

# PWHP e-CONNECTION

December 13, 2012

## MODERATOR MUSINGS and CHURCHWIDE GATHERING!

**Happy 2012!** Here we are at the headwaters of the **River of Hope**, the theme of the PW **Churchwide Gathering** and our theme for the year. Our PWHP (Presbyterian Women in Heartland Presbytery) River of Hope events begin with early registration to the Churchwide Gathering in Orlando, FL, July 18-21. Register online now, <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pwgathering>. Order free Churchwide Gathering Registration Booklets online if your church has run out. Scholarship applications are attached. One could apply for scholarships at all four levels: churchwide, synod, presbytery and local church, but review committees should be made aware of that. We also have one Voting Representative (VR) position available. Registration, housing and some of the travel expenses are paid for the VR, who must prepare for and participate in the business meeting as she represents the PW of Heartland Presbytery.

Blessings to all in 2012!

*Gail Cunningham*, PWHP Co-Moderator

## PWHP SPRING GATHERING

In Kansas City, our own two **River of Hope** events will be in April. Our **Spring Gathering**, will be the morning of **April 14** at Southminster Presbyterian Church, 63<sup>rd</sup> and Roe, Prairie Village. **Churchwide PW Moderator-elect, Mary Jorgenson**, will be our keynote speaker, and she will also lead a workshop. Our Vice-Moderator, the Rev. Carla Libby Gentry is planning worship, and those planning to attend the Churchwide Gathering will be commissioned. The women of Southminster, some of the best cooks in town, are planning the lunch. And more plans are being made. And it'll still be just \$8.00. Such a deal!

## PWHP MISSION-N-A-WEEKEND

Our River of Hope will then flow through our hands-on **Mission-N-A-Weekend** two-day project for women, men, and big kids, beginning with a 1-3 pm, stint on Friday afternoon, April 20, at *Harvesters* in Downtown Kansas City, Missouri and flowing right on to the *Heartland Presbyterian Conference Center* in Parkville. That Friday evening, we'll have food and fun and fellowship activities at the camp, and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. we'll see how many of the long list of camp work projects we can complete. Workers may volunteer just for Friday afternoon or just for Saturday or for both. Up to 20 may stay overnight at the camp. S'mores are possible. Put these two April events on your calendar right now! The registration forms for both will be in the March and April *e-connections* and in the PW Newsletter mailed in March. Janet Kelley will be the Registrar for both events.

## GLOBAL EXCHANGE TO INDIA – HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Mary Jorgenson has returned from the Global Exchange to India in October. She is willing to speak to your PW, presbytery PW and synod PW. Please contact Mary to arrange a speaking engagement, [mjorgies@aol.com](mailto:mjorgies@aol.com), (913) 268-6414 home, (913) 579-4530 cell.

## JOYS & CONCERNS

Please continue to keep the Westport Presbyterian congregation and community in your prayers.

## JANUARY DEVOTION by Rev Glenda Watts, PWHP Co-Moderator – Scripture: Luke 2:22-40; Matthew 2:1-12

The old year has passed and a new year has begun. In the middle of winter our calendar tells us we can hope for a new beginning. Poet Edith Lovejoy Pierce writes: "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day." Oprah Winfrey acknowledges our struggle: "Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." The Gospel writers Luke and Matthew both give us clues about spiritual fulfillment. Luke tells the story of two elderly Jewish people, Simeon and Anna, who see the light of the world where they are. Matthew tells the story of the Magi, Gentiles from far away, who take a journey following a star to find the promised king. Both stories are about epiphany—the revealing of Jesus as God's salvation and redemption. The proper response for all is praise and worship. They have prepared a lifetime for this vision of holiness, and see it when it appears. They see the Messiah, hidden in a growing child, because they have trained their eyes through prayer and meditation and studying scripture. They expect to see God's revelation and this expectation awakens their ability to see. New Year's Day calls for a new vision. We can prepare for moments of holiness by dedicating ourselves to practices of visionary living. We can see more deeply and act more lovingly; acts of kindness and quests for justice can become our norm rather than something occasional. May you prepare yourself to see/experience God in your home, in your church, or wherever you travel. Happy New Year!

## JANUARY BOOK REVIEW by Judy Klamm – *The Greatest Prayer* by John Dominic Crossan

Have you really thought about what the words in the Lords Prayer mean? John Dominic Crossan in *The Greatest Prayer* looks at this familiar litany reminding readers that it is recited in every Christian church. Each phrase of it is examined for its meaning especially in context of Hebrew Scriptures. The author brings a fresh approach to “daily bread,” “debts,” and “temptation” to show what Jesus wanted his disciples and followers to realize when praying these words. Read this work to get a new look to something that is so well-known.

## MUSIC MATTERS by Marian Thomas

“**Lift Every Voice and Sing**” has words by James Weldon Johnson and music by his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson. The words were read by the author when he introduced Booker T. Washington to the school children at the segregated Stanton School in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1900. The poem was later set to music by Johnson's brother in 1905, and was sung that year by 500 African American school children to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday. In 1919, the NAACP adopted the song as "The Negro National Anthem." By the 1920s, copies of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" could be found in black churches across the country, often pasted into the hymnals. Our 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal includes all three stanzas of the anthem at #563. The first two stanzas are addressed to those around us as we sing, urging us all to remember the struggles of the past and the faith we have learned through that history. The third stanza is a prayer to God to keep us on the path of loyalty to God and to our country. When largely white congregations sing this anthem, they are acknowledging the shared experiences and struggles of blacks and whites in America, and affirming the desire to overcome past tragedies and celebrate liberty and justice. It is appropriate to sing this anthem on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On January 20, 2009, the Rev. Joseph Lowery (former president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference) recited much of the song's third stanza to begin his benediction at the inauguration ceremony for President Barack Obama.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb	4	9:00AM	PWHP CT Meeting, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, KS
April	14		PWHP SPRING GATHERING, Southminster Presbyterian, Prairie Village, KS
April	20-21		PWHP Mission-N-A-Weekend, KC Metro Area
May	5	9:00AM	PWHP CT Meeting, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, KS
July	18-22		PW Churchwide Gathering, Gaylord Palms Hotel, Orlando, FL

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.**

