

## **Synod of the Northeast Report to the Churchwide Coordinating Team**

Virginia A. Champlin, Representative

February 2009-August 2009

25 PWP (includes 2 Korean and 2 Hispanic)

### **Synod – Some Significant Actions and Activities** – *Sandy Duncan Grillo, Moderator*

- Sponsored the Healing Retreat and Horizons Bible study. Spiritual Retreat canceled.
- Variety of Mission Projects is as varied as the women themselves
- Three new PW church groups formed and at least two more in process
- Ten partial Scholarships awarded for attending Churchwide Gathering
- Hosting Zoe Rasendrasahina from Madagascar & to the CW Gathering
- Diane Nafash is working on a PWSNE DVD Slide show of the CW Gathering
- Moderator and Global Partner Jenny Lee have made themselves available and have attended many PWP and churches
- Installed to the CCT from PWSNE: Secretary Joanne Schnaudt, Members at Large Jenny Lee, Nydia Murphy, and Janis Quinn

### **Presbyteries - Some Significant Actions and Activities**

- **Albany** – *Gloria Ghirarduzzi, Moderator*
  - Hosted Jana Buzkova, Global Partner from The Czech Republic to CW Gathering
  - Spring Gathering, Rev. Cass Shaw, General Presbytery presented “The Changes in the Relationship Between the Albany Presbytery and the Presbyterio Mam in Guatemala”
  - Hamilton Union Church collecting school supplies for Chituka in Malawi, Africa
- **Boston** - *Beth Denier, Moderator*
  - Working on communications – Feeding information bi-weekly through e-mails
  - Struggling to survive and in need of more leadership
- **Cayuga-Syracuse** – *Susan Silliman Smith, Moderator*
  - Spring Gathering: Synod Moderator Sandy Grillo
  - Amboy-Belle Church made prayer cloths for service men and women to put inside their helmets
- **Elizabeth** – *Amy Aaroe, Moderator*
  - Spring Gathering: Global Partner Jenny Lee & Synod Moderator Sandy Grillo
- **Genesee Valley** – *Gloria Hall, Moderator*
  - Held a “Martha, Mary or Me” Spring Retreat
  - Provided PW Manuals to all New Moderators
  - CT gave monies to Water for Sudan project, Genesee Parish medical outreach & Rose Mount House, three rural Domestic violence shelters
- **Geneva** – *Virginia Champlin, temporary Moderator*
  - Spring Gathering “Chow for Children” from Sayre, Pennsylvania
- **Hudson River** – *Judy Wason and Faye Bishop, Moderator*
  - Organizes and finances the creation of stoles for the graduates (in prison) of the Certificate

Program in Ministry and Human Services through the Rising Hope, New York Theological Seminary

- **Long Island** – *Kassie Chamberlain, acting Moderator*
  - Spring Gathering: PW and U.S. Immigration - “Between a Rock & a Hard Place”
- **New Brunswick** – *Mary Potter, Moderator*
  - Collected used plastic screw type medicine bottle for a medical clinic in Haiti
  - Endorsed the work of Friends for Health Care in Haiti
  - Active in promoting & supporting the Peacemaking Program especially Christian-Muslim understanding
- **New York City** – *Alpha O. Brown, Moderator*
  - Spring Gathering: “High Tea” with God stirring our cups to inspire faith and to be committed to our actions in missions
- **Newton** – *Sally Struz, Moderator*
  - Hosted visitor Diana Wachira from Kenya to the CW Gathering
  - Sponsored subscriptions to Horizon for Women's Guild in Kenya
  - One church presents a handmade blanket to each baby baptized
- **Northern New England** – *Gail Brown and the Rev. Nancy Donnelly, Co-Moderators*
  - Working with churches to create their own Spiritual Center
  - Spring Retreat: “Women in the Bible and Their Message to Us”
- **The Palisades** – *Barbara Van Tilburg, Moderator*
  - Spring Gathering: “We Have Been Appointed to Bear Fruits” based on John 15:1-11 led by the Rev. Dr. Wanda Lundy. Julissa Alvarez-Garcia, Pastor of “Primera Iglesias Presbiteriana Principe dePaz,” gave an interactive study of the scripture with analysis of each verse.
- **Southern New England** – *Dotsie Shaw, Moderator*
  - Global Partner Jenny Lee was the Keynote speaker at the Spring Gathering
- **Susquehanna Valley** – *Jo Ann Gray, Moderator*
  - Spring Gathering: “Faithful Stewards of our Environment” led by Dr. Janet Schwengber
- **Utica** – *Pat Parker and Karen Stockton, Co-Moderators*
  - Winter Gathering: “Celebrating What's Right with the World” videotape program by Dewitt Jones
  - Spring Gathering: “Faithful Stewards of our Environment” led by Dr. Janet Schwengber
  - Lend some financial help to safe houses & residents for unwed mothers: Emmaus House and Tea Bowman House
  - Help Tidy Bottoms by providing diapers, clothing and other baby items to families in need
- **Western New York** – *Marilyn Koszarek, Moderator*
  - Winter Gathering: Carolyn Zimmerman showed us how playing rhythm instruments connects us to our birth rhythms, each other, and God
  - Moderator served as a Sign Language Translator for the CW Gathering