

PWHP e-CONNECTION

June 1, 2011

MODERATOR MUSINGS from Gail Cunningham

Greetings, Presbyterian Women! We're on a Mission! At the Spring Gathering, we heard from Debbie Esselman about the missional needs of the native Americans in the Presbytery of the Dakotas. And from Mary Dailey Brown, we learned about women around the world whose needs are being addressed by SowHope. This fall, we'll be taking more steps into our future because we're Women on a Mission! Speaking of the future, the technological age is here, and we are walking into it! At Judy Klamm's suggestion, our (national) PW Coordinating Team representative, Mary Jorgenson, has started a Facebook page for Presbyterian Women in Heartland Presbytery and one for the (national) PW Triennial Gathering! Step in, log in and get in on the conversation!

To Do's for You:

1. Plan to attend the *Horizons* Bible Study at Village Church on August 6 and our Fall Gathering at Grace Covenant on October 8.
2. Gather up all your used *Horizons* study books, spare Sunday School materials, and other church resources and bring them with you on August 6, so we can send them to our sisters in the Dakotas, and perhaps to other places if we have huge numbers.
3. If you're on Facebook, join the PW and PWHP groups.
4. Send us (Pam) your Mission stories! Just reply to this newsletter, and tell us whose life is a little better because your women have taken on a project. Include pictures!

Joy and Peace to you!

Gail Cunningham

JOYS & CONCERNS

Prayers for all those affected by the spring storms.

BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

Over the next few weeks, our Community Blood Center of Greater Kansas City (<http://www.savealifenow.org/>) at 4040 Main will supply not only blood for Kansas City patients but also some of the blood for the 500+ injured folks in Joplin. They are especially in need of blood types O-, O+, B- and platelets. If you have these blood types and are able to donate in the next several weeks, please go to <https://www.esavealifenow.org/index.cfm?group=registration> or call 816-753-4040 to register and make an appointment to donate. Please share this request with others you know who might be interested in donating.

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 **Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)** on Facebook. Click "LIKE" and you will receive updated posts from that page on your home page news feed. 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!
- And now there is a **Presbyterian Women in Heartland Presbytery** Facebook page as well! The PWHP page is a "group page". You have to ask to join that page--anyone who is currently a member of that page can add you. Once you are a member of the group, you can leave comments. Until then you can only view comments. After you are a member, notices from that page are posted on your home page. This page will be more active as we approach PWHP activities.
- Check out the new section entitled Photos on the [PWHP website](#). There are more Spring Gathering photos on the PWHP Facebook page.
- View a 5-minute *Call to the Gathering* video on the 2012 Churchwide Gathering. [Click here.](#)

THANK YOU FROM THE DAKOTA PRESBYTERY

A portion of the offering taken at our Spring Gathering went to the Dakota Presbytery. A thank you from the Dakota Presbytery follows at the end of the newsletter. A newsletter from Chrystie & Doug Adams from the Makasan Presbyterian Church is also attached in the email. It speaks of their work in the Dakota Presbytery. They are a blessing.

JUNE BOOK REVIEW by Judy Klamm – **Generous Justice** by Timothy Keller

Presbyterian minister Timothy Keller in *Generous Justice* looks at justice and its implications for Christians. Some argue that churches should engage in evangelism while others say it is social justice. The author looks at how justice is treated in the Bible and how it applies to churches and individuals. Defining justice is complex. God seeks it for all of creation. The author provides examples of how this takes place and where improvement is needed. Reading this book gives food for thought about the importance of justice to the Christian and how it becomes a natural part of faith.

JUNE MEDITATION – TO LIFE -- by Rev Glenda Watts, PWHP Co-Moderator

Scripture: John 1:4; John 3:16-17; John 20:31

John 10:10 Jesus said, "I have come that you may have life, abundant life!"

Recently the lectionary Gospel reading was John 10:1-10. I have claimed John 10:10 as MY verse because it is my birthday and I love what it says. *The Message* puts it like this: "I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of." For John abundant life is now—life lived in and with the presence of God with us always—in times of joy and times of sorrow.

I saw the movie *The Agony and the Ecstasy* recently with fellow travelers to Italy next summer. It is about the relationship between the Pope and Michelangelo Buonarroti as much as the painting of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Despite his complaints during this 4-year solitary project, he experienced a profound joy in the work of creation. It is such a poignant example of the agony and ecstasy of life intertwined; yet this greatest of artists could celebrate the victory of Christ over death and evil and paint a God creating the world and humankind out of love, unconditional love.

Abbess Hildegard of Bingen wrote in her *Book of Divine Works*: "Pray to Mary, our luminous mother: Ask for us life. Ask for us radiant joy. Ask for us the sweet, delicious ecstasy that is forever yours." Also, "For all the arts serving human desires and needs are derived from the breath of God set into the human body. And that is why it is fitting that God be praised in all."

Both Michelangelo and Hildegard show us the healing ministry to ourselves and others through the creative process. God gives us the power of creativity, whether it be poems, gardens, pottery, songs, paintings, clothing, prints, stews, jewelry, dances, paragraphs, performances. God honored all of humanity with the "vocation of creation."

"Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass....it's about learning how to dance in the rain."

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

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| July | 15-17 | 3 rd PWSMA Mission-N-A-Weekend, Mound Ridge Camp & Retreat Center on the Meramec River near St James, MO (Mound Ridge registration form) | |
| August | 6 | 9:00-3:00 | Confessing the Beatitudes by Dr. Margaret Aymer, Village Presbyterian Church (Bible Study Workshop registration form) |
| 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. **Please contact me if you want to be removed from the email list or if someone in your church should be added.**



May 10, 2011

Dear PW of the Heartland Presbytery,

My husband, Doug, and I are very grateful for your most generous donation! We received the check for \$261.50 and will be using the funds to help out with our After School Program (ASP) Family Cook Out which will be held this Thursday. We are expecting quite a few children and their family members as well as church members from Makasan and a few other guests, so your generous donation will help us to feed the multitudes!

We have been so blessed these past months to be able to get the ASP organized and open for the children of the Oglala community. We started with 5 children back in November and now have 35 on the roll and average about 18 - 20 each Tuesday - Thursday! The program is a mission of the Makasan Presbyterian Church and we are so grateful that Rev Asa Wilson and the Session of Makasan called us to be the first Site Coordinators for this new facility. It has been an awesome responsibility and we have asked for God's guidance in all of our efforts. We are so grateful for your generosity as we work here at the Makasan Multi-Purpose Center and wanted to let you know that your efforts will really help us with the work here at the MMPC.

Peace and Blessings,
Chrystie and Doug Adams
Makasan Multi-Purpose Center Site Directors