



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

in the

PRESBYTERY OF UTICA



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February 2012

Winter Gathering

Wednesday, February 8, 2012
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Registration – 10:00 AM

The Presbyterian Women of the Utica Presbytery will meet for the 2012 Winter Gathering on Wednesday, February 8 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 714 Washington St, Utica. Registration will be at 10:00 am with the meeting starting at 10:30. As many of you may remember, our Winter Gathering in February is always tricky due to the possibility of bad weather. Therefore, our format is a little different for this meeting.

Anne Reynolds has ordered a Dewitt Jones DVD for us to watch. We have already seen “Celebrate What’s Right With The World” and enjoyed it very much and we hope that you will also find this one as interesting. Dewitt is a top professional photographer who has produced award winning films and also has free lanced for National Geographic for over 30 years. He’s recognized as a “world class lecturer, his knowledge of the creative process, his relaxed and genuine style, and his ability to communicate making his presentation outstanding”. We think you will truly enjoy this video.

Lunch will be a Pot–Luck and we ask each of you to bring a dish to pass and your own place setting and silver. A dish could be a casserole, salad, dessert or whatever your pleasure may be.

Your Coordinating Team is looking forward to seeing you again. Bring a friend if you wish and join us for a little quick business, some of our mission updates and some fun and friendship.

**ALSO; WE NEED A PIANO PLAYER TO PLAY: “GO NOW IN PEACE” AND
MAYBE A HYMN! THERE MUST BE ONE OF YOU IN OUR MIDST?***

RSVP: VIVIAN BRUCKER by calling 942-4251 or E-mail vivbrucker@yahoo.com.

Reminder – Bring your own silverware, plate, cup and a DISH to PASS!

Directions to Westminster Church in Utica, NY 315-732-6518

FROM THE EAST and WEST - Take the NEW YORK STATE TRWY I-90 to EXIT 31- Follow ramp after toll booth toward Genesee St. Turn RIGHT onto N GENESEE ST. When you see the gold dome bank (M & T) take a right onto WASHINGTON ST. by the Radisson hotel. Then take right on Hanna Park Dr. along the side of the church. Go one block to Broadway. Take a left and then an immediate right into City Hall Parking lot. The back door of the church is right across the street from the parking lot.

FROM THE NORTH - Follow Rt. 12 South past Barneveld. Merge onto NY-5S E/ORISKANY ST W toward DOWNTOWN UTICA/STATE ST. Turn RIGHT onto Broadway just after the Police station and the auditorium. Follow through two lights then take a right into City Hall Parking lot.

FROM THE SOUTH - From the center of New Hartford, take GENESEE ST North to downtown Utica. When you see the gold dome bank (M & T) take a left onto WASHINGTON ST before the Radisson hotel. Then take left on Hanna Park Dr. along the side of the church. Go one block to Broadway. Take a left and then an immediate right into City Hall Parking lot.

PARKING OPTIONS - Best: behind the church on Broadway in the City Hall (Hanna Park) lot, or the lot to the right of it called Kennedy Plaza lot. Both are free. Walk in the back door of the church through the gym. A large sign over the back doors reads Westminster Presbyterian.

Also Good: Park in the Radisson Hotel lot next to the church and bring in your ticket to be stamp validated by the church. Enter through office door on Washington.

Possible: Park along Washington St. (1.5 hr. on far side). Enter through office door on Washington.

MODERATORS MUSINGS – Jan Whiting, Co-Moderator

Greetings from Oneida and I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. As 2011 comes to an end and we begin 2012 anew it reminds me that Joyce will be forming our Newsletter and she needs some news. As I thumbed through our Presbyterian Women's Manual I came upon:

“The Top Ten Reasons To Become Involved In Presbyterian Women”

1. Use your time in meaningful ways
2. Meet new people and make new friends
3. Give direction to the future of the PC(USA)
4. Learn marketable skills, gain valuable experiences and share these with others
5. Transfer your Christian belief into action
6. Discover new outlets for creative expression and feel a sense of accomplishment
7. Gain a sense of making a contribution to the lives of others
8. Enjoy fellowship and the fun of working with others for a common purpose
9. Grow and develop personally as a Christian woman and disciple of Christ
10. Be challenged by Christ's call to be servant leaders

After reading through each of these reasons, I thought, I experience each of these and so do all of you! How blessed we ALL are as PW to be challenged by God's call and to be able to see God at work and for us to be a part of that process. Our charge is to encourage some of our friends to become active in our local PW groups and they too may radiate the joy that comes from being a servant to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

HORIZONS: The magazine and Bible study for Presbyterian Women – Mary Grow, Horizons Communicator

Perhaps you had a chance to read the November/December Horizons magazine while preparing for the holidays. Admittedly we don't like to think about being "elderly" but a majority of us are there or getting there soon. Following is a quote from page 2 of the magazine.

"Granted, aging often means a weakening body- a new ache or cloudier vision. But aging can also have a way of strengthening our spirits. Each day on earth, we've had an opportunity to build our relationship with God, our families and friends and the world around us; to find our strengths and passions; to overcome challenges. So while our bodies may be slowing down, our spirits remain lively, engaged."

The entire issue has inspiring stories and very practical information affecting us and our congregations. Also, there is the report on the uses of the Least Coin.

Looking to the January/February issue: the topic will be on the 2011 Global Exchange to India. In addition, attention will be given to how Christianity fits into the fabric of India, why there is a need to work for the equality of women, and how women are being freed from human trafficking. The recipients of the 2012 Birthday Offering will be announced. Happy Reading and Happy New Year!!

TOGETHER IN SERVICE - Joanne Strike (jostrike36@gmail.com) Mission Coordinator

PW groups have been giving monetary gifts to PW Mission and local worthwhile organizations at the end of the 2011 year. Thank you for all your contributions. Thank you too for making up CWS kits, serving in soup kitchens, organizing SERRV sales, making and selling bazaar gifts, and putting on dinners and receptions in your churches. We truly are Together in Service. Be sure to let Joanne Strike (jostrike36@gmail.com) know about your projects so we can continue to share ideas with each other and can report to the PW Synod. Since our October Gathering, PW has also distributed many hand-made items to Thea Bowman House, Emmaus House, Care Net, and Sunset Nursing Home. If you have made items you would like to give through PW, please bring them to our February Gathering.

If you are someone who has to keep her hands busy while watching TV, homemade blankets for small children's naptimes, mittens of all sizes, socks and underwear for sizes 2-8 are especially appreciated by children's organizations. You might work on scarves for the homeless or a lap robe for Nursing Home folks. These are perfect projects for using up left over yarn. Bright, multicolored projects are beautiful. And, remember the Caps for Cancer project as you're using up left over yarn.

Several of the organizations we support are in need of small packages of toiletries to give to those who need them. Some groups especially want donations of disposable diapers (small for Care Net and Tidy Bottoms and large (sizes 4 and 5) for Thea Bowman House). They also need diaper wipes, as well as soaps and shampoos, and toothbrushes and toothpaste. Sample sizes can be collected, or watch for sales: maybe if you find a buy one, get one free sale, you could buy yours and bring the free one to PW; we'll get it to someone in need. Also Band-Aids and simple medical supplies are very useful. Please bring these items to the February Gathering. They will be appreciated!

Hunger, Peacemaking & Justice – Barb Epley-Shuck, Coordinator

In addition to fair trade items, you can go on line to GoodSearch or GoodShop and buy things while donating to charity. I just went there and noticed there are two local restaurants on the list, Mitsubishi, and Ponderosa.

I just received this troubling e mail from Sabeel, an ecumenical Christian group I visited in Jerusalem 11 years ago when I was there with Presbyterian Women.

US Troops going to Israel:

January 2, 2012. Jerusalem. In one of the most blacked-out stories in America right now, the US military is preparing to send thousands of US troops, along with US Naval anti-missile ships and accompanying support personnel, to Israel. It took forever to find a second source for confirmation of this story and both relatively mainstream media outlets are in Israel. With one source saying the military deployment and corresponding exercises are to occur in January, the source providing most of the details suggests it will occur later this spring.

Calling it not just an "exercise", but a "deployment", the Jerusalem Post quotes US Lt. Gen Frank Gorenc, Commander of the US Third Air Force based in Germany. The US Commander visited Israel two weeks ago to confirm details for "the deployment of several thousand American soldiers to Israel." In an effort to respond to recent Iranian threats and counter-threats, Israel announced the largest ever missile defense exercise in its history. Now, it's reported that the US military, including the US Navy, will be stationed throughout Israel, also taking part.

While American troops will be stationed in Israel for an unspecified amount of time, Israeli military personnel will be added to EUCOM in Germany. EUCOM stands for United States European Command.

In preparation for anticipated Iranian missile attacks upon Israel, the US is reportedly bringing its THAAD, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, and ship-based Aegis ballistic missile systems to Israel. The US forces will join Israeli missile defense systems like the Patriot and Arrow. The

deployment comes with "the ultimate goal of establishing joint task forces in the event of a large-scale conflict in the Middle East". The Jerusalem Post reports that US Lt.Gen Frank Gorenc was in Israel meeting with his Israeli counterpart, Brig.Gen Doron Gavish, commander of the Air Defense Division. While there, the US General visited one of Israel's three 'Iron Dome' anti-missile outposts. The Israeli Air Force has announced plans to deploy a fourth Iron Dome system in the coming months. Additional spending increases in the Jewish state will guarantee the manufacture and deployment of three more Iron Dome systems by the end of 2012. The Israelis are hoping to eventually have at least a dozen of the anti-missile systems deployed along its northern and southern borders.

In a show of escalated tensions in the region, Iran test fired two long range missiles today. One, called the Qadar, is a powerful sea-to-shore missile. The other was an advanced surface-to-surface missile called the Nour. According to Iranian state news, the Nour is an 'advanced radar-evading, target-seeking, guided and controlled missile'. Additionally, the Iranian military reportedly test-fired numerous other short, medium and long-range missiles. Yesterday, Iranian authorities reported that they test-fired the medium-range, surface-to-air, radar-evading Mehrab missile. Today is supposed to be the final day of Iranian naval drills in the Straits of Hormuz.

Iran recently made global headlines when it threatened to blockade the Straits of Hormuz if Europe and the US went ahead with their boycott of Iranian oil and the country's central bank. One-quarter of the world's oil passes through that waterway every day. President Obama has announced that a closure of the Straits was unacceptable and vowed to take whatever measures are necessary to keep the vital shipping lane open.

In response to the Iranian missile tests this weekend, French authorities were the first to respond, calling it a, "very bad signal to the international community." "We want to underline that the development by Iran of a missile program is a source of great concern to the international community," the French Foreign Ministry said in a written statement. Israeli officials suggested the flamboyant Iranian military drills this weekend were a sign that international sanctions on the country were taking a heavy toll and that any additional boycotts, on its banks or oil industry, would be crippling.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak said the large missile tests showed, "the dire straits of Iran in light of the tightening sanctions around her, including the considerations in the last few days regarding the sanctions of exporting petroleum as well as the possibility of sanctions against the Iranian Central Bank." While the chances of Iran going through with its threat of closing the Straits of Hormuz are slim, the deployment of thousands of US troops and naval ships to Israel shows the US isn't taking any chances.

This action alert has just come to me from Rev. Loey Powell, the Executive for Administration and Women's Justice for the United Church of Christ. I encourage you to take this action to support a change in state legislation concerning human trafficking in Indiana, prior to the Super Bowl. Also, this is a timely action as January 11 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

It's late in the game. The Indiana State legislature has the goal in sight, but not much time to move the ball. With the Super Bowl in Indianapolis approaching February 6, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels has said it is critical the state pass tough anti-trafficking legislation in the brief New Year's window before the NFL championship game. An effective law enforcement game plan is necessary to prevent and prosecute the wave of sex trafficking that accompanies the Super Bowl.

"The number one destination for criminals exploiting young girls is ... large sporting events, and (the Super Bowl is) the largest one," Governor Daniels said recently, encouraging the Indiana General Assembly to take action on anti-trafficking legislation when it convenes January 4. The statistics are predictable. Major sporting events around the world like the soccer World Cup and the Olympics, but also like the Super Bowl in the U.S., encourage increased sex trafficking, including the exploitation of young girls.

It is estimated that between 10,000-15,000 prostitutes were working during the Super Bowl activities last year in Dallas and two years ago in Miami.

Of the global surge in trafficking in persons for forced labor, sex, or criminal enterprise, at least 100,000 children are trafficked into the U.S. each year, and many more, especially at-risk youth are

trafficked from state to state. Indiana is a state where trafficking has been a problem. In May 2011, Indianapolis authorities helped successfully break up a multistate prostitution ring that smuggled women into the United States from Mexico and Central America. Arrested ringleaders were charged with interstate conspiracy and prostitution, but like other states, Indiana lacks tough legal parameters specifically designed to prosecute and deter human trafficking. Send encouragement to Gov. Mitch Daniels to keep pushing the Indiana general Assembly to strengthen its anti-trafficking laws in advance of Super Bowl XLVI. Also tell the National Football League and the Indianapolis Super Bowl Host Committee to make trafficking awareness and prevention a priority by aggressively promoting the issue and supporting public and law enforcement anti-trafficking efforts.

Thanks for your commitment! Happy New Year -

Robin Fillmore, PhD, Advocacy Coordinator, Church Women United

PW BOOK CLUB –

I just read “The Carpenter’s Gift” by David Rubel. It is a Christmas tale about the Rockefeller Center tree. It is a children’s book beautifully illustrated by Jim LaMarche. In addition to a tale of the original tree the book tells about the history and selection of the tree each year and also explains that since 2007 the wood from the tree is donated to Habitat for Humanity. The lumber is used to help families in need build affordable homes.

If anyone has read a book they believe is worth sharing, please send me the information to be included in the newsletter.

Thoughts from the editor:

I have been listening to all the warnings about the dishonest people that are out there looking for easy money. One of the warnings was to be sure our charitable donations went to their proper places (they even mentioned people using the Salvation Army Kettle Drive as a cover for collecting donations dishonestly). I have been thinking about all the “end of the year” requests for donations I receive and as I was looking through *Mission Crossroads* magazine put out by PC(USA) I was thinking that to be sure our money goes to an actual mission, there is no better place than the church. There are many opportunities - World Mission, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Church World Service, local church groups, food banks – the list goes on and on. Wherever you spend your money, be sure to protect yourself from scammers.

RECIPE TO SHARE – Chocolate Crackle Cookies from Barb Arnold

1 box Ghirardelli Double Chocolate Brownie Mix	1 C flour
3 eggs	1/3 C oil
3/4 C powdered sugar (for coating)	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine and blend mix, flour, eggs and oil. Scoop 1 rounded tsp of dough, roll in powdered sugar, place 2” apart on greased cookie sheet. Bake 11 – 13 min. makes 2 1/2 doz.

Did you know –

PW Resources can be accessed on the Internet – www.presbyterianwomen.org

On YouTube – www.youtube.com/presbyterianwomen

On Facebook – www.facebook.com; search for “Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)”

On Flickr – www.flickr.com/photos/presbyterianwomen

Lay Academy of the Presbytery of Utica has its own website – check out www.uticala.org

PW's Sisters Stand and Walk Together program is beginning enrollment for its third class on April 21, 2012. This is a 3-year program designed to acclimate and motivate new immigrant women from congregations within the Synod to PW. Thus far, participants and organizers have come from four continents and six countries.

Save the dates –

March 4 – Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday - Resources are available in the November/December issue of *Horizons* magazine, as a free download from www.pcusa.org/allwomen and from Presbyterian Distribution Service – 800-524-2612 or www.pcusa.org/store

March 14, 2012 – Coordinating Team Meeting

May 9, 2012 – Spring Gathering – TBA

River of Hope - 2012 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women!

Gaylord Palms Resort and Conference Center, Orlando, Florida - July 18 – 22, 2012

You will be receiving a Registration Booklet at our next Gathering in February and I have plenty for all of you. Registration began by e-mail Dec, 1, 2011. The Booklet covers all the details. Save the date. The Conference looks to be very exciting. For more information go to www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering

**See you in Utica on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 for our Winter Gathering!
Remember to bring a dish to pass and your own table service!**



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