



# The Lighthouse



February 2015

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the North Northeast

## Moderators Message



**Maxine Hunter**

This past May I was doing research for our choir on the old hymn, “Let the Lower Lights Be Burning”, to see if it was now in the “public domain.” This was important because our choir wanted to sing it for our Memorial Day anthem. My research confirmed that it was “in the public domain”, meaning we could make copies of it. But more importantly I made a serendipitous discovery. I discovered material on the background and history surrounding the events that led to the writing of the

hymn. Even though I was not sure at the time how to use

this information I tucked it away thinking it was too great a story to forget.

Since becoming moderator my thoughts have returned many times to the story behind the hymn. “Let the Lower Lights Be Burning” was written in 1871 by Philip P. Bliss, who was inspired by a sermon given by evangelist Dwight L. Moody. In his sermon Moody related a story of a ship caught on a stormy night on Lake Erie. Neither the captain or ships pilot could see the lights on the shore or the light of the harbor lighthouse (aka. the “lower lights”). Without the guidance of these lower lights the pilot missed judged the harbor’s safe entrance to the channel. In the darkness the pilot turned the ship short of the channel and crashed on the bar, resulting in the death of many of the crew and passengers. Whew, this was a sad story, but the conclusion of Rev. Moody’s sermon bought clarity to why he used this disaster to illustrate his message: He said: “The Master will take care of the Great Lighthouse, but it’s up to us to keep the lower lights burning.”

Let me explain: As I thought about the hymn and Rev. Moody’s sermon, I thought how appropriate that the lighthouse was chosen as the emblem for Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast. A lighthouse was chosen as our emblem because every state in the Synod of the Northeast has a lighthouse within its borders, but I like to think it was chosen also because a lighthouse represents the light of God shining through us. We are the lower lights and we need to keep them burning---by working together, by attending our meetings, by responding to each other’s e-mails, and by telling the women in our churches and Presbyteries who we are, and if no one is listening, we tell them again. We need to do these things to keep the light burning in us and through us so as individuals and as Presbyterian women we spread the Good News. This scripture from Matthew sums it best.

*“You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead it is put on the lamp stand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.”* Matthew 5: 14-16

God Bless you all.

Maxine G. Hunter, Moderator

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### Editor’s Note:

It is very important for your submissions to the Lighthouse be on time as time is set aside to produce it during the first week and if articles are not here, the newsletter gets delayed.

Next deadline is **August 1, 2015.** Please send pics and in subject state **Lighthouse.**

Your editor, Susan Silliman Smith.

## Vice Moderator's Message

JoAnn Burrell

*The year 2014 turned out to be an exciting year with many ups and downs, good and bad times, but through the Grace of our Lord and Savior I came through it (we came through it). We must daily give thanks to Jesus for bringing us through, and each morning I open my eyes, and say "Thanks God for all you have done for me, and bringing me this far."*

*January through July was a nervous time for me planning the PWSNE Triennial Gathering. I love PW Gatherings because they give me the opportunity to see and talk to friends that I do not get to see often due to distance. Not only do I learn new things at Gatherings, I meet new friends that become part of my heart. I met a number of new friends at our July Gathering and will remain friends with them for many years to come.*

*The Gathering held July 18 – 20, 2014, turned out pretty good. I had a good time even if I was in a frenzy at times, but my wonderful PW sisters always calmed my feathers down with kind words and help with work. Our Triennial was at a new venue, had new speakers and topics, and new music. The weather was perfect in the Adirondacks at Silver Bay YMCA Conference Center on Lake George in New York State providing us with magnificent gardens of flowers, a tranquil lake, and great rocking chairs to sit, relax, and socialize with friends. I hope that we are able to get more women, especially our young ones, to attend our 2017 Triennial, so that they can experience how special PW gatherings are.*

*I scheduled the PWSNE Leadership Enhancement Training at Stony Point Conference Center in Stony Point, NY on October 17 – 18, 2014. After conducting business, we learned about what is happening in our Synod, and around the world, shared experiences, and enjoyed the colors of the fall season. It was good to get together as a team with our sisters in the Synod of the Northeast.*

*On October 24 – 26, 2014, I attended the Synod of the Northeast Assembly at Stony Point, representing PWSNE. It was a wonderful experience for me. I was greeted warmly by all who attended the Assembly, and I learned quite a bit about what is going on in our Synod. Our Moderator was unable to attend, so she asked me, and I am thankful she did. I really was awakened by listening to the reports and discussions at the meeting. I thank Moderator Hunter for this opportunity.*

## PWSNE Fall Meeting and Leadership Enhancement

Even though we are in the midst of trying to figure out all the documents and deadlines for the Churchwide Gathering which will be held in Minneapolis this June, please remember this: **The Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast hold a Business Meeting/Leadership Enhancement Gathering (a.k.a– meeting) every year. Please mark this date on your calendar: Friday, October 23 & Saturday October 24, 2015 at Stony Point, Stony Point, NY—**

At the moment the timeline will be 2 PM to 2 PM. About 24 hours together. It is important for CT members to be there as well as Moderators/contacts of the PWP. More details coming later.

Maxine Hunter, Moderator PWSNE

## **My First Churchwide Coordinating Team Meeting by Charlotte Hasselbarth, PWSNE Representative to the Churchwide Coordinating Team**

In Sept, I attended my first Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT) meeting. I was not surprised how quickly I felt like I had known these women for years. There are two parts of the meeting. There are the main CCT Meeting and committee meetings. Committee meetings are scheduled before, after and during breaks in the main meeting. I have been assigned to 4 committees: Communication, Finance, Justice and Peace and Creative Ministries Offering. I found everything very interesting. I will mention a highlight of two committees here.

At the Communications Committee Meeting, I became familiar with the nine Blogs listed on the Churchwide PW web site, <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pw/>. I especially liked the ones for the Bible Studies. I found reading through the blog of the Bible Study that my PW is just beginning was a good introduction. The blog will be a huge help when it's my turn to lead the discussion.

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee met after the CCT meeting for 1 1/2 Days. We went through the applications for the Birthday Offering Grants. The desperate need was shocking. At first glance it seemed that everyone deserved a grant. There is specific process that brought us to agreement. This experience rounds out my picture of the Birthday and Thank Offerings. My congregation PW has always participated in both offerings, I have written letters of endorsement, heard presentations by grant recipients, and visited one of the sites that received a Thank Offering Grant. How the projects were chosen had been the missing link in my understanding. If there is needy organization in your area, please encourage it to apply for one of the grants. All the needed information is on <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pw/>.

**Thank you from Emily Oshinskie,  
YAV supported by PWSNE**

*"To Presbyterian women in the Synod, Thank you for granting me a donation of \$500 to my YAV year! I cannot tell you just how grateful I am for this financial support and the prayer support during this year of challenge and change.....Knowing that I have the support of my community back on the East Coast means the world to me!.....Through work in social justice with Iskashitaa Refugee Network, I have learned so much about myself personally & professionally.....Please stay in dialogue with me by reading and commenting on my blog: [www.desertdiscoverings.wordpress.com](http://www.desertdiscoverings.wordpress.com)."*

**Congrats to Rev. Terri  
(Cisse) Ofori**

The Rev. Terri (Cissi) Ofori, who serves on the Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast, in the position of Clergywoman, has recently been appointed Bloomfield College Chaplain as well as Chaplain to the Synod Commission.

Congratulations to Terri on both positions.

## From Our Historian

Sandy Grillo

In the last issue of The Lighthouse, I wrote that I would like to have your memories of experiences in and with Presbyterian Women. Let's just say you have not jumped at the opportunity. So I decided to contact women that I know are leaders in PW – so I may contact you soon! I'd like to hear about what brought you into PW or a special time that you remember. Please feel free to volunteer your thoughts, I'd love to hear them! One of my best memories is back when I was first active in the 90s and attended the first Churchwide Gathering in Louisville. It was my first CWG, there were 5000 women there, I will never forget the feeling of awe when we were all in the auditorium and the singing began – it made my heart soar and my love of PW soared along with it.

I contacted two of my favorite PW women, the first is Marge Santos, former PW Moderator of NYC and a very good friend (it's easier to "hit" on your friends!) Marge is a special lady and a born leader. Besides being moderator of her PWP, she also moderated the Presbytery of NYC and the Synod of the Northeast. I am glad she was involved with PW at the same time that I have been. Here are some of Marge Santos thoughts:

*I was first introduced to Presbyterian Women by Mrs. Mary Martin, Mrs. Kirkland of Fifth Ave. PC and Mrs. Anderson of Brick Church, the last two were the wives of pastors. They really knew how to teach the purpose of PW and guide you along especially in Mission.*

*As the years passed, we took pride in the local church PWs submitting Mission and Birthday offerings – each had a purpose. Our gatherings at different churches in each of the five boros were very inclusive. During my time as moderator, I encouraged the search team to seek out clergy women, Chinese and Korean women. We installed two Mandarin Chinese ladies, Mary and Rita Weng. They were great assets. Each served well until life became a challenge and both became disabled. I have many fond memories, both business and interpersonal, of the women I have met. Some are still with us but many have gone on to join that great cloud of Witnesses. I can just hear them organizing their agenda to keep up focused which is a pretty hard thing to do these days.*

*My most treasured time of many good times was being asked to serve on the task force along with some great women from all over to redesign the Horizons magazine. I am so proud of our work.*

Marge Santos

The second great lady I spoke with is Ginnie Miller, another woman I am privileged to call a good friend, who has a long history in most facets of Presbyterian Women at the church, presbytery, synod and churchwide levels. I asked Ginnie, who is in the process of moving to PA, for thoughts on getting involved in PW. Here is what she said:

*How it all began? When my mom died, too young, shortly after I graduated from college, I kept wondering what I could do that would have greatly pleased her. She was involved in many aspects of our church life and knowing the enjoyment she realized being a part of the Women's Association, I knew that she would love for me to be able to experience the same joy this brought to her. Along with a close friend, we joined a circle of women of all ages, we being the youngest by several years. That was 62 years ago and one of the best decisions I ever made. The more I became involved, the richer my life became, the deeper my faith evolved, the more I learned through gatherings and workshops, the more I became aware of the needs of the world and its people, and the greatest dividend of all are the wonderful people I met and shared roles with through PW in the Synod of the Northeast over all those years. I am truly indebted and thankful for this golden experience that PW afforded me.*

Ginnie Miller

I hope you enjoy this glimpse into how two of our women became involved. I would love to hear from you, too.

Sandy Grillo



*Come to the Waters* by the Rev. Judy Record Fletcher is the Horizons Bible Study for 2015-16. The lessons of the study feature stories and images of water in the Bible. Just as water nourishes our bodies, so the passages on water nourish our spirits. The study opens with the chaotic waters of Creation and ends with the River of Life in the Revelation to John. Baptism, the absence of water, and streams of mercy are some of the other lesson themes.

Water is a universal theme - every living thing needs water. Plants, animals, and humans cannot live without it. Our bodies are 80% water and 75% of our brains are water. Before our birth, we humans live in water. Water is central in our daily lives and it appeals to our five senses as we enjoy looking at a lake or stream, listening to a babbling brook, smelling rain just before a rain shower, tasting a cold drink of water, or feeling waves roll over our feet.

Water is a central issue before the world today. At the time of this writing, twenty-four states are in drought and the prediction is over thirty states in just a few years. Millions of people walk miles each day to have even a small supply of water for the day.

As the author, my hope is that women studying *Come to the Waters* will have their spiritual thirsts quenched as they grow in faith and understanding. I hope the study of these lessons on water images in the Bible and their implications for our Christian living today will be compelling and meaningful.

For more information on Stony Point Center including transportation requests and or to register online, please visit us at [WWW.STONYPOINTCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.STONYPOINTCENTER.ORG)

Judy Fletcher is a teaching elder in the PC(USA). In her forty plus years in ministry, she served as Christian educator, pastor, and co-pastor with her husband, David, in North Carolina, Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma. She served as Executive of Synod of the Sun for fourteen years before retirement in 2011.



She grew up in Texas and received her BA from Lamar University and her MDiv from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary where she received the Distinguished Alum Award in 1993.

She has written publications and materials for many denominations, and served as keynote, preacher and director for conferences across the church. She has served as chair of special committees of the General Assembly. In 2011 she accepted an invitation from the Council of Churches of Cuba to teach workshops on how to include the arts in worship.

She lives in Carrollton, Texas, and enjoys traveling with her husband, spending time with son, Brett and his wife, Jessica, cooking, gardening, and dabbling in the arts.

*The full program begins with dinner on TUESDAY and ends with lunch on THURSDAY. Registration and check-in will start on Tuesday at 4:00 PM.*

*Cost covers meals and a shared double room in one of our lodges. If requested at registration, a limited number of private rooms may be available at an additional cost.*

*Call 845-786-5674 x 107 with any questions.*

**STONY POINT CENTER**  
**Conference Registration Form**  
**Horizon Bible Study May 5-7, 2015 (Tue-Thu)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Female  Male Roommate Request: \_\_\_\_\_

*We will assign a roommate unless you provide a roommate request. Each person must fill out a separate registration form.*

Special Dietary or Other Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Rates include program fee of \$40.

Double Occupancy \$260.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Single Occupancy \$390.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (if available)  
 Commuter \$180.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Add'l Overnight Stay \$ 90.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: Early Arrival \_\_\_\_\_  
 Late Departure \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation for Program \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed (payable to Stony Point Center)  
 Visa  MasterCard  
 Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**OR REGISTER ONLINE AT**  
[www.stonypointcenter.org/horizons](http://www.stonypointcenter.org/horizons)

## Register for Churchwide Gathering

Don't forget to register for the Churchwide Gathering coming up June 18-21 in Minneapolis, MN. The theme of the Gathering is One Body, One Spirit—I Corinthians 12: 12-27. If you did not receive the Gathering booklet from someone or have misplaced the one that came with the Horizons Magazine, please go to [www.presbyterianmission.org/pwgathering](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/pwgathering). You can find all the information for the registration and also can download the booklet.

Hope to see many from the Synod of the Northeast there.

*The Presbyterian Women in New York City Presbytery*  
*475 Riverside Drive - Room 1600*  
*New York, NY 10115*

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO  
A GATHERING  
MARCH 14, 2015  
9:30 A.M.

At  
RUTGERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
236 West 73rd Street, New York, NY 10023



*In*  
*RECOGNITION OF WOMEN CLERGY*  
*MINISTERING IN THE PRESBYTERY OF NYC*  
*Selected by the Women of Their Congregations*

*WORSHIP LEADER*  
*Rev. Aqueelah Ligonde,*  
*Associate Pastor for Youth & Families,*  
*First Presbyterian Church of Jamaica*

*RECEPTION TO FOLLOW*

***REGISTRATION: \$20 per person due March 2, 2015***  
*Contact: Shirley Fine 134-17 166<sup>th</sup> Place, #3A, Jamaica, NY 11434 (718) 978-5033*  
*by email to [fine.shirley@yahoo.com](mailto:fine.shirley@yahoo.com)*

## Fund Raising Ideas

Gloria Hanewald asked around the Synod what groups were doing for fund raising and here are some of the ideas she received.

Hold Luncheons, breakfasts or dinners-with speakers, instructional programs (such as dance, computer, etc.), or entertainment (concerts) and charge a fee or freewill offering.

Run bus trips to local places of entertainment or museums, etc.

Hold an Afternoon Tea– Mother's Day or anytime.

Rummage sale, garage sale, craft sale or bazaar (holiday or other)

Make & sell craft items, necklaces, etc.

Bake sales– especially around the holidays (Mother's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas)

At any event include: Basket raffles or silent auctions (contact stores-businesses in the area for donations or have members donate baskets)

Produce a church cookbook and sell it.

Have a PW night at a local restaurant. Get a restaurant to give a percentage of the bill from each church member who eats there on the selected night. (give coupons to church members to pass on to restaurants so they know they are a church member.)

One church is going to have a Rock-a thon at a Presbytery meeting (anxious to see how that turns out.)

## From Yardville, NJ PWC



Margaret Archibald

My name is Lois Dixon. I am the moderator of the PW of the United Presbyterian Church in Yardville, NJ. In June we had a luncheon with Rita Hooper as our guest speaker telling us about her experiences in Appalachia last year. In talking to Rita about our PW, I told her about a fundraiser we did to earn money to support our mission work. Rita encouraged me to email you about it thinking that you might want to put an article about it in The Lighthouse to encourage other PWs to use their local talents as a possible fundraiser for supporting their mission work: One of our PW members, a Scottish 85 year old woman, Margaret Archibald, has been writing poetry as a hobby all her life. She also is very artistic and has painted several oil paintings. Several women in our PW had seen some of her poems and her paintings. One of those women suggested that we ask her if she would be willing for us to compile her poems and some pictures of her paintings into a book which we could sell as a fundraiser. She was thrilled and insisted on paying for the printing of the book and insisted on giving all the profits from the book sale to our PW mission fund. She said that she never thought that other people would want to read her poems and expected that all the loose poems in her drawers would be thrown out when she died. Four of us officers of our PW contacted a local printing company and agreed to be the typists, putting the poems from the typed and hand written sheets onto the computer so they could be sent to the printer by email. When all the poems were on the computer, we printed them out and the four of us met to proof read them. We then sent them to the printing company and they printed out a first draft copy. We four women met again and proof read the poems a second time. When everything was arranged the way we wanted it, we met with the author and showed her the draft copy for her approval. We then sent our final revisions to the printer. The printer printed one final copy. We four women met again for a final proof reading and then authorized the final printing of 100 copies of the booklet. The booklet turned out to be 61 pages.

(cont. to page 8)

The cover was a heavy stock paper in color and was a wrap around picture of one of the author's oil paintings. The booklet was entitled, "Reflections" and we sold each one for \$10.00.

We advertised the book sale in the weekly church bulletins and in our monthly church newsletter. A couple times we had a book signing with the author in our Fellowship Hall following the church service. Our congregation was very supportive and all the books sold giving us a profit of \$1,000.00 dollars to be donated to various missions.

This project was a lot of work but very fulfilling. The author was thrilled to have her work in print, members of the congregation were happy to have a momentum of her work, and the profit from the sale of these books will benefit many recipients locally, nationally and internationally.

A picture of the author of "Reflections" - Margaret Archibald is above. Please excuse the background as we were doing some renovations in our church.

## From Gates, NY PWC In Genesee Valley PWP

The ladies had a retreat on November 11, 2014 at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua, New York. The theme and discussion centered on "Being Thankful". A few of the attendees enacted a skit titled "Missing Coin".

The annual "Women's Candlelight Dinner" was held on December 9 at the Brook-lea Country Club. A wonderful buffet was followed by entertainment with Mitzie Collins and Striking Strings Hammered Dulcimer Ensemble. As usual each person attending brought a donation for the women at ABW.

The Tabitha Circle filled two shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse.

The circle picked an age group and filled one for a boy and one for a girl. Items donated were hygiene, clothes, toys, and school items.

The "Westside Presbyterian Women" group did not meet this past year but would like to meet this spring if possible. We are looking for ideas for programming, entertainment, speakers, etc. Any ideas would be welcome – please send to

[programsecretary@pbygenval.org](mailto:programsecretary@pbygenval.org)

## From Chazy, NY PWC in NNY PWP

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holiday Fashion Show and Basket Raffle held in mid-November, was a great success. Twelve models showed off both sporty and party apparel from Christopher & Banks. The refreshments were delicious! Our attendees were happy with their door prizes and 24 winning baskets!

In March our women will participate in a World Day of Prayer Service at the church. We will take parts in the service that has been created by the women of the Bahamas. We look forward to learning about that region of the world while we practice our parts.

In May we will hold our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Mother's Day Tea and Silent Auction. This year our theme will be "Downtown Abbey". We will

feature a high tea, a "fascinator" (hat) contest, and a trivia competition on that very popular show.

In late summer we plan a Fifties Party, complete with a costume, trivia and song contests. Michigan hotdogs and root beer float swill fill out the menu.

We plan to hire an area singer for true '50s entertainment!

CPW is alive and well. We are short in number, but long in dedication, commitment and fellowship.

Moderator, Emily Castine, Feb. 2015