



The Lighthouse



September 2007

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast

Moderator's Message

I am excited! What a summer! What a July! First my son's wedding, then being installed as Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast – my goodness!

I truly feel privileged to lead such an incredible group of women. Visit the PW Synod of the Northeast (PWSNE) website and read about some of the things we are involved in and what we have accomplished – we are AWESOME! We are out there – in the pews, in the Sessions, and on Presbytery Councils. We're there to help in the recovery from Katrina, we're fighting human trafficking of every kind, we're making prayer shawls and baby blankets, we're fact finding in Brazil and Eastern Europe, we're promoting Fair Trade. Where ever there is a need, we are there in force. I have already visited several PW Presbytery Gatherings and have been very impressed with the volume and quality of the projects embraced. We come from every economic, ethnic and social background. That is one of our finest traits. We serve as sisters and all trust

and believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. Whether your group is large or small, it is doing important work – tell the world! We are a very well kept secret in some places! Let others know how hard you are working and how much you are accomplishing; maybe even more important – share with one another. There are great ideas out there.

It will be my honor to serve as your Moderator for the next three years. I look forward to visiting with your Presbyterian Women's groups. Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself if we haven't met and let me know your thoughts and dreams for Presbyterian Women. It is a great organization doing great things. Together we can soar! I am ready, are you?
Sandy Grillo

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NEW DATE! Synod Coordinating Team + PWP Moderators' Training

Friday-Sunday--November 9-11—Stoney Point Conference Center

Confessions of a Recovering Racist

*By Synod Representative to the
Churchwide Coordinating Team, Roberta
Mansfield*

Am I admitting to being a racist? Surely no Christian person in the twenty-first century could be racist. Or could she? The reason I titled my article as I did is that I really believe that no one who was raised in the twentieth century can be completely free of racism. For most of that century, American society was most definitely racist. "Racism is imbedded in the very structure of our society..." is how the 2000 PW Business Meeting put it.

I promised you confessions, so here's one. A few years ago I was substituting on the third grade level. It was a class I hadn't seen before, and I struggled to remember the children's names. At the end of the day, I looked at one girl and called her by what I thought was her name. From the other side of the room, another girl answered. These girls were not alike in any way but one. The only thing these girls had in common was that they were both African-American. I had categorized them as I had been taught to do throughout my life. I hope the girls didn't realize why I had mixed them up. I was appalled when I realized what I had done and why.

I have spoken to women who experience racism every day. Surely that could never be a problem with PW. Right? Here is something that I have observed on several occasions. In groups that include minority women and white women, the white women talk more. They're more forward; they don't hesitate to speak. If a minority woman puts up her hand to ask a question or make a comment, she may never get acknowledged, because more aggressive white women don't bother with raising their hands. They just speak up, one after the other. It's similar to what happens in a group of both women and men. The

men tend to talk more, for similar reasons. Does that mean the white women I observed were racist? No, but we have to be intentional about watching out for (and correcting) situations like I described, and other situations that (although unintentional) are racist.

Every time I go to a Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT/PW) meeting, we all receive anti-racism training. We have seen several films, discussed them, and done several exercises to raise our awareness of the subtle (and not so subtle) ways that racism still affects our everyday lives. During each session, I have learned something new, to help me in my recovery. The reason that this anti-racism training is conducted is that combating racism is a mandate from the Churchwide Business Meeting of PW, going back to 1997, and reaffirmed at each Business Meeting since.

I e-mailed one of the anti-racism trainers from my area and discovered that she was used very little. Some presbytery PWs have never had anti-racism training. Is yours one of them? Then, **tell the Coordinating Team of your PWP that you would like to have anti-racism training.** (In some cases, they're afraid you would stay away.) At the PW web site, you can click on Justice and Peace, and you will find a lot of information about anti-racism training. You can send an e-mail to Teresa Saucedo about scheduling anti racism training. Another helpful tool is "Becoming the Beloved Community" (PRW-06-120), a DVD available for \$20. It can be ordered from PDS. Let's become the beloved community that God always intended us to be. Anti-racism training is the first step

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2009 Churchwide Gathering

God Will Do Wonders Among You

July 11-15, 2009. Cost will be \$380 for early registration and \$430 to register late. All meals are included this time - breakfast, too



International Day of Peace — September 21

The United Nations General Assembly has set aside September 21 of each year as the [International Day of Peace](#) — a day of global ceasefire and non-violence when all nations and people are encouraged to honor a cessation of hostilities. In 2007, the World Council of Churches invites congregations worldwide to pray for peace — possibly using the same prayers — on September 21 or the Sunday preceding it.

SYNOD PW LEADERSHIP COORDINATOR UPDATE

As I write this update report, some of the PWPCTs (Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery Coordinating Teams) have had their training and the others have been scheduled. Synod of the Northeast will meet the Strategic Plan's October 2007 stated deadline for this part of the 2006-2009 timeline.

If you are one of the PWPCTs that have had the training, it is time to take the wealth of information given to you and to pass it on to the rest of your Coordinating Team members who could not attend and then as a PWPCT plan to convey this information to your local PW groups. Ideally, this can best be done through a gathering workshop or workshops. This holds true also for those that will take the training by the end of October 2007.

A brief note on PW history: In 1988, UPW (United Presbyterian Women) and WOC (Women of the Church) became PW (Presbyterian Women). This makes 2008 our 20th anniversary - time to celebrate and time to stress the preservation of PW history, on the Presbytery PW and local PW levels. Did you know that you can have a speaker come from the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia? Contact information is listed on page 60 of the Presbyterian Planning Calendar or you can write to 425 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147 or visit www.history.pcusa.org. If you are ever in Philadelphia, make time to go and visit. It is well worth your time.

I have read your Moderator Annual Reports. Please know that they are important and are great resources to others for gathering theme ideas, speakers available, new ways that work and oftentimes planting seeds that turn into wonderful ideas. They also preserve the history I talked about above. Without these reports, however mundane they may seem to you, we lose our PW history and the wonderful mission work PW does.

Finally, please continue to send your CT rosters (and changes and deletions) not only to Patricia Longfellow by mail at Presbyterian Church, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202-1396 or by e-mail to plongfel@ctr.pcusa.org but also to me. My information is listed below.

As always, your comments, questions or concerns are encouraged and welcomed.

Judy Cunningham

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Coordinator of Justice & Peace

On July 27th, the business meeting was the first that I have attended as the New Albany PW Moderator. The meeting was informative, went fast and smoothly. The completion of the Synod goals of creation the Feb 5 and the promotion of the Presbyterian Partnership Group was announced and more information during the gathering was given to all. The guest speaker, Rev. Denise Kennedy did a wonderful presentation. .

Everything from registration to informational exhibits, vendors; Cokesbury Book Store, Greater Gift Shop, Pal Craftaid to the learning circles was a delightful experience. Charlotte Haselbrath did a great job organizing this complex gathering. The teamwork and hard work was appreciated by all who attended the Triennial Gathering. It was a great inspirational, informative and fun experience for me. I am so excited to have the privilege to serve for the next 3 years on the Synod of the Northeast.

Gloria Ghirarduzzi

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Western New York Leadership Training

June 2 was the inaugural or maiden voyage for the Synod of the Northeast Leadership Training. We were the first PPG (Presbyterian Partnership Group) to hold the training. There were thirty ladies representing Geneva, Genesee Valley, and Western New York Presbyteries--a wonderful blending and beginning of great dialogue and exchange of ideas and goals. The ladies from the host church, Avon Central Presbyterian Church, were generous: they donated the morning refreshments, wonderful noon meal and their time as hosts.

To prepare for this Leadership Training, six were chosen to represent our Synod at a Churchwide Training with the Churchwide Coordinating Team in March in Albuquerque, NM. We followed that up in April when all of our Synod Trainers met at Stoney Point to map our common lesson plans and training formats. Both were exciting experiences for this Trainer. While in Albuquerque, some of us visited two of the past Birthday Offering recipients: Menaul School and Martinez House of Neighborly Service.

Both institutes expressed their gratitude to PW for these grants.

Virginia Champlin, Trainer

4381 Wabash Road

Geneva, NY 14456-9719

May 4, 2007 Healing Retreat –

Those who attended the Spiritual Healing Retreat in Mantoloking NJ were blessed with wonderful weather (blossom time), a lovely group of women, beautiful accommodations and a glorious long beach with no one on it. The theme of the weekend was **nephesh** meaning **breath of life** or **continuum of life**. After enjoying morning prayer and evening vespers every day, learning liturgical dance, having Reiki and massage, taking long walks on the beach, relaxing in the loft, and walking the labyrinth on the beach, we certainly came away with a new and refreshed continuum of life.

One of our weekend projects was being teamed up to a secret prayer partner. During the craft time we each made a personal mandala or dreamcatcher for them, which was later presented to them, revealing who the prayer-partner was. You can enjoy the retreat and see the mandalas that were made in a brief 5 minute slideshow that was made for YouTube, just [loghttp://youtube.com/pw_retreat](http://youtube.com/pw_retreat) or click the screen to *the right*

*Diane Nafash South
Presbyterian Church, Presbytery
of the Palisades*

Presbyterian Women Synod of the Northeast Trainers

PPG	Presbytery	Trainer
Central Metropolitan	Hudson River Long Island New York	Magdalene Lewis 116-11 157 th Street, Apt. 8D Jamaica, NY 11434 (718) 528-1073 home (718) 523-6456 work Maggielewis9@peoplepc.com
Fab Five	Albany Cayuga-Syracuse Northern New York Susquehanna Valley Utica	Anne Reynolds P.O. Box 1033 Little Falls, NY 13365 (315) 823-2680 areyn13365@juno.com
New England	Connecticut Maine Massachusetts Rhode Island Vermont	Judith Cunningham 40 Old Lantern Road Danbury, CT 06810 (203) 744-6793 danjudithc@aol.com
New Jersey	Elizabeth Monmouth New Brunswick Newark Newton Palisades West Jersey	Su-Ling Lai 656 Bellerive Ct., Bridgewater, NJ 08807 (908) 575-1912 (Home) (609) 987-5823 (Work) Swlai2000@gmail.com
Western New York	Genesee Valley Geneva Western New York	Virginia Champlin 4381 Wabash Road Geneva, NY 14456 (585) 526-5841 (Home) (585) 752-1032 (Cell) danvirginiac@aol.com

PWS COORDINATING TEAM AND PWP MODERATORS

ROSTERS can be found at

www.pwsne.org

or your PWP Moderator has it them.

SYNOD of the NORTHEAST VOICE / VOTE STATISTICS

	Voice Council	Vote Council	Voice Presbytery	Vote Presbytery
Presbytery				
Albany	No	No	Yes	Yes
Boston	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cayuga-Syracuse	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Eastern Korean				
Elizabeth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Genesee Valley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geneva	No	No	Yes	No
Hudson River	No	No	Yes	Yes
Korean-Synod				
Long Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monmouth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Brunswick	Yes	No	Yes	No
New York City	No	No	Yes	No
Newark	No	No	Yes	Yes
Newton	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Northern New England	No	No	Yes	Yes
Northern New York	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
The Palisades	No	No	Yes	Yes
Southern New England	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Susquehanna Valley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Utica	No	No	Yes	Yes
West Jersey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Western New York	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Synod	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Churchwide	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

P W in the Synod of the Northeast

CALENDAR

OPPORTUNITIES and REMINDERS

EVENTS / ACTIONS

2007	EVENT	FOR	LOCATION
Sept. 12-13	Fab 5 Retreat "Women in the Bible"	Fab 5 PPG	Cleveland, NY
Sept. 15	NYC PWP Leadership Training	PWC Leaders	
Sept. 15	Pledges and Expense Vouchers due	PWP Treas/PWSCT	
Sept. 15	New Brunswick PWP Peacemaking w/ Dr. Rizk	All Women	
Sept. 29	Long Island PWP Fall Gathering		
Sept. 29	Susquehanna Valley PWP Fall Gathering	All Women	
Oct. 6	Monmouth PWP Gathering, Rev. Phyllis Zoon	All Women	
Oct. 9-10	Long Island PWP Retreat, Rev. Jeanne Baum		Sag Harbor, NY
Oct. 10	Utica PWP Fall Gathering, Roberta Mansfield	All Women	Cooperstown, NY
Oct. 11	Cayuga Syracuse PWP Fall Gathering 9:30-2 pm	All Women	Liverpool, NY
Oct. 13	West Jersey PWP Fall Gathering	All Women	Laurel Springs, NJ
Oct. 20	Albany PWP Fall Gathering	All Women	
Oct. 20	Geneva PWP Fall Gathering – Sandy Grillo	All Women	
Oct. 20	Eastern Korean PWP, 18 th Mission Conference	All Women	
Oct. 21	Elizabeth PWP Fall Gathering, 9-12 noon	All Women	
Oct. 21	Boston PWP Fall Gathering, Ruth Farell, Mission	All Women	
Oct. 27	Sisters Stand and Walk Together-Planning	SSAWT Grads	Stony Point
Oct. 27	Palisades PWP Retreat – Bible Study- Susan Thorne Friedl	All Women	Leonia, NJ
Oct. 27	New Brunswick Fall Gathering , 9-12 noon	All Women	Kendall, NJ
Oct. 30	Hudson River PWP Fall Gathering, 9-12 noon	All Women	N. Tarrytown, NY
Nov. 9-11	PWSNE Business Meeting and Moderator Training	PWP Mods and PWSNECT	Stony Point, NY
Dec. 9	Hudson River PWP Advent/Christmas Tea	All Women	Gilmore-Sloan House, Stony
Dec. 12	Hudson River PWP Advent/Christmas Tea	All Women	Gilmore-Sloan House, Stony
2008			
Jan. 5	New Brunswick PWP Epiphany Luncheon	All Women	Dutch Neck Church
Mar. 1	Newark PWP Winter Gathering	All Women	
Apr. 12	Monmouth PWP Spring Gathering-Sandy	All Women	
Apr. 16	Elizabeth PWP Spring Gathering 3-9 pm	All Women	
Apr. 19	New Brunswick PWP Spring Gathering 9-12	All Women	Ringoes, NJ
Apr. 19	Newark PWP Spring Gathering	All Women	
Apr. 24	Geneva PWP Spring Gathering, Maxine	All Women	
Apr. 26	Palisades PWP Spring Gathering, Rev. Debra	All Women	Fair Lawn, NJ
Mar. 1	NYC PWP Midwinter Gathering	All Women	
May 2	NYC Spring Gathering	All Women	
May (TBA)	Healing Retreat	All Women	
May 2-4	Spiritual Retreat	All Women	
July 18-20	PWSNE Gathering and Business Meeting	All Women	Stony Point

Annual Recurring Deadlines

Jan. 15	Deadline for Women of Faith endorsements
Feb. 1	Lighthouse articles due to Rev. Sherry Karasik
Feb 1, Aug 1	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 Ginny Champlin
June 1	Mission Reports due to PWS from PWP Mission Coordinators, send to Althea Meade

Lighthouse Circulation

During the **PW Synod Coordinating Team** meeting after the Gathering the last weekend of July, there was discussion about the distribution of our Lighthouse newsletter. I am pleased to report that one Presbytery Moderator has volunteered to take responsibility of forwarding this issue on to the women in her presbytery that means I send one newsletter and it goes much further beyond my list to better inform many women in Monmouth Presbytery and others in the Southern Jersey area. This response came from my short idea in the last Lighthouse.

It would be a blessing for me and also for all of you that want to receive the Lighthouse but may not be on the limited list that has been maintained. Other moderators or someone who wants to take on that responsibility will be welcomed by me. And, I was reminded during the meeting that we will be reducing our list of newsletters to be mailed out in the next 6 months some presbyteries will be posting our newsletter on their website for anyone to read and print out for their personal use. The mailing cost continues to increase beyond our budget and these steps are necessary, and at the same time will allow more women to read and print their own copy at very little expense for the PW in the Synod.

We need your help in keeping women informed one way is to please email me at ritao14826@juno.com if you are willing to take over a local list, and by sending your email address, you will receive the Lighthouse and be responsible for forwarding it to others. Lets work together and reduce expenses as well as keeping women informed. You will need to include the list to me and I will then reduce my list in relinquishing that responsibility to you. If you have questions about this, please call me at 585-384-5715 for further explanation. I do want everyone that would like the letter to receive it, but our list right now is very large and continues to grow. Can we work together to serve more for less expense? I am hoping and praying that we can and we will.

Rita Oestreich, 2 Edgewood Drive Cohocton, NY 14826-9425 (585) 384-5715 ritao14826@juno.com

Together in Service

Two changes have been made in the lists of wanted contents for the kits which many groups make and send. They no longer want construction paper in the school kits and no longer want toothpaste in the health kits. There is a critical need for school supplies, because of the demands of major emergencies in the last couple of years such as Hurricane Katrina and the tsunami - and so supplies on hand are critically low at this time.

A reminder: for a school kit, you need:

3 70 page spiral bound notebooks (no filler paper, please); 6 new pencils with erasers; 1 pencil sharpener
1 large eraser; 1 12" ruler (with metric markings, too); 1 pair blunt scissors; 1 box of 24 crayons
1 fabric tote bag (make with 13" x 17" sturdy fabric plus handles, or buy bags at WallMart, craft stores, or www.myshopangel.com)

Pack all items into the bag. Box your kits and mark on outside of the box the type of kits in the box.

Send to:

Church World Service Service Annex, 601 Main St., PO Box 188, New Windsor, MD 21776

If possible, send donation of \$2 per kit to Church World Service, PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46115-0968. Mark the check "Shipping Fees". This will help with sorting, packing, insurance, and shipping your kits to their final destination.

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Synod of the Northeast
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Time Sensitive Material