungry every night in our world. "for I was hungry and you gave me food." Matthew 25:35

Submitted by Annabelle Wells

“ONE A DAY VITAMINS FOR LEADERS”

“Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.” Mother Theresa

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.” Winston Churchill

“Leaders aren’t born, they are made. They are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal which is worthwhile.” Vince Lombardi

“We gain strength and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face...we must do that which we think we cannot.” Eleanor Roosevelt

“Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate.” Albert Schweitzer

“Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved.” Helen Keller

CCT Synod Representative Report

July 2015

By Kay Olson

Churchwide Gathering Business Meeting Report :

Voting Representatives approved changing PW’s fiscal year to operate on a calendar year. (January 1 to December 31). The new triennial budget, June 2015 through December 31, 2018, will have six extra months.

Based on the coming reduction in the number of synods (voted by the 214th General Assembly) PW’s bylaws were revised to reflect an undetermined number of synods.

Another change specified that the Business Meeting is not required to be held in conjunction with the Churchwide Gathering.

Voting Representatives elected a new slate of leaders. The new moderatorial team consists of Carol Winkler, moderator; Wanda Beauman, vice moderator for justice and peace; and Judy Persons, vice moderator for mission relationships.

Statistics from Churchwide Gathering:

Attendance:	1735
Target Gift Cards collected:	\$30, 800
Offering collected:	\$32,000
# of Presbyterian Churches PC (USA)	10,000
# of PW groups	5,000

PW has a new toll-free phone number: 844-797-2872

Please use it to save PW money!

BLOGS! Want more information??

Leadership Enhancement Committee, CCT, has a new blog called “PW Leads the Way”.

This blog is intended to be a “go to” place for women looking for the best practices in leadership, mission opportunities, and programming ideas.

Antiracism Committee, CCT, has “Manna for the March” blog. The committee requests ideas for building inclusive, caring communities, talking about racism and breaking down barriers. Please provide reflections, inspiration, or stories of courage to the blog.

Send all information to Yvonne Hileman, Churchwide PW staff: Yvonne.hileman@pcusa.org

A link to all PW blogs is on the PW main website: www.presbyterianwomen.org

Global Exchange to Change

In this new triennium, the CCT will provide an international partnership experience with a PC (USA) partner church. PW participants will spend a week in the host country, then the host country's participants will travel back with the PW group to spend a week in the U.S.

Nominate an author or field test a future Bible Study!

Contact Betsy Ensign-George, PW staff: 844-797-2872 betsy.ensign-george@pcusa.org

Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study

This book will no longer be available in print form but will be available on the PC(USA) website.

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV)

Do you know a young adult interested in spending a year in service?

The Young Adult Volunteer program offers 17 different sites across the county where young adults live in intentional Christian community. Make sure young adults in your life don't miss out on this great opportunity! Contact: www.youngadultvolunteers.com

Horizons Bible Study wins award!

Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty won Awards of Excellence for both print and DVD formats from Associated Church Press.

Need a program idea? PW History Exhibit Kit

Ever find a need to review PW history or mount a display at a PW or other church event?

Order the updated PW History Exhibit Kit. You'll learn about amazing women in the history of the church, a timeline of PW's heritage and 200 Years of PW video on DVD.

Call PDS @ 800-524-2612 for item PWR 15137. \$20.00

Recommended Reading

I'm Still Standing by Shoshana Johnson

The Michael Erick Dyson Reader by Michael Erick Dyson

Teach a Woman to Fish by Ritu Sharma

Falling into Place by Hattie Kaufman

Beyond the Beautiful Forever by Katherine Boo

A Call to Action by Jimmy Carter

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Final Words....

PW Structure at the congregational level does not have to have so many leaders.

It helps to have one person be a designated leader, one person be treasurer and one person to keep the records/history of the group.

Let us start thinking "We need new members, rather than we need young members!"

LEADERSHIP TIDBIT

Empowerment of those you are leading is critical, so don't forget that they need boundaries. "A river without banks is a large puddle." (Ken Blanchard, John P. Carols, and Alan Randolph) The women you lead must have direction, or they will get lost and revert back to their old underpowered habits. Boundaries will channel energy in the right direction. Take away the boundaries and they will lose their momentum and direction. Boundaries that create self-sufficiency include:

Purpose- what does your PW do?

Values- what are your guidelines?

Goals- where are you headed?

Roles- who does what?

Structure- how is your PW organized?

Don't let inexperienced women go off alone and then punish them when they make mistakes. Establish clear boundaries that will free them to make decisions, take initiative, act like owners and stay on track.

(adapted from an excerpt of *The Heart of a Leader* by Ken Blanchard)

*From PW: Warm up this winter in the Caribbean on a luxury Celebrity cruise.
More Than Enough Women's Retreat
A 5-night cruise on the Celebrity Constellation
January 18-23, 2016*

You will enjoy the wonderful time of fellowship and spiritual renewal with Christian women from around the country. You will also have time to relax and experience the sandy beaches and scenic ports of Cozumel, Mexico and Key West, Florida.

Babbie, Barbara and Melissa will encourage, challenge and inspire you through large group worship, teaching times, workshops, meals and informal times around the ship.

Come by yourself, or Host a group and earn your cruise – travel with a group of 10 and your cabin can be free.

Cabins start as low as \$399 per person.*
Register today to reserve the cabin of your choice.

Click on this link to open for more for more information

<http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/abingdon2016#eotours>

Book Review

This is a summary/review of "A Long Way Gone" by Ishmael Beah, written by K.G. from Winnebago Presbytery. Also included is a link to questions that could be used with this the book.

http://www.alongwaygone.com/media/ALongWayGone_RGG.pdf

A Long Way Gone is a captivating, wrenching story. It is the memoir of the author, Ishmael Beah, as he recounts his experience with civil war in his home of Sierra Leone. His home village is attacked by rebels when Beah is 12 and he is orphaned and forced to flee on foot with other children into the jungle to escape the army and the rebels. He is picked up by the army at age 13 and made into a soldier. He tells of killing for the first time, how he and the other boys become addicted to drugs, and how he is gradually turned into a killing machine. Ultimately Beah is found by UNICEF and taken to be rehabilitated and he eventually escapes to the United States. Beah is a wonderful story teller and his tale is well told, but explicit, and all the more disturbing because it is a memoir. The hope offered by knowing that Beah is alive and able to tell his tale is necessary to get through the book!! A Long Way Gone is an eye opening and disturbing book, but is ultimately hopeful as it shows the resiliency of the human spirit.

Submitted by Ruth Wrynski, Leadership Committee member on the Synod Coordinating Team

PW / PDA Disaster Preparedness Trainers Needed

Presbyterian Women in collaboration with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) are seeking Presbyterian Women with time and interest in training congregations and presbyteries in disaster preparedness. This specialized ministry responds to the need for every presbytery and congregation to have basic plans and preparations in the event of a church emergency or direct hit by disaster – natural, human-caused, or industrial-technical.

PW and PDA plan to train a minimum of four Presbyterian Women in each presbytery to take disaster preparedness training to congregations and to presbyteries. Each PW Disaster Preparedness Trainer will be expected to organize and conduct a minimum of three disaster preparedness trainings a year. If you are interested in receiving this training, please notify Marilyn Stone, as we will be scheduling one training session for our synod, hoping to have all presbyteries represented by at least four trainers per presbytery. Applications and reference forms are available online at www.pcusa.org/pda, click on ACT, then click on Volunteer.

The Blazing Star Quilt

Two women from the Des Moines Presbytery attended the Dakota Presbytery meeting at Good Will Church in Sisseton, South Dakota on October 3-5, 2014. They were welcomed with open arms and learned much about the Presbyterian Women of the Dakota Presbytery.

The Des Moines Presbyterian Women have pledged to provide support for them through prayers and personal contact. One way we have done this is to display the "Blazing Star Quilt", which was made by the PW of the Dakota Presbytery and presented to the PW of the Presbytery of Des Moines, in our churches. The PW that displays the quilt has been asked to send a monetary contribution to the PW of the Dakota Presbytery to lend support for their activities

The quilt has been displayed in First Presbyterian Church of Oskaloosa and at the First United Presbyterian Church at Winterset. At the Spring Connection PW meeting in April it was passed on to Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Des Moines to be displayed at their 125th anniversary celebration. A bag has been made to transport the quilt from church to church and an explanation about the quilt and where to send the monetary donation has been affixed to the bag.

From Around the CWG

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pwgathering/> for more on the Gathering



Officers & Appointed Positions April, 2015

Moderator:

Marilyn Stone (2013-16)
-Milwaukee-
3915 Lake St.
Burlington, WI 53105
262-763-0918 H;
262-492-7921 C
mmstone52@att.net

Vice Moderator:

Sharon Johnson (2014-2017)
-Northern Plains-
1280 133rd Ave.SE
Hope, ND 58046
701-799-7428 C
alshare@ictc.com

Secretary:

Jean McMaken (2013-16)
-N. Central Iowa-
30572 Caribou Circle
Huxley, Iowa 50124
515-597-3592
slapsec2016@hotmail.com

Treasurer:

Jan Nelson (2015-18)
-Winnebago-
985 N. Broadway #32
DePere WI 54115
920-338-0155
jnelson35@new.rr.com

Search Committee:

Melissa Muzzy (2014-2017)
-N Central IA-
6815 Danish Lane
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
319-231-5767 C
mkm.muzzy@gmail.com

Annabelle Wells (2015-18)

-Central Nebraska-
6825 Cottonmill Ave.
Kearney, NE 68845
308-893-2156
Annabelle.wells@gmail.com

Search Comm Chair:

Joanne (Jodie) Pierce (2013-16) -Northern Waters-
4718 Bogey Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715-831-6107 H; 715-491-8888 C
jodiepierce@sbcglobal.net

Historian:

Helen McMasters (2015-18)
-Milwaukee-
3595 Westshire Circle
Delavan, WI 53115
262-740-1321
mcmasters.helen@gmail.com

Churchwide CT Rep

Kay Olson -South Dakota-
3901 Spencer Blvd.
Sioux Falls SD 57103
605-336-3585 H
dkolson@sio.midco.net

Appointive Positions:

Justice and Peace Coordinator

Sue Medsker-Nedderman
-Central Nebraska-
314 N. Cedar Ave.
Hastings NE 68901-5348
402-984-3545
s.medsker.nedderman@gmail.com

Sower Editor

Karen Bartel -East Iowa-
1812 W. 8th St.
Davenport, IA 52802
563-508-7698
thesower.slap@yahoo.com
(newsletter)
bartelkrue@yahoo.com
(personal)

Communications Coordinator

Joan Berglund -Homestead-
545 S. 28th Street
Lincoln, NE 68540
402-440-5478 H
joanlberglund@gmail.com

Leadership Enhancement Coordinator

Sue Kimball -Des Moines-
12339 Pershing St.
Indianola, IA 50125
515-961-2493 H
kimballsusan53@yahoo.com

Mission & Advocacy Coordinator

Trudi Nelson -South Dakota-
6498 Evergreen Acres Drive
Wentworth, SD 57075
605-480-0560 C
605-636-9287 H
nelson@svtv.com

Native American Concerns

Cyndi Bighorn -Dakota -
45714 BIA Hwy 200
Peever, SD 57257
605-742-0323 H
c/o mary.bighorn@ihs.gov
(daughter)

LaVonne Looking Elk

-Dakota-
3729 W. Chicago
Rapid City. SD 57702
605-716-0888 H
slooking@rap.midco.net

Kay Olson -South Dakota-

3901 Spencer Blvd.
Sioux Falls SD 57103
605-336-3585 H
dkolson@sio.midco.net

Donna Preston

PO Box 276
Grandin, ND 58038
701-484-5633 H
701-238-7414 C
preston@gra.midco.net

2016 Synod Gathering

Co-coordinators:

Joan Berglund
Kay Olson
Sue Kimball
Terri Sherman
12244 N 84th St
Lincoln NE 68517

Presbytery Moderators/ PWSCT Representatives April, 2015

Presbytery	Representative/Address	Phone/Email
Central Nebraska	Annabelle Wells (m/r) 6825 Cottonmill Ave. Kearney, NE 68845	308-893-2156 Annabelle.wells@gmail.com
Dakota	Annette (Hopa) Crawford (m/r) Box 601, Agency Village Sisseton, SD 57262	605-698-3766 hopacrawford@yahoo.com
Des Moines	Pam Deichmann (m/r) 405 S. 16th Avenue Winterset, IA 50273	641-462-3277 pam.deichmann@gmail.com
East Iowa	Sharon Getty (m/r) 2716 Thorn St. Bettendorf, IA 52722	563-355-8991 sagetty@yahoo.com
Homestead	Joie Taylor (m/r) 2301 31st St. Columbus, NE 68601	402-564-1781 violets@megavision.com
John Knox	Shirley Lloyd (m/r) P.O. Box 232 Cambria, WI 53923	920-348-5781 H 920-348-3138 C salloyd@centurytel.net
Milwaukee	Helen McMasters (m/r) 3595 Westshire Circle Delavan, WI 53115	262-740-1321 mcmasters.helen@gmail.com
Minnesota Valleys	Betty Thorson 106 Ash St. New Ulm, MN. 56073	507-947-3255 thorsonbetty@gmail.com
MO River Valley	Kathleen Keefer (m/r) 315 N 19th Clarinda, IA 51632-1419	712-542-6450 klkeefe@mail.com
N. Central Iowa	Melissa Muzzy (m/r) 2710 Clayton Dr. Ames, IA 50010	319-231-5767 C mkm.muzzy@gmail.com
Northern Plains	Donna Preston (m/r) PO Box 276 Grandin, ND 58038	701-484-5633 H 701-238-7414 C preston@gra.midco.net

Northern Waters	Janice Letsos (m/r) 1414 Cypress Ave. Superior, WI 54880	715-384-6009 jletsos@uwsuperior.edu
Prospect Hill	Evelyn Kendall (r) 577 14th St. LeMars, IA 51031	712-546-4045 jimevk@frontiernet.net
	Audrey Scholten (m) 25 6th St. NE LeMars, IA 51031	712-546-7608 C akscholten@yahoo.com
South Dakota	Trudi Nelson (m/r) 6498 Evergeen Acres Dr. Wentworth, SD 570775	605-480-0560 C 605-636-9287 H nelsont@svtv.com
Twin Cities	Sylvia Swede (r) 526 14th St. NE Rochester, MN 55906	507-282-5132 sylviaswede@aol.com
	Belinda Breit (m) 345 Niagara Lane N Plymouth, MN 55447	736-475-3568 C Belinda.breit@comcast.net
Winnebago	Ruth Wrynski 3403 Kildeer Lane Wausau, WI 54401	715-842-8410 C ruthiewry@charter.net

**Note: “m” indicates PWP Moderator
“r” stands for PWS Presbyterian 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

If you have an e-mail address change, please send the notice of change to the Editor at the above e-mail address. If you know someone wants to subscribe, please send the name and e-mail address to the above e-mail address. If you no longer wish to receive “The Sower”, just send that request, yes, to the above cited e-mail address.

