

NEWS OF Presbyterian Women

IN THE PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY

Winter of 2010 - Published Quarterly

God Will Do Wonders Among Us In Justice and Peace

On Saturday, February 20, 2010, Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Scioto valley will gather at Worthington Presbyterian Church to explore ways in which we can “do justice”—especially by putting our Christian faith into action to help end hunger and its causes.

Ruth Farrell, Director of the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) of the PC(USA) and a member of the Board of Directors for Bread for the World, will be our plenary speaker and workshop facilitator.



Prior to becoming Hunger Program Coordinator, Ruth worked for nearly 10 years as a Mission Co-worker in Peru. There she assisted and encouraged over 200 very poor artisans who formed cooperatives and exported their handcrafts. The alternatives normally available to them for employment were sweatshops and piecework. The artisans in Bridge of Hope, Lima, Peru, were recipients of PW's Birthday Offering in 2005. (Jan/Feb 2005 *Horizons Magazine*, p.41)

Before working in Peru, Ruth was a Mission Co-worker in the Congo working with community development on a seminary campus. North

American experiences include working with immigrant business owners through a micro-enterprise program in Louisville, Kentucky. She also has experience in the public policy arena in the office of Senator Richard G. Lugar (Washington D.C.). She has an MBA in International Finance from the George Washington University. She was recently elected a member of the board of Bread for the World.

Ruth's husband Hunter is Director of World Mission for the PCUSA. They have three children: Ndaya (Knox College), Will (College of Wooster) and Andrew (senior in high school).

Plan to be in Worthington on February 20th. Presbyterian Women has been credited with providing the impetus for the formation of the Hunger Program by General Assembly. It is clear the work of the PHP is needed more than ever since statistics show numbers of hungry people are increasing even in this, the wealthiest of countries. Ruth will explore the way the church is responding to this crisis and what part PW can play in addressing our ongoing concerns for hungry people everywhere.



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Presbytery of Scioto Valley**

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From your Moderator

The theme of the Winter Gatherings of PW/PSV is Justice and Peace. This year we will be focusing on hunger issues and it looks like an exceptional program.

Two years ago we had a program on human trafficking that changed the minds and attitudes of many of us who attended. It is amazing to note that these two topics do have some very common roots.

I am a member of the PSV Justice for Women Committee (JFW). This committee has decided to work on learning and educating others on the subject of human trafficking. To this end we have read the book *Half the Sky – Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* written by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. They are Pulitzer Prize winners.

The book documents the plight of women mostly in third world countries but makes it relevant to our own lives. The stories of individual women are moving and in some cases (but not all) inspiring. They document successes and failures in aid programs and also give some very sound advice on how to help.

The book takes its title from a Chinese proverb that states “Women hold up half the sky”. How true that statement is; women make up half the population of the world. The impoverishment of women then also impoverishes the world. This was a book that I could not put down. It was easy reading and not at all depressing. It actually is a very hope filled book! I would like to urge all of you to read this book. It will open your eyes to the poverty, hunger, health and other problems of women and young girls but also lift up the fact that women can be the change that our world needs.

Peace,

Judy Oeder

In Memoriam

Sandy McKitrick, Area Coordinator for Columbus North lost her fight with cancer on December 14, 2009. Former moderator of Christ Presbyterian Women in Columbus, she served PW with great dedication even as her health declined. She was a member of Central College Presbyterian Church. We will miss her presence among us.

We have only recently learned of the death on October 14, 2008 of *Lily Schlichter*, PW/PSV Moderator from 1994-1997. Lily, a graduate of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, filled many pulpits and was a member of Glen Echo Presbyterian Church in Columbus.

From the Vice Moderator for Justice and Peace

CAN WE CONSUME OUR FAITH?

ABSOLUTELY! And in more ways than one! Our purchasing power can have a positive affect on social and economic justice. However, there is a pervasive disconnect between the producers and the consumers of our food (as well as other consumables).

During the Justice and Peace report I gave at our last gathering at Gallipolis, I said that I would be highlighting the injustice of hunger and poverty and that this would be done with a 2-pronged approach. One approach has to do with our next gathering. Ruth Farrell, Director of the Presbyterian Hunger Program will be our plenary speaker and workshop facilitator. This is *not* to be missed.

The other prong has to do with today's article—choosing to put our Christian faith into action to end hunger and its causes—specifically in the areas of supporting community farming, consuming responsibly, and eating intentionally. We will examine 3 areas in which we can choose to use our purchasing power of food to benefit ourselves, the earth, and the other inhabitants of this earth.

- **Community Farming:** Community Supported Farming (CSA) is a localized, grassroots movement in which families purchase a seasonal share in a local farm. This has 3 direct benefits.
 - The farmers are able to cover their annual costs and to have a stable consumer base.
 - Money spent on food is reinvested in the local community.
 - Customers not only have access to fresh, locally grown food, but they get to be in a *growing* relationship with those who grow their food!
- **Consuming Responsibly:** We can choose to put our faith where our mouths are. We can choose to eat responsibly by answering these questions for ourselves: Where does our food come from? Who produced it? How is it grown? How is it packaged? Given our global economy, some of these questions are difficult—or even impossible—to answer. However, the more local our food sources are, the easier the answers become.
- **Eating Intentionally:** We can choose to eat intentionally in ways that are healthy for us, the earth, and all of its inhabitants.

There are many good resources that can guide us in the relationship of food to our Christian faith. The PC(USA) curriculum, *Just Eating?*, is one of those. Find others at pcusa.org/hunger. The site of pcusa.org/hunger/grants.htm also lists the programs of Faith and Food blog: Enough for Everyone, Joining Hands, Food and Faith, Just Trade, and Fair Food.

So, how will you use your purchasing power to have a positive affect on social and economic justice? In other words, how will you use your purchasing power for *just* food?

CENTS-ABILITY SENSE

It just makes sense, doesn't it? I'm talking about using prayers and pennies to help end hunger and its causes. It's so *simple*! Not *all* of God's answers are difficult or confusing!

Cents-Ability is a Mission Project of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. It's our *simple* response to Jesus' command, "*You* give them something to eat." (Mark 6:37)

Simply put, we just offer pennies and prayers at each daily meal. The money is kept in a Cents-Ability bank which may *simply* be a can with a Cents-Ability wrapper taped on it. It is usually collected once a month during the worship service.

Here's how the money is *simply* disbursed: Typically, 50% of the collections are kept by the local congregation to go towards a hunger mission. The other 50% is sent to the Presbytery where half of that collection is kept for Presbytery hunger projects/grants and the remainder is sent to our national denominational Presbyterian Hunger Program office in Louisville.

The offerings collected supplement monies for grants given to One Great Hour of Sharing. These projects are listed on <http://www.pcusa.org/hunger/grants>. (Click on Hunger Program grants 2008.)

Our contributions come from "living more *simply* so that others may *simply* live."

Cents-Ability—it *simply* makes sense☺

Karen Henderson

Blessings Without Boundaries **Presbytery Challenge 2010**

Last fall each PW in the congregation was asked to make the annual Mission Pledge, money that they would send into the treasurer who would collect all the funds and send them on to the Presbytery, Synod and PW Churchwide. All of these funds allow the church to use them for mission work as each body determines. Half of the money that reaches PW Churchwide is given to PC(U.S.A.) for missions. In 2009 World Mission stopped the downward spiral of sending out fewer and fewer mission co-workers each year by actually increasing the number and they plan on increasing that number again this year (see article at www.pcusa.org/worldmission).

The PW Mission Pledge has gradually decreased from \$4,409,109.00 in 1989 to \$1,999,062 in 2008. Here in PSV our mission pledge has decreased from \$74,334.80 in 1990 to \$47,867.83 in 2009. It's time we turn this around and here is a one-year plan to make this happen.

We are challenging each PW in the congregation to do ONE new fund raising project and submit the entire proceeds from that project to the Mission Pledge this year. That's it. **One new project.** The fund-raising project would be the choice of each PW. It could be a yard sale, selling homemade fudge, quilt raffling, serving a meal for an organization, etc. If a church has one circle, it could make this commitment. If a church has several circles, either the PW Coordinating Team could do this and involve all the PW members or each circle could be challenged to do their own fund-raising event/project. If there is no PW in your church but you are willing to take up this challenge, you may do so with our blessings!

Right now all you need to do is make a commitment to this Presbytery Challenge by filling out the form below and returning it the PW/PSV treasurer, Joyce Smith. (You may also email your commitment to jbsmith@quixnet.net.) More information will be provided at the Winter Gathering in February.

Coordinators, Martha Pool & Joyce Smith, members of Churchwide Coordinating Team of PW

Presbytery Challenge 2010

We are committing to do one new fundraising project in 2010 and will send all of the proceeds to the Mission Pledge.

Name of Church _____

City _____

Send to:

Joyce Smith, PW/PSV Treasurer
1756 North Star Rd.
Columbus, OH 43212



Tidbits from the Treasurer

Welcome to 2010, a new decade. How time flies when you are having fun!!! A special thank you to all congregational treasurers who have been very diligent about sending their mission gifts in a timely fashion. A special welcome to any new treasurer. Thanks for the many cards and notes! Always feel free to call me if you have any questions.

A quick review reveals the fact that the Holy Spirit empowered the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PW/PSV) to truly commit themselves to “support the mission of the church worldwide” financially. An unaudited treasurer’s report indicates, while the pledge was \$47,867.83, the PW in PSV gave more than \$74,000.00 to churchwide, local and special mission projects. That is awesome!! Your generosity is truly appreciated!!

KUDOS

Thank Offering (October 2009 – January 8, 2010), the top four churches are:
Central College (\$2,372.50); First Presbyterian Church, Washington, CH (\$906.00); First Presbyterian Church, Waverly (\$826.00) and First Presbyterian Church, London, (\$810.00).

GOD DID WONDERS AMONG US THROUGH MISSION IN OCTOBER

Presbyterian Women of Scioto Valley gathered on a beautiful day in Gallipolis for the PW/PSV Fall Gathering, “God Does Wonders Among Us Through Mission”. The women of Gallipolis First Presbyterian greeted attendees who brought many items for the in-gathering for the Gallia County Snack Pack mission.

The day began with opening devotions by Donna Hogue, Jackson Presbyterian Church. Speakers for the day included Missionary, Mark Hare; Louise Davidson, Global Exchange participant; Rev. Jan Williams, pastor of Ironton Presbyterian, worship. Displays included Mission, PW, Fare Trade/Peru – Catherine Hare reported sales from this project at \$250.00; and quilt raffle - a mission project of the Gallipolis women.

As always, Presbyterian Women were very generous in giving as \$883.20 was received for the Gallia County Snack Pack program and offering of \$529.00, of which \$500.00 was designated for two projects suggested by Mark Hare for his missionary projects. Presbyterian Women are indeed a blessing to the world through their “second mile giving” just as they have been blessed by God in abundance.

Pat Arnold, Secretary

The Presbyterian Women at Covenant just outdid themselves this year. They gave \$4,089.00 over and above their annual pledge. This is truly A Blessing Without Boundaries. Thank you so much! That is awesome!

REMINDER

The next quarterly mission payment is due March 5, 2010 and the 7% operating funds are due now.

FYI

Over the past 20 years, the mission pledge gifts have been decreasing. This fact has concerned the PW Churchwide Coordinating Team. In reviewing this trend, the Coordinating Team has put into place a Fund Raising plan. In issues of the Horizon and the Bible Study, you will find a “Blessing Without Boundaries” envelope for special donations.

SHARE A BLESSING BY SENDING IN YOUR DONATION. The members of the CCT shared their blessings for a total of \$12,000.00. Feel free to give these envelopes to family, friends and inactive Presbyterian women so they can share a blessing.

Joyce Smith

Subscribe to Horizons Magazine,

the magazine and Bible study for Presbyterian Women. Subscribe online at <http://www.pcusa.org/pw/subscribe>. Your subscription will include six issues a year and an annual Bible study. Subscriptions must be received by April 1 to receive that year’s Bible study (mailed March 15).

....gathering up the bits & pieces of life's experiences that can teach us so much....

My grandmother was a sewer. She made doll clothes for the girls (my Barbie was the best-dressed in the neighborhood) and aprons for the women, as well as clothes for herself and others. But her real claim to fame was her quilt-making. Working on an antique quilt frame, she managed to make a quilt for every family member, big quilts for all the grandchildren and then baby quilts when they had children. This amounted to a lot of quilts!

After Grandma died (at the age of 100!), my aunt found stacks and stacks of "pieces" that she had cut out in preparation for even more quilts. This past year, she took some of those pieces and used them, along with ribbon and other trimmings from Grandma's stash, to make pillows for all the female family members. This amounted to a lot of pillows! It's just a "thing," but touching that fabric – lovingly touched by those very special women – connects me to them in an extraordinary way.

Faith communities are like that. What was begun by one is passed on to another – and to another – and to another – until we are all connected to each other and to the One who started it all. "For I received from the Lord the teaching that I passed on to you..." A woman decides to have a bake sale to raise money for missions – and another woman bakes a pie – and another woman prays – and another woman preaches. We all put a stitch in the fabric of life and we all end up being covered by a blanket of love and support that is unparalleled.

Touch the softness. Feel the power of being connected. Pass it on.

Ruth Cooper

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Covenant Gather in Dearborn in June 2010

The Many Faces of Mission, the 2010 Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Covenant, examines the theme from I John 3:18, "Little children, let us love, not in word speech, but in truth and action." Save the dates June 25-27 and plan to be in Dearborn, MI at Dearborn First Presbyterian Church for this important event.

PW in Scioto Valley will have the chance to renew acquaintances not only with sisters from around the Synod, but with Keynoter Ruth Farrell who will share her stories and challenge us to explore the faces of mission we meet day to day right where we are.

The weekend program will include many opportunities including an overview of the *Horizons* Bible Study 2010-2011 written by Barbara Rossing on *Revelation*, a tour, hands on mission, resource center, global market place, labyrinth and spirituality center, Cokesbury bookstore, and the Synod Mobile Health Van. The Gathering will conclude with worship with the church's congregation on Sunday morning.

Women are asked to bring items for mission health kits including full or travel size shampoo, bar of soap, toothpaste, dental floss, packaged toothbrush, packaged comb or brush, sunscreen (min. SPF 15), washcloth, and nailbrush. Women are asked **not** to bring bottled water. Registration includes a personal travel mug.

Brochures will be available at the Mid-Winter Gathering. More information and registration forms are now on the Synod PW's website, www.pwsoc.org, to view and print.

Women of Faith – 2010

“God Does Wonders Among Us!” This was the theme of last year’s Churchwide Gathering, and the Coordinating Team decided our 2009-2010 programming should reflect that same theme. It has been our delight to recognize and celebrate the wonders of our God in our spirituality, mission, and peacemaking & justice-seeking.

At our Spring Gathering on April 29, at Marysville First PC, we will recognize and celebrate God’s wonders in our own community of women. What better way to do that than by recognizing and celebrating those women through whom the wonders of God can be especially known?

For the Women of Faith Awards 2010, we are looking for women from our congregations who not only proclaim the wonders of God, but who also reflect them in their own lives.

- ☺ Do you know someone who has been both inspired and inspiring?
- ☺ Someone whose steadfastness moves others from doubt or discouragement to faith and hope?
- ☺ Do you “wonder” how she does it all? Is she someone who everyone thinks is “wonderful?”

If you “wondered” how you could let that woman know how special she is and how much she is loved and appreciated, now is your chance!

- ✎ Each church may nominate one woman. (Those who have received this award in the past should not be nominated again.)
- ✎ Letters of nomination should include the reasons you would like this person to receive a Woman of Faith award.
- ✎ Describe not just her extraordinary work, but also her faith.
- ✎ Tell us how she promotes and personifies the wonders of God.
- ✎ Letters should include the name and address (including email, if possible) of the person making the nomination and the group/church you represent, as well as the name of the nominee.

Please send letters of nomination to:

Ruth Cooper

919 Lawnview Ave

Newark, OH 43055-2679

Letters may also be sent by email to: c00pers@roadrunner.com (those are zeroes after the c.)

Call 740-344-9608 if you have questions. **The deadline for receipt of letters of nomination is March 8**

End Modern Day Slavery

January was recently proclaimed Human Trafficking Awareness Month by President Obama, and on Jan. 11, a three hour program was held at the Ohio State House to raise awareness of today’s version of slavery. Defined as the sale, transport and profit from human beings who are forced to work for others through threats, abuse and confinement, the Polaris Project, one of many international organizations working to end modern slavery, says human trafficking is the third largest criminal industry in the world after arms and drug dealing. It asserts it is, however, *the fastest growing criminal activity*: it is estimated that 27 million people around the world are victims of slavery (sexual, domestic or agricultural), with approximately 50% of these victims being under the age of 18. In other words, children. Watch for information about legislation being introduced in Ohio to eliminate loopholes and increase penalties for those who engage in this terrible human rights abuse, and be an advocate for its adoption.

Introducing

the PW TRIP Program!

Presbyterian Women is now offering Transformation in Partnership (TRIP)! PW's new travel study program provides educational and transformational group travel to Global Exchange sites, USA Mission Experience sites, and other points of interest to Presbyterian women.

Join a group that will

- build relationships with sisters across the country and the world,
- engage in the mission partnerships of PW and the PCUSA,
- explore reformed heritage,
- and will grow spiritually through personal challenge and deeper understanding

Tours in 2011 include Russia (May 3-17), Women of the Reformation (August 31-September 9), and Czech Republic, Hungary and Carpath Ukraine (October 5-21)

Look for updated information, with dates and costs in Quarterly Mailings to PW Leadership and on the PW web site, www.pcusa.org/pw

Please make the following changes to your yearbook:

Columbus East, p. 15

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broadarmel@bspc.org

Groveport

Beulah Morgan, Moderator
291 Walnut Street
Groveport, OH 43125
614-836-3119
Cathy Zech, V. Moderator
5085 Cherry Blossom Drive
Groveport, OH 43215
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csz0127@sbcglobal.net

Columbus North, p. 17

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614-939-9077

Columbus West , p. 17

Westminster Thurber:

Barbara Frautschi
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614-461-1334

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Trinity Southeast, p. 23

Gallipolis First

Kay Cameron, Co-Moderator
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kathryncameron@att.net

Pat Arnold, p. 4, parnold@verizon.net

Remove Leah Bradley, p 10 and add
Susan Jackson-Dowd, Communication Coordinator
Same address; email susan.jackson-dowd@pcusa.org
888-728-7228, ext. 5368



The Worthington Presbyterian Church is located at 773 High Street on the northwest corner of the Village Green in Worthington. **PW note:** Someone in the parking lot will direct you to the appropriate entry door.

From I-71 North, exit at State Route 161 (Exit 117), turn west and proceed into Worthington. The 6th traffic light (including the exit light) west is High Street or US Route 23. Go through the light to the first street. Turn right (north) onto Oxford Street and then right into the church parking lot on the right side of the street.

From 315 North, exit at State Route 161, proceed east into Worthington. Go through the 3rd traffic light (including exit light) to Oxford Street. Turn left (north) and the church parking lot is on the right (east) side of the street.

From I-270 North, exit at US Route 23 (Exit 23), go south into Worthington. Go to the 5th traffic light and turn right (west) onto North Street. Turn left (south) at the first street, Oxford Street. The church parking lot is on the left side of the street 1 1/2 blocks south.

773 High St.

Worthington, OH 43085-4171

Phone: 614/885-5355

Fax: 614/885-3101

Email: wpchurch@worthingtonpres.org

Registration Deadline: Friday, February 12, 2010
Cost per person is \$8.00

Names of those coming from your church

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

CHURCH _____

Use other side for additional names

Total # coming _____

Total \$ enclosed \$ _____

Please send registration to:

Charlene Aeh
2300 Cockrell's Run
Lucasville, OH 45648

740-259-2810
cba2300@hotmail.com