

Pilgrimage

February 2010

Lines from Lea ~~ River of Life

It is raining! As I write this, coastal California is being hit by yet another wave of windy gusts and rain. In the midst of downpours and puddles, swollen streams and mushy hillsides, we are reminded by our weather folks that we have still not had enough rainfall to make up for the past dry years. Our western states need more rain and snow to replenish our rivers and reservoirs, and restore our underground water reserves.

Our lives also go through periods of drought and we need opportunities to replenish our dry spirits. The upcoming synod-wide gathering, *River of Life: Journeys Into Hope* on April 16-18, is just the place for Presbyterian Women leaders and all women in the church to become refreshed and renewed. Your Synod Coordinating Team is planning a journey of inspiration, learning experiences and connections with friends...old and new. You're invited to come along.

The gathering keynoter is Sister Marilyn Lacey, Director, Mercy Beyond Borders. She will have just returned from visiting projects with refugees in Africa. She is former Director of Catholic Charities in San Jose and awakened to "a new way of loving" when she was living at Mercy Center in Burlingame and met refugees arriving at San Francisco airport. She has shared this amazing story of encountering and resettling refugees in her recent book *This Flowing Toward Me*. Her journey inspires and invites us to see God's people beyond their refugee status.

Dr. Judy Yates Siker, Vice President and Professor of New Testament at San Francisco Theological Seminary, will introduce the 2010-2011 *Horizons Bible Study, Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today* by Barbara Rossing. When some of us heard Judy give insights into "Sassy Women of the Gospels" at the SFTS Seminary for a Day last May, we knew she was the teacher needed to lead us into *Revelation*, an amazing and often misunderstood book.

Three workshops will present timely journeys and experiences with refugee resettlement, human trafficking of children, and Haiti. It will be hard to choose only two workshops to attend.

There will be opportunities to learn about and purchase resources from Presbyterian Women and Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. The Market Place will offer a variety of goods that benefit non-profit organizations and indigenous craftspeople. We will sing with Kathryn Baker and Mildred Hall, hear stories from the moderators of our 11 presbyteries, install new leaders to the Synod CT and worship with joy.

Come and join me. Let's gather at the *River of Life* and replenish our spirits and restore our hope.

Lea Lawrence
Moderator, PW in the Synod of the Pacific



Justice and Peace Thoughts

Health Care

Last fall I shared with you information about the "Affordable Healthy Care for America Act" [H.R. 3961] which narrowly passed the House on Saturday, November 6, 2009. Congress made significant progress in formulating and passing bills in the House and Senate that will improve the health of our people and of our economy. But Congress is at a critical juncture in deciding whether and how to move ahead in reconciling these bills. As the Washington Office of our denomination, shares—Inaction at this critical moment is no way forward:

- Without reform, tens of thousands will continue to die needlessly each year for lack of access to care.
 - Without reform, tens of millions will remain uninsured and without adequate access to a full range of services.
 - Without reform, health costs will continue to grow much faster than wages.
 - Without reform, many millions of hard-working people and their children will join the ranks of the uninsured and underinsured.
 - Without reform, businesses, staggered by increasing employee health costs, will either drop coverage or will be unable to make needed investments.
- Without reform, the nation's economy – and its ability to create jobs – will suffer.

People of faith envision a society where every person is afforded health, wholeness and human dignity. **Contact your representatives in the House and Senate and urge them to act with political courage, vision, leadership and faith to move meaningful health care reform forward.** Sample letters/messages are available on pcusa.org/Washington

Haiti

I am sure most of you are aware of the generosity of fellow Presbyterians to the needs of Haiti after the earthquake. We immediately sent funds and continue to do so. Presbyterians have sent \$209,000 to Haiti; the Presbyterian Disaster Program has committed itself to send \$500,000. It has also facilitated individuals and congregations to prepare "Gift of the Heart" hygiene kits and baby kits. Presbyterians have sent 1,125 baby kits, 10,595 hygiene kits and 500 light-weight blankets. More are expected on February 2, 2010. This mission project can be done throughout the year.

Our church is calling for a comprehensive response to Haiti's earthquake. It is calling on the Obama administration to take 3 specific steps: (1) Provide massive assistance for relief and reconstruction in the form of grants, not loans; (2) Cancel the rest of Haiti's debt; and (3) Provide temporary protective status for Haitians living in the U.S. The faith community is calling on the U.S. to end the deportation of Haitian immigrants, release those currently held in detention centers pending deportation and grant temporary protected status for the 30,000 Haitians currently under threat of deportation.

(The main source of this article is the Washington Office—the voice of Presbyterian public policy. The e-mail address is: www.pcusa.org/washington.)

Cecilia Moran
Justice and Peace Coordinator

News from Your Leadership Coordinator

Greetings All! Hope you all are planning to attend the 2010 Synodwide Gathering on April 16 – 18, 2010 in San Francisco. The theme, *River of Life: Journeys Into Hope* provides for exciting speakers and workshops with titles of: Mercy Beyond Borders, Refugee Resettlement, Haiti – A Personal Journey, and Human Trafficking of Children. Do try to work this into your schedule this Spring. Bring along a friend.

The National Leadership Enhancement committee encourages us to be sure we are keeping our membership informed of activities planned, decisions made and events coming up. They have suggested some ways we can do this:

- Have a PW bulletin board where it is easily seen.
- Work with the Mission/Outreach Committee in your church to share projects.
- Be sure each edition of your church newsletter has an article about PW.
- Use your Presbytery website for PW articles.
- Teach your women how to use the Presbytery and National websites.
- Talk about projects and events with your members.

The Leadership Development Grant guidelines have been revised and application forms are now available. Beginning on January 1, 2010, individuals and groups are eligible to receive grants only once within each four years. Applicants must submit a completed Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax identification form with their application form. Form W-9 for groups in the U.S. are available at www.irs.gov. Guidelines and application forms are available on the PW web site, www.pcusa.org/pw or from your PWP moderator. The newly revised forms are dated 12/18/09. Be sure to use only these forms. Good luck in your applications.

How are your Joshua bible studies going? Hope you are well into them by now. Are you growing from your studies? We have in Joshua a great example of a good leader who communicated with his people. We can learn from him.

Would your group like to field test the 2011-2012 Horizons study on the Beatitudes? Now is your chance. As field testers, your PW group (circle, Sunday school class, small group) will read the first draft and record your thoughts, reactions and suggestions on evaluation forms which will be used by the author and PW staff to make the study as useful as possible to us. Apply for applications online at www.pcusa.org/horizons or from Ashley Meyer, 888/728-7228, ext. 5366 or ashley.meyer@pcusa.org. I would like to hear how your studies are going or if you become field testers.

Peace to you all, Joan McCune
mccujoan@isu.edu

A Reminder

Geneva M. Jensen Trust Fund grants in 2010 will be for projects within the USA. Application deadline is October 1, 2010. Applications must be endorsed by Presbyterian Women in a Congregation or a Presbytery within the Synod. Proposal forms are available from Lee Lawrence, 15860 Poppy Lane, #1, Los Gatos, CA 95030, 408-395-0901.

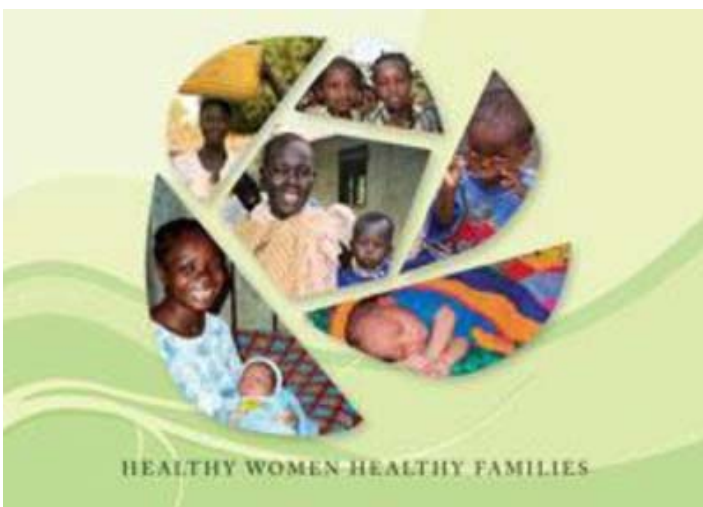
Contact Lee if you have questions.

April 16-18 Synodwide Gathering Important Meeting for Mission Coordinators

You have received your brochure describing the workshops of the Synodwide Gathering. I hope each Mission Coordinator is planning to attend. The workshops (Refugee Resettlement, Haiti, and Human Trafficking of Children) will be extremely useful in your work in your presbytery.

Networkers Program Update

Mother's Day Project expanded to 'Healthy Women Healthy Families'



Thanks to Presbyterians' faithful and generous participation, the annual NetWorkers Mother's Day Project is being expanded to support a variety of health projects in Africa, in addition to malaria prevention. Now called "**Healthy Women Healthy Families**" the new Mother's Day Project will help PC(USA) church partners support programs that protect and restore the health of women and children in their communities. These will include prenatal care, fistula surgery, cervical cancer screening and health education for women, and nutritional rehabilitation, immunizations, health screening and primary care for children. Malaria prevention and treatment will be supported through the Healthy Women Healthy Families Mother's Day Project. As it has since 2001, the Mother's Day Project will make unique Mother's Day cards available in exchange for donations. The Mother's Day Project previously supported only malaria prevention activities, through the Networkers Malaria Prevention Program. Now, the NetWorkers Program will be one of a range of health projects supported by donations to the Healthy Women Healthy Families Mother's Day Project. Find full information at www.pcusa.org/health/international/mothersday.htm

Katharyn Mattson
Mission Interpretation Coordinator
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Be inspired . . .

Get motivated . . .

Share with others



Reserve the weekend of April 16th for the fabulous PW Synodwide Gathering!

The 2010 Synodwide Gathering will provide a weekend filled with knowledgeable speakers, meeting other Presbyterian Women, joyful singing, and resources to use in your local PW groups. While it's nice to stay overnight at the Grosvenor Hotel, those of us who live in the Bay Area get the option of commuting to the Gathering and saving some money. We should take advantage of this option! The registration deadline is April 1st – please see the attached registration form for more details.

The keynote speaker is Marilyn Lacey, a Sister of Mercy. She radiates the conviction that in being with the poor we meet God face-to-face. Her passion is for working with refugees, which she cites as the greatest source of blessings in her life. For nearly 30 years she has worked with refugees-- in Southeast Asian and African refugee camps and in communities here in California, to make this world a more welcoming place for persons forced to leave their homelands because of war or persecution. For many years she directed programs for refugees and immigrants, including the resettlement of the Lost Boys of Sudan, at Catholic Charities in San Jose. Marilyn was personally honored by the Dalai Lama in 2001 as an "Unsung Hero of Compassion."

She holds a master's degree in social work from UC Berkeley, but says that the refugees are her real teachers. Marilyn currently directs the nonprofit she founded in 2008: *Mercy Beyond Borders*, which partners with displaced women and children overseas to alleviate their extreme poverty. Her experiences of meeting God in her encounters with refugees are described in her 2009 memoir, *THIS FLOWING TOWARD ME: A Story of God Arriving in Strangers*.

The 2010 *Horizons* Bible Study on the book of Revelation will be introduced by Dr. Judy Yates Siker, Professor of New Testament at the SF Theological Seminary. Workshop leaders include Elsa Amboy and Melissa Kreisa, who are serving as Refugee Advocates for the San Jose Presbytery; Barbara Wander, a retired educator who volunteers and supports an order of Catholic nuns and their operation of 42 mission sites in Haiti (Barbara was working in Haiti when the January earthquake hit); and Brenda Hepler, a retired flight attendant who is tirelessly working on issues related to child prostitution, pornography and trafficking. If you attended the Churchwide Gathering last year, you may have seen the "TassaTag", a luggage tag designed by Barbara that supports the work of ECPAT-USA, an organization working to eradicate trafficking and sex slavery of children.

Join us and be inspired, get motivated, and share with others! (Also bring your checkbook to purchase some wonderful handmade items, books to read, or free-trade coffee, tea and chocolate)

Jeanette Huie, PWS Treasurer

Churchwide Coordinating Representative Report February 2010

The Churchwide Coordinating Team will have its spring meeting March 8-14, 2010, in Louisville. At that time we will have a farewell party for those ending their service this year.

Creative Ministries Offering Committee will meet February 28-March 1 to select the Thank Offering recipients. We have 80 plus applications to read before the meeting.

The Congo Palm Project was a huge success. Presbyterian Women gave more than \$80,000 to purchase palm plants. The first plantations will soon produce palm nuts. The nuts will be pressed to produce cooking oil for the women in the Democratic Republic of Congo to sell locally. Further contributions to the Congo Palm Development Project will go toward the purchase of palm oil presses, bicycles to transport the oil, and consultants to advise the women as they establish their businesses.

The Roma Development Project began in 2009. In the first phase of the project, contributions will be used to purchase school supplies for Roma schoolchildren. The second phase will include financial assistance for establishment of a microenterprise for Roma women, providing them with an income-generating occupation and a source of hope for themselves and their families.

Right over the horizon is the 54th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York City. The theme 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." Participants, including many Presbyterian Women, will meet in New York City beginning February 27. The event goes through March 12.

Encourage your churches to participate in "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" Sunday, March 7, 2010. A liturgy for use in a service of worship and suggestions for activities are in the November/December 2009 issue of *Horizons* magazine. The resource also can be downloaded at www.pcusa.org/allwomen.

Final plans are being made and applications have been accepted for the USA Mission Experience "Meeting Our Sisters in South Dakota" September 9-16, 2010. Be prepared to support with finances and prayer the representative chosen from our Synod.

2010 PW TRIP application/registrations are now available through ABC Sign-up. You can email Kathy Reeves (katharine.reeves@pcusa.org) for more information and the link to ABC Sign-up. TRIP opportunities available in 2010 are Russia, May 3-7; Switzerland and France/ Women of the Reformation, August 31-September 8; Czech Republic, Hungary and Carpath, Ukraine, October 5-21.

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

Celebrating a New Volunteer

With pleasure, we announce a new volunteer to forward your *PILGRIMAGE* issues to you. Eunice Brabec has stepped forward to provide this valuable e-mail and postal service for us. Eunice is currently First Vice-Moderator of San Francisco's PWP, and may be reached at: a57graduate@astound.net.

We thank two other *PILGRIMAGE* volunteers: Alice Thorn, who continues as editor, and Marian Hardin, who has been your Pilgrimage contact for the past five years.

Celebrating the Gifts of Women

Some members of congregations have argued that a "Gifts of Women" Sunday is now an anachronism, that women are so integrated into the life and leadership of the church community that they no longer need to be singled out in this way. But this Sunday is still a good way to remember the complex history of women in leadership in the church, as well as the struggles of women around the world for equality of opportunity and economic stability. The official day of this celebration, March 7, 2010, is the day before International Women's Day, March 8.

Horizons Magazine, November/December 2009, contains a special section on Gifts of Women Sunday, "Keeping the Message Alive." There is a sermon and worship suggestions, as well as a service outline and prayers. Finally, there are program suggestions and resources.

Because the Women's Sunday date falls within the season of Lent, some congregations choose to celebrate on another date.

EPCAT Receives Help from The Body Shop

The ongoing global economic crisis could have far-reaching social effects for children worldwide. As large numbers of people face financial hardship, the risk of trafficking children for sexual purposes increases.

To address these concerns in North America, beauty retailer The Body Shop USA, and ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) USA, along with the Somaly Mam Foundation, are joining hands to raise awareness and resources. A purchase of Body Shop's Soft Hands/Kind Heart Hand cream includes a donation of a percentage of each purchase to ECPAT. The hand cream can also be purchased online at www.thebodyshop-usa.com/prod1029823.

ECPAT says, "We are grateful to companies like the Body Shop for recognizing the importance of protecting children from sexual exploitation and for supporting our efforts."

Another way to help is to purchase a Tassatag and for luggage. Tassatags are bright, heavy, hand-woven cotton luggage tags that help travelers spot their luggage more easily, and that help reclaim children's lives. www.tassatag.org.

Travelers should use a company that has signed the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.

Treasurer's Report
PW of Synod of the Pacific
Income and Expense Report
January 1 – December 31, 2009

Income	
Synod Support	6,716.30
Synod Luncheon at CWG	2,750.00
Synod of the Pacific (Geneva Jensen)	2,500.00
Donation	500.00
CT Offering	150.00
Grant – Sisters Stand & Walk Together	4,400.00
Total Income	17,016.30
Expense	
Global Exchange	1,049.07
Geneva Jensen Fund	2,500.00
Newsletter	143.99
Meeting Expenses (CT Fall 2009)	2,205.87
SFTS Auxiliary	150.00
Synod Badges for CWG	130.50
Synod Luncheon at CWG	2,899.25
SSWT 2009 Spring Meeting (deposit)	443.75
Treasurer Expense	24.80
Moderator Expense	81.80
Total Expense	9,629.03
<u>Net Income</u>	<u>7,387.27</u>

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2009

ASSETS	
Checking/Savings	
PW of the Synod of the Pacific	15,145.07
Total Checking/Savings	15,145.07
TOTAL ASSETS	15,145.07
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	7,757.80
Net Income	7,387.27
Total Equity	15,145.07
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>15,145.07</u>
Restricted Funds	
Global Exchange	850.32
U.S. Mission Project	1,705.00
Racial Ethnic Dialogue	939.43
Sisters Stand & Walk Together	3,956.25
Total Restricted Funds	<u>7,451.00</u>
Unrestricted Funds	<u>7,694.07</u>

Jeanette Huie
Treasurer

Historian Alert

Here is a quiz! The title is a hint. What do sections 3-7, 4-3, 5-4, 6-6, and 8-5 of the Presbyterian Women Manual have in common? Can you guess without looking them up?

Those are the sections that outline the duties of the historian at each level of the PW structure: Congregational, Presbytery, Synod, and Churchwide. The task of the Historian is to celebrate and preserve the stories of the wonderful work that PW does. The stories of nurturing our faith, supporting mission, working for justice and peace, and building the caring community, are the stories that we should share with one another and save for those who come after us. This is the time of year that we gather those stories and share them, not only in our local groups, but by sending a report to others. This is a reminder that I should receive the information from the Presbytery Historians by March 31 (earlier is OK), so that I can prepare a report to send to Churchwide and to present at the Gathering of the Synod PW in April. Moderators, please remind your historians (or secretaries). If you have questions, please contact me.

Joan Runyeon
Vice Moderator/Historian
joanrunyeon@comcast.net
415-453-1063

PS: There is no prize for getting the answer to the quiz correctly, except for the satisfaction of being so smart!!

2010 Birthday Offering

A church-run kindergarten and childcare center in Iraq, and a project to serve at-risk families in Kentucky will be the recipients of the Birthday Offering sponsored by Presbyterian Women. The two projects were chosen by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee in September 2009. It was a daunting task to choose two from more than 30 deserving applicants.

The Iraq kindergarten and childcare center provides education to children of all faiths, teaching basic skills and Christian principles in a loving Christian environment. It provides instruction in general knowledge, health, art and music. Approximately 90 percent of the students come from Muslim families and requests for enrollment far exceed the school's present capacity of 150 children. The Birthday Offering grant will enable the church to purchase properties for expansion into the primary grades.

R.I.S.E. (Reach—Improve—Strengthen—Empower) is sponsored by Peace Presbyterian Church, Louisville, Kentucky, and provides services to children, youth, adults and families in the community identified as at risk or in need of support during a transitional stage of their lives. Kids' Café, provides healthy food, and will expand to serve additional children and youth. The facility will also expand an after-school program for at-risk children in predominantly single-parent families. Project Hope, provides food for the homeless, and Alcohol and Narcotics Anonymous provides counseling services. A Family –to-Family Visitation Program provides a safe setting where foster children can maintain or reestablish relationship with a non-custodial parent. Family in Transition helps with needs arising from divorce.

The 2009 Offering did not meet its challenge goal. You are encouraged to promote the Birthday Offering to meet the current challenge goal of \$900,000. See *Horizons*, January/February.

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

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2010—2011 Bible Study: Journeys through Revelation

Perhaps no book in the Bible has more varied interpretations than the book of Revelation. Because of its symbolic writing, and the emphasis by interpreters on the end times of history, it has been widely popularized. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, the mark of the beast, numbers like 666, Armageddon—all have entered the imaginations of people.

Barbara Rossing, author of the study, is professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Chicago, where she has taught since 1994. She is author of *The Rapture Exposed: the Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation*, which explores and explains the sources of the theology underlying the *Left Behind* series of books.

Writing in the Workshop for Leaders, Joyce MacKichan Walker describes Rossing's study of Revelation "as a book of hope-filled vision." Participants in the study will be introduced to the circumstances of the writing of the book, something about the identity of the John of Patmos named as the writer, the meaning of apocalyptic writing, and of prophecy, the purpose of the book, the meanings of the vivid images which fill it.

The author says that "This book was written to be read out loud, in public, at a church service, or with other Christians," and strongly encourages study groups to do just that. "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it." (Revelation 1:3)

Horizons Bible study day at San Francisco Theological Seminary will be September 11. Barbara Rossing will be the leader.

UN Commission on the Status of Women

Lea Lawrence, PW in the Synod moderator, will attend the 54th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, to be held February 27 to March 12 in New York City. Lea also attended the 53rd session in 2009. PW's purpose in encouraging attendance is to extend the inclusive and caring community of women, to obtain information and perspectives on the needs of women, to have another ecumenical encounter and opportunity.

The 2010 UNCSW will hold a 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. As part of efforts to increase its focus on national-level implementation, the Commission will return to this theme in two or three years' time.

Wikipedia describes the Beijing Declaration in these terms: The overriding message . . . was that the issues addressed in the Platform for Action are global and universal. Deeply entrenched attitudes and practices perpetuate [inequality](#) and [discrimination](#) against women, in public and private life, in all parts of the world. Accordingly, implementation requires changes in values, attitudes, practices and priorities at all levels. The Conference signaled a clear commitment to international norms and standards of [equality between men and women](#); that measures to protect and promote the human rights of women and girl-children as an integral part of universal human rights must underlie all action; and that institutions at all levels must be reoriented to expedite implementation. Governments and the UN agreed to promote the "[gender mainstreaming](#)" in policies and programmes. . . . If implemented, the Platform for Action will enhance the social, economic and political empowerment of women, improve their health and their access to relevant education and promote their [reproductive rights](#).

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