
Presbyterian Women's Communicator

PW in Albany Presbytery

Jo-Ann Baccari Moderator

February 2012

Helenmarie Sunkenberg, Editor



Moderator's Message ...

Hi All,

Another Christmas has come and gone, followed by a New Year filled with new expectations. My first year as Moderator of Presbyterian Women of the Albany Presbytery has been informative. Besides learning my Moderator duties and being a Communication Coordinator for the Northern Region 2, I found myself the editor of the Program/ Directory and also chair for our upcoming Spring Gathering.

To further my education as a Moderator and Presbyterian leader, I attended the PW Synod of the NE Leadership Training Workshop at Stony Point Conference Center last October. I found the workshop most enlightening and stimulating. I hope to visit different Presbyterian Churches during this year, and use the tools I have learned from this Leadership Workshop on creating an interest in forming new PW groups or revitalizing former ones.

In my travels, it seems as if I keep hearing the same thing over and over again that it's hard to attract new PW leaders on both the Congregational and Presbytery levels. To help remedy this, the coordinating team has planned PW meetings and gatherings on Saturdays. Hopefully this will make it more convenience for the women who work on weekdays to attend or participate as a new member of the PW of Albany Presbytery. It's a small start, but it's still a start.

Our next coordinating team meeting will be on March 10, 2012, at the New England Congregation Church in Saratoga Springs. One of our topics will be finalizing our Spring Gathering plans at Caldwell Presbyterian Church in Lake George on April 28. This year we welcome a new member to our coordinating team, Hannah Hunter, from Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church.

On a personal note I have become aware that being an effective leader is a challenge. All of a sudden it's not enough just to know my faith. As a leader I must be able to communicate it with others and keep in mind that I am serving God knowing that God is right there to help me along with my ministry. I hope you all have a Blessed New Year.

Blessings and Peace

Moderator Jo-Ann Baccari, 792-0937

**Leadership Development Workshop of the PW Synod of the
Northeast
October 28-29, 2011**

Corrine Wiley 792-5339

As the new PW Synod historian I attended this workshop carrying a box of Presbyterian Women pictures. Unfortunately many of the pictures lacked proper identification as to person, date, and/or event. With the help of everyone in attendance, many of these pictures are now identified. In fact, the workshop ice breaker consisted of using the pictures to bring back fond memories and stimulate conversation. I ask everyone who saves their PW pictures to remember to include identity information on the back. PW Synod Moderator and former Albany PW Moderator, Charlotte Hasselbarth, welcomed us followed by a worship service led by Gail Banks, Lighthouse Coordinator. Our own Ardelle Stewart was installed into the Coordinating Team as PW Synod Churchwide representative. Virginia Champlin, former Churchwide Representative, discussed "River of Hope", the Churchwide Gathering in Orlando, Florida, July 18-20, 2012. Again a reminder to all those who attend, if you take pictures, please fully identify them! Jo-Ann Baccari gave the Benediction.

Jo-Ann Baccari with Corrine Wiley

Both Joanne and Corrine furthered their leadership knowledge from Maxine Hunter's workshop involving the Condition/Intervention exercise that could be used to solve a small or large situation. It is a simple visual tool that can be used to identify or assess a particular condition, for example: How do we minister to immigrants in our Synod. Through discussion and using these tools to solve a situation, an intervention to solve a situation can be put in place and a solution can be realized. After the solution was put into place for awhile you can then assess the situation on whether the intervention is working out or not.

This tool assists PW's strategic objective organizations with a "simple, flexible, and dynamic structure" that can be used to solve a small or a large change. Of course little did we know that on the way home we would run into a major snow and ice storm, and we would be using this learned tool on our 8-9 hr. drive home. Thank God we had our fearless leader Charlotte Hasselbarth at the wheel, and Jo-Ann and Corinne pushing her along to a solution to our problem. We arrived home safe and sound.

Albany PW Operating Fund

Many thanks to the Congregational Presbyterian Women's (PWC) groups who have given so generously to the operating fund for the work of your coordinating team (CT) in the Presbytery of Albany. were new contributors which ceased to exist. their giving for 2011



Mayfield and Community Chapel of Glens Falls this year offsetting the loss from groups Hamilton Union and Roessleville increased helping to achieve an increase of \$81.25 over

2010 and only \$8.75 less than 2009. There have been twelve groups making contributions for each of the last three years. Those for 2011 were Amsterdam, Bethany Menands, Community Chapel, Greenwich United, Hamilton Union, Hudson Falls, Mayfield, New Scotland, Northville, Roessleville, Schenectady Union, and Valatie. With the expense this year of sending voting delegates to the Churchwide Gathering, your continuing support is needed and very much appreciated.

Rosalie Hemingway, Operating Fund Treasurer 758-7886

Mayfield Central Presbyterian Church

Since the fire at the Mayfield Central Presbyterian Church we have been holding our services at the Mayfield High School and meetings and events are being held in homes and other churches and buildings in the community. Our Food Pantry has been relocated to a nearby building and is again serving our community. The building has been demolished now and an architect has been hired to work with us planning our new building. We have had some very interesting ideas presented, but we still want a country type church that will fit into the neighborhood and look like it belongs there.

Christine Dahl 518-661-5800

Justice and Peace

I was surprised to see on TV my friend's face among those who were in Albany during the 99% ers rally last December. He, a Presbyterian, was someone who publicly lived his Reformed faith which can call for civic engagement in the form of protest to bring about economic justice from our elected officials and others in powerful places.

The Synod of the NE passed a resolution "*Economic Justice in These Troubled Times*" last October which puts into words what we as Presbyterian Women might consider acting on.

Be it resolved that the Synod of the Northeast condemns personal and corporate greed as a moral sin, and expresses its concern for the numerous individuals and families affected by our very troubled economy.



And furthermore, that the Synod of the Northeast proclaims:

- We stand with and advocate for those who have lost their homes, lost their jobs, lost their health insurance benefits, and who have lost basic services in their communities including quality public education and vital public infrastructure.*
- We are concerned by political discussions related to reducing budgetary expenditures for critical safety net programs such as social security, Medicare, Medicaid and community services block grants that support Head Start, WIC, WAP and other services for our poorest citizens.*
- We urge policy makers to pursue policies that meet human needs and support the public good, not the benefit of the most powerful.*
- We decry a moral climate that condones unbridled greed as a necessary ingredient in our economic system.*
- We uphold the religious and spiritual value of participation that those most affected by decisions be present and involved at the table where decisions are made.*

The complete resolution may be read by referring to Albany Presbytery PW web page.
Helenmarie Sunkenberg 499-1238

Sexual exploitation at Sporting Events

Did you know that the number one destination for criminals exploiting young girls is...large sporting events, and the Super Bowl is the largest one? Governor Mitch Daniels of Indiana is encouraging the Indiana General Assembly to take action on anti-trafficking legislation. Major sporting events around the world encourage increased sex trafficking, including the exploitation of young girls late in the game. The Indiana State legislature has the goal of preventing human trafficking in sight, but not much time to move the ball. With the Super Bowl in Indianapolis approaching on February 6, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels has said it is critical the state pass tough anti-trafficking legislation in the brief window before the NFL championship game. An effective law enforcement game plan is necessary to prevent and prosecute the wave of sex trafficking that accompanies the Super Bowl.

It is estimated that between 10,000-15,000 prostitutes were working during the Super Bowl activities last year in Dallas and two years ago in Miami.

Of the global surge in trafficking in persons for forced labor, sex, or criminal enterprise, at least 100,000 children are trafficked into the U.S. each year. Many more, especially at-risk youth, are trafficked from state to state. Indiana is a state where trafficking has been a problem. In May 2011, Indianapolis authorities helped break up a multistate prostitution ring that smuggled women into the United States from Mexico and Central America. Arrested ringleaders were charged with interstate conspiracy and prostitution, but like other states, Indiana lacks tough legal parameters specifically designed to prosecute and deter human trafficking.

To learn more about human trafficking, find PC(USA) resources, and take other actions, visit <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/human-trafficking/>

Coming Events

***Ecumenical Advocacy Days
March 23-26, 2012 Washington, DC
Presbyterian Women's Scholarship Available until Jan. 30***

Is This the Fast I Seek? (Isaiah 58) is the theme for the 10th Annual [Ecumenical Advocacy Days](#) Friday, March 23 through Monday, March 26, 2012 in Washington, DC.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days will explore Economy, Livelihood and Our National Priorities. In this era of economic and political urgency, as critical decisions are being made about U.S. federal budget priorities and as national elections are fast approaching, join other Christian disciples in seeking a global economy



and a national budget that breaks the yokes of injustice, poverty, hunger, and unemployment - heeding Isaiah's call to become "repairers of the breach and restorers of streets to live in." Experts will offer a faith-based version for a just economy and training on key U.S. policy issues and grassroots advocacy, culminating on Monday with lobby visits on Capitol Hill. You can learn more about EAD and register online at www.advocacydays.org.

This year, Presbyterian Women is sponsoring 8 scholarships of \$180 each (the cost of early bird registration). For a scholarship application, please email Lois Bingham at ljbingham@gmail.com. Scholarship applications must be received via email by **January 30, 2012** to be considered. Preference will be given to first-time attendees and with hopes to build age, racial/ethnic, geographic, and experiential diversity.

If you are already planning to attend EAD this year, please let us know. Send a note to Lois telling us you'll be there. We're working on finding a time for Presbyterian Women to connect over the weekend.

PWP Spring Gathering, April 28, 2012

The Rev. Tom Parsons and his wife JoEllen will share their Haitian mission experiences, Saturday, April 28. Schedule and Directions are in separate emails. We will be raffling off 2 baskets, one for gardening and one for chocolates. Jo-Ann has already shopped and hopes that this will "stir the basket" for us. Bring your items to the March meeting or give them to someone will be attending in March. Flyers sent in separate email

Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women July 18-22, 2012 Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center Orlando, FL

See the PW Synod Web site for the complete program and almost every detail about which you can think of asking...

Roger Roy Global Travel Alliance, the agency mentioned in the Gathering booklet, has done some research finding fares around \$350 RT,- the earlier a reservation is made, the better: Arrive Orlando in the afternoon and Depart Orlando in the afternoon or evening RT fares for the following airports are:

JFK-\$325 EWR-\$302 BOS-\$279 ALB-\$334 SYR-\$319 -

There is a \$25 fee to use this agency

If you can donate airplane points or award tickets contact Helenmarie 499-1238

Spring Retreat at New Jersey Shore

A time alone will be hosted by St. Joseph by the Sea, Fri, May 4-Sun May 6, 2012. This is a non-programmatic time by the Atlantic Ocean in your private room with shared bath between two rooms. You are a few steps from the ocean. There will be times of Silence. If interested contact Helenmarie at 518-499-1238. The total cost is \$205.Meals included.

Great Predictions by some of the Experts

"We don't like their sound and guitar music is on the way out."
Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible."
Lord Kelvin, president, Royal Society, 1895.

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."
Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943.

"I have traveled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year."
The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957

"But what is it good for?"
Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division I IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip

"Drill for Oil? You mean drill into the ground to try and find oil? You're crazy!"
Drillers who Edwin Drake tried to enlist in his project to drill for oil in 1859.

Albany Presbyterian Women, go for the impossible!

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