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MAY 2019
LOUISE VAN POLL
EDITOR

From the Moderator

By Mary Jenner

Those in Brookings, Saturday, April 27, had to scrape a few inches of snow off our vehicles in the morning, before heading to First Presbyterian Church for the PWP SPRING GATHERING.

Attendees registered and could have coffee, juice, fruit, and a choice of muffins and rolls. Various displays were visible just off of the dining area. (Resources, Horizons, IHS, Pathfinder Center, PDA, Bienvenidos a Brookings, and the sewing room

from First Presby in Sioux Falls.)

After a devotion and lighting the Christ can-



Registration table at the PWP Spring Gathering in Brookings.

dle, Lisa Heth, executive director of the Pathfinder Center, our mission project for 2019-2020, spoke

about how the center started and it's mission.

Jeanne Jones Manzer spoke about Bienvenidos a Brookings, which works with those who come to Brookings for employment, but may not know where to get help, who to talk to, and how to converse in English. Families are often involved.

After music and stretching, we heard from Linda Barnett about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, being ready for a disaster personally. (Do you have a "to-go-bag" ready?) And for your

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Pathfinders



Lisa Heth

Victims of human trafficking often turn to domestic violence shelters, Lisa Heth, executive director of the Pathfinder Center said. But those shelters usually have a 30-day or so limit for victims to stay. That's not long enough to help victims cope with layers of trauma they experience while being trafficked, she said. The Pathfinder Center will give trafficking victims a safe place to stay for six months to a year and provide extra services domestic violence shelters don't have.

"Victims are going to be able to come and rest," Heth said. "They can breathe and relax and know they don't only have 30 days to think of somewhere they have to go."

The idea for the shelter came unexpectedly in March 2015. A random phone call from a motel owner and a steady faith led Heth to the bank to ask for a loan to turn the motel into a shelter.

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Moderator from Page 1



Trudi Nelson, outgoing moderator, and Mary Jenner, newly installed moderator.

church. (If the church was suddenly gone, how are members contacted?) She presented many problems and options. She is available to speak to church groups.

A delicious lunch of salads was served along with Diane Helin's Horizons presentation (including door prizes).

Trudi Nelson conducted the business meeting and election of officers.

Commissioned Ruling Elder Ann Spitzberger led the worship service, which included communion. The offering went to Bienvenidos a Brookings.

The dedication of special offerings was held: Birthday, Least Coin, and Centsability. The Necrology, remembering those who died during the past year, and installation of new officers followed.

Members were reminded of the PW Synod Gathering, June 20-23 in Ames, Iowa. Attendees were encouraged to car pool.

After a closing devotion and extinguishing the Christ candle, treats were available, along with water for the trip home.

The snow from earlier had almost completely disappeared, so travels were no problem.

"This could be anybody's daughter, niece, sister, aunt."

OUR MISSION

To provide a place of refuge for victims of human trafficking from all over South Dakota. To promote the growth and development of those we serve by empowering them to experience healing and wholeness, while ensuring that each woman gains a sense of self-worth and the capacity to achieve their full potential.

Pathfinders from Page 1

Two loans, a grant and a lot of meetings later, the shelter opened in early 2017. Heth hopes to serve victims from around the state.

The motel's upper level has 14 rooms, each individualized and sponsored by a group to give each victim a place to call their own.

"Those donations show the victims how much (people) care about them," Heth said. "This could be anybody's daughter, niece, sister, aunt. It crosses all financial, racial lines."

The lower level serves as kitchen and office space and rooms for staff and volunteers. It will also have a room dedicated for interviews if the victims choose to report the trafficking to law enforcement. Those interviews can last hours, sometimes days, and having a room in the motel can help victims feel more at ease.

Victims staying in the shelter will have access to education resources, if they want to get their GED or take college courses online, job skills classes, resume building, activity time, daily task skills, etc. Mental health experts will be available if victims request counseling.

The organization is not releasing the exact location of the motel to keep victims' identities safe, Heth said.

"Trafficking is a \$150 billion industry. Traffickers won't take lightly to no longer having access to the girls they had. We're trying to make this as secure as possible," Heth said.

Wiconi Wawokiya will coordinate with other human trafficking awareness organizations around the state to place victims in the shelter.

There are still a few kinks to work out. The shelter needs items that can't be purchased with grant money, such as kitchen items, books, art supplies. A complete wish list is on the Pathfinder Center's website.

Lisa Heth's small prayer on a drive to a motel in central South Dakota spiraled into an extended-stay human trafficking survivor shelter.

Known as a Christian

From Dianne Boatright

Dare to declare who you are. It is not far from the shores of silence to the boundaries of speech. The path is not long but the way is deep.

Around the world and throughout history, people of faith have been killed for beliefs that undermine those in power or because those with power felt their power might be undermined. Even today declaring your faith as a Christian you could receive the death sentence. Have you ever been embarrassed to be identified as a Christian?

More specifically, have you ever been afraid of being identified as a certain type of Christian? Almost daily, media outlets announce more examples of cruel language and violent acts meted out in the name of Christian values.

There are times we do not want to call ourselves Chris-

tian because we don't want to be thought of as hateful, intolerant and judgmental. We don't want to be lumped in with people who identified themselves as Christians while speaking and acting in un-Christ-like ways. We don't want to explain that we aren't "that" kind of Christian.

Jesus said in Matthew 5: 6-7: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled and Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."

If we are overly concerned with our own righteousness, we run the risk of becoming judgmental. If our focus is on not being like someone else, we run the risk of being judgmental, and labeling others only by the ways they fall short.

It would be better to be less concerned by what we are

called and more intentional about who we are. A label may be just a word applied to a surface; an identity is the fact of being who or what a person is. (Oxford dictionary) Being called "Christian" may not convey the same meaning to everyone. But being identified as Christian—by one's way of living in, moving through and caring for the world—is more substantial. Being part of a world-wide family of sisters and brothers in Christ is priceless.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to be identified by how we live, work and do everything in the name of Christian until we can be with you in heavenly glory. Be with us as we travel. Keep us safe. In your name we pray. Amen

"There are times we do not want to call ourselves Christian because we don't want to be thought of as hateful, intolerant and judgmental."

Synod School

From Judy Rops

Synod School, July 21-26, at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, is not far away. The theme this year is "Cultivating Civil Community." Synod School is planned by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies which includes Presbyterian U.S.A representatives from South and North Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska.

Synod School is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages. "There are great classes for continuing education for pastors, church educators and other church professionals. For those looking to re-charge through creativity, there are music classes, basket-weaving classes, cards, beading, mindful

stitching and an introduction to the new **Horizon's** Bible study. For those seeking spiritual renewal there are opportunities to read and study with spiritual leaders, study and meditate Scripture, practice mindfulness or yoga, and more," according to correspondence from SS.

View the Synod School catalog at www.lakesandprairies.org/synodschool for full details of all classes and room and boarding costs. Each year Synod School offers \$50 scholarships and this year to the first 66 first-timers (for the 66th Synod School). Prayerfully think about taking a vacation this summer at Synod School. You won't regret it.

Press on to the Goal

From Diane Boatright

The scripture is from Philippians 3:17 – 4:1. **The word of the Lord.**

This part of scripture was written by Paul saying “press on to the goal.” He states we are not perfect. We need to be living up to our Christian values which we have already obtained like himself. How many of you have seen a new Christian so eager to help anywhere by doing mission projects, church activities, on committees, etc., always visible? Some of those who have been in the Christian walk of faith all their life are more lack luster.

Paul is preaching that we continue working with others for our citizenship in heaven. Press on to our heavenly goal, never give up. Stand firm in Christ. That is what matters.

When God says ‘Wait’

From Mary Jenner, Moderator

A woman had to appear in court on an important financial matter. She had a whole army of friends and family praying for her that the issue would be settled that particular day once and for all.

One day of court time starting at 8:30 in the morning should have been sufficient to resolve the problem permanently. But the judge delayed the matter until first 1:30 and then 3:00, then 3:30, leaving 45 minutes of court time to hear both sides of the issue. The matter ended up being postponed for another six weeks.

The delay cost her a full day of her attorney’s time, which was of course very expensive. She and her friends were all disappointed. Hadn’t they prayed earnestly? Didn’t God hear their prayers?

The next day, her Bible reading brought her to Psalm 94. Verses 9 and 10 say, “He who planted the ear, does he not hear? He who

formed the eye, does he not see?” God was so clearly saying, “I saw every minute of what happened in that courtroom. I heard every word of every prayer that everyone prayed that the matter be settled once and for all.” God’s eyes and ears were open. But it was plain that God had a different plan.

What do you do when God so clearly says, “No” to your prayer? Give up on Him? Try to solve the problem yourself? That’s certainly our natural reaction. I believe we have to presume He is saying, “Wait” and place the whole issue back in His hands, for His solution, in His timing. We are reminded of that well-known verse in **Psalm 27:14**: “Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!”

Dear Lord, we are waiting -- and trusting that You know best. Please strengthen our hearts. Help us remember that all things happen in your time. It is hard to wait. Calm us and sustain us as we try to have faith and be patient. Amen.



Installation of officers

Photos from the Spring Gathering



SYNOD GATHERING FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE SYNOD OF THE LAKES & PRAIRIES

June 20-23

Theme: Out of the believer's heart shall flow streams of living water.

John 7:38

**GATEWAY HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
2100 Green Hills Dr.**

Ames, IA

800-367-2637

The Gathering begins with registration on Thursday, June 20, at 3 p.m. and concludes after the plenary on Sunday. Full registration of **\$200** includes meals and all programming. Attendees are responsible for making their own hotel reservations and finding roommate(s). Please call to make your reservation. We have a block under Presbyterian Women. Only one person per hotel room should submit an online hotel reservation or call for the reservation but should list the names of others to occupy that room. Room rates are \$120 per room, per night, one to four persons per room, plus tax. To take advantage of the special Gathering rates, **reserve your room by June 1**. Parking is free at the hotel.

OFFERING RECIPIENTS

Marion Medical Mission: All donations go to the MMM designated mission field purposes in Africa. Wells built in 2017 provided villages in Malawi and Tanzania with a sustainable source of safe drinking water.

Sudanese Tutoring Program: Through the years, the Sudanese ministry at Cottage Grove Church in Des Moines, IA, flourished, and though the ownership of the church building changed hands in 2016, the Sudanese ministry continued to develop into a thriving congregation.

Please bring \$10 gift cards from Target or HyVee which will be given to the following two ministries:

Wings of Refuge, a Christian based transition house for trafficked girls located in Iowa Falls.

Butterfly Freedom House, a place designed to help women who have been incarcerated find hope and success as they seek to discover God's plan for their lives.

SPECIAL EVENTS

BEJEWELLED

Something new this year! We are asking everyone to bring a piece of costume jewelry or a scarf that you no longer want or need. We will sell each item for \$5. This money will go to the Native American Dakota Fund.

GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

This busy place will feature booths for shopping and gathering resources. It will be open Thursday afternoon as you arrive and Friday and Saturday following the plenary. Check for specific times in the gathering booklet after you arrive at the gathering. The marketplace will close at 5:00 PM on Saturday.

HANDS-ON PROJECTS

Days for Girls is a global movement that prepares and distributes sustainable menstrual health solutions to girls who would otherwise miss school during their monthly periods.

WORKSHOPS

1. Suzanne Gorhau: Wells in Africa: Providing Clean Water for Rural Villages in Africa
2. Kathleen Keefer: Love Carved in Stone – a Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments
3. Kris Peterson: Leadership
4. Mary Newbern-Williams: With Scars on My Soul
5. Meghan Davis: Chair Yoga
6. Ekram Kachu: My Story as a Refugee
7. Marcia and Mark McAdoo: Toxic Charity
- 8a. Marilyn Stone: Immigration and the Refugee Crisis: How can I help when I don't live near the border?
- 8b. Marilyn Stone: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: How can I assist in disaster response?
9. Susan Ingels: Global Mission Exchange to Indonesia
10. Nancy Siewert: Book Review: Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race
11. Sue Kimball: In Her Shoes- a simulation experience on domestic violence.
12. Fern Cloud: The Circle of Life
13. Kim Coulter: What's the secret to taking great pictures with your phone?
14. Sharon Falk: Native American Stories: Hear stories of the women in the Dakota Presbytery
15. Flint, the Poisoning of an American City

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Check Age Range: under 18 _____ 18-25 _____ 25-40 _____ 41-55 _____ 56-70 _____ Over 70 _____

If under 18, name of parent _____

Congregation _____ Presbytery _____

To register for workshops, mark "1" as your first choice and "2" as your second choice. Remember it is your choice to participate in any or all of the workshops. There are other interesting things to do.

Friday 9:45 to 10:45

8a _____
5 _____
7 _____
10 _____

Friday 11 to 12

1 _____
3 _____
9 _____
13 _____

Friday 1:30 to 3:30 PM

15 (film) _____

Friday 1:30 to 3 PM

2 _____
11 _____
12 _____

Friday 4 to 5 PM

4 _____
14 _____

Saturday 9:45 to 10:45 AM

2 _____
5 _____
7 _____
10 _____

Saturday 11 to 12

1 _____
3 _____
9 _____
13 _____

Saturday 1:30 to 3:30 PM

15 Flint: the documentary _____

Saturday 1:30 to 3 PM

8 b _____
11 _____
12 _____

Saturday 4 to 5 PM

4 _____
6 _____
14 _____

Lunch will be served from 12:15 to 1:15 PM; Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 PM

Do you have any dietary restrictions? _____

All activities are on the 2nd floor and are handicap accessible.

To attend only part of the Gathering, check which days you will attend, choose your workshops for those days, and send \$100 to the registrar:

_____ Thursday night through Friday night

_____ Saturday morning through Sunday morning

Email your registration (copy and paste this page only) to s.medsker.nedderman@gmail.co. Then mail your check for the \$200 registration fee, made out to PW SLAP, for your registration to Sue at the address below.

OR

Mail your registration (print this page only) to Sue at the address below with your \$200 check made out to PW SLAP.

You will receive an emailed registration receipt, noting which workshops you are registered for. If you email your registration and haven't received a receipt in 4 or 5 days, please send a reminder email to Sue at the same email address.

Registrar: Sue Medsker-Nedderman, 314 N. Cedar Ave., Hastings, NE 68901-5348

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