

PWHP CONNECTION

July 1, 2010

Check out our PWHP link on the Heartland Presbytery website, <http://heartlandpby.org/RelatedLinks/PW/catpage.htm>. The forms and links have been updated. Please reply with corrections. Bless you!

Happy Summer, Presbyterian Women!

I was happy to have a chance to see many of you face-to-face at the PW Synod of Mid-America (PWSMA) Gathering and/or the *Horizons* Bible Study sponsored by the Village Church on Saturday. For those of you who missed those events, I'll try to fill you in:

PWSMA GATHERING, "PW On Purpose," at Southminster on Friday, June 25, 2010:

(PWSMA) has added the position of Communicator, our own Mary Jorgenson. The uplifting worship/communion service was led by the Rev. Glenda Watts, with a special guided meditation led by wise woman, Carol Meyer.

Hands-on Mission Experience: Two vanloads of people went to Cherith Brook in downtown Kansas City. The Cherith Brook community acts on Jesus' admonition in Matthew 25 to feed the hungry and clothe the poor. As 'extra hands,' we helped by sorting and labeling shoes; cutting bath towels into washcloths and hemming them; working in the garden, helping construct a chicken coop and stocking the pantry.

Workshops:

Immigration Justice: The American immigration system, immigrant detention centers in our own synod, and the impact of the proposed changes in immigration policies were explained by Leader Laurie Anderson, a participant in the 2008 USA Mission Experience of PW to El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico.

The UN Commission on the Status of Women: Mary Jorgenson represented PW at the United Nations conference in March, and shared the progress being made toward a better life for women and girls worldwide.

Freedom (summer) Schools are sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, a nonprofit committed to ensuring every child a "healthy start, a head start, a fair start, a safe start and a moral start," and serve children who need it most. Enthusiastically led by Ellen Jorgenson, Mary's daughter, a graduate student and a veteran Freedom Schools teacher.

Discover the Sacred in Everyday Life: Spiritual director Carol Meyer showed us practical ways to find beauty and mystery, joy and spiritual fulfillment within ordinary routines.

What's New in PW: Rhoda Frasier, the PW Leadership Coordinator for PWSMA led a training and discussion session for PW leaders.

The 2010 *Horizons* Bible Study Workshop, "Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today," hosted by PW of Village Church on Saturday, June 26, 2010:

The Rev. Louise Lawson Johnson, who wrote the study helps, led the workshop. Five years ago, the book of the Revelation was chosen as the PW study in direct response to the growing popularity of the "Left Behind" books, Dan Brown's books including *The DaVinci Code*, and other books and movies based on the misguided interpretation of the Revelation known as "dispensationalism."

Louise suggested that we make this a 10-part study, as the Introduction deserves its own session. Writer Barbara Rossing stresses that the message of Revelation is one of hope, not fear. In the study helps, Louise helps us find that hope each month.

Louise directed us to a host of helps, including summaries of each session, which she handed out, but which are also available online; monthly study helps in both *Horizons* and *Presbyterian Outlook*; Dale Lindsay Morgan's *Eyewitness News - Revelation Edition* - with both a CD and printed transcripts (\$7.50, HZN-10-103 from Presbyterian Distribution Service 800 524 2612); and *Revelation in Context*, a free download at www.pcusa.org/horizons. (As of this writing the PC(USA) website is under construction and this link does not work at this time.)

Global Exchange:

You still have the amazing opportunity to participate in the triennial (nationally sponsored) PW Global Exchange. At least one woman from each of the 16 synods will be chosen to travel to India, October 11-21, 2011, with an emphasis on learning about human trafficking (modern slavery). Send your completed registration, including two personal recommendations, to PWSMA moderator Renee Neff-Clark, 4801 Belinder Rd, Westwood, KS 66205 by July 15, 2010. To learn more, go to www.pcusa.org/pw then Global Exchange and download the registration form. The date has been extended to July 15.

Blessings,

Gail Cunningham, PWHP Co-Moderator

Joys & Concerns:

Charlotte Dollar -- PWHP CT Member-at-Large and wise woman of Rolling Hills PC, has had a number of health issues over the past months. She is on the mend and doing much better, but please keep her in your prayers.

Irene Rowe -- Our outgoing PWHP Horizons Representative is experiencing a great deal of back pain, and has probably fractured her sacrum. Please keep her in prayer. Irene's husband distributed *Horizons* Bible Studies to church representatives before the Bible Study Workshop at Village Church on Saturday. Irene reported that altogether, PWHP churches/groups saved \$418.25 in postage expense by ordering study books through PWHP!

July Meditation by Rev Glenda Watts, Co-Moderator PWHP:

Sisters in Spirit (women who have made a difference in my spiritual journey)

Scripture: Psalm 63:1-8; Jeremiah 29:11; Isaiah 40:31; 1 Corinthians 13:13

Reflection:

When I first heard about Julian of Norwich I was drawn to her and still am. It can't be because we know so much about her, we don't even know her name. She preferred the focus to be on God. She is probably the first woman to write a book in the English language and among the first to write of Christ as our mother. When I was at Norwich Cathedral, I only found a lovely stained glass window showing her kneeling in prayer looking up at a crucifix with her hands up in the ancient prayer position. The guide sent me about a mile down the street to St. Julian's church in 'St. Julian's Alley.' I found a small church rebuilt after it was bombed in 1942. As I sat in its chapel with its shrine to Mother Julian, I realized it is her message that has captured my heart and imagination—a message of love and hope. On the door to this shrine is a plaque: "Mother's Julian's Cell – on the site of the original anchorhold, 'Prayer [unites] the soul to God'". Her most famous saying has become my mantra: "All shall be well and all manner of things shall be well."

Put your name in **THE JULIAN PRAYER:**

Most Holy Lord, the ground of our beseeching, who through your servant, [JULIAN] revealed the wonder of your love. Grant that as we are created in your nature and restored by your grace, our wills may be so made one with yours that we may come to see you face to face and gaze on you for ever. Amen.

July Book Review by Judy Klamm:

Bible Babel by Kristin Swenson is an in-depth look at the sacred scripture for Christians. The author traces the history of the Bible from its earliest days, its various translations, and the culture in which it was written. She also provides information about the major personalities (both men and women), controversies that took root within the text, biblical geography and the source of many quotations found in the English dictionary. She also includes cultural references that arise from scripture. This easy to read book provides a wealth of material to help Christians better understand their sacred text.

Upcoming Events:

August 21, 2010, 9AM – PWHPCT meeting – Grace Covenant

October 1-2, 2010 -- PWSMA Mission-N-A-Weekend – Springfield, MO,

<http://www.johncalvinpresby.org/?action=1917494533§ionID=2636>

Save the date!

PWHP Fall Gathering

October 9, 2010 (That's 10/10/10 minus 1!)

Second Presbyterian Church, 312 E 55th Street, Kansas City, MO

"Empowering the Next Generation of Women" -- Speaker: Veeda Javaid

Veeda Javaid tells a poignant story of how her mother came to be educated by Presbyterians in Pakistan. Brought up as a Christian, Veeda feels deeply called to her role as Director of the Presbyterian Education Board. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Physics and Math, which she taught for 23 years, and a Master's degree in Education Administration. Married to an electrical engineer, she has four adult sons. She oversees the education of boys and girls from diverse backgrounds in schools that include boarding opportunities, English language studies, preparation for professional careers, and core values of self-discipline, integrity, tolerance, respect for others, and fairness.

July 18-22, 2012 -- **PW Churchwide Gathering** -- 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. **Please contact me if you want to be removed from the email list or if someone in your church needs to be added.**