



# The Sower

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies

January 2010

Sue Nedderman, editor

## MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

When I was a child my family lived on an Indian reservation. At age ten we moved to Rochester, MN where the principal introduced me and my sisters to the auditorium filled with children. Principal Pennock asked me where I came from and my timid reply was "northern Minnesota", having already learned that NOBODY knew where Mahnomen was. Probing a bit more, he asked, "wasn't that an Indian reservation and didn't you grow up with Indians?" I don't recall my response except that when I arrived home my mother explained that the majority of my classmates were Indian. And I thought that Indians were those characters on TV, the Lone Ranger, et al, who had feathers sticking out of their heads, not Joe, Shirley, Tony, David and the rest of my friends. I appreciate the fact that my parents did not tolerate racism and taught their children well.

That's why when USA Mission Experience came out, I was excited. Here is a chance to learn from our sisters what challenges they face and their concerns, how we can connect with them and their congregations building relationships.

So I was disappointed to discover only a handful of applications for this mission experience. What I have received in applications is quality, but not quantity. Is it because South Dakota and Dakota Presbytery are so close that we fail to see the value of such an experience? Are Presbyterian Women just going to be too exhausted after synod gathering to pack their bags again? (And yes, there is still time to get your application in).

This brings me to the point that we often fail to see what's in our own back yard as valuable or exciting. Which would you rather do---visit a shelter in El Salvador or support Dorothy Day House in St. Paul? Encourage a cooperative spice company in Jamaica or spend your effort with immigrant ministry of Fargo or Sioux Falls or Omaha? Work on an international Habitat for Humanity house in Puerto Rico or help build one in Duluth?

We have several sections on local mission as well as international mission in our church and organization. Both have a role. What you do with a neighbor is just as important as how you respond to famine in Africa or tsunamis or earthquakes around the world. I am glad that we have people in our church who have dedicated their lives to serve as the church around the world and to whom we can give support with prayers and money, if not our physical presence. Don't just go to church, BE THE CHURCH.

Elizabeth Swee, moderator

## 2010 Birthday Offering

The 2010 Birthday Offering recipients are Kindergarten and Childcare Center, Primary School Development, Kirkuk, Iraq and R.I.S.E. (Reach-Improve-Strengthen-Empower) Project at Peace Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY. See the January-February 2010 issue of *Horizons Magazine* for details on these projects. There is also a dedication service for your offering included in this issue. The goal for the 2010 Birthday Offering is \$900,000. Offering envelopes, bulletin covers and other promotional items are available from PDS. Ordering information is on the back cover of the January-February *Horizons*. Please give generously.

## Presbyterian Women Choose Incorporation

The most important item of business which was handled by the voting representatives at the PW Triennial Gathering in Louisville last summer was the question of whether or not PW should approve articles of incorporation that establish PW as a publicly supported integrated auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). After considerable discussion, the vote was in favor of this change. But what does it mean to us?

Presbyterian Men made this same move in 2002. They faced declining support at the national offices and the transfer of those duties to the General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC). Therefore, they established their own nonprofit status for mailings, tax purposes, etc. At the present time, no paid staff handles their concerns in Louisville, but a cadre of volunteers work out of the PCUSA headquarters in space made available at no charge. They have the financial goal of being “self sufficient” and are in a covenant relationship with GAMC.

At the national level, PW has been considering incorporation since 2006. The Administrative Committee of the Churchwide Coordinating Team consulted with other mainline denomination’s women’s organizations that have been incorporated for many years. According to Catrelia Hunter, 2006–2009 moderator of Presbyterian Women, “Incorporation will allow PW to establish clear and separate accounting practices, and ensure good stewardship of PW funds in the current economic environment.” Since being formed in 1988, Presbyterian Women has also held a covenantal relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and has been the single largest contributor of undesignated funds to support the mission of the church worldwide. That covenantal relationship remains in place.

Concern was articulated at the PW business meeting that incorporation might cause a decline in our support to the mission of the church worldwide. We did not wish to become an “inward looking” group. The delegates were assured that the intent was to make efficient use of our resources in the hope of giving even better support to this mission.

With this understanding, voting representatives to the Presbyterian Women’s Business Meeting ratified the amended and restated certificate of incorporation that establishes Presbyterian Women as a publicly supported integrated auxiliary of the PC(USA). Voting representatives also approved the bylaws of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.

While this new status will make several formalized changes at the national level, it has no current effect on how our local Presbyterian Women are expected to operate their groups. We continue to have offices in Louisville and look forward to their assistance in coordinating the worldwide efforts of Presbyterian Women.

### CCT Representative News

The CCT is tackling one of its biggest problems, lower receipts. They are asking everyone to boost their pledges and give a little extra to our general mission budget. Our mission relations committee is working on projects for the coming year. We would like to hear what local churches or presbyteries are doing. Please include pictures if you have them. Marilyn has asked us to send her this information, but I would also like to have it to share with the other synods.

Much of our time from now until September will be spent on planning our USAME (USA Mission Exchange) trip to South Dakota. It is really exciting and especially so due to the excitement of our Native American sisters. I wish that many of you could go on this trip. Since that is impossible, perhaps we can plan a synod trip in the next year or two. It would not only be interesting, but would show our support for the women of Dakota Presbytery.

LaDonna Fay, SLAP representative to the Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT)

## Leadership Development Coordinator, Kay Olson

Note: Synod of Lakes & Prairies uses 4 different titles for PW Cluster Leaders. They are 1) Cluster Leader 2) Area Coordinator 3) Network Communicator 4) Leadership Development Coordinator. For simplicity, Cluster Leader will be used when providing information to all Presbyteries in our Synod but understand it is regarding all of the above leaders.

### ***How to Use the Internet for More PW Information:***

*Go to Internet. Type in website to Presbyterian Women: [www.pcusa.org/pw](http://www.pcusa.org/pw)  
Select "Send" or "Go".*

*PW web page comes up. On right hand side are several links to go to for information. Select them one by one to review the information each link has available to learn more about PW. Scroll down each page for the information pertinent to you.*

*Select "Back" in the left hand corner to return to the first page of the website.*

*You can download Quarterly newsletter, make copies to send to all officers or pass on the website address.*

***Use the PW Website often!!***

### **Leadership Enhancement**



Your Synod Coordinating Team hard at work

Cluster Leader information received during the 2007 PW Churchwide Leadership Training, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

#### **Cluster Leaders:**

**Prayer:** Dear Lord God, the light unto our feet, disciple us that we may go to your people as your witnesses. Illumine our souls that we may assist others in better equipping Presbyterian Women in the congregations to understand the full value of the connectional church. We pray this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

**Reason for having a Cluster Leader:** The purpose of the Cluster Leader is to gather small groups within a Presbytery for individual attention to PW detail and serve as a liaison to individually assigned churches. The process is designed to offer a personal touch and act as a resource for PW information. The Cluster Leader can easily see comparisons between congregations and facilitate improvement overall.

**What are the Responsibilities of a PW Cluster Leader in the Presbytery?** 1) Pray for and encourage congregations, maintaining a personal disciple of prayer and Bible Study  
2) establish an active communication with congregations assigned, giving and receiving information about PW programming, interpretation of the Birthday and Thank Offerings, and install local leadership when needed. Contact each church assigned as needed, but at least quarterly, sharing at least one new bit of info with each contact. 3) train leadership in congregations and convey names for Presbytery involvement to the search committee.

## **Denise England: *Update and Prayer Needs***



Denise England, a mission co-worker from the Presbytery of Des Moines and our Synod of Lakes and Prairies, is currently serving in her second year at the Cairo Geriatric Medical Center in Cairo, Egypt. The majority of her time is spent on the Geriatric unit, although she also monitors nursing care on two other medical floors within the hospital.

Denise's focus for this second year has been to assist the head nurse (director of nursing) in initiating an on-going educational program for the nursing department. Denise reports, "The plan is to hold an educational in-service every month. Twelve topics have been selected and set up to be repeated each year, I have provided resources for each topic, and everything has been translated into Arabic so no further preparation will be needed for the head nurse. I have hired a retired Egyptian nurse educator who will present the first several meetings as a training period for the head nurse. . . hopefully she (head nurse) will start to hold them herself soon." Part of this goal has now become convincing the head nurse and medical director of the need for this on-going education as well as the need for necessary supplies to be available.

Denise is on the church council at St. Andrews United Church of Cairo, a small English-speaking congregation with a mixture of foreigners and Egyptians, as well as Sudanese and Iraqi Refugees. In addition, Denise teaches conversational English to young Egyptian adults in her neighborhood.

PRAYER REQUESTS – Denise has the following prayer needs:

- Pray for the administrative staff and caregivers that they may find the desire to improve their own knowledge and the motivation to make the needed changes for improved services.
- Pray that Denise will continue to make advances in her language skills, especially decreasing the communication gap with the employees.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT – Denise continues to need \$32,000 to fulfill her three-year term. Please consider partnering with her by financially supporting her work. Contributions can be sent to:

Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Individual Remittance Processing  
PO Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Write "Denise England – ID# MI910061" on the memo line.

To keep informed of Denise's work, visit her blog at <http://deniseadventure.blogspot.com/>.

### **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church – *PW Kitchen Project Update***

Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, in Des Moines, IA has become a place for worship, gathering, assistance, and social life for a growing community of Sudanese refugees and immigrants. Presbyterian Women of Des Moines Presbytery are committed to helping address the serious concerns with the kitchen, a place where the Sudanese women often cook all night for large gatherings at the church.

In October, we learned that the church's boiler was so old and fragile that the inspector wouldn't let the furnace be used. This presented a huge problem for the multiple worship services as well as all the activities and programs held at the church. A new furnace is estimated to cost \$80,000.

Some wonderful things happened over the holidays! Upon hearing about the plight of Cottage Grove, a family donated \$20,000 and also loaned another \$20,000 to replace the furnace. In addition, a local congregation closing their church dedicated \$40,000 from the sale of their property! Once the furnace is replaced, the flooring will be replaced; then additional needs assessed. Contact Nancy Lister-Settle at [neitherthecat@aol.com](mailto:neitherthecat@aol.com) or 515-992-3639 for additional information or to make a financial donation!

## Wotanin Wašte (Good News)

The early missionaries began their work spreading the Good News among the Dakotas in the 1800s in western Minnesota. The Presbytery of Dakota was established in 1844. One of the first mission churches to be built was at LacQuiparle, Minnesota. The Dakota women's effort in this endeavor was to make and sell moccasins to raise funds for the building. They worked diligently along with the men, though they were few in numbers. It is not known at this time when they first organized as a women's organization, but in an old Minute book that dates from 1938 to 1956, minutes were written strictly in the Dakota language.

It is recorded in the minutes that the Wotanin Wašte Fund was established on August 25, 1938. This fund was first created to support the wives of the missionaries or pastors serving the Dakota churches at that time. The women's groups of the churches raised funds to support this Wotanin Wašte Fund faithfully each year. In later years, the fund was used to help support the ministers, too, whenever there was a need to be met. The ministers of Dakota Presbytery could always use a little extra help for their families and, whenever they can, the PW of Dakota (or Dakota Presbyterial) is able to help in some small way with a few extra dollars. In a statement made in August 1973, the late Rev. Paul Firecloud stated "that the Women of Dakota was one of the biggest supporters of the Wotanin Wašte..." Many women of that generation were strong in their faith and convictions and did so much to enhance the Lord's work in our churches.

In the 1980s the PW of Dakota established a newsletter that they called, *Wotanin Wašte (the Good News)*. It certainly was Good News, because Dakota Presbytery is non-geographical and the churches are scattered across South Dakota, eastern Montana, with one church in western Minnesota and one in North Dakota. The *Wotanin Wašte* had a mailing list of almost 300 which kept people in touch with each other.

(Submitted by Hopa Crawford)

### Mission Matters: Together in Service *UPDATES*

- 2009 PW Congregation Mission Project Reports are due to the PW Presbytery Mission Coordinator by January 31, 2010. Copies of this two-page form can be downloaded from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies website at: [www.lakesandprairies.org](http://www.lakesandprairies.org) by following the links to Presbyterian Women.
- 2009 PW Presbytery Mission Project Reports are due to the PW Synod Mission Coordinator, Marilyn Stone, by March 31, 2010. Copies of this form can also be downloaded from the synod website as indicated above.
- Gift of Heart Kits: All boxes sent to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD need to be labeled "Presbyterian Women" and the box contents must be written on the outside of each box. Church World Service reports that donations of hygiene and baby kits are greatly needed.
- Yodogawa Christian Hospital in Osaka, Japan has given \$208,577 to the PC(USA) to be used for mission in Asia. The gift represents the same amount PW (through the Birthday Offering) contributed in 1956 to the hospital, founded by PC(USA) missionaries.
- Piece Work / Peace Work: Working Together for Peace and Sudan is a new curriculum designed for elementary children from grades 1-6. The children will explore the situations facing Sudan's children, learn about Africa's largest country, the challenges it faces, and identify how followers of Jesus can respond. The study considers the relationship between making a quilt from pieces of fabric and making peace in a diverse situation. Copies can be obtained through Presbyterian Distribution Service, item #2435809008, for a cost of \$8.00 each.

If you have PW mission-related questions, contact Marilyn Stone, PW SLAP mission coordinator, at [mmstone52@yahoo.com](mailto:mmstone52@yahoo.com) or 262-763-0918.

*Knitting the Threads of Time: Casting Back to the Heart of Our Craft* by Nora Murphy

I am sure you have noticed there has been a renewed interest in knitting in the past few years. No matter where or how you travel; plane, train, automobile, people are knitting. In almost every meeting or conference you will see someone knitting. Last year at the “Great Knit Out” at the Mall of America, I met a delightful woman, the author of *Knitting the Threads of Time*.

When her young son asks her to knit him a sweater, the journey begins. From choosing the pattern and yarn to the knitting and assembling of this special sweater the story unfolds.

This is not just the story of knitting a sweater. The author delves into the history of knitting and the movement across continents. She goes into the history of fiber and textiles, their beginnings and meanings. Through her writing she helps with understanding culture and community. There is a large Hmong population in St. Paul and the author’s close association with one member brings enlightenment and understanding of the Hmong community. She also writes about other groups and peoples and their traditions.

A couple of quotes from the book: “In knitting, the yarn is the umbilical cord – the lifeblood to creation. You’ve got to know when it’s the right time to let go and snip the yarn, too.” “Our stories and our craft tell us who we are and where we’ve been. Without the story or the craft, we lose the legacy.”

The author is a free lance writer who specializes in writing for community-based nonprofit organizations in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. She lives in St. Paul with her family. For more information, please visit [www.nora-murphy.com](http://www.nora-murphy.com)

Submitted by  
Beverly Raske, PWP Moderator, Minnesota Valleys

## Meeting Our Sisters in South Dakota



*The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it;  
for [God] has founded it on the seas,  
and established it on the rivers.*

- *Psalm 24:1–2*

A group of 20 to 30 Presbyterian women will travel to South Dakota in 2010 for the second USA Mission Experience, connecting issues raised during past Global Exchanges with similar issues in South Dakota. They will meet our Native American sisters to learn about their day-to-day life, challenges they face and concerns they have.

### Participants will:

- meet Native American women and learn about the issues that concern them — land development, food, farming, church leadership, health and social issues;
- visit reservations, schools, churches, tribal colleges and historical sites and
- hear the voices of our sisters and respond, building mutually supportive relationships.

The deadline for applications for this mission trip was January 15. We will learn sometime after March 1 who was chosen to go from The Synod of Lakes and Prairies. However, since Dakota Presbytery is in our Synod we may have an opportunity sometime in the future to have a Synod sponsored trip to Dakota Presbytery.

## New PW TRIP Program

Transformation in Partnership (TRIP) is PW's new travel/study program. The educational and transformational trips will take groups to Global Exchange and USA Mission Experience sites, as well as other points of interest for Presbyterian Women.

You may register online by mailing the downloadable application. Participants will be selected on a first come, first served basis, so apply soon!

You may go to <http://www.pcusa.org/pw/resources/trip.pdf> to download a flyer to promote the PW TRIP Program in your congregation, presbytery or synod.

### **Russia — Moscow, Smolensk and St. Petersburg May 3–17, 2010**

Visit mission projects supported by the PC(USA) and PW, especially those that serve women and children.

- Meet with PC(USA) mission coworkers and partner churches serving in Russia.
- Learn about the Russian Orthodox Church and its ministry.
- Visit the Kremlin in Moscow and the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

**Cost:** \$3,750 per person, including round-trip airfare from Detroit, shared accommodations, ground transportation in Russia, sightseeing and all meals.

**Group size:** Minimum 7; maximum 10.

**Requirements:** Visa to enter Russia; passport valid through at least December 2010. Participants must be able to climb stairs and walk long distances.

Registration deadline: February 1, 2010

You may download a registration form at <http://www.pcusa.org/pw/resources/russiaapp.doc>

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### **Women of the Reformation — Geneva, Switzerland and Sommières, France August 31–September 8, 2010**

- Learn about Presbyterian faith heritage in the 16th-century Reformation in Switzerland and southern France
- Join congregations of the Reformed Church of France at their annual Assemblée du Desert worship celebration at the Musee du Desert on September 5

**Cost:** \$1,500 per person, including shared accommodations, ground transportation, all meals and sightseeing. Airfare is not included.

**Group size:** Minimum 16, maximum 20.

**Requirements:** Passport valid through at least October 2010. Participants must be able to climb stairs and walk long distances.

**Registration deadline:** May 15, 2010

Download a registration form at <http://www.pcusa.org/pw/resources/czechtrip.doc>

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### **Czech Republic, Hungary and Carpath Ukraine October 5–21, 2010**

Follow the same route as the 2008 Global Exchange, Joined and Knitted Together in Love. The group will gather in Detroit for orientation before the trans-Atlantic flight to Prague, Czech Republic, and will end the tour with the return flight to Detroit from Budapest, Hungary.

- Visit mission projects supported by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Presbyterian Women.
- Meet with mission coworkers serving in the region.
- Learn about life before and after communism, particularly in regard to the church.

**Cost:** \$3,250 per person, including round-trip trans-Atlantic air transportation, ground transportation, shared accommodations, all meals and sightseeing. (Cost is subject to change due to inflation.)

**Group size:** Minimum 16; maximum 24.

**Requirements:** Passport valid at least through November 2010. Participants must be able to climb stairs and walk long distances.

**Registration deadline:** June 5, 2010

Download a registration form at <http://www.pcusa.org/pw/resources/russiaapp.doc>

Three additional TRIP tours are planned for 2011:

- Democratic Republic of Congo  
February/March 2011
- Egypt  
March/April 2011
- Texas–Mexico border (destination of 2008 USA Mission Experience)  
May/June 2011

## SHARING CORNER

A place to find ideas from other PWs to possibly implement in your own group

This program was held during a gathering of Presbyterian Women in Milwaukee Presbytery

Four agencies were represented on a panel that offered information on the picture of hunger around us in southeastern Wisconsin and answered questions from the audience. These agencies along with eight others had display booths for women to visit and learn more about their services and opportunities to respond to our hunger situation. Great interaction occurred between the agencies and women in attendance. Participating agencies/groups included Growing Power, Hmong container gardening, Urban Aquaculture Center - Urban Fish Farming Initiative, SHARE, Second Harvest, Hunger Task Force, registered dietician from G.L. Ignace Indian Health Center, Slow Food WISE, two Presbyterian Churches with community gardening programs connected with an elementary public school, Salvation Army, "how to" set up Alternative Gift Giving, and a representative of food pantries.

In addition, two workshops were offered in the morning: Horizons Bible Study and Faces of Hunger Part 1 (hunger simulation). Following lunch, two additional workshops were held: Faces of Hunger Part 2 (hunger simulation) and a mission workshop to assemble 142 CWS hygiene kits. Everyone brought hygiene items for the CWS hygiene kits. Women attending the hunger simulation considered it a very valuable experience. Each woman was given the identity of a woman in need of food for her hungry family, with conditions and money specific to a real person.

For more information contact Marilyn Stone at [mmstone52@yahoo.com](mailto:mmstone52@yahoo.com) or 262-763-0918.



*The Wonder of God's Promises*  
*Will be revealed to you at*  
**The Synod of Lakes and Prairies**  
**Gathering of Women**  
**June 16-19, 2010**  
**At**  
**Buena Vista University**  
**Storm Lake, Iowa**

Marjorie J. Thompson, author of *Soul Feast*, will provide guidance and help to those who wish to explore the riches of Christian Spirituality. She offers a framework of understanding of spiritual disciplines through prayer, spiritual reading, worship, fasting, self examination and hospitality. She will be sharing this information at the plenary sessions and in workshops.

Louise Lawson Johnson, the author of Suggestions for Leaders for the 2008-2009 *Horizons* Bible Study will present the 2010-2011 *Horizons* Bible Study on the book of Revelation. Her presentations at the plenary sessions and workshops will provide additional resources and creative/teaching ideas for participants and leaders of the study.

"The Wonders of God's Promises": of Hope (Missions), Peace (Spirituality), and Joy (Personal Growth) will be explored in the workshops. Be ready to relax at the end of the day "Around the Cracker Barrel" or browse in the "Over the Rainbow" resource room, Soul's Desire Bookstore and Ten Thousand Villages store.

*Registration fee for rooms and meals \$250 (Suite) \$230 (Dorm Room)*

*All rooms are air conditioned. All plenary sessions and workshops will be in the Siebens Center, which is a short walking distance from parking and your rooms.*

**Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies**  
**Coordinating Team**  
**11/6/2009**

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Peace and Justice (2010)	Ann Rock 811 Everett Dr. Stillwater, MN 55082	651-439-0192 acrock1@juno.com

**PW in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies  
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11/6/2009**

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# The Sower

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Hastings, NE 68901

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## COORDINATING TEAM MEETING REMINDER

The Coordinating Team of PW in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies will be meeting March 18-20, 2010 in Oskaloosa, IA. Details will be emailed to you closer to the dates by our Vice-Moderator, Joan Berglund.

This newsletter is being sent to all who attended the 2007 Synod gathering, all presbytery moderators and the synod CT members. Please 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!!

Moderators,

**DON'T THROW ANYTHING AWAY!** If you receive something in the mail and you don't know what it is, ask someone!

If you are no longer the moderator or don't wish to receive this newsletter, please let Sue Nedderman know who the current moderator is or request to be taken off the mailing list at [sue@fpchastings.org](mailto:sue@fpchastings.org) or call 402-462-5147.

**We would like to send it by e-mail to as many as possible. Let Sue know if you can receive it by e-mail.**