

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN of the SYNOD of the NORTHEAST August 2012

Moderator's Message....

The Churchwide Gathering was very gratifying for me as Synod Moderator. We had 158 women from the Synod of the Northeast in attendance and 120 women at our Synod luncheon. Many of the program presenters were people from PWSNE. Our Synod provided 7 workshop leaders (including 2 PCUSA staff members), 1 forum leader, 1 liturgical dancer, a painting for the Silent Auction, and 3 people elected to the Churchwide Coordinating Team (besides our Synod representative).

This is my 5th Churchwide Gathering and the first time I have gone to the Business Meeting as a Voting Representative. Learning how Consensus Decision Making, rather than Parliamentary Procedure is used in a large group was very interesting. In the Business Meeting Book there were written reports from the various committees of the Churchwide Coordinating Team. Reading them gave me a behind the scenes look at programs that I am most familiar with, such the *Horizons* Bible studies, the Global Exchange Program and the USA Mission Experiences. The authors of the current and future *Horizons* Bible studies spoke at the plenaries. Seeing them in person makes a big difference for me as I do the Bible studies with my Circle.

For many of the Justice and Peace issues presented in the plenaries, there were follow-up displays and activities in a special interactive exhibit area called *PW Live*. There were materials to take home, petitions to sign and postcards to sign that would be delivered to the appropriate people. I found this especially meaningful, because at previous Gatherings, I heard important issues presented, but didn't know how I as an individual or my church's PW could make an impact.

-Charlotte Hasselbarth

Have you visited our website recently?? There is a wealth of good information – take a few minutes to enjoy by going to *www.pwsne.org*.

JUSTICE AND PEACE

The Olympic Truce.

How timely – "justice and peace" – looking on the web and finding a great site dealing with efforts for peace in the world of sport! The first games were held in Greece in 776 BC with athletes from member states and cities every 4 years. The 2012 Olympics in London have been graced with what is called the Olympic Truce., first envisioned by the Greeks.

What is this Olympic Truce? The Greeks entitled it "Ekecheiria" or, a truce which calls for a peaceful environment during the games, to encourage and ensure safe passage and participation of athletes and relevant persons at the Games, and thus hoping to mobilize the youth of the world in support of peace. All 193 UN Member States cosponsored the resolution at the UN in New York. The idea is for athletes to compete against each other in sport in peaceful competition without the burden of politics, religion, or racism.

Several activities designed to encourage this spirit of peace and friendliness are: planned before, during, and after the games. We see on TV how the competing athletes rally around each other in the spirit of healthy rivalry. Friendships are made from one continent to the other, with sport being the milieu. Peace begins with relationships —one on one or in small groups of people communicating for the benefit of one another. So, let "Peace begin with Me." And you!

For you "Justice and Peace" lovers, get connected with Meagan Manas, the J&P program specialist for PW. 718-839-3782. She has timely topics and would help with any questions you might have. She's very enthusiastic about her role.

Here's something you might be interested in attending: the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women – aka CSW – meeting held March 4-15 in NYC. A PC (USA) orientation will be held on March 1, 2013 and others on March 2 and 3. The events are held at the UN and nearby sites in NYC.

"The CSW formulates policies that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide." In 2006 the CCT of Presbyterian Women recommended that a woman attend the CSW as their representative. Since then the interest and participation has grown – to more than 40 women from across the church. Again, Meagan Manas – Meagan.manas@pcusa.org or Mark Koenig – mark.keonig@pcusa.org. are the people to contact if you are interested in this.

Awareness of justice and peace comes from being part of the Presbyterian Women's world through church, your church groups, reading *Horizon's*, taking a look at *Mission Crossroads*, and connecting yourself with *Justice & Peace Notes* from Meagan.manas@pcusa.org. Let's be peacemakers and always support justice as we learn it from Jesus Christ.

Dotsie Shaw - dotsieshaw@fullchannel.net

Meet our New Officers...

Jo Ann Burrell - Vice Moderator Elect

I have been married for twenty eight years to Richard (Ricky) Burrell, a wonderful man with joy in his heart. I have one adult daughter Cyndi, who is a Marketing Specialist at Eva's Village, a non-profit organization; a grandson Rey, who is a talented graphic artist, and a granddaughter Ryan, who graduated May 5, 2012 from Barry University in Miami, Florida with a degree in Business. Ryan will be attending Dayton University, in Dayton, Ohio is September continuing her education for a Masters Degree. I have three dogs, Ellie Mae (Great Pyrenees), Mieka (Great Pyrenees), and Mimi (Shih Tzu) who has been visiting for three years.

I am an Elder, and a member Trinity Presbyterian Church in Montclair, New Jersey. I am presently active with the Stewardship Committee, the Evangelism Committee, the Personnel Committee, and in the church Senior Choir. I am excited to help with the activities, and programs celebrating the 100 Year Anniversary of Trinity Presbyterian Church, culminating with a banquet dinner/dance in October 2013.

I hold a BA degree in Geography from Montclair State College, and an MA degree in Environmental Studies Concentration Management from Montclair State University. I am active with the Alumni Association with MSU, and work with new admission students.

I retired officially January 1, 2012 from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development as a Senior Project Manager in Housing Development for aged and persons with disabilities. After 32 years with the US Government, I felt it was time to do other kinds of work.

I have served on all levels of the Presbyterian Women's Organization (PW). I am a past Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, Women's Day Coordinator, Mission Opportunities Coordinator of Trinity PWC; present Vice Moderator, Secretary, Mission Treasurer, Search Committee Moderator, Mission Opportunities Coordinator for the Newark PWP. I have been the *Horizons* Magazine Representative, a Search Committee Member and Mission Opportunities Coordinator for Synod of the NE PW. I have also been the Search Committee Representative for the Synod of the NE 2003-2006 on the Church-wide PW Coordinating Team. My work with the Presbyterian Women Organization has helped me to be the leader that God wants me to be; has given me the ability to speak in front of an audience, and has given me opportunities to meet people from all over this planet.

My favorite Scripture passage is from Hebrews 12:1-2, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame and has taken his seat at the right hand of throne of God."

Let us all run with perseverance the race that is set before us!

Magdalene Lewis PW in the Northeast Representative to Churchwide Coordinating Team

Husband Gilman and daughter Tara Marie. I am the fourth born of six girls.

I received my Bachelors of Arts in Sociology from Marymount Manhattan College in New York City. I worked as a security clerk in the banking industry before returning to college to become a Pre-school teacher.

I have been a member of the Presbyterian Church since 1967, and a member of First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica NY for the past 27 years. During that time at First Church, I have held various positions; including Moderator for the Presbyterian women's group, elder, Sunday school teacher, chaired church nominating committee, And commission to the Presbytery.

I presently serve on the Board of directors of a mutual Housing CO-Operative as well as a member of EQUAL (a Citizen organization). Other volunteer service or leadership role; I Chaired and served on the Search committee for Synod of the Northeast PW, PPG coordinator - Metro North, African American member at large for the Synod of the Northeast PW, Together in Service Coordinator for PW in the Presbytery of New York City. Also, Member of RSVP - retired Senior Volunteer Program, and Volunteer at Virginia Daycare in New York City.

My free time is spent with my grandson Bryce. I enjoy watching basketball, sightseeing, walking in the park and listing to music.

To the Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast: I graciously thank you so much for the confidence you have placed in my ability by nominating me to be your Representative to Churchwide Coordinating Team. With faith and the love of God, he will give me faith for the journey.

-Magdalene Lewis (maggielewis2@verizon.net)

Jo Ann Gray:

PW in the Synod of the Northeast Representative to the Synod Nominating Committee

I am a Ruling Elder from Owego, New York in Susquehanna Valley Presbytery. I serve on the Presbytery Council, am a synod commissioner and PWP moderator. I sing in the choir and teach Sunday school.

I graduated from Ithaca College and for the past 24 years have taught preschool music and movement. Additionally, I have served on various community boards, drive for Meals on Wheels, and most recently serve on the Family Selection Committee for the local Habitat for Humanity Group.

I and my husband, Cliff, have three daughters and 8 (soon to be 9) grandchildren.

Carmen Mendoza Member-at-Large Representing Hispanic and Latin American Women

I was born in the Dominican Republic, am married and mother of four children. I received a B.A. in Accounting in the Dominican Republic. I later completed my studies to become a commissioned lay pastor in Princeton Theological Seminary.

I am currently the moderator of the Association of Hispanic/Latin PW of the Presbyteries of New York City and Long Island and also the treasurer of the Hispanic/Latin Caucus for the Synod of the Northeast. I have previously served on various levels within the Hispanic/Latin Women of Presbytery of New York and Long Island including Vice Moderator, Secretary and I have also been a member of the Finance Committee.

I am a Ruling Elder at Buen Pastor – part of the Presbytery of New York City, where I am also moderator of the Worship Committee and the moderator of the local women's group.

I was part of the planning committee of the PW Fifth National Encuentro, and the moderator of the III and IV Regional Encuentro for Hispanic/Latin PW of the Synods of the Northeast, Covenant & Trinity, and also, part of planning committee for the V and VI Regional Encuentro. I was a member of the board of trustees for the Presbytery of New York City.

Alpha Brown Member-at-Large representing African American Women

I was born in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. I now reside in Rosedale, New York. I have three children and six grandchildren. I am a child of God. I attended City College and have a degree in Business Administration. I am presently an employee of the City of New York.

I am a member of First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica where I am an Elder and have served as Moderator of Congregational Life, Mission Interpretation and numerous committees. At present, I am on the media team, communication team, Presbyterian Women, and Lay Minister Counsel. I am the Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of New York City. I serve on the General Cabinet of Presbytery of New York City.

I have traveled all over the world. Some of the highlights of my traveling are North, South, and East Africa. I am a Beijing sister who traveled to China representing the grassroots women in Queens, New York to the fourth world conference of women. I have also attended many mission trips to help others to improve their lives by working in the fields, by bringing God's word to those in need and doing outreach to women who are in shelters and prisons. My leadership began twenty years ago while sitting on the board of commission on the status of women to ensure that all women have equal rights.

I strongly believe and teach the Golden Rule "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



Bringing it From the Congregations...

This became a new section in our *Lighthouse* beginning with our February 2012 edition. Many PWCs (Presbyterian Women of the Congregation) sent in wonderful articles. We are continuing this column as we are anxious to learn about all the various congregational activities.

Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, Guilderland, NY (Albany Presbytery)...

The PW in Hamilton Union is growing! For many years we had just one circle in the evening. A few years ago we added a Morning Circle and are currently exploring interest in the creation of a Weekend Circle. We have many faceted approaches to letting women in our church know who we are and how to get involved. We have a position on our Coordinating Team for Membership. This person approaches every women who begins to regularly attends our church, to explain what our PW does and how to get involved.

A former minister advised that when you talk or write about an event communicate in such a way that someone who just walked through the door, could figure out how to get connected. We include a name and contact information for every event we advertise. We communicate to the women in our church in many ways. We have PW flies that are displayed close to the two main entrances to our church, a bulletin board, a display table, an article in every church newsletter, a monthly PW newsletter that is sent to our members and interested women, a spot on the church website, and list our events in the Sunday bulletin. One week before each PW event, a reminder email is sent out to those on our email list. We try to encourage women to connect in peripheral ways, if they are not interested in membership. Our email group and prayer chains include many women who don't attend our programs, but want to be connected to PW in some way.

CHAZY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Northern NY Presbytery)...

This past summer we held a tri-fold sale---a bake sale, a book sale, and a white elephant sale, tying them in with our Town-Wide Garage Sale run by the local Friends of the Library. Via our church's summer newsletter, we encouraged church members and friends to donate used books, baked items, and as many small white elephant items as possible. We did not want the fundraiser to be labor intensive, as we were strapped for workers in this busy vacation season! We did use our calling lists to request donations. Boxes of books appeared, and we sorted them. Baked items arrived on the day of the sale, and various and sundry items were mostly donated a week before the event.

Thanks to the fact that there was a town-wide garage sale going on, and the church is on a busy street, we were able to net \$ 300.00. Our only expense was a \$10.00 fee to ensure we were listed on a site map by the chairing organization. Five of us worked throughout the day, and we were happy with the result! Not only was it a solid fund-raiser, but also, it afforded time for fun and lots of fellowship!

-Emily F. Castine, President, Chazy Presbyterian Women

BOOKS FOR SALE AT PW GATHERINGS

Taking an idea from one of our Presbytery meetings when a retired pastor had made available his personal theological library to any partakers, our PW of PNNY decided to bring used books, in good condition, to our gatherings twice a year. We sell hardcovers for a dollar, and paperbacks for \$.50 each. What a deal! We use the profits for guest speaker mileage. And, we have an opportunity to recommend "good reads" to our PW sisters.

-Emily F. Castine Moderator, PW of Presbytery of Northern NY

Our Moderator and triennium veteran, Priscilla Jahier, graciously took on the gargantuan task of organizing and confirming our flight and room reservations. As we removed belts and shoes at the airport, the energy became palpable. The lone bagpiper who opened Plenary the first evening helped us all focus on the power of thousands of women to do God's work around the world. Through the days that followed, substantive issues like ending human trafficking and abuse, feeding the hungry, paying migrant workers fair wages, and re-energizing the Presbyterian Church were discussed. Women from many countries, speaking multiple languages came together as a family over Thanksgiving dinner to propose possible solutions. With conversation and investigation, we were able to gather an abundance of information to use as the foundation for numerous mission projects when we got home.

The morning and evening Plenary served as bookends for our days' activities: Priscilla concentrated on community and leadership, Virginia on human rights here and around the world, and I focused on health and welfare issues. We opened and closed each day with scripture and song where the constant undercurrent of life giving water and hope was the theme. Our warm, personal and thought-provoking conversations with sisters from India, Bangladesh, South Africa, Scotland and many of our own states are still fresh in our minds.

Even before checking out of the opulent Gaylord Palms, we started gathering ideas about the ways we could translate our information into actions. We would like to use one Sunday service in September to share reflections and introduce an overview of the topics we hold closest. We might fill the alter with empty, disposable water bottles as a visual for our discussion about the need for clean water without waste; we could invite those in our community to a potluck dinner at the church where the price is paid with cans of food, baby supplies or commitments from our many restaurants to provide leftover meals for our battered women's shelter. Our confirmands could go to the local senior center to serve lunch and listen to the wonderful life stories an elderly person would share. In the future, we would like to ask for input and listen to the needs of our Long Island Native Americans or the members of our sister church in Havana, Cuba to develop mission project ideas.

The River of Hope Triennium in Orlando taught this trio of Presbyterian Women from Huntington that no mission project is impossible with some faith in ourselves and in God.



Morrisville Community Church, Morrisville, NY (Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery)...

A Network of Valentines! A Network of Hearts!

"Now join your hands, and with your hands your hearts." William Shakespeare

From Central New York State to mid-coast Maine the Valentine Express was on the move this past January and February.

What is the Valentine Express? It was an outreach activity supported and planned by the Presbyterian Women's Ministry Team of the Morrisville Community Church: PCUSA, Morrisville, New York. The object of the event was, of course, to make Valentines. Why Valentines? The answer is easy. First and foremost valentines are fun to make. Secondly, we wanted an interesting and fun activity open to the community. Third, we wanted an activity that could be organized and carried out without having to plan for years and years. Fourth, we had a destination for the valentines: the 125 residents of the Crouse Community Center. We scheduled the valentine making event for Tuesday, January 17, 2012 beginning at 1 p.m. All participants were asked to bring was a pair scissors. Card stock, paper dollies, trims, ribbons, glue sticks and sparkles---lots of sparkles--- were provided. Also provided was a vast collection of old greeting cards and interesting pictures from magazines that could be cut and pasted to our cards to give them some zip. Amazingly, 125 valentines were completed. The valentines were delivered and handed out on February 13. It was all so much fun and successful that we plan to do this outreach again in January-February 2013.

Next you may ask, "How did Mid-Coast Maine become involved?" My friend Joan Coop lives in Brunswick, Maine and attends the Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church, Topsham, Maine. I was so excited about making the valentines that I phoned Joan and told her all about it. She said, "I bet our group would like to do this." And indeed they did! A group from Joan's church visits an assisted living facility once a month. There are those in this home that have no family near and/or never have visitors. Their valentine ministry was an outreach to these residents. It also provided an avenue for speaking with residents about their church and ministries.

The Valentine Express is easily planned and carried out. Even more importantly this activity does not need lots of participants. Morrisville had 18 participate in the actual making of the 125 needed valentines. I was pleasantly surprised with our turn out. Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church had 8 participants. They were able with short time planning and a few participants to reach their goal.

What both groups experienced was the excitement of a new, fun activity as well as the joy of working with our heads, our hands and our hearts. According to St. Francis of Assisi, when work is done this way artistry happens.

Wishing happy hearts to you all

-Maxine Hunter (huntermg@frontiernet.net), your Leadership Network Coordinator

Happenings at Oneida First Presbyterian Church (Utica Presbytery)...

In early spring of this year "Oneida First" had an officer's retreat with Evangelism as its theme. At the completion of the retreat each elder was paired with a deacon and sent out to one of the local organizations that the church supports asking 'how else can we be of help?'

One pair was given Vanderkamp Center which is a retreat and Christian summer camp supported by the Lutheran Churches and Presbyteries of Cayuga-Syracuse and Utica. The pair met with James Davis, Director of Vanderkamp, to discuss what other needs they have that we could help them to achieve. Now Vanderkamp has been struggling both financially and attendance wise for some time. One big key to their survival was a new roof on the barn and increased attendance at summer camp.

We needed James to visit our church on a Sunday before camp started. He had no openings until November. While sitting there and pondering their next step, James received a message on his computer that the church scheduled for the next Sunday was canceling their visit.

So, James was able to visit our church, speak to our congregation, met with the youth during church school and visited with the parents. Results: A team of men, women and children interested in summer camp, spent Memorial Day weekend at Vanderkamp. Half of the roof was installed with the other half to be done in September when the weather is cooler; children worked pulling weeds and planted over 500 vegetable plants in the one acre vegetable garden while others painted.

The PW of our church voted to pay for all children who signed up for camp when parents could not meet their financial needs. Last year one person from our church went to summer camp, this year fifWheerteen attended. Other churches 'chimed- in' and the enrollment hit an all time high. James' goal was 275, his "pipe" dream was 300 and he reached 315. Is that not God at work? Let's see if we all can pitch-in using our gifts and talents with which we have been blessed, to continue to support Vanderkamp so James and his crew can continue to reach out to all who come their way.

Calendar of Events on our Website

If you would like your PWP event listed on our website Calendar of Events, please email the information to Charlotte Hasselbarth chasselbarth@hotmail.com with a copy to Abbie Slaman at slamans@optonline.net.

We are always anxious to learn when you are having your events!

<u>Laugh for the day:</u> Q: Where should one look for one's glasses?

A: Start by looking on forehead!





River of Hope

"There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns."

— Psalm 46: 4-5

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast 2012 Leadership Enhancement Workshop - Sat. Nov. 3, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church 2291 Western Ave. Guilderland, N.Y. 12084 (just west of Albany)

All women are invited.

The program will include Installation for new PW in the Synod of the Northeast Coordinating Team members, worship, fellowship, interactive activities, and...

Carol Smolenski – Executive Director of Ending Child Prostitution and Trafficking (*ECPAT- USA*). She will describe its work to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children around the world.

Anne Reynolds – Member of the original Design Team for the *Sisters Stand and Walk Together* program. She will speak on adapting the Sisters Stand and Walk Together concept to your local needs. Anne is the former Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast and lay pastor in the Utica Presbytery.

Lunch is included. Please bring a snack to share.

Fri. Nov. 2 - Pre -workshop meetings:

- 2 pm 6 pm: PWSNE Coordinating Team Meeting for current, incoming and outgoing members
- 6 pm 7 pm: dinner available for everyone, RSVP on registration form
- 7 pm 9 pm: PWSNE Business meeting will be held for Coordinating Team members, PW in the Presbytery Moderators and non-Moderator voting delegates. **Others welcome.**

Overnight accommodations will be at The Holiday Inn Express, 1442 Western Ave. Albany, NY 12203. Breakfast is included. Phone #: 518-438-0001



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST NOVEMBER 2-3, 2012

PWSCT MEETING – Friday 2-6pm PWSNE BUSINESS MEETING – Friday 7-9pm LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT WORKSHOP – Saturday 9:30am – 3:30pm (All women are invited to this workshop.)

Meetings/Program at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church 2291 Western Ave, Guilderland, NY 12084 Overnight at Holiday Inn Express, 1442 Western Ave, Albany, NY 12203

Name	Phone
Address	
E-Mail	Roommate
	(if no choice, you will be assigned a roommate.)
Room: Fri. night_	Sat. night Single room (\$65 extra)
Commuter N	Ieals: Friday DinnerSaturday Lunch
PWSCT Member _	Presbytery Moderator Other
PWSNE covers roo	35 to cover the cost of materials/speaker, etc. om and board for PWSCT and 1 PWP Moderator per Presbytery; others pay \$125 for ommuters pay \$35 for materials/speaker and \$7 for each meal.
Send this form and	your check (made out to PW Synod of the Northeast) to registrar by Oct. 10, 2012 Jane MacDonald
	36 Carriage Lane

Newton, NJ 07860-1927



Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES AND REMINDERS



	Calendar of events and reminders	For	Location
2012			
Aug 26-31	Women's Work Week building an Art Center at Stony Point	All Women	Stony Point Center
Sept. 11-12	PWP-Cayuga Syracuse Retreat	All Women	Vanderkamp
Sept. 21	PWP-Geneva Day of Inspiration and Fall Gathering	All Women	Camp Whitman, NY
Oct. 10	PWP-Utica Fall Gathering	All Women	Oneida NY FPC
Oct. 11	PWP-Cayuga Syracuse Fall Gathering	All Women	DeWitt, NY
Oct. 13	PWP-Northern NY Fall Gathering	All Women	Chazy, NY PC
Oct. 13	PWP-Newark Fall Gathering	All Women	TBA
Oct. 20	PWP-Elizabeth Fall Retreat	All Women	The Old White Church, Woodbridge NJ
Oct. 27	PWP-Palisades Fall Retreat	All Women	South Presbyterian Church Bergenfield, NJ
Nov. 2	PWSNE CT meeting, PWSNE Business meeting	PWSNE CT	Hamilton Union PC in Guilderland, NY
Nov. 3	Leadership Enhancement Workshop "River of Hope"	All Women	Hamilton Union PC in Guilderland, NY
2015			
June 18-22	Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women	All Women	Minneapolis

Annual Recurring Deadlines

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Jan. 15	Deadline for Women of Faith endorsements	
Feb. 1, Aug. 1	Lighthouse articles due to Gail Banks	
Mar. 15	Pledges due to Treasurer Sharon Hsu	
Mar. 15	PWSCT expense vouchers due to Treasurer Sharon Hsu	
Mar. 25	Pledge Payments due to Central Receiving and PWS Treasurer	
May 1	PWP Directory due to Churchwide Program Assistant Patricia.Longfellow@pcusa.org	
Sept. 1	Annual Reports due to PWS from PWP Moderators, send to Kathleen Martinez	

Updated Friday, August 31, 2012