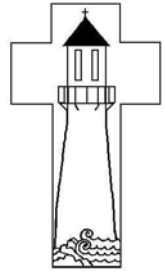




Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast



The Lighthouse September 2006

PW: INTERCHANGE AT ITS BEST

Anne Reynolds, Moderator

For generations, Presbyterian Women have been at the forefront in the reciprocal mixing of thoughts between each other as well as in groups so that there has been a never-ending forward movement. We've come a long way from the days of the ride and tie mode of horse travel and sparse women's meetings where our foremothers gathered to address common needs and concerns that quickly grew into what the church now calls mission.

We have been quick to learn from the interplay of thoughts offered by shared gifts of fresh and challenging thinking from the Iroquois clan mothers, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, to name just a few.

Today, the Presbyterian denomination is indeed fortunate to be full of accomplished men and women from all walks of secular life. Presbyterian Women have the ability to set aside secular accolades at the front door and emerge at the backdoor at the neighborhood clothesline ready to hang out fresh bits and pieces of creative, unselfish thought on that reciprocal PW clothesline like Asian prayer flags for all to discuss and for all to use in new ways.

Over many generations, time has proven our mastery in this grass root level of shared leadership that propels both organization and programs forward. PW's dedication and commitment has remained ever constant as we seek to love God by responding to the cries of others.

Thanks to technological advances the look of our clotheslines and backyard fence has changed, allowing for the interchange of ideas that flow reciprocally in an instant to endless numbers at once. With our cyber clothesline we read each other's PWP newsletters and get news of events, forms, etc. relating to PWSNE at www.pwsne.org, the latest PW Churchwide information at www.pcusa.org/pw. Individual PWSNE Coordinators routinely pass along information on mission, peace and justice, and churchwide developments as they receive them through the email address you share.

Lesser amounts of information will still reach you, in time, through this mailed newsletter and through your PWP Moderator at your next gathering.

Please join the rest of your sisters at the PW backyard clothesline by sending your and your church's e-mail address to Rita Oestreich at ritao14826@juno.com so that, as a fully informed Presbyterian Woman you will be ready to share in leadership in your PW, in your Presbytery and in your PPG.

Inside this issue

- **November Gathering of PW in the Synod of the Northeast (PWSNE) -- flier and registration**
- **News from the PWSNE Coordinating Team (CT)**
- **Calendar**
- **How to contact us**

PW Synod Search Committee Report

Beth Denier, Search Committee Chair

The Search Committee still needs to fill a few positions for 2006. These include two Search Committee members, preferably from New England and Western New York PPGs (a PPG is a Presbytery Partnership Group within the Synod of the Northeast). We welcome your suggestions for this year or the future. The secretarial and financial positions are especially hard to fill since they require special skills. Send all suggestions to Beth Denier, 211 Central Street, Saugus, MA 01906. Telephone: 781-231-9247. E-mail: a.denier@worldnet.att.net.

PW SNE Terms of Office		
Year A=07 B=08 C=06	Office	How filled E = Elected A = Appointed N = Endorsed
A	Moderator [Moderator Elect is elected in Year C]	E
	Vice Moderator-Elect - 1 year term	E
	Historian	E
	Coordinator for Justice and Peace Concerns	E
	Moderator of the Finance Committee	E
	Search Committee Member(s)	E
B	Vice Moderator	E
	Secretary	E
	"Together in Service" Coordinator	E
	Churchwide Coordinating Team Representative	E
	Member-at-Large Representing Asian Women	E
	Search Committee Member(s)	E
C	Moderator-Elect	E
	Treasurer	E
	PWE Network Coordinator (formerly Enabler Coordinator)	E
	Member-at-Large Representing Korean American Women (Since their Moderator, who also serves as their Member-at-Large, serves a 2 year term, we have to make some adjustments. Susan Cho will finish her term in June 2007 so we will have a new person for the July 2007 meeting.)	N
	Member-at-Large Representing African American Women	E
	Member-at-Large Representing Hispanic/Latin American Women	N
	Member-at-Large Representing Native American Women	E
	Member-at-Large Representing Middle Eastern Women	N
	Search Committee Moderator and Member(s)	E
A,B,C	Moderator Appointments	A
	LIGHTHOUSE Editor	A
	LIGHTHOUSE Circulation	A
	Clergywoman	A
	Registrar	A
	HORIZONS Representative	A
	Webmaster	A
	PWS Representative to Synod Nominating Committee - 1 year term. Can serve 3 terms.	A

PW in the Synod of the Northeast Calendar of Opportunities

2006	Event/Action	For	Place
Sept. 13-14	Utica/Cayuga Syracuse PWP Retreat	All Women	Vanderkamp
Sept 21	Monmouth PWP Gathering	All Women	Rumson
Sept. 23	"Living the Call" 50 yr. Ordination Celebration	Everyone	Third Presbyterian Rochester
Sept. 30	Susquehanna Valley PWP Gathering	All Women	Bainbridge
Oct. 7	Palisades PWP Retreat	All Women	Ridgewood NJ
Oct 7	New Brunswick PWP Gathering	All Women	Flemington, NJ
Oct. 7	"Sisters Stand and Walk Together..."	Members	Stony Point
Oct. 11	Utica PWP Gathering	All Women	Richfield Springs
Oct 12	Cayuga/Syracuse PWP Gathering	All Women	Baldwinsville, NY
Oct 14	Northern New York PWP Gathering	All Women	Saranac Lake, NY
Oct 14	Newark PWP Gathering	All Women	West Caldwell
Oct 14	Newton PWP Gathering	All Women	Dover, NJ
Oct 14	West Jersey PWP Gathering	All Women	Bethany, HaddonHgts.
Oct 15	Boston PWP Gathering	All Women	Sudbury, Ma
Oct 21	Geneva PWP Gathering	All Women	Seneca #9, Stanley, NY
Oct 21	Southern New England PWP Gathering	All Women	Barrington
Nov 2-3	"Da Vinci Code comes to the Point"	All Women	Stony Point
Nov 3-5	PWSNE Meeting/ Gathering	Delegates plus	Stony Point
Nov 5-6	PWSNE CT /Design team	CT/Design Team	Stony Point
Nov 11	West Jersey PWP CT Fall Meeting	CT	First Pres., Moorestown
2007			
Jan 6	New Brunswick PWP Epiphany Luncheon	All Women	Dutch Neck, NJ
Feb 17	West Jersey PWP CT Winter Meeting		TBA
Feb 24	Newark PWP Winter Gathering	All Women	
Mar. 30-31	Newton PWP Retreat	All Women	Johnsonburg, NJ
Apr. 18	Elizabeth PWP Gathering	All Women	Metuchen
Apr. 21	New Brunswick PWP Spring Gathering	All Women	Witherspoon
Apr. 21	Newark PWP Gathering	All Women	Montclair
Apr. 22	West Jersey PWP Gathering	All Women	Cherry Hill
Apr. 22	Newton PWP Gathering	All Women	Whippany, NJ
May 4-7	Healing Retreat	All Women	New Jersey Shore
May 18-20	Horizons Bible Study weekend	All Women	Stony Point
May 18-20	PWSNE Spiritual Retreat	All Women	Syracuse
July 27-29	PWSNE Gathering	All women	Desmond Hotel, Albany

Deadlines for Synod PW (PWS) -- each year on these dates

- Jan. 15 Deadline for submitting **Women of Faith** endorsements.
- Feb. 1 Reports due from PWP **Historians**, send to PWS Historian
- Feb. 1 and Aug 1 Deadline for *The Lighthouse* articles, send to PWS Newsletter Editor
- Mar. 15, June 15, Oct. 15, Dec. 15 **Pledges** due from PWPs, send to PWS Treasurer (in full by Dec. 15)
- Mar. 15, June 15, Oct. 15, Dec. 15 **Expense vouchers** from PWSCT due, send to PWS Treasurer
- May 1 **PWP directory** due to churchwide and PWS – **send to PWS Network Coordinator**
- May 15 **Annual Reports** due to PWS from PWP Moderators, **send to PWS Secretary**
- June 1 **Mission Reports** due to PWS from PWP Mission Coordinators, **send to PWS Mission Coord.**

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New Seminary Intern

Please welcome our new Seminary Intern, Christine Davies. Christine is from Palisades Presbytery and attends Princeton Seminary.

News from the Synod PW Network Coordinator Judy Cunningham

First, I need to tell you that I could not attend the CWG although registered because I had an emergency eye "operation" at the last minute. So the information here is what I have compiled from various sources. I am receiving documents everyday. There's too much to summarize so I will have packets of information available at the PW Synod Gathering in Stony Point in November. The former PWE Committee will be meeting in September to begin working on training materials. And, by the time you receive this Newsletter you will be able to go to the CWG web site www.pcusa.org/pw/gathering and, according to the Horizons article, get the results of the voting on the various issues that were considered at the Business Meeting. If your Presbytery cannot send a rep to the November Gathering, please contact me and I will send it to you. One important item to be addressed is we are not to use the word Enabler or PW Enabler and second, that this is a fluid program to be implemented during the 2006-2009 Triennium which can be tailored to each presbytery's needs.

One of the new programs is better communication. To that end, please be sure to send me your new leaders contact information if you changed in June or are changing in September. Also continue to send me your newsletter and directories.

Please remember the **WOMEN'S BIOGRAPHY PROJECT** of the Presbyterian Historical Society. They will archive women's stories of their journeys toward church leadership and ordination. Be sure the women ministers in your area make their stories a part of the recorded history of women in the church. Stories can be submitted online at (www.pcusa.org/women/ordination/survey.htm).

In closing, we had a great workshop at Stony Point in April. About 25 of us gathered for training, sharing, learning and receiving resources. My thanks to Ginnie Miller and Joanne Schnaudt for leading the "seasoned" group. As always, I'm available to help with questions, training or accessing resources.



**2006 Churchwide Gathering
of Presbyterian Women**

CREATION! CELEBRATION!
God's Word—Light for the Journey

Good News from our July PWSNE Luncheon at the Churchwide Gathering

- We elected and installed SANDY GRILLO as Moderator Elect. Congratulations!
- We welcomed and were moved by our international guests from Brazil, Kenya, and Ghana as they shared their gratitude/good wishes and even their joyful music with us.
- We said good bye to Ann Shamy as her Seminary Internship with us ends.
- All 209 celebrated with good food and happy fellowship.

Resources for Horizons Bible Study

The 2006–7 Bible study is *In the Beginning: Perspectives on Genesis* by Celia Brewer Marshall. The companion piece for *Genesis* is *More Suggestions for Leaders* by Leah Bradley and Kikanza Nuri Robins. These and other available resources are described at www.pcusa.org/pcusa/horizons/bible.



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

A PW SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST EVENT
CREATION!
CELEBRATION!
CONTINUATION!
Taking care of God's People

FALL GATHERING



Stony Point Center
November 3 to 5, 2006

*(The program begins at 4:00 pm.
on Friday and ends early Sunday)*

Synod Business meeting - Friday p.m.
Variety of Workshops
Speakers
Worship
Fellowship
Entertainment

**Please use the registration form to
register for this weekend GATHERING!**

PW in the Synod of the Northeast
Registration Form for the
FALL GATHERING
Stony Point Center
November 3-5, 2006

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Presbytery _____

Attended 2006 National Gathering? _____

Roommate _____

*(We will assign a roommate unless you
provide the name of someone you know)*

Special Dietary
Needs _____

**REGISTRATION FEE for ALL ATTENDING is
\$40 PER PERSON. This is in addition to
room and board.**

Cost of room for the two nights is \$166, meals
included. An extra \$17 per night is charged per
person for a room in the Gilmor Sloane House.
**NOTE: Synod of the Northeast will cover the
cost of room and board for attending Synod
officers and Moderators of the Presbyteries.**

Make check payable to PWSNE.
Please remit in full and send to Registrar:
Jane MacDonald
36 Carriage Lane
Newton, NJ 07860-1927

Registration Deadline: October 20, 2006
Questions: Faye Bishop (914) 962-2146 or
Judy Wason (845) 351-4377



Da Vinci Code Comes to the Point & Rediscovering Mary Magdalene

Stony Point Center—November 2 & 3, 2006
Bruce Rigdon, Noted Author and Church Historian

(Day before PWS Gathering)

Starts Thursday at 1:30pm—ends Friday at noon

Overnight: Bed, 3 meals, program fee \$125.00

Commuters: 2 meals, program fee \$ 70.00

A wonderful opportunity to spend more time at Stony Point — a chance to find out more about the phenomenon that is the Da Vinci Code *and* what happened to Mary Magdalene after telling of Jesus' resurrection.

Rev. Dr. V. Bruce Rigdon is a noted scholar, author, historian and film producer. He was Professor of Church History at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and President and Professor of Church History at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit. He has lectured widely on the Russian Orthodox Church and Icons, and has given many lectures on the Da Vinci Code.

Sponsored by Stony Point Center -www.stonypointcenter.org
Call 1-800-253-4285 Ext 105 for Reservation

***The Lighthouse* Has a New Editor Beginning with the Next Issue** **Get to Know Sherry Karasik, skarasik@palace.net**



Sherry Karasik is an internationally published writer, award-winning poet, journalist, and religion columnist, whose work has appeared in the book *In the Company of Women* by Brenda Hunter, PH.D, *Writing From Life: Telling Your Soul's Story* by Susan Wittig Albert, PH.D., and literary journals, *Journal of New Jersey Poets*, and *Idiom*. Her feature articles have appeared in such magazines as *The World & I*, *DAD*, *BRIDE*, *New Jersey Woman*, *Digit*, *Skylands*, *Montage*, to name a few, and newspapers *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Norway Times* and is a regular contributor to *The Star Ledger* and *The New Jersey Herald*. She's been a news

correspondent for APBnews, a partner with CNBC and MSNBC. Her assignments have taken her from Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm to 23 other countries. She has led adult writing workshops in Manhattan, at Skidmore College, her alma mater, and Sussex County Community College.

Sherry has also been the keynote speaker and leader of women's retreats in New Jersey. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with her Masters of Divinity degree from Drew Theological Seminary, in Madison, New Jersey, May 2006. She received an award from the American Bible Society for Outstanding Achievement in Biblical Studies. She is currently working as a T/A Truckstop chaplain. A mother of three (ages 11, 24, 29), she lives in Stillwater, New Jersey.

***The Lighthouse*, Newsletter of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast**

“A Well Watered Garden” Spiritual Retreat -- A Refreshing Experience **Gail Banks**

Our Spring Spiritual Retreat held May 19-21, 2006 at Christ the King Retreat House, Syracuse, NY, provided a wonderful opportunity for the participants to pause amid their busy schedules to become spiritually refreshed. The sixteen attendees enjoyed Barbara Johnson’s superb program including Bible Study, worship, unique activities, great fellowship, quiet times to enjoy the beautiful grounds, and mouth-watering meals. (The desserts were utterly delicious!) Everyone left relaxed, renewed and refreshed.

Our **next Retreat is scheduled for May 18-20, 2007** at Christ the King Retreat House. If you feel the need for some spiritual uplifting, great fellowship and delicious food, why not mark your calendars today and plan to join us. Registration fee for the event is \$195.00 including 2 nights lodging (single rooms) and meals from Friday dinner-Sunday brunch. For those registering prior of April 20, 2007, we will offer a \$10.00 discount – making the total cost only \$185.00. Keep in mind there are also Scholarships available. Brochures will be available at our November Gathering as well as in the next issue of “*The Lighthouse*”.

“Open Unto Me: Blessing and Abundance” -- Synod PW Gathering **July 27 – July 29, 2007**

Desmond Hotel, Albany.

Psalm 145 *selections*

*All creation will give thanks to you, O God,
And all your faithful will bless you.
They will speak for the glory of your kingdom, and of your power....
Your Kingdom is everlasting, and will endure through all generations.
God is faithful in all – words and deeds – and gracious.
God lifts everyone who falls, and raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you, O God, and you provide for all our needs.
You open your hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing.
Our mouths will praise God, and all will bless God forever and ever.*

All women are invited to join us for “a time of personal refreshment and renewal” through worship, music fellowship, bible study, and learning circles.

Registration forms will be available in November, 2006 from your PWP Moderator or our web site www.pwsne.org.

Racial Ethnic Dialog Grant Extended to Nov 30, 2006



A Racial Ethnic Dialogue is a group that meets for meaningful conversation. It is a learning process that involves dialogue as a tool, not training.

Good News! The deadline for applying for a \$2,000 Racial Ethnic Grant has been extended to November 30, 2006. Email Patricia Longfellow at

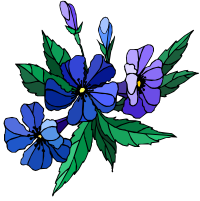
Plongfel@ctr.pcusa.org for an application form. See the explanation and guidelines at www.pcusa.org/pw/justice-peace/redialog-grant-guidelines and/or order “Building an Inclusive, Caring Community through Dialogue,” PWR-03-121, to learn all you need to know about organizing a racial ethnic dialogue.

From information given by Roberta Mansfield, our rep to the Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT).

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PW Justice and Peace Issues

GINNA COON, Justice and Peace Coordinator



Greetings from Frontera de Cristo, one of the seven binational border ministries of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico and the Presbyterian Church USA. The Frontera de

Cristo is located in Douglas Arizona and serves the people of Douglas and Agua Prieta, Sonora Mexico. Three members of my Church (University Presbyterian, Buffalo, NY) and I had the wonderful opportunity to visit this mission for about five days in June. We saw an amazing group of Christians on both sides of the border working to make life better for all of their people. The motto of the mission is "Share the Good News in Word and Deed." They carry this motto out well. The mission is led by a very young and very personable minister, Mark Adams. Two of the programs we visited were "Just Coffee" and "Agua Para La Vida," (Water for life).

"Just Coffee" is a coffee cooperative dedicated to addressing the immigration crisis by providing coffee farmers a fair price for their crops. The coffee is grown in lush green land just right for growing coffee in the southern most state of Mexico, Chiapas. "Just Coffee" does not use any intermediaries. The coffee is sent directly from the Chiapas farms to Agua Prieta where it is roasted, ground and packaged, and then shipped to the final consumers (for instance, our church members at University Presbyterian). The "Just Coffee" co-operative pays the coffee farmers \$1.30 per lb, whereas some major coffee companies only pay \$.25 per lb. In addition, the co-operative is able to provide healthcare to its members and their families. We had the opportunity to visit the roasting plant in Agua Prieta. Here we saw how the coffee was roasted in their new roasting machine and how it is packaged for final sale. A caption I read under a picture in the mission's newsletter sums up this part of our visit. It read "Drying coffee beans in Chiapas, instead of landscaping grass in the US. "Just Coffee" statistics: \$65,000 reinvested

in the business; over 100 tons roasted; 37 families with no need to migrate.

The second program we visited was Agua Para L Vida, which delivers water to 21 tanks located in the desert on the Mexican side of the border. Men, women and children who are trying to cross into the US through the desert may drink from these tanks. Providing this water is not an attempt to encourage illegal immigration, but an attempt to prevent more deaths in the desert. I, personally, do not know how I stand on the migration policies in the US but, I do know I would not like to see or hear of anyone dying of dehydration trying to cross the desert. To give us a feel for what it is like we hiked about two miles through the desert to the border. We were well equipped with plenty of water, proper clothing, and footwear to make this small journey. We found it hot and sometimes not very comfortable. Imagine adults and children walking ten to a 100 times farther than we did without proper water and gear and with the added stress of trying to make it across the border where there may be hope for a better way of life. In 2005, Agua Para La Vida distributed 70,000 gallons of water to these 21 tanks.

We also had a chance to worship with Mexican Presbyterians, talk with migrants that were sent back to Mexico, and see the beginnings of a store front mission that will be open to migrants who are brought there by the Border Patrol after they have been picked up for trying to reach the US, or are being sent back after making it into the US.

To me, it was a very interesting mission trip to see and hear first hand some of the causes of our Mexican immigration problems.

For more information -- Frontera de Cristo: www.binationalministry.org/fronteradecristo
Just Coffee: www.justcoffee.org



Celebration Giving

5% Increase Asked

Presbyterian Women have always gone the second mile and given generously to the mission of the church over and above their pledge to their local church. These mission dollars are very important and very much needed! Below is a quote from the letter accompanying the request for your congregation's PW Mission Pledge for 2007. Pledge forms are available from PWP moderators.

"As you and your local PW Coordinating Team begin your plans for 2007, you will be making decisions regarding the budget. As you consider financial support for the work of PW at the presbytery, synod, and churchwide levels, please spend time in discussion and prayer. Your representatives at the Gathering Business meeting overwhelmingly passed a motion to ask that giving for this triennium be increased by 5% each of the three years. We are part of the connectional church and your financial support is essential to support the mission of the church worldwide."

Kenyan Women Guests of Hudson River PWP at CW Gathering

Althea Meade

PW of Hudson River Presbytery much enjoyed meeting their Kenyan guests, Rose Mutegi and Odrine Njeru, and the Rev. Marion Strain, the mission worker who traveled with them. Many thanks to all who helped bring them here. They were most appreciative, and I believe all who met them and talked with them felt as truly blessed as they did!

Excerpts from Kenyan Guests' Response

"My name is Odrine Njeru and my sister is Rose Mutegi. We are born again and love the Lord for who he is in our lives. I am the treasurer to the woman's guild fellowship in our presbytery and Rose is the chairperson. We feel very honored to be part of this conference and believe it is God's plan that women, regardless of race or status gather to have fellowship, share their different experiences and encourage one

another, with the goal of building god's kingdom. We bring you love and greetings from the church in Kenya, especially the woman's guild movement from Ibiriga and Mutembe local churches.

We bless the Lord for the ladies from the Hudson River Presbytery of U.S.A. We are overwhelmed by your love and hospitality expressed to us through your invitation, provision of our tickets and our upkeep during this conference. We also appreciate our sister Rev. Marion who has worked tirelessly to make this trip a success.

.... We are all bestowed with different gifts and talents and God did this with the intention that different abilities will compliment each other to enable us to be the light of the world. I therefore encourage you ladies to be willing to stand up and be counted as this is what the Lord expects of us. If we fail in this, we fail in response to God's call. May the Lord's favor be upon you as you purpose to be the light in your families and the world at large. Thank you!"

Full text of the document from Odrine and Rose will be published in the PWS Annual Report.

An Idea for Treasurers at the Presbytery Level

Rita Oestreich

During the recent Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, I had a conversation with Dianna Lim about the **Widening the Circle Fund** that I want to share with all of you for thoughts and comments. This is my dream:

If each PW presbytery would budget \$100.00 for one year to Widening the Circle Fund, imagine how it would increase! It is almost too simple, but as treasurer for my presbytery, I believe it is a possibility. This fund is created to provide leadership into the future for Presbyterian Women, and that is our legacy to the PC(USA).

Please consider adding a line item of \$100.00 in your budget for 2007 and make a dream come true. Thank you. For more information see www.pcusa.org/pw/mission/endowment.

Brazilian Women Global Exchange Guests Send Gathering Thanks

From Mara Bomfim

Traveling to the U.S. was very special for me. To strengthen the bonds of friendship with the Valley and Stamford First Presbyterian churches, and to have opportunities to exchange experiences with wonderful people from all over the world were unforgettable experiences.

Making contact with women representatives from all the Presbyterian churches in the U.S. also was very gratifying and brought me a great learning experience that I am sharing with women here in Brazil, especially among those with whom I work daily.

What most impressed me on this trip was the fact that women all over the world are being instruments of change in the hands of God, each one in her country and within her own reality, but we are all united in a grand stream of love and solidarity. I loved all that I saw, heard and lived with all of you! A hug for each of you!

From Linnis Cook

I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to attend the Churchwide Gathering as guest of the NE Synod PW and sell CISM products in the Marketplace. The sales went quite well, and I learned a great deal about "international commerce" that should help "my women" at CISM in the years to come. And, incidentally, I look forward to the next Gathering and a chance to attend the workshops as well as the marvelous plenaries. It was especially gratifying to be able to visit PWs and churches in Southern New England before the Gathering. My special gratitude for my hosts there!

**Brazilian Snapshot: Casa da Menina Mae
(Home of the Girl Mother)
Roberta Mansfield,
Global Exchange Participant**

As we were admitted, the woman at the door looked up and down the street, to make sure we hadn't been followed. We had traveled by

subway, and then on foot, a group of six, including Arch Woodruff (our guide and translator), the husband of Linnis Cook, our host in Sao Paulo. The reason for the caution was that the adolescent girls in the home had been victims of domestic violence. The location of the home was not public knowledge, for the protection of the girls and their babies.

Yes, pregnancy in adolescence is a problem in Brazil, but, similarly to the shift in attitudes in the United States, the stigma has faded. These girls are not hiding from society and those who really love them. But they do need protection from those who would do them harm. The girls we saw reminded me (in age, size and maturity) of the youth of any church. Most of them have family in Sao Paulo, although they could come from anywhere in Brazil. They attend school either in the morning or the afternoon (which is all the schooling anyone gets in public school in Brazil).

While they attend school, staff persons at the home take care of the babies.

We sat around the kitchen table for tea. One girl had made a delicious cake for our visit. They asked us questions about the United States. They wanted to know if we were afraid to fly. (One can assume none of them had ever flown.) One girl asked if we were going to take them to America. I said I didn't know. (To say "no" outright seemed too cruel.) They watch a soap opera called "America," which makes the United States seem like an idyllic paradise. I told them that the United States isn't perfect either.

The girls can come to the home at any point in their pregnancies, and may stay until their babies are nine months old. There were several babies present, as lovable as babies always are. One girl pulled me aside as the group went on a tour of the home. She led me to her room to show me her sleeping son in his crib. He was beautiful, of course. I was glad I had learned the word "bonito" (handsome or beautiful). It's amazing how much can be communicated without words, also. Her love for him was palpable. I wondered about his future, and hers. I often think of them and all the disadvantaged people I met while I was in Brazil. I pray that God will inspire us to help them.



Together in Service

A New PW Mission Program

Althea Meade, Synod Mission Coordinator

I attended two mission workshops at Louisville; both were very informative and a big help in looking ahead to the new PW program, formerly called Mission Opportunities.

Much remains the same in the mission program, but there are some definite changes. No longer are specific agencies assigned to presbyteries for PWs in the congregation to choose from – each PW is encouraged to study its area and choose to help where they see need. If you still wish to support agencies at a distance, that's fine, but please call them to be sure exactly what their current needs are. Presbytery PW coordinators have a list of all agencies previously supported around the Synod, with contact names, phone numbers and addresses.

There are changes in the overseas needs because shipping costs are high for us here, and it may also prove very expensive for the recipients to receive, store, and distribute what we send. The main items that are still needed (to be sent) are sheets (all kinds, new or barely used), twin or double thermal blankets, baby blankets (about 36 x 45), baby caps, and baby gowns. Money is needed for items that can now best be purchased on site such as mosquito nets, bicycles (used by health workers in Africa to visit homes), mattresses, and nurses' uniforms (required in Haiti for young women to participate in nursing programs).

The address for monetary contributions – you can specify what it is for – is PC(USA), PW Remittance Processing, PO Box 643652, Pittsburg, PA 15264-3652. The address for items sent is Presbyterian Church (USA), c/o Brethren Service Center, Box 188, Route 31-500 Main, New Windsor MD 21776. Please always include a note saying that it is part of your PW mission giving, and give a name and address for a contact person. If you send a check, write **“Together in Service”** on the memo line of your check.

There will be a mission workshop at the Synod Gathering at Stony Point in November, also

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presenting other local, national, and global projects. There is a very good new **“Together in Service”** guide book that can be ordered from Presbyterian Distribution Service, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396, for five dollars.

New Name, New Strategy

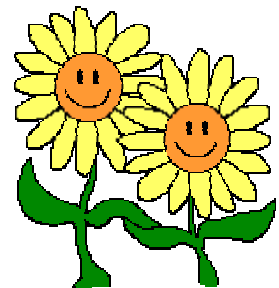


To emphasize the importance of Althea's article, here's a quote from the PC(USA) PW web site www.pcusa.org/pw/mission/tis/together-in-service

“The name change, from Mission Opportunities, is not the only change. Rather than the old model of PW's national office assigning projects, Presbyterian women will have the freedom to choose their own mission projects. Look around your community and dialogue with your church about what needs you can answer.

Be together in service by:

- Making or purchasing items and sending them where needed, both locally and internationally
- Donating money to fund mission initiatives such as healthcare, education and Bible study
- Supporting existing denominational and ecumenical programs
- Providing mission interpretation and education to the whole church
- Developing personal relationships with mission workers
- Sharing stories and wisdom gained from service experiences”



Living the Call Celebrating 50 Years of Women's Ordination

Saturday September 23, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, New York

This conference will include inspiring preaching and worship, presentations and panels, and ample time to connect and re-connect. All are welcome!

For details and registration, contact your PWP Moderator or go to

www.pcusa.org/women/ordination



Dear Presbyterian Women:

I want to thank you all and the PWSNE Coordinating Team for inviting me to be the Seminarian Intern for PWSNE for the past year. What a surprise it was last summer when Moderator Anne Reynolds called to ask me if I would like this wonderful opportunity to observe PWSNE in its Coordinating Team meeting in July 2005 at Stony Point, New York, again at the Synod Gathering in November 2005 in Albany, New York, and then to attend the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, Kentucky this July.

The PWSNE Coordinating Team warmly received me at its planning meeting at Stony Point as it installed new officers and prepared for programs for the coming years. The same was true again in November when a larger group of women gathered in Albany to learn about grant writing and issues facing local PWs.

The finale was attending the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville in July – a first for me! I was honored when Anne asked if I would offer the blessing at the PWSNE luncheon at which over 200 of the Synod women were present. During the five days I met women from across the country and from nations beyond our shores. I was astonished while talking to a woman sitting behind me before the plenary on Friday night to learn that she and my brother are members of the same church in Champaign, Illinois, and on Saturday to have dinner with another woman who knew my cousin in Nashville, Tennessee. I learned much from each of the workshops I attended – new insights gained into grief and loss; the enthusiasm expressed by Christian Educators through art; and a disturbing realization of practices in the health insurance industry. It was moving to hear from our ecumenical sisters who spoke at the business meeting, as they shared greetings from their own women's organizations. The plenary sessions, held each morning and evening, provided inspiring speakers and song for all who were in attendance.

The culmination at each of these three gatherings, at Stony Point, in Albany and at Louisville, was the worship of God – prayer expressing gratitude and bringing discernment, song expressing hope and joy, and the celebration of Communion. As we were gathered in Christ's name before the Lord's Table, all differences – age, race, nationality, marital or economic status – were set aside; we simply came before God as one of God's very own, united with each other through Jesus. What marvelous moments!

Again, I thank each of you for this opportunity to observe the dynamics of group process, but more importantly to be part of a terrific group of women, learning, sharing and worshiping in God's gracious Creation.

Faithfully,

Ann B. Shamy, M. Div., Candidate for Minister of Word and Sacrament, Presbytery of Elizabeth

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
Secretary	Virginia Champlin, 4381 Wabash Rd., Geneva, NY 14456 (585) 526-5841 danvirginiac@aol.com
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Historian	Helen Sforza, 5023 Townline Rd, Vernon, NY 13476 315-829-3611
Coordinator for Justice and Peace Concerns	Virginia Coon, 26 Chassin Ave, Amherst, NY 14226 716-833-3106 VLCOON@aol.com
Coordinator for Mission Interpretation and Opportunity	Althea Meade, 12 Kent Road, Wassaic, NY 12592 845-373-8855 aqm54@bestweb.net
Churchwide Coordinating Team Representative	Roberta Mansfield, 20 Lerner St., Warwick, RI 02888 401-781-1628 robertamansfield@cox.net
Moderator of Finance Comm.	Gail Banks, 105 Whedon Road, Apt 20, Syracuse, NY 13219 315-488-4080 banksgy@yahoo.com
Synod PW Enabler Coordinator	Judith Cunningham, 40 Old Lantern Rd., Danbury, CT 06819 203-744-6793 danjudithc@aol.com
Moderator of Search Comm.	Beth Denier, 211 Central St, Saugus, MA 01906 781-231-9247 a.denier@att.net
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Louisville staff contacts: Patricia Longfellow gets information on new PWP CT members: plongfel@ctr.pcusa.org. Teresa Slaiman is the financial contact: tslaiman@ctr.pcusa.org. Honorary Life membership is sent to Sandy Weldy-Cook: sweldco@ctr.pcusa.org

Lighthouse Distribution – Changes are Coming!

Rita Oestreich

Postage and paper costs keep increasing, and more Presbyterian Women are using e-mail all the time. The logical conclusion to that is, let's send out more issues of The Lighthouse via e-mail and less through the U.S. Mail. This is my assignment as part of the Synod Coordinating Team.

At the Synod Lunch, in Louisville, it was announced and the tables closest to me gave me their e-mail addresses. Since returning home I have received more on my e-mail. So the idea took hold and is growing. But, today a message arrived that really brought a flash of lightening into reality. Would it not be simpler and easier, for someone in each presbytery, and probably the person that does the mailings for that presbytery, to be the person to keep that address list current and my job would be to see that The Lighthouse is sent to that person, who would then forward it on to the women on her list? That's a long question, but hopefully I didn't lose any of you along the way.

The possibility of a presbytery that doesn't have a newsletter or someone that is willing to do the forwarding does exist. I am aware of that. But, if there is someone in some of the presbyteries...then the seed is growing into reality. **Presbytery moderators and Search Committee members**, please take this idea to heart and help the Synod to create a new method of distribution that will save us all some expense.

My email address is ritao14826@juno.com and I need to hear from you and receive the e-mail address of your newsletter person, who will hopefully agree to make this dream come true. And if not that woman, maybe another one would take over with this one task to keep the newsletters moving along. The more that receive it, the easier it will be to discuss and have all Presbyterian Women informed. THANK YOU!

**Presbyterian Women in the
Synod of the Northeast
Anne Reynolds
PO Box 1033
Little Falls, NY 13365**

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