

The Grapevine

A Newsletter for Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Des Moines

February 2011

Volume 16 / Issue 1

Moderator's Mosaic

Greetings!

As I sit here looking out at the blowing snow, it is hard to believe that Spring will ever come. Yet I know that it will be here before we know it. At least the weather cooperated for us so we did not have to cancel our January PWP Coordinating Team meeting. We have a really fun Spring Connection planned for April 9 at **First Presbyterian Church, Dallas Center, Ia.**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and we need your participation.

Our theme is *Takin' It to the Streets* from an old Doobie Brothers song. In case you are too young to remember, here are the words:

You don't know me but I'm your brother
I was raised here in this living hell
You don't know my kind in your world

Fairly soon the time will tell
You... telling me the things you're gonna do for me
I ain't blind and I don't like what I think I see

Takin' it to the streets (takin' it to the streets)
Takin' it to the streets (no more need for runnin')
Takin' it to the streets (Oh, oh-oh, nah, nah)

Take this message to my brother
You will find him... everywhere
Wherever people live together

Tied in poverty's despair
Are you... telling me the things you're gonna do for me
I ain't blind and I don't like what I think I see

Takin' it to the streets (takin' it to the streets)
Takin' it to the streets (no more need for runnin')
Takin' it to the streets (takin' it to the streets)

How do we as members of PW take the message of God's love and forgiveness beyond the pews and into the streets? Remember that Christ said:

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are *members* of my family, you did it to me." ~ Matthew 25:40

Let's learn about how others are taking this message to the streets and share how our PW and congregation is doing the same. Look for further details in this issue of the Grapevine on Spring Connection and how you can plug in!

See you at Spring Connection, April 9th! Come and bring a friend!

Yours in Christ,

~Rev. Linda O'Connell, PWP Moderator
revlinda@iowatelecom.net

PC(USA) Update

Save the date – July 18-22, 2012!

The 2012 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held in Gaylord Palms, Orlando, Fla. Bringing together thousands of women (and a few men) for worship, education, community-building, and much more.

2011 *Birthday Offering* Grant Recipients

(You should have received your Birthday Offering Packet in the mail already.)

As an update, the following is the History of the *Birthday Offering*. In 1922, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary (PCUS), it was decided that an offering should be made for a definite cause. That same year, Hallie Paxson Winsborough, superintendent of women's work, visited Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Kochi, Japan. Realizing the school's needs, she challenged members of the Women's Auxiliary to give one penny for each year of their life as a birthday gift to the school. Over the years, that tradition has become known as the *Birthday Offering*. Presbyterian Women have given more than \$29 million in support of mission projects throughout the world.

After reviewing 29 proposals, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee chose three projects to receive grants from the *Birthday Offering*. Gifts to the 2011 *Birthday Offering* will impact lives from South Carolina to Sudan. The projects this year are:

Across: Bring Peace Now – Jonglei, South Sudan

Founded in 1972, [Across](#) is an interdenominational, international organization that works to improve the lives of Sudanese people by strengthening communities. In southern Sudan, intertribal violence has killed thousands of people and displaced thousands more.

Across believes education is the key to ending the cycle of violence and improving lives. This *Birthday Offering* grant will help Across fund a four-pronged approach to education:



Photo courtesy of Across.

- Producing 2,500 books with traditional folktales, praise songs and biblical stories of women leaders;
- Sponsoring an English language course for at least five women, strengthening their ability to serve as translators and teachers;
- Providing teacher training workshops for at least 40 teachers; and
- Building a dormitory at Yei Teacher Training College that will house at least 60 women while they are enrolled in a two-year training program.

In addition to the educational benefits of these projects, this initiative also will help build a culture of peaceful coexistence between traditionally warring ethnic groups, and increase societal value of children (especially girls) and acceptance of women as leaders. To learn more, go online to: www.across-sudan.org/.

Menaul School: Bringing the World to Menaul – Albuquerque, New Mexico

For more than 100 years, [Menaul School](#) has educated and equipped students for leadership in the church and larger society. The campus welcomes a racially and economically diverse student body, offering day school for grades 6-12 and boarding school for grades 9-12. Finan-

(Continued on page 3)

cial limitations necessitated the closing of the boarding program in 2000, but with the help of a *Birthday Offering* grant, Menaul will reestablish its residential program. With your generosity, the existing dormitory will be refurbished to provide housing for approximately 20 students. Menaul also will purchase an activities van to provide transportation for its boarding students' weekend and enrichment activities.



Photo courtesy of Menaul School.

Students who would not otherwise have access to excellent educational opportunities benefit from Menaul's college preparatory program. Ninety-seven percent of Menaul graduates attend university, and nearly 50% are the first in their families to attend university. To learn more, go online to: www.menaulschool.com/.

Anderson Interfaith Ministries, Inc.: Women and Children Succeeding (WACS) Program – Anderson, South Carolina



Photo courtesy of Anderson Interfaith Ministries.

[Anderson Interfaith Ministries](#) is an interfaith organization that provides assistance to people in need while also guiding them to function independently. One of Anderson's most innovative and successful programs, Women and Children Succeeding (WACS), offers various supports to parents so they can return to school.

A grant from the *Birthday Offering* will allow Anderson Interfaith Ministries to strengthen the Women and Children Succeeding program. Funds will provide for:

- Modifying and renovating two WACS facilities, centralizing staff and adding training capacity;
- Adding a parental education component;
- Purchasing land for much-needed parking; and
- Hiring an asset-building coordinator, who will help clients with financial literacy.

This comprehensive program transforms lives, not only by helping parents meet childcare and other basic needs so that school is possible for them, but by building their self-sufficiency and self-esteem. To learn more, go online to: www.aimcharity.org/.

Check *Horizons* magazine for more information or go to the PW Web site at:

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pw/birthday/>.



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Synod of Lakes & Prairies' Update



PW is a Great Organization! What's not to like about us?

By Kay Olson, PWP Moderator of South Dakota

Hazel Fuhrmeister, moderator of PW 1994-97 says, "PW remains the strongest, most faithful, productive, industrious, unselfish, dependable, necessary group within the PC (USA), supporting the denomination's policies, interpreting mission, preaching the gospel and giving our time and talents for no other reason than a desire to serve God and humankind."

In September, I attended the national PW Leadership Training, in Orlando, Fla.

I want to share with you selected portions of two presentations. The first was written and presented by Ann Barnwell, outgoing chair of Leadership Enhancement Committee, CCT. Here are some selections from her presentation:

"PW history goes back 200 years. The early immigrants brought with them the belief that men were in charge and were the leaders of society. Thus, the work and support of women in society and in the churches happened in the background. Throughout American history, the majority of the members of Presbyterian congregations have been women. Women provided the necessary support for the church to do its ministry. No matter how great their contributions, women were asked to take a backseat to male religious leaders.

As time passed, women's roles have changed. In 1930, women became elders. In 1956, women became Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Because of women's organizations in the churches through PW, women were well prepared to step into these new leadership roles.

Today, PW still plays a vital role within our congregations."

Martha Pool, current chair of the Leadership Enhancement Committee, CCT, wrote and presented her thoughts of the Six Values of PW. Here are selected thoughts from her:

1. **"PW is committed to God and Church.** Presbyterian Women have always studied scripture and prayed together. Searching for God's will has linked our faith to social concerns in our communities and around the world, letting our hands be the hands of Jesus and our work honor our gracious and loving God.
2. **PW has courage, ingenuity, determination and relentlessness.** When women had no voice or vote in the Church, they found ways to lift up the needs, rights and concerns of women. When roadblocks came, and they did, women would try to go around, over or through them. It will take courage, ingenuity, determination and relentlessness to keep advocating for those who have no voice, one battle at a time.
3. **PW is committed to diversity, inclusiveness and antiracism.** PW values women no matter the packaging God wrapped them in. PW loves variety when it comes to age, size, shape, color and language. Inclusiveness takes work, intentionally adding diverse voices to the table and circle. Tearing down walls of racism through active listening, sharing stories, confession, forgiveness and reconciliation will make a difference in our world.
4. **PW is generous.** PW have their fingers in a lot of wonderful projects. We have always cared about missions. We give generously of our time, talent and money in doing God's work in our world. PW is the

largest mission organization in the PC(USA). We give the church 50% of the money we collect as undesignated money, to support mission as the Church decides, without strings attached.

- 5. PW is committed to community, connectionalism and ecumenical and interfaith relations.** Scripture compels us out of our homes and churches into our communities to embrace the experiences of our brothers and sisters. It's there we find our mission field of hurting people. Our communities have become global neighborhoods. Through Global Exchange trips, the USA Mission Experiences, *Horizons* articles, and other mission opportunities, PW helps us navigate this new territory. As we learn more about the experiences of people both near us and around the world, we cannot help but find ways to join them in their struggles and joys and be transformed along the way.
- 6. PW is open to change.** Some might argue that PW is behind the times, slow to change and overly structured. However, PW has changed over the years. PW values change to meet the needs of women today. PW is more flexible and more simplified. As programs and emphases shift, PW must change."

Let's be proud of who we are, what we do and the contributions we have made to the Presbyterian Church for 200 years!

Mini PW Mission Experience to South Dakota

Because many women in our Synod expressed an interest, we are making plans for a second PW mission experience August 10-14, 2011, to visit our Dakota Presbyterian sisters. This opportunity will be offered to all members of the PW Synod Coordinating Team in conjunction with a regular Synod CT meeting.

In addition to Synod CT members, each of the 16 presbyteries in our synod would be invited to select an additional woman at a cost of about \$200. The selection process and how the cost would be covered will be determined by each Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery's Coordinating Team.

So PWP Moderators, begin to plan now for this unique experience in our synod. Determine your criteria for participating. Keep in mind the physical ability of the participants. Stairs, walking and very long days will be the norm. Look for more information on this criteria at the Spring Gathering and in communications to your local PW moderator.

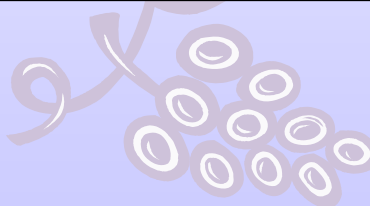
PW at Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2011

Presbyterian Women encourages you to consider attending Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2011, March 25-28, 2011! Two members of the Churchwide Coordinating Team will be there, and we know many of you make this a yearly priority. To learn more about Ecumenical Advocacy Days, go to: <http://advocacydays.org/>. This year's theme is *Development, Security and Economic Justice: What's Gender Got to do With It?* PW certainly knows what gender has to do with it! Gather with women and men of a variety of denominations to learn and sharpen your advocacy skills in Washington, D.C. The cost is \$160 (until Feb. 19), not including hotel and travel.

If your PWS or PWP sends someone this year, let us know you are coming. Contact **Meagan Manas**, meagan.manas@pcusa.org, and PW will do our best to connect during the conference. Also this year, the PC (USA)'s Office of Public Witness will hold a Compassion, Peace and Justice Training Day before the start of Advocacy Days on March 25. The cost is free to all who register for EAD! Contact **J. Herbert Nelson** for more information, JHerbert.Nelson@pcusa.org.

~ Yours together in advocacy, PW Justice and Peace Committee

The PW J&P Committee is online at: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pw/justice/>.



Des Moines Presbytery Women Update

Mission, History and Pledge Reports are Due!

Each church recently received a request for a summary of what your PW accomplished in 2010 to support mission activities. It's not too late to return your *2010 Mission Report* it to **Dianne Van Gorp**, P.O. Box 1051, Oskaloosa 52577, vangorpd@mahaska.org, 641-673-7864. We all love to get new ideas and see the whole breadth of activity in our presbytery. These reports will be included in the program for the PWP Spring Gathering.

If your Local PW has a favorite mission project they support, bring a poster or table display to our Street Fair at the Spring Connection. If interested, contact **Dianne Van Gorp**, P.O. Box 1051, Oskaloosa, IA 51577, vangorpd@mahaska.org, 641-673-7864.

It's not too late to send in your *2011 Pledge Sheet*. Please send it to **Angie Williams**, 2182 220th St., Hamlin, IA 50117, awills37@hotmail.com, 712-563-2213. This will help us in our planning for the coming year.

Also, don't forget to send your *2010 History Report* to **Rev. Pat Summers**, 6042 S. 12th Ave. E., Newton, IA 50208, patsummers@pcpartner.net, 641-792-7536.

Mission Matters

Sudan Emphasis – PC(USA)'s PW Churchwide Coordinating Team voted to emphasize Sudan in this triennium. I think we in Des Moines Presbytery will find this especially interesting because of our support for Sudanese refugees in Des Moines. New projects should be announced soon that might be of interest to your group.

Congo Report / Slide Presentation – Last March, a PW delegation traveled to Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to see PW's mission dollars and prayers

at work. They met Congolese people with incredible faith and commitment to improve their dire living situations. To see the full report of their trip, go to www.presbyterianwomen.org and click on Mission Matters or type "PW Partners in Congo" in the search box.

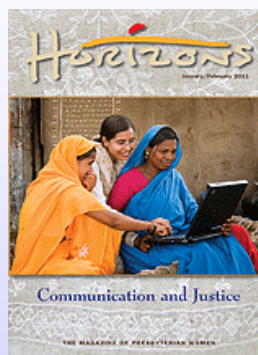
Presbyterian Women have done wonderful things through their projects there, including funds for bicycles, mattresses and the Palm Project, all of which are still available for your gifts. Not counting PW Mission Pledge support for World Mission, PW has contributed over \$1.2 million to projects in the DRC over the last 20 years.

Together in Service Ideas from PW Synod Newsletter

Water4Haiti is a project with headquarters in Nebraska, which drills wells in Haiti and also repairs existing wells and pumps: www.water4haiti.com.

Operation Quiet Comfort. One of its projects is a 3' x 5' quilt for injured members of the military: www.operationquietcomfort.com. No tied fleece quilts are accepted and other directions are quite specific.

Operation Write Home provides blank homemade greeting cards for soldiers to "write home." This is a great project for scrapbookers: www.operationwritehome.org.



Mission in a Handbag is an idea from *Horizons* magazine. At their fall gatherings, the Presbyterian Women of Southern Kansas brought gently used purses filled with needed items for women at crises centers. There was a great response.

Update from PC(USA) Mission Co-worker Denise England

Greetings from Presbyterian World Mission. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission personnel in Egypt are safe. World Mission staff members are in regular contact with them and will continue to monitor the situation. Please pray for our mission personnel, our Egyptian partners and all the people of Egypt during this time of unrest.

As additional information is known, we will continue to update you at http://missioncrossroads.ning.com/?xg_source=msg_mes_network. Thank you.

Love and peace,

Bruce Whearty, World Mission Church Support
100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202

Office: 888-728-7228, ext. 5157; Mobile: 502-407-9636; E-mail: bruce.whearty@pcusa.org

From our Presbytery's moderator of the Social Ministries Task Force and the Hunger Action Enabler Nancy Lister-Settle: "Let's pray (fervently!) for a peaceful resolution that honors the rights and aspirations of all Egyptians!"

Denise England, of the Presbytery of Des Moines and Synod of Lakes and Prairies, was serving at the Cairo Geriatric Medical Center in Cairo, Egypt. Her time in Egypt has come to a close with the recent uprising. She will be in the U.S. on "interpretation assignment" from April 1–June 30, 2011. Denise would love to share her mission story with your church. If you are interested in having her speak, please let her know immediately.



Denise will take requests on a "first come, first serve" basis. Let her know the date and how you want her to share; talk at a potluck, as pulpit supply, minute for mission, Sunday school hour, mission committee meeting, or present to your PW group. Please have a second choice for the date just in case. The best way to reach Denise is via e-mail at; deniseengland@mchsi.com or through the Des Moines Presbytery Office at 515-276-4991.

A note on expenses: The PC(USA)'s General Assembly Mission Council pays Denise's living expenses only. In April and June, 2011, when she is back in the U.S., her travel expenses will not be covered. For all speaking engagements she will need reimbursement for mileage. Also, her mission is funded through 2010, but she still needs \$38,981 (4/30/09) for Spring 2011.

Send contributions to: Presbytery of Des Moines, 2400 86th St., Ste. 20, Urbandale, IA 50322-4306. Memo line: Denise England-MI 910061. Here is a excerpt from her newsletter. Her blog is at: <http://deniseadventure.blogspot.com/>.

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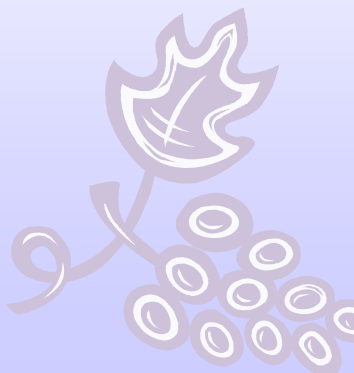
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The Grapevine

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In addition to the information that appears in the printed version, the electronic version contains links to online references for each article. Also, archived copies are available online at: www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org/mission.htm.

E-mail questions and suggestions to Editor Kim Coulter at: phycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org.

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PW Spring Gathering

TAKIN' IT TO THE STREETS

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."
~Matthew 25:40

When? Saturday, April 9, 2011
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where? Dallas Center's
First Presbyterian Church
1204 13th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Guest Speaker: Dr. Roberta Victor, CROSS Ministries
Worship & Holy Communion with Rev. Julie Sterling
There'll be a **Street Fair** with church Mission displays.

Lunch cost is \$6. Make your reservations by April 2 to **PW Moderator Rev. Linda O'Connell**, 641-203-3660 or revlinda@iowatelecom.net

Don't forget to bring your *Birthday Offering!*
Plus the offering of the day will go to CROSS Ministries

Bring money to spend! Don Justo Coffee from El Salvador, Egyptian scarves and other items will be available for sale.

