

THE GENEVA LINK

NEWSLETTER FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA SPRING 2010

During this time without an elected moderator, members of your Presbytery Coordinating Team are taking turns assuming moderator duties. If you have questions or need help in your local groups, please contact a member of that Team listed in your Directory.

Words from virginia

When I went to church today for Thirmon Circle, I noticed flowers coming up by the door of the kitchen. Is that a sign of Spring? Yes, the calendar says Spring begins in March. That means we are having a **Spring Gathering**. This one is going to be FUN!

Do you have any great camping memories? I have some of the fondest memories of my summer weeks at Camp Manitoqua in Frankfort, Illinois, sponsored by the Reformed Church in America. There were the cabins, the dining hall, mail call, morning and afternoon Bible study groups, volleyball, swimming, evening vespers, the snack bar, and the singing.

At our Spring Gathering, Idelle Dillon, **Camp Whitman Director**, will be the keynote speaker. She will share with us the **history** of our wonderful Camp, sharing **stories** of our Camp, and lead us to **future plans** for our Camp.

There will be a **canoe** and an **outhouse** at the Gathering. We are asking you to look at the "Wish List" provided with this newsletter and help us **fill the canoe** with items from the list. The **outhouse is for any monetary or gift card donations**. Let's fill both to aid both the Camp Whitman and our campers.

You are being invited to **come to the Spring Gathering dressed for camp** (no swim suits, please!). You are encouraged to bring your own indoor picnic lunch and share and/or listen to camping memories voiced by friends around the tables.

See you in Watkins Glen on Saturday, April 24.

In Christ's service,
Virginia Champlin

WE'RE RECEIVING THE BIRTHDAY OFFERING ON THE 24th!

Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday to You! Presbyterian Women celebrate their birthdays at the Spring Gathering by giving the amount of their

birthday years to this Mission Giving. The Birthday Offering was started in 1922 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary and is received for a **BIRTHDAY OFFERING**, continued definite cause. Since that time, more than \$29 million has been given.

This year we are once again taking the Birthday Offering at our Spring Gathering on April 24. In 2010 we will be supporting two projects instead of the four that have been designated in the past:

- ♥ The Kindergarten and Childcare Center in Kirkuk, Iraq, and the Peace Presbyterian Church RISE (Reach Improve Strengthen Empower) Project in Louisville, Kentucky have been chosen to receive the Birthday Offering in 2010. The Kindergarten and Childcare Center provides high quality education to children, teaching basic skills in a loving environment. The current building is now for sale and these funds would assist in purchasing the building for this use.
- ♥ Peace Presbyterian Church works to be a beacon of light in Louisville's diverse Newburg community by providing services specifically to children, youth, adults and families identified as at-risk or in need of support during a transitional period. The grant will strengthen the church's outreach in the community by expanding the number of people being served by four educational or family service opportunities.

You may go on-line and watch a four-minute video for an overview of the Birthday Offering as well as the two projects for the 2010 Offering. <http://www.pcusa.org/pw/birthday/index.htm> is the web site, and then click on the video.

Please bring or send your Birthday Offering to the Spring Gathering in Watkins Glen. Thank you for your support.

Pat Petty
for Celebration Giving

BLANKETS+

Many congregations use Mother's Day or Father's Day to collect an offering

for Church World Service Blankets+. If you want to get CWS materials to promote the offering in your congregation, please remember that you must order them; CWS doesn't automatically send them out. You may order materials online, mail in an order form, or place your order by phone. Please try to avoid last minute rush orders. Visit www.churchworldservice.org/blankets for more information or to place an order. To place an order by phone call 800-297-1516.

As you hold your Blankets+ appeals this year, please lift up all the mothers and fathers in Haiti and Chile struggling to care for their families in the wake of the earthquakes.

REMINDERS...

The **Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study** is a wonderful devotional aid. See www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook to subscribe to a daily podcast or email or to look up any day's reading. Learn about the mission activities of churches and presbyteries at home and around the world.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been actively responding to the needs of the people in earthquake affected areas in Haiti and Chile. PDA receives funds from the **One Great Hour of Sharing** as well as direct donations. See www.pcusa.org/PDA for information on the work of PDA and how to donate.

An idea...

In Berkley, Michigan, the website of the Greenfield Presbyterian Church invited people to "bring a friend and drop off your drawers to church." This special time had two emphases: 1) bring a friend for worship and a picnic as the congregation's guests, and 2) bring packages of new underwear and socks for children and youth who were part of a local agency's program to provide for **idea....**, continued more than 500 foster children and youth and their families.

...from *Presbyterians Today*, October 2009

WHAT'S IN *Horizons*? contributed by Virginia Champlin

Simplicity –January/February 2010 *Horizons*

Living Simply: Holistic Discipleship in a Spendthrift World

The Simple Living Journey: Joy and Freedom and Life

Living Simply, Eating Simply

The Power of a Purchase: How Buying Thoughtfully Can Improve Lives

Giving Our Children the Gift of Simplicity

“For billions of people around the world, living a simple life is not a choice; poverty makes it their reality. At the other extreme, there are many people who feel bogged down and drained by their accumulated stuff and lengthy to-do lists. For this issue, a variety of writers offer suggestions on how to scale back—and in so doing, find more joy, a stronger connection with God, and a more just and sustainable way of life.”

Trafficking – Facing the Human Commodity – March/April 2010 *Horizons*

Human Trafficking 101

Joining the Battle Against Sexual Exploitation of Children: ECPAT USA

Shared Hope International: Preventing, Rescuing Restoring

Shackles in Our Midst: How to Recognize Trafficking

Let My People Go

I Dream of Immokalee

Working for Justice and Peace

Supporting Mission

“Millions of people—men, women and children—around the world are victims of human trafficking. This modern-day incarnation of slavery deprives them of their freedom, income, and the right to live as beloved children of God. This issue of *Horizons* offers a glimpse at the scope and complexity of human trafficking, the immense suffering borne by trafficked persons and organizations and individuals who have committed themselves to ending trafficking, and the responsibility we have for restructuring our legal, social and economic systems to foster well-being for all people.”

Future issues you won't and shouldn't miss –

Arts – May/June 2010 This one is going to be loaded!

Prisons – July/August 2010

Caregiving and Health Issues – November/December 2010

Communication – January/February 2011

You can see that you won't want to miss an issue. I serve on the *Horizons* Editorial Committee and I know first hand that there is a lot to the planning for each issue.

Horizons is the bimonthly publication for Presbyterian Women. Your subscription entitles you to a copy of the yearly Bible Study. The Bible Study for 2009-2010 is Joshua and for 2010-2011 is Revelation. To subscribe call 866/802-3635 or *Horizons*, PO Box 421, Congers, NY 10920-9826.

BABY HATS

Several people have mentioned that they do not have good instructions for knitting baby hats. Pat Petty has given us the instructions as follows:

Needle size: 6. 3-ply yarn is best.

Cast on 68 stitches.

Next row: Knit 2, purl 2 to the end of the row. **Continue in this pattern for 6 inches.**

Next row: Purl

Next row: Knit 2 together across row.

Next row: Purl

Next row: Knit 2 together across row.

Leaving enough yarn to finish, thread needle and take remaining stitches off the knitting needle, pull together to close the top, and sew firmly.

Optional pompom: Take a 2-inch-wide piece of cardboard, carefully wind wool around it at least 30 times. Tie in the middle and cut edges (to make separate strands). Trim loose ends. Use yarn to sew the pompom on the cap.

PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNICATORS RECOGNIZED

Byline Louisville, KY: Once every decade there is a Religion Communicators Congress. This year it will be April 7 through 10 in Chicago. Our own Virginia Champlin will be there when the DeRose-Hinkhouse Awards are presented to people who represent both *Presbyterians Today* (our denominational magazine) and *Horizons* (our PW magazine). From your acquaintance with these publications, you may recognize the names of some of the winners:

- * Susan Jackson Dowd, Stephanie Morris, Laura Lee, Ashley Meyer, HORIZONS, an Award of Excellence (first place) in “Non-broadcast audio/video” for Joshua: A Journey of Faith;

- * Dana McMahan and Thomas Brown, Creative Services, an Award of Excellence in Social Media for the AllWomen in the Church Web site;
- * Billie Healy, Mission Interpretation, a Certificate of Merit (second place) in “Public Relations Materials” for the 2010 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study;
- * Eva Stimson, editor of *Presbyterians Today*, a Certificate of Merit in “Writing” for The Faces of Immigration;
- * Shelley Layman, Creative Services, a Certificate of Merit in “Graphic Design, Art and Photography” for the Middle Eastern Presbyterians brochure
- * Carol Johnson, Creative Services, a Certificate of Merit in “Graphic Design, Art and Photography” for the 2010 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study;
- * Shellee Layman, Creative Services, a Certificate of Merit in “Graphic Design, Art and Photography” for *Presbyterians Today*, July-Aug. 2009 issue;
- * Mark Thomson, Creative Services, a Certificate of Merit in “Graphic Design, Art and Photography” for the One Great Hour of Sharing Leader’s Guide and bulletin inserts.

A GIFT BEARS FRUIT

The writer of Ecclesiastes in the first verse of chapter 11 writes: “Send out your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will get it back.”

In an article in *Presbyterians Today*, November 2009, there is the story of a gift of \$208,577 given by Presbyterian Women in 1956 to help build a 76-bed hospital in Osaka, Japan. The Presbyterian medical ministry in Osaka began in 1955 in a poor area still reeling from the devastation of WWII.

Now under Japanese leadership, that hospital has 657 beds and is rated as one of the top private hospitals in Japan. Each day begins with chapel services. In 2009, Yodogawa Christian Hospital gave the

A GIFT, continued

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) \$208,577 to be used for mission in Asia. The hospital is planning to build a new facility in the same area with a large chapel in the center of the hospital complex. This symbolizes the hospital's commitment to its Christian roots and whole-person healing.

REMEMBER THE GATHERING!

Carol Limner, Cluster Leader for Cluster 2, and the women of the Watkins Glen Church—aided and abetted by the Coordinating Team—are working hard to welcome you for the Spring Gathering on **Saturday, April 24.**

- ❖ The day will begin with registration and fellowship at **9:30**, then the program begins at 10:00.
- ❖ Dress in casual, camping-type clothes.
- ❖ Be prepared to sing camp songs!
- ❖ The planned event should be done around 12:30. If you wish, bring your “indoor picnic” **lunch** in a bag and eat and visit with your PW friends before heading home.
- ❖ Remember to bring the **Birthday Offering** contributions (personal and/or from your group or church).
- ❖ Bring **items needed for Camp Whitman** (see the flyer for needs).

Words about the link

- Please spread the word about events announced in *The LINK*. Be sure a copy of the flyer is posted on your church's bulletin board.
- This time the flyer consists of two pages so Camp Whitman's “wish list” can be posted alongside the information about the Spring Gathering. Explain that **all** church members are invited to send items to either the Gathering or to the May meeting of Presbytery at Hammondsport.
- If you're receiving *The LINK* and would prefer not to, please contact Mary

Tennies at either 607-243-8986 or [htennies@stny.rr.com](mailto:h Tennies@stny.rr.com). For now, pass your copy on to someone who might like to see it. Also, if you know of someone who would like to be on the mailing list, please let Mary know.

- So many of you are crafting things like shawls, baby hats and sweaters, lap robes, etc. as a way to reach out and make life sweeter and more comfortable for others. If you have projects you'd like to tell everyone about or a special pattern you would like to share, remember that we will be glad to include your input in a future issue of *The LINK*. Contact Mary Tennies (see above).
- Attached to this newsletter is information about and registration forms for two PW Synod events: the Spring Spiritual Retreat at Christ the King Retreat House in Syracuse and the Horizons Bible Study at Stony Point.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✦ At least three PW groups took up the suggestion of the speakers at the Fall Gathering and “adopted” farmworker families at Christmas time. Geneva, Ovid, and Hector reported good response to this project, and several families enjoyed a special Christmas celebration. The Memorial Fund at Hector also gave a substantial donation to the farmworker program.
- ✦ The 2010-2011 copy of the PW Directory will be available at the Spring Gathering.
- ✦ The Ladies Aid Society of the Lakemont Congregational Church and the Rock Stream Presbyterian Church contributed 117 blankets/throws/afghans to Penn Yan's Christmas for the Needy program that serves the Penn Yan and Dundee school districts. These gifts were blessed during worship on December 6.

LOOKING AHEAD

- ✦ The annual **Day of Inspiration** is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 1**, at Camp Whitman. Watch for details in the Summer issue of *The LINK* which should be coming to you in early August.
- ✦ PW in our Presbytery will not be having a Fall Gathering this year. Instead, all are invited to attend the Gathering of PW in our Presbytery Partnership Group on **Saturday, September 25**. This will be held at **Camp Asbury on Silver Lake** in Western New York. Again, watch for details, directions, information, etc. in the Summer issue of *The LINK*.

The networkers

Mother's day project

This project honors beloved women in our lives with attractive Mother's Day cards while protecting African women and their children from malaria. Since 2001, Presbyterian Women have distributed over 180,000 Mother's Day cards and raised \$1.1 million in donations to the NetWorkers Malaria Prevention Program.

Please consider including the NetWorkers Mother's Day Project in your 2010 mission activities.

To learn more, visit www.pcusa.org/health/international, or contact Gail Bingham:
888-728-7228 ext. 5573 or
gail.bingham@pcusa.org.



IN MEMORIAM

Ruth J. Millerd 1915 – 2009

Ruth J. Millerd was a long-time participant in Presbyterian Women on the local and Presbytery levels. In the Seneca No. 9 Church, Ruth was active in Sunday School and Vacation Church School, women's groups, and the choir; and she also served on committees of Presbytery. A member of the first Lay Preacher's class in the Presbytery, Ruth led worship in many of the Presbytery's churches and later became the Lay Pastor at Romulus. Her hobbies included writing, sewing and fancy work, and cooking. She loved to entertain and was an excellent hostess.