

*Presbyterian Women of  
the Genesee Valley*

*Valley Star*

The Valley Star has a new look. We will be publishing it 3 times a year. (Aug/ Sept. Nov./ Dec., Mar./ Apr) The deadline for news articles will be the 15<sup>th</sup> of Aug, Nov, and Mar.

We want to let you know what is happening at the church wide, Synod and church levels. But more importantly, we want to know what is happening at the church PW level. Please feel free to **copy your minutes and send them to the Coordinating Team for an update on your PW. You can send your information to Barb Sceusa or email them to her at [Sceusa@frontiernet.net](mailto:Sceusa@frontiernet.net).**

**Use the Valley Star to announce your upcoming events and mission news. Our goal is to help the PW purpose within the churches of the Genesee Valley.**

## What are PPG's?

The Synod is women who are from NJ, NY, and New England. This is a large area so Synod Coordinating Team felt it would enhance communication if the whole were split into smaller groups called Presbytery Partner Groups (PPG's).

Our PPG is grouped with Geneva and Western New York Presbyteries. Our PPG is known as the Western NY PPG. This grouping will allow us to share ideas and **experiences to better serve our PW's** at the church level.

There will be more information about the PPG's and their work to follow. Remember the purpose of PPG is to be a vehicle for the mission and ministry of the Synod within their region, working closely with Presbyteries in their role of supporting the development of congregations

I would like to thank Barb Sceusa for her service as CTPW Moderator since 2002. She is a faithful servant and has provided the much needed "glue" to keep the Coordinating team up and running.

We all felt the loss of our dear friend and mentor Helen Found this past year. But we knew it would honor her memory if we continued to build the CTPW. Helen was very involved with the enabler program, knowing communication is the key to remaining strong.

We are looking forward to putting the PPG program into action and Barb will continue to be the new moderator's (Gloria Hall) mentor. Barb is committed to PW and will remain and active member of the CTPW. When you see Barb thank her for her service as moderator or you can email her # [sceusa@frontiernet.net](mailto:sceusa@frontiernet.net). Barb the coordinating team thanks you.

## **MESSAGE BOARD**

Our new PWP Moderator is Gloria Hall, 2931 Frost Road, Mt. Morris, NY 14510 Her e-mail is [GJHTUSKY@NETACC.NET](mailto:GJHTUSKY@NETACC.NET). Please feel free to contact her. Our past Moderator, Barb Sceusa will remain as our advisor.

We would like to send out our Valley Star via e-mail. Please send an e-mail address for you PW Moderator or contact person to [GJHTUSKY@netacc.net](mailto:GJHTUSKY@netacc.net) or to our secretary, Jan Lewis at [Countrybumpkin@rochester.rr.com](mailto:Countrybumpkin@rochester.rr.com)

Come join the Coordinating Team! We are looking for new ideas and we are looking forward to an exciting year

We have changed our "Enabler" name to "Communicators". The term "Enabler" today has a negative connotation and "Communicator" more closely identifies our work. So contact your Communicator with news, ideas, concerns, missions, or upcoming events in your church. We will publish them here on the message board.

Avon Central Presbyterian Church Fall Rummage Sale—Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.  
9AM

## **Message from our Spring Gathering by Gloria Hall:**

**I want to share a little Presbyterian Women History today. As some of you may know PW has always been about mission work. But recently I actually found written accounts of our Presbytery's work in the 1800's.**

**More than 200 years ago when women had no vote outside the home, the women of the 1800's defied societal and church conventions and started the first Presbyterian Women's organizations. Women began to gain people's respect -- especially those who served as missionaries in the field.**

**I have read the actual minutes of the "WOMEN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS" that met in Scottsburg on Oct.2, 1890. The following is a summary of some of the meeting.**

**Every lady should have their mite box and open once in 3 months.**

**There were more than 30 organizations in the Presbytery at the time and 22 sent in reports. Time was spent sharing those reports.**

**Then came time to hear from the missionaries in the field. At that time they had missionaries in Asia, Alaska, and China Armenia. We reach our station from the port of Shanghi- 200 miles up the HI HO River. Then 200 miles north on donkey- we reached the city of Galigan. Two years was spent learning the language. Rev Sprague lead the missionaries and for ten years , he had care of the Mission School with the teachers that traveled with him.**

**The people were very curious and would follow them around and into their homes to see the new and different things that they had.**

**The teachers would go into the Chinese abodes(home) and read to them from the Bible and pray with them although they did not understand at first.**

**The Chinese women were worshiping idols and encouraging their children to do the same. "The sending out of these ladies as missionaries to these abodes, is the grandest work in our mission fields."**

**The women in China were treated badly with binding their feet, many committed suicide. Women and girls were not taught to read. The futures were bleak; it's a great wonder to the women that the missionaries would want to teach them.**

**When the people are led to believe the savior- they say "Why did you not come before." It is a new idea that God loves them. It is entirely new that Chinese women can learn to read, sing and laugh. What a wonderful testament to mission work in the 1890's.**

**At this same meeting, there was an essay from Alaska by Mrs. Hugs of Rochester. The mission board had an industrial school in Alaska.**

**A report was read about the Industrial Hall at Good Will, South Carolina. Industrial Hall is a building 16 x 20 ft. with memorial windows. The money for building this hall was sent by the Rochester Presbytery. This project helped young girls obtain education and training for missions.**

**I was surprised when reading these accounts that our Presbytery had active missionaries in the field. Just think of all the planning to arrange these trips.**

**Sometimes we lose sight of our purpose and feel disconnected from each other, BUT let me assure you we are more similar than we are different. Whether we call ourselves PW or circles, societies, committees or ladies aide, we are connected to each other and our past through our mission work.**

**The 1900's were a time of upheaval and disconnect, but the women remained dedicated to the church. Then in 1930, the Presbyterian Church expanded the power of women to serve on any board in the General Assembly. The word mission was expanded. It meant more than sending teachers, preachers and missionaries to the foreign lands. It meant sending workers into the inner cities at home. Working with former enemies after two great wars. Peace is now the Mantra.**

**Reunification became a reality in 1983 thus becoming the Presbyterian Church (USA).**

**In 1988, our name PW was born and along with it a desire to support each other and feel part of a bigger whole. To have some where to turn to for information and have a support system if needed. We communicate information from the Synod and our Presbytery to you and your churches about missions and other items of interest. We formulate this gathering so we can get together and share ideas. We help fund projects with memorial monies left to the PW. We presently have a very small group who does all this. We are known as the Coordinating Team (CT). Having just lost a dear friend and true believer in our work as a CT (Helen Found) We are looking for anyone who would like to take their time and share it by working with us - your Coordinating Team.**

**A legacy of devotion to the church (to your Church) and dedication to God is a strong foundation for continuing mission and taking Christ into every area of life in the third century.**

**Presbyterian Women exist today because women are adaptable, determined, proactive, chartable, generous and dedicated to God.**

**YOU ARE ADAPTABLE, DETERMINED, PROACTIVE, CHARTABLE, GENEROUS, AND DEDICATED TO GOD. Amen**

For the Spring Gathering we had the pleasure of hosting Gael Orr, from HOPE Unites, who heads up the program in the Dansville area. HOPE Unites is part of Volunteers in Mission and is a worldwide organization. HOPE stands for Humanity Outreach Partners Enterprises.

Trinity's Hope was started in 2005 as a joint effort between HOPE Unites and Trinity Stables to assist Children of Zion Village, a Christian home in Namibia, Africa, for children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

To quote their website, [www.hopeunites.org/TrinitysHope.html](http://www.hopeunites.org/TrinitysHope.html).

The healing and therapeutic nature of horses and riding, especially to children who have experienced trauma or abuse, are amazing. The children gain confidence from learning to train and control an animal 10 times their size, and in building their own riding skills. Responsibility is taught in caring for their horse and being accountable for its welfare. They learn gentleness and kindness in doing what is best for the horse at all times. The children spend hours having fun riding and getting great physical exercise, especially beneficial for those who are HIV positive or have disabilities. And perhaps the most important and unique of all, they slowly learn to trust and love - sometimes easier at first with an animal who they know will just listen, love them, and accept them for who they are.

Our vision for the future of Trinity's Hope is to re-create this type of amazing program in more locations throughout Africa. We hope to eventually develop community-based riding programs, creating havens where at-risk, orphaned, and AIDS affected children can experience the benefits of horses and riding, at the same time giving them a place where they can escape from some of the dangers in their lives and find hope. The program could also be used as a way to draw children in from the surrounding communities, allowing us to share Christ and the true hope that He can bring to their lives. Our goal is that in spending quality time with them, we can discover and help meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of children and their families.

HOPE Unites is part of our local community. While it is a worldwide organization, it affects all of us. Anything we do to help another increases our humanity. The effect is far reaching because while we may have only touched one life, that life goes on to touch others.

NEWS FROM THE SYNOD GATHERING

I have just returned from the triennial gathering of the s Synod of the Northeast, held at the Despond hotel in Albany NY. There were about 150 people from our Synod there and that is down about 100 from 2004. It was refreshing, relaxing and inspirational to belong to such a loving and caring group of women.

We learned of mission opportunities such as the moringa tree project. This tree is surely one of God's blessings. It is a source of food and food supplements asa flocculent (clumping agent) for water treatment, as oil, vegetable, and animal fodder. Moringa has 7 times the Vit.C in oranges, 4x's the calcium in milk, 4x's the Vit. A in carrots, 2x's the protein in milk, and 3x's the potassium in bananas.

There were arts and crafts from other countries on display and 4,000 dollars were raised for people in Palestine, during the gathering. We learned about the plight of the Palestinian people during the gathering also .

The theme Blessings and Abundance and held true throughout the gathering. During the business meeting on Friday changes were made to the language of the Synod bylaws. Officer's slate was approved. Anne Reynolds completed her moderator term and Sandy Grillo is now the new moderator for the next 3 years.

The accommodations were very nice. The Desmond staff was friendly and was very efficient changing the venues for us. The food was excellent. I had time to network and become familiar with other people from the synod. I was the only one to represent the Presbytery of the Genesee. I hope we can increase that number for the next triennial gathering.

I attended three workshops while I was there. They had a nice variety to chose from and it was easy to chose a different workshop if you wanted to.

Saturday night we had a graduation service <sup>Sov. New</sup> ~~for~~ immigrant women from congregations within the Synod. This program called Sisters Stand and Walk Together started four years ago (PWSNE). The program prepares women for leadership roles not only within PW but also throughout all levels of the PCUSA. The program has also showed the leadership of PWSNE new ways of how to be an "inclusive caring community" and how to include underdeveloped gifts and resources in PW.

I was very proud as I sat at the graduation ceremony realizing our Synod is the first to promote such a program. We can all be proud of that.

I want to close this message with the prayer we used for the gathering.

LORD, open unto me

Open unto me –light for my darkness  
Open unto me –hope for my despair  
Open unto me- peace for my turmoil  
Open unto me-joy for my sorrow  
Open unto me strength for my weakness  
Open unto me –wisdom for my confusion  
Open unto me-forgiveness for my sin  
Open unto me- love for my hates  
Thyself for myself  
Lord, Lord open unto me.

Howard Thurman

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN  
PRESBYTERY OF GENESEE VALLEY  
Year to Date Report  
1/01/07 - 7/26/07**

Description	Balance @ 1/01/07	Received	Disbursed	Transfers	Balance @ 7/26/07
<b>Mission Pledge</b>	0.00	5,665.00	(4,200.00)		1,465.00
<b>Contingency</b>	5,921.21				6,521.07
Contingent funds collected		731.90			
Checking interest		13.10			
Donation from PCUSA for startup funds		100.00			
Annual meeting					
Triennium meeting					
Postage			(92.34)		
PW manuals			(52.80)		
Treasurer stipend - P. Miller			(100.00)		
<b>Synod</b>	0.00	175.13	(165.88)		9.25
<b>Least Coin</b>	0.00	253.41	(169.21)		84.20
<b>Thank Offering</b>	0.00	412.82	(392.82)		20.00
<b>Birthday Offering</b>	0.00	230.00	(100.00)		130.00
<b>Leadership</b>					
A. CW	496.00				496.00
B. Synod	281.00				281.00
E. Enabler	202.11				202.11
Postage & enabler supplies					
<b>History Book</b>	0.00				0.00
<b>Honorarium &amp; Memorials</b>	50.00				50.00
<b>Special and Local Funds</b>	630.11				740.52
M&T CD interest		105.41			
Donation - North Bergen		5.00			
<b>Beale (HSBC CD interest)</b>	209.78	148.46			358.24
<b>Nicholson (Five Star CD interest)</b>	1,199.10	156.41			1,225.51
Gloria Hall - leadership training			(130.00)		
<b>Blossom</b>	0.00				0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,989.31</b>	<b>7,996.64</b>	<b>(5,403.05)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>11,582.90</b>

**Current CDs**

HSBC Bank	(renewed 3/21/06 at 3.92%, matures 3/23/09)	6,509.70
M&T Bank	(3.15%, matures 3/8/08)	3,348.33
Five Star Bank	(renewed 1/13/06 at 3.40%, matures 1/12/08)	6,900.00

1. **THE BLOSSOM FUND**

In 1922 \$1,798.00 was given to the Women's Organization of the Brighton Church. Members decided much later to send the money to UP in New York as a way to improve their stewardship of the money. When the Presbyterian Foundation was formed, the moneys were placed there. It is now held by Genesee Valley Presbytery. Interest for the year is sent to whatever **overseas mission** we chose.

2. **THE BEALE FUND**

In September 1974, UPW of the Genesee Valley Presbytery received a legacy of \$5,000.00 from the Birdice Beale Estate. This amount is invested in a 3-year Certificate of Deposit at 6.91% interest at First Federal Bank in Rochester. The principal is now \$6,300.31. This fund is stipulated for **local or U.S.A. medical mission**.

3. **THE SPECIAL FUND**

In 1979 the amount of \$3,331.90, the balance when Genesee Valley Presbyterial became United Presbyterian Women, was invested in a Money Market Silver Certificate. Yearly interest is to be used for **local mission**. This fund has since been invested in a CD. Sometimes included in the interest amount we send is funds sent from churches or individuals designated for "local mission".

4. **CELEBRATION GIVING**

The Thankoffering, including medical mission, and the Birthday Offering are taken each years by each Women's Organization in each church. It can be taken in any method you choose, either soliciting only from the women or from the congregation as a whole. The money thus collected is sent to the Treasurer of Presbytery, at present Wilma Northrop. She sends the funds to National Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky where they send it to the many missions chosen for that particular year. A list of the recipients is listed in the Horizons magazine and also in the Thankoffering press releases sent to each women's group.

5. **LEAST COIN**

This is collected at your women's meeting. It is the least coin of each country. This way each women can participate no matter the country or economic situation. More than a penny can be given. This too gets sent to Louisville for distribution. Horizons carries the list of recipients for this also.

6. **MILDRED NICHOLSON ESTATE**

On October 27, 1999, PW was bequeathed the sum of \$10,000.00 from one of our members. Mildred was an Enabler and an avid participant in local, synodical and national gathering. She left this money, no strings attached, to use as we see fit. We have earmarked a great deal of this fund for leadership training. In 200 we disbursed \$1,848 for 12 members to attend the national gathering. We have invested \$6,900.00 in a CD. We have disbursed the rest for enabler training this July at the Synod Gathering.

## Completing the Mission Pledge Form for the Congregation

The PW Purpose includes a commitment to "support the mission of the church worldwide." Communicate the importance of this commitment to the coordinating team and PW in the congregation. When PW supports the mission of the church by donating funds, exciting and much-needed programming can happen.

Study the ministries described in the *Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* (order through PDS, 800/524-2612). Notice how many different areas the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) covers—education, health, peace, justice, leadership development, spirituality and many more. Read the interpretive material that accompanies the pledge form mailing each year. Consider the needs. Pray. Remind your PW group that the General Assembly Council creates the mission budget—that allots money to these programs—for the next year, on the basis of pledges from churches and from PW.

Depending on the process for your congregation, an amount may be designated for each PW member to give, or women may be encouraged to give as they are able.

On the Mission Pledge Form, fill in the amount for the support of the mission of the church worldwide, which includes support of the operating budget of PW churchwide. This amount includes expenditures for programs, new mission projects, peace and justice concerns, leadership training, meeting expenses and other costs. Write in the amounts of support for PW in the synod and in the presbytery. Sign and send one copy to the moderator of PW in the presbytery. Keep one copy for your files.

## Duties of the Treasurer of PW in the Presbytery

**Purpose:** to receive and disburse the funds of PW in the Presbytery

**Accountability:** to the Coordinating Team and to PW in the Congregations

### Responsibilities:

- is familiar with the policies and patterns of PW giving
- receives and disburses PW funds as directed
- receives from PW in the Congregation monies for all Celebration Giving and forwards as scheduled to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterian Women Remittance Processing, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652, except the amount designated for the operating expenses for PW in the Presbytery and PW in the Synod
- forwards to Presbyterian Women Remittance Processing the Birthday Offering by June 30 and the Thank Offering by December 31
- keeps accurate financial records, receipts and disbursements of all PW funds
- submits regular reports, preferably in writing, to Coordinating Team
- submits an annual report, in writing, to PW in the Presbytery and from inclusion in the PWP moderator's annual report to the presbytery (for information only)
- submits financial records for audit on an annual basis
- submits complete financial records to the incoming treasurer with adequate explanations



**Presbyterian Women in The Congregation  
Mission Pledge Form**

January 1, \_\_\_\_–December 31, \_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

As Presbyterian Women, we make the following pledge to support the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) worldwide through the General Assembly Mission Budget and the basic operating budget of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery, Presbyterian Women in the Synod and the churchwide level.

**Celebration of Mission Through Women’s Pledges**

- 1. Support of the mission of the church worldwide  
(includes PW Churchwide) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Support of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery  
As requested by your presbytery, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per member \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Support of Presbyterian Women in the Synod  
As requested by your synod, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per member \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total of lines 1–3** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Congregation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Email address

**PWC Mission Pledge Form Guidelines (filled out by PWC treasurer)**

- 1. Enter amount of pledge for mission of the church worldwide (including support of Presbyterian Women Churchwide).
- 2. Enter amounts of pledges for PW in the Presbytery and in the Synod.
- 3. Keep a copy of this form for PWC records and send the original pledge form to Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery (or whoever is responsible for the Mission Pledge in your presbytery) no later than November 15.
- 4. Send quarterly payments to Treasurer of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery no later than **March 10, June 10, September 10 and December 10.**