

The Lighthouse



August 2017

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the North Northeast

Moderators Message



Lisa Gray

Praise God for Presbyterian Women! I'd especially want to thank those who worked so hard on the Design Team of the Triennial Gathering led by Su-Ling Lai, the panelists led by Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia, music, worship and workshop leaders and the ladies from Newton Presbytery (NJ mine), Rev. Dr. Amaury Tanon-Santos from Synod and Carol Winkler from National PW who came to support me and the women who gathered. The two MAJOR things I came away with are: **to see people as humans not political issues and**

how powerful PW can be when we meet and act together. I have NO DOUBT that we can find new ways to be relevant to all women in today's world. We all need and want community by being part of the Household of Faith!

I'd also like to thank all of those who left office for their service to PWSNE especially past moderator Maxine Hunter. So if any of you can needlework her name on the stole let me know. May God bless you in your next ways you serve Him, of course after you've had a needed rest.

I was encouraged that ALL the positions on the Coordinating Team are filled and every Presbytery has at least a contact person. And it's filled by more than just us "Oldies but Goodies". I got my home churches' women's luncheon bible study to pick a woman's name from the bible and call themselves a circle when I threatened to call them that. **Why is calling our groups circles so square?** How has it become outdated? Or has it? Judging from the faithful women who attended the Gathering I saw we can be a "Beloved Community" and create enthusiasm around a mission cause or hurts (like immigration/diversity political division in this country) that needs Gods healing touch can be felt through the hands, feet, and mouths of women.

Please bear with me if I seem too "bleeding heart liberal" by remembering I am married to a staunch Republican and we have respectfully kept our relationship together by hearing the others' side without forcing our own on each other. I was questioned about that by Rev. Abby Mahaupt who will be our keynote speaker at the Fall Gathering. Abby

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Editor's note:

Comments appreciated on *Lighthouse*.

The next issue of the Lighthouse will be published in February. Please try to have your info in by February 1st.

In addition it is hoped we will hear from PWP's. What are you doing? Ideas to share and photos, etc.

Susan Silliman Smith, editor
Email: august13sss@aol.com

Moderator's message continued

is an ordained PCUSA pastor who is studying at Drew University Seminary for her PhD in Climate Change and Ecofeminist Theology. She won the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship's 2017 Peacemaker Award for her part in Fossil Free PCUSA (she's now moderator) with her "prophetic and pastoral leadership for creation care". I hope you will come to meet and hear her at the Fall Gathering.

My plan for this event is to rename it away from "leadership". My hope is we can attract and resource any woman (Presbytery or Congregational) who has a heart for PW work/purpose even if there is "NO FORMAL PW GROUP OR MODERATOR". My own church is a perfect example. I was at a PWP Lehigh Valley Gathering and they spoke about "rekindling the fire around campfire type issues/projects/prayer/bible study", oh yes that's the PW purpose. Let's change more than just the name but the focus around a three year theme! There will be "Community Sharing Circles" for Presbytery/Local ladies and one for the PWSNE Coordinating Team. Plan to come and gain the energy and enthusiasm that group dynamics of like-minded women brings! ***PS I'd like ALL the PWSNE Coordinating Team to RSVP me about attending.***

From Vice Moderator Su-ling Lai

On behalf of the Design Team, I hope everyone had a good time at the Gathering. I and the rest of the Design Team – Virginia Champlin, Sue Liu, Jane Kim and Gail Banks felt relieved that everything went very well. We want to thank you:

The attendees, speakers, music leaders, workshop leaders, panelists, worship leaders and most of all many cheer leaders who supported the Design Team before and throughout the Gathering.

A long journey. It started with my accepting the chair position of the Design Team for this Triennial Gathering in October 2014. Then, what will the theme be? Whom should I invite to join the Design Team? Whom will we invite to speak and lead the workshop and worship? Where do we hold the Gathering with reasonable travel distance and with affordable fees? We made a big decision – to plan a "2-day 1-night" gathering as compared to "3-day 2-night" in previous gatherings. We learned

to set a budget, worked around the format of the Gathering and signed up the Gathering speakers. The Design Team did many conference calls for brain storming and task assignments. Many details were finally set in the month of July. Big thanks to the immediate past Moderator Maxine Hunter who did six email blasts in July/August - one per week for 6 weeks straight. Those email blasts boosted the registration from both commuters and those who stayed overnight. What did I learn from these powerful email blasts? That is, do not hesitate to do your sales pitch: say something good and say it good again and again from various viewpoints. Thank you so much Maxine. Also, a big thank you to my Design Team as without your devotion this Gathering would not have succeeded.

Our Gathering theme is "Household of Faith", based on the scripture Ephesians 2:17-21. I am an immigrant from Taiwan arriving US 35 years ago as a graduate student. A handful of Gathering leaders and Design Team members are also immigrants. Yet as we experienced together, we did not just talk about immigration. We also learned "It's more than gender or race", "There is always room for one more", "Travelers who do not want to travel", "Christian responses to migrants", "Practicing God's radical hospitality", "Diversity on campus", "It's Not About You" and "When the world is like a global village." May the song we sang "Let Us Build a House – All Are Welcome" (Glory to God Hymnal, #301) be our theme song:

*"Let us build a house where love can dwell and all
can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts
learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of
faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions;
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome
in this place."*

May we, God's children, be more inclusive and welcoming.

Past Moderator

Maxine Hunter

Until We Meet Again

When I was installed as Moderator at our 2014 Silver Bay Triennial, I heard a friendly familiar voice say, "God really has a sense of humor." It made me smile and I thought, "God you do, indeed, have a sense of humor, because it is me, Maxine, standing here as the newly installed PWSNE Moderator singing, "Here I Am, Lord." I felt this way because being your Moderator was a position I never aspired to or even thought—wrapped in the cloak of my happy go luckily personally—that I would ever be asked to take. But God had other plans for me and for this organization. I was now the person placed at the helm. But the good news is I knew it was about all of us. It was not just "here I am, Lord", but it was "we are, Lord."

These past three years have flown by for me. Together we faced the loss of several of our PW sisters. Together it was a time filled with friends and laughter as we worked for Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Northeast. Together it was about building upon the household of faith by opening our minds and hearts in deeper and more meaningful ways toward each other. Together it was about continuing the journey which our founding sisters started over 200 years ago. It was an awesome experience. I thank you for gifting me with this short time as your Moderator.

Now we are all on different or new journeys in our work in Presbyterian Women. As we journey forth I leave you with the words from my favorite Irish Blessing:

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm on your face.
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

~God Bless~
Maxine

Churchwide CT Rep

JoAnn Burrell

Greetings Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast:

It was a joy seeing so many of you at the 2017 PWSNE Triennial at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, New York. The Gathering based upon Ephesians 2:17-21, the Household of Faith, was educational, enlightening, joyous, and a great time to network with each other.

Gathering are the places to find new friends, develop your faith, and learn something new. My first PWS gathering was 1996, and my first PWCT gathering was 1997. I was hooked! I have learned many things I never would have found out about through my own readings or through my church. I have learned about issues plaguing mankind as well as mission projects that help the world. I urge you to become active in your PWC, PWP or PWS groups. If you don't have any of these groups, start one yourself!

I also urge you to support the PW Mission Pledge. The mission pledge funds go to support the mission and ministry activities of PW. PW does a lot. We do mission in every area you can think of. The USA Mission Experience and the Global Exchange programs are two of the areas that the Mission Pledge supports.

Make an individual gift/donation to the Mission Pledge, and speak with your PWC, PWP, or PWS Moderator(s) about the Mission Pledge, or call Patricia Longfellow at 844-797-2872, ext. 8015 about the pledge. You will know that you are a part of helping the world be a better place with your gift to the PW Mission Pledge Fund.

I am excited for our future service to the world together through the Presbyterian Woman, Inc.

Sincerely,
Jo Ann Burrell
PWSNE Synod Representative to the PWCCT

Global Exchange



Do they use utensils to eat? Do they use toilet paper? Will you need to wear an hijab? Does the water going down the drain go clock wise or counter clockwise (because we will be on the other side of the equator)? These are the questions that my granddaughters have been asking me about my upcoming trip to Indonesia for the Global Exchange.

Yes, I do have my own questions. I am full of excitement and wonder that I have been the chosen one to represent the Presbyterian Women of the Northeast. I am just awed that I am following in the footsteps of such a legacy of women that have gone on previous Global Exchanges: Maggie Lewis = Caribbean; Lucy Janjigian & Jenny Lee = India; Jenny Lee & Ruth Aimee-Belonni-Rosario = Eastern Europe; Dotsie Shaw & Alpha Brown = Africa; Robert Mansfield = Brazil. All of these women came back with some wonderful memories and relationships. I just hope that I can live up to their reputations.

“Building Bridges of Understanding” ... so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith both yours and mine (Romans 1:120 is the theme of this year’s Global Exchange to Indonesia, September 12-29). Building bridges of understanding, as Sisters of Christ we will: learn how to live respectfully in a multi-faith culture and encourage and accompany one another as together we seek a more peaceful and just world. We will hear the joys and pain that our sisters there experience, and to share faith stories and ministries with one another.

Christianity is a minority religion in Indonesia. One of our events will be attending a panel discussion at a Christian Center with women that represent some of the religions: Muslim, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. We will learn how all of these and many other religions co-exist.

We will be on the Island of Java visiting four different locations: Jakarta, Solo (Surakarta), Yagakarta and Bali. In Jakarta, we will be staying at a Church Guest House.

Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers deployed to Indonesia are eagerly awaiting our arrival and are anxious to share their work and ministry with us. We will be learning more about their aiding the local folk with their entrepreneurs and also about batik, a method of cloth dying.

Attending this year’s Global Exchange will be 12 Synod Representatives, the Churchwide Moderator Carol Winkler, Churchwide Staff Kathy Reeves and Laura Lee. This will be Kathy’s last Global Exchange as she will be retiring the following September. Laura Lee is the art director for the *Horizons* Bible Study, *Horizons* Magazine and all other PW publications.

I am so grateful for all the generous donations given to Synod Global Exchange account to make the next GX possible. Like I said in the beginning, the funds were there for me to attend, but the expectations were that we raise the money to replenish the account to afford the next person to attend. There have been so many individual personal donations, Presbytery PW donations, Geneva area restaurants & Billsboro Winery for hosting a fund raising evening. Each and every donation has been so appreciated. The Geneva PW Coordinating Team, churches, & Moderator Linda Werts have been so generous with their donations and time, as well.

I look forward to sharing with everyone my findings upon my return. I ask you all to keep our delegation in your prayers. Next year, some of the women from Indonesia will come to visit us to share their stories and attend the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, August 2018.

~~Virginia Champlin
Synod of the Northeast Representative

Global Exchange Necklaces

WOW! Our Synod Women donated their love for the Women in Indonesia with the most beautiful hand knitted necklaces. Put together they were quite a beautiful rainbow. Thank You everyone for your generosity.

Virginia Champlin

Instructions: The yarn is hard to find in retail stores.

Look for ribbon yarns, track yarns, or flag yarns online. Try YarnParadise.com. Your crochet hook should be large; size J is best.

Pull out a length of yarn about 13 inches long and leave it unworked. On the same strand, next work a chain stitch for approximately 13 inches. About 42 stitches work for me, but it may take more or less, depending on the thickness of the yarn. Keep your work loose! Leave another 13 inches unworked. Cut. Pull the yarn through the last stitch and fasten off. Make as many of these chains as you want in your necklace. I usually put five to seven together to make a necklace. After you have completed the number of chains that you want, hold them together so they line up. Then tie a knot in all of them together about three inches from the end of the chain. Tie a similar knot three inches from the other end of the strands. Tie the two ends together in another knot. Pull this knot very tight so that it will not come undone when you pull the necklace over your head. You can determine the length of your necklace by where you tie this final knot; leaving approximately one inch outside the knot will work for most women's head sizes. If you have left more than one inch at the end, measure about one inch down and trim all yarn ends to that length. If you have a shorter end, trim ends to be even. If you wish to make the necklace adjustable, pull all strands through a bead with a darning needle or small crochet hook, before tying the final knot. The bead works as a slide so the necklace can be shortened.

Please Note: Contact Virginia for the last date to send to her: email at: danvirginiac@aol.com

Hudson River PWP India Mission

For the last year and a half, PWP of Hudson River has been involved with a small community in the far northeast of India, where the local pastor of the Zou Presbyterian Church has been attempting to build a facility along the lines of the Stony Point Center. We were able to fulfill Rev. Muanmangthang's original request for sewing machines, instructors and fabric to develop a women's sewing cooperative.

It was immediately apparent that this was only the beginning of what was needed. The village of Singngat is an impoverished farming community of the slash and burn variety, with no nearby source of water, or toilets.

Rev. Gary Myers is a retired PC(USA) pastor who has made several trips to the area, and who has seen and dedicated the sewing machines. Between the congregations in Hudson River and those with which Rev. Myers is involved, we have so far also been able to provide:

chickens and a coop for a Heifer style Project, a dozen beehives, for honey and cultivation of more bees, a water pump, piping, and two water tanks near to the villagers' homes, a supply of cleaner cookstoves to replace three-stone open fires, horrible for health, deforestation, and air pollution.

Worth noting and applauding is the effort of Diana Behan's granddaughter Hannah, who raised an amazing amount to provide beehives!! Also noteworthy is Rev. Mangmuanthang's concern about climate change, and how it will affect the monsoons they experience.

I am thrilled to report that this project is the recipient of the Triennial offering of \$1620!!! The first priority will be to build a latrine to be used by the women working at the sewing center! Many thanks to Su-Ling Lai and the Design team, and to all the women who contributed!

This very informal project has been rewarding, because once we send the funds, work in India be-

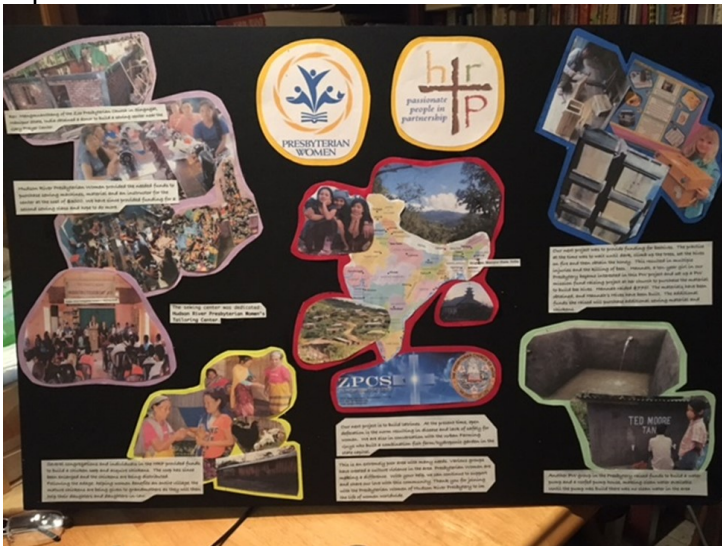
gins; there is no middle organization. Rev. Mangmuanthang is faithful about sending photos of the work as it progresses, and photos of the receipts for the building materials they use. It doesn't often work that way in India! You can see some of the results on the wonderful poster our moderator Diana assembled! (diana.pwhrp@gmail.com)

I invite any other PWPs to join us in this effort. In particular, assistance from some of the PWPs that have been working on women's hygiene issues would be appreciated! The women do have sewing machines, but I've been having trouble locating instructions that can be understood by women with little education. And more cookstoves are needed to supply the villagers. Funds (payable to Presbyterian Women of Hudson River Presbytery) should be sent to:

Julia Coss (juliaecoss@gmail.com)
39 Emerson Ave
New Rochelle, NY 10801

Thank you!!

Judy Wason (judy.pwhrp@gmail.com)



Three Thank Offering Recipients in the Synod of the Northeast

In the fall of 2016 Presbyterian Women through out PCUSA donated enough money to the Thank Offering Fund to offer grants totaling \$382,500. In late winter of 2017, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of the PW Churchwide Coordinating Team reviewed ninety-two applications. Fifteen projects were chosen. Two of the projects chosen to receive a 2017 Thank Offering Grant are within the Synod of the Northeast. Both projects are featured in this promotional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

South End Neighborhood Tutors, Inc.

The Wizard's Wardrobe

Albany, New York

\$10,000

The Wizard's Wardrobe is a one-on-one afterschool-tutoring program for children in the first and second grades. This program seeks to stimulate students' enthusiasm for learning and increase their literacy levels by helping them write and produce their own storybooks. This Thank Offering grant will be used to purchase digital recorders, computers, printers, and bindery equipment with which to take the collection of ideas to the celebration of finished books. www.thewizardwardrobe.org

Capacity Building for Hope Mission School (a mission of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany, NY)

Bernard Farm Community, Paynesville Township, Liberia

\$18,300

Hope Mission School exists to sustain itself economically and to ensure educational and vocational opportunities for the community's youth. This grant will contribute to the expansion of the school to a full high school by adding 11th and 12th grades, and will introduce new vocational training that will lead to new income streams. The grant will also be used to purchase generators and a small freezer. The school will produce income by selling cold drinks and excess power for recharging cell phones and other electronic devices.

www.wpcalbany.org

Asociación La Iglesia de Dios (ALIDD) endorsed by the PW in Synod of the Northeast and PW in the Presbytery of PWP Cayuga-Syracuse

Centro Diaconal Comunitario

Argentina
\$49,500

This Thank Offering grant will be used to provide integral assistance to families living in situations of poverty in Argentina. Within a Christian context of support and hope, assistance will include clothing, food, help with school homework, Bible school and periodic workshops on social health issues like addiction, teen pregnancy, domestic violence and career counseling.

www.elmanantialdevida.es.tl

Information on other recipients can be found in the July/August '17 Horizons. Thank Offering Grant recipients are required to provide programs for PW groups, if invited. They make great Gathering speakers. The Creative Ministries Offering Committee carefully vets recipients. For this reason, they are good projects to support with your mission money.

Submitted by Charlotte Hasselbarth

Together in Service

Rosalie Hemmingway

I have heard from several groups in our synod that have been busy collecting school supplies for distribution in their local areas as well as producing school kits to send through Church World Service. Some are also supporting the Backpack project through their local food pantries or directly with the schools to provide healthy food items for use on weekends by children who might otherwise go hungry when not getting meals at school. The gift of a food filled backpack or bag of school supplies not only provides essentials for children who might otherwise go without but shares God's love and lets the recipient know that others are thinking of them and are concerned for their health and welfare.

October is Domestic Violence month and many of our groups support their local shelters and transitional houses. It's not too late to plan a collection of useful items for the women and children staying in the safe houses or being transitioned to independent living.

With colder winter approaching those who knit and crochet are busy preparing their donations of warm hats, mittens, scarves, and blankets that are then distributed to local shelters and sent throughout the world. Knitting4peace is still requesting knit items so keep up the good work as there are many who don't have adequate protection from the cold.

Several groups had posters and information about their mission projects at the Synod Triennial this month. The Crayon initiative was highlighted. This is a project to collect crayons which are made of wax and is not biodegradable and recycles them into new crayons to be given to children in need (www.thecrayoninitiative.org). Park Presbyterian PW are still collecting money for solar lanterns for South Sudan to provide teachers and students with light so they are able to do school work at home after dusk. To buy lanterns contact Linda Werts at Park PC (315) 331-2255 or parkchurch110@gmail.com.

I will be sending out a report on the activities of some of the congregational PW groups in the fall and hope it will inspire you to keep working for mission or give you ideas for projects for your own groups. If you have not sent me a mission report for 2016 and wish to be included, please do so.

I'd like to close with a quote by Melissa gates that was printed in the June Reader's Digest as it applies to Presbyterian Women's focus and activities.

"Optimism for me isn't a passive expectation that things will get better. It's a conviction that we can make things better - that whatever suffering we see, no matter how bad it is, we can help people if we don't lose hope and we don't look away."

Rosalie Hemmingway, Together in Service Coordinator

Note from Rhonda Sanchez

Hi, this is Rhonda Sanchez,

I am the representative for PWSNE that attended the USAME to San Francisco last year: Out of the Darkness, Into the Light. I am more than happy to discuss my experience and what I learned. Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (347-498-6260) or email

DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL LIFE AT BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE NAMED FIRST ROBERT L. WASHINGTON SCHOLAR



By [Alicia Cook](#)

Rev. Terri Ofori, the College Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life at Bloomfield College, was one of three chosen as a Robert L. Washington Scholar by the Synod of the Northeast.

"I am honored to have been chosen as a Robert Washington Scholar and I am committed to honoring the legacy of the late Robert Washington and his family," said Rev. Ofori. "I am especially grateful to be the first woman, and a woman of color, in the Synod to receive this honor."

Robert (Bob) Lee Washington was a teacher, preacher, and activist. He dedicated his life to teaching, and creating opportunities to further the church, civil rights, and economic

equality. In the Presbyterian Church, he served in all levels: at the General Assembly, the Synod of the Northeast, the Presbytery of New York City, and the Session of Rendall Memorial Presbyterian Church in Harlem, NY. It is in his memory and honor that this program has been established.

In mid-January, the Synod's Committee on Representation met to review 12 Robert L. Washington Scholar applications and to select the inaugural group of Scholars. An extremely competitive process, the Committee was looking for Scholars who possess a strong commitment to exploring innovative ways of being gospel communities, are excited to lead gospel communities through the changing landscape of mainline Christianity, are interested in middle governing body leadership, and hold a desire to engage in personal and ecclesiastical transformation.

The Robert L. Washington Scholars program will provide resources for robust discernment regarding vocation, call, and abilities of service for the Church. Each year funding will be provided for three Scholars, which includes training through an approved leadership formation program.

The first Scholars chosen were Rev. Ofori; Rev. Mario Alberto Bolivar, the Associate Pastor for Technology, Youth, and Family of the Skaneateles Presbyterian Church; and Rev. Hyon Kim, who has served two Korean churches in the NY/NJ area and began as the Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk of the Eastern Korean Presbytery in January 2017. These three Scholars will attend the Executive Leadership Certificate Program at McCormick Theological Seminary as well as retreats with Synod staff.

Apart from her Bloomfield College duties, Rev. Ofori currently serves as the Interim Minister of the United Church of Spring Valley, the Chaplain to the Synod Commission of the Synod of the Northeast PC (USA), and the Clergywoman Representative for the Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast Coordinating Team. She has served congregations throughout New Jersey and as a chaplain at Brown University and Wellesley. Rev. Ofori also served as Director of the Harvard University Memorial Church School under the tutelage of the late Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes

The Rev. Ofori received her Th.M in Education and Spiritual Formation and a certificate in Transitional Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. She later received her M. Div. from Harvard University, and a M.A.T. in Cross Cultural Theology from Columbia International University. She is currently studying Christian Spirituality and Spiritual Direction at Fordham University

Rev. Ofori, alongside her husband, Dr. David Ofori, are co-founders of the P.A.Y.L.A. (Pan African Youth Leadership Academy), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing academic and leadership development skills to at risk youth.

Searching for the Moon

Olivia Orth

Note from Maxine Hunter: Olivia Orth, 2016-2017 Young Adult Volunteer stationed in Zambia that received one of PWSNE's YAV Grants, is a member of the Mayfield Central Presbyterian Church, Mayfield, New York if the Albany Presbytery. As a thank you to PWSNE she sent us this reflection of her experience.

Zambia is a country of great beauty, but that beauty can get covered up, drowned out, glossed over, and forgotten. I get caught up in the hard days. I get caught up in the eyes of my students who haven't eaten. I get caught up in the bruises that they try to hide. I get caught up in the lies that they try to tell themselves are true.

I get caught up in the sad days. I get caught up in fighting for a woman's right to not be pushed around by a man she refuses as her husband. I get caught up in half-stories that keep me up at night. I get caught up in consoling students who have lost their loved ones too early.

I get caught up in the unknown. I get caught up in deliberating about when I should listen and when I should speak. I get caught up in believing that stepping in was the right decision, when culturally I may have been wrong. I get caught up in wondering which of my students won't be able to afford to come to school tomorrow. I get caught up hoping that tomorrow is better.

I get caught up all the time. Sometimes, it is hard for me not to get caught up in the hard days, the sadness, and the unknown. Sometimes it feels like I am searching for ways to get caught up in the bad, but then something happens and I get caught up for a whole new reason.

I get caught up in a sunset. I get caught up in the calming beauty that a Zambian sunset brings, especially right now during the rainy season. I get caught up in the colors that dance across the sky the way water color paint does when your brush first touches a wet surface. I get caught up in the reminder that rain does not just bring mud, but also flourishing vegetation, crops, and vibrant rainbows. I get caught up in the beauty that surrounds me.

I get caught up when I'm teaching. I get caught up in that moment when the lightbulb goes off in the minds of my students. I get caught up in them finally feeling comfortable enough to ask me for help. I get caught up in my students telling me that they like when I answer their questions. I get caught up in my students telling me that they enjoy math for the first time in their school career.

I get caught up in the laughter. I get caught up in the joy on people's face when I greet them in Nyanja, or Tumbuka (which is much rarer). I get caught up in the smiles on my students' faces when I remember their names.

I get caught up in the hugs from my host family when I haven't seen them in 24 hours. I get caught up in the reunion of friends that I do not see as often as I would like. I get caught up in the love of my family who encourages me and keeps me going on the other side of the world.

Some days it is hard to get caught up in the good things. Some days I feel more defeated than uplifted. Some days, I need to choose to get caught up in the sunsets, and the smiles, and the laughter. Some days I need to just have a little more faith in the path that God has set out before me. I have happiness here, some days, I just need to search a little harder to find it.

"However long the moon disappears, some day it must shine again."

Little Bee, a novel by Chris Cleave

Thank You

THANK YOU everyone for your generosity in giving to our missions at the recent Triennial Gathering in Albany. We collected \$1,620 for the Hudson River PWP mission in Singngat, India. Also \$100 will be going to the Presbyterian Cents-ability (2 Cents A Meal) hunger relief program from our meal collection jars at the Gathering. For those who did not attend the Triennial Gathering at Albany---you missed a great program!!

Gloria Hanewald, PWSNE Treasurer

Request to PWP Moderators

Please check out the pwsne.org website. On the right side is a link for each presbytery to their own website, Facebook page and current newsletter. If the link is not correct or if you have something new to add, please send it to Kathy Nealand at Revnealand05@gmail.com.

If you have events, please send the information to our webservant for posting on the website.

If you took pictures at the 2017 Triennial event, please send them to Kathy at revnealand05@gmail.com.



Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering 2018 Silent Auction Donation Form

Date _____

Donor Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Group Contact Name/PW Position/Title _____

Contact Phone _____ Email _____

Synod/Presbytery/Congregation Affiliation (if different than group name above) _____

Description of Donated Item/s _____

Item/s Value _____

Submit a completed form **by July 15, 2018** to Rhonda Martin email: rhonda.martin@pcusa.org; fax: 502/333-7596 Mail: Rhonda Martin, PW Auction, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202
Questions? Please contact Judy Persons - jpcREATEPW@gmail.com

-----**For Office Use Only**

Date Received _____

Item Number Assigned _____

Date Bid Sheet Created/Completed _____

Included in Silent Auction Item List G Yes

Date _____

Monmouth PWP

The fall gathering will be held at BRICK Presbyterian Church

On October 28th. The theme is The heart of centering prayer.

Speaker the Rev John Monroe, pastor of the Rumson Presbyterian Church. ALL women are invited also all clergy women are invited.

Don't forget to wear an orange ribbon on the 25th day of the Month. Most of all pray for unity and peace.

Northern NY PWP

Ladies who attended the Spring Gathering in NNY PWP



Participating in the two cents a meal

Palisades PWP

On Saturday, September 23, 2017. The PWPP, will be a service of installation, during the PW "Fall Retreat", that will take place at the Claremont Lafayette United Presbyterian Church, located at 417 Rose Avenue, POB 4392, Jersey City, NJ 07305.

Here are the name of the CT members to be Install:

Moderator: Mrs. Adina Yacoub, in place of former moderator Mrs. Sophie Diaz-Corporan.

Treasurer: Mrs. Debora Heatwole, former "Together In Service/Mission

Together In Service/Mission: Mrs. Brenda Calloway, (New elected)

Horizons: Mrs. Marion Gregg-Whited, (she is also our Peace and Justice Coordinator.

Submitted by Sophie Diaz-Corporan

Scenes from the pond at the Desmond



PW Fall Retreat



Presentation:
Mrs. Rhonda Sanchez
Pw Mission Trip



Service of Worship
& Communion:
Rev. Samuel Weddington
Pastor: Maywood
Presbyterian



Out of the darkness ...into the light

**Sat. Sept. 23, 2017 9:15 am –
1:30 pm** REGISTRATION:

**Claremont Lafayette United
Presbyterian Church** *Do not miss this*

Only \$2.00 Lunch and
Dessert will be provided.

18 Claremont Ave, Jersey City, NJ 07305

*opportunity of
praising, learning*



The 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held August 2–5, 2018 in Louisville, Kentucky. 2018 is also the year that PW celebrates its 30th anniversary! That is why, each month for 30 months leading up to the Gathering, we are sending an email like this one to help you prepare, promote and plan for the Gathering (and PW's anniversary)

Look for the Gathering Booklet near the end of the Year. Register as soon as you can after you receive it. If you have not placed yourself on the email list for PW Churchwide do so to keep up with the Gathering information.

If you have never been to a Churchwide Gather plan to attend in Louisville next summer. It will be a great spiritual refreshing time. Women attend from all over the world.

PW Churchwide Website is Now UP!!

(Shiny) Home Sweet Home!

PW Website Renovation Is Complete

You already have PW's address (www.presbyterianwomen.org), but Presbyterian Women's online home has undergone a significant renovation! Take a few moments—on your phone, tablet or computer—to tour PW's fresh new site.

Now, all under one roof, you'll find . . . [PW shop](#)—Buy PW classic, sale and new items!

[Resource downloads](#)—Get free bulletins, fliers, workshops and more!

[Horizons magazine](#) and [Bible study](#)—Find current and encore publications and related items.

[Program information](#)—Helpful information on topics ranging from memorial gifts to PW's many mission and advocacy opportunities

[Gathering](#)—Get excited (and informed) about the 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women (August 2–5, 2018, in Louisville, Kentucky).

[Blogs](#)—Stories and inspiration to nurture your Bible study, mission, justice and peace ministry and more!

[Easy online giving](#)—Give a secure gift to PW ministries that speak to your heart. And so much more!

And don't forget to regularly visit the Gathering pages, with [Gathering FAQs](#), [a silent auction donation form](#), [Gathering timeline](#) and [promotion ideas](#)!

Meet Your Coordinating Team

Our Coordinating Team is fully staffed for which we are grateful for. For your information your editor will be listing each by position along with their email address and PWP they are from. Other information will be found on the PWSNE website at pwsne.org.

Moderator: Lisa Gray
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Churchwide Coordinating Team Rep from PWSNE
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Continued to next page

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Please Note: We do not have a representative for Native American Women.

Triennial Highlights

Susan Silliman Smith

The Triennial Gathering was full of excitement and learning experiences. Everyone was able to participate in each of the three workshops. Presbyterian Women are on the ball to be flexible. This occurred as Carol Winkler Plenary Speaker and was to be workshop leader was delayed due to various transportation issues. Nevertheless she made it to the Desmond very late on Friday night safely. We have so many knowledgeable women in the PWSNE who could step in. Many thanks to our great Design Team headed by Su-Ling Lai.

Our first speaker was the Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia who spoke on the theme: “There’s Always Room for One More” She emphasized Christian Hospitality—Welcome to all and befriending all. Hospitality isn’t just welcoming that person to church on Sunday morning but incorporating that person into the life of the congregation. We all need to remind ourselves we are all citizens of God’s kingdom. We also need to educate ourselves to issues that confront everyone.

Jenny Lee presented a workshop on “Ruth the Migrant Women’s Story.” She used not only the story of Ruth but also several others in the Bible to illustrate some of her points. We learn to accept foreigners as we get to know them.

Our music leader Chi Yi Chen Wolbrink presented an wonderful workshop on “Music: We are the Church” She led us through various songs from various publications. Everything focused on the theme of Hospitality. We enjoyed using various types of percussion instruments to beat with the music. It was so much fun. Think about this: “How do we welcome our neighbors and enliven singing around our community”

A great panel discussion was held on Saturday on regarding Immigration and Diversity. This was not only thought provoking but also educational as well.

Our music ministry was filled with enthusiasm and was lively. Chi Yi Chen Wolbrink and Ching-Yu Huang encouraged us to be filled with joy while singing some new and some old hymns.

Finally Carol Winkler, our Churchwide moderator was able to combine her workshop and plenary talks. She also had an activity for us to participate in, helping us to be open about various portions of our lives that might be difficult for us to express. We need to learn the story of our name, where born, as well as that of our parents and grandparents. Learn to build community. How do we welcome and show hospitality to strangers in our midst? Responses were written by the body. It is difficult to sum up: for the sake of space I will mention a few. —“A friendly smile and a song!” :”Do something together that is meaningful to all members in the group/church”; “Learn and remember new people’s names as that requires talking to them more than once to get to know them”; “Reach out to others in community—senior groups, college students, bring programs to them or provide transportation” Plan multi generational activities”; “Music can bring us together” “Move Bible Study groups around to different areas”; “Educate myself more about other cultures” (Side note: other cultures do not necessarily mean ethnicity but also the blind culture, deaf culture, and others.) “Acknowledge others accomplishments and ask them to speak on them” Follow up with those who come to worship, sending cards or letters, in good weather leave door open to sanctuary to show welcome.

An opportunity was available to share time with others at meal time and at the hospitality room after or sharing your room with a group to socialize.

Hope you will plan to attend further gatherings to meet your sisters in Christ from all over.

Susan Silliman Smith

Triennial Photos

Your editor received many photos but will only print a few. Credits go to Diane Nafash and Su Liu, your editor also put in a couple.



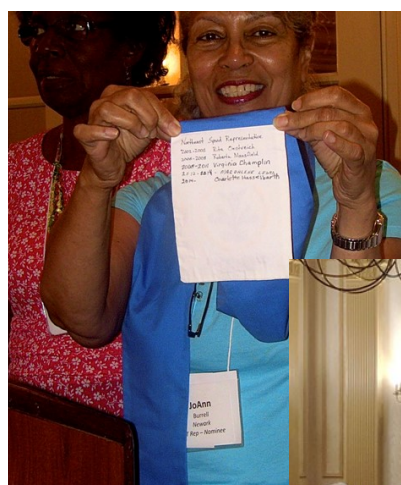
CT Installation of officers



Lisa Gray installed as new moderator



Maxine Hunter says farewell as Moderator



JoAnn Burrell as CT rep



Left Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia, moderator of the panel and plenary speaker; panel above right



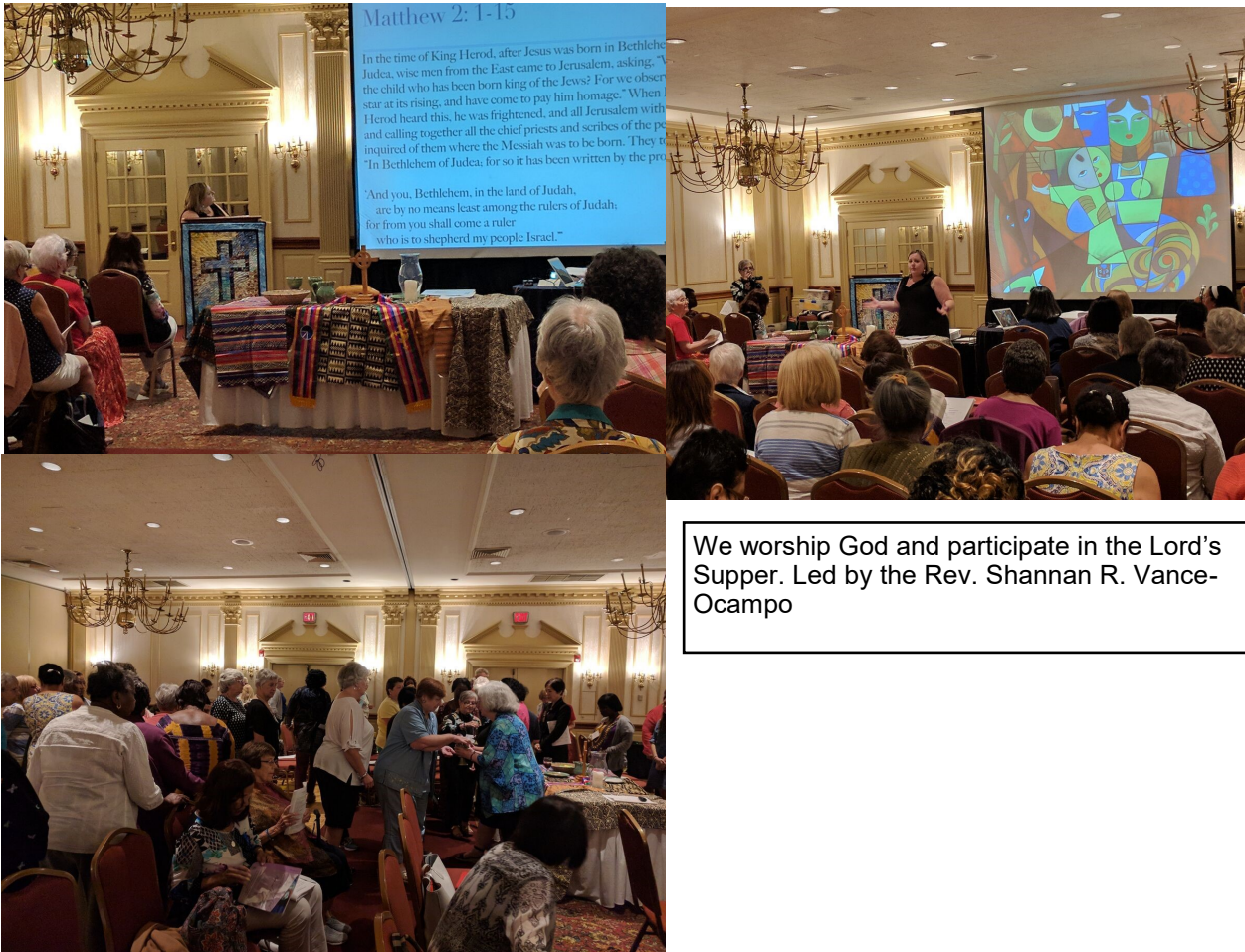
Carol Winkler speaks and leads us in an activity. She's shares a meal with Adelle Stewart and is greeted by JoAnn Burrell



We partake a meal together and join in fellowship with one another:



Everyone may not have been at the tables when photos were taken.



We worship God and participate in the Lord's Supper. Led by the Rev. Shannan R. Vance-Ocampo

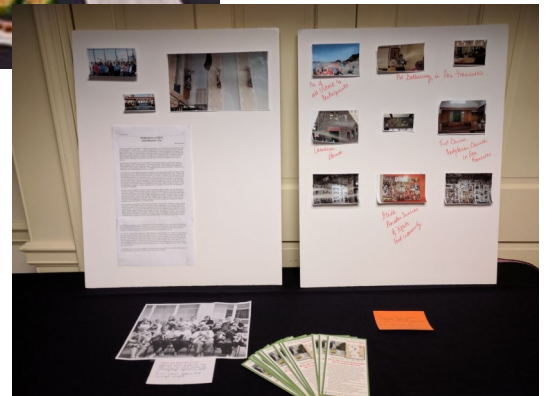
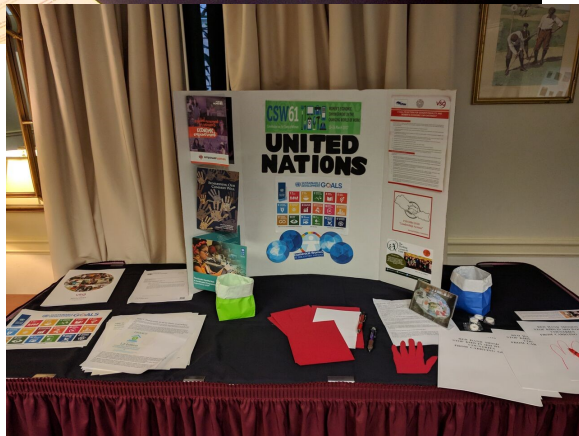
The Gathering ends but not without feeling spiritually refreshed and meeting old and new friends. Til we meet again.

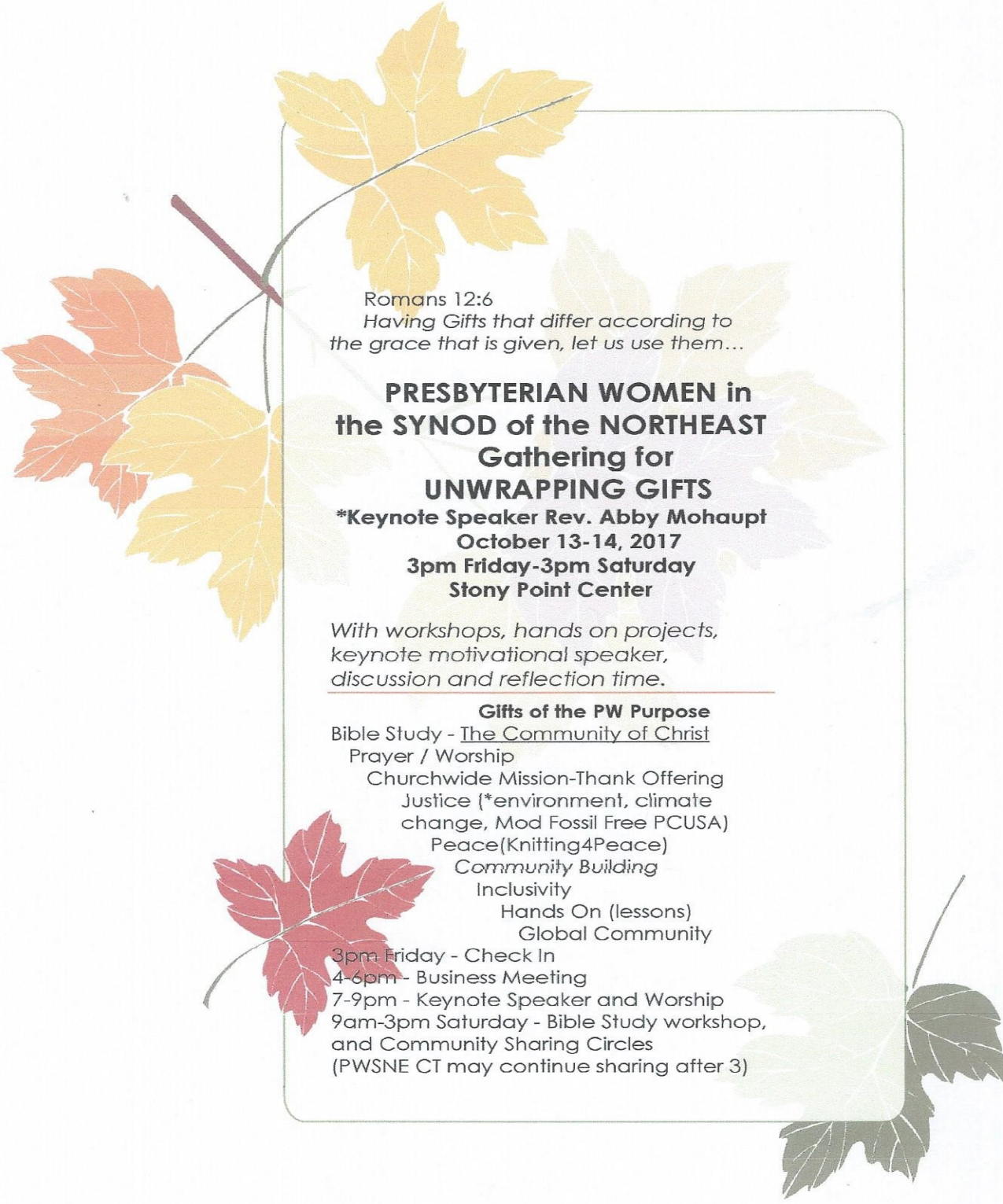


Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ
and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace,
- and to build an inclusive and caring community of women
that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA)
and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Various Projects





Romans 12:6
*Having Gifts that differ according to
 the grace that is given, let us use them...*

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN in
 the SYNOD of the NORTHEAST
 Gathering for
 UNWRAPPING GIFTS**

***Keynote Speaker Rev. Abby Mohaupt
 October 13-14, 2017
 3pm Friday-3pm Saturday
 Stony Point Center**

*With workshops, hands on projects,
 keynote motivational speaker,
 discussion and reflection time.*

Gifts of the PW Purpose

Bible Study - The Community of Christ

Prayer / Worship

Churchwide Mission-Thank Offering

Justice (*environment, climate
 change, Mod Fossil Free PCUSA)

Peace(Knitting4Peace)

Community Building

Inclusivity

Hands On (lessons)

Global Community

3pm Friday - Check In

4-6pm - Business Meeting

7-9pm - Keynote Speaker and Worship

9am-3pm Saturday - Bible Study workshop,
 and Community Sharing Circles

(PWSNE CT may continue sharing after 3)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN in the SYNOD of the NORTHEAST

UNWRAPPING GIFTS

October 13-14, 2017

REGISTRATION

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ E-MAIL _____

PRESBYTERY _____ EMERGENCY CONTACT _____

SPECIAL NEEDS (dietary, mobility, etc) _____

PWP Moderators/PWS CT members – PWS pays your room and board for (double occupancy)	
Program Fee – All pay, non-refundable	\$35 (Early registration \$25)
Single room - Add \$60	
Total for PWP/PWS Member	
Roommate	

ALL Other Overnight Attendees	
Program Fee – All pay, non-refundable	\$35 (early registration \$25)
Double Room, per person	\$130
Single Room	\$190
Total for All Other Attendees	
Roommate	

Saturday Only Attendee	
Program Fee – All pay, non-refundable	\$35 (early registration \$25)
Day Use Fee	\$35 (early registration \$25)
Total for Saturday only Attendee	

Please check here if you are a new PW in the Synod of the Northeast Coordinating Team Member _____

Please check here if you are a new PW in the Presbytery Moderator _____

Please check here if neither of the above _____

Make checks payable to: Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast (PWSNE), and mail it with payment **BEFORE SEPT 15 FOR REDUCED EARLY REGISTRATION FEE**

(Deadline September 30th) to

Registrar:

Jane MacDonald (jkmac3536@gmail.com) 35 Hillside Ave Newton, NJ 07860-1927