

The Lighthouse



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

August 2018

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the North Northeast

Moderators Message



Lisa Gray

As I was sitting in the lobby of the Galt House in Louisville (KY) after the closing worship of The Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, I realized it is the only hotel there on the Ohio River. Some of us who had late flights took a ride on the paddleboat "Belle" to unwind and see the sights. I now realize this actually was the start of our **"sending out"**. One of the keynote speakers Rev. Katherine Blankenship said: **"An awakening without action is just theoretical."** She went on: **"An awakening needs action to interpret it for our lives."** After I heard this young pastor speak I switched and attended her workshop **"21st Century Mission"** which I'm hoping to discuss with **ALL OF YOU** when you attend the Fall Gathering of PWSNE **Bringing Back the Light.**

I did also attend a workshop (among others) on Gun Violence led by the man who made the video **Trigger** which I now have a copy of. I thought we'd show it after the Friday night program at our Gathering, with some snacks and beverages. I don't mean to make light of such a serious issue but how better to plan how we can respond in our own areas but through fellowship?

Can we brainstorm together how to be Presbyterian Women without a formal structure (ways to have women serve for one year terms or just one project for starters) ***and how to be Presbyterian women if no one wants to "join" or "lead" a CRICLE?*** (ways to focus around social justice issues with perhaps one event a year?) We need Presbytery ***Contacts/Communicators*** to disseminate the PWSNE information for those who are disbanding or dwindling. PWP's need keepers of MAILING LISTS of contacts at local churches to help pass on our newsletters and action alerts at a very MINIMUM. ***If you are a moderator do you forward my emails to your churches who in turn forward it to someone in the congregation who might be interested?***

This Fall Gathering is no longer called "leadership training, nor development". It's **Community collaboration, worshiping together, energizing and information gathering.** SO THIS MEANS ANY WOMAN

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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 August 14, Due to the Churchwide Gathering.

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

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

Moderator's message continued

WHO WANTS TO GET YOUR LOCAL CHURCH OR PRESBYTERY INVOLVED WITH the purposes of Presbyterian Women, **IT'S FOR YOU!**

I'm always astounded at the Churchwide Gatherings of how generous PW is!

As of the Friday evening plenary the offering totaled \$32,952! Those dollars are going to the Celebration Giving (2018 Mission pledge Fund) to support all PW does. The gift cards that went to three ministries in the area raised \$11,787 and the Cents-Ability (aka 2 cents a meal) gathered \$482 to the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Presbytery Moderators or their delegate MUST ATTEND THE ANNUAL BUSINESS meeting.

Coordinating Team members also must attend to present their assigned duties and help plan for 2019! Must is a strong word but please consider attending.

Arise, shine, your light has come!

Lisa Gray, Moderator PWSNE

Monmouth PWP

MONMOUTH gathering

October 27th is the Fall gathering for all women, held at

Point Pleasant Presbyterian church,

POINT Pleasant, n j

9 am registration 9 30 program.

THEME KNITTING THE UNITY TOGETHER

SPEAKER: LISA GRAY Our synod of the Northeast

Presbyterian moderator.

We have also invited the following presbyteries

New Brunswick, and Elizabeth. All are welcome

Including clergy women.

Lori Evans moderator.

Presbyterian Women Synod of NE Representative To the Churchwide Coordinating Team

JoAnn Burrell

It has been a busy and exciting ten months since my last report.

Between 11/17 and 01/15/18, I reviewed the 2018 PW Creative Ministries Thank Offering Grant applications. The Creative Ministries Offering Committee (CMOC) reviewed 83 applications and selected sixteen for funding. We selected twelve USA projects and four International projects for the 2018 grants. The names of the organizations, and a short description of the projects are in the July/August 2018 Horizon's Magazine. We selected "Diverse, yet one in Christ" as the theme using Romans 12:4-6a as our guide for the Thank Offering Grant Celebration. The bulletin insert is in the Horizons Magazine, previously mentioned, and a separate packet is available at our Web site. The order number is #PWR18475. Please share the bulletin information with your congregations to let them know the wonderful work the Presbyterian Women are doing in mission in the US and the world. I was honored with the task of writing the Dedication Service for the 2018 Thank Offering Grant. I urge you to brag about what PW has done in 30 years. We have funded over \$64,000,000 through our Thank and Birthday Grants. Share the stories, never let people forget how important Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Inc. are.

In March 2018, I attended the five-day Spring PWCCT meeting. At this meeting we approved items that would come for vote at the August 2, 2018 PWCCT Triennial meeting. Under New Business: PW, Inc. would be active in fighting injustice of sexual and gender-based violence and eliminating the full title of women's accomplishments in their careers, education, and

(Presbyterian Women Synod of NE Representative To the Churchwide Coordinating Team —continued)

positions on Boards and committees. The following will be changes under By Laws: Young Women Representative recommendations will now come from the Presbyterian Mission Agency staff since there presently is no longer an organization that recommends. Under Terms: Directors are not eligible to serve for another term for at least three years. The Budget for 2018 to 2021 was addressed. All were approved to be voted on at the Triennial meeting in August 2018. The 08/02/18 meeting minutes and reports can be found on the PW Web site.

I attended the Newton Book Group study each month, and we covered a number of books listed in the Horizon's Magazine. I attended the Newark PWP and Newton PWP Spring Gatherings. I was unable to attend the Palisades PWP, Western Jersey PWP, Albany PWP, and Monmouth PWP Spring Gatherings due to previous engagements. All of the gatherings were in the month of April.

I am the Chair of the USAME to the Finger Lakes Region in New York in July 2019. This mission trip is to learn about the culture of the region, the issues in the area, women's rights movement, the civil rights movement, meet with our Mennonite community, learn the history of this important historical region, learn about immigration past and present, and to listen to the joys and concerns of our sisters and brothers that live there. The local and national committee members are finalizing the contracts that are necessary, and the daily activities and hands-on activities during the trip. Applications are due from PW Synod Moderators on September 1, 2018. Selections will be made at the September 20, 2018 USAME Committee meeting.

I have been working with the "Sisters In Spirit" mentoring program at Bloomfield College. We did a meet and greet with the students that wanted a mentor, and we had a Retreat on May 21-22, 2018 at Stony Point Center. It has been a challenge in connecting with the students, but we are working with these young women to guide them into their college years and beyond.

I received a wonderful Together In Service (TIS) Report from our PWSNE TIS Representative, Rosalie Hemingway. The women in the Northville United PC, United PC of Yardville, West Charlton, Brick PC, and Kathy Waggener provided reports on their mission activities to her. Please let Rosalie know what you are doing. It is important that you share your mission projects with her so that she can get the work out for you.

As of August 2, 2018, Jo Ann Estella is your new PWSNE Representative to PWCCT. She is experienced in PW on all levels, and she will be a wonderful representative for you. Please share your joys, concerns, peace, justice, mission, and advocacy activities with her so she can report to PWCCT in the spring of 2019.

I have enjoyed being your representative since July 1, 2017 to 08/02/18. I am now your Vice Moderator of Mission Relations. I will encourage you, and advocate with you during this next Triennium. We will do mission as Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Inc. together!

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Burrell
PWSNE CCT Rep 07/01/17 - 08/02/18

Together in Service Report

Rosalie Hemmingway

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast continued in their tradition of working on projects that help others in their churches, neighborhoods, and around the world. Following is a list of mission reports that I have received this year. There are some interesting ways of raising and using funds that might be of interest to other groups.

Donna Breda of Northville United PC reports that her group makes Cheer boxes that are delivered to shut ins at Easter time. They also do Friendship calling by making visits to shut ins and those in nursing homes as well as contribute to the Northeast food pantry and give to the PW Thank offering and World Hunger funds.

The United PC of Yardville, NJ, as reported by Lois Dixon, collects donations in memory or honor of mothers and splits the money between local, national, and international missions. They also take a love offering at their Christmas luncheon which funds the purchase of winter coats and accessories for children at the local elementary school.

Jean Weed reports that West Charlton's Women's Association has two dinner meetings a year with the money donated going to the speaker's charity. In 2017 they donated to Hope Mission School in Liberia after Felicia Kollie-Gambles spoke to them and to the Ronald McDonald House in Albany after the residence director spoke. They did a Thank Offering service in November with guest speakers from Galway High School, Future Farmers of America, and Buddy Up Galway. In addition they collect for the Galway Food Pantry, collect school supplies, assist with the community Christmas Basket Project, and give to the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center in Saratoga.

Brick Presbyterian in New Jersey continues with their knitting and crocheting work. Per Lori Evans, they made 85 hats for the American Heart Association's Little Hats Big Hearts project and made soft fleece hats for cancer patients at the hospice center in Toms River, NJ. They also made 13 quilts for interfaith hospitality network and make Teddy bears for Baptisms and area hospitals.

Katy Waggener wrote that they collected Church World Service blankets rather than sell the Mother's Day cards which are no longer available and were very successful in this. They added the collection of sanitary pads and tampons for their local food pantry and continued with all the projects that they reported on last year.

The groups not reported on are continuing with their own activities and projects. If you didn't get the list from last year and would like it, please let me know. Send your name and mailing address as I no longer have it on my computer but could make and mail a copy.

Thanks for excellent reports and the good work that you do.

Rosalie Hemmingway, TIS Coordinator

June 29, 2018

Historian

Sandy Grillo

I, along with several thousand other women and some men, attended the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, KY from Aug. 2-5. Details will be given elsewhere, I am sure but for me it was wonderful, fabulous, inspiring and generally a marvelous event. The speakers were blessed with the ability to make us understand what is going on in the world and the workshops dealt with relevant issues. I think we all left saying: What can I do? Where can I help? Along with all these fine speakers that make us want to DO something NOW, we were also made to think about and be inspired by the women that came before us. At each plenary, there were short videos with photos from the last 30 years when the northern and southern women's groups merged as one and became Presbyterian Women. It gave us a glimpse of what these women went through to bring all these thoughts and ideas together to make a unified organization and the wonderful work they accomplished through the years.

We all have history – every one of our groups has a past. If your group has not gathered information on that past and the women that came before, I urge you to do so. Share it with your current group, then keep it safe for those that will come after us. We will soon be history! Take pictures at your events. If you have a historian, give them to her, if not, perhaps your secretary can catalogue them. It is important to have a record of what you are doing now as well as to see where you came from. Label those photos! Oh, how many PWS has that are not identified. Don't let your current CT end in a pile of photos labeled "name unknown". The work you are doing now deserves to be recorded and remembered.

As I have said before, if you have lots and lots of your history in writing and no real place to put it, consider taking or sending it to the Presbyterian Historical Society on Lombard St in Philadelphia, PA. They will catalogue and store all you want to give them and if you ever need it again, it is easily retrievable AND it will be safe for your daughters' daughters to look at and learn from. They will see you in action *back in the day*.

Rita Hooper Talks PW to the Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery

We were at the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville when Rita Hooper received an email from the Moderator of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery asking if she would like to give the sermon at the Presbytery meeting on August 14. After some thought Rita replied she would if she could talk about PW. The reply was in the affirmative.

She presented in an interesting part by using different stoles Part 1 being as Vice Moderator of Presbytery—Using the theme of the PW Churchwide Gathering expanding on the Isa. 60:1-2 verses. Next switching to her PW Moderators Stole where she wonderfully extolled the mission and purpose of PW. Finally ended with the PDA Prep Stole to speak its virtues. It was a wonderful message on what we do as Presbyterian Women.

Susan Silliman Smith



Mission Pledges

Have you made your pledge to PWSNE?

By December 1st of each year PW congregation Treasurers should submit their Mission Pledge Form to their PW Presbytery Moderator or Treasurer. This form lists your pledge for the coming year to PW Churchwide, PW in the Synod, and PW in the Presbytery. Quarterly payments throughout the year go to the PW Presbytery Treasurer, who in turn forwards the monies to Churchwide and to the Synod Treasurer.

If your area no longer has a PW Presbytery then individual churches may send their pledge monies directly to Churchwide and Synod. It should be noted that Churchwide does not provide any funds to the Synod. The operating costs for the Synod comes from pledges received from PW Presbyteries and individual PW church groups within the Synod.

How is the money used? It is used to cover some costs for our annual Fall Gathering. It covers the cost of Synod CT members and PW Presbytery Moderators to attend meetings. It also covers office expenses: copies, postage, bank fees, other supplies (such as envelopes), etc. Additionally, it covers the cost of our web site and any professional fees, such as for auditing. Monies from our operating account may also be used for special mission gifts and some monies are moved to various designated funds, as needed.

In order for PWSNE to continue with their programs we need the support of the PW groups in our Synod. We hope you will remember us in the coming year.

Meet the PWSNE Intern

Ina Yvonne Geathers has been a lifelong member of St. Thomas A.M.E. Zion Church and represents generations of her family who have been members of the church. Ina is the 7th generation of her family from the Borough of Somerville, NJ. Ina attended Somerville Public schools system and graduated from Somerville High School on June 19, 2015. During high school Ina was very involved in school activities, clubs and sport teams. Ina also attended Somerset County VoTechnical High School during the time she attended SHS. There she received 8 college credits and her license for being a Certified Nursing Assistant.

In 2015, Ina chose to further her education at Bloomfield College in Bloomfield, NJ studying Psychology. Ina is currently a junior and is very active on campus. Ina is President of BC Campus Connect which is the campus ministry. Ina also has spear-headed BC Anointed Impact which is the Campus' very own Praise Dance Ministry. Ina believes that where ever she goes she is called to spread God's word and bring lost or confused souls to Christ! She is also Treasurer for First Ladies of Bloomfield College (which is women's empowerment organization on campus), a general member of the Black Student Union (BSU). Ina is also a OSL scholar which is an scholarship given by the department of Spiritual Life and the Chaplain, Rev. Terri Ofori. Ina will be graduating in May of 2019 with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Psychology.

Submitted by Rev.Terri Ofori

Synod of the Northeast
Global Exchange Visitor from Indonesia
Sri Retno Juwita Agustiaty
“Ati”

“Ati” arrived in Synod of the Northeast on late Tuesday night, July 24 at the Buffalo airport. On Wednesday, she visited with Western New York PWP. Of course, this included a trip to Niagara Falls before visiting a Refugee Center.

Thursday was a visit with the Utica PWP. Had a picnic lunch prepared by the coordinating team at Presbyterian Home which included a tour of the facility. Then off to learn about Emmaus Homeless Emergency Shelter for Women, The Abraham House for the Terminally Ill, Healthy Friends, and YWCA where she learned about homeless young women, food pantries, domestic violence, immigration, feeding the hungry, prescription medication financial assistance. The day ended with a visit to an ice cream stand.

Friday was sights and missions in the Geneva Presbytery. First was a visit to Seneca Number Nine. This church building is very similar look to churches in Indonesia. There is a big difference in Sunday attendance. In Indonesia the churches are full including the balcony with multiple services. Next was a visit to the SERRVE shop in Geneva church. Ati could spot items in the shop that were Indonesian made. The afternoon was a stop at Camp Whitman where she put her hand on the cross at Sam’s Point.

Saturday she attended the Ontario County “Bed Race” fund raiser for Family Promise held on the long pier in Canandaigua.

Sunday she worshipped at Park Church in Newark where the Bell Choir played a very hymn medley number. Music is one of the main missions of churches in Indonesia, but there are no Bell Choirs. The Park Director helped her to play a couple of bells and learn more about them. The church had a picnic followed by attending the Dady Brothers’ Concert at Sodus Bay on Lake Ontario. This also included a tour of the lighthouse on the shore.

A visit to Geneva Presbytery would not complete without a visit to Seneca Falls to see the historic church and the National Women’s Rights Park. Monday lunch was on the shore of Cayuga Lake with ladies from SF church and Geneva PWP Coordinating Team.

She had some American dishes: beer can chicken, hot dogs, corn on cob, a variety of salads, jello, and was introduced to rhubarb and hot brown.

Off to Louisville on Tuesday to attend the PW Churchwide Gathering in Louisville with Virginia Champlin, Anne Reynolds and driver Linda Werts.

Thank You to the folks from Western NY, Utica, & Geneva Presbyteries for being so welcoming and creative in sharing the warmest hospitality.

See a few pictures on next page of her visit before the Gathering

Pictures of Ati's visit...Global visitor from Indonesia



PW/PDA Coordination

On August 1, 2018 just before the Gathering in Louisville about 40 women from across the country gathered together to become trainers in preparing churches, families, community groups and individuals to be prepared in case of disasters.

Among those being trained were seven of us from the PWSNE.



From right to left are: Adebisi Shofu from New Brunswick PWP, Nancy Lack, from Newton PWP, Virginia Champlin and Linda Werts from Geneva PWP, Anne Reynolds from Utica, PWP, Susan Silliman Smith and Rita Hooper from Cayuga-Syracuse PWP.

We may have others in the Synod certified as trainers from other trainings. It is highly recommended that you contact us to present a training to you to learn how to be prepared in case of Disaster. You may believe it is all common sense but believe me all of us found this to be a profound learning experience. At the end of the training we received beautiful blue stoles and our certificates as well as a lot of material to spread to all of you.

Albany PWP Woman Honored

In June one of our members of the 1st Presbyterian Church, Valatie was honored by her school and community.

The Ichabod Crane Central School District recognized Judy Bury for her outstanding work in the community. Her care and concern for her students, when she taught, touched many children's lives.

The Valatie church has been very active with a group "Warm Up America". Women from local churches have knit, crocheted, sewn for local charities. Judy has co-ordinated the distribution of these finished projects. The local PW has provided an annual dinner, where the groups share their mission and receive the completed projects. Food, fun, and fellowship are enjoyed.

Judy was instrumental in starting a summer nutrition program located in her church and organizing participation of other local churches in the ICC District. She also participated in a yearly distribution of hats and mittens from her congregation. The project was an outgrowth of a mission to the Hudson Day Care Center.

Although she is active with her children and grandchildren, Judy teaches Sunday School and is active with her husband, Gale, in the life of the Valatie church. Judy and Gale have been very active in "Habitat for Humanity". She has encouraged local students to join with the adults in the local projects.

Women like Judy are the embodiment of 30 years of PW Churchwide!

Ardelle Stewart, Albany Presbytery

Presbyterian Peace Network for Korea

Last November, Ms. Moonkyung Kim and the Rev. Unzu Lee, from the Synod of the Northeast, along with thirteen other men and women from across the country, accompanied the PCUSA Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson on a Peace Mission Trip to South Korea. At the Synod lunch during the Churchwide Gathering, Ms. Kim shared pictures of that trip, highlighting the reconciliation it sought to further between fighters and victims of the Korean War. Her article in the February issue of The Lighthouse, "'Unknown' to be 'Known'," expresses her response to the evidence she saw of the suffering and division caused by that war, which has still not been concluded, 65 years later.

Inspired by this Peace Trip, a group of ministers and lay people have been organizing the Presbyterian Peace Network for Korea (PPNK). Its purpose is "to contribute to current efforts to reconcile all sides of the Korean conflict through peaceful means." The PPNK provides a space for discernment, education, reconciliation and advocacy for Presbyterians and others concerned about peace in the Korean peninsula. It gathers resources on the Korea conflict and peacemaking efforts and tries to update its collection as current events unfold. Some of these materials are posted on its Facebook page (Presbyterian Peace Network for Korea). At the PCUSA General Assembly in June, the PPNK sponsored a lunch gathering of 75 commissioners and visitors that featured a presentation on "Understanding the Korean Peace Process & its Transnational Implications for Social Justice" by Prof. Nan Kim of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Since the Olympic games and the summit meetings that have followed, there is renewed hope that a Peace Treaty may finally be negotiated to bring the Korean War to an end at last and to open the door for reconciliation in one of

the most volatile and highly militarized regions of the world. Opposition in congress and in the press to the peace process our President has embarked on is a serious threat to this opportunity to reduce the risk of renewed war and the resulting destruction and suffering. We in the United States have a choice, whether to seize this opportunity for peace, or to revert once again to the unrelenting hostility of the past 65 years.

The PPNK offers you, peace-loving Christians and American citizens, a way to influence our nation's response to this chance to bring the Korean War to an end. You can join the Network for regular updates on current happenings, invitations to advocate, and opportunity for discussion, to share your perspective and concerns. To get a membership application, e-mail your request to PeaceNetworkforKorea@gmail.com. Or to receive information and news no more often than once a month, ask to be put on their "newsletter" mailing list.

Peace in Korea is not just an overseas issue, but affects Americans, too, not only because renewed hostilities would likely involve nuclear weapons, but because ending the Korean War would release the expense in money and lives of approximately 35,000 troops that the U.S. still has stationed in South Korea to enforce the 1953 ceasefire. Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Children of God." You can be one, too!

Editor's Note: We are grateful to Rev. Earl Arnold for this article.

Peace and Justice

As your coordinator for peace and justice Please continue to pray for our nation and the rest Of the world. As schools are starting, we pray that Our kids are safe.

Lori Evans

A Visit to Matthew 25 Project

After the Gathering Rita Hooper and Susan Silliman Smith made a journey to Blue Ash Ohio to see what the Matthew 25 project was all about. This warehouse in Blue Ash is huge. They welcome volunteers at all times except on Sundays.

Rita had hears of the project needing empty pill bottles with all labels removed. Not only did we take some to them we also spent a couple hours volunteering and taking a tour of the facility. The pill bottles go overseas at various hospitals etc. This, however is not all they process and do. They collaborate with other emergency projects to assist in disasters. They also provide many items around the globe.

Rita and Susan spent time sorting into 5 large black plastic bags sanitary napkins, making certain torn, dirty etc were thrown out. We also took a tour as well.



Pill bottles, ready to be sorted by size, Rita sorting, a group pausing from sorting and a picture of part of the facility.

Connecticut Church Starts Ghana Maternity Ward Partnership

Submitted by John Winstead

Members of First Presbyterian Church of Fairfield (FPC) are leading a Southern New England Presbytery-wide campaign to raise money to build a maternity ward in rural West Africa. They have made four trips as a community, met with many members of their Presbytery, and presented to Connecticut churches. They have grown closer to each other, formed deep friendships across the ocean, and have seen their faith deepen as they trust God in this calling.

FPC has been caring for the needs of children locally since 1964. The church runs a vibrant nursery school, hosts dynamic VBS programs, creates Christmas pageants, sends student work groups to places in need, and encourages a variety of ways to participate in the worship service. But a life-saving project on the banks of Lake Volta in Ghana's rural eastern region was not something any of them anticipated spearheading. God has put Ghana on their hearts.

Trips to Ghana

In 2014, Federica Smith, a member of FPC and a native of Ghana, shared her home country with a team of people as they visited some charities supported by their church. Each of the people on that trip came back to Fairfield with a deeper sense of God's desire for overseas missions. One member in particular, Patti Law, felt God's call to return and foster the connections to brothers and sisters in Ghana.



The next year she and her husband, Sib, returned. They spent two weeks with PCUSA missionary Rev. Josh Heikkila, meeting leaders from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana (EPCG) as well as the Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PCG). The two denominations share a seminary and serve different people groups throughout the country. Having shared many discussions, meals, and times of worship, the Laws were inspired by the leaders' deep faith amidst challenging conditions, and began to sense that God was calling FPC to make more than just financial donations to Ghana.

Church leaders took Patti and Sib to many sites in the Volta Region around the city of Ho to see various projects run by the EPC that meet the physical and spiritual needs of all people there, no matter their religion. Outreaches ranged from a university, to a school for farmers, to a healing center, to teaching villagers how to purify their drinking water. But when the Laws were taken to the market town of Dzemeni on the banks of Lake Volta, that was when God spoke. At the time, a small birthing clinic was run by a woman, aptly named Comfort, who had come out of retirement to oversee four midwives and run the clinic.

Important Town for the Future of the Region

Dzemeni bustles three days a week as a market town. People board wooden boats to cross Lake Volta to buy and sell goods in Dzemeni. Bank-side communities conduct commerce with the other bank-side communities. And women who will soon give birth or have recently given birth come to have their check-ups. They are 90 miles from the nearest hospital, so the care these mothers and children are receiving is critical to life and to quality of life.

The EPCG has set up an outpost in the market itself to give mothers basic pre-natal care. Additionally, they weigh babies to ensure they are growing as they should and provide rudimentary medical advice and care. If a situation is more serious, they refer to the main clinic further in town.

As the Laws prepared to return home in 2015, they asked EPCG leaders if there was one thing they were doing where outside involvement would be welcome. Without hesitation they answered, “We need a maternity ward at Dzemeni Clinic.”



Church Weighs and Makes Commitment

Dzemeni Clinic was originally built in the 1990s with funding from a Women’s Association in Nebraska. Now, as they work to expand the facility to include a maternity ward, family and local leaders have donated land for the facility on adjacent property. Members of the local community are donating thousands of dollars in labor costs. But there was still a significant need for funds.

FPC’s Missions Committee began to explore how they could reach out to and beyond their own membership for the funds. They also inquired about partnering with a local church in Ghana. After much prayerful consideration by both the Missions Committee and the Elders, they embarked on both paths. Elders and Committee members made the first pledges. Then they cast the net more broadly to the congregation and also the Presbytery. In total FPC has raised, collected, and sent the first \$25,000. This will allow EPC leaders to build the foundation and walls for the maternity ward.

Also, they asked the EPCG leadership to connect them with a sister church in Ghana. That is when they began a relationship with a church in the City of Ho, not far from Dzemeni. In 2017, thirteen people from FPC returned to Ghana, including eight teens. They spent a week participating in a youth conference and celebrated the groundbreaking for the maternity ward in Dzemeni. They were delighted to find that the staff at the clinic had grown from four midwives to sixteen! And, Patti and Sib were thrilled to see Comfort, still at the clinic and beginning to transfer her responsibility to young professionals.



Having raised more than \$25,000 in individual contributions from members of FPC and the Presbytery of Southern New England, there is still more work to be done. Members of the church's Ghana Maternity Ward Partnership (GMWP) have achieved the milestone of being midway through the project. The combination of cash and pledges to date, plus the gift of land and in-kind commitment in Ghana, equals \$57,000 of the total construction cost for the 20-bed Maternity Ward of \$115,000. The GMWP has developed a comprehensive fundraising strategy and welcomes contributions from individuals, churches, companies, and foundations.

The team and church have been invigorated by the project. One longtime member of the church put it this way, "I was not in favor of putting our efforts some place across the ocean. But now that I've seen how it has impacted our members, I see God at work!"

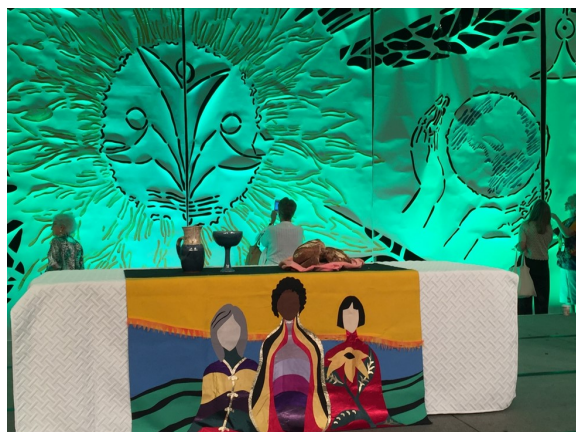
More information can be found (and donations made) at: GhanaPartnership.com
For information about how you or your church can become involved in this exciting ministry of compassion and even join us on our next trip to Ghana, email firstpresby@firstpresby.net or call 203-374-6176.

Some Pictures from the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville and the PW/PDA Training August 1-5, 2018



Top pictures from PDA training (Adebisi not shown) Center is Diane Moffett, from the PCUSA Mission Agency, The Stated Clerk of the PCUSA, J. Herbert Nelson, II.

To the left is Anne Reynolds with Jenny Lee and Jo Ann Burrell —The PWSNE is proud to have Jenny and Jo-Ann on the Moderatorial Team for the next triennium.



The Backdrop at the Plenary Meetings. This one was after worship on Sunday



To the left is a bugle player at a plenary.

Below bottom left is Rita Hooper with our former Churchwide Moderator from Puerto Rico, Marta Rodriguez,

Center bottom is Alpha Brown, Chair CW Search Committee and right is Sophie Diaz-Corporan, The PWXNE now has 4 on the national Board of Directors. Amazing





Some Speakers at the Plenaries. Center is Villarie Cintron-Olivieri, Co-Moderator of GA



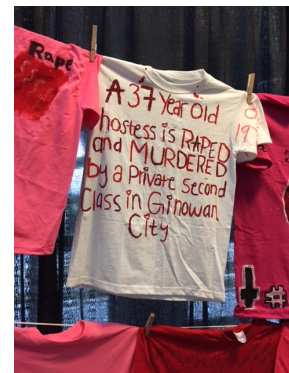
Left Communion officiates Ruth-Aimee Belonni-Rosario and Jane Deford



Marisol Jimenez shared personal stories re: immigration



As it was the celebration of the 30th anniversary of PW they had accessories of various decades to play with for pictures. Here Rita Hooper and Susan Silliman Smith are being silly.



Portion of the clothesline project of violence against women



Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany

Fall Gathering

Saturday, October 13, 2018 – 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

West Charlton United Presbyterian Church

Virginia Champlin, the Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast representative to the 2017 Global Exchange trip to Indonesia will share her experiences. The trip was guided by Romans 1:12 “ . . . so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine”. Participants learned how to live respectfully in a multi-faith culture and encourage and accompany one another in seeking a more peaceful and just world.

Rev. Kathi Jones, Voting Representative from Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany will report on the Presbyterian Women’s Churchwide Gathering.

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 to support Rev. Cathy Chang, Mission Co-Worker in the Philippines.
- Equal Exchange regular coffee, decaf coffee, black tea, hot cocoa mix & baking cocoa will be sold.
- Bring personal hygiene items such as shampoo, soap, disposable razors and feminine hygiene products for the Greater Galway Community Food Pantry.
- Bring a tee shirt or tote from a previous Presbyterian Women’s Churchwide Gathering to display.

For further information contact:

- Jean Weed at H: 518-288-3034, C: 518-857-1379 or hubbs45@nycap.rr.com
- Charlotte Hasselbarth at 518-356-0637 or chasselbarth@hotmail.com

DIRECTIONS TO WEST CHARLTON UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1331 Sacandaga Road, West Charlton, New York 12010

Church Office - 518-882-9874.

FROM THE EAST: I-87 north to Exit 12. Take Route 67 west (left around traffic circle). Just past Curtis Lumber and very soon after underpass, turn left unto Brookline Road. Follow Brookline Road till it comes to a "T" on Middleline Road. (You will be going straight through light at Route 50.) Turn right onto Middleline Road. Turn left at traffic light onto Route 67. Follow Route 67 to intersection with Route 147. Church is on left at intersection. Approximately 13 miles from Exit 12 to Church.

FROM THE WEST: From Amsterdam take Route 67 east. It is approximately 8 miles to Church from Cappy's Drive In/Manny's Corner/traffic light on Route 67.

FROM THE NORTH: I-87 south to Exit 12 and follow directions above from the East.
OR, take Route 50 south from Saratoga Springs. Bear right unto North Line Road (County Route 45, Stewart's Shops on the corner). Turn left onto Middle Line Road (2.4 mi.). Turn right onto Route 67. Approximately 8 miles to church from this point.

FROM THE SOUTH: I-88 east toward Albany. Enter thruway at Exit 25-A and go west towards Amsterdam. Take Exit 26 (no toll for this) and go straight over bridge crossing Mohawk River. Continue straight at traffic light onto Vley Road (do not go towards Scotia). Bear right immediately after underpass on Vley Road (approximately 2 miles) and head north on Route 147. Church is on left at intersection of Route 147 and Route 67. Approximately 10 miles once you are on Route 147 where it meets Vley Road.



Cayuga-Syracuse/Utica PW Fall Vanderkamp Retreat

Theme: Mission is Every Where

**Virginia Champlin will share her Mission Venture on her
Global Mission Trip to Indonesia.

**We will also hear from Olive Sephona, Director of the Center of New Americans.

She hopes to bring a refuge to share her story. We will learn info on current status of refugees

**It is hoped to hear from ladies from Cazenovia Pres. Church re: their current refugee project

Please bring with you samples of Mission work your church is doing or involved in.
We will also involve you in some hands-on activity

WHEN: Tuesday-Wednesday, September 11-12, 2018

WHERE: Vanderkamp Center, 337 Martin Road, Cleveland, NY 13042

Registration begins at 1:00 at the Commons, Sign in before heading to cabin

Bring: Change of clothes. Personal items, flashlight, Wear comfortable shoes, pen or pencil and paper for notes, Do not bring sleeping bag or towels. All bedding and towels are furnished.

If you require special dietary needs, please state so on your registration form

Deadline for reservations: September 1st.

Cost: \$70.00 per person, includes 3 meals and linen and room

Retreat Reservation

NAME: _____ Address _____ Phone# _____

Church/Presbytery: _____ Email _____

Special Needs?: List food needs/room needs _____

C-S PW & others send reservations to: Rita Hooper, 210 Meadowbrook Circle, Fulton, NY 13069

Utica send reservations to your registrar. Deadline is Sept. 1, 2018

Questions email: Susan Silliman Smith at august13sss@gmail.com or Rita Hooper at twohoops2@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women

Synod of the Northeast Fall 2018 Gathering **Bringing Back the Light!**

September 28 - 29 Christ the King Spiritual Life Center Greenwich, New York

Cost: early registration \$25, (after September 7) late registration \$ 45 plus accommodations for double room \$110, single room \$150 or for commuters dinner \$24, lunch \$12 + registration

+Friday arrival (Coordinating Team 2-3 PM), general business meeting 4 PM, dinner 6

+Saturday departure after worship 3 PM

Resourcing and energizing for ALL women! Rays of light from Churchwide Gathering!

~Attracting younger women through social justice or mission activities

~Leading the PW bible study in your church

~Hearing about foreign missions to support

~How to have productive conversations (& action) around gun violence



Presbyterian Women Synod of the Northeast
2018 Annual Gathering for all PW women
2 CT, 3 PM (all) September 28— 3 PM September 29, 2018
Christ The King Spiritual Life Center
575 Burton Road, Greenwich, NY 12834
 website: www.ctkcenter.org

Registration Form

Please! Register on or before: September 7, 2018

Name _____

Presbytery _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact _____

Special needs (dietary, mobility, etc.) _____

PWP Moderator or voting rep. _____ PWSNE CT member _____ Guest _____ workshop leader _____

*All Participants must pay the Program Fee \$45

***(Registrations received by Sept 7—Early Registration Fee \$25)**

Commuter: pays registration fee+ \$14 lunch &/or \$24 for dinner

Package Plan is per person and includes program fee, 3 meals (Fri. Dinner, Sat. Breakfast, Sat. Lunch) 1 night (Fri) overnight

Option	Room	Fee
Program Fee—All pay, non-refundable		\$45 or \$25 early bird
Single Occupancy	1	\$150
Double Occupancy	2	\$110
Please indicate roommate below. If no roommate listed, we will assign you one		
Roommate		
Total for Package Plan		

*PWSNE pays room (based on double occupancy) & board for PWP Moderator or voting representative and PWSNE CT members currently serving & 2018 nominees (& workshop leaders).

*All others must pay for room & board even if rooming with a voting representative.

Total for commuter _____

Return this form with check payable to PW Synod of the Northeast and mail to:
 Virginia Champlin, 4381 Wabash Road, Geneva, NY 14456. Any questions regarding registration please contact Virginia Champlin via email danvirginia@aol.com or 585-526-5841. All Registrations will be honored when accompanied by payments.