

## PWHP e-CONNECTION

May 1, 2011

### **MODERATOR MUSINGS** from Gail Cunningham

PWHP Sisters! Blessings and Peace to You! The world is springing back to life so vehemently, it seems to be echoing Presbyterian Women in Heartland Presbytery! What a delight it was to share the **Spring Gathering** with so many women from the Northern half of the presbytery, like King City, Excelsior Springs (Barbee), Parkville and Northminster! Perhaps they had already known about the extraordinary hospitality and culinary skills of the members of the United Christian Presbyterian Church in Richmond. Many, many thanks to Teresa Haden, Donna Matthews and the Richmond church! The hundred women who attended were rewarded with much information, insight, and good company. I was so inspired by our two presenters, Deb Esselman and Mary Dailey Brown! Our Sisters in the Dakota Presbytery desperately ask for our prayers for them and for their families and tribes; and our sisters in third world countries desperately need to be freed from slavery, which is the status of women in so many cultures. We look forward to learning how your PWs - groups and individuals - are responding to these and other challenges. Dee Zak is compiling comments and suggestions from the Spring Gathering evaluation forms, and we'll share the results with you in the months ahead.

**Scholarships are available!** You're an anti-racist, right? Wouldn't it be great to be a bonafide, official scholarship-trained anti-racist? See the letter from Unzu Lee of the Churchwide Coordinating Team, attached below. The event is June 30 - July 1, 2011 in Indianapolis. Go for it!

Save the Date! The **PWHP Fall Gathering** will be Saturday morning, October 8, at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, KS. Next month, we'll be able to tell you a little more about it, and the PWHP Gathering and Mission-N-A-Weekend plans for 2012.

Gratefully,

*Gail Cunningham*

### **JOYS & CONCERNS**

- Tarkio Presbyterian celebrates the inspiration and service of 3 extraordinary women who are centenarians: Bettie Lee 102 years old, Eleanor Doughty 101 years old, and Lois Martin, 100 years old.
- Shirley Nichols has agreed to be our *Horizons* person beginning in late summer. Thank you, Shirley! Welcome back!
- Prayers for better health for Arlene Rockwood. She is recovering from heart problems at this time.

### **HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY**

Remember you can order the *Horizons* Bible Study through PWHP and save the postage. [Click here](#) for the order form. Questions? Contact Chelly King, 913-661-0374 or [chelly41RN@everestkc.net](mailto:chelly41RN@everestkc.net). Deadline for ordering through PWHP is May 18.

### **2011 BIRTHDAY OFFERING**

Your prayer and financial support of the 2011 Birthday Offering will improve lives around the world. The grants made possible through your gift will strengthen educational efforts in Sudan, help build confidence and life skills in young parents in South Carolina, and aid in reestablishing the boarding program at the Presbyterian and racially diverse Menaul School. [Click here to learn more.](#)

### **CONNECT!**

- Visit (or better yet, "like"!) Presbyterian Women on Facebook. You'll hear the latest about Presbyterian Women's mission, justice and peace, publishing and leadership development work. And you can tell Presbyterian Women all the wonderful things you're doing!
- Coming next month -- a PWHP Facebook page! Watch for it!
- Coming soon -- photos from the Spring Gathering on the [PWHP website](#). Check out the new section entitled Photos!
- View a 5-minute *Call to the Gathering* video on the 2012 Churchwide Gathering. [Click here.](#)

### **MAY BOOK REVIEW** by Judy Klamm -- ***Christianity for the Rest of Us*** by Diana Butler Bass

In the last few years, conventional wisdom has the conservative evangelical churches experiencing growth while mainline Protestant denominations lose membership. *In Christianity for the Rest of Us* Diana Butler Bass sets out to see if this theory is correct. Throughout the United States, she visited and studied congregations from Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopal, Methodist and others. The author discovered that many churches are developing new worship styles, reviving ancient Christian practices such as contemplation, feeding the souls in them. Mainline churches are indeed growing and thriving as they continue to transform Christian believers.

## **MAY MEDITATION** by Rev Glenda Watts, PWHP Co-Moderator

Scripture: Genesis 1:31; Exodus 3:1-5; Leviticus 20:8; Nehemiah 9:6; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Timothy 1:9

**Psalm 24:1** The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.

Everything about Easter and the Easter season lifts up my spirit. This season of Eastertide—the fifty-day period of Easter Sunday to Pentecost on June 12—brings thoughts of resurrection, Spring, new beginnings, butterflies, everything connected with new life and new opportunities. Another chance to renew my life and my spirit inside and out. Driving around seeing the beautiful flowering trees and bushes my heart sings “Holy, Holy, Holy”. I’m aware that everywhere I stand on Holy Ground. When the Spirit blew across the waters, and the Word of God spoke the world into existence, God looked over everything created and said it was so good, so very good. Just as God who created and called you is holy, so we are called to be holy in all we do. A great way to live your whole life as a prayer is to dedicate your home as sacred space. Surround yourself with things you love and get rid of the stuff that is not life giving to you. We all could use a good spring cleaning—both physically and spiritually. Join me in a fresh start! Alleluia!

**1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By God’s great mercy we are given a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. . .

## **VISITING PEB IN PAKISTAN (through the eyes of a first-time visitor)**

**Tuesday, May 17, 7:00-8:30PM**, Second Presbyterian Church Parlor.

Come and hear the experiences, joys, and blessings of a first-time visitor to Pakistan and Presbyterian Education Board. No discussion of politics or history – just a view of Pakistan that doesn’t come through in the media. There will be a short informational video as well as some fun pictures from the January visit to Pakistan – and lots of time for discussion.

Lynn Miller, a member of First Presbyterian Church in Saint Cloud, Minnesota, was part of the January 2011 delegation to PEB in Pakistan. Lynn has been administrative assistant for Friends of PEB since April 2009 and has found a passion for the mission of PEB. Questions? Contact Renee Neff-Clark, 913-262-6589, [reneeneffclark@yahoo.com](mailto:reneeneffclark@yahoo.com).

## **MARIAN ANDERSON, GREAT AMERICAN SINGER** by Marian Thomas

Marian Anderson was born in Philadelphia in 1897; her mother had been a school teacher in Virginia and her father was a coal and ice dealer. She was one of three daughters, and she sang in the Union Baptist Church choir, learning to sing all parts of the music, from soprano through bass. This helped in developing her incredible range. She had her first formal voice lesson at 15, and then when her talent became obvious, the congregation raised money so she could continue her education as a singer. In 1925, at age 28, she won a competition and sang with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra at Lewisohn Stadium, launching an outstanding career. At 33, she went to Europe to continue studies of lieder-singing. Arturo Toscanini heard her sing in 1935, and declared that hers was "a voice heard once every one hundred years."

It was in April 1939 that Marian Anderson was denied use of Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., by its owners, the Daughters of the American Revolution. The issue was the racially mixed seating that would result from her performing there. To protest this policy, Eleanor Roosevelt quit the D.A.R. and invited Marian to sing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The Easter morning concert was attended by 75,000 people! In 1954, at age 57, she made her debut at The Metropolitan Opera, breaking the barrier against African-American singers there. She sang at John F. Kennedy’s inauguration in 1961, and gave a farewell concert tour in 1964-65 which ended at Carnegie Hall at age 68. She received honorary degrees from 20 colleges, and died in 1993 at the age of 97.

There is a beautiful book about her for children by Pam Munoz Ryan, *When Marian Sang*. The illustrations by Brian Selznick are lovely. The book would make a wonderful gift for your favorite elementary school child.

## **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

Church Women United of Kansas City, MO invite you to join them for their annual **May Friendship Day** Celebration and Luncheon, “Living Our Friendship, Passing on the Key,” on Friday, May 6, 2011, at 11AM at Friendship Baptist Church, 3530 Chelsea (near 35th and Cleaver II Blvd) Kansas City, MO. Share in celebrating the women who held keys to Christian faith and practice throughout history, and in the 70-year history of the organization. Please send \$8.00 per person in time to reach her by May 1, to: Registrar, 14908 Glenwood Ave, Overland Park, KS 66223.

Seventy years ago, Presbyterian Women were instrumental in forming Church Women United, a racially, culturally and theologically inclusive Christian women’s movement celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice. **CWU’s 70th Anniversary Celebration** will be in Atlantic City, NJ, Dec. 1-3, 2011. Look for more information on that next month.

## MOUNT SEQUOYAH ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE

An unfortunately well-kept secret is the regional **Mount Sequoyah Ecumenical Conference**, in Fayetteville, Arkansas, held the first weekend of June. This year, that's June 5-8, and the theme is, "Re-Imagining Our World - - Food Faith and Hospitality." All of us are invited! [Click here for brochure](#). I'm (Gail) planning to go. It's connected with Church Women United.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May	6-8	2 <sup>nd</sup> PWSMA Mission-N-A-Weekend, Westminster Woods Camp & Retreat Center Fall River, Kansas ( <a href="#">Westminster Woods registration form</a> )
July	15-17	3 <sup>rd</sup> PWSMA Mission-N-A-Weekend, Mound Ridge Camp & Retreat Center on the Meramec River near St James, MO ( <a href="#">Mound Ridge registration form</a> )
August	6	9:00-3:00 <a href="#">Confessing the Beatitudes</a> by Dr. Margaret Aymer, Village Presbyterian Church ( <a href="#">Bible Study Workshop registration form</a> )
October	8	morning FALL GATHERING, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, KS

We welcome input from you – joys & concerns, prayers needed, dynamite ideas, what your PW has been doing! Just reply to this email or send correspondence to Membership & Newsletter person, Pam Nitsche, 6315 Beverly Drive, Mission, KS 66202, (913) 831-2262, [pnitsche@kc.rr.com](mailto:pnitsche@kc.rr.com). **Please contact me if you want to be removed from the email list or if someone in your church should be added.**



# Antiracism Notes

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

April 13, 2011

Dear wonderful leaders of Presbyterian Women,

Greetings to you in this holy season of Lent. The Antiracism Committee of CCT/PW has wonderful news to share with PW leaders.

As you have been informed before, a 12-hour antiracism training will be offered as a preconference to Big Tent II on June 30-July 1, 2011. The training is a collaborative effort of the Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/PW and the Compassion, Justice and Peace Ministry Area. In its commitment to racial justice, PW will be offering partial and full scholarships to support Presbyterian women's participation in this training. All Presbyterian women are eligible to apply. However, preference will be given to Presbyterian women who currently are members of the coordinating teams of PW groups **at all levels**. For more information, please contact Unzu Lee at [unzu.lee@pcusa.org](mailto:unzu.lee@pcusa.org) or Veronica Green at [veronica.green@pcusa.org](mailto:veronica.green@pcusa.org).

Please help promote this training event in your PW groups and share the information about this scholarship. Your help will be greatly appreciated!!

In Christ,

Antiracism Committee of CCT