

## ***Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Pacific***

# ***Pilgrimage***

**Coordinating Team News**

**September 2007**

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### **Moderator's Musings:**

Greetings to all you wonderful PW sisters:

It is raining quite hard today in the Pacific NW but also so humid that one would think we were in the Midwest! Having returned from Iowa where I hid from tornadoes during an alert/warning and tried to avoid thunder storms on the way home, I am ready for cool weather. Maybe tomorrow!

I have attended two Synod Gatherings recently, one with the Synod of Alaska/North West in Tacoma in May and last week the Synod of Lakes and Prairies in Iowa. These were both wonderful experiences and I met so many extraordinary Presbyterian Women. It is always interesting to see how other Synod Moderators run their gatherings! It was thrilling to realize just how strong PW is in its spirit of unity, fellowship and discipleship. The organization is strong and vibrant and it is up to us to keep that going.

In August I travel to Louisville for a meeting of the CCT Search Committee and to observe the CCT in action. This will be fascinating and informative as we continue our efforts to find those people whom God has called to lead PW for the next Triennium.

I was not able to attend the regular Synod meeting in May but plan to be there in October. We need to always keep PW foremost in the minds of those who attend this meeting. I have been pleased with the positive reaction experienced during the past two years at this event.

Your CT will meet in October in Sacramento to finish our plans for the Spring Gathering in April 2008. Our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Judy Wrought and we have also lined up some great workshop leaders. Specific job training will be offered too. Put this on your calendar and plan to be there, **April 3-6, 2008 at the Grosvenor Hotel, San Francisco Airport. More information available in early January.**

After seven years of service my time on the PWSCT is drawing to a close. I am sorry to leave such a marvelous group of people and I treasure the friendships made and the personal growth experienced. God has blessed me by calling me to serve in PW!

May your summer be restful and refreshing and I ask God's blessing upon you all as you continue to work for Him through this great organization. As Paul said, "I thank God every day for each one of you."

**Love, joy and peace, Sheena**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

## **The PW/CCT Search Committee**

The first letters seeking nominations for the various positions on the CCT were mailed in early February. The response has been very slow but I now have a few names in hand. Hopefully the other members of the Search Committee will also have names so that we can begin our first round of deliberations next month in Louisville. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we strive to find those whom God has called to lead our organization for the 2009-2012 Triennium. These names need to come from YOU, so pray about being led to nominate someone whom you know to be an asset to PW, not only in their leadership skills but also in their commitment to faithfully serve Jesus Christ. The task seems daunting, but we know God will provide and I am expecting many more nominations to come pouring in soon!

**Blessings on you all,  
Sheena  
West Coast Region  
PW/CCT Search Committee**

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## **PWSCT Search Committee**

Search Committee members for Spring 2007- Spring 2008 are Pat Harrington, NV, Marj Hoagland, E. OR, Claudia Hamm, San Jose, and Carol Harrison, San Joaquin. We are searching for a Moderator, CCT Rep., and a Treasurer. We have selected three Electors from each Presbytery and will be voting soon. We hope to have a complete report for the PWSCT the first part of October.

Please be aware of any "officer" material and keep names for offices in a file so we have a "name bank" for the future.

We need ALL your help and prayers as we continue the Nominating process for 2008-2011. We value each and every one of you and keep your Presbytery in our prayers. Please start planning on being at the Spring Gathering in San Francisco. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Barbara Pletcher, Search Moderator**

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## **Promoting *Pilgrimage***

Congratulations to those of you who are able to receive the *Pilgrimage*, the Synodwide newsletter, on-line. Electronic transmission has been a welcome money-saver. The primary distribution list includes SCT members, PWP Moderators, Secretaries, Treasurers, Leadership Enhancement Coordinators, and Justice and Peace Coordinators. If your leadership has changed, I may not have the current information, but all are welcome to e-mail their address to me at [mhardin2@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mhardin2@ix.netcom.com). As a reminder, the newsletter is published twice a year, fall and spring. We on the Coordinating Team hope and trust that you are finding these *Pilgrimage* issues to be helpful and informative

**Marian Hardin**

## **News from Your Leadership Coordinator**

From March 12 - 14, 2007, I and six other Synod officers were in Albuquerque, NM at the PW Churchwide Leadership Training which dealt with changes in PW. I felt overwhelmed by the information and materials I received, and will be receiving. The goal is to pass this information on to the Synod and Presbyteries and have all of us functioning in the new plan by the 2009 Gathering in Louisville. So, we will be working and communicating together over the next two years to accomplish this task through a series of workshops. We have a wonderful group of women in the Synod Coordinating Team (SCT) and I am confident that we can accomplish this task, but not without prayers from all of you.

Following suggestions from a study done by the CCT a few years ago, the CCT wants to have training sessions conducted for all PW officers down to the Circle levels by the 2009 Gathering. The session in Albuquerque was to train Synod PW officers in order that they can train Presbytery officers who in turn will train local circle or cluster officers. Sheena Brooke, our Synod Moderator, has contacted all the Presbytery Moderators and asked them how they want to go about this training: in their presbytery gatherings, or at the Synod gathering in April, 2008.

You are probably wondering who is this Leadership Coordinator person anyway. As you may be aware, delegates to the 2006 Churchwide Gathering voted to close out the Enabler position. In its place the position of Leadership Coordinator was created, with this abbreviated list of duties:

- Encourage and facilitate leadership development, including Bible study and prayer for all leaders.
- Encourage the use of *Horizons* Bible Study and provide information about resources.
- Serve on planning team for Gatherings and Conferences.
- Provide an evaluation process for leadership training.
- Determine the content, the trainers and the evaluation of training sessions.

This is a big task, but with God's help, we shall accomplish it.

Now for a few highlights of the Albuquerque meeting: Since it didn't start on the first day until dinner at 5:30 pm, a busload of us visited a day care at Martinez House of Neighborly Service, a Birthday Offering grant recipient, and Menaul School, a junior-senior high school affiliated with the Presbyterian Church for many years. It was exciting to see our Birthday Offering, and proceeds from collecting soup labels and box tops, at work. After dinner, we had our first worship service and plenary session and we were off on a busy, fast paced program of worship, training workshops and learning. Cheri Harper, national PW staff, raised our spirits throughout the meeting with her antics. In one skit we learned about "Parking Lots" and were encouraged to use them. These are places where you put things that you don't want to discuss now, but don't want to forget. We were also introduced to "Open Space." This is a place in third world countries where women come together to sell their products and talk. "Open Space" has been used as a model for discussing and resolving issues. You'll be hearing more about this.

The worship services and singing led by women from different Synods were inspiring and lifted our spirits. I hope to be able to pass this enthusiasm on to you. Let us remember each other in prayer as we go about our task of equipping ourselves for leadership.

**Peace, Joan McCune**

## **Medical Benevolence Foundation**

An appeal is being made to Presbyterian Women from the Medical Benevolence Foundation. Using our "Together in Service" as a theme, the Foundation is asking PW to work as partners in "Together Miracles Happen." The appeal states that as a partner with MBF through hands-on mission projects and financial support, PW can help provide "miracles through medical mission."

A donation of \$100 to the Moringa Tree Project provides nutritional supplements and education to children in Haiti, Congo and Malawi. Life-saving and health-promoting Moringa tree seeds and seedlings are distributed and planted in these developing countries. A fast growing tropical tree, the Moringa can provide leaves, seeds, and cuttings to 1,000 families in less than a year's time. Nutritional education seminars, reaching over 7,000 people, have been held to instruct villagers in developing countries about the causes of malnutrition and how to prevent and treat this condition. Hundreds of severely malnourished children at Malnutrition Rehabilitation Centers have been treated with Moringa leaf power, a rich nutritional supplement containing large quantities of protein, iron, calcium, vitamins A and C, and B vitamins.

A donation of \$260 will educate and test for HIV/AIDS in many third world countries. HIV/AIDS continues to spread because of stigma, silence, and a lack of primary health care. The stigma prevents people from being tested or admitting their HIV status. HIV/AIDS education and training programs promote community awareness and educate community leaders, medical personnel and patients about HIV prevention and transmission. MBF helps to equip the training programs with appropriate materials.

Contributions may be sent to Medical Benevolence Foundation, P.O. Box 770636, Houston, Texas, 77215-0636. MBF is a validated mission support organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)

**Mary Lou Williams, Mission Interpretation**

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## **You Can Be Resourceful Too**

There's no need to wait for PW resources to come to you! Resources are only a phone call away at Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS), 800/524/2612, or via e-mail at [www.pcusa.org/pw](http://www.pcusa.org/pw).

A timely reminder for this fall: resources for promoting and interpreting the Thank Offering are listed on the back cover of the July/August 2007 issue of the *Horizons* magazine. Why not check the subscription brochure, also available at PDS, for the complete list of PW resources, either free or at cost plus shipping/handling and tax. You'll find them all to be wonderfully helpful in promoting support materials. Be resourceful, and order now!

**Marian Hardin**

## Thank Offering

The Thank Offering began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a "thank offering to her Lord." A day was set aside for meetings that were to be a "concert of prayer and praise and the gathering of the Thank Offering." The gifts presented at the annual convention represented much soul-searching and self-sacrifice on the part of many women. The impact they made was immeasurable. It has been said that women's giving saved the worldwide missionary movement at that time. The thrust of how and where the money was used changed over the years, but a "thank offering to her Lord" continued to be an important part of giving by United Presbyterian Women. This expression of thanksgiving is now an important part of Presbyterian Women.

The Thank Offering is now one of two special monetary offerings by Presbyterian Women and should be seen as an extension of, and separate from, Presbyterian Women's mission pledge support. At least 40 percent of this offering supports hospitals and other health ministries that provide services for women and children throughout the world. The offering is received in the fall. It should be sent to the Treasurer of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery.

In 2006 two grant recipients were from the Synod of the Pacific. They were Carpentry Vocational Education for Incarcerated Women, Milpitas, California, which assists incarcerated women to develop basic carpentry and home-maintenance skills, and build self-esteem; and the Letty Owings Center, Portland, Oregon, which helps women living in poverty to find housing and become self-sufficient.

**Mary Lou Williams, Mission Interpretation**

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### Keep Your Eyes on the Horizons!

During one of the plenary sessions held during the Leadership Development training in Albuquerque, Susan Jackson Dowd posed a question to us about the importance of communications. How do we think about communications, and how important are they? Her answer was this: Our Presbyterian Women's communications are God's call to us, and these communications are led, of course, by the *Horizons* magazine. It's not only our source of information, inspiration, PW news and happenings, but the instrument that calls and binds us together.

Susan reminded us that every Presbytery should have a *Horizons* representative. For reference, the job description for that position is included in the new PW Manual, pages 4-6. The job description states the responsibilities and gives helpful suggestions on how to promote *Horizons*.

In *Horizons*, you'll find ideas for expanding use of the annual Bible study, book reviews and recommended resources, devotions for reflection and inspiration, opportunities for outreach, and more ways to live out the PW Purpose. To subscribe, contact Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS), 800/854-2612 or visit [www.pcusa.org/horizons](http://www.pcusa.org/horizons). Subscribe today!

**Marian Hardin**

## **Synod Representative to PWCCT**

The PWCCT provided training for 6 Synod leaders on March 12-15, 2007 in Albuquerque, so that these women can return and train PW groups in their synods. Invite a Synod PW trainer to your PWP event.

The first Presbyterian Women USA Mission Experience will be April 12-19, 2008 to connect concerns raised by past Global Exchanges with similar issues in the United States. The one-week experience will partner with mission projects in El Paseo and Ciudad Juarez to learn and do hands-on mission. This domestic exchange lasts only a week, to allow women to participate if they are working, attending college, or can't be away from their families for three weeks as in the Global Exchange. The theme is "Beyond Borders, PW Focus on Immigration." Synods are asked to submit three approved applications to the PW USA Mission Experience Committee. The participation fee is \$1,400.00. Women selected will need a passport valid for 6 months after this trip in 2008. PWP, and Synod Moderators and Synod Representatives have application forms, or applicants can download forms from the Presbyterian Women web site.

Again, I volunteered at the PW Katrina project in New Orleans in May 2007. **Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans (RHINO)** arranged for us to return and build homes with Habitat for Humanity in the Musicians Village. The homes we worked on last year are already occupied. We worked in a new area of the Musicians Village, where we crawled under new structures to put in fiberglass insulation and hammered metal netting to hold the insulation in place. Doreen DermcLeod and Susan Jackson Dowd's stature were an advantage to working down under.

Former GA vice-moderator, the Rev. Jean Marie Peacock, is now the Director of Project Homecoming, a ministry of South Louisiana Presbytery. New Orleans Project Homecoming provides opportunities for low income families to build their own homes with financing and "sweat equity." Already, 200 families have applied; churches are encouraged to send volunteer mission work groups to help build these homes.

On my own, I attended the Ecumenical Racial Ethnic Multicultural Conference in Los Angeles held July 12-15, 2007. It was a collaboration of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Reformed Church of America. Stated Clerk Clifton Kilpatrick, along with the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, spoke at the opening worship. I purposely attended workshops led by facilitators from the other denominations, and came away impressed with their leadership.

2008 marks the 20th Anniversary of Presbyterian Women, which came into existence on July 15, 1988. The January/February 2008 issue of Horizons will focus on this event. Each PWP and SCT hopefully will plan to have their own celebrations/parties in 2008.

*Horizons* Bible Study author Carol Bechtel, who has written "Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth," will be at San Francisco Theological Seminary on Saturday, September 15, 2007. Contact the Seminary for luncheon tickets and schedule.

**Cynthia Joe, Synod Representative to PWCCT**

**Treasurer's Report**  
 Period July 2006 – June 2007

Total Income for the period	\$25,515.38
Total Expense for the period	\$21,058.24
Net Income	\$4,455.12
Checking Account Balance as of 6/30/07	\$12,428.69
Designated Funds :	
Global Exchange	1,353.41
R/E Dialog	2,785.50
Working Capital	8,289.78

The Working Capital Amount includes a Training Grant from PC (USA) of \$3,300.00. That leaves \$4,989.78 to use for other expenses such as 2008 Gathering, SCT Meeting, etc.

**Geneva Jensen Trust**

The balance as of 6/30/07 was \$14,860.75. We awarded a grant in the amount of \$2000.00 to Yamhill County Food Bank. The funds in this Trust are invested with Synod of The Pacific in a Custodial Account. We earned interest in the amount of \$374.05 for the year at a 4.5% rate.

On July 19, 2007 I had our books for the year of 2006 Audited and a copy of the Audit Letter will be presented to the Synod CT meeting in October. This was an Internal Audit and since my term as Treasurer expires in 2008 I will have the records of Year 2007 done by an outside CPA according to our Bylaws.

**Mission Pledge Information**

The total amount pledged for 2007 was as follows:

Mission Pledge	\$81,507.00
PWP Support	8,755.00
PWS Support	6,992.75
Total Pledged	\$97,254.75

As of June 30, 2007, \$5,928.48 was paid to PWS with the amount of \$1,064.27 still due.

Your support of Presbyterian Women Synod is important. When we set a price for attending Gatherings we charge only the amount for lodging and meals, because we want to make the price affordable. According to the Standing Rules: The expenses for PWS Coordinating Team leaders and leaders-elect of PWS to required meetings and Gatherings shall be paid by PWS. We try to pay one night's lodging and the Presbyteries pay the other night.

The Honoraria for the speakers and the cost of presenting the Gathering are all paid by the SCT so it is very important that the Presbyteries send in their Support Pledge checks as early as possible in the year. Gathering costs are all due at the time of the Gathering.

**Hilda Aladeen, PW Synod Treasurer**

## **Impressions of the MOD + ONE Synodwide Gathering**

I loved the joyous singing led by Marian Hardin and Joan Runyeon. This singing started every session out on a very positive level. Marian and Joan were aided by a delightful and talented pianist, Phyllis Tincher. Phyllis is also a lover of handbells, and she taught those of us who wanted to learn how to play them. It was so enjoyable to stand in a circle singing, with women here and there in the circle adding their handbell accompaniment.

Sheena Brooke kept this momentum going with her leading of devotions and prayers. Of course, there were frequent displays of her charming sense of humor! And then, there were the Ice Breakers led by Claudia Hamm. These really helped us get to know women we'd never even seen before.

Betty Jean Young led our Bible study sessions, introducing the main characters of next year's Bible study: Jonah, Ruth and Naomi. This delightful preacher/teacher brought these stories alive and showed us how to relate their stories to our lives and how to trust God to work through our lives as God worked through their lives. Betty also pointed out how many of the events of those ancient days correlate to current events—quite an eye-opener!

Diana Lim, former CCT Moderator, introduced ***Widening the Circle***. Diana chairs the Interpretive Task Group, which is leading PW in developing a \$50,000 fund for this effort. The money will be used for programs to help younger women assume leadership roles, to build a local and global sisterhood to address common concerns and advocate for women's issues, and to gather theological insights from a diverse and inclusive community of women. How exciting!

Then, of course, there were the workshops. Kathryn Baker led one on, appropriately enough, "Leadership." An avid golfer, Kathryn used lots of golfing terms in her presentations and, indeed, we all went home with a golf ball. (She also gave the keynote address, but I was unable to attend that session.)

Sheena Brooke and Mary Lou Williams led a workshop on ***Together in Service***, the restructured Mission Opportunities program. This will allow PW groups to choose their own mission projects, and it is being done in response to our suggestions.

A part of the proceedings I especially enjoyed was the reports of the PWP Moderators. It's fascinating to learn how each presbytery does similar things differently. It's also exciting to hear of the great work being done in each.

As the Gathering wound down, I found the recognition of outgoing SCT members to be inspiring. What a great group of women! This was followed, of course, by the installation of new SCT members, and I was included in this group as your incoming Secretary. I was touched by the gift of a little praying lamb complete with a Prayer Card asking that the Lord help me to pray...

The closing worship was led awesomely by the Rev. Betty Jean Young. This included communion by intinction--a beautiful ending to a beautiful Gathering.

**Anore Shaw, Secretary PWSCT**  
**Racial Ethnic Dialogue**

The third meeting of the Synod of the Pacific Racial/Ethnic Dialogue was held at Mercy Center in Burlingame, CA, on March 16-17, 2007. Members are composed of two women from seven different ethnic groups: African American, Asian American, European American, Hispanic/Latin American, Korean American, Middle Eastern American and Native American – 14 women in all.

However, only eight were present at this meeting: Verna Burnett, Beth Downie, Marian Hardin, Edith Ichuiji, Jimmie Jackson, Cynthia Joe, Stella Pardo Matusiewicz, and Hearan Yang. Absent were: Roxanne Burgess, Jennifer Burgess, Maria Elena Campos, Ann Rhee Menzie, and Crystal Volberding. Middle Eastern American replacements are being sought for Dalia Benyamin and Almas Toumas, who have moved to Illinois.

Cindy Joe, as facilitator and moderator, convened the group on Friday evening, for greetings, purpose of the dialogue, dinner, and community building. On Saturday, Beth Downie led gathering and singing at 9:00 a.m., and Marian Hardin led the Bible study which focused on diversity. Cindy Joe presented a history of women of color in the Presbyterian Church, followed by reports given by the participants concerning R/E in their various women's groups. Dialogue followed lunch, concluding with a time of evaluation. At 3:30 p.m., Hearan Yang led the closing devotions with prayer.

Separated by distance as we are, activism by the group is limited, but is carried out individually within our own contacts. We will examine this further to see if we can be more effective as a group in our outreach for social change. We look upon our diversity as a strength, and hope to encourage others to use that strength in tackling difficult issues within their communities.

Our Dialogue group was heartened by having received a second grant of \$2000 from PW, Louisville. The Leadership Development Committee urged "that this money will be used to break down the barriers and help create an inclusive and caring community within Presbyterian Women." We continue to use care with our expenses. To conserve funds, the next meeting will be held at Cameron House in San Francisco on Saturday, September 29.



## **Justice and Peace Notes and Reminders**

The plan was for this article to be a reminder about the upcoming Peacemaking Offering and the news about the proposed Palestinian Olive Tree Planting Project (POTPP). However . . .

Yesterday afternoon an event occurred that reminds me that God is at work. As “Marta” was leaving our home after helping with some serious housecleaning, she held up my copy of the July/August Horizons and asked “Are you through with this? Can I take it?” The voice in my head was saying “No, I still have more to read and I keep these magazines on a shelf in my office.” But the voice that came out of my mouth said “Oh, please take it and enjoy.” Marta, eyes brimming with tears, was saying “It is so beautiful. I have a statue of hands but, these are more beautiful and with new growing”. She was describing the cover of the magazine but referred to articles within. It occurs to me that this experience may be a lesson for doing mission and justice and peace work, i.e., I should be ready to give when another is ready to receive. This may be Marta’s only chance to own, to read, and to appreciate that magazine. Only God knows the impact it will have on her.

PS: There is still time for your session to authorize the taking of the Peacemaking Offering. As we celebrate World Communion Sunday, we can give to the offering to help support Justice and Peacemaking activities in our congregations (25%), presbyteries (25%) and the Peacemaking Program of the PC(U.S.A.) (50%). The Peacemaking Program provides many biblically based, creative, useful resources for us to use as we do our justice and peace study and work. Contact me if you have questions or comments. The news about POTPP will be shared later.

**Peace and Grace,**

**Joan Runyeon, Justice and Peace Coordinator**  
**joanrunyeon@comcast.net**

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