

Patterns

September 4, 2012

a Newsletter for all Presbyterian Women in
Western New York



2012–2013 theme: Caring for God’s Household

From our Moderator Marilyn:

FALL! Beginning a new PW year

OK. So you missed the Churchwide Gathering in Orlando. No need to fret! Use the “River of Hope” theme to inspire you!

Promise to continue that special program that all your women love, but also promise to try on something NEW!

Here are a few suggestions from the “River of Hope” registration booklet:

- * tour one of your local Mission sites
- * Christian Discernment: the Art of Choosing well in confusing times-- ask the League of Women Voters Buffalo-Niagara for literature and/or a speaker
- * Sabbath Keeping: the good, the bad and the holy-- have group list the things you do on Sundays. How may you keep Sabbath?

- * use the Mission Yearbook of Prayer regularly as a reminder of the impact of our mission dollars through Presbyterians
- * take group to check out the creek, river, lake nearby and then pick up litter and take action to care for creation
- * engage women to write letters, call, visit church members in nursing homes or living alone. Keep those relationships strong.
- * invite PW Coordinating Team members to one of your meetings to share their insights
- * find a recording of a favorite hymn, gospel song, instrumental music-- and move! You’ll be surprised at the joy and ease

moving to music brings!
*connect with a Mission site near you, and find out what hands-on project you can do to help them.



PW of WNY learns about



Stephen Ministry

“...a complete system for equipping laypeople to provide quality Christian care to hurting people.”

www.stephenministries.org

Kathryn Hallborg, Stephen Minister at University Presbyterian Church, presenter

Presenting the 2012–2013 *Horizons* Bible Study

Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles

by Nancy Benson-Nicol

Suggestions for Leaders

by Magdalena I. García

with Gladys Gifford, Spiritual Life Director, Presbyterian Women of WNY

at the PW Gathering, September 29, 2012



Swimming in “A River of Hope”

--report from the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, by Carol Suckow

For five days Joyce Bailey and I swam in “A River of Hope”. Free from the relentless news about war, violence, inhumanity and selfish greed, we floated surrounded by the hopes and dreams of 2000 women who shared what they had accomplished in the last three years and what they planned to do for the next three.

Many of the highlights and results of the decisions made at the gathering will be featured in the Horizons magazine. I am eager to tell of my experiences with women of our churches along with the many resources provided, but for now I would like to share a more personal testimony, with thanks to all of you who made this experience possible for me. At age 65 I have found yet again the call of God to a new direction in my life.

The warmth of strangers sharing worship, discussion groups, and even business meetings astounded me. Over 400 women spent hours discussing issues and plans related to the fulfillment of the pledge we recite as our PW Mission statement. Consensus method was used for voting, a more complex but more open way of making decisions, which allowed for dissent and questions to be voiced by any member of the voting representatives. If only our government could have seen us in action! Despite our differences we GOT THINGS DONE!! Then we hugged each other and laughed together.

A song sung by a Native American woman of the Lakota tribe, where a PW mission group recently visited, will forever haunt me. It sang of the need for forgiveness between their people and ours, so that we can move into new relationships of caring for one another as sisters in Christ.

The diversity of women, Asian, Native American, African, Latino, Black, White, old and young, showed phenomenal strength of will to share the burdens our sisters face through both our money and ourselves.

Along with a hundred women from the gathering, Joyce and I participated in a protest for better wages for a farming community near our gathering. Fair wages were the goal and we walked a picket line in prayer and song to draw attention to this project. For wells in Southern Sudan we gave in ONE offering over \$35,000. Dress making for little girls in Africa was only one of the hands on projects women took part in, others are simply too numerous to mention here.

Our wonderful speakers declared that we had each stepped into the River of Hope that flows from God. This was my first time ever to attend a PW gathering and I came away with the absolute certainty that what politicians and governments of the world either can't or won't do to help our sisters in need, a dedicated group of Presbyterian Women has and will continue to do, one church community, one presbytery, and one PW project at a time. I will swim in this River of Hope, not drowning in the sea of despair so many voices, saying “The problems are too great there is nothing I can do”.

This gathering affirms that we are God's presence to each other and to a global sisterhood of sharing and caring. I can hardly wait three more years to go to Minneapolis, MN, for the next Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. I hope many others will join us!



partial photo, Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Northeast

from Diane Eshelman, Peace and Justice chair

Two WNY Presbyterians went to Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C. this spring and came back with what is called a “**Faithful Budget Campaign**”. Let us prayerfully consider supporting this campaign, in view of the coming days when Congress must prepare the Federal budget.

Priorities for a Faithful Federal Budget

Acting with Mercy and Justice as One Nation under God

As One Nation under God, respect and care for one another is a sacred imperative and we are learning to “love our neighbor”. But American society should also be a place where we delight in the value of everyone and gladly accept a responsibility for one another’s well-being.

We call on our elected leaders to craft a federal budget that fulfills our shared duty to each other in all segments of society.

Our message to our national leaders – rooted in our sacred texts is this:

Act with mercy and justice by serving the common good, robustly finding support for poor and vulnerable people, both home and abroad and exercising proper care and keeping of the earth.

Principles of a Faithful Budget

Restoring Economic Opportunity

We urge Congress to make the long-term investments needed to sustain the U.S economic renewal, create economic opportunity for all, and work toward ending poverty. This requires investments in high-quality, affordable education, sustainable jobs with living-wages and policies that help families to build assets.

Ensuring Adequate Resources for Shared Priorities

Investments in the renewal of our nation’s economic well-being and protecting the poor and vulnerable will itself serve to reduce the long-term deficit. Such investments should be financed through an equitable tax system, founded on fairness, where those who have reaped extraordinary benefits contribute proportionately to the good of all.

Prioritizing True Human Security

Our budget priorities should reflect a more balanced approach to the full spectrum of investments that build meaningful security for individuals and families and communities.

Meeting Immediate Need

Congress has the moral and pragmatic responsibility to adequately fund critical human needs, social service, environmental protection and humanitarian and poverty-focused international assistance programs, all of which ensure human security in its broadest sense.

A Faithful Budget will seek wise and far-sighted ways to reduce the nation’s long-term deficits while protecting the most vulnerable among us.

(continued, p. 5)

Using the Gifts of Creation, Responsibly

A Faithful Budget must encompass a reverence for our created environment, making choices that protect air, water and land- the entirety of creation- gifts from God that must be available to and protected for this generation and generations to come.

Providing Access to Health Care for All

A Faithful Budget will ensure access to quality health care by investing in wellness and making needed improvements in the health care system.

Recognizing a Robust Role for Government

We need the government's continued partnership to combat poverty by providing a truly adequate short-term safety net and by means of policies that serve to prevent poverty, reduce extreme inequality, restore economic opportunity for all and rebuild a robust middle class.

The Call

As faith communities and Americans of conscience, we stand with those among us whose need is great and call on all of us to act together as American people with mercy and justice and to rearrange our national priorities to focus on the common good.

Let us embrace a call to live together in community, not agreeing on everything, but sharing in the common purpose of bettering our nation and protecting our brothers and sisters here and around the world and caring for our environment in a sustainable manner. We call on Congress and the administration to craft a federal budget that protects the common good, values individuals and helps lift the burden of the poor, rather than increasing it while shielding the wealthiest from additional sacrifice.

Support the Faithful Budget Campaign!

for more info,

see: Presbyterian Office of Public Witness and

www.pcusa.org/news/2012/3/22/religious-leaders-press-faithful-federal-budget/

*The need is great, and the resources are abundant.
For those to whom much has been given, much will be required.*

-- Luke 12:48

...from our Spiritual Life Coordinator, Gladys Gifford....

At the spring gathering, PW participants discussed the Beatitudes study through small groups and wrote brief responses on squares of paper. During worship we placed these responses in the offering, as our personal commitment to apply what we learned to our personal and congregational life.

It was my privilege to gather these responses, and as I read them I was impressed with the spiritual vitality of our women, who are willing to follow the Beatitudes study with action!

Here are some of the offerings:

Work for justice: love one another for love is from God-- try to follow Jesus' footsteps. There will always be [the] poor, but honor them as God would do. We need the Holy Spirit to help us.

God is calling me to pay closer attention to economic justice in our own community.

God is calling me to donate to organizations that are truly for the betterment of people and not ones that just talk the talk.

Work with refugees in Buffalo.

I will try to observe and learn about [the] disabled and how to help.

When you have a relationship with God, you can genuinely and honestly honor those Jesus preached about.

To respond to those in jail.

Give voice to honoring the dishonored; advocate for the common good.

I will keep some form of the Beatitudes in a visible place to remind me of my need to reach out to those in need.

I will pray for mental problems I detect. read the gifts promised us by Jesus after each beatitude.

Respond to the lonely or [those] separated from others.

Be more open and get involved, not sit back and wait for someone else to do it.

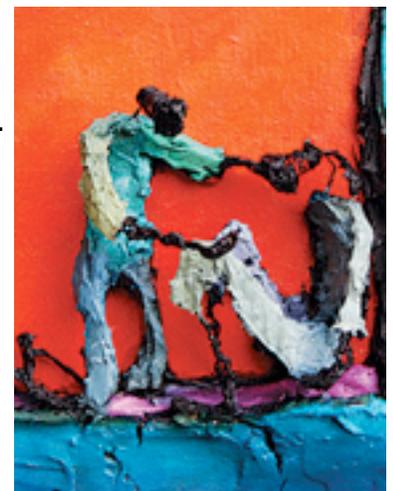
Be more aware of those around us who are shut-in; visit more of the sick.

Thank my aides who come, Monday-Friday.

Affirm my daughter in her lifestyle choices.

Listen to others and respond with sincerity.

Help family to forgive.



Presbyterian Women in action....

see inside for

Fall Gathering flyer

Mission opportunities to serve the homeless at Fall Gathering, September 29, 2012

***Bring disposable diapers for Family Promise (South Buffalo) for temporarily homeless families**

The mission of Family Promise of Western New York is to unite religious and other organizations in responding to the needs of homeless families in our community. Uniting hearts and hands, the network provides a way for homeless families to receive temporary shelter, meals, and assistance while seeking their own independence.

It's more than providing shelter, meals and support. It's about keeping entire families together while they work toward having a home to call their own.

see website: www.fpwny.org/

***Bring light bulbs for Genesis House (Olean)**

The Genesis House is a faith based organization that welcomes and serves those in need of a home. We offer temporary shelter and nutritious meals and snacks free of charge to families and individuals. We are a homeless shelter that serves approximately 40 families per year for an average of four weeks per stay.

see: www.geneshouseofolean.org/



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Directions to Kenmore Presbyterian Church, 2771 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore, NY:

Kenmore Presbyterian Church is located on the east side of Delaware Avenue in Kenmore, corner of Hazeltine, one block north of Kenmore Avenue.

See: <http://www.pbywny.org/> or call 875-7600.

**See you at the Fall Gathering, September 29, in Kenmore!
(flyer enclosed)**

**We will
reflect on ways we are called to care for God's household...**

share from our resources with Family Promise and Genesis House...

seek to be faithful to our calling, in worship and witness.

Presbyterian Women of WNY

2060 Union Road

West Seneca, NY 14224

return service requested

PW label