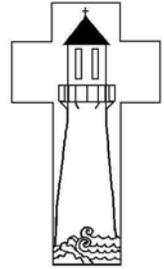




Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast



The Lighthouse September 2005

Passionate PW

Anne Reynolds, Moderator, PWSNE

When I meet and speak with women throughout the eight states that make up the Synod of the Northeast, I realize that there is no standard "model" PW. A wide variety of customs and traditions prevail in different regions. Many PW groups even call themselves by other names.

No two PWs are alike. Each is passionate about meeting the needs of their brothers and sisters, whether the group is large or small, urban or rural, English speaking or not.

- It took passion to run a rummage sale that earned \$32,000 for community needs.
- It took passion to provide on-going low-cost transportation that enables families to visit imprisoned loved ones.
- It took passion to provide and assemble 500 school kits with basic supply needs.
- It took passionate women to provide quilts for health-impaired children, build a broad network of inter-faith child/spousal abuse care, fund full scholarships for daycare tuition and other mission opportunities too numerous to mention.

Thousands of lives are transformed through the passionate work of Presbyterian Women through hundreds of large and small projects. That passion exists in nearly twelve hundred variations to transform the quality of life for one or for many by bringing fresh water to them in a myriad of ways. Presbyterian Women unlock chains of oppression with enthusiasm and determination. Without passion there is no growth!

For Presbyterian women this is an historic year. We recall and celebrate the passion that brought about the ordination of women as elders and deacons, and ministers of word and sacrament.

Looking back at our accomplishments, we have discovered new life and with it enormous potential. As we move forward, we must continue to nurture life in fresh ways. New life flourishes ...

- When we become more involved with our sisters on college campuses.
- When we foster a healthy inter-faith understanding for our daughters and granddaughters.
- When we incorporate the gifts that our immigrant sisters offer.
- When we strengthen the network of support for one another.

We must continue to build on the accomplishments of past generations by working together, all of us with one voice, with passion and compassion.

Inside this issue

- **The latest news from the Synod PW Coordinating Team**
- **Calendar**
- **Global Exchange News**
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- **Global Partners Referral form**
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- **How to contact us**



News & Notes

Sisters Stand and Walk Together Anne Reynolds

The PW Churchwide Coordinating team has accepted our "Sisters Stand and Walk Together" as a pilot project for development into a churchwide program. This initiative by PWS Northeast is a three-year leadership training and empowerment program for immigrant and racially ethnic women. It will enable them to fully share their gifts and talents within their local areas as well as the broader church.

This PWS Northeast program evidences our commitment to inclusiveness. Our Presbyterian immigrant sisters from China, the Middle East, Ghana, Niger, Congo, Taiwan, Brazil and Korea have begun a three year program that seeks to encourage their often silent voices by providing them with skills to not only share their newfound ability and understanding within PW, but also to become confident leaders in both the presbytery and the synod, enabling them to share their ethnic and cultural richness with everyone.

Participants in the program are Isadil deCarvalho and Lisione daSilva (Brazil), Jode Kadisha (Congo), Asantewa Mensah, Eugenia Adjoga-Out and Paulina Atiemo (Ghana), Hongsun Choi, Helena Chung and Jyung In (Jenny) Lee (Korea), Salwa Ghabour (Lebanon), Precious Ekhaton (Nigeria), Margaret Lee and Sharon Hsu Chu (Taiwan), Susan Cho, Denise Kennedy, Su Ling Lai, Catherine Liu, Jane MacDonald, Nydia Murphy, Janis Quinn, and Anne Reynolds.

Two-inch Fabric Squares Request

A patchwork of Presbyterian women's history is being celebrated this year and next, and one PC(USA) pastor is using her quilting skills to stitch it all together.

The Rev. Susan Barnes, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Baker City, OR, is making a quilted banner to mark the 2005-2006 PC(USA) anniversaries of women's first ordinations - as deacons in 1906, as elders in 1930 and as ministers of Word and Sacrament in 1956. Barnes was inspired to do something to celebrate the 100th, 75th and 50th anniversaries after attending a conference of the National Association of Presbyterian Clergywomen.

Barnes plans to combine thousands of donated 2-by-2-inch fabric squares into a banner to take to the General Assembly in summer 2006.

She is asking **each PC(USA) church** to send her two fabric squares - for their first woman elder and first woman deacon - and asking every PC(USA) clergywoman to send a square. The squares should be sent before Dec. 31, 2005 to:

Susan Barnes
3430 9th Drive
Baker City, OR 97814

Please send **only 2 squares** (or just one if you are a clergywoman).

During the July business meeting of PWSNE, the following by-law amendment was passed:

After two consecutive, unexcused absences elected members of the Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast will be contacted by the Moderator and asked if they want to continue in the position or be replaced.

While PW Presbytery Moderators are considered part of the PWSCT, they are not elected so this change does not affect them. We would greatly encourage PWP's to review their by laws and if necessary, change them to require that either the moderator attend PWS business meetings or send someone in her place. So much information on what is happening in PW is gained at these meetings, not to mention the sense of sisterhood and lifelong friendships one develops with other PW members. It is really important for PW Presbytery leaders to be there.

PW in the Synod of the Northeast Calendar of Opportunities

2005	Event/Action	For	Place
Sept. 14 - 15	Utica PWP Retreat	All Women	Vanderkamp
Sept. 17	Long Island PWP Gathering	All Women	Roslyn
Sept. 17	Hispanic/Latina PW		TBA
Sept. 28	Monmouth PWP Gathering	All Women	TBA
Sept. 30-Oct. 1	Albany PWP Enabler Training	Albany Enablers	Camp Hebron
Oct. 1	Albany PWP Gathering	All Women	Camp Hebron
Oct. 1	Susquehanna Valley PWP Gathering	All Women	Oneonta
Oct. 3-24	Global Exchange trip	Roberta Mansfield	Brazil
Oct. 8	Elizabeth PWP Gathering	All Women	Cranford
Oct. 12	Utica PWP Gathering	All Women	Old Forge
Oct. 13	Cayuga/Syracuse PWP Gathering	All Women	Syracuse
Oct. 15	Southern New England PWP Gathering	All Women	Warwick, RI
Oct. 15	New Brunswick PWP Gathering	All Women	Somerset
Oct. 15	Newark PWP Gathering	All Women	First Hispanic
Oct. 15	New York City PWP Gathering	All Women	TBA
Oct. 15	Northern New York PWP Gathering	All Women	Plattsburg
Oct. 15	Palisades PWP Retreat	All Women	Ridgewood, NJ
Oct. 15	West Jersey PWP Gathering	All Women	TBA
Oct. 20	Geneva PWP Gathering	All Women	Hornell
Oct. 22	New York City PWP Enabler Training	NYC Enablers	NYC
Oct. 23	Hudson River PWP Gathering	All Women	TBA
Oct. 29	Sisters Stand & Walk Together	Immigrant Sisters	Stony Point
Nov. 1	DEADLINE Churchwide Gathering Scholarship Applications	All Women	
Nov. 4	2007 PWS Design Team	Design Committee	Albany
Nov. 4 - 5	Moderator's Training	Moderator's & CT	Albany
Nov. 5 - 6	PWS CT Meeting	PWS CT	Albany
Nov. 12	Leadership Development	Hispanic/Latina PW	TBA
2006			
Jan. 7	New Brunswick PWP Epiphany Luncheon	All Women	Dutch Neck
Feb. 8	Utica PWP Gathering	All Women	TBA
Mar. 4	Newark PWP Gathering	All Women	TBA
May 5-8	Healing Retreat sponsored by Synod PW	All Women	N Jersey Shore
May 15	DEADLINE Synod Luncheon Registration	All Women	Louisville
May 19-21	Horizons Bible Study	All Women	Stony Point
May 19-21	Spiritual Retreat sponsored by Synod PW	All Women	Syracuse
July 7-11	Churchwide Gathering: Creation! Celebration!	All women	Louisville

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 PWP's, 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 to churchwide – send to Patricia Longfellow: plongfel@ctr.pcusa.org
PW, PC(USA), 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396
- May 15 Annual Reports due to PWS from PWP Moderators, send to Judy Kobee
- June 1 Mission Reports due to PWS from PWP Mission Coordinators, send to Althea Mead

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Search Committee News

Beth Denier, Search Committee Moderator

Thanks to the retiring Coordinating Team members Sandy Grillo, Louise Palm, Joanne Burrell, Donna Ross, Rita Oestreich, Su-Ling Lai, Peggy Bates, Roberta Mansfield, and Sandy Arnold for all your work and support. Joining the Coordinating Team at the July Gathering were: Vice Moderator Dee Matthews, Secretary Judy Kobee, Mission Coordinator Althea Meade, PWS Enabler Coordinator Judy Cunningham, Member-at-Large Representing Asian Women Catherine Liu, Member-at-Large Representing College Women Anna Hrachovec, Search Committee members Magdalene Lewis and Charlotte Hasselbarth, and PWS Representative to the Synod Nominating Committee Maxine Hunter. Roberta Mansfield, elected in November 2004, began her term as Churchwide Coordinating Team Representative on July 1.

The Search Committee has begun work on the slate for November 2006. We welcome names of potential candidates. Contact Beth Denier at 781 231-9247 or a.denier@worldnet.att.net.

Peace in Israel and Palestine

Ginna Coon, Justice and Peace Coordinator

All folks interested in Justice and Peace Issues please make a point to read the July/August 2005 edition of *Horizons*. A major peace issue facing the world the Church and ultimately us is the Israeli and Palestinian struggle to find everlasting peace.

February 10th, 11th and 12th I represented the PW of our Synod at the conference on "Steps Toward Peace In Israel and Palestine" held in Louisville. The conference covered many issues. Examples: Treatment of the Palestinians; The wall or the security barrier surrounding the Left Bank; How the barrier does not follow the green line which was set at the 1949 armistice (the green line established the borders between Israel and the Arab lands); The steps the Presbyterian Church follows to divest their holding from corporations where they hold stock.

We left the conference brimming with information, both in our minds and on paper, to share with others. After returning home, I had the privilege of presenting information I gleaned to the Presbyterian Women's Gatherings of the Geneva Presbytery and the Presbytery of Western New York. The answer to this question is extremely complex and deserves our prayers that a just compromise may soon be reached.

Who is Virginia "Ginna" Coon? Getting to Know Our New PW Synod Justice and Peace Coordinator

Ginna is a member of the Presbyterian Women at University Presbyterian Church in the Presbytery of Western New York. Here are just a few highlights to help us get to know her; she:

- Is a Commissioner to the Presbytery of WNY for her Church and is a member of the Mission Committee.
- Was a Commissioner to the 2002 General Assembly.
- Has been an Elder and Deacon at University Church and is the Superintendent of the Sunday School.
- Serves on the Board of Directors and works in the Food Pantry housed at University Church.
- Is a Retired elementary Buffalo Public School Teacher.
- Served in the Peace Corps, in Ethiopia, for two years.
- Volunteers as a docent at the Amherst Historical Museum.
- Participated in a two week medical mission trip to Honduras for 5 years and will go again this November.
- Participated in a one week mission trip to Maine for 7 years. There we helped build and remodel homes.
- Attended in February, as Synod's representative from PW, the conference on "Steps Toward Peace in Israel and Palestine."
- Visited Ghana with Return Peace Corps Volunteers and by chance meet many Presbyterian Women in Ghana.

Global Exchange

Synod Representative to the Churchwide
Coordinating Team, Roberta Mansfield

In fewer than thirty days, I and the other participants in the Presbyterian Women Global Exchange to Brazil will be leaving on our trip. We have been busy reading and getting ready for this exciting adventure, which will take place between October 3rd and October 24th, 2005. You can find information at www.pcusa.org/pw. Click on PW Global Exchange, and you'll find the (often annotated) reading list (including videos/DVDs), the itinerary, and a list of web sites about Brazil. The Global Exchange participants welcome and appreciate your prayers for us, during our time of preparations and also during the trip itself.

I have received many beautiful handcrafted bookmarks to give to the women I meet in Brazil. For all those who have made bookmarks so far, I thank you sincerely. For those who still want to participate, I can still take more bookmarks but since I have more bookmarks than I've been asked to bring, think in terms of very small numbers.

For two years after the PW Global Exchange to Brazil I will be available to make presentations to your presbytery gatherings about my experiences. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you very much to all those who have made donations to the PW Global Exchange Fund. It is not too late to make a donation. Donations of any amount are appreciated. A donation could be made specifically for me, or not. This fund will be used later to pay for some of the expenses for a woman from Brazil to come to the Synod of the Northeast for a week before the PW Churchwide Gathering in July 2006. This woman would then attend the PW Churchwide Gathering. Donations to this fund enable all women to be partners in the PW Global Exchange.

The following issues are among those we participants are studying and will be learning about on the Global Exchange to Brazil:

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poverty, exploitation, racism, unemployment, favelas (shantytowns), hunger, malnutrition, disease, child mortality, and premature death.

One of the books I read was for my participation in the Agriculture Study Group. The book was entitled *Food for Life: The Spirituality and Ethics of Eating*, by L. Shannon Jung. This thought-provoking book asserts that "God intends food and eating to be for the purposes of delight and sharing." Another interesting concept is that the earth is fully capable of feeding all its people. But market forces favor people who have more money, because marketing to those people is more profitable. A well-off person can eat strawberries in the winter, and buy other exotic, expensive, over-processed, over-packaged, and convenient foods shipped from long distances. So, while those who have sufficient money can eat well, poor people eat very poorly. Perhaps these poor people even grow crops, but those crops are for export, not for them and their families. Well-informed Presbyterian women should know about these issues, so that we can intelligently vote, and let our elected officials know that we think it's important to share with all people throughout the world the delight of eating sufficient amounts of good food.

I look forward to seeing each of you after I return from Brazil.



Global Exchange Donations Still Needed

We have not yet received the entire amount needed for Roberta, so gifts are still needed!

Checks should be made out to PWSNE. PW Global Exchange Fund may be written on the memo line. Checks may be mailed to treasurer Jane Mosher at 39 Hilltop Road, Mystic, CT 06355-2019.

NEWS BRIEF from your new PWE Coordinator

Judy Cunningham, Enabler Coordinator



Since I am taking over this position in mid-term and I do not have all PW Enabler (PWE) names and addresses, I thought this was the best way to convey the several ways you may contact me for

questions, PWE information, training packets, training scheduling and/or participation and Churchwide promo packets. My contact information is on the contact page in this newsletter.

Churchwide Gathering and PW Enabler packets have been mailed and should have been received by now. If you do not have either, please contact me and I will fax or mail copies to you. It is important to have these promotional materials as it is to be sent on to your PWCs.

The other important item is the scheduling of PW Enabler training. Right now, there are three scheduled and a fourth is tentatively being planned for Stony Point in the spring of 2006. If you are not going to the CWG (Churchwide Gathering) next July and you cannot attend one of the three planned this fall, you may want to attend the Stony Point training. (More info will follow when the date is determined.) For those CT that would like to have training in their specific Presbytery, there's financial assistance up to \$300.00 per training. I have the forms to apply for this assistance. The deadline to apply is December 15th for training held until June of 2006. All PWE trainings require prior reservations.

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



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE Gail Banks, Finance Committee Moderator

Ladies, please remember as you read about upcoming **Synod-wide** events, conferences, meetings workshops or gatherings that through a special gift to the Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast, **scholarships** are available.

The scholarship grant of \$50.00 per person, with a maximum of 10 scholarships for any one event, may be given. Applications should be received **30 days** prior to the event – they are to be sent to the Finance Moderator, Gail Y. Banks, 105 Whedon Road, Apt. 20, Syracuse, NY 13219. The Finance Committee will make decisions as to the awarding of the grants.

The scholarship application form is available from the PW Synod web site www.pwsne.org or from your PWP Moderator, or from Gail Banks.

PW Synod Seminary Intern 2005-6

We welcome new seminary intern Ann B. Shamy of Somerset, NJ. She is beginning a 9 ½ month, full-time residency as a chaplain at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ in its Clinical Pastoral Education program.

Ann recently received her Masters of Divinity from New Brunswick Theological Seminary. She is a member of Lamington Presbyterian Church in Bedminster, NJ and under its care as a candidate for Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbytery of Elizabeth.



2006 Churchwide Gathering Creation! Celebration! God's Word – Light for the Journey Louisville, KY July 7-11, 2006

Registration begins Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2005. Forms are available September 2005 and are included in the Sept/Oct 2005 issue of Horizons. Registration for the full event includes six meals, all programs and materials. Full fee is \$315; there is a discount for early registration.

Gathering scholarships are available through Churchwide PW, deadline is Nov. 1, 2005. For information contact the PW Synod or PW Presbytery Moderator or your PW Enabler.

Gathering web page:
www.pcusa.org/pwgathering/

Our Synod PW has been invited to make six 12-inch quilt squares for the Global Partners who attend the 2006 Churchwide Gathering. Other synods will be doing likewise. Each Global Partner will receive one as a gift. Moderator Anne Reynolds has distributed the six squares as fairly as possible on a regional basis.



Celebrate the Decade of the Child Synod PW at the Churchwide Gathering

Coordinator for Peace & Justice, Virginia Coon

The journey will be made lighter if you are sporting a NEW pair of shoes and socks.

Please bring NEW children's shoes or NEW sneakers and NEW socks to the Churchwide Gathering, to be given to needy children.

The NEW footwear and NEW socks should be in separate zip-lock bags. Please write the size of the shoes or sneakers on a 3"x5" card or on a piece of paper and include it in the bag.

IDEAS:

- Make it a church wide activity or Circle mission project.
- Bring donations to the Gathering from women who can not attend or contact a local agency or school who could distribute shoes and socks.

2006 Churchwide Gathering Global Partners Invitation

The Churchwide Global Partners Committee is arranging for the participation of Global Partners at the 2006 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. They would like to invite women currently residing in the United States from other countries who have been here for less than 4 years. They could be members of partner international congregations, fellowships and local congregations as well as college or seminary students, medical residents, business people, spouses of such persons.

The Churchwide Global Partners Committee will choose one person from each Synod to be invited to attend the Churchwide Gathering at no charge. The cost of registration, room and board for the Global Partners Orientation, July 5-7, 2006 as well as the Gathering, July 7-11, 2006, will be paid from the Churchwide budget. PWSNE will pay for transportation costs.

Please submit for consideration a completed application by November 15, 2005. The Churchwide Global Partners Committee will make the final selection of the woman they choose invite to attend as their guest. The application form is on the next page of the newsletter.

During the Orientation, (July 5-7, 2006) Global Partners will have an opportunity to get to know one another, worship together, to see a little of Louisville, to visit the Presbyterian Center and meet the Area Coordinators in the Worldwide Ministries Division as well as the PW Staff. They will prepare for and attend the Global Gala dinner on July 6th, may attend part of the PW business meeting on July 7th and will receive a Gathering tee shirt. During the Gathering (July 7-11) there will be opportunities for our Global Partners to participate in discussions in the *Casa International* space in the Great Room. Some will be invited to share their faith stories in a workshop setting. Others may be interested in interacting with our children and youth in programs designed for these ages or with the young women in NNPCW who will be meeting in Louisville at the same time as the Gathering.

Our expectations for the Global Partners participants are that they will:

- Attend the Global Partners Orientation (July 5-7) prior to the gathering
- Participate fully in the Gathering (July 7-11) - plenaries, workshops, etc.
- Participate in Global Partner activities

Although applicants do not have to be public speakers, the woman selected needs to be reasonably comfortable in sharing informally her cross-cultural experience and faith journey. Our Global Partners add an important dimension to the Gathering by representing a global perspective and by exchanging mutual joys and concerns with sisters worldwide.

Hudson River PW Project Requests Help Althea Meade

Mission Coordinator for PWP of Hudson River

PWP of Hudson River has an exciting new project with Marion Strain, a volunteer mission worker in Kenya. Ms. Strain will be attending the 2006 Churchwide Gathering, paying her own way, including the airfare. She wants to bring two Kenyan women, Odreine and Rose but they do not have funds for this. Odreine is a deacon and Rose an elder in the East African Presbyterian Church. Hudson River PWP is raising the money to bring Odreine and Rose to the Gathering. It will be well over \$5000, including the airfare. Lois Carter has invited them to attend the orientation for the Global Partners women, but they will not be financed by that program.

Hudson River PWP allocated the offering from their Spring Gathering to this project. Synod PW has also contributed as have numerous individuals. Contributions from others would be much appreciated. Checks may be made out to PW of Hudson River Presbytery with "Kenyan women" on the memo line and sent to Margaret Gullotta, 10 Park St., Pleasantville, NY 10570. We hope you can join in making this dream possible!

**Application Form for Referral to Global Partners Committee
2006 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women July 7-11, 2006
Orientation for Global Partners July 5-7, 2006**

The criteria for Global Partners currently residing in the United States:

- Has lived in the U.S.A. for less than four years
- Has reasonable facility with the English Language
- Has potential leadership ability
- Has interest in women's issues.

Please return **before November 15, 2005** to:

**Anne Reynolds
PO Box 1033
Little Falls, NY 13365**

**Phone: (315)823-2680
e-mail: areyn13365@juno.com**

.....
**Referral form for Global Partners
currently living in the Synod of Northeast**

Name of Nominee: _____

Current Address: _____

Phone: () _____ FAX: () _____

email: _____

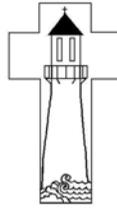
Home Country: _____

Please write a brief paragraph with the following information:

1. Arrival date in the USA
2. Role and responsibilities in the U.S.A.
3. Church involvement (home and in U.S.A.)



Presbyterian Women



SYNOD of the NORTHEAST
Reservation for Luncheon at Churchwide Gathering
Sunday July 9, 2006 at 11:30am

Name _____

Address _____

Presbytery _____

If reserving for additional people, please list names:

Amount enclosed _____

(Number of people X \$22.00 each)
check payable to Presbyterian Women, Synod of the
Northeast

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATION – May 15, 2006

Mail to: Jane MacDonald
36 Carriage Lane
Newton, NJ 07860

A postcard confirmation will be returned by June 20th – this
will be your ticket to the luncheon.

IT'S TIME FOR LUNCH!!

News via
2006 Gathering of
Presbyterian Women
Churchwide Hospitality
Committee

SYNOD OF NORTHEAST LUNCHEON

Sunday, July 9, 2006 at 11:30 AM
Hotel Ballroom TBA

BY ADVANCE
REGISTRATION ONLY

NO on site tickets will be sold

MENU Club Wrap

Flour tortilla filled with greens, bacon,
grilled chicken breast, tomato and
mayonnaise
Served with pasta salad
Beverages
Dessert

Spring 2006 Healing Retreat Spirituality and Health

Theme: Women's Wisdom

The Lord created me at the beginning...Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
Proverbs 8:22-23

This time apart at a retreat home on the New Jersey shore situated on the beach will explore healing through Silence, Scripture, Liturgy, Body Movement and Work, the Labyrinth and Nutrition.

For a full brochure see the PW Synod web site www.pwsne.org
There are five openings available at newsletter press time.

*These retreats are sponsored by
Presbyterian Women
in The Synod of the Northeast*

Friday, May 5, 4:00 P.M.
through
Monday, May 8, 2006 1:00 P.M.
-three nights -
St. Joseph By the Sea
South Mantoloking, NJ

All rooms are single (stairs required)
Extended times of silence required

Room, Board, and Body Work
\$340 (all inclusive)
**REGISTRATION LIMITED-
15 PARTICIPANTS**
Financial Help
contact Jane K. MacDonald



Registration Contact
Jane K. MacDonald
jkmac@nac.net
973-383-4166

Retreat Information
Rev. Patricia Raube-Wilson
607-432-7170
magdalene6127@yahoo.com



Spring 2006 Spiritual Retreat A Well Watered Garden May 19 – 21, 2006



"A WELL WATERED GARDEN" is our theme for our **Spring Spiritual Retreat** at Christ the King Retreat House, Syracuse, NY on May 19-21, 2006.

Would you enjoy... wonderful fellowship with other Presbyterian Women; ...an opportunity to 'laugh a lot' and also have quiet times; ...a beautiful location to relax, refresh and reflect in with tasty meals included; ... and an opportunity for Spiritual renewal including meditation, praying the scriptures, interest centers and nature walks. If so, mark your calendars today for our Spring Spiritual Retreat! Detailed information will follow in our next newsletter. Questions: contact Gail Banks (315) 488-4080 or email banksy@yahoo.com.

**VICE MODERATOR'S REPORT
PLANS FOR JULY 2007
SYNOD PW GATHERING**
Dee Evelyn Matthews

“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:4-5

The process for organization for the Year 2007 Design Team meeting was forming, norming, storming and performing - categories that involved discussing what formed our relationships with PWSNE; determining the norm and expectations; identifying the differences and connection; brainstorming and decision-making; and finally, visioning and producing images through the use of creativity and imagination on how we might expect the July 2007 PWSNE Gathering might be packaged and produced.

As we continue this exciting work, we will further fine-tune it through reviewing our history, identifying key issues, sharing in thoughtful Biblical reflection, and understanding our mission as we recognize the enormous resources available, and then effectively utilize material and human resources.

The theme is: ***“Open Unto Me...Blessings and Abundance.”*** Team members have assumed the many responsibilities and assignments: Jane MacDonald (immediate past moderator), Virginia Miller, Rita Oestreich, Ardelle Stewart, Rev. Jane Johnson (NYC presbytery), Rosalie Hemingway, Charlotte Hasselbarth, Lynn Hasselbarth, and Susan Turnbull. Serving as consultants: Sandy Grillo (immediate past vice moderator), Joann Burrell, Rev. Betsy Del Giacco Jay, and Moderator Anne Reynolds (ex-officio).

Now, imagine if you will, that you just received an *unexpected* check in the amount of \$86,400 and you are planning how to spend that amount. There are 86,400 *expected guaranteed* seconds in a day to contemplate how to spend that time. The Design Team is requesting that you put in place a financial plan that will enable your

attending not only the July 2007 Gathering, but all other Gatherings – on the local, synod and national level. We, along with all members of the PWSNE Coordinating Team, ***invite*** you to attend, and ***encourage*** you to participate in the July 2007 Gathering to be held in Albany. For your information: We carefully reviewed past evaluations and will move toward a serious, spiritual approach while planning the format of music, speakers, workshops, tone, timelines, location, site, travel, seating, settings, accessibility for the physically challenged, and, yes, even mealtimes and menus. We also expressed the many dynamics and variables of what we felt to be the “DNA” of Presbyterian Women (e.g., resilience, ethnicity, moral and theological issues, attendance, implosion, polarization, partnerships, thoughts, views, the meaning of claiming ownership, the many continuing signs of hope and friendship, etc.). Also, the Team has contacted two other possible sites in the Albany area to be considered and compared with The Desmond. We understand that communication is key, and we will keep the membership informed as our planning proceeds.

As your newly installed Vice Moderator, permit me to express my happiness about the shower of blessings received since coming on board, if you will, displayed in numerous wonderful expressions. Thank you! Your prayers and support are requested as this new role begins. The work of the PW was certainly not on my “look-forward-to-do” retirement list, but it was on God’s list. Even though the 2007 Gathering theme was not my initial offering, it does speak personally to me - - as it does now speak to you, and will be further revealed to speak to all who plan to attend the Gathering.

So, my dear Sisters: pace out your days. We have the *expected* eighty-six thousand, four hundred seconds in a day! Ask yourself: - what does our *faith* call us to do...what does *God* call us to do?...and, are we doing the things that are pleasing in His sight? We know that God has done great things for us...and that we all have received, in some measure, ways that have been opened unto us as glorious benefits of abundance and blessings.

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How To Contact the Synod PW Coordinating Team

This is a partial list. The entire list is available at www.pwsne.org or from your PWP Moderator.

Moderator	Anne Reynolds, PO Box 1033, Little Falls, NY 13365 315-823-2680 areyn13365@juno.com
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The Lighthouse, Newsletter of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast

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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):

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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.

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