

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

IN THE

PRESBYTERY OF UTICA

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September 2007

Fall Gathering
Wednesday, October 10, 2007
Cooperstown First Presbyterian Church
Registration – 10:00 AM

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Utica's Fall Gathering will be held October 10, 2007 at the First Presbyterian Church in Cooperstown. Registration will be at 10:00 AM with the program to start at 10:30 AM, followed by lunch provided by the women of the Cooperstown church at a cost of \$5.00. Our business meeting and worship service will be held in the afternoon. The Thank Offering will be received during the worship service. The meeting will conclude at 2:00 PM.

The Fall Gathering program will be presented by Roberta Mansfield. Roberta has been involved with Presbyterian Women (PW) since about 1993, when she served as Vice-Moderator of her church's PW. Being Moderator quickly followed, and soon she was involved with PW in the Presbytery of Southern New England, culminating in serving as the PW Representative to Presbytery Council (2000-2005) and Moderator (2002-2005). In the meantime, she had been serving on the Coordinating Team of PW in the Synod of the Northeast. She was elected the Synod Representative to the PW Churchwide Coordinating Team, with her term being July 2005 to July 2008, which puts her on both the Synod and the Churchwide Coordinating Teams. She chairs the Mission Relationships Committee on the Churchwide Coordinating Team. In October 2005, she was honored to represent the Synod on the PW Global Exchange to Brazil.

Roberta will share a power point presentation about this trip. She will have had unusual experiences to share with us rather than the usual tourist view. She will have the "family" view visiting with people in churches, clinics and schools. This will be a wonderful way to learn about the "real life" situations in Brazil.

Please make your reservations for the meeting by contacting Vivian Brucker by phone 942-4251 or by email: vivbrucker@yahoo.com Reservation deadline is October 3. The \$5.00 charge for lunch can be paid when you register. Plan on filling your car for an enjoyable fall trip to Cooperstown!

Directions to First Presbyterian Church, 25 Church St, Cooperstown, phone: 607-547-8401

From the north: Take Rte 28 south from Herkimer; at Rte 20 in Richfield Springs (overhead traffic light) go straight ahead to a T intersection (Rte 28 again), turn right and proceed approximately 14 miles to Chestnut St (NY-80) in Cooperstown, Right on Chestnut and almost immediately turn Left (AAA on corner) and Left again on Elm St and proceed straight ahead to Pioneer St. Church is directly ahead. Parking is available on Pioneer St. Cooperstown has a 2 hr limit on parking but we have received permission to park longer **as long as there is a sign on the dash with PW MEETING (signs will be provided when you register)**

Campus Ministries: Someone is needed to deliver cookies to Hamilton College – please contact one of the moderators if you are able to do this for PW.

Thank Offering: The Thank Offering will be received at the Fall Gathering. Check out the July/August issue of *Horizons* for the 2007 Thank Offering Dedication Service and Grant Recipients.

Memorial Service: for The Rev. Kristine Jane Jensen

On Sunday, September 16 at 4 PM a memorial service will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Utica for the Rev. Kristine Jane Jensen of Clinton. The Rev. Jensen passed away peacefully on Wednesday evening, August 15, 2007, at the Presbyterian Home for Central New York. The Rev. Jensen was received as a member of Utica Presbytery in January 2003. The Rev. Jensen served her churches and the community making many lasting friendships. The Rev. Judy Westerhoff will officiate at the Memorial Service for Jane.

Moderators' Musings - Introducing Your New Co-Moderators

Pat Parker, Co-Moderator, writes:

I am pleased and honored to be selected as Co-Moderator for the PW of the Presbytery of Utica. My name is Pat Parker, and I have been a member of the Lowville Presbyterian Church for over forty years. During my time spent in the Presbyterian Church, I have served as Elder, Moderator of the Women's Association, Sunday school teacher and various other committees. I am also a retired elementary school teacher having taught at Lowville Central School for twenty-five years. My faith journey started as a child in the Methodist church and has taken me up to today where my daily devotions and Bible study have enabled me to hear God's call to do His work and spread His word using the gifts that He has given me. I am hoping that serving as Co-Moderator will enable me to continue this mission. I look forward to meeting and working with all of the women in the Utica Presbytery and welcome your assistance and suggestions throughout my term of office.

Karen Stockton, Co-Moderator, writes:

It is with pleasure that I accept the position as Co-Moderator for the PW of the Presbytery of Utica with Pat Parker. My name is Karen Stockton and my home church is the United Presbyterian Church of Camden. Prior to moving to Camden, I was a member of Moriah-Olivet United Church in Utica.

As a member of both churches, I have held the position of Sunday school teacher, Elder, and Deacon. In Camden I have served as the Moderator of PW for several years. Shortly after joining the United Church of Camden, Janet Norton invited me to my first Utica PW Gathering. I was impressed with the mission work done by the group and enjoyed the opportunity to meet other Presbyterian women.

In addition to being an active member of my local church, I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren and hosting foreign exchange students. For the past 30 years I have been employed at Utica National Insurance Group and currently hold the position of Senior Business Analyst. I am also an active member of the Metro Utica Business and Professional Women's Organization.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Fall Gathering on October 10 in Cooperstown and hearing any suggestions you may have to encourage more women to join our group for fellowship and the worthwhile programs.

Thank You – from Pam Anderson, Richfield Springs

As you know, Pam became a student at Columbia Seminary in July and reports she is doing well and learning how to become a student after many years away from studying. Pam sends her thanks for the gift of \$100 from our PW. The money was put to good use to purchase textbooks.

Congratulations- from Springfield Women's Association

On June 3, 2007, Irene Fassett celebrated her 50th anniversary as church organist for the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield. A celebration was held during the service with three vocal soloist, Megan Culbert, Kerriane Kennedy and her brother, Shirley Tabor, and a tribute written by Maureen Culbert. Following the service a hydrangea tree was planted in her honor in front of the church and a reception was held in the annex, with many church and community members in attendance. A scholarship at CV-S Central will be established in her name.

PW Mission is Being "Together in Service" Helen Sforza, Mission Coordinator, 5023 Townline Rd, Vernon, NY 13476, 829-3611

We're pleased that Helen is slowly recuperating from her fall last winter and delighted with her report on our mission projects. Helen reported in August that she had five boxes ready to go to Thea Bowman House – school kits, crayons, baby clothes, two blankets, kids clothes, some men's winter coats and 22 pairs of mittens. She has delivered three crocheted baby blankets to the local Well Baby Clinic and three lap robes to the VA. She also delivered some school kits

to Emmaus House. Helen states that while lying on her back recuperating, she could crochet and knit so she worked her way through her cache of yarn – down to lots of white and some scarlet that she will use for mittens and baby blankets. The last lap robe has lots of short stretches of odd colors with two rows of black in between. Helen would like to thank everyone for all the work that is done for mission and please be sure to send your reports to her to report to Synod.

NEWS RELEASE: May Arnett, Church World Service, 200 C Gateway Park Dr, North Syracuse, NY 13212, phone: 315-458-8535 or 888-297-2767 e-mail: marnett@churchworldservice.org For more information visit the CWS website: www.churchworldservice.org

HELP CWS FILL A TRUCK WITH SCHOOL KITS

Humanitarian agency, (CWS), has issued an urgent appeal for children's school supplies. The demands of disasters, both overseas and here in the U.S. in the past two years, have taken a toll on inventories of CWS kits. Especially low are supplies of children's school kits. We have secured a truck to transport school kits to the warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland before the end of October. **Please help us fill the truck!**

Individuals, businesses, churches, and groups are urged to assemble School Kits and drop them off by **October 17, 2007**.

DROP-OFF LOCATION:

Church World Service, Upstate NY Regional Office
200 C Gateway Park Dr
North Syracuse, NY 13212

CWS SCHOOL KIT – *Please note this is a revised list of items for the school kits!*

Three 70-page spiral-bound notebooks of ruled paper
Six new pencils with erasers
One large eraser
One pencil sharpener
One 12-inch ruler
One box of 24 crayons
One pair blunt scissors

Please enclose only items listed. No backpacks!

Place all items in a canvas or fabric tote bag approximately 14" X 16". Canvas bags are available at many area craft stores. A pattern to sew school bags is available by calling CWS. A donation of \$2 per kit towards the shipping costs will help deliver kits to children in poverty-stricken areas around the world. **Please do not enclose the shipping fees in the kits.** Checks or cash can be dropped off with your kits.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE RESPONSE TO WORLDWIDE EMERGENCIES

CWS ships approximately a half million kits each year, including personal hygiene kits for disaster victims, baby kits, school kits, and emergency cleanup buckets (flood buckets) to victims of flooding here in the U.S.

Donna Derr, Director of the CWS Emergency Response Program, reports that there are substantive requests for school kits now pending and the supplies on hand are critically low. "This reflects new interest on the part of many international partners in receiving material resources to support their program work, which is wonderful but it means that we have to work hard at keeping our inventory at consistent levels to meet the increasing need," Derr said.

HORIZONS - The Magazine for Presbyterian Women, Jan Whiting, Communicator,
606 Patio Circle Drive, Oneida, NY 13421, Phone: 315-363-4392 E-mail: JPW606@Verizon.net

We all know the need for Presbyterian Women to stay connected and *Horizons* is the magazine published for this purpose. Each issue provides inspiration, ideas, and information for Presbyterian Women by addressing current issues facing the church and the world. The July-August issue of *Horizons* is a wonderful example of this as it addresses

issues involving the environment such as global warming, eco-justice, and environmental crises. This issue is filled with stories of the good work that is being done and you will find what you can do to help with this World crisis.

With each subscription of *Horizons* you also receive a yearly Bible Study. The 2007-2008 Bible Study is “**Above and Beyond - Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth**” by Carol Bechtel. The author addresses what it means to hear God's call and looks at what God's call meant to Jonah and Ruth. Bechtel says that these two books offer us insight into what it means to us to hear and respond to God's call. “What am I called to do?”, “Who am I called to be?”, and “What am I called to say?”

Beginning in the July-August issue (and ending with the March-April issue), each edition will include a special resource to help you apply what you have learned in the weeks between your Bible study meetings.

Another added feature with this issue is the inclusion of nine “Faith Cards”, each featuring artist Fiona King's beautiful mandala art from each lesson of the Bible study. Turn the cards over to reveal faith-stretching reflections and questions. AND, they are just the right size for your purse or wallet and you can carry them with you all year long for inspiration.

I wish I had more space because there is so much more I could tell you about all that *Horizons* has to offer. Better yet, why not join your friends and church family by ordering a subscription today! **HORIZONS: the Magazine for Presbyterian Women** costs \$18.00 annually and is published bimonthly.

TO ORDER: Presbyterian Church USA, Horizons Magazine Payment Processing, P.O. Box 64391, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652, Phone: 1-800-524-2612 or www.pcusa.org/pw/subscribe

Hunger, Peacemaking & Justice Coordinator – Barbara Epley-Shuck

When I took a commercial tour to Kenya this spring to view animals, I never expected to tour a Presbyterian Church project, but the Nanyuki spinners and weavers are a scheduled stop. I learned their story and bought a rug.

This woman's self help project began in 1977 when 6 women were left behind with no way to support family when their husband's went to Nairobi to never be seen again. The Presbyterian Church of East Africa and the local community started the community with \$100 to buy spinning and weaving equipment in a building constructed by the American Embassy. In 1979 the Canadian Embassy funded the construction of the washing and dying room and in 1982 the weaving house and carding house were completed.

Since the terrorist attack in 1998, Kenya has a travel ban so their business is down because they depended on tourists to buy their sweaters, rugs and other knitted articles.

Wool is harder to get because many suppliers are selling to companies that can pay higher prices and more wool is being exported to South Africa. So, they have purchased some sheep and have purchased 5 acres of land....but they need a fence to keep the sheep. Posts cost \$2 each and they need 235. They need 11 rolls of barbed wire at \$41 per roll and a shed to house the sheep comes to about \$500.

Annah Warutere, the creator of this project, which now serves 136 widows and single mothers, said she had a sleepless night doing lots of praying about where the money would come for the fence the night before we arrived.

When I publicized their story through the Presbytery, the interim chaplain at Hamilton College e-mailed me. She is a friend of Annah Warutere, the director, and is going to visit there in June. I am giving her checks June 3, mine and any others I collect. Mail takes about two months and this seemed like a faster way (wires cost quite a bit).

Mission Completed – In June, Barbara reported the following:

On June 4, checks totaling \$1630 were given to Rev. Sylvia Wilson, interim chaplain at Hamilton College for delivery to the Presbyterian sponsored Nanyuki Spinners and Weavers group in Kenya

The largest donation \$750 came from Utica First Presbyterian Women and the other donations came from people in Moriah Olivet, New Hartford, Rome and Utica First Presbyterian, as well as a donation from Presbyterian Women of Western New York. The money will be used to build a fence for the sheep pasture for this project, which I visited in April. Contact Barbara with any questions about this project. The address for the project is:

Nanyuki Spinners and Weavers, P.O. Box 25-10400, Nanyuki, Kenya The best way to transmit donations is through wire transfer to the projects' account, which is:

NameP.C.E.A. NANYUKI SPINNERS AND WEAVERS
Swiftcode: KENYA COMMERCIAL BANK LK EN XAXXXX
account Number: 276750026, Route Number: 01125

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It just rained here, leaving the streets of Slidell flooded. Traffic was backed up for miles. In fact, it took me over a half hour to travel .2 of a mile! I can't imagine what it must be like living in the aftermath of a hurricane. Oh, that's right-I am. There are still many, many houses that need to be repaired or rebuilt, but the same goes for those precious lives that were altered forever. Almost everyone in the little church that I'm now serving as interim sustained some sort of damage, and all have a Katrina story to tell. About all I can do is listen. And invite individuals, families, church groups, etc. not to forget that disaster assistance groups are still needed to continue the work of rebuilding those lives. I'm in touch with several Presbyterian and Church of the Brethren work camps that would love to have you come down this summer to continue the rebuilding process. I know that Southern

Comfort will be heading down in December for work in New Orleans. Heaven knows that their work is so appreciated there, but PLEASE don't forget these towns, villages, and cities along the coast that don't get the big work groups. They need your support, too. Whatever you can do to help, I encourage you to do it. And please don't wait until hurricane season is over. You're needed NOW! Evacuation routes are all in force; you'll have plenty of warning if/when it's time to evacuate. You won't be stranded, I promise. Not from a hurricane.

Please consider this request, that you find a way of helping to rebuild the still-devastated Gulf coast and all the lives that have been forgotten about. Many, many thanks!

*Peace and Blessings,
Sue Loper*

PW of the Synod of the Northeast – Update

The PW of the Synod of the Northeast recently submitted a Statement of Support for the United Nations to reaffirm the historic declarations of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) (1991 and 1958) regarding social witness as integral to Christian Life. Action was taken on August 18 by the Coordinating Team of PW to adopt the statement. To read the statement, go to www.synodne.org/mediagallery/album.php?aid=72&page=1

In Search of... Taken from the July/August 2007 issue of *Horizons* magazine.

The Search Committee of the Churchwide Coordinating Team of PW is looking for leaders for the 2009-2012 triennium. There are many leadership roles to be filled. Nominees should be energetic, capable, racially diverse women who can serve as visionaries, organizers, doers and leaders, who are committed to the PW Purpose. Candidates should work well as team players and be open to growth, change and travel. To download a nomination form or learn more about the work of the Search Committee, visit PW's Web pages, www.pcusa.org/pw

Some Christian Humor-

A Sunday school teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know – ***Our Father, who does art in Heaven...***"

Have an awesome day, and know that someone
Who thinks you're great has thought about you today!
"And that person was me".....

Please don't keep this message to yourself.....
Send it to those who mean so much to you... "NOW"