

June 2014

## MODERATOR'S MOSAIC

Are you a daydreamer? Do you catch yourself letting your mind float from the present into a never never-land?

Erma Bombeck once said, *“There are people who put their dreams in a little box and say, “Yes, I’ve got dreams, of course I’ve got dreams.” Then, they put the box away and bring it out once in a while to look in it, and yep, they’re still there.”*

As a child, we may have been told by our elders to “stop dreaming and do something.” As your moderator, I challenge you to set that advice aside and take the time to dream again. We are wrapping up another program year in our circles, but how about closing that last meeting by encouraging each other to “dream about the possibilities in the years ahead for PW?” Or, better yet, start out the year with each woman speaking her dream for PW, as you take roll. Dream about the difference PW can make in the lives of others; what resources you have and how they can be used to benefit others. (God never wastes the resources He’s created).

As a Presbyterian Woman, new or established, know that dreaming is a gift from God. Have we safe-guarded ourselves from dreaming because of past disappointments, delayed fulfillment or weariness? Are we in survival mode and have tucked our dreams in a box thinking they’re too big to accomplish? It’s never too late and there is never

a problem that can destroy God’s dream for your life! What would you attempt for God if you knew you couldn’t fail?

Paul told us the secret to determining if a dream is from God. *“God...is able to do far more than we would dare to ask or even dream of indefinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.”* (Ephesians 3:20, The Living Bible) God has put us here for a reason and planted dreams within us so we can do our part in seeing them realized. God will plant dreams in our hearts and those dreams are consistent with His Word. His dreams require faith. A dream from God will be so big in your life that you can’t do it alone. It will have to be a “God-thing” and will call upon a “community of believers,” possibly Presbyterian Women!

Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal one thing you can do to further your pursuit of His dream for your life and then share it with others.

Sweet dreams,  
*Sue Kimball, moderator*  
Des Moines Presbytery PW Coordinating Team

P.S. My dream for Presbyterian Women is that the women will be flocking into our circle meetings with enthusiasm and a desire to be a part of something God has created. Now, your turn!

# CHURCHWIDE PW in the PC(USA) NEWS



**Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church  
(U.S.A.)  
In collaboration with Central American Partners  
and Mission Co-Workers**

**January 19 – 31, 2015  
Healthy Food, Healthy Children,  
Healthy Communities  
“God fills the hungry with good things”  
Mary’s dream for Central America  
Visiting: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and  
Nicaragua**

Please complete the inserted application and return **as soon as possible**. If you do not have access to a computer to print out an application please contact Sue Kimball or Deanne Herr to send you an application. The total cost of the seminar is \$1,800.00 per person in shared room accommodations, including airfare within Central America. **Flights between the US and Central America are NOT included.** Payments for the trip will be made in two installments: the first to hold your place and the second made several months before the trip.

**NOTE: Due to the nature of this seminar, we are giving first priority to women who have not traveled to the region AND/OR who have not had much engagement with Presbyterian Women.**

**However, we encourage all those interested to apply:** active members and leaders of PW, women who have never participated in PW but who may have some experience or engagement with issues of nutrition, food security and food sovereignty in their communities, women of color, younger women and students, and others.

*The deadline for application to this seminar July 9, 2014. Selected participants will be notified by late July 2014.*



## **Churchwide Gathering update!**

The 2015 PW Churchwide Gathering Work Group chose the theme “One Body, One Spirit” (based on the scripture I Corinthians 12:12–27). The site selected for the Gathering will be the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis, Minnesota June 18-21, 2015

Gathering planners are doing everything in their power to be conscientious about budget constraints, yet still plan an excellent Gathering. The support of all PW leaders is more critical than ever. Everyone is called upon to promote attendance at this Gathering, help women find creative ways to fund their trip and invite women of all ages to attend.

Planners emailed a survey to thousands of Presbyterian women several days prior to the CCT meeting. It is clear from the results of this survey that women across the country consider a national Gathering a priority. Women value the opportunity to learn together, sing and worship together, and meet women from across the nation and globe.

### **Key decisions**

- **Registration is just \$395** (less than in 2012) (a single day is \$125).
- **Rooms at the Hyatt are \$169**, plus tax, for up to four people

## PW in the SYNOD NEWS

### Help save the Environment & Give comfort to the Homeless

PW at Linn Church in Lake Geneva, WI is recycling plastic grocery bags into plastic sleeping mats for the homeless. These bags can be cut and crocheted into mats which provide cushioning as well as protection from the cold and damp of sleeping out of doors. With the arrival of spring, homeless overnight shelters are closing and the homeless again are living in the parks, under bridges and on the streets. The various steps may be done as a group (social) or in your own home if you prefer. Needed are people to collect and flatten bags, cut them, loop them into the plarn (plastic yarn) and roll the plarn into balls; and others to crochet them into the mats. The only cost is a pair of scissors and a crochet hook. Mats may be distributed through the homeless sites or law enforcement agencies in your community. More information and instructions can be found by looking up “plastic bag sleeping mats for the homeless”; or a demonstration video is on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiUC0iDQtkA>

Submitted by Helen McMasters



### From Leadership Enhancement Committee

“Prayer invites us to rest in the fact that God is in control, and the world’s problems are ultimately God’s, not ours. If I spend time in prayer with God, I will inevitably begin to look at the world with a point of view that more resembles God’s own. What is faith, after all, but believing in advance what will only make sense in reverse?”

*Does it Really Make Any Difference?*

by Phillip Yancey

Leadership Chairperson Sue Kimball adds the insert to help develop “PW Prayer Circles”



Here are some Suggestions from your Synod Together in Mission Team on Projects for Local PWs and Circles to Consider.

1. **USA Mission Experience: (2013) On Eagle’s Wings in North Carolina:** On Eagle’s Wing Ministries is a shelter for young women who have escaped sex trafficking. (See [www.oewm.net](http://www.oewm.net) and mail funds to On Eagle’s Wings Ministries, PO Box 9737, Asheville, NC 28815)
2. **Sweetgrass Project:** This project seeks to prevent suicide among teens and young adults of the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Reservation in southwestern South Dakota. On average, 200 suicide attempts among young people age 14-24 years occur each year. (Mail funds to your PWP treasurer or PW Remittance Processing, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652)
3. **World Mission: Healthy Women Healthy Families:** Congo, Malawi, Ethiopia, and Sudan

**\*\*Reusable Sanitary Supplies for School Girls:** It’s a widespread, but unacknowledged problem that one in ten girls in Africa miss school and stay at home or drop-out because of menstruation. Re-usable pads, “Sani-Panties” can be made. (See [www.littledressesforafrica.org](http://www.littledressesforafrica.org))

## PW in the SYNOD NEWS (continued)

**\*\*Little Dresses/Britches for Africa (LDFA):** This is a nonprofit non-denominational Christian organization formed to send simple dresses/britches made from pillowcases and distribute them through orphanages, schools, and churches. (See [www.littledressesforafrica.org](http://www.littledressesforafrica.org))

**\*\*Gift of the Heart Kits:** Gift of the Heart Kits include school kits, hygiene kits, baby care kits, and emergency clean-up buckets are assembled by volunteers and shipped to people in need following disasters in the U.S. and around the world. (See [www.presbyterianmission.org](http://www.presbyterianmission.org))

**\*\*Safe Motherhood Kits:** Items for motherhood, health kits and emergency response kits, or items for newborns (caps, gown, and hemmed flannel blankets), etc. are a part of IMA World Health for those in need around the world. (See [www.presbyterianmission.org](http://www.presbyterianmission.org))

### 4. Presbyterian Women: Birthday Offering and Thank Offering

**\*\*Birthday Offering – 2014:** The Blue Corn Mothers Alliance provides a range of services for Albuquerque’s Native American women, who have experienced domestic violence. The goal is \$500,000. (Mail funds to your PWP treasurer.)

**\*\*Thank Offering - 2014:** Projects are chosen each year for funding, whose purpose is to meet basic human needs, provide aid to people, and be less than three years old. Last year were 36 projects: nine international and 27 in U.S. Health-related projects receive 40%. (Mail funds to your PWP treasurer.)

### 5. PCUSA Projects: See [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

### 6. Ecumenical Projects:

**\*\*Bread for the World:** It’s a collective Christian voice urging our nation’s decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. In 2011 Presbyterian Women joined Bread for the World to promote the critical need for proper nutrition during 1000 days between pregnancy and age two. (See [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org))

**\*\*Christmas International House (CIH):** It’s a Christian ministry designed to offer hospitality to international students during the two-week Christmas holidays. It’s a peacemaking program as students stay in American homes in different areas. (See [www.Christmasih.org](http://www.Christmasih.org))

**\*\*Church Women United (CWU):** Fellowship of the Least Coin is a prayer movement. When women pray for justice, peace and reconciliation, the least coin is set aside from each county to support women and children in the world. (Mail funds to your PWP treasurer and see [www.churchwomen.org](http://www.churchwomen.org))

**\*\*Church World Service (CWS):** CWS is a cooperative ministry of Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations providing sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance in more than 80 countries. (See [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org))

**\*\*A Greater Gift/SERRV:** SERRV International is a nonprofit trade and development organization with a mission to promote social and economic programs in developing regions. It provides and supports low-income producers by marketing their products and paying them a fair price. (See [www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org))

**\*\*Habitat for Humanity:** Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to elimination of substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action. (See [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org))

**\*\*Heifer International:** Heifer International is a nonprofit, humanitarian organization dedicated to ending world hunger and promoting environmental justice by providing livestock, trees, etc., and training to help families around the globe obtain a sustainable source of food and income. (See [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org))

**\*\*IMA World Health:** It’s a non-profit, faith-based organization which provides health care services and supplies to restore health, hope, and dignity to those in need. (See [www.imaworldhealth.org](http://www.imaworldhealth.org))

### Alzheimer's Sensory Blanket Project

A hands-on mission project presented by Margaret Magill at the Spring Connection

This project is too good to keep it “a secret,” so Margaret is sharing it with others. The information was from a local Hospice unit that found that Alzheimer's patients like to feel different textures and keep their hands busy fiddling with things on a small lap quilt. Most local nursing home Dementia Units or Activity Departments would welcome some of these for their residents.

**Find:** lots of scraps of ribbon, rick-rack, lace, buttons, zippers, snaps, pockets, Velcro, appliqués, small empty thread spools, etc. **Collect:** several different pieces of fabric for 12” blocks. Terry cloth, burlap, velvet or suede, denim, polyester, prints, flannel- anything will work, but some may not wash very well, so keep that in mind. The different textures of each block provides tactile stimulation along with whatever you add to each piece that may also provide motor exercises (if moving or 3D).

**Cut:** 6- 12” blocks and sew all sorts of colorful things on them from your scraps. We put on denim jeans pockets (so that something could be stuffed inside the pocket), shaped frilly lace into a heart shape on a block. We themed some quilts: camouflage and flannels for men; patriotic; all pinks/purples for women; we even did a Christmas one with reds and greens.

**Sew:** 6 blocks together in two rows (three in a row, in two rows) after they have been decorated. Put on a simple backing. Fleece is good. We did not put a batting in the center but you can, for more stability. Sew the decorated blocks and the backing with right sides together—leave an opening of a few inches to turn it. Stitch in the ditch around the six blocks to hold the backing in place and around the outside edge. The size is actually 24”x 36” but it's just the right size to hold on their laps.

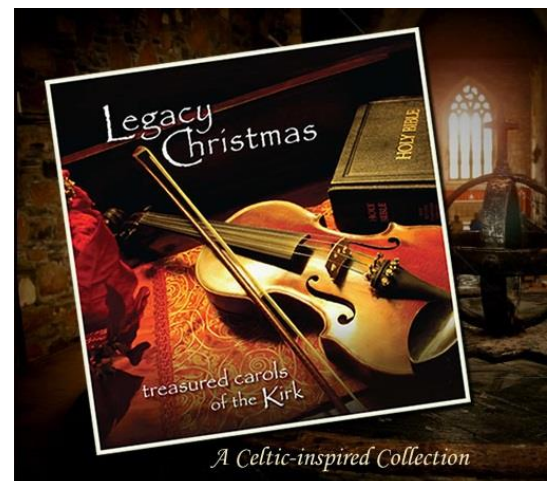
The more 3-D the decorations, the better. Example: We cut a cuff off a western shirt and sewed it on a block so that Alzheimer's patients could snap and unsnap while they were sitting. We sewed a piece of cord in the seam of one block, then put a small wooden thread spool on the cord, and finally attached the other end of the cord on the opposite side of the block- this allowed the spool to slide back and forth along the cord- something we understood later that one of the patients loved.

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### Exciting Legacy Christmas Update

Dear PW Leaders,

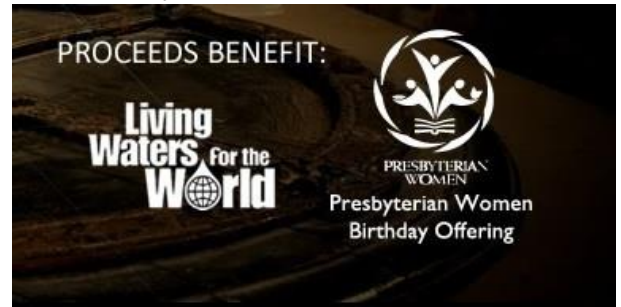
*Legacy Christmas*, the joint project offering a CD of treasured carols in support of the Birthday Offering and Living Waters for the World, has been an overwhelming success the first time out of the gate, with \$100,000 in net proceeds raised for mission! We deeply appreciate the 440 circles and presbytery teams who offered the CD on consignment this past fall. Your



## PW in the Presbytery News (continued)

positive feedback to the music and the cause has been inspiring and the results speak for themselves.

So – DRUM ROLL PLEASE - the second *Legacy Christmas* CD, titled “Legacy Christmas, Nativity Carols and Hymns” is now in production! The same musicians and vocalist Alyth McCormack of The Chieftains are returning, along with the exciting addition of acclaimed vocalist and songwriter Julie Lee. (Julie has written songs for Alison Krauss and was a featured artist on NPR’s *All Songs Considered* this past fall.) Like the first record, the new CD will feature classic songs of the church passed down through the ages, including *Silent Night*, *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*, and *What Child is This?*



Both CDs will be available for consignment this fall, and may be offered separately or together. We hope to see all of our former consigners return and hope many more of you elect to join us in this wonderful example of partnership to support God’s work among women, children and their families. Stay tuned . . . our next communication later this summer will include a sample preview from the new record!

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### Trip to Dakota Presbytery

We are finalizing plans for our trip to Dakota Presbytery Mission Meeting from August 8-10 to the 142nd Mission Meeting – Oahe Chapel (located on the Oahe Dam, north of Pierre, SD). Eight women have signed up to go and there is still room for more if you are interested. Please let Denise England or Mary Lou Briles know if you would be interested in joining us on this journey. **We would like to finalize plans by June 15.**

Denise England – 515-401-2769  
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Mary Lou Briles – 515-285-1074  
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*Can't attend this time? Linda O'Connell plans to go to their Fall Presbytery Meeting October 3-5, 2014. Notify her if you are interested in going.*

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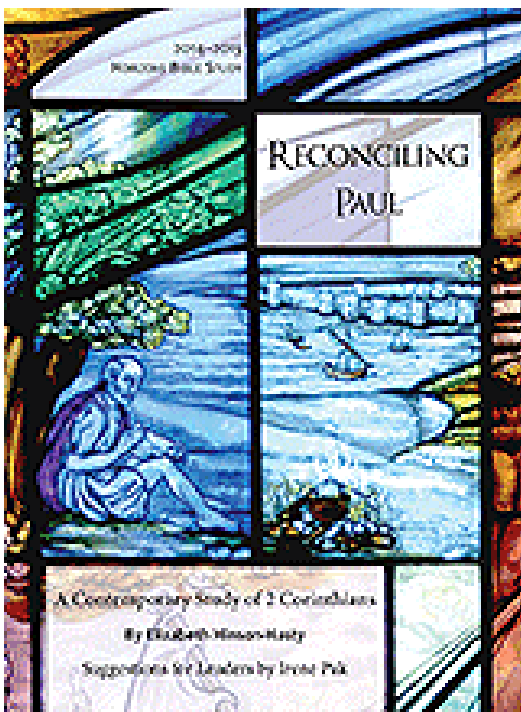
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## Mini-Connection—*HORIZONS* Bible Study



**July 19, 2014 – 9:30 – 11:30 am**

**Trinity United Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall**

**200 South Howard Street, Indianola, Iowa**

Purpose: to preview the new 2014-2015 Horizon Bible Study. The Rev. Sara Palmer will teach study leaders, facilitators and anyone interested in learning. Bring your new study books with you. Coffee and light refreshment will be served.

The study is available now at: [www.pcusa.org/horizons](http://www.pcusa.org/horizons) or by calling 1-800-524-2016. The book is \$8 plus S&H.