

Pilgrimage *Fall 2009*

Lines from Lea -- Through All Our Circling Years*

Our Christian liturgical year ends on November 22 as we come full circle to celebrate Christ the King Sunday. One of the lectionary texts for that day is Revelation 1: 4b-8 in which we read, “*I am the Alpha and the Omega,*” says the Lord God, *who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*” In our eagerness to get to Advent and Christmas, we barely take time to savor these eternal words of beginning and ending and to remember the “Reign of Christ.”

Our lives in Presbyterian Women are also marked with endings and new beginnings. We’ve hardly finished our last PW program year, Bible study on Luke and the 2009 Churchwide Gathering before launching ourselves into the study of Joshua, new mission projects, justice and peace issues and opportunities to build inclusive, caring communities. In this issue of the *Pilgrimage* I hope you will find some glimpses of where PW in the Synod of the Pacific has been and where we are going.

Your PW Synod Coordinating Team met October 23-25, 2009 at San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS). In our expanding relationship with the seminary, Peter Crouch (Vice President for Institutional Advancement) and Cathy White (Auxiliary President) gave us some history and a tour of the campus. Joan Runyeon represents PW in the Synod with voice and vote on the Auxiliary Board. Please announce and support the activities of “our Presbyterian seminary in the West.” In the circle of our working agenda, the Coordinating Team –

Welcomed new CT members, Kathy Mattson and Myra Lively,
and returning members in new positions, Cecilia Moran and Joan Runyeon

Remembered our Synod Luncheon at the Churchwide Gathering with the joy of seeing old friends and meeting new ones, thanking leaders whose terms have ended, installing new leaders to the Synod CT, and welcoming our Global Guests

Reviewed actions from the Business Meeting

Received activity reports from CT Leaders

Selected 2009 Geneva Jensen Grant recipients

Planned the process for selecting and supporting a Synod PW nominee for the
2010 USA Mission Experience
“Meeting Our Sisters in South Dakota” – September 9-16, 2010

Planned the upcoming Synodwide Gathering
River of Life—Journeys Into Hope, April 16-18, 2010

As we begin a new year, let us remember Christ’s presence in our lives through all our circling years and look forward to the promise of what Presbyterian Women, using its gifts and talents, has planned for tomorrow and beyond.

Take heart, take hope, the Lord is King! *

*Refrain from *Earth’s Scattered Isles and Contoured Hills*,
Hymn #152, The Presbyterian Hymnal

Justice and Peace
“Reforming our HEALTH CARE system cannot wait”

Since health care reform has been a topic of great interest, and because many people have asked what the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has said about this issue, I would like to share this Action Alert with you. It was released from our Washington Office—the *voice of Presbyterian public policy* in Washington, D.C.

For over 60 years, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General assemblies have called for reform of the U.S. health system, urging the establishment of a national medical plan that will ensure health coverage for all persons residing in the United States. The most recent General Assembly (2008) “endorse[d] in principle the provision of single-payer universal health care reform in which health care services are privately provided and publicly financed...as the program that best responds to the moral imperative of the gospel.” [Minutes, 2008, p.1133]

“The Affordable Health Care for America Act” [H.R. 3962] blends and updates the three versions of previous bills passed this summer by the House Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce; and Education and Labor Committees. The House of Representatives narrowly passed the bill on Saturday, November 6, 2009.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) believes that any reform should be guided by these values:

Universal Accessibility
Equity
Responsible Financing

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) believes that this Bill (as of November 6) reflects these values and will move the U.S. Health Care system a step in the right direction to provide access to quality affordable health care for all. The Senate is preparing to take up its bill as of this writing.

The General Assembly has been clear that Congress must enact comprehensive health care reform that will provide all persons with access to health care services.

Our PC (USA) Stated Clerk has issued a statement on the current health care debate. It is available on the PC (U.S.A) website. (www.pcusa.org)

Cecilia Moran, Justice and Peace
ccmoran@sbcglobal.net

A New Relationship Formed

During a visit with the Rev. Peter Crouch, Vice President of San Francisco Theological Seminary, and Cathy White, President of the SFTS Auxiliary, Lea Lawrence and I expressed the wish that Presbyterian Women had closer ties to the Seminary. I am happy to report that PW of the Synod are now invited to have a representative, with voice and vote, on the SFTS Auxiliary Board. I have been elected to the Board and will try to share information from the Seminary with you and share comments from you with those at the Seminary. At the recent Board meeting plans were being made for the student, staff, and children’s Advent Party and for the Bible Study day for next year. I’ll keep you posted!

Joan Runyeon, Vice Moderator/Historian
joanrunyeon@comcast.net

News from Your Leadership Coordinator

Greetings All! I hope you are enjoying Fall activities and are not too busy with craft fairs and festivals and harvest dinners. It seems that we start our activities with a bang in the Fall and keep going full steam until Christmas. Try not to wear yourselves out.

How are you enjoying the *Joshua* Bible Study? I'd like to hear reactions from you. Another woman and I are doing a Sunday School Class with the *Joshua* study for those who can't attend a circle in our church.

In the Spring Pilgrimage I mentioned that our Synod had sponsored a group in Northern California for the "Sisters Stand and Walk Together" leadership grant program and that they were awarded \$4400 from the Churchwide PW. The goals of this program are:

- To develop the leadership potential of racial ethnic and/or immigrant women so that they may become leaders not only within Presbyterian Women but throughout all levels of the PC(USA). This particular project will begin with a focus on Asian women.
- To develop bridges across cultural divides not only between the majority and minority cultures in the world, but between the various Asian cultures. This project will endeavor to include women (both mentors and protégés) from various Asian cultures.
- To impart hands-on skills development in using effective communication, group dynamics, and in gaining self-confidence. This project will emphasize knowledge of Presbyterian polity, organizational dynamics, and prayer support.

The design team reported to the Synod Coordinating Team at our meeting in October that there will be training for the mentors on April 30 – May 1, 2010 at Mercy Center in Burlingame, CA. To learn more about this program and applications to be participants or mentors, go to lussie1@comcast.net.

We are being encouraged to invite into our groups newly retired women. I picked up some suggestions at the Church-wide Gathering in Louisville this summer of things we might do to attract them. These include:

- Celebrate their retirement!
- Send a card of congratulations with an invitation to your group.
- Invite them to meet other recently retired women at a social.
- Declare a day to express appreciation for all retired women.
- Assure newly retired women they have God given gifts!

Perhaps you can add to this list; if so I would like to hear from you. Good-luck in your efforts to attract these women.

Remember to check out: www.pcusa.org/pw/leadership for help in your groups. Hope to hear from you.

Peace, Joan McCune
mccujoan@isu.edu

Churchwide Coordinating Representative Report

Incorporation: Voting representatives to the Churchwide Business Meeting of Presbyterian Women in July approved articles of incorporation that established PW as a publicly supported integrated auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Incorporation allows PW to establish clear and separate accounting practices and ensure good stewardship of PW funds.

PW has a covenantal relationship with the PC (U.S.A.) that will not change. PW will continue to report at least annually on its financial and general operations to PC (U.S.A.). PW continues to be the single largest contributor of undesignated funds to church mission through the General Assembly Mission Council budget.

Questions have been asked about the use of the terms Coordinating Team and Board of Directors. The Churchwide Coordinating Team will continue to be known as the CCT dealing with program matters. The same group will act as the Board of Directors of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. Officers of the Corporation will include Ann Ferguson, president; Susan Jackson-Dowd, executive vice president; Theresa Slaiman, vice-president/treasurer.

Incorporation at the churchwide level will not affect congregation, synod, or presbytery PW groups. They will not be required to incorporate.

**Mary Lou Williams, Synod Representative
To the Churchwide Coordinating Team
mlwms41@aol.com**

Searching for PW Leaders for Synod Coordinating Team

The 2009-2010 Search Committee for PW in the Synod is seeking nominees for three positions on the Coordinating Team to be installed at the April 16-18, 2010 Synod-wide Gathering. Please be on the "lookout" for capable women to fill the positions of Secretary, Mission Interpretation Coordinator, and Leader Enhancement Coordinator for the 2010-2013 term.

Nomination forms and job descriptions for the three positions will be available soon from PW Presbytery moderators. Deadline for nominations is: January 15, 2010. A slate of nominees will be presented for vote to three "electors" to be named from each PW Presbytery Coordinating Team and the members of the Synod Coordinating Team.

Your Synod Search Committee is:

Myra Lively (Moderator)
19977 US Hwy 30
Buhl, ID 83316
208/ 543-5143
malively@safelink.net

Katharyn Mattson (Boise PWP Moderator)
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Nampa, ID 83686
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Marian Hardin (San Francisco PWP Moderator)
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ANNOUNCING

USA Mission Experience

September 9-16, 2010

Meeting Our Sisters

In South Dakota

A group of Presbyterian women will travel to South Dakota in 2010 for the second USA Mission Experience. They will connect concerns raised by past Global Exchanges with similar issues in South Dakota. Participants will encounter challenges to God's promise of a beloved community and witness to the faithful work being done by our Native American sisters.

The Synod of the Pacific will nominate participants for the USA Mission Experience. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$1,600, plus travel to Sioux Falls and returning from Rapid City, South Dakota. Each participant will be responsible for her own finances. We anticipate Presbyterian Women in the synod, presbytery and congregation will help cover the expenses. Age, mobility, and racial diversity will be considered in the selection process. Those selected will complete the required study in advance, take part fully in all aspects of the trip, including the orientation and debriefing, and will give two years following the experience for interpretation.

Information and Application Forms are available from:

Lea Lawrence, PW Synod Moderator ~~ 408-395-0901 or kentlea@comcast.net
OR

On the PW web site ~~ www.pcusa.org/pw

Deadline: January 15, 2010

Send completed application to Lea Lawrence, PW Synod Moderator, with copy to PW Presbytery moderator.



Synod Representative Report

The Churchwide Coordinating Team met in Louisville, KY, in September. The meeting included sessions on CCT orientation, board training (as the Board of Directors for the Corporation) and funds development.

The **New Immigrant representative** on the Coordinating Team, Jemimah Ngatia, was welcomed to her first meeting. This position was approved at the 2009 Business Meeting at the Gathering.

The **Funds Development Committee** is encouraging all synods and presbyteries to include presentations and workshops on Celebrating Giving and Funds Development at all future Gatherings. CCT also asks that congregations be asked to increase their mission pledge giving by 5% for 2011.

Synods and presbyteries are encouraged to appoint **Celebration Giving** representatives to work with congregational groups to provide resources, conduct workshops, follow up as needed and provide feedback to the Funds Development Group on CCT.

PW now has a presence on YouTube. Visit www.youtube.com and search for Presbyterian Women to view videos of Mary Mikhael, Bible study author; the Churchwide Gathering; PW history; and the PW offerings.

A leadership training event is planned for fall 2010 to encourage women in the congregation and help make PW a more meaningful part of their lives. Guidelines for participant selection are being developed.

The **Creative Ministries Office Committee**, which I chair, decided on two recipients for the 2010 Birthday Offering. The international recipient is a primary school development in Iraq, which will receive \$200,000 to purchase two buildings, one for a primary school and one for an elementary school. The national recipient is Peace Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY, which received \$200,000 to improve their facilities for the expansion of four programs: Kids Café, Project Hope, Family to Family Visitation, and Families in Transition. Watch for more information in an upcoming issue of *Horizons*.

The next **USA Mission Experience** Trip is scheduled for September 8-17, 2010, to visit with our Native American sisters in South Dakota.

The **2011 Global Exchange** will be to India and Thailand.

The **Palm Project has been renamed the Congo Project.** This will allow the project to expand beyond the purchase of trees to include oil presses and renovations to guesthouses on palm plantations.

The **54th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women** will be held February 27 to March 12, 2010. The theme of the event is "Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly." The CCT is hoping the size of our delegation will increase.

**Mary Lou Williams, Synod Representative
Churchwide Coordinating Team**

MISSION! MISSION! MISSION! How do we do it?

The women of our church have always helped others, but as time has gone on these mission efforts stretched further and further. To efficiently organize our mission works, several plans were used in the past. I faintly remember the Sewing Project program and the first time I worked with PWS mission (about 1999), PW had just introduced “Mission Opportunities” as our mission program. Under this, each PWP was assigned their mission projects from a list of those who had contacted PW Churchwide. Each PW Congregation fulfilled those assigned local and overseas projects and also helped with local mission of their own choice. Three years ago another mission program— **Together in Service (TIS)** – was created which leaves all of us with more independent choices for mission efforts.

Where the Mission Opportunities program assigned mission projects, **Together in Service** gives each PW the choice of which projects to become involved in. Before embarking on a mission project, PW in the Congregation are challenged to do the research locally and also to contact the PC(USA) and PW Churchwide for endorsement of non-local projects. And from this research, we make our choices. This can be pretty daunting, to be sure.

And so it is fall, and many PW are re-choosing their mission projects. With the economy as it is, it seems there are more and more ways to do mission locally. You have found, no doubt, that which local mission to choose is fairly easy to know, but that non-local mission is more of a challenge to evaluate.

To check on non-local mission, look for help online for an overview of PW or PC(USA) mission projects in the USA or overseas. Go to www.pcusa.org/pw and click on “Mission Matters.” Under that, you will find four general groupings: Together in Service projects; Global Exchange; USA Mission Experience; PW Offerings. Click on each section and then click on blue highlighted items in the articles there. Each click will bring you a new page and more information about more and more mission projects. You will find many items to download to use in your meetings for information. You can be sure that the projects listed there and under the PC(USA) have been thoroughly researched. You also will find many projects you are not aware of.

Current mission project: The 2010 USA Mission Experience on September 9-16, 2010 in South Dakota is designed for individuals to expand their information about the people of our nation. They will connect concerns raised by past Global Exchanges with similar issues in South Dakota. Participants will: meet Native American women and learn about land development, food, farming, church leadership, health, and social issues; visit reservations, schools, churches, tribal colleges, and historical site; and hear the voices of our sisters and respond, building mutually supportive relationships. Those interested are encouraged to read about the history of Native Americans. A list of recommended books will be found in issues of *Horizons* beginning with January/February 2010.

I have sent applications and information to each of the PWP moderators, mission interpretation coordinators, and those J & P coordinators listed in the PWP directories. The **deadline** for the completed application and recommendations to reach Lea Lawrence is **January 15**. If you need an application, contact any of the above PW leadership or Lea Lawrence or me.

God's blessings on you all as you further your work for God's children.

Katharyn Mattson, Mission Interpretation Coordinator
katharynmattson@msn.com

Treasurer's Report

The Synod Luncheon at the 2009 Churchwide Gathering took place at the Louisville Marriott Hotel with 110 Presbyterian Women in attendance along with two Global guests. It was a great opportunity to "do lunch" with women from every state in our Synod!

The rest of my report will just be the following reminders:

- Thank you to PWP Treasurers for sending in per capita payments. If you have a remaining balance, please try to fulfill that payment before the end of the year.
- Moderators: the 2010 *Blessings without Boundaries* pledge form needs to be completed and sent in very soon by December 1st. Contact me if you have any questions about the form or about the mission pledge.
- The Synodwide Gathering in April will require a travel equalization payment from each PWP. This will cover the cost of travel of the PWP Moderators to the Gathering. We're unable to tell you how much this will be until after all the bills are submitted.

We understand the challenges each PW is facing in maintaining the mission pledge and appreciate all your efforts in interpreting *Blessings without Boundaries* and encouraging your women to do second-mile giving. The dollars you give through the Presbyterian Women's Mission Pledge have a far-reaching impact – your gifts touch, directly or indirectly, every aspect of Presbyterian Women and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Jeanette Huie, Treasurer
jeanette_huie@yahoo.com

Introducing *The PW TRIP Program !*

Presbyterian Women is now offering Transformation in Partnership (TRIP), PW's new travel/study program, which provides opportunities for educational and transformational group travel to Global Exchange sites, USA Mission Experience sites, and other points of interest in 2010.

Russia – May 3-17: Visit Moscow, Smolensk and St. Petersburg
Cost: \$3,750 includes airfare from Detroit. Register by January 15, 2010.

Women of the Reformation – August 31–September 8: Encounter Presbyterian History in Geneva, Switzerland, and southern France. *Cost: \$1500 (airfare not included). Register by May 15, 2010*

Czech Republic, Hungary, Carpath, Ukraine–October 5-21: Follow the same route as the 2008 Global Exchange. *Cost: \$3,250 includes airfare. Register by : June 5, 2010.*

*Information, registration, from Kathy Reeves, PW Program Associate for Mission
888/728-7228 ext. 5402 or Katherine.reeves@pcusa.org.*

Geneva M. Jensen Trust Fund

Geneva M. Jensen was a Presbyterian woman who had a deep interest in the mission needs of our synod. In her will, she established the Geneva M. Jensen Trust Fund. Approximately \$1,500 from the fund alternates yearly between national and overseas mission needs. Grants are awarded annually at the fall meeting of the PW Synod of the Pacific Coordinating Team.

This year, the Coordinating Team is pleased to announce the awarding of the 2009 Geneva M. Jensen Trust Fund grants to the Taybeh Women Development Cooperative—endorsed by Eastern Oregon PW and the Rafiki Foundation—endorsed by the First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah, California. The Taybeh Women’s Development Cooperative is located in the West Bank (designated Palestinian land). It partners with other agencies to provide assistance and service to the elderly poor. The Rafiki Foundation builds and operates orphanages in several African countries. The women of First Presbyterian Church, Ukiah, California participate in a sewing ministry to provide clothing for the children living at the Rafiki Village in Nairobi, Kenya. They have provided pajamas made through their sewing ministry as well as store-purchased items for the children.

In 2010 grants will be for mission projects within the USA. The application deadline is October 1, 2010. Applications must be endorsed by Presbyterian Women in a Congregation or a Presbytery within the Synod. Applicants may use the 2009 forms. Project Proposal Forms are available from:

**Lea Lawrence,
15860 Poppy Lane, #1
Los Gatos, CA 95030
408-395-0901**

Questions may be addressed to Lea at the above address or telephone.

Reminders About Our History

The PW Manual reminds Historians that “The historical report should include names of the coordinating team, reports of gatherings, special program activities, names of women who attend conferences and training events, recognition of women honored during the year, year-end financial statements and brief biographies of deceased members.” These histories are to be sent in January from congregations to PW in the Presbytery, in March from PW in the Presbytery to the Synod historian, and by April 30 from the Synod to PW Churchwide. How are we doing? My hope is that the historians in the Presbyteries in the Synod of the Pacific will be able to share their stories so that we may all learn, enjoy, and be inspired by them.

**Joan Runyeon,
Vice Moderator/Historian
joanrunyeon@comcast.net**

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Pacific Coordinating Team, 2009-2012

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**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
2010 SYNODWIDE GATHERING!**

River of Life: Journeys Into Hope

April 16 – 18, 2010
Best Western Grosvenor Hotel
near the San Francisco Airport

Highlights include
Workshops and Speakers on
Immigration, Human Trafficking, Refugees

2010 Horizons Bible Study on *Revelation*

Mini-Marketplace and Resources

A weekend of study, fellowship,
and relaxation with PW from throughout
the Synod of the Pacific!

REGISTRATION
\$225/person
includes room (double occupancy) and meals

Commuters: \$125/person
includes lunch and dinner on 4/16 & 4/17

Saturday only: \$75/person
includes lunch and dinner

Registration Form will be available in
January 2010
and sent to all PWP Moderators



HORIZONS Price Increase

Now is the time

to renew your subscription

to *Horizons*

Before prices go up.

As of January, 2010,

an annual subscription

to *Horizons* will cost \$24.95.

Two years will be \$44.00

and three years, \$63.00.

Beginning with

Journeys Through Revelation,

the 2010-2011 Bible study,

the study will cost \$8.00 per copy.

A discount will be provided

for 10 or more copies.



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In the Synod of the Pacific
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