

The Lighthouse



August 2016

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the North Northeast

Moderators Message



Maxine Hunter

“Doing Good All the Time”

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”
Galatians 6:9

Working! Planning! Organizing! As Presbyterian Women we do all these good things to carry the light of Jesus into people lives. Then something unexpected happens. All our “doing” falls flat: the workers are on vacation; no one likes the plan; or, worse, the event is poorly attended. At one time or another, I think we all have found ourselves in this situation. As Christians and as Presbyterian Women in particular—who I like to define as “worker bees” of the faith—this can be so disappointing that we just want to quit trying. We become weary of “doing good”.

But Paul in *Galatians 6: 9* tells us: “Let us not become weary in doing good...” Paul continues by telling us that we must “do good” until the “proper time to reap the harvest...” This means we must persevere. However, this can be a problem because we often think that we must keep doing the same activity—such as a traditional PW Gathering with reports and speakers, etc.—and/or carry the activity out in same way we have always done it—reports, speakers, etc. What we need to realize is the activity is the path we have chosen for “doing good”. Thus the activity may be the problem. The good news: We can change the activity.

You may ask: How then should we define “doing good”. What is it that we should not tire of or cast away? John Piper, referencing *Galatians 5:22f* explains, it best:

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Editor’s Note: The next issue of the *Lighthouse* will be published in February. While the deadline is February 1st for articles and photos to be submitted, it is important we try adhere to the deadline.

Hope everyone is surviving this hot weather we are having. Here in Central NY there has not been any significant rain in some time. Short downpours lasting perhaps less than 5 minutes which has not been enough to penetrate the ground.

See you all in Greenwich for the Leadership and Coordinating Team meetings.

Susan Silliman Smith
august13sss@aol.com

Moderator's message continued

"...don't grow weary of being patient and kind and good and faithful and gentle and self-controlled. Don't grow weary of manifesting your peace and joy in all kinds of acts of love to your neighbors and associates and family. In short, don't lose heart in spending yourself through love..." (@JohnPiper)

I think we Presbyterian Women in the Northeast understand that change can lift our spirits. We have all experienced a renewal of energy and joy when we have changed activities in our efforts to bring women together in study, planning, worship, etc. For example, PW of Hudson Valley and PW of Northern New England realized that the traditional PWP meetings were not working. Attendance was low (does that sound familiar). Now, instead of the traditional Gatherings, these Gatherings have been replaced by a yearly spiritual retreat. Another example: The Presbyterian Women of Albany, Utica, Cayuga-Syracuse, Geneva, and Western New York have coordinated together to host a regional "leap frog down the Thruway" Fall Gathering featuring Judy Persons, Churchwide Vice Moderator for Mission Relations. Excitement reigns in anticipation of Judy's visit. The list of examples could go on and on.

Yes, change can help. We know this. The change helps us to stay steadfast in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, a must in all that we plan and do. God Bless you all. Amen. Amen.

Maxine G. Hunter

From vice Moderator Su-ling Lai

SAVE THE DATE!
August 18- August 19
2017

Presbyterian Women Synod of the Northeast 2017 Gathering

at the Desmond Hotel Conference Center
660 Albany Shaker Road
Albany, New York 12211

Gathering Theme: **"Household of Faith",**
based on Ephesians 2:17-21

"...you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household..."

The Design Team has been very excited working on several tracks of programs since January 2016: a lecture of the migration stories in the Old Testament; better understanding the immigrants among us, their history and contribution; mission trips at the Mexican border, a reflection of what the bible teaches us; women and their overseas mission.

Warm regards,
Su-Ling Lai

Historian

Sandy Grillo

We have a great history of wonderful women being a part of Presbyterian Women, especially PW Synod of the Northeast. We are all so lucky and blessed to share this legacy. It is important that we continue the work begun by those who came before us. I was looking through some old Lighthouse issues going back to 1981. I wasn't even Presbyterian way back then! I was surprised how many names I recognized. I will bring some of this material to the meeting in August so if you'd like to stroll down Memory Lane, I can help with that. So much has happened and we have created so many memories. Keep it going. The best is yet to come!

I have been asking some of the former moderators and others to write briefly about a favorite memory or time in PWS. Unfortunately, I was not able to include all of the women who have served as PWS Moderator or held office and worked diligently through the years. For this issue, I asked Anne Reynolds, one of our most beloved former leaders and still a very active Presbyterian Woman to give me her thoughts. I'd like to share them with you now. Anne wrote:

When I was asked to comment on my favorite PW memory It almost felt as though I was asked to select my favorite grandchild.

My favorite memory of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Northeast is repeated every three years. Each time is different and yet it's the same.

I'm always impressed, pleased, and grateful as each triennial installation of officers is rich with jewels of memory. There are many faceted jewels..... of diversity, of individual backgrounds, PW experiences, hometowns and PWPs.

There is the jewel of ideas; fresh ones from newcomers and ideas in progress from continuing members.

There is the jewel of commitment to PW that always sparkles through the "I do" and "I will", responses from each Coordinating Team member.

There is the jewel of gratitude and support as evidenced by the positive response and welcoming applause by the gathered PW Sisters.

Through my many years as a PW member I have many pleasant and impressive memories and PWS Installation is always at the forefront. Truly, I look forward to more jewels from the next PWS Triennium.

I agree with Anne wholeheartedly. It is a wonderful feeling to watch the uniqueness of each incoming PWSNE Coordinating Team. We are one of the most diverse synods in this country, a fact of which we should all be very proud. We have representatives from many races and ethnic backgrounds. Together we are a "force to be reckoned with..." My prayer is that PWS will continue to bring a richness that is only found when all people work together, especially women. At the next installation, keep Anne's words in mind. Each woman standing there is someone special and brings talent and love of Presbyterian Women with her to the office she will be holding, continuing our rich history of service.

Sandy Grillo

Synod Representative to the Churchwide Coordinating Team

By Charlotte Hasslebarth

Focus on Committees

I would like you to know more about the Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT). It meets twice a year, usually March and September. There are informational programs for everyone and committee meetings. After each meeting, a *CCT Summary* is published, which I send to our Coordinating Team and PWP Moderators. It describes what went on at general sessions and a report from each committee. Committees meet via conference call as the need arises between CCT meetings

Each CCT member is assigned to about 4 Committees. The Committees are:

- Administration Committee
- Antiracism Committee
- Bible Study Committee
- Communications Coordination and Funds Development Committee
- Creative Ministries Offering Committee
- Finance Committee
- Global Exchange Committee
- Horizons Editorial Committee
- Justice and Peace Committee
- Leadership Development Grant Committee
- Leadership Enhancement Committee
- Mission Relationships Committee
- Personnel Committee
- USA Mission Experience Committee

If you have an issue that you wish to be addressed at the Churchwide level, I can give you the name of a Committee Chair. Contact me at 518-356-0637 or chasselbarth@hotmail.com.

One such issue was brought forth by PWSNE. I have no proof that we were the only ones to point this out. However, four years ago when our PWSNE CT Facilitating Committee read over a Thank Offering application, JoAnn Burrell, as PWSNE Vice Moderator Elect noticed that a letter of endorsement was required from the Presbytery or Synod and a letter of endorsement from a PW group was just suggested. Maggie Lewis (past PWSNE Representative to the CCT) and I mentioned this to the Creative Ministries Offering Committee Chairs who were in place during our respective terms. I also spoke to the PW staff member for that committee. The application for Thank and Birthday Offering applications now includes *provide a written endorsement from a Presbyterian Women's group of a local church, PW of the Presbytery Coordinating Team, OR a PW of a Synod Coordinating Team. A letter from the Presbytery or Synod is desirable, but not necessary.*

Charlotte Hasselbarth, Synod Representative to the Churchwide Coordinating Team

Churchwide Search Committee PW Synod NE Representative

Rita Hooper

Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church, USA
Churchwide Coordinating Team
Search Committee

Seeking Nominees for Presbyterian Women Churchwide, 2018-2021

Our Search Committee has begun searching for the Presbyterian Women Churchwide Coordinating Team for 2018-2021. We need **your** prayers and help as we search for talented women to serve in leadership and supportive positions. Do you know a woman who stands out as you have worked with her in your congregation, presbytery, or synod? If so, would you please share their names with the PW Search Regional representative by November 1, 2016.

We are searching for leaders who are members of a PCUSA church and who supports the purpose of Presbyterian Women and who can work well as a team player, and who will have the time and energy required to travel and participate. The positions which need to be filled are:

- Moderator
- Vice Moderator, Justice and Peace
- Vice Moderator, Mission Relations
- Board Secretary/Historian
- Finance Committee Chair
- Moderator of the Search Committee
- Five Regional Search Committee Members
- Six Racial Ethnic Members-at-Large representing
 - African American
 - Asian American
 - Hispanic/Latino American
 - Korean American
 - Middle East American
 - Native American
- Two Young Women At-Large (one racial-ethnic)
- New Immigrant Woman (in the USA for 3 years or less)

Prayerfully consider this request. We know it will take extra time and thought on your part, but we cannot do our work without your help and prayers. We are committed to a diverse leadership team; therefore, we urge you to consider our racial ethnic sisters when searching for prospective nominees.

Please send your recommendations to the Search Committee Regional Representative in your region, by November 1, 2016, using the Endorsement for Nomination Form. Your endorsements are truly appreciated. Thank you and may God Bless You!

Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA Churchwide Coordinating Team, 2015-2018

Nomination Form

Please recommend only the Presbyterian Woman with **whom you have consulted** and who is willing to serve, if nominated and elected. Nominations are accepted and processed as they are received. The final acceptance date is to be postmarked or submitted by September 1, 2016.

Please type or print!

Information below is the information needed about **the nominee**

Name _____

Address _____

Telephones _____

E-mail _____

Church _____

Address _____

Position being nominated

- ____ Moderator
- ____ Vice Moderator, Justice & Peace
- ____ Vice Moderator, Mission Relations
- ____ Board Secretary/Historian
- ____ Finance Committee Chair
- ____ Search Committee Moderator
- ____ Search Committee Member

- ☐ Member-At-Large
- ☐ ☐ African American
- ☐ ☐ Asian American
- ☐ ☐ Hispanic/Latina American
- ☐ ☐ Korean American
- ☐ ☐ Middle East American
- ☐ ☐ Native American
- ☐ ☐ Young Woman-2 (1 Racial Ethnic)
- ☐ ☐ New Immigrant Woman

The Information below is about the **Person Submitting** the Nomination

Name _____

Title/position in Presbyterian Women or PCUSA _____

Address _____

Telephones _____

E-mail _____

How do you know the nominee _____

The Nominee would be an asset to the Churchwide Coordinating because _____

The Nominee's ability to interact and communicate in a group setting _____

All Nomination Forms must be postmarked or submitted ASAP

The Search Committee Thanks You!
Please submit to the Search Committee member in your Region.
Rita Hooper
210 Meadowbrook Circle
Fulton, NY 13069
315-706-3564 twohoops2@juno.com



LifeWay Network (LifeWay) wishes to extend our grateful thanks to the Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA for its Thank Offering grant award in the amount of \$25,000.00. LifeWay especially thanks the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of New York City and Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast for their endorsement and letter of support for LifeWay's work against human trafficking and providing safe housing for women survivors of sex and labor trafficking.

LifeWay's mission is twofold: 1) through our Safe Housing Program, to provide safe housing designated *specifically* for women who have suffered human trafficking, and 2) through our Education Program, to raise public awareness and promote prevention among at-risk vulnerable youth of this often hidden crime.

LifeWay Network works to meet the needs of women survivors of human trafficking in the New York metro area by providing both short-term emergency and long-term safe housing. LifeWay provides the home and the secure environment in which to heal and acquire the ability to live independently. The women are provided with opportunities such as shopping, cultural expansion, literacy, arts and crafts activities, and gardening. Dedicated to the woman survivor of human trafficking, LifeWay's Safe Housing Program provides each woman with the security of a stable and supportive home and emphasizes the holistic healing of the survivor's mind, body and spirit, enabling her to journey towards self-sufficiency and economic independence. Grant award funds are being used towards LifeWay Network's Safe Housing Program for women survivors of human trafficking.

LifeWay's safe houses are truly "homes" to our guests.

The voice of one survivor says it best: *"For the first time I felt safe and could sleep deeply."*

The Education Program at LifeWay aims to inspire individuals in the community to become well-informed global citizens about this social problem that is the 2nd largest criminal enterprise in the world today. LifeWay educates various audiences and would be happy to offer educational talks to Presbyterian Women's groups, especially in the NYC metro area. For an educational session, individuals may e-mail inquiries to: Contact@LifeWayNetwork.org OR contact:

Lima James, MSW
Education Training Coordinator
LJames@lifewaynetwork.org
718-779-8075

PWSNE Has a Blog

Our Webservant, Sue Liu has announce the institution of a blog to help you keep up to date on our Web page. Please follow the instructions below to join.

Please subscribe to our blog to receive email notifications of new posts on our website (www.pwsne.org).

1. Scroll down to the bottom right of our website.
2. Under "Follow Blog via Email", enter your email
3. click the "Follow" button

Thank You Note

PWSNE recently donated \$1,000 to Camp Johnsonburg to be used for youth campers.

This is a note from one of the campers: "Thank you for donating to make camp possible. My favorite part of camp was the zipline and the giant swing. Something I tried this year was the spin wheel in the lake. I hope to come back next year and have an even more awesome time than I did this year.

Thanks again, Grace"

Save the Date

Retreat for Hispanic/Latinas PW of New Jersey

April 15, 2017

**Leadership Conference
September 16, 2017**

For further Information please contact Eunice Ramirez at eunicer45@aol.com

Together in Service

Presbyterian Women's CCT has recently approved a partnership with Knitting4Peace, a non profit grass-roots organization dedicated to crafting hope, healing & peace one stitch at a time. They incorporated in June 2006 and are headquartered in Denver, Colorado. Knitting4Peace is dedicated to knitting together the global Beloved Community and as they knit, crochet, weave, or quilt each item, they pray for each other, for the recipients of the items, those who deliver the items, and for hope, healing and global peace. Their Blankets4Peace project may be of interest to those who are familiar with PW's mission trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservations of South Dakota. A blanket that incorporates the colors red, yellow, white, and black which are sacred to the Oglala Lakota Nation has been developed. Patterns and additional information are available on their web site www.knitting4peace.org. In addition to hand made items, cash contributions are needed for shipping. If you wish to support them, the mailing address is Knitting4Peace, 2600 Leyden Street, Denver, CO 80207. Please include the name of your group and an email address so they can acknowledge your contributions and let me know what you have sent.

Rosalie Hemingway, TIS coordinator, silver3213@gmail.com

Please Note: While the following article is not specifically attributed to PWSNE, it is a mission within our bounds and Charlotte Hasslebarth thought it might be of interest to our group.

Soul Café in Troy, NY

Report on the Soul Café

Mission Partnership Dinner between First United Presbyterian Church and Oakwood Community Center in Troy, NY In March 2016.

Food, hunger and food justice are important issues addressed already by our churches. As a matter of fact, Oakwood Community Center has continued the combined church mission the TLP (Troy Larger Parish) Food Pantry. However, when we set out to create viability for Oakwood Community Center as we transitioned from the church, we needed to respond to the Albany Presbytery's desire for the fledgling Oakwood to provide a business plan. In looking for an alternative model to the food pantry, I contacted Jon Bon Jovi's Soul Foundation where they were already addressing hunger in innovative ways. So began Oakwood's Soul Café with a twist from the pay-what-you-can movement.

The Oakwood Soul Café, now running more than 3 years, is an intermediate step up from pantries and soup kitchens. It is more of a “hand up”, not a hand out”. The pay-what-you-can option asks folks to pay what they can *afford* and what the community meal is *worth* to them. We know there are very few places that give that choice, and at the recent Denver **One World Everybody Eats** coalition workshop, it was referred to as Capitalism 2.0! At Oakwood, we ask for a \$3 base donation to cover expenses, and most cafés ask for *something*, but no-one *has* to pay. We find that most who can, give *more*, recognizing this effort as an open-hearted way to build community, and providing a “dining out” option for families who cannot otherwise afford it.

Here's a little more information on how we make this work. The Soul Café is volunteer run and partners with local businesses like Honest Weight Food Co-op, Capital Roots, The Troy Farmers Market and more directly, with local farms. We are also members and continue to learn from **One World Everybody Eats** (OWEE), a non-profit collaborative in existence for many years, which believes these cafés are a valuable avenue in solving some of our national and international hunger problems. OWEE offers a network of support, expertise and resources for pay-what-you-can cafés.

I believe every town needs a pay-what-you-can café! I have mentored another local group to help them start the Albany Soul Café in the neighboring city across the river. They serve dinner once a month from the Albany's Westminster Presbyterian Church parish hall and have been going for over a year. Their reputation has grown, as happened with us in Troy, where the word spreads like wildfire that the food is *delicious*, there are volunteer opportunities and community happens in the heart of these cafés.

Most recently, our Soul café crew worked together with First United Presbyterian Church (FUPC) Mission Committee to serve the March dinner with a St Patrick's Day theme. The day before the dinner, we had a great time chopping vegetables and deciding what would go into the soup and what would go into salad, using both donated (HWFC culled produce) and purchased produce. Other items included fresh fruit prepared to make the apple-pear-ginger sauce for the vegan and/or special needs folks, and FUPC donated delicious pound cakes. This is when we make any final

decisions or changes concerning the meal for the following day.

Together we served two versions of Irish Colcannon Soup, one vegetarian, and one with the corned beef with briskets donated by FUPC mission folks and 6 Irish Soda Breads. Other FUPC volunteers set up the tables and decorated the space with brightly colored leprechauns and shamrocks. We shared and exchanged tablecloths, some which will work better for their church and some which will help our café. The collegial atmosphere during this partnership was a joyful part of this work and helped create a successful event. We found this crowd liked the vegetarian as well as the meat option and there was more than one approach for a second helping. We served over 50 people, brought in \$380 and spent less than \$95. The profit ensures there will be a *next* dinner as we develop a stronger connection with churches as receptive as First United Presbyterian in Troy and Westminster Presbyterian in Albany. We will reach out to other potential community partners, perhaps even local restaurants, to keep building momentum with this exciting, collaborative model and do our best to be there, smiling, and serving food with community “on the side”.

In gratitude-
Linda O'Malley and the Soul Café Crew



Food
Preparation at
Soul Café.



Meal being
served

OAKWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER, INC
313 TENTH STREET
TROY, NEW YORK 12180
www.oakwoodcommunitycenter.org

August 30th Gospel & Soul Café Brunch



Apple Pear Ginger Sauce prepared from culled HWFC produce

Welcome First United Presbyterian Church! We'll have a brief service and share ideas and a Soul Café brunch.

The purpose of **Oakwood Soul Café** is to invite friends and neighbors to dinner while providing healthy foods in a sustainable, socially-conscious way. We are fortunate to have different cooks planning and preparing the meal. We keep it affordable with a pay-what-you-can model (with a suggested base donation of \$3) to encourage and open a place at the table for all. We cannot do this without Honest Weight Food Co-op, Troy Farmer's Market and Placid Bakers and our wonderful volunteers.

The Soul Café Brunch menu will include:

Made-to-order Omelets (choose from veggies & cheese)
Frittata
Pancakes & Maple Syrup
Fresh fruit
Surprises (as always)
Coffee, Mint Tea and Juice



Middle Eastern dinner Café. Bread donated by Placid Baker

The hope of building a stronger Troy has been and will continue to be manifested here on this corner if we take this on as a task—feeding people in a new, sustainable way, which is why we have become a member of One World Everybody Eats.

If this interests you, consider helping us with the **Oakwood Soul Café**. We are volunteer and holy spirit powered! Join the Oakwood Soul Café Volunteers Facebook Group or just ask how to get on our list.

Peace and blessings,

Sinda



Composting

The Soul Café dinners buzz with good conversation and sharing of good food. (far right)

Children's table (right) popular for parents too!



Mission Statement: Oakwood Community Center provides a welcoming place for activities that bring neighbors together and builds bridges among grassroots organizations in the City of Troy.

News from Around PWSNE

Monmouth PWP

Lori Evans, Moderator of Monmouth states the Fall Gathering is being rescheduled due to conflict with the Guest Speaker. They are looking at October 8, 2016 or October 22, 2016. Please contact Lori for the next update.

Northern NY PWP

Emily Castine, Moderator of PW of the PNYY send this report.

We had a wonderful Spring Gathering on June 4th at the Plattsburgh First Presbyterian Church.

Our key speaker was Mrs. Magdalene Lewis, PW member and PW Synod's Global Rep to the Caribbean in late 2014. Maggie presented a video program on her experiences in Guyana. There were **about** 25 women in attendance from several churches. A delicious lunch was served by the PW of the host church.

Plans are being made for Margaret Gruetzmacher and Moderator Emily Castine to attend the Leadership Retreat in Greenwich at the end of August.

On July 31st, Moderator Emily Castine was crowned as Queen of the 2016 Chazy Old Home Day celebration! Emily was presented with a dozen American Beauty roses, a gift certificate and a tiara that she wore all day at the Chazy Recreation Park. She was honored for her longtime community service in Chazy. When asked to speak, she remarked: "This is such a wonderful honor. I am thrilled! It is indeed a blessing!"

CHAZY PREBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our PW participated in the Chazy Town-wide Garage Sale on July 30th. There was much prep work for this event, and most of it involved taking

stored items from a very dusty shed. But, several of us persevered, and the sale was quite successful! Besides small furnishings, we sold paperback books. Also, we sold out of two major food items: Michigans and strawberry shortcake. It was quite a day!

We are planning a reception for our new minister, The Rev. Lori Danielson, sometime in September. She will arrive in Chazy around the 23rd of August. Her first preaching Sunday will be on September 4, 2016. We are eagerly anticipating her arrival!

PW Old First Church Huntington, NY

Save the date Saturday, **November 12th**, 10:00 am to 4:00pm for PW's annual and highly-anticipated Fall Fair, open to the community. Almost all proceeds go to local, national and international charities. Jewelry, Holiday Craft Store, Baked Goods, Toys, Books, Auction, White Elephant and much more! Lunch is served from 11:30-1:30pm. For more information, please contact Cherie Cornell at 631-427-2101. OFC is located at 125 Main Street, Huntington NY, across from Town Hall.

Save the Date!!

Churchwide Gathering Reflecting on Light August 2-5, 2018 Louisville, KY

For continuing information go to <http://pma.pcusa.org/ministries/pwgathering>.

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Palisades

Word from the Moderator:

We humans are a very interesting species. God in His wisdom has created us with all the parts needed for us to function in this world. We are able to think, talk, cry, laugh, be content or be sad; we call those emotions feelings. For instance, just a few months ago, we were complaining about how cold it was; it was difficult to go out before cleaning the car on account of the snow, or even visit a friend or relative; we didn't like it at all. Our God, in an effort to please us, decided to do something about that, so He went ahead and changed the weather; and there we go, it is too hot to sleep, too hot to sit outside or go to the park, etc. etc. etc. The good news is that God is in control and no matter how we feel or complain; He always does what is best for all his children.

Being grateful for what we have, the Presbyterian Woman in the Presbytery of Palisades, on Saturday, April 23, 2016, celebrated this year's Spring Gathering hosted by the Presbyterian Church in Norwood, NJ. The ladies of the church gave us a very warm welcome; they provided all that was necessary to make the gathering a very joyful affair. First we were greeted by the pastor of the church, the Rev. Timothy Son; then Elder Abbie Slaman led us in the opening prayer, after which she proceeded to point out the church facilities. All of the ladies worked very diligently to make sure that we left their church happy and satisfied, and of course, we all did. Another good thing that happened at the gathering was the presentation of the program by leader the Rev. Grace Kim. Rev. Kim chose as the theme for the program "*Just as I Am*". She showed a DVD demonstrating different conditions of oppression for many people, especially women. There was a time for question and personal opinions. Rev. Kim concluded her presentation by leading us through a very spiritual Worship / Communion service of Light.

Members of the PW Coordinating Team also shined at the gathering with presentations in areas of the work that they are involved. For instance, Mrs. Marion Greg-Whited, Justice & Peace Coordinator, displayed posters and announced a meeting to be held in Washington DC for "*Bread for the World*". Marion also brought Bread for the World *Offering of Letters* to be signed by all present and mailed to our senators. 30 letters were signed and were ready to be mailed by the end of the program. The letters called for Congress to increase U.S. investment in global maternal and child nutrition which is central to successful development and helps improve the potential of millions of people.

Mrs. Deborah Heatwole, Together in Service/Mission Coordinator, requested a free will offering to help "EPCAT-USA" of which \$75.00 was collected. EPCAT-USA's mission is to protect every child's basic human right to grow up free from the threat of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Debbie also announced that the offering to be collected at the gathering's worship service will be sent to the mission work in Cuba; she explained that there is dialogue once again between US and Cuba. Missionaries are chosen to go there to do God's work.

The PW CT is constantly trying to explore different programs and engage a variety of Presbyterian Woman Ministers that can bring interesting programs with inspiring Christian messages. Every gathering is held at different Presbyterian Churches in an effort to share with all the Presbyterian Women and their guests the joy and knowledge that God has a place in every heart and mind. We are very glad to serve our God doing his work by serving him as a member of the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team. We have 7 active members in our CT, they are: Moderator: Sophie Diaz-Corporan; Secretary: Joyce Thompson; Treasurer: Adina Yacoub; Peace & Justice: Marion Gregg-Whited; Together in Service/Mission: Deborah Heatwole; Communication Specialist/"Patter" Editor: Diane Nafash; Member at Large & Spirituality/Registrar: Edna Anderson.

There are some positions available on our Team. We need a Vice-Moderator/Program Coordinator; a Nominating Chair; and a Bible Study/Horizons Coordinator. Please bring it to the Lord in prayer and follow your calling and join us. The other way to help is by offering your church to host a gathering. The Coordinating Team meets six times a year to prepare and deliver the Spring Gathering in April and the Fall Retreat in September. There are two reasons of how we have been able to accomplish all this work. First reason, we are working for our God. Second reason, we love working for Him.

Great Blessings to all of you!

Remember that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens me! (Philippian 4:13)

In His Love,

Sophie Diaz-Corporan

Moderator, PWPP

Judy Persons to Trip Down The Thruway Trail September 13-17, 2016

Judy Persons, Churchwide Vice Moderator for Mission Relations will visit our Synod this September. She will start her trip at Albany PWP's Fall Gathering and end at Western New York's PWP. This is an exciting moment for PWASNE to host someone from PW Churchwide. This all began as a thought during the Churchwide Gathering last summer in Minneapolis. Planning and coordination with the PWPs along the Thruway began through a series of discussions. Big Thanks to Virginia Champlin for making this work.!!

All persons off the Thruway trail are also invited to join one of the meetings. Flyers for all of the events follow this article. Perhaps a group of you from the other PWPs might like to take a trip to another area of the Synod and enjoy a Fall excursion. Each of the host PWPs welcome you to participate in their respective event to hear Judy and to exchange ideas and fellowship with each other. It will be fun.

Please note Utica PWP and Cayuga-Syracuse PWP have their annual Fall retreat at Vanderkamp Center in Cleveland, NY at this time so they are making the most of it. Some of you might wish to enjoy a relaxing time at our wonderful camp setting. It is accessible to the handicapped.

The following is information about Judy:

Vice moderator for Mission Relationships

Judy Persons from Jackson, Alabama

"Presbyterian Women is a leader in mission work and sponsorship. I want to investigate ways to improve communication at all levels so that we reach more women with encouragement and inform them of the wide variety of opportunities through PW."



Church: Ruling elder; elder chair of mission ministry team; mission team leader, participant in a variety of youth and adult mission trips; prayer shawl ministry and teddy bear ministry; Family Promise laundress; Cursillo pilgrim and staff worker. Member of the Spanish Fort Presbyterian Church.

PW: PWC—member of Creative Ladies Aiding Missions, vice moderator for missions, chair of Alternative Gift Fair; PWP—vice moderator for missions, on search committee, member of gathering planning team, workshop leader, delegate to the 2012 CWG business meeting; PWS—Together in Service coordinator, leadership training coordinator, on gathering planning team, participant in 2013 USA Mission Experience to Appalachia, participant in 2014 Global Exchange to the Caribbean, speaker, workshop leader, mission challenges leader

Community: Weekend volunteer at local homeless shelter; Habitat for Humanity volunteer

Education and profession: Coursework in math, computer science and business management; small-business manager and bookkeeper; light manufacturing business owner



All Women Welcome

**Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany
Fall Gathering**

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 – 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

Schoharie United Presbyterian Church

314 Main St, Schoharie, NY 12157

Judy Persons, Vice Moderator of Mission Relations on the Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Coordinating Team will lead a participative activity, *Our Gifts, What A Difference A Lens Makes.*

Tours of the newly renovated church will be provided.

General Information

- Bring a bag lunch. Beverage and dessert provided.
- Registration fee of \$5.00 will be collected at the door.- A Freewill Offering will be collected for Presbyterian Disaster Agency- Hygiene items for school children from kindergarten – high school (toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo, deodorant) for the Schoharie County Social Services will be collected.

For further information contact:

Anne Vanderhorst at 882-9635 or agvand@aol.com

Charlotte Hasselbarth at 356-0637 or chasselbarth@hotmail.com

Directions to Schoharie United Presbyterian Church
314 Main St, Schoharie, NY 12157
(518) 295-8931

From Albany or Schenectady area: take I-88W to Exit 23 Schoharie. Go left off the ramp onto Rt. 30 and travel 2 miles to the Village of Schoharie on left. The church is across from Stewarts. The church is Red Brick and the Fellowship Hall is located behind. Lots of parking.

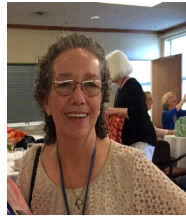
From west: Oneonta/Cobleskill take I-88E to Exit 23 Schoharie. Go right off the ramp onto Rt. 30 and travel 2 miles to the Village of Schoharie. The church is located on your left at 314 Main Street - across from Stewarts. The church is Red Brick and the Fellowship Hall is located behind. Lots of parking.

From the South of Schoharie Catskill/Cairo etc. take NYS Thruway to Exit 25A I-88 W connection and travel to Exit 23 Schoharie - Go left off the ramp onto Rt. 30 and travel 2 miles to the Village of Schoharie. The church is located on your left, across from Stewarts. Church is Red Brick and the Fellowship Hall is located behind. Lots of parking.

Alternative is to take Rt. 145 to Village of Middleburgh, NY and pick up Rt. 30 N to Schoharie Village. Church will be on the right, across from Stewarts. Lots of parking. **Directions to Schoharie United Presbyterian Church**

314 Main St, Schoharie, NY 12157
(518) 295-8931

**Cayuga-Syracuse
&
Utica
PWP
Fall Retreat
Featuring: Judy Persons
Churchwide Vice Moderator for
Mission Relationships**



**At Vanderkamp Center
September 14-15, 2016
2 PM to 2 PM**

Cost: \$70.00 (includes three meals & linen service)

**Note: linen service includes all bedding and towels
Do not bring sleeping bags, etc.**

**Bring: Snacks to share, a change of clothes, personal
toiletries, a first timer**

Registration due by September 1, 2016

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Name: _____

Church: _____

Any special dietary needs? _____

Please send registration to: Marcia Vair, PO Box 248, Morrisville, NY 13408

**Utica PWP women only: please send registration to: Jan Cook, 6445 Crestview Dr., Lowville,
NY 13367**

Presbyterian Women of the Geneva Presbytery



2016 Fall Gathering



“Mission Matters”

Friday, September 16 • 9:30am-2pm

Note: Updated Location!

Park Presbyterian Church, 110 Maple Court, Newark, NY

Church Phone: 315-331-2255

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 9:00 am | Registration (\$5.00 donation) & morning refreshment |
| 9:30 am | Worship led by Rev. Deb Grohman, Ontario Center, NY |
| 10:30 am | Mission Initiatives—Show and Tell |
| 11:30 am | Lunch & Message: <i>God's Call to Mission—</i>
<i>What a Difference a Lens Makes</i> from Judy Persons,
Vice-Moderator for Mission Relations of PW, Churchwide CT |
| 1:00-2:00pm | Stop Hunger Now—a “hands on” Mission Activity.
Walk /Carpool to St. Mark's Episcopal Church
400 South Main Street, Newark, NY |

Bring CWS Kits & PW Thank Offering!



STOP HUNGER NOW

www.stophungernow.org

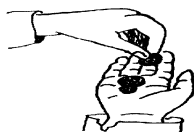
To register for Gathering & Mission Activity, please contact Linda Werts (315-331-6999) or email lwerts@aol.com. Please mention any dietary needs. Pre-registration is appreciated by September 9th!





Synod of the Northeast
Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western New York

Presents



“Unto the Least of These” Matt. 25:31-46
Presbyterian Women do Mission

SPEAKER: Judy Persons, Vice-Moderator for Mission Relations for the Churchwide
Coordinating Team

September 17, 2016

First Presbyterian Church Youngstown
100 Church Street
Youngstown, N.Y. 14174

10:30 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Cost of lunch is \$7.00

Action piece: Baby items for Pricilla Project
of Jericho Road Buffalo, NY

Reservation for lunch are requested by Sept.3rd

Contact:

Peggy Fanning
716 826 7542

peggyfanning@hotmail.com Synod of the Northeast
Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western New York