



# The LIGHTHOUSE

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN of the SYNOD of the NORTHEAST

August 2008

## *Moderator's Message....*

It has been a full year already since I took office as Moderator – and wow, what a year! It has been exciting, inspiring, frustrating and wonderful! I have visited as far west as Geneva Presbytery, as far east as Long Island Presbytery and as far south as West Jersey Presbytery. It has been a pleasure and an honor to speak to and with our women from all over our Synod. I have learned at least as much from you as I have shared! I hope I will have the opportunity to visit more groups during the next year. I will look forward to it!

We are doing so many mission projects, the variety boggles my mind! Plus, our women are always willing to go the extra mile and step in to help. I put out a call for 12 specifically knitted scarves for our Global Exchange representative, Jyung In Lee to take with her to Eastern Europe in September and had more than 12 volunteers within 12 hours. We needed quilt squares created for a project for next summer's Churchwide Gathering and again, very quickly way more than enough people had volunteered to help. That's awesome!

Big changes will be happening in the next few years. We have begun talking about having a Presbyterian Partnership Group Gathering (PPG) every third year. This would replace one of the smaller Synod Gatherings. We'll learn more about this at the November training. Quite a few of you are already excited about the idea and have made contact with other Moderators in your PPG. One or two are reluctant but hopefully as you learn more about the idea, it will become more appealing. In this day and age of high gas costs and travel expenses not to mention everyone's time crunch, it seems like a good idea to have a gathering closer to home yet with other women from surrounding presbyteries. We learn so much by sharing time together. Be sure to tell everyone what is going on in your presbytery, in PW Synod and on the Churchwide level. Hopefully, they will take that back to their churches and keep spreading the word. Keep our light glowing!

Until we meet again, may the good Lord hold you on the palm of his hand.

In peace and love,

*Sandy Grillo*

## TOGETHER IN SERVICE

By Susan Silliman Smith, Coordinator

I bring you greetings as your new Together in Service Coordinator for the PW Synod of the Northeast. Most of you are very familiar with your positions and I am looking forward to working with you.

I am requesting all PWP Moderators send to me the name of their respective contact person, with email address if possible. This way I can send out updates in-between newsletters.

Church World Service is appealing to the churches to compile school kits, baby kits and emergency clean-up buckets. Please check your area's Church World Service website for the dates of the spring pick up. Church World Service also welcomes kits sent directly to their Windsor office.

Together in Service in an open ended program, allowing for PW organizations to be creative in their mission programs. It is important that records be kept of every mission program you participate in throughout the year. The year- end report is due on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Perhaps there is a local program in your neighborhood that needs attention, or perhaps you enjoy supporting the PCUSA missions around the world, or perhaps it is some of both. Whatever it is you are spreading God's Word and service throughout his kingdom.

Hope to hear from you soon. My email address is: [august13sss@aol.com](mailto:august13sss@aol.com). Snail address is: PO Box 295, Mexico, NY 13114.

### *A Thank You Note...*

To the Synod of the Northeast Presbyterian Women,

I want to thank you for the love, support and encouragement you have shown me as I prepare for a year of service in Peru as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV). It was such a joy to meet many of you at the retreat at the Stony Point Center. Spending the weekend among such wonderful women filled me with assurance and spiritual guidance as I embark on this journey.

I greatly appreciate your overwhelming financial support and look forward to continuing partnerships with many of your local PW Groups. I would like to share this experience with you throughout the year and also when I return.

I will be keeping an online journal at [www.Lynnmission.blogspot.com](http://www.Lynnmission.blogspot.com) and can also be reached at [Lhasselbarth@hotmail.com](mailto:Lhasselbarth@hotmail.com).

Thank you for including me in the loving community of the Synod of the Northeast Presbyterian Women!

With Gratitude,

*Lynn Hasselbarth*

Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church  
Guilderland, New York

## Reflections of a participant in the Sisters Stand and Walk Together Program by Sharon Hsu

My participation in PW began with attending the Churchwide Gathering in 2000. It was an eye opener, but it also confirmed the impressions I obtained through attending past PC(USA) events that nothing much changed afterwards. That is, life at my home church remained the same.

Well, something did change, although I didn't realize it at the time. That experience brought me to the Synod gathering in Albany the next year, and I began attending PWP gatherings afterwards. In early 2004, I was approached by the PWP search committee chair to serve in a certain capacity in the PWP. I turned it down with many reasons, or excuses, you may say. Yet the most important reason was one I didn't give verbally. The most important reason was fear. I was afraid that when, not if, I failed, it would be a disgrace not just to me personally, but also to my family, my local church, and perhaps all Taiwanese people in the world! Well, the last is certainly an exaggeration, but you know how fears are irrational and could grow so out of proportion.

In late 2006, I was once again asked whether I was willing to be nominated as a candidate for Treasurer in the PWS. This time, I said yes. So what happened between 2004 and 2006, you ask? Sister Stand & Walk Together happened.

Thanks to the excellent training that Anne, Denise, and many other wonderful Presbyterian Women provided in the past 3 years through the innovative Sister Stand & Walk Together program, now I feel better equipped to serve. However, that is not the most essential change. The most significant change is confidence. It is not only a confidence in my own gifts to offer, but more importantly a confidence in my fellow sisters. I have confidence in those sisters who walk ahead of me and those who walk beside me. I am confident that when I become lost, I have guides in those who walk ahead of me. I am confident that whenever I stumble, and I know I will, those who walk beside me will extend their hands to stop my fall. And if I did fall, they would pull me up and continue to walk with me.

Sister Stand & Walk Together is an excellent program that offers many rich rewards: training in PW organization, spiritual growth, self-confidence, and the most valuable of all from my point of view: establishing relationships beyond one's immediate surroundings. Relationships that were perhaps curtailed when one became an immigrant in an alien country are now established and broadened. That is a priceless reward.

***In honor of Jane Mosher, a sister who walked ahead of me as Treasurer of the PWSNE and walked me through the first year of handling the various tasks of the position.***

**PLEASE NOTE....**Remittance forms along with gasoline reimbursement form, expense vouchers for general expenses and Lighthouse distribution reimbursement are now available on our website, [www.PWSNE.org](http://www.PWSNE.org) (Thanks to Abbie!)

## LEADERSHIP NETWORK COORDINATOR REPORT

First, let me thank those of you who have either forwarded your rosters to me or who have indicated they are in the works. They are very important. I send them all on to Patricia Longfellow. This is how the chain of communications happens from Churchwide through PW Synod to PW Presbytery to PW in the churches. Speaking of which, a letter was sent to PW Synod and Presbytery moderators by Ann Ferguson in April explaining the voting representatives (including the expense sharing policy), the Business Meeting (time/dates/orientation), Amendments to By-Laws, and Budget for 2010-2012. I'm hearing that some of you did not receive it. If this is so, please e-mail me and I will send you a copy.

Second, I was very interested in your annual reports and the fact that you are starting to address your histories and the preservation of them. We have had some wonderful women who "went before us and made the path easier" and we should honor them by telling their stories. So, thank you and be sure you send them on to the PW Synod Historian, JoAnn Braun at (texasyellowrose14512@yahoo.com).

Before I address how you can obtain information on the Churchwide Gathering, please SAVE THE DATES: NOV. 7 AND 8, AT STONY POINT CONFERENCE CENTER, FOR THE ANNUAL MODERATORS' TRAINING. As plans are made and confirmed, moderators will be contacted and information via word documents provided.

CHURCHWIDE GATHERING INFORMATION packet will be in the September/October issue of HORIZONS. As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be available at: [www.pcusa.org/pwgathering](http://www.pcusa.org/pwgathering) to download. Right now, you can also access the entire PR packet to download at the same "address". There are limited gathering scholarships for the registration fee. Scholarship applications must be postmarked by February 10, 2009. The three hotels, which are honoring the CWG rates for three days before and three days after the CWG will be charging \$125.00 to \$130.00 per night per room, plus tax, two-four guests per room. All are connected to the Convention Center by pedways. You must make your own hotel reservations. Synod lunches are scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, 2009. Two projects that can be started now are: Mission Project Poster\* (Celebrating 20 years in mission as PW in YOUR PW) and Wonder-filled gift cards: rebuilding homes, reassuring children, restoring hope. PW will be donating these gift cards to PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) and Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children. This is a way those not able to attend can be part of the Gathering! Suggested national retailers to purchase gift cards from are: Home Depot, Lowe's, Target, etc. Gift cards should be purchased in increments of \$20.00 for ease in distribution.

\*Posters should be 8 1/2" x 11" or 13" x 13" scrapbook page, piece of cardstock or poster board. Tell the story of a successful mission project your PW has been involved in sometime in the last 20 years or now. Do a brief description, add photos and share your story. By June 1, 2009, send the poster to: Patricia Longfellow, PW Program Assistant, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40402-1396.

There's a lot more in the PR packet plus a CD (if you order from PDS using Id # CWG-09-032). Lois Carter and her team have done a wonderful job !

Questions, etc., my contact info is below.

Judy Cunningham  
[danjudithc@aol.com](mailto:danjudithc@aol.com)  
203.744.6793  
40 Old Lantern Rd., Danbury, CT. 06810

## **NEWS from Around the SYNOD**

**Albany PWP...** What a beautiful spring and summer we have had this year! A wonderful Albany Spring Gathering was dedicated to educating us on Domestic Violence. We had great fellowship and an inspirational installation of officers.

In July some of us Presbyterian Women had the opportunity to enjoy the Synod of the Northeast Gathering at Stony Point. It was great to reconnect with women we have not seen in a while and catch up on their life's experiences. The workshops were interesting, the birthday party was the best party-mixer I have ever seen. The dancers at the Sunday worship were very graceful and intense. It was a great way to wrap up the Gathering.

In October, the Albany Presbyterian Women are planning a workshop and a retreat. The workshop is set up for October 3 at Camp Hebron Conference Center. The workshop will be to renew and reconnect the Team with the changes at the Synod level, Presbytery level and reconstructing the new By-Laws for our Albany PWCT.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, we plan on a Retreat based on the Horizon's Bible Study of Jubilee. Rev. M.J. Paterson will be hosting the Retreat. There will be singing, music, a nature's altar and stone soup. Our main feature will be making sure everyone has an inspirational experience. Some of this experience will be a nature walk (if one is able to do some walking). There will be an informational table with books, flyers, prayers and other materials to take home with you. I hope to see many ladies at this Retreat. The PWCT is working hard to make this Retreat memorable to each of you.

-Gloria Ghirarduzzi, Moderator

**NEWARK PWP...** "Blessings without Boundaries" will be the theme for Newark's Fall Gathering on October 18 to be held at the Bethel Presbyterian Church in East Orange, NJ. Julissa Alvarez-Garcia, Member-at-Large representing Hispanic/Latin American Women on the PWSNE Coordinating Team will be our guest speaker.

-Barbara Turnbull, Moderator

**Cayuga/Syracuse, Geneva, Genesee Valley PWP...Churchwide Vice Moderator for Justice and Peace, Louise Davidson** will be visiting the Western end of New York State. Our PWPs will host her on Saturday, October 18 in Canandaigua United Church and on Sunday, October 19 she will be in Western New York.

This historic Presbytery even on Saturday in Canandaigua will begin with registration at 9:30. Louise will be the morning Keynote Speaker followed by questions and answers. Each Presbytery will have some time to conduct their respective business meetings as well.

The noon meal (soup & salad) will be provided at \$3 from the host church with a week's reservation notice to Mary Lou Havens, 585-396-8641, or if you choose, you may brown bag.

The afternoon will include workshops by Jane Gerling (wife of Rev. W. James Gerling) followed by communion worship including receiving and dedicating the Thank Offering.

Of course, there will be SERRV shop, Fair Trade Coffee/Tea available, a Horizon's skit and Bible Study Eyewitness News. Childcare will be available with at least a week's notice to Mary Lou Havens 585-396-8641.

All of our PW Sisters from across the Synod are welcome to join us.

Susan Silliman Smith & Rita Hooper,  
Cayuga/Syracuse

Virginia Champlin, Regina Tarshus & Lou Tarr  
Geneva

Gloria Hall, Genesee Valley

Mary Lou Havens, Host Church

### **Mayfield Central Presbyterian Church PW...**

The PW of Mayfield Central Presbyterian Church is hosting their seventh NetWorkers Dinner on Wednesday, October 1 at 6:00 PM. For the last six years they have served a dinner from one of the countries or areas that takes part in the NetWorkers Safe Motherhood Project and Malaria Prevention Program and have entertainment from that area inviting other churches from the Albany Presbytery to come. Last year over 70 women came to the program to learn about NetWorkers and share in a fun evening of food and fellowship.

[cont.]

### **Mayfield PW continued...**

This year's meal will be Pakistani and the PW women from Mayfield will be having some expert help from the Pakistani American Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Albany. It will be authentic and delicious and we will try to have entertainment from the region. A free will offering will be taken for the NetWorkers program which provides mosquito nets to women and children in Africa and Asia. Rev. Orth, Mayfield's minister, is the regional coordinator for NetWorkers and will tell about the NetWorkers Program. Last year we sent almost \$500.00 to NetWorkers.

All women of the Albany Presbytery (or any other Presbytery) are invited to attend, but reservations would be appreciated. Call the church office (518-661-6566), Mary Lou Bryan (518-725-2041) or Christine Dahl (518-661-5800) for information, directions or reservations.

### **JULY GATHERING AT STONY**

**POINT....**Rafters rang out with song and voice as seventy-plus Presbyterian Women gathered at Stony Point on July 18-20<sup>th</sup>.

The theme for this year's event was "*Daily Walk with GOD – Power for Living*" based on Jesus words, "...Whoever follows me will never WALK in darkness..." [John 8:12].

#### *Highlights included:*

- A 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party that divided the group by sitting at a table representing the month of their birthday. Many thanks to Gloria Ghirarduzzi for the wonderfully creative centerpieces for each month of the year. Before the party was over, each table had to lead the group with a song representing their respective month. Great songs were selected! Our Historian, JoAnn Braun, told us how the current Presbyterian Women's format came to be. Past Moderators of the Synod PW shared delightful memories.

- A commissioning service for *Jyung In Lee (Jenny)* for the Global Exchange Trip.
- The keynote address by *Lucy Janjigian*, who was born of Armenian descent in Jerusalem, Palestine. She had a moving story as she shared about her youth, her love of art and her mission projects.
- Workshops including Labyrinth, Massage Therapy, Mission, Bible Study and a Craft Corner.
- A great Horizon skit lighted our Saturday evening. Then after a worship service and installation of new officers, the evening concluded with an outdoor "Mala Meal" comprised of prayers followed by a treat of fresh blueberries.

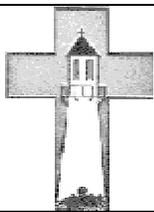
Sunday's communion worship was enhanced by the inspirational "Flowing Psalms" dancers from the First Presbyterian Church of Jamaica, New York.

**Don't forget to look in our website, [www.PWSNE.org](http://www.PWSNE.org) for news, a current calendar of events, links to events throughout the Synod, up-to-date listing of Coordinating Team members and PWP Moderators.**

### ***FOOD for THOUGHT...***

Remember each one of us a precious daughter of God, crowned with glory and honor. We do not journey through this life alone for our names are engraved in God's hand.

Jesus tells us, "...rejoice that your names are written in heaven..." [Luke 10:20a]



**Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast**

**CALENDAR  
OPPORTUNITIES AND REMINDERS  
EVENTS / ACTIONS**



<b>2008</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>FOR</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sept. 10-11	Cayuga-Syracuse PWP AND Utica PWP	All Women	Cleveland, NY
Sept. 19-21	Encuentro Regional	All Hispanic Women	Stony Point, NY
Sept. 27	Susquehanna Valley PWP Gathering	All Women	TBA
Sept. 27	Newton PWP Fall Gathering @ 1st P.C.	All Women	Stillwater
Oct. 1	PW Night in Pakistan	All Women	Mayfield Central Presbyterian Church
Oct. 4	Albany PWP Fall Retreat	All Women	Camp Hebron
Oct. 4	Monmouth PWP — <i>Celebrating PW's 20th Birthday</i>	All Women	Wright Memorial PC, Barnegat, NJ
Oct. 11 9:30	Newark PWP Fall Gathering — Julissa Alvarez-Garcia, Moderator NJ Hispanic PW	All Women	Bethel P.C., East Orange, NJ
Oct. 17	Northern New York	All Women	Heuvelton P.C.
Oct. 18	Joint Fall Gathering: Cayuga-Syracuse / Geneva / Genesee Valley PWP's — <i>Greet and Meet Churchwide Vice Moderator for Justice and Peace Concerns, Louise Davidson</i>	All Women	Canandaigua, NY
Oct. 18	Elizabeth PWP Fall Gathering Joy Carol, author, speaker, counselor	All Women	Basking Ridge P.C.
Oct. 18	Southern New England <i>Consciously Faithful... Consciously Green</i>	All Women	Greenwood P.C., Warwick RI
Oct. 18	West Jersey PWP Fall Gathering	All Women	Morristown, NJ
Oct. 19	Western NY — Louise Davidson, PWCWCT VM Justice & Peace	All Women	Buffalo Westminster
Oct 25	Boston PW — in lieu of Fall Gathering, supporting Presbytery Day	All Women	Needham PC
Oct. 26	Palisades PWP Fall Spiritual Retreat	All Women	Elmwood Park, NJ
Nov. 16 2-5 pm	Hudson River PWP Fall Retreat	All Women	Pleasantville Church
Dec. 8	Advent "High Tea" sponsored by Hudson River PWP	All Women	Stony Point, NY
<b>2009</b>			
Feb 25 10 am-1pm	Ash Retreat sponsored by Hudson River PWP Leader: Rev. Laura Cunningham	All Women	TBA
Feb. 27-28	Newton PWP Retreat @ VillaPauline	All Women	Mendham
Mar. 7	Newark PWP Winter Gathering	All Women	TBA
April 18	Newark PWP Spring Gathering	All Women	TBA
Apr. 25	Monmouth PW Spring Gathering with New Brunswick PW	All Women	TBA
Apr. 25	Palisades — Spring Gathering	All Women	Trinity PC, Paramus
Apr. 25	West Jersey — Spring Gathering	All Women	1 <sup>st</sup> PC— Haddonfield
Apr. 26	Newton PWP Spring Gathering	All Women	Morristown P.C.
July 11-15	<b>Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women</b>	All Women	Louisville, KY
<b>2012</b>			
July	<b>Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women</b>	All Women	Orlando, Florida

**Annual Recurring Deadlines**

Jan. 15	Deadline for Women of Faith endorsements
Feb1 Aug1	Lighthouse articles due to Gail Banks
Feb1 Aug1	PWP Historian reports due to Jo Ann Braun
Mar. 15	Pledges due to Treasurer Sharon Hsu
Mar. 15	PWSCT expense vouchers due to Treasurer Sharon Hsu
Mar. 25	Pledge Payments due to Central Receiving and PWS Treasurer
May 1	PWP Directory due to churchwide
May 15	Annual Reports due to PWS from PWP Moderators, send to Shirley Fine
June 1	Mission Reports due to PWS from PWP Mission Coordinators, send to Susan Silliman Smith