

August 2009

HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY PW NEWSLETTER



Message from the Co-Moderators

To the wonderful Presbyterian Women of Heartland Presbytery (PWHP),

A reminder: all the women in all our congregations are Presbyterian Women! We want all of them to know that they are part of us, and we wish we could be part of them. We are not defined by the meetings we attend or offices we hold. Rather, we respond to God's call to be his church in so many different ways, including prayer, Bible Study, work in and out of our homes, and yes, women's circle meetings and PW gatherings. Presbyterian women thrive as they enjoy one another's leadership, encouragement, help and company within the body of Christ. Our gifts are many. Our spirit is deep. We need to tap into those gifts, that spirit, to nourish our souls, deepen our faith, and widen our expectations.

Although we have felt the effects of a shrinking denomination and aging membership, we believe that Presbyterian Women are called to help lead our church into a vibrant future. The PWHP coordinating team has been calling individual churches and their PW leaders to ask for help in charting the course. We cannot repeat our past actions and expect different results.

So in response to shrinking attendance at the four excellent, but traditional, PWHP Fall Gatherings in 2008, the PWHP Coordinating team decided to have just one centrally located, spirit-renewing, refreshingly intimate fall event in 2009. It will be Saturday morning, October 10, at Second Presbyterian, 55th Street and Brookside, Kansas City, MO. There will be worship. Prayer. Stories you can relate to. Ways to get in touch with your spiritual self. Music. Lunch. The offering will support the Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan and Presbyterian Children's Services. Free child care. Valet parking. No stress. Find more details online at www.Heartlandpby.org; Related Links; Presbyterian Women/Heartland Presbytery and on page 3 of this newsletter. PLEASE make plenty of copies of the enclosed registration form for the women of your congregation and urge all of them to join in.

PW is changing at all levels, (as we say, reformed and always reforming!) At the national level, the Churchwide Coordinating Team pioneered the consensus model of governance and led the membership to adopting articles of incorporation, making PW an independent entity. We will be led by Marta Rodriguez, our first Hispanic moderator in this triennium. And our national gathering will move from Louisville to Orlando, Florida, in 2012. Look for the article on the Churchwide Gathering inside. Renee Neff Clark is the new PW moderator for the Synod of Mid-America, and we look forward to changes at that level, too. So how is your local PW changing? We especially want to know about changes for the better. Call, write, e-mail or text us. Please. And please pray for PW.

Blessings and peace to you,

Gail Cunningham
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Sandra Stogsdill
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PWHP Co-Moderators



Highlights from the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

Over 2,500 women from all over the world attended the Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering (CWG) in Louisville, Kentucky from July 11-15, 2009. The gathering theme was "God Will Do Wonders Among You" based on Joshua 3:5. The theme was reflected throughout the gathering from workshops and forums to the music and drama and by plenary speakers.

The work of Presbyterian Women on issues such as human trafficking, immigration, natural disasters, education for women of color, AIDS, and the consequences of war, were highlighted throughout the CWG, but especially in the plenary sessions.

The PW Business meeting was also conducted during the CWG. At this meeting, decisions were made using the Consensus model instead of Parliamentary procedure. The single most important decision made at the business meeting was the incorporation of PW at the Churchwide level. "Incorporation will give PW the flexibility to operate as needed. In order to ensure good stewardship of PW funds in the current economic environment, it is important that PW establish clear and separate accounting practices." (from the PC (USA) website)

Other CWG highlights include our own former moderator, Mary Jorgenson, starring as "PW" in entertaining plenary interludes advertising Horizons Magazine; the commissioning of 20 PC (USA) mission co-workers and Young Adult Volunteers (YAV), who will be heading to positions all over the globe, and the installation of the 2009-2012 CCT, including the new Moderator for the PW CCT, Marta Rodriguez of Puerto Rico, who is the first Hispanic woman to serve in this position.

Also of significance was the collection of Gift Cards which totaled over \$69,000, plus the Gathering Offering of over \$35,000, and the collection of Cents-Ability (2¢ a meal) of nearly \$3,000. The Gift Cards will be given to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children, and will be used to purchase food, clothing, building supplies and other necessities that are needed quickly. The CWG Offering will be used to establish a supplemental grant for women pursuing a theological education at one of the PC (USA) related seminaries and will be particularly directed toward women of color.

The CWG, with its music, worship, fellowship, food, Synod meetings, celebrations with Global participants, shopping at a Fair Trade Market Place, business meeting, speakers and so on, truly showed that God *is* working wonders among us!

Renee Neff Clark was elected moderator of the PWSMA (PW-Synod of Mid-America) at the PWSMA luncheon meeting held during the churchwide gathering. She formerly served as vice-moderator for mission and has held many positions in PW at local church and HPPW levels.

Look online at www.heartlandpby.org— Related Links— Presbyterian Women /Heartland Presbytery for information about the PWWP Spring Gathering. Expect something different!

The Book Nook

By Judy Klamm

One of the issues discussed at the just completed Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women was human trafficking. A couple of works that cover this in detail include *Not For Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade* by David Batstone and *Enslaved: True*

Stories of Modern Day Slavery by Jesse Sage.

These books examine the problem and come up with solutions to end this practice once and for all.

A more hopeful book is *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. This book details Greg's work building schools for girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan, bringing hope to a part of the world that desperately needs it.

Judy Klamm is the Recording Secretary for the HPPW Coordinating Team. She is also a reference librarian for Kansas City Public Library and has been an avid reader all her life. In this column, Judy will share her knowledge of books that will be of interest to Presbyterian Women.

WHAT IS A CROP HUNGER WALK?

A CROP Hunger Walk is neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together you can raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting. To find a walk in your area, go to www.churchworldservice.org, then click on CROP Hunger Walk at the top of the page. The menu of options on the left side of that page will take you to a national map where you can choose your state and a list of all walks will be shown. After you choose your walk location, instructions for joining a team, starting a team, walking as an individual or donating to the walk will be available. Gather a team from your church, school or just your neighbors and see what a difference YOU can make!

PW Treasurer Information

Operating Budget Fees—\$.50 for each woman in the congregation or 1/2 of the congregation membership should be sent to the Operating Budget Treasurer:

Doris Knight
14908 Glenwood
Overland Park, KS 66223
913-685-1047

Mission Giving—Quarterly pledge, Thank Offering, Birthday Offering, Least Coin, Hunger Fund, Honorary Life Memberships & Recognitions should be sent to the

Mission Giving Treasurer:

Janet Kelley
8319 Sagamore Road
Shawnee Mission, KS 66206
913-341-5076

Please make all checks payable to:

Presbyterian Women in Heartland Presbytery

PW Membership Updates

Until a new Membership Secretary is found, please submit any PW officer changes, as well as change of address, email, phone number, etc. to :

Janet Hibbert
3220 W 88th Street
Leawood, KS 66206-1645
913-648-4025
jh.hibbert@gmail.com

All churches, PW moderators and treasurers in Heartland Presbytery should be receiving the newsletter. Please help us accomplish this goal by providing current information to Janet Hibbert. Thank you!

A Day of Spiritual Renewal
Saturday, October 10, 2009, Second Presbyterian Church

Instead of the traditional four cluster meetings in the fall, this year one fall gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held instead. The focus of this gathering will be on spiritual renewal and will be held at Second Presbyterian Church, 318 E. 55th Street, Kansas City, MO.

The day will be structured around Spiritual Centers which will offer various activities from making prayer bracelets to writing personal letters to God.

During the worship service, several women will share their own life-changing, spiritual stories. There will be a room of special products available for purchase including handmade scarves and shawls from Pakistan provided by Veeda Javid, Renee Neff-Clark will have handmade items from Thailand, olive oil and teas offered by Second Presbyterian Church, and an assortment of products from 10,000 Villages as well.

Please complete the registration form on the flyer enclosed in this newsletter to share in this special day.

As many cluster leader positions are presently vacant, please copy and distribute this flyer to women in your church so everyone will be aware of this gathering and have an opportunity to attend. Thank you.

Notes from Spring Gathering 2009

The spring Gathering was held on April 18, 2009 at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, MO. The keynote speaker, Sue Nispel, gave an inspiring address about her mission trip to an orphanage in Thailand. After workshops, lunch was served and birthday cake for PW's 20th birthday was enjoyed by all. The offering of \$705 was split between the Neema Community Fellowship, the First Haitian Christian Fellowship, and Grandview Park Presbyterian Fellowship in Heartland Presbytery. HPPW's three voting representatives to Churchwide Gathering were commissioned and new HPPW Coordinating Team members were installed. Many thanks to everyone who made this day possible.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS
Missouri Festival of Sharing

On the third Saturday of October each year, non-profit organizations from around the region gather in Sedalia, MO, for the Missouri Festival of Sharing. Youth and adults sort and package food staples, beautiful handmade quilts are auctioned off to benefit the Church World Service Blanket Fund, and various kinds of kits of supplies are collected to be used by people in need. Much more happens, but to help from your home or church, please assemble kits and/or contribute funds to Church World Service. This year's emphasis is Health Kits. The regional office, directed by Joyce Holley, is at 32 E. 46 St., Kansas City, Mo., 64112. 816 -531-4540. Including our own, 35 denominations partner with Church World Service.

Church World Service Kits are small packages of supplies assembled by volunteers and shipped to people in need around the world. CWS provides School Kits, Hygiene Kits, Baby Kits, and Emergency Clean-up Buckets. Because Kits matter, please closely follow the instructions found in the Kit Guide. The contents of each Kit have been selected with care based on years of experience to make them as useful as possible, wherever and whenever they are sent.

A CWS Kit Guide with full instructions for kit contents and shipping can be found by going to the Church World Service website: www.churchworldservice.org. You will find the ***Kits*** tab on the top menu strip. By clicking on that Kits tab, you can then either order a Kit Guide online or download and print it.

If your church is not able to have kits ready for the Missouri Festival of Sharing in October, please remember that they may be sent to Church World Service all year. Your continuing support of this program is very important and helps to ensure Kits are available for immediate response after a disaster in another part of the world or here in the U.S.

Thank you for giving from the heart!!

2009 Mission Giving
Presbyterian Women in Heartland Presbytery

	<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
MISSION					
PCUSA	\$3,259.25	\$4,494.75	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,754.00
SYNOD	205.25	706.25	0.00	0.00	911.50
PRESBY	777.00	2,876.25	0.00	0.00	3,653.25
THANK	5,392.32	341.45	0.00	0.00	5,733.77
BIRTHDAY	257.40	1,957.29	0.00	0.00	2,214.69
HONORARY LIFE	190.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.00
LEAST COIN	369.70	299.93	0.00	0.00	669.63
HUNGER	160.26	72.70	0.00	0.00	232.96
OTHER**	<u>0.00</u>	<u>209.12</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>209.12</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$10,611.18</u>	<u>\$10,957.74</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$21,568.92</u>

**Blessings Without Boundaries

Janet Kelley, Mission Giving Treasurer

Please note: When submitting quarterly Mission Pledge checks, the form PW Treasurers use gives them the ability to allocate the monies to PCUSA, Synod of Mid America, and Heartland Presbytery in any amounts or percentages. If no indication is made, the entire amount is sent to PCUSA with no contribution to the Synod or Heartland Presbytery.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, October 10, 2009	Fall Gathering, Second Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO	9:00 A.M.
Saturday, November 7, 2009	HPPWCT meeting, Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, KS	9:00 A.M.
Saturday, February 6, 2010	HPPWCT meeting, Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, KS	9:00 A.M.
Saturday, May 1, 2010	HPPWCT meeting, Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, KS	9:00 A.M.

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Presbyterian Women of Heartland Presbytery
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