

# Presbyterian Women of the National Capital Presbytery Moderator's Annual Report April 25, 2014

In June PW/NCP attended the Synod Summer Gathering in Massanetta. I believe we had close to 25 of us and met briefly in Knox so we could put faces to the names we hear throughout the year.

In June, I attended a circle meeting in Arlington, VA. The horizon lesson 9 was the topic of discussion. Many of the ladies shared stories of places they had traveled. Our hostess was an artist, so there were many wonderful paintings lining the study area. We closed with the study leader accompanying us on the flute as we sang the circles traditional year-end hymn.



In August, I visited Christ Memorial Church in Fairfax, VA for Sunday Worship and PW Birthday Celebration. Mary-Ellen Absetz made a beautiful cake for the occasion, "Happy Birthday, PW" was written on the cake. There were no leftovers.

During the worship service PW presented a skit that shared their experiences on the Church's mission trips to Guatemala and with PDA to New York to assist with Hurricane Sandy relief (yes, they are still cleaning up from Hurricane Sandy).



We held our August 27, 2014 coordinating team meeting at Berwyn Presbyterian Church in Berwyn Heights, MD, our site for our Fall Gathering. It was decided that we need to transition the Treasurer's duties to our Assistant Treasurer now instead of next April. We are currently in the process of doing so.

In September, I visited Northwood Presbyterian Church in Silver Spring, MD. It was a celebration of the beginning of the church year service. The service was quite moving, all of your senses were stimulated during the service, sight, sound, touch, as a renewal of our baptism.

At the end of September, Berwyn Presbyterian Women hosted our Fall Gathering. Our theme for the day was Food Justice. We packed 10,217 meals as part of the gathering. We also provided leadership training, bible study helps, and a workshop entitled "All Roads Lead to Food Justice" as alternatives, since the meal packing event could only hold 35 at a time and we had 68 in attendance. We concluded the Fall Gathering with our Keynote speaker Ashley representing So Others Might Eat, also known as S.O.M.E. S.O.M.E. works in the District of Columbia and provides housing, food, counseling, health care and other services to the District's homeless. Ashley led us in an exercise where we had to budget our income for a week. Each group was provided a scenario with a certain income and had to get through the week, there was a hitch however, Ashley came around again with unexpected events that altered our budget, or "blew it out of the water" as one group put it.

I also had the privilege to be an invited guest at the October 3, State Assembly of Church Women United in Greater Washington. It was also held at Berwyn Presbyterian Church and hosted by Berwyn Presbyterian Women (happens to also be my home church). We provided breakfast and lunch. As always, it was an enjoyable event. The Keynote speaker was Dr. Gladys Gary Vaughn. She told us that Church Women United is a sentinel for social and economic justice. A sentinel is someone who guards, vigilance, watches closely, bringing news both good and bad. Each of us is a sentinel, justice for families, children and communities. However, we need to move out of our comfort zones and engage more people to work with us. Look for the warnings in blogs, news reports, courts, sound the alarm for what is coming. The world has gone through many changes over the 70 years of CWU. Of recent, there is an increase in prejudices and violence, work toward social justice for all. We must garner new members to carry-on the work, casting bread upon the waters.

Churchwomen United President for the Mid-Atlantic States also had a question for the PW ladies in Delaware, CWU is looking for representation from Delaware, please contact me if you are interested.

Our annual retreat will be held November 1, 2014. We will solidify our plans for our January 31, 2015 Prayer Breakfast and April 25, 2015 Annual Meeting/Spring Gathering. Our theme for next year may be "Connections" as we look to enhancing our relationship at the Synod and Churchwide levels.

I attended the Synod CT meeting at Massanetta held October 10 & 11 at Massanetta Springs. Did you know Laura and Fred Holbrook will be leaving Massanetta next year?

Synod CT will be looking to fill the following positions, Secretary, Moderator of Search Committee (incumbent is Rachel Messman), and Church wide Representative (PW/NCP filled this position 2009-2011, Margaret Anderson). Theme for 2015 is "Living Water", Bible Study leader will be the author for 2015-2016 Study. Mission Project is "Free the Girls". Early registration is \$288, regular registration \$310, and late registration \$335.

2015 Churchwide news, Dates June 18-21, 2015, Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis. Business Meeting will begin at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, June 17 and conclude at 5:00 pm on Thursday, June 18. We will likely have 2 voting reps, 1 will be one of our Co-Moderators, the other could be our other Co-Moderator or another woman voted on by the CT. CCT pays for the Hotel and PWP pays for the Registration (and Travel?) for voting Reps.

Anita Gutschick, the Women of the Bible dramatist, will present during a plenary and lead a workshop. Three pre-dinner book Club opportunities will be offered, one each on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Three pre-dinner get-togethers will be offered to discuss finances, legal issues, and General Assembly issues.

There will be a silent auction with the proceeds designated to benefit the Mission Pledge. PWCs, PWPs, and PWSs are asked to donate a new item with a value of \$25.00 for the silent auction.

First Daily Horizon's will be available online. Daily Horizon's will be printed on Friday and Saturday only. Anyone who registers by March 20 will have an opportunity to purchase a tote bag and will receive a pin at the gathering.

Ads are available for purchase in the program for \$250/ full page, \$75 ½ page, and \$100/ quarter page. Registration fee is \$395/person.

Friday evening dinner (provided in cost of registration) will be a dress up occasion, with a theme “Celebrate Community”! Westminster Presbyterian Church (across the street from the hotel) will offer continental breakfast each morning and lunch on Friday for nominal fee; \$8.00 for Breakfast and \$12.00 for lunch. Presbyteries may arrange for a special meal to be held at Westminster PC on their own, funds will not go through PW Treasurer.

There will be no scholarships for the churchwide gathering available from Churchwide CT. The Synod voted to offer 2 \$400.00 scholarships (see me for application, must be endorsed by the PWP Moderator). PWP has \$1000.00 available for Scholarships next year.

Synod also has 2 \$500.00 scholarships available each year for the next three years to attend the UN Commission on Women. Again, see me for form and endorsement.

A few ideas from Churchwide. To involve homebound PW members, create a Prayer Team, homebound members praying for various PW Missions, members, and initiatives. Young women are looking at the call “Every woman is a Presbyterian Woman as a draft call. Create new inventive ways to involve younger women, find the leader and ask them to help with the technology/communication on social media (even if you are technology savvy).

Blessings,

Peggy Sisson  
Moderator, Presbyterian Women of the National Capital Presbytery