
Presbyterian Women's Communicator

PW in Albany Presbytery

Gloria Ghirarduzzi, Moderator

February 2011

Helenmarie Sunkenberg, Editor



TAKIN' IT TO THE CONGREGATIONS

In September Charlotte Hasselbarth attended the 2010 Leadership Training event called *Takin' it to the Congregations* planned by the Leadership Enhancement Committee of the Churchwide PW Coordinating Team. 100 women from all over the country came to the Gaylord Palms Hotel and Convention Center, future site of the 2012 Churchwide Gathering. PW Churchwide has made many efforts to streamline the organization in order to meet the needs of women today. It has been identified that much of what is discussed doesn't reach the PW Circles in our congregations. The workshops that Charlotte attended built on the case for change by participative learning activities to stimulate this change. The women now are left with the task of how to bring what they learned to the congregational level. In Feb. the eight women from the Synod of the Northeast who attended the program will talk about their next step.

PW IN THE PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY COORDINATING TEAM

Following through on the case for change needed to bring PW into the future, the Coordinating Team is looking for new people to be on the Search Committee, Gathering Planning Committee or simply join the team as a member at large with no specific duties. Contact Lois Morehouse at lmore58@live.com or 480-4560.

CHURCHWIDE MISSION FUND VERSUS LOCAL OPERATING FUND CONTRIBUTIONS A plea for more money for Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany

Since taking over as the Operating Fund Treasurer for Presbyterian Women (PW) in the Presbytery of Albany in April of 2010 Rosalie Hemmingway became aware of how little money is sent by local PW groups to support the work of the PW Coordinating Team in the Presbytery of Albany compared to what is sent for the work of PW in the Presbyterian church (U.S.A.) hereafter referred to as Churchwide mission. She thinks some of this stems from a lack of understanding of how the money is used.

All money sent by local groups for PW mission is sent on to the Churchwide treasurer. Although the money is labeled as "mission", **only 54% goes to what we consider mission outreach** and the remaining **46% is used for management/general expenses, program, and leadership training. Local PW groups in Albany Presbytery sent \$9335 in 2009 and \$8745 in 2010 for Churchwide mission** (this does not include the Birthday, Thank, Least Coin, Hunger Fund, or Honorary Memberships whose totals almost matched the mission giving).

By contrast, local PW groups sent **only \$565 in 2009 and \$365 in 2010 to carry on the work of your Coordinating Team in the Presbytery of Albany.** Many may not know that the **PW Synod of the Northeast receives its funding from the Presbytery PW groups** with a

suggested giving rate of 3% of the Churchwide PW mission giving. We currently send \$300 each year, which is less than the requested 3%, plus \$10 toward the seminarian exam. This means that **in 2010 we were left with only \$55 of the total contributions** plus the \$210 from the Spring and Fall Gathering registration fees to cover our expenses. Albany PW managed to stay in the black by reducing the PW Albany Communicator from three to two a year and compacting the annual yearbook/directory information to reduce the number of pages. Much of the printing expense was donated and coordinating team members paid the postage to send literature to their district churches. All publications were sent by email as much as possible to save postage. Other yearly expenses are printing announcements and programs for the Spring and Fall Gatherings (paper and printing donated in 2010), honorariums to speakers at the Spring and Fall Gatherings and the cost of sending voting representatives to Synod and Churchwide business meetings. We will have these expenses of approximately \$340 in 2011 and \$440 in 2012.

In order to meet our financial obligations, **we would respectfully ask each local PW group to consider contributing to the Operating Fund of PW in Albany Presbytery or increasing your support. Even an additional ten dollars from each group would be a big help in meeting our expenses.** For more details on the work of your Coordinating Team see the article on the front page of the August 2010 PW Communicator. If you are one of the loyal groups that has sent contributions in the past, **keep in mind that you are also supporting the work of the Synod of the Northeast and consider resuming or increasing your support.**



Contributions to the PW Operating Fund may be sent to Rosalie Hemingway, 3213 Church Street, Valatie, NY 12184. All mission fund contributions continue to go to Carol Henderson, 188 Pitcher Road, Queensbury, NY 12804.

2010 FALL GATHERING

Albany Presbyterian Women gathered October 2, 2010 at the Chapel House on the State University of N.Y. Campus. Rev. Sandy Damhof, Chaplain of the Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry, celebrated communion. She gave a history of this ecumenical campus ministry. An overview of her program included traveling to Stanton's Farm, where the students picked the left over crops, to be donated to the *Capital City Rescue Mission*. The apples they picked resulted in the making of 12 apple pies for *The Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless Shelter*. They plan to participate in the *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* walk and to help set up an emergency homeless shelter at a local church.



Their most exciting mission will be their annual trip to New Orleans. Rev. Damhof showed a video of previous trips to help the victims of hurricane Katrina. In 2010, the students worked mainly on 2 houses: repairing floors, doing finishing work, and cleaning up outside. The 2011 trip will include cleaning up parks, doing programs for the nursing home residents, and fixing houses. Four of the students who accompanied Rev. Damhof to New Orleans in 2010 described the kind of repairs they did on a couple of houses, and outside clean up projects. The students answered our many questions. Lunch followed the program.

Forty dollars of the Gathering offering of \$75 was given to the Chapel House's new program "Faith Journey" and the remaining \$35 funded Albany PW Scholarship Fund for their Synod Events. Registration amounted to \$85 and Hunger Fund, \$8.68.

Jo-Ann Baccari, Chair of the Gathering Planning Committee

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Hamilton Union

Over 200 mittens, hats and scarves were collected during Advent for the City Missions in Albany and Schenectady and the Guilderland Food Pantry. We also adopted a family at the New Faith Family Center for Christmas. \$200 was sent to each of the following: Church World Service for the *kit* program; the Global Exchange program; Interfaith Homeless Shelter in Albany; Guilderland Food Pantry; Malawi *bicycle ambulance*; Freedom Bound Ministries for their program to assist women going from Incarceration back into society. Some of these donations were made possible through the sale of our "Just Desserts" cookbook. Trudy Hutchinson is our new PW Moderator.
Vi McKaig, Moderator



Valatie

Valatie PW worked with the *Warm Up America* pot-luck supper group, where their handmade items were given to organizations as diverse as the Capital District Rescue Mission and the Hudson Day Care. Each group described their mission telling how the mittens, gloves, blankets, etc. had been appreciated.

The entire congregation participated in the Birthday Offering. A heart formed from cupcakes with a candle in the center was placed in front of the altar to represent the giving. At coffee hour everyone was given a cupcake to enjoy and remember the work done through the PW Churchwide Birthday Offering.

The PW members and other women of the congregation did the entire service on Gifts of Women Sunday, the second Sunday in March. All the women in our church were welcome to join with PW to present a joyful Sunday morning worship service with mothers, babies, tweens and teens participating.
Ardelle Stewart

Northville

A Birthday Salad Supper was held to celebrate the Birthday Offering. There were skits and singing, plus a birthday cake for dessert.

THE 2011 GLOBAL EXCHANGE TO INDIA

The Synod of the Northeast Global Exchange representative will be Lucy Janjigian from the Presbytery of the Palisades. The last 3 representatives from PW in the Synod of the Northeast have spoken at PW in the Presbytery of Albany Gatherings. The 2011 Global Exchange trip is to India. The cost for each representative is expected to cost about \$5000. If your PW or you as an individual would like to make a contribution to the Global Exchange make out the check to PW in the Synod of the Northeast, with Global Exchange in the memo line.



Send your checks to the PW in the Synod of the Northeast Treasurer, Sharon Hsu, 907 Cranbury Cross Rd., North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

PW FAB 5 PRESBYTERY PARTNERSHIP GROUP GATHERING

The first Fab 5 PW Presbytery Partnership Group Gathering met Sat. Aug.7, at the White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton, NY. Both workshop leaders were from the Presbytery of Albany. The theme was *Gathering at the River* based on Revelation 22: 1-7. Keynote speaker, Rev. Pat Raube, Pastor of Union Presbyterian Church in Endicott, NY, offered an alternative interpretation to

the Revelation passage through music, stories and poetry entitled "From the Garden to the City: Revelation of Hope."

Rev. Sandy Damhof, leader from the Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry, SUNYA, spoke on reaching today's young adult population, emphasizing the differences from the way previous generations, thought, communicated and looked at being part of a faith community. Lynn Hasselbarth led a workshop entitled "Building Bridges out of Poverty". Lynn discussed our understandings and misunderstandings of poverty, at the local, national and international level. She focused on poverty and human rights in Huánuco, Peru where she was a Young Adult Volunteer for PSCUA and the inner-city poverty she experienced in her position in the City Mission of Schenectady. The day ended with a moving waterfront Communion Service. Six women from PW in the Presbytery of Albany attended. Anticipate another such Gathering in 2013.

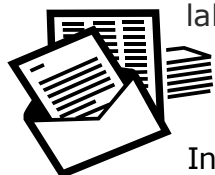
PW PROGRAM BOOK

It is time again to update the PW Program Book and send in your church information. Please send me the name, address, phone number and e-mail address of your PW Moderator or contact person. If you would include the term of office for your moderator and when you change officers in your e-mail or note I would appreciate it.

Toni Masaitis, 120 Elmer Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12308 chachatoni@aol.com

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S COMMUNICATOR COORDINATOR NEEDED ***Come be part of this creative process!***

We have an excellent team of women working on our newsletter. Almost all the specific tasks are covered. There is someone to create newsletter, proof read it, buy the stamps, photocopy the hardcopy, maintain the postal mailing list, collate the hard copy, and apply stamps and address labels on the hard copy to send out. The only tasks not covered are printing out the address labels, sending it to the Presbytery office and to PWSNE to go on the respective web sites and sending it to the email group plus maintaining the email list. Someone is needed to oversee the process.



In addition to or as a separate task we are looking for a volunteer to maintain the PW in the Presbytery of Albany email group and send out the PW Communicator twice a year to the group, plus email it to the Presbytery office and to PW in the Synod of the Northeast to go on the respective web sites. At times there will be other notices that go out. If you are interested in this ministry, contact Charlotte Hasselbarth at 356-0637 or chasselbarth@hotmail.com

PEACE AND JUSTICE

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

Come to the Ecumenical Advocacy Days to explore **Development, Security & Justice: What's Gender Got to Do with It?** Join faith-based advocates from across the U.S. in Washington D.C. March 25-28, 2011 to be inspired and equipped to speak boldly on behalf of people-centered sustainable development and economic justice, physical safety, security and peacemaking, with a **focus on those most impacted – women, girls, and families**. Experts will train participants on policy issues and advocacy, culminating on Monday with lobby visits on Capital Hill. Conference fee: \$160, after Feb. 19, \$175. Contact Helenmarie 499-1238 or www.AdvocacyDays.org .

MAKE A STAND FOR DEMOCRACY. Join Move to Amend: <http://movetoamend.org>

Years ago Kenneth Bailey, who immersed himself in the Middle East culture and theology, gave a retreat for Albany Presbytery. He said to me privately over breakfast that the Middle East situation will never be solved as long as AIPAC (American Israel Political Action Committee) is funding our politicians. If a politician goes against what Israel is currently doing, immediately they will heavily finance the opposition.

While attempts have been made over the years for campaign finance reform the climax of this abuse came to a head with the Supreme Court decision last January in Citizens United v. FEC (Federal Election Commission) which equates a corporation with a person. Our democracy will survive only if free speech and other constitutional rights are for people, not corporations. The greatest political reform of our time will be to abolish the legal concept of "the corporate person" and the anti-democratic concept and connection of money with political power.

Bill Moyers, an investigative broadcast journalist, public official, and Baptist minister, recently has founded a grassroots movement to encourage and empower Americans to push back against corporate power and political corruption. "This means pushing back against an activist U.S. Supreme Court that has given corporations carte blanche to warp not just our politics but our republic itself. To allow corporations to spend without limitation or accountability is to influence elections as happened last year. Secret corporate and billionaire donors exerted influence over election 2010. Members of congress know now that if they oppose corporate interests they risk facing a barrage of attack in the next election, 2012."



It is for these reasons that you are asked to fight for a 28th amendment to the constitution:

Move to Amend states:

We, the People of the United States of America, reject the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United*, and move to amend our Constitution to:

- Firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights.
- Guarantee the right to vote and to participate, and to have our vote and participation count.
- Protect local communities, their economies, and democracies against illegitimate "preemption" actions by global, national, and state governments.

NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo in his January inaugural address announced **support for a NYS public funding system** with small donor matching funds similar to New York City's which would dramatically reduce candidates' dependence on special interest donors and lobbyists' political contributions. "Public funding would also begin to reduce the public's cynicism about elected officials since the public will know they are only accountable primarily to the voters- and not to special interests and donors. With public funding, elections are not just about raising money, but more about a candidate's ability and policy positions."

"The framers of our nation never imagined what could happen if big government, big publishing, and big broadcasters ever saw eye to eye in putting the public's need for news second to their own interests — and to the ideology of market economics. The greatest moments in the history of the press came not when journalists made common cause with the state but when they stood fearlessly independent of it." Bill Moyers

Helenmarie Sunkenberg, 499-1238

Our next issue of the Communicator will arrive early August with a deadline for submissions Friday, July 15, 2011. Send submissions to Helenmarie Sunkenberg, Box 164, Huletts Landing, NY 12841, Nozyrev@Verizon.net

MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

- **Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, February 27**
The 2011 theme is: Beautiful Women Who Do Beautiful Things
- **Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace and Justice, March 25-28, 2011**
- **Spring Gathering and Annual Meeting Saturday, April 16, 2011**
- **Triennial Gathering - July 22-24, 2011 - The Desmond - Albany**
- **Churchwide Gathering - July 2012 - Gaylord Palms - Orlando, FL**

See pwsne.org and albanypresbytery.org for more information

Flyers for Spring Gathering and Triennial Gathering are attached in this email.