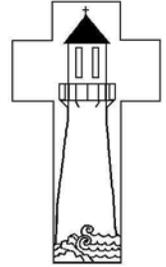




Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast



The Lighthouse

February 2005

New Life Springs Forth

Anne Reynolds, Moderator, PWSNE

As I write this from my rural woodlot, the extremes of midwinter are clearly evident. The extremes of sub-zero temperatures, brilliant sunshine and moonshine, undisturbed whiteness, silence, stillness, all give the impression of vast barren emptiness. Yet, we know that that life beneath teems below the seasonal blanket in a period of gestation in preparation for vigorous new life, birth. Just now the bear cubs are being born, ready to grow into assertive and ambitious giants. So, too, I believe is the same for the women who call themselves Presbyterian Women.

In the period since the devastating Tsunami, at the same time the lectionary verses were of John the Baptist's call to change, we both consciously and unconsciously considered our lifestyles and values with a fresh perspective. Our minds were jolted into thinking of alternate paths that such devastation alerts us to.

Now more than ever, it is important to listen to and to learn from other cultures through the voices of our ethnic and immigrant sisters. We want to be in dialogue with our college sisters, active on 39 campuses within our Synod of NE, in order to strengthen and nurture each other as we work to bring the peace and justice of living water to others. New life is beginning to grow here in the NE where there is a mutual intentional exchange of unique gifts, information, and skills between PWs in dissimilar settings as we seek to become more inclusive.

YES, during these last months, without regional PCUSA Women's Ministry support, PW in the Synod of Northeast has been in a quiet period of gestation and just like the bears in hibernation, birthing has begun.

Let's celebrate our varieties of newness with thanksgiving and joy!

Inside this issue

- The latest news from the Synod PW Coordinating Team
- Calendar
- Spring Spiritual Retreat Registration
- Horizons Bible Study Workshop Registration
- Brochure for the July Gathering
- Global Exchange News
- How to contact us



And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See I am making all things new."

Rev. 21:5



PW Synod July Gathering for Families

“IS YOUR LIFE IN BALANCE?”

In the 24/7 world we live in, how can we become clear about our priorities and find time to enjoy the precious moments given to us in the present, without letting concern about what we need to do in the future overshadow us?

Please join Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast on **July 15-17, 2005** at Stony Point Center as we try to carve out 48 hours of special moments for you and your family, and find ways together to be

“Thriving in the Present...Preparing for the Future”

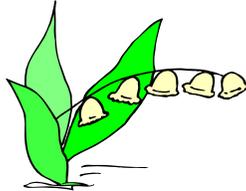
There will be babysitting for the very young, special activities for children through age 13 and workshops that will interest everyone from the youngest teen, through those who are now enjoying their grandchildren.

Activities planned include crafts, games, a “campfire” with singing, speakers, workshops on maintaining our balance, improving our communication skills, organizing our world, understanding how our environment affects us, Bible study, outdoor hikes, hands-on mission projects, and much, much more. We hope you will consider joining us as we learn how to achieve and maintain equilibrium in our lives.

Registration begins at 4:00pm on Friday afternoon: dinner and a movie (popcorn included) begin our time together, and we conclude on Sunday after morning worship. It will be a weekend your family will talk about for years to come. Please join us!

The registration form is included in this newsletter, or you can access gathering information and the registration form on the Synod PW web site www.pwsne.org.

The Synod PW Coordinating Team will meet Sunday afternoon after the close of the gathering. They will need to pay \$25 gathering registration fee and \$50 to stay at Gilmore Sloan.



Search Committee Seeks Prospects

Elizabeth Denier, Search Committee Moderator

Rather than simply trying to fill PWS Coordinating Team positions for 2005, the Search Committee wants to compile a list of prospects for future use. Even though your candidate may not be available at present, please send a letter or e-mail listing her name, address, phone number, e-mail, previous experience with Presbyterian Women, special skills and abilities, and anything else you consider relevant. This will give Search Committee members an opportunity to become better acquainted with the candidate through contacts at Gatherings, phone calls, etc. With the loss of services on the national level due to recent budget cuts, good PWS Coordinating Team members are more important than ever. Please help us find those women.

Email Beth at a.denier@worldnet.att.net.



Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast Calendar of Opportunities



2005

- April 2, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Ordination Celebration Worship, Sponsored by the National Association of Presbyterian Clergywomen Triennial Conference "Tending the Flame, Women Called to Lead" Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, NJ
- April 8 - 10 Spring Spiritual Retreat "Earthen Vessels and Cracked Pots," Syracuse, NY
- April 29- May 1 Healing Retreat at the Jersey Shore, contact Rev. Helenmarie Sunkenburg email crissy@capital.net for information on participation availability.
- May 20 - 22 Horizons Bible Study with Kathleen Long Bostrom - *To Everything a Season*, Stony Point
- July 15-17 PW Synod family gathering for all women, men, children at Stony Point
PW Synod CT meeting Sunday afternoon after the gathering.
- Aug 5 - 7 Regional Encuentro for Hispanic/Latina PW, Stony Point, NY
- Oct 3 - 24 Global Exchange trip to Brazil
- Nov. 4 - 6 PWSCT Meeting and Design Team for November 2006, Albany

2006

- May 19-21 Horizons Bible Study, Stony Point, NY
- July 7 - 11 Churchwide Gathering "Creation! Exclamation! God's Word! Light for the Journey."

Our Synod PW web site is www.pwsne.org
You can find EVERYTHING there
Thanks to web master Abbie Slaman



Deadlines (each year on these dates)

- Jan. 15 Deadline for submitting Women of Faith endorsements.
- Feb. 1 Reports due to PWS Historian from PWP Historians, send to Helen Sforza
- Feb. 1 and Aug 1 Deadline for *The Lighthouse* articles, send to Penny Webster
- Mar. 15, June 15, Oct. 15, Dec. 15 Pledges due from PWPs, send to Jane Mosher (in full by Dec. 15)
- Mar. 15, June 15, Oct. 15, Dec. 15 Expense vouchers from PWSCT due, send to Jane Mosher
- May 1 PWP directory due -- these are now sent to churchwide --
Beth Snyder, PC(USA), 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396
Or send via e-mail attachment or plain text to Bsnyder@ctr.pcusa.org
- May 15 Annual Reports due to PWS from PWP Moderators, send to Louise Palm
- June 1 Mission Reports due to PWS from PWP Mission Coordinators, send to Joanne Burrell

Decade of the Child Coordinator for Peace & Justice, Virginia Coon



Now is the time for all good Presbyterian Women to come to the aid of the children in their Churches.

It is the time to introduce your churches to the information so that they can celebrate the Decade of the Child. There is information on how to be a child advocate, children & violent video games, the decade of the child hymn and ideas for church members to embrace their children more fully. Also, part of the information walks Churches through the steps to be coming a Covenanting Congregation for children.

A short historical reminder: the Decade of the Child was an overture of the 213th General Assembly. The decade (2001-2011) calls the Church to continue to be concerned about the

needs of children and to also celebrate the gifts of all children.

To receive this information contact
Child Advocacy Office
Attn. Patricia Chapman
100 Witherspoon St., Rm. 4615
Louisville, KY 40202
Pchapman@ctr.pcusa.org
888/728-7228, ext 5838

On a personal note I found P. Chapman to be extremely helpful in answering my questions and sending me the needed information.

Another good source for information about children is the Children's Defense Fund.
Children's Defense Fund
25 E. Street, NW
Washington, DC
202/628 - 8787
www.childrendefense.org.



Ginna Coon will represent us at an event sponsored by the Office of the General Assembly on February 10 - 12 in Louisville, Kentucky, related to the actions taken by the 216th General Assembly concerning Israel and Palestine. We look forward to hearing about her experience. there!



Roberta Mansfield Elected to Churchwide Coordinating Team

Roberta Mansfield was elected as the Synod of the Northeast Representative to the Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT) of Presbyterian Women at the Moderators' Training on November 6th at the Stony Point Conference Center in Stony Point, New York. Roberta's three-year term will begin July 1, 2005. She will be joining fifteen other Synod Representatives as members of the Churchwide Coordinating Team. Because the terms are staggered, some of the other Synod Reps will be new, as she will be, while others will be in their second or third years of their terms. Roberta will get to work with the current Moderators and other leaders, and will also work with the leaders who will be elected and installed at the Churchwide Gathering of PW in July 2006. She will also help to plan that Gathering, as well as the following one, by being on a Gathering Committee. In addition, she will be on another standing committee, although she doesn't know which one yet.

We thank Rita Oestreich for her faithful service on the CCT for the last three years!

SPRING SPIRITUAL RETREAT

"Earthen Vessels and Cracked Pots"

Christ the King Retreat House

Syracuse, New York

Friday, April 8, 2005, 4 PM (registration starting at 3 PM)

To

Sunday, April 10, 2005 (ends after worship and brunch)

Leader: Barbara Johnson, Retreat Leader

Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse

Barbara is a member of the Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery Spiritual Development Team and leads Spiritual Retreats for local Women's Groups. She is the wife of Rev. David Johnson, Executive Director of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse and mother of Amy, age 8.

*Meditation, Praying the Scriptures, Journaling
Interest Centers and Nature Walks*

Tear along this line. Keep remainder of the flyer for information

Spring Spiritual Retreat

REGISTRATION FORM

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the North East

Fee: \$160 for entire weekend. Make check payable to PWSNE.

Please remit in full an mail to Registrar

Jane MacDonald, 36 Carriage Lane, Newton, NJ 07860-1927

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Presbytery _____

Notify in case of emergency _____

Telephone _____

Registration Deadline: March 23, 2005

Confirmation will be mailed to you

***The Lighthouse*, Newsletter of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the
Northeast**

Mission Opportunities

Jo Ann Burrell

Mission Opportunities Coordinator



The Mission Opportunities Program has not changed since last year. The USA Agencies and Overseas Requests are still the same as 2004. There have been no changes from our Louisville Office. Please continue the wonderful and loving work you do for those in need under this Mission Opportunities Program.

The Mission Opportunities Program (MOP) has really fun activities that can be done alone or with a group, so Presbyterian Women can really build a caring inclusive community of women, and support the Presbyterian Church worldwide. The numbers on the requests forms from the USA Agencies and the Overseas Hospitals are high, but the needs of people have grown.

The recent disasters in Africa and Southeast Asia, and the problems in Iraq and South America have created even more need. The personal care and medical care kits for women, children, and men can be used in the USA and in other countries. These are real easy packages to put together, and are really needed.

I urge even the smallest group of women, persons by themselves to look at the Mission Opportunities Program (MOP) activities and talk to your PWC and your PWP Mission Opportunities Program Coordinators, and design an activity from the MOP that you or you group can do. I assure you, you will feel good and find that every little bit helps.

And of course, I want you to write about what you did. Report everything you do under the MOP and the things you do that are not under the MOP. Report to your PWP Mission Opportunities Coordinator, so she can report it to me. I then report all activity to our Louisville CCT Office.

Ladies, we must show people in our Church, our Presbytery, our Synod, and PC (USA) how much work we do in the area of mission. Once they know how valuable Presbyterian Women are, they will know that we are a force to be reckoned with. Happy Year 2005!

The Tsunami: a Personal View

In a recent PW email, Elizabeth McDowell, Moderator of the Presbytery of Utica, told about meeting Minda Perangin-angin, a clergywoman from Indonesia. Minda forwarded a lengthy report of her first-hand observations of the situation in Banda Aceh from December 29 to January 2, when she traveled there to bring what she could to Christians there, and to plan for ecumenical Christian aid. Christians are a minority there.

Minda talks about the sadness that permeated everything, and about the lengthy aid programs that will be needed. The province of Aceh has been under military occupation, which adds to the difficulties and uncertainties. More than half of the civil government workers in Aceh were missing, and the infrastructure was completely inadequate to handle the massive destruction. Not all homes were destroyed, but most people lost their jobs and schools.

Here at home we read that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has more than met its goal of \$2.5 million for tsunami aid. We can imagine that much more will be needed over many years ahead.

Please keep the Indonesians and all who live in areas affected by the tsunami in your prayers.

Church World Service has shipped out all of their "kits" to India and other places suffering from disasters. Contact your local Church World Service unit to find out what is needed.

Roberta Mansfield to Represent Synod of the Northeast on the Global Exchange

The Churchwide Global Exchange Committee has announced that Roberta Mansfield will represent the Synod of Northeast on the October 3 -24 trip. Roberta lives in the Presbytery of Southern New England. Sue Trigger was previously chosen to represent us but she has moved from the synod.

The cost is approximately \$4500.00 per participant. It is our responsibility to provide financial support as well as providing small token gifts, such as hand crafted bookmarks, for her to share with our Brazilian sisters. Send Roberta's bookmarks to her at 20 Lerner St, Warwick, RI 02888-2505, email davemans@cox.net.

Money you raise on Roberta's behalf is to be sent to Jane Mosher PWS Treasurer with checks payable to PWSNE, earmarked for the Global Exchange, and designated for Roberta if you so desire. Gifts may come from your PW in the Presbytery, from congregations, or from individuals.

Jennifer Chung, who resides in our Synod, is going as a representative from the Young Women's Racial/Ethnic Caucus. That group will cover her expenses however we're sure she will welcome bookmarks from her home synod to carry to Brazil. Jennifer graduated from the University of Southern California last year and is a member of the Taiwanese/American Fellowship Presbyterian Church in New Brunswick, NJ. Send her bookmarks to: Jennifer Chung, c/o Su Ling Lai at 656 Bellervie Ct , Bridgewater, NJ 08807.

Global Exchange News

Synod Representative to the Churchwide Coordinating Team, Rita Oestreich

Last week I was in Louisville participating in two PW planning committee meetings. The first involved the Global Exchange Committee that will take place in October of this year. The women to make the trip were selected at our meeting last fall. This time we reviewed the schedule for the trip and ironed out the final plans from the information gleaned from our various assignments. Some of you may know the process, having participated in a past trip, or have listened to the women reporting to us after the trips.

This trip will start on October 3rd when all the women travel to Washington, DC to meet each other, listen to information about Brazil from representatives of our State Department and the Brazilian Consulate personnel as well. They will leave during the night of October 4th and arrive in the following morning. There are five locations identified for them to visit – Rio de Janeiro, Vitoria, Salvador, Brasilia and Sao Paulo. Remember those names to learn what they saw and listen to how they experienced the twelve or thirteen days when they report back to you. I use

“they” as some will go to different places along the way and will be telling you what others reported to them. Each day of the trip, the women will spend time sharing and learning from each other. I will be anxious to hear what they tell us and picture the trip from seeing their pictures.

When we have our next Synod meeting, I will have bookmarks to give to you that list books and videos about Brazil. Part of each of our committee meetings is spent watching videos to prepare others for their experience. Remember to ask me for a bookmark, just in case you didn't get one and I will be glad to share what I know with you too.

Never ever hesitate to ask questions about what I have learned. It is what I am doing this for. I want each one that needs to learn to hear and share as much as possible about PW. We all need to learn how to “walk with our sisters” wherever we may be. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you all.

Who is Dee Evelyn Matthews? Getting to Know Our New PW Synod Vice-Moderator-Elect

Dee is the Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of NYC. Here are just a few highlights to help us get to know her:

- Active in the Presbytery of NYC, currently serving on General Council
- Has served as Elder, Deacon & Trustee at North Presbyterian Church
- Currently working with the Care for the Caregivers Interfaith Project, based at the Interchurch Center
- Retired in 2001 from Columbia University's Department of Psychiatry, where she was program coordinator for the psychiatric residency training program in the Postgraduate Education Department
- Member of the Harlem Hospital Center's Mind, Body and Soul Holistic Coalition, and presently chairs the Advocacy Committee
- National associate member of the Continental Societies, an organization of women whose programmatic thrusts are geared solely toward serving children and youth
- Served on the national executive board of the National Council of Negro Women and participated in the opening ceremonies of the Rosa Parks museum in Montgomery, Alabama
- Received two invitations to the White House during the Clinton administration to participate in meetings on issues that directly impacted on African-American communities
- Was part of a 20-member consortium of African-American corporate leaders that served as consultants to the NYC Office of the Mayor during the Koch and Dinkins administrations

Our Treasurer Jane Mosher is making excellent progress in recovering from breast cancer but still needs our prayers as she continues with treatment over the next few months.



Dee submitted a proposal for the World Trade Center Memorial Design. She shared with us a lovely letter from the NYC Mayor's office thanking her for her "support and spirited participation in [NYC's] remembrance and renewal efforts." Her proposal will be part of a "permanent archive at the NYC Dept. of Records and Information Services", which will become a "collective public memorial."



2006 Churchwide Gathering

July 7 - 11, 2006 is the time for the next triennial Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, KY. The title is **Creation! Celebration! God's Word—Light for the Journey** and the scripture passages are **Genesis 1:1a, 3, 31a and John 1:1, 3-4.**

You can already download a scholarship application from www.pcusa.org/pwgathering!

Presbyterian Women in
the Synod of the Northeast
want to be
"Springs of Living Water
Bringing New Life to Women."



**Conference Registration Form
Horizons Bible Study
For Everything, a Season
May 20-22, 2005**

Name _____
 Address _____

 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Female Male

Roommate Request _____

We will assign a roommate unless you provide a roommate request. A limited number of single rooms is available.

Special Dietary Needs

The program cost for all participants is \$100, which is due with registration as deposit

Check enclosed (*payable to Stony Point Center*)

Visa MasterCard
 Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Additional Cost for room and/or board as follows. Please select one. The payment is due upon arrival.

- Double Occupancy Room (\$150)
- Single Occupancy Room (\$190)
- Commuter – meals only (\$65)



For
Everything, a Season
A Study of the Liturgical Calendar

Authored by Rev. Dr. Kathleen Long Bostrom

**A Workshop on the
 Horizons Bible Study
 For 2005-2006**

Led by the Horizon Bible Study
 Curriculum Team from Louisville

**May 20-22, 2005
 Stony Point Center**

A Stony Point Center program in partnership with
 Horizons Magazine and the Presbyterian Women in
 the Synod of the Northeast

**For more information,
 call 1-800-253-4285**

Please return registration by May 6, 2005 to:

Horizons Bible Study Registrar
 Stony Point Center
 17 Crickettown Road
 Stony Point, NY 10980



Notes from Moderator Anne Reynolds

Sisters Stand and Walk Together



On Saturday April 16 approximately ten of our Presbyterian sisters representing PWS racial/ethnic caucuses will gather at Stony Point. This day of orientation will be their first step of a three year program designed to develop and enhance their leadership skills.

As they mentor and network in a variety of ways, their leadership skills will grow as learning is shared across cultures, benefiting their churches and groups as well.

This is a pilot program, endorsed and supported by PW Churchwide, that is designed to address the PW Churchwide initiative to include more racial/ethnic women in PW leadership roles.

Portuguese Blessing



If you're making bookmarks to send with Roberta or Jennifer Chung on the Global Exchange, here's a prayer you can use -- in English or Portuguese or both!

Almighty God, holy is your name. Thank you for the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. We ask for your blessing on this place. In the name of your son, Christ Jesus. Amen.

Poderoso Deus, santificado seja o teu nome. Agradecemos a presença do Espírito Santo entre nós. Pedimos a tua bênção neste lugar. Em nome do teu filho Jesus Cristo. Amem.

PWSNE to Host PWCCT



The Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women will be meeting at the Sheraton La Guardia East Airport March 10 -- 14, 2005. We welcome them to our synod and in particular to the NYC area. Presbyterian Women are welcome to attend a variety of sessions. Contact Anne Reynolds for times, days of particular events.

This will give everyone the opportunity to observe PW Churchwide in action and to meet and greet our CCT leaders.

National Network of Presbyterian College Women (NNPCW)

- Have you identified which of the 39 colleges in the Synod of Northeast that have affiliation are located in /near your presbytery?
- Is your PWC and PWP in dialogue with NNPCW to mutually support each other in mission projects ?
- Have you made the 18-24 year old college women in your church aware of the NNPCW resources available to them?
- Did you know that KELSEY RICE, NNPCW Program Assistant (Louisville) can answer your questions and supply resources?
- You can call her toll free at 1-888-728-7228 Exten. 5848

reserved for page 1 of July brochure

reserved for page 2 of July brochure

How To Contact the Synod PW Coordinating Team

Here's how to contact us. This is only part of the team; you can find the whole list at www.pwsne.org.

Moderator	Anne Reynolds, PO Box 1033, Little Falls, NY 13365 315-823-2680 areyn13365@juno.com
Vice Moderator	Sandy Grillo, 7 N. Mountain Ave., Cedar Grove, NJ 07009 973-256-7229 sandyg0105@earthlink.net
Vice Moderator Elect	Dee Evelyn Matthews, 790 Riverside Dr, Apt 5N, New York, NY 10032 212-368-5144 dubois56@netzero.net
Secretary	Louise Palm, 53 Angola Rd., Cornwall, NY 12518 845-534-4539 louisepalm@aol.com
Treasurer	Jane Mosher, 39 Hilltop Rd., Mystic, CT 06355 860-536-7991 jsrcm@99main.com
Historian	Helen Sforza, 5023 Townline Rd, Vernon, NY 13476 315-829-3611
Coordinator for Justice and Peace Concerns	Virginia Coon, 26 Chassin Ave, Amherst, NY 14226 716-833-3106 VLCOON@aol.com
Coordinator for Mission Interpretation and Opportunity	Joanne Burrell, 70 Steuben St., East Orage, NJ 07018 973-673-3975 joannburrell@juno.com
Churchwide Coordinating Team Representative	Rita Oestreich, 2 Edgewood Drive, Cohocton, NY 14826 585-384-5715 ritao14826@juno.com
Moderator of Finance Comm.	Gail Banks, 105 Whedon Road, Apt 20, Syracuse, NY 13219 315-488-4080 banksqy@yahoo.com
Moderator of Search Comm.	Beth Denier, 211 Central St, Saugus, MA 01906 781-231-9247 a.denier@att.net
Lighthouse Editor	Penny Webster, 53 Oswegatchie Road, Waterford, CT 06385 860-443-6741 pjwebster@att.net
Lighthouse Circulation	Helen Burd, 1065 Hillside Drive, North Brunswick, NJ 08902-3213 732-297-6797 helenburd@MSN.com
Webmaster	Abbie Slaman, 201-384-6024 slamans@optonline.net
Registrar	Jane K. MacDonald, 36 Carriage Lane, Newton, NJ 07860 973-383-4166 jkmac@nac.net

Enabler questions? Contact Donna Ross, 732-396-1730, Randor@comcast.net

Lighthouse Mailing List Guidelines

Each PW in the Presbytery is responsible for who will receive *The Lighthouse* in their presbytery. The list should include (but is not limited to):

Current members of the PW Synod Coordinating team

Current Moderator and Coordinating Team members of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery

PW Staff

Former Moderators of Presbyterian Women of Synod

Church contact person or Presbyterian Women in local church moderator, for every church in your presbytery

Female Clergy working within bounds of Synod of Northeast

Please notify Helen Burd, 1065 Hillside Drive, North Brunswick, NJ 08902, or e-mail helenburd@MSN.com with all additions, changes, or deletions in the names you have submitted - please remember to include the mailing label for a request to discontinue receiving the Lighthouse. Your help is greatly appreciated so that Presbyterian Women of the Synod can keep those in leadership informed.

**Many thanks to the staff of the
Synod of the Northeast
for printing, addressing and mailing
*The Lighthouse.***

**Presbyterian Women in the
Synod of the Northeast
Anne Reynolds
PO Box 1033
Little Falls, NY 13365**

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