

September 2011

Volume 16 / Issue 3

Moderator's Mosaic

Greetings!

I can't believe that Fall 2011 is upon us. It seems just like yesterday when we were at Dallas Center for our Spring Connection. The summer went by fast and of course the highlight of my summer was two trips to South Dakota. The first trip was to the Black Hills with Dale and two of our granddaughters. The second trip was to the PW Synod Coordinating Team Meeting in Flandereau, S.D., for our bi-annual planning meeting. Followed by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies' Mini-Mission Trip to Dakota Presbytery for their 139 annual Ptaya Owohdake—or their Mission Meeting—which includes the Dakota Presbytery meeting, Dakota PW annual meeting and joint meeting with the Dakota United Church of Christ. Please come to the Fall Connection to learn more about the trip.

Because we had to cancel the Fall Connection in Oskaaloosa last year for lack of registration and the wonderful attendance at 2010 Fall Connection meeting in Indianola, the PW Presbytery Coordinating team decided we should have only one site for the 2011 Fall Connection.

This year, our Fall Connection will be October 8, 2011, at **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**. Our theme is the "Language of Love."

The day will begin with registration at 9:00-9:30 a.m. Please see the enclosed flyer for further information and send in your registration by October 4.

You may bring your 2012 Pledge Sheets and *Thank Offering* to be dedicated on that day. The offering for the day will go to Presbyterian Women of Dakota Presbytery as we partner with them to carry out their mission.

I can't wait to see all of you at Fall Connection. Please advertise this in your congregation and bring a guest who does not attend PW. Everyone (including men and especially pastors) is welcome.

Yours in Christ,

~*Rev. Linda O'Connell, Moderator*
PW of the Des Moines Presbytery
revlinda@iowatelecom.net



Women Key to Peace in Sudan

July 9, was Independence Day for the world's newest nation, South Sudan, which also is PW's country of focus for this triennium. Keep the people, and especially the women and children, of South Sudan in prayer as they face the future. Pray that the transition is peaceful and the ethnic groups learn to live peacefully with each other. Pray that the women leading the peace-



building process, and RECONCILE, which is facilitating the process, have the courage, resilience and faith to continue their difficult work. Learn more about Sudan and about the prayers and support you can offer our Sudanese sisters through the new *Women Are Key to the Future in South Sudan* brochure, available at: www.presbyterianwomen.org/missionmatters. The brochure is a great resource that can be handed out at worship and PW meetings so that a larger body of people can be in prayer and better understand some of the issues involved.

Churchwide Gathering Promotional Resources

One year and counting! Registration booklets will be distributed in September 2011, so be sure to keep a lookout. Online registration will open in December 2011. Plan and promote now! There are lots of resources available to you from the PC(USA)'s Church Store (www.pcusa.org/store) or the website: www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering, to promote the 2012 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women:

- **Promotional pack with a DVD** is still available from Presbyterian Distribution Service at: 800-524-2612 (item CWG12032)
- **Flier** (item CWG12031)
- **Promotional poster** (item CWG12030)
- **Personal invitation postcards** (10 per pack; item CWG12027)
- **Save-the-date magnets** (item CWG12029)
- **Registration book** (item CWG12001)—available soon and it will be mailed with the *September/October Horizons* magazine.
- **Visit Orlando! brochure** (item CWG12034)

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A Prayer for Peace for the Women of the World

O holy God, when we know about the pain and suffering of our sisters around the world who are beaten, trafficked, raped, abused and silenced, how can we be silent? How can we stand by and let this happen? Certainly, it cannot be in your name that such violence is done. You call us together as one, into community and caring for those most vulnerable. When we pray for peace in the world, let us remember that many of our homes are not places where peace lives. Let us be the ones who create and sustain communities that provide support and safety for those who do not feel safe. Let us be the neighbors who reach out to women threatened by violence or violation. Let us be the ones who bring perpetrators into accountability. We all are in need of your healing love and grace, O God. Help us remember that each one of us, female and male, has been created in your divine image. Help us remember our broken bonds with each other with tenderness and love. In the name of the risen and ever-rising Christ, we pray. Amen.

By Loey Powell, Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ

PC(USA) Update continued

The new PW logo bookmark!

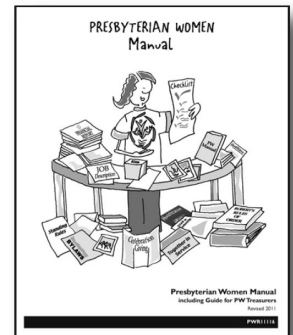
The Presbyterian Women logo is a “logo with a purpose”—the PW Purpose! The brand-new PW logo bookmark replaces the PW logo flier of yore and, just like the flier, interprets each aspect of the logo within the context of the PW Purpose (it also does a nice job of holding your page). Order item PWR11110, available singly (not in packs), order as many (or as few) as you need for your gathering, circle meeting or congregational welcome packet! Order from PDS at: 800-524-2612 or www.pcusa.org/store; free, plus shipping.

Updated PW Manual now ready!

In the previous quarterly newsletter, we reported that the *PW Manual* was on backorder and in the process of being revised. Good news! The *PW Manual* is ready—in print and electronic PDF formats—for you and your

planning team to order! Purchase the electronic edition (item PWR11116) and save shipping! Download from the Church Store, www.pcusa.org/store, \$6. Or save your print cartridge and order the print edition from PDS, 800-524-2612 (also in the Church Store). Order item number PWR11115, \$6 each, plus shipping.

So what’s new in the revised *PW Manual*? Rest assured the 2011 edition includes all of the fundamentals—structure and relationships, sample bylaws and budgets, a guide for treasurers, and tips for leaders. The revised version also includes the bylaws of incorporation and information for Celebration Giving representatives, plus a few minor tweaks and updates.



Synod of Lakes and Prairies Update

PW Synod Coordinating Team Report

The PW Coordinating Team of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies met Aug. 10-11, 2011, in Flandreau, S.D. Our meeting began at 5 p.m. at Second Presbyterian Church, where we were served a delicious meal by the women of the church. There were 22 members present and several guests.

After the meal, we continued our business meeting and heard Susan Leiber share her experiences in the 2010 U.S. Mission Experience and noted that two previous participants were college students and one was from Puerto Rico. She gave us background on what we could expect on our Mini-Mission trip to South Dakota later in the week. For example, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Reservation encompasses 2,679 acres. The tribe has 684 enrolled members with just 271 living on the reservation. There is much unemployment but the major

employers include Tribal Health Care, the Indian school, a tribal casino, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the reservation itself.

All participants were housed at the Royal River Casino Hotel. The next morning our business meeting continued at the hotel. We broke up into our committee meetings and all committees reported back. Of special interest was the report from the Synod Gathering Task Force 2013:

Jan Nelson reported the Synod Gathering is set for June 12-15, 2012 (Wednesday-Saturday), at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa. The theme is “For Everything There is a Season Under God”. Theresa Cho of San Francisco, will be a speaker and Sarah Moore-Nokes of Appleton, Wis., will be the worship leader.

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Synod of Lakes and Prairies Update continued

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Synod Gathering workshops are expected to include those on the Sudanese ministry in **Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church in Des Moines**, mission through the Dakota mini trips, **Our Sister Parish** ministry in El Salvador (Linda O'Connell), and more. The writer of the *Horizons* Bible Study is not available, but the study will probably be included in some way. More ideas are welcome!

After lunch, the Rev. Danelle Crawford McKinney came to give us an orientation on our Dakota Mini-Mission Trip that was to begin the next day, August 12. Our business meeting concluded at 5:30 p.m. We had supper at the casino restaurant and we watched the movie "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" as further orientation for our mission trip. The next morning, we left for Sisseton, S.D., to begin our Mini-Mission Trip to the Dakota Presbytery.

~Rev. Linda O'Connell, PWP Moderator

Des Moines Presbytery Update

History of the *Thank Offering*

The PW *Thank Offering* originated in the late 1800's with Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio. Her plan was to ask each woman to give a gift in addition to her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a "thank offering to our Lord." In 1888, the women designated a day for prayer and thanksgiving when this special offering should be received. These sacrificial gifts, it is said, saved the worldwide missionary movement of their denomination. Though the thrust of how and where the money was used changed over the years, the "thank offering to her Lord" continued to be an important part of United Presbyterian Women's giving.

2011 *Thank Offering* Recipients

Thanks to your generous giving of \$724,780 to the 2010 *Thank Offering*, 26 projects (14 national and 12 international) will receive grants, allowing them to improve the lives of women, children and men in need. The recipients will provide an array of services in their communities—from training seminarians in Texas on successful ministries with people who are homeless, to purchasing water tanks that will supply clean water to a hospital in Malawi. At least 40% of the offering funds health ministries.



Synod of Lakes and Prairies Recipient

Cornerstone Rescue Mission serves and supports homeless men, women and children in Rapid City, South Dakota, in a way that moves them to self-sufficient and interdependent lives with Christ. A *Thank Offering* grant of \$30,000 will allow Cornerstone to purchase the facility being leased for the Dear Ones Child Care Program, allowing past high rent to meet operating expenses.

Don't forget to bring your *Thank Offering* to the Fall Connection for the Dedication service in Des Moines, October 8th.

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Des Moines Presbytery Update continued



Rev. Sydney Bird tells us about his experiences.

Thank You Note from Mary Lou Briles

Dear Linda and the Presbyterian Women of Des Moines, Thank you so much for the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Mini Mission Experience. I learned so much and met so many wonderful people—both Synod women and our Dakota brothers and sisters. It was so kind of you to pay our registration for the trip. Thank you again.

~Sincerely in Christ, Mary Lou Briles
Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines



Linda and her granddaughter's at Mt. Rushmore

Thank you note from Linda,

Dear Presbyterian Women of the Des Moines Presbytery, I want to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Presbyterian Women of Synod of Lakes and Prairies Mini-Mission Trip.

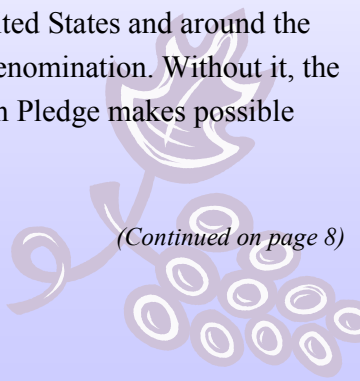
Please, come to the Fall Connection, October 8th, to hear more about our experiences in meeting our Dakota brothers and sisters. We would also be willing to present a program on our experience to your local PW. Just ask us!

~Yours in Christ, Linda O'Connell
Lucas, First & Chariton, First Presbyterian Churches

Mission Pledge Request

The PW Mission Pledge helps fund the mission work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and largely finances the operating budgets of Presbyterian Women at the churchwide, synod, presbytery and congregation levels. Contributions support the church's evangelism, church planting, education and justice work as well as ministry to children, youth, older adults, new immigrants, rural, urban and suburban populations across the United States and around the world. The largest beneficiary of the PW Mission Pledge is the denomination. Without it, the church's ministry in the world would shrink. For PW, the Mission Pledge makes possible programs, resources, scholarships, events and much more.

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Co-Ordinating Team members

Corresponding S

Mission Matters

641-673-7864

ResourceCSF =NBCG

Justice & Peace

641-792-6990

Historian

Clergywoman Rep

Search Committee

515-992-3639

712-563-2779

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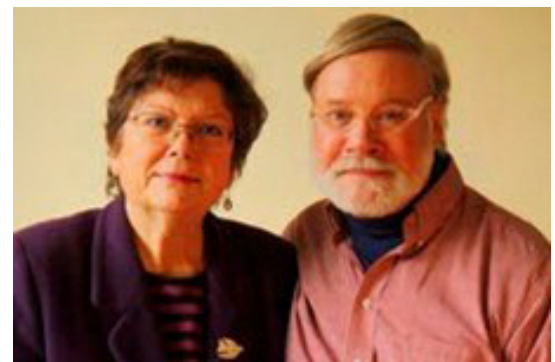
Return Service Requested

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All church PW moderators should be receiving a Mission Pledge Sheet in the mail. Please fill those out and either bring them to the Fall Connection or mail them to **Moderator Linda O’Connell**, P.O. Box 79, Lucas, IA 50151, by November 14. Once you have made your pledge, send it to **PWP Treasurer Angie Williams**, 2182 220th St., Hamlin, IA 50117, rawilliams517@gmail.com. We welcome your payments in a timely manner. Thank you.

Come to Fall Connection and meet our PCUSA Mission Co-Workers

Rev. Douglas and Dr. Elizabeth Searles have served since 1997 in international ministries in India, China and now Central Europe. They are jointly appointed by Global Ministries and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and supported by three denominations: United Church of Christ, Christian Church/Disciples of Christ, and PC(USA). The Searles live in Lodz, Poland and their call is to walk with Kosciol Ewangelicko-Reformowany (KER), the Evangelical-Reformed Church of Poland, a minority and marginalized church. They work to support initiatives of evangelism, church growth, and ecumenical relations. A new area of outreach work supports Roma people – formerly known as Gypsies – residents of Europe for over 500 years. Stigmatized, loathed and persecuted, Sinti/Lovari/Roma face severe human rights challenges. The Searles have begun to build relations encouraging capacity-building, advocacy and other ecumenical efforts towards acceptance, access and inclusion for Roma.



The Searles will have a display table and will be sharing their experiences in the *Loving Out Loud* break out sessions at the PW Fall Connection in Des Moines on October 8th.