



BRINGING BACK THE LIGHT

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST
SEPTEMBER 2018

WHILE THIS WEEKEND IS FRESH IN MY MIND I WANTED TO COMMUNICATE TO ALL OF YOU ABOUT HAPPENINGS AT PWSNE!

It is my joy that we had to worry about “running out of rooms” at the conference center. This included a few new faces hoping to glean ideas on how to be PW less formally and Churchwide happenings this past August. We opened on “**Native American Day**” (see *PW Justice and Peace Calendar*) and finally we’ve had a presence of this culture a woman from the Shinnecock Reservation on Long Island has applied to attend the American Mission Experience (see *PW magazine Horizons for more information*) in our own **Fingerlakes NY** area summer 2019. *Since there most likely will be two of us attending any donations to the fund will be greatly appreciated!*

October is “**Fair Trade**” month so their coffees were on display and of course their chocolates!

I shared statistics of who among us attended the CW (CHRUCHWIDE) Gathering. PWSNE is hoping to reach out to Long Island, Northern New York, Southern New England, and Western New York to help connect and resource them, since they were not in attendance. I, as your moderator, am available to participate in your Presbytery or Congregational Gatherings (*as my calendar permits, New Jersey/Southern Synod area easiest commute*) and a new trial one year commitment was established as “**COMMUNICATOR**” which formerPWCW Moderator Kris Gerhling (now living in Genesee Valley) has agreed to participate in (*Northern area easiest commute*). We are truly “LOOKING TO SHARE THE LIGHT”.

There was a presentation from members of First Presbyterian Church Fairfield Ct. (Presbytery of Southern New England), on their “**Ghanaian Maternity Ward**” project that PWSNE endorsed on their application for a “**Birthday Offering**” grant. We also heard updates from Diane Behan (PW Moderator Hudson River Presbytery) on their ministries to **Singnat India and Gambelia Ethiopia** and how she engaged her granddaughters (and how all of us could engage young people) help in fundraising. *If you are looking for a foreign mission to support either or both would be grateful for your joining in with them!* Their information will be on PWSNE website soon.

The country of Ghana came up more than a few times and including women in attendance who were born there. There were also other women looking for skills to start or energize their Presbytery PW and local churches. I’m looking for leadership **HELP to start a Sisters Stand and Walk Together class in 2019**. Simply put it’s a NO COST “three year program (meeting three times each year,

9:30-3:00 PM) designed to acclimate and motivate (new) immigrant women from congregations within the Synod of the Northeast”. It has been EXPANDED to any women who need this sort of leadership training! The purpose is to prepare women for leadership roles within Presbyterian Women and all levels of PCUSA. As soon as I obtain **TWO VOLUNTEERS to work with this program**, I’ll have our application updated on the website and we will be on our way!

We had several conversations bringing back topics that were highlighted at the Churchwide Gathering Plenary speeches and workshops. MUCH of that can be found online on the PW website and you can even hear one speaker and see many of the video clips they used with the Presbyterian Women link on youtube. We talked about how books study or magazine articles can be an entry way to social justice topics and include younger women. Social justice is too formal a word so, everyday news stories and issues women care about happening in our country. We watched the movie “Trigger” on gun violence. We prayed about it.

How do we get as PW UNSTUCK? Find your **WHY** (*see the PW purpose*), then the what (how) will be easy!

We talked about how PDA and PW partnered, and we now have women trained to take “Disaster Preparedness” to your congregations and Presbyteries. We’ll get their information on PWSNE website for your invitation to your group. ***Our Gathering offering is going to PDA for hurricane relief!***

We celebrated that Presbyterian Women now have NGO (non government organization) official status at the UN Economic and Social Council. This gives us “an official place at the table with voice”. PCUSA (who PW partners with) also increased the number of official delegates to 40 to attend the **March 11-22, 2019 Commission on the Status of Women in NYC**. Download information and application: info.pmun@pcusa.org (email) or Presbyterianwomen.org/justice. Email completed ***applications by Nov 1, 2018 to the Presbyterian UN office ryan.smith@pcusa.org.***

Yes, we did have our annual business meeting which included an installation of new officers: Lorraine Cuffie moved up to office of Vice-Moderator, Nancy Lack as treasurer, Marion Greg-Whyte as Together in Service and second terms for: Ardelle Stewart-Search, Tanya Jackson-African American, Bisi Shofu-Horizons Rep/Celebration Giving (she also sits on budget), Moon Kim-Korean American, and Sue Liu-webservant. A MILLION THANKS TO OUTGOING VICE MODERTOR **SU-LING LAI**, TREASURER **GLORIA HANEWALD**, AND **ROSALIE HEMINGWAY** -TOGETHER IS SERVICE! **Gloria will finish as treasurer**

through December to facilitate an easy transfer. All requests for mileage reimbursement are due one month (as is our practice) from the Gathering.

Our churchwide Vice Moderator for of Mission Relations Jo Ann Burrell graced us with her presence and enthusiasm and encouraged us to be courageous with our congregations. She reminded us of the power we should claim as Presbyterian Women. (PS don't forget to figure out ways to support PW with the **Mission Pledge** and donations to the **Thank Offering-check out the 12 national and 4 international ministries grants were given to-it was mailed to YOUR church!** Jo Ann wrote the dedication service.)

I hope you all know about and read the **Quarterly News** for PW Leaders (PW website). The tallies from the Gathering: Cents-Ability hunger ministries \$1,659, Offering for the Mission Pledge \$38,733, silent auction \$10,478, and Ky area ministries GIFT CARDS \$32,470. Our own Rev Kathy Jones (Albany Presbytery voting representative to CW) raised over \$1,100 worth of gift cards from her Presbytery. Sounded like there was a little chasing end nagging going on at their Presbytery meeting. Yes she opened the donation to all! Way to go!!!

I look forward to the fall and all it's crisp air and hearing about your Fall PW Gatherings! Please remember to **post** your Presbytery **newsletters** to online PWSNE website and **flyers** for your Gatherings! We will try NOT to pick a conflicting date for the PWSNE Gathering that will be at Stony Point Fall (NY) 2019, most likely in October. Shuchen2003@msn.com

Last word: PWSNE really needs someone with true media skills to help us with our presentations at Gatherings. If you are or know anyone who can help, it's a one time a year commitment please let me or our nominating chairperson Alpha Brown know. We can offer free attendance, mileage and grateful thanks!

Peace,

Lisa

Moderator PWSNE