



The Sower

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies

September 2009

Sue Nedderman, editor

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Because the workplace is open around the world 24/7, schedules are not 9 to 5 Monday through Friday. As it happens, my work week begins on Friday and runs through Tuesday. What began as a joke, "Thank goodness it's Friday", is suddenly not so funny anymore. I would bring treats (usually something with chocolate) for my co-workers in honor of my "Friday". I know there are some at work who expect that treat and I am aware there are some who consider that I am buying friendship with food. There have been some "Fridays" that I wanted to skip because the money was not lasting as long as I wanted it to or I was tired and the game has stopped being any fun.

None of us has received a raise, some of the promotions are lateral, meaning no increase in salary, and this time of year is a particularly slow time when floor leaders ask who wants to go home early (without pay). All around us companies are laying off workers, temporarily or permanently, transferring work forces overseas, taking big bonuses or signing golden parachutes with executives.

It makes me mad enough to write a letter to the editor or my congressperson or someone in charge...but I'm too busy hanging on to my job, trying to get to the end of the month. And therein is the heart of the matter. What I really care about in peace and justice issues is shoved aside for survival reasons.

I recall talking with miner families in Kentucky whose employers were polluting the streams and aquifers, their only source of clean water. Did they protest the policy or keep their jobs? More locally, the Fighting Sioux nickname for the University of North Dakota has drawn fire from the NCAA and social activists, but among some of the tribal leaders and the people is a sense of indifference. They say they are dealing with survival and cannot deal with the issue of a hateful mascot name.

But I do have time! I can compose a letter to my senators about health care reform on my 15 minute break. I can spend less time on Facebook and instead volunteer at my food bank. It really is a matter of priorities. I can treat my fellow workers with dignity, a smile and a treat for Fridays.

Elizabeth Swee, moderator

Leadership Development Coordinator

A new person is coming aboard the Synod PW CT! Kay Olson is the new Leadership Development Coordinator for the Synod. She replaces Lois Hansen who worked so diligently at getting Presbyteries to change from Enabler to Cluster Leader-Area Coordinators-Network Communicators.

Here is how to contact Kay with any leadership questions:

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

To get started on our efforts together, here are two pieces of information to help you in your leadership position:

Tools for every PW Leader

This is a short list but will provide you with valuable resources and guidance to get started in PW leadership positions.

1. **PW Manual.** (Order one from “Resources for Presbyterian Women”.)
2. Subscribe to ***Horizons***. Call toll-free 1-866-802-3635.
3. Have a copy of “**Resources for Presbyterian Women**” **order form** always with you. It changes several times a year so try to have the latest copy. “Resources for Presbyterian Women” is a catalog of most of the latest resources available from PW and *Horizons*. Free copies are available by calling the Presbyterian Distribution Service at 1-800-524-2612.
4. **Quarterly Newsletter from Churchwide.** Go to Internet. Type in website to Presbyterian Women: www.pcusa.org/pw. Select “Send” or “Go”. PW web page comes up. On right side are several links to go to for information. Select “About Us”. A new page comes up. Scroll down below video option. Two columns provide more links to go to for information. Select “Quarterly Newsletter”. A new page comes up. Select the latest “Quarterly Newsletter” to read information about activities pertaining to PW. Download the newsletter. Make copies to give to all officers or pass on website address.
 - This newsletter is different than the Synod *Sower* and presbytery newsletters.
 - Every four months, check out what is new.

Key Responsibilities of a Cluster Leader

(Choose one or all for your PW in the Presbytery)

- Serve as liaison for all PW matters from the presbytery to assigned congregations.
- Assist with installations of leaders in the congregations as requested.
- Keep accurate list of addresses with contact names per church in cluster.
- Secure a location for training events when asked. Assist as needed.
- Work with all leaders in planning training to cover ALL positions.
- Collect samples of devotions and installations as a resource for congregations.
- Work toward becoming a retreat specialist or resource leader for your cluster.
- Focus on the nurture of individual congregations. Communicate regularly.
- Serve at the direction of the PW Presbytery Coordinating Team.

Challenge to all PW circles!!

Starting fall 2009, take some time at each circle meeting to select and read or paraphrase one of the articles in the Mar/Apr 2009 *Horizons* about the 2008 Global Exchange to Central & Eastern Europe.

Call this brief time a "Moment for Mission". This would be an easy and worthwhile way to learn about the Global Exchange trip and mission programs highlighted in *Horizons*.

Note: If your circle does not have access to a copy of the Mar/Apr 2009 *Horizons*, contact Kay Olson, the representative for the Synod of Lakes & Prairies on the Global Exchange. She will send you a copy free of charge as her gift to your PW!

(dkolson@sio.midco.net or 3901 Spencer Blvd, Sioux Falls, SD 57103)

But wait there is more!

Don't forget to do a "Moment for Mission" on the Sept/Oct 2008 *Horizons* that told us all about the first PW U.S.A. Mission Experience called "Beyond Borders: Immigration". This PW opportunity happened April 2008 and is reported in the Sept/Oct issue of *Horizons*. Try to learn more about this PW experience.

Can you do it??? Challenge your circle to try!!!

Leadership Enhancement

Newly Retired Women! A Rich Resource Among You!

Look around your congregation. Look at the membership roll, check out the church directory, and find gifts God can provide through newly retired women.

Newly retired women have valuable skills that can enrich Presbyterian Women. Look around and find women looking for ways to contribute, who are just waiting for an invitation to participate, to be needed. Try these ideas:

- Bring out the party hats and celebrate her retirement.
- Send a card of congratulations.
- Create an opportunity for newly retired women to meet other women who have recently retired.
- Plan a day to express appreciation for all retired women.
- Call newly retired women whom you know and assure them they have gifts God and Presbyterian Women can use.
- Plan programs aimed at retired women, such as spirituality, grief, health, finance, or sandwich generation. Get started today!

HISTORIAN NEW ADDRESS

Our synod historian, Lois Hansen, has moved. Her new address is 500 South 18th St. #237, Norfolk, NE 68701 and her new email address is hlois@cablone.net. Please note these changes for future mailings.

Treasurer Change

Terri Sherman is the new SLAP Treasurer. All contributions and bills coming from the presbyteries should be sent to her for deposit or payment. Her address is 5710 Deer Ridge Dr., Eagle, NE 68347 and her email is terrisherman@windstream.net. She is from Homestead Presbytery. Welcome, Terri!

USA MISSION EXPERIENCE

The USA Mission Experience for 2010 is coming together very nicely. The committee will be meeting in Sioux Falls starting September 20, immediately following the CCT meeting. Several of our Native American PW members will be meeting with us. Their input is very valuable. I would encourage local churches, presbyteries and the synod to get started on funding. This will be a very educational trip as we will be visiting reservations, schools, churches and several historical sites. Applications will be available in October, so encourage your women to apply.

LaDonna Fay
USAME chair

Mission Matters: Together in Service Updates

Many of you have been requesting an update on PW global and U.S. mission projects for the new "triennium". Since the Churchwide Gathering in July, I've been seeking more specifics regarding new PW mission projects and also updated information on existing ones. . . so here are the latest details that I've received! Thanks for your patience.

Marilyn Stone (mmstone52@yahoo.com or 262-763-0918)

The following PW global projects continue to need financial support:

- Palm Oil Project in the Democratic Republic of Congo will continue for another year, through June 2010. Donated funds will be used to help **purchase palm oil presses** and other items needed **to harvest and produce palm oil**. Since it takes five years after planting to harvest palm oil, they are now preparing for harvest by obtaining necessary equipment. (Memo line of check should read "PW Congo Palm Development Project")
- Bicycles for use by health workers visiting patients in remote areas, as well as more rugged bicycles for use in transporting excess goods to market from remote areas are still needed. These bicycles cost approximately \$80. (Memo line of check should read "Bicycles")
- Mattresses continue to be desperately needed at PC (USA) supported hospitals, costing approximately \$60. (Memo line of check should read "Mattresses")

New PW global projects needing financial support:

- Education for Nurses Project in Haiti provides scholarships and/or uniforms for nursing students. Uniforms are NOT being collected, but rather financial contributions are needed to help nursing students obtain an education before they can make use of uniforms. (Memo line of check should read "Education for Nurses Project")
- Roma Basket Project has been established to help the Roma women of Eastern Europe start a basket weaving micro-enterprise(s) where they would weave baskets and create other items to sell for income generation. It also provides a source of hope for them and their families who have been living in bleak situations. This project will also help with educational needs in that part of the world. **Currently donations for this project can be mailed to: PW Finance Office, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202-1396.** (Memo line of check should read "Weaving a Future")

- Opre Roma Self-Housing Initiative is a Roma project in Debrecen, eastern Hungary, where the Roma community of five families (13 adults and 19 children) faces eviction. They have no running water, gas or electricity in their homes. One outdoor tap serves all and they share one single privy. Through this initiative, training programs for design, construction, accounting, management skills would be provided, and with these skills they would be able to obtain employment to support their families and provide funds to maintain their homes. For additional information, a brochure is available at either of the following websites: http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/paetzoldb/paetzoldb_0709_brochure.pdf or <http://www.opreromadmku.hu> . (Memo line of check should read "ECO 53728")
- The Wrap Project supports the HIV/AIDS home-based care ministry in Africa. Home-based care volunteers provide physical, emotional and spiritual support to both the client and his/her family. They administer pain medications, change bandages, apply ointments, clean houses, gather firewood, cook meals, and make sure that family or neighbors are taking care of the patient's needs in between weekly visits. A wrap is a 2-meter length of fabric that is commonly worn as a skirt but can be used for many other purposes such as carrying an infant on their back or items on their head. Two special wraps have been designed; one to "tell the story" of the work of home-based care volunteers and the other to identify the needs of children in sub-Saharan Africa where the number of orphans are growing due to AIDS and other causes. In appreciation for contributions of \$50 or more, you will receive a wrap that could be used as a communion tablecloth, banner, or a fundraiser for AIDS work. For more information, <http://pcusa.org/aids-international> (Memo line of check should read "ECO#051674")

Checks should be made payable to Presbyterian Women and the memo line should reflect the project information indicated above. Mail checks to: PC (USA), PW Remittance Processing, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652

The following items are needed:

- Sheets for PC (USA) supported hospitals continue to be needed. Flat, twin-sized sheets must be NEW or "nearly new". The quality of sheets received in New Windsor has been "barely usable" rather than "barely used"! PLEASE send only new sheets or sheets in very good condition – it is not worth the postage to send sheets that quickly wear out! Sheets can be removed from their packaging and washed prior to mailing.
- Thermal blankets are also needed by these hospitals
- Baby gown, hats and blankets continue to be needed by the hospitals. The mothers receive them knowing that U.S. women have put much love and care into their making. See "Together in Service Guide" for patterns.

These items should be mailed to: PC (USA), c/o Brethren Service Center, Box 188, Route 31-500 Main, New Windsor, MD 21776. **Always label boxes "Presbyterian Women" and identify box contents on outside of box(es).**

Diapers from T-shirt Ministry

Diapers made from t-shirts can still be sent to Virginia Larsen, 204 Woodland Avenue W, Underwood, MN 56586. These diapers will be used in assembling baby kits for Church World Service. If you need a pattern, contact Marilyn Stone. Virginia says that she appreciates those she has received and can use many more!

New hands-on project: Quilts for Bellewood

Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children with headquarters in Louisville, KY, has served abused, at-risk and homeless youth for 159 years. It is their hope that a handmade quilt can be provided to each youth entering care at Bellewood, as something they can have as their own and take with them when they leave. To learn more about Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children, visit their website at www.bellewood.org .

Quilts need to be twin-sized (65" x 80"), of any pattern or material as long as they can withstand regular use and occasional laundering. The quilts will be given to male and female residents between the ages of 13 and 18. Generally there are more male than female residents at any given time. Contact Margaret Coggin, Quilt Ministry Coordinator at mcoggin@bellewood.org if you have questions. Quilts should be mailed to Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children, 11103 Park Road, PO Box 23309, Louisville, KY 40223

Denise England Returns to Cairo, Egypt

Denise has returned to Cairo, Egypt after her month of R & R in the U.S. She thanks all who provided items for the appreciation bags. "The response was overwhelming and once again affirms your huge hearts for helping others in need." She will be able to provide appreciation gift bags to the staff multiple times throughout the coming year. To keep informed, visit her blog at <http://deniseadventure.blogspot.com/> and remember to lift her up in prayer!

Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church - PW Kitchen Project Update

Cottage Grove 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 the 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.

Enough funds were donated to purchase and install a commercial refrigerator. They are currently awaiting estimates for finishing the floor. Volunteer electrician and plumber help is needed. Thank you to those who have donated funds! Additional funds are needed to complete the project as well as volunteer labor. Contact Nancy Lister-Settle at neitherthecat@aol.com or 515-992-3639 for additional information.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance News

The age limit for volunteers to stay in the Presbyterian Volunteer Villages along the Gulf Coast has been lowered to 16! Hopefully the new age limit will encourage renewed interest and participation in volunteer mission work teams. Texas – especially the Port Neches area – is in desperate need of volunteers to help with recovery efforts from last year's Hurricane Ike. The PDA Call Center is currently scheduling work teams based on the new age limit. Please prayerfully consider Texas as your next mission destination.

Hungarians Visit Synod of Lakes & Prairies



Aranka & Karolina at Chamberlain, SD



Karolina & Aranka at Sioux Falls, SD

Our Synod was privileged to host two wonderful women from Debrecen, Hungary, July 1-8, 2009. Dr. Karolina Kosa and Aranka Balogh arrived in the USA on different days due to travel complications which shortened their visit. Once the travel issues were resolved, we settled into a full schedule of seeing all we could see.

They had two opportunities to meet and have fellowship with Presbyterian Women. Each group was gracious in giving to them items which are made for mission projects. (Baby layettes, knitted stocking hats, Prayer quilts and children's book bags)

A two day visit to the Black Hills in South Dakota over the Fourth of July showed them Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, the Badlands and a small taste of how American's celebrate their Independence Day.

In addition, they spent an afternoon at Lower Brule Indian Reservation learning about the Native American culture and current successes. A morning was spent in Sioux Falls learning what a city similar to Debrecen does for people needing assistance with health care and housing.

The next stage of their USA experience was to attend the PW Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, Ky. Here they meet many more PWs from across the US and the world.

Karolina and Aranka were humbled by the out pouring of interest and kindness shown to them throughout their 15 day USA visit. On behalf of Karolina, Aranka and I, we say thank you Presbyterian Women for giving us an opportunity to broaden our horizons, to widen our circle of existence and see new potential to do God's work at home and in the world.

We are your sisters in Christ, God's blessing to you.

Kay Olson, Global Exchange Representative
Karolina Kosa and Aranka Balogh

Please read elsewhere information on two Extra Giving Opportunities available to your PW that relate to Karolina and Aranka: Opre Roma and Roma Baskets

PRESBYTERIES SET FALL GATHERINGS

The following is a list of the fall gatherings for the presbyteries in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies:

- Central Nebraska: October 16 in St. Paul, NE and October 17 in Stapleton, NE
- Des Moines: October 16 in Audubon, IA, and October 17 at Highland Park PC in Des Moines, IA
- East Iowa: October 17 in New London, IA
- Homestead: October 16 & 17 at Camp Calvin Crest, near Fremont, NE.
- Milwaukee: October 10 at Linn Presbyterian Church, Lake Geneva, WI
- Minnesota Valleys: October 7 at Brainerd, MN & October 8 at Worthington, MN
- Missouri River Valley: September 24 at Church of the Cross, Omaha, NE; September 26 at First Presbyterian Church, Carson, IA
- North Central Iowa: NE, SE & Cedar Valley clusters at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Waterloo, IA, on October 10
- Northern Plains: delayed spring gathering--Oct 10 at Jamestown, ND
- Northern Waters: Cluster #7 at Carlton, MN, September 17; Cluster #1 at Lac du Flambeau, WI, Sept. 21; Cluster #3 at Country Peace Church in Superior, WI, Sept. 26; Cluster #5 at Two Harbors, MN, Sept. 29; Cluster #2 at Eau Claire First, Eau Claire, WI, Oct. 3; Cluster #4 at Calumet, MN, Oct. 8; Cluster #5 at Trinity Church in Park Rapids, MN, Oct. 14
- Prospect Hill: September 18 in Ida Grove, IA and September 21 in Estherville, IA
- Twin Cities: October 10 at Hayfield Presbyterian Church, Hayfield, MN
- Winnebago: Fall Retreat - October 2 and 3, Pine Lake Camp near Waupaca, WI
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Contact your presbytery moderator for details regarding registration.

The following articles are taken from the August-October 2009 Quarterly Mailing to Presbyterian Women Leadership (www.pcusa.org/pw. Select *about us*. Scroll down past the video, then select *quarterly newsletter*)

MARTA RODRÍGUEZ ELECTED MODERATOR OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Marta Rodríguez of the Synod of Puerto Rico was elected moderator of Presbyterian Women, in a waving sea of blue consent slips at the Churchwide Business Meeting, July 14. The roomful of 400-plus voting representatives and guests erupted in tears, cheers and a standing ovation as Catrelia Hunter passed the gavel to Marta, the first Hispanic Latin American to be elected to the post.

Marta, a member of Hato Rey Presbyterian Church in San Juan, appeared emotional but poised, as her pastor, José M. Capella-Pratts, offered words of congratulations. Presbyterian women from the Synod of Puerto Rico flooded the stage to surround her and cameras flashed to record the historic moment.

Also elected were Alice Wyatt, vice moderator for mission relationships, South Carolina; and Chris Wolf, vice moderator for justice and peace, Michigan.



Marta Rodríguez, moderator



Left to right: Alice Wyatt, Marta Rodríguez, Chris Wolf

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN APPROVES INCORPORATION

Voting representatives to the Churchwide Business Meeting of Presbyterian Women approved articles of incorporation that establish PW as a publicly supported integrated auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

National PW leaders had been studying incorporation since 2006. During its February 2009 meeting, the Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women laid the groundwork for the vote by approving proposed articles in incorporation and new bylaws that were then sent as a recommendation to the 2009 voting representatives.

Former moderator Catrelia Hunter says incorporation allows PW to establish clear and separated accounting practices and ensure good stewardship of PW funds.

The women's organization has a covenantal relationship with the PC (USA) that will not change. Key points:

- PC (USA) has the authority to appoint or remove one of PWs officers or directors (e.g. CCT member).
- The name of the organization indicates an institutional relationship with PC (USA).
- PW reports at least annually on its financial and general operations to PC (USA).
- An institutional relationship between PW and PC (USA) is affirmed by the church.

PW continues to be the single largest contributor of undesignated funds to church mission through the General Assembly Mission Council budget.

**Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies
Coordinating Team
9/4/2009**

Moderator	Elizabeth Swee 1714 S. 5 th St. Moorhead, MN 56560-3428	218-236-9346 701-446-7479 bswee@aol.com
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Together in Service	Marilyn Stone 3915 Lake St. Burlington, WI 53105	262-763-0918 262-492-7921 (cell) mmstone52@yahoo.com
Dakota Presbytery Task Force	Sue Gose 470 21 st St. SW #204 Huron, SD 57350 LaVonne Looking Elk 3729 W. Chicago Rapid City, SD 57702	605-352-8104 605-350-7845 (cell) goses@hur.midco.net 605-716-0888(h) 605-355-2377 (w) sllooking@rap.midco.net
Synod Gathering	Virginia Dietz 2236 Fairway Dr. Muscatine, IA 52761 Sharon Falck 2009 Edmundson Dr. Oskaloosa, IA 52577	563-263-5499 gvdietz@machlink.com 641-676-1561 sfalck@mahaska.org
Peace and Justice	Ann Rock 811 Everett Dr. Stillwater, MN 55082	651-439-0192 acrock1@juno.com



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.

All women are welcome to attend. Car pooling will be available for transportation to the event. Contact Sue Nedderman or Nancy Grams for more information.

The Sower

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First Presbyterian Church
621 North Lincoln Ave
Hastings, NE 68901

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

COORDINATING TEAM MEETING REMINDER

The Coordinating Team of PW in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies will be meeting November 5-7, 2009 in Sioux Falls, SD. 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 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.