



Presbyterian Women In the New York City Presbytery Newsletter



Presbyterian Women in the New York City Presbytery

Fall Issue 2009

Recap of Churchwide Gathering “God Will do Wonders Among You” by Alpha Brown

What an awesome God we serve! He allowed women from all over the world to travel to Louisville, Kentucky July 11 -15, 2009 to the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women (PW). It was the time to nurture our faith and to be in a community with women from across the country and around the world. It was the time to learn about mission opportunities, justice and peace, to participate in Bible studies and to learn leadership skills. It was the time to share our faith in prayer and songs and to have fun! It was also the time to enjoy and explore Louisville. The theme of the Gathering was “God Will Do Wonders Among You” according to Joshua 3:5. “Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you”. This theme was demonstrated throughout the gathering.

God has done, is doing and will do wonders by embracing, celebrating and discovering new ways in which PW can become more active in missions. Presbyterian Women have always been involved in missions by sharing, nurturing and healing. Since



1875, Presbyterian Women have support missionaries in the field. At the gathering, we watched as men and women kept this legacy alive by committing themselves to help others in all parts of the world by going out in the field. These men and women along with their children were commissioned to go out to serve. PW is helping to rebuild New Orleans by encouraging women to get involve.

There were mission opportunities for youth ages 13 through 18. The youth mission ministry reached out to those in need in the Louisville community to people who were homeless, elderly, disabled and children at risk. We also learned about the progress that is finally being made against human trafficking and immigration laws and how we can lend a hand. Presbyterian Women have and will continue to make large contributions to various projects all over the world.

God did wonders as we experience His word through music and songs, as we listened to approximately 3,000 women singing in harmony, bringing joy and movement to the plenary sessions each day. The

Cont'd on pg. 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Recap CWG
Pgs.1,3

Thought On
Hope
Pg.2

Women of Faith
Pg 2

News From the
Churches pg. 2

Let's Talk About
Hats
Pg. 4

Immigration and
The Law
Pg. 4

Recap of the Churchwide Gathering News by Shirley Fine

The four-day triennial Churchwide Gathering (CWG) of Presbyterian Women, entitled **God Will Do Wonders Among You**, was awesome. At the Business Meeting, we updated the by-laws and voted unanimously to Incorporate.

At the CWG a wide variety of workshops, forums and plenary sessions were offered including a bookstore, and an exhibit hall, which had many Presbyterian resources, and of course, The Great Room was amazing.

With over two thousands women singing hymns, old and new, it was a wonderful way to start each plenary. Each plenary session focused on a different theme such as: Wonder of Community, Wonder of Creation, Wonder of Mission, Wonder of Hope,

Wonder of Grace, Wonder of Discipleship and Celebration of Wonder

In addition, two plenary sessions presented a play in two parts, **Puah's Midwife Crisis**, reflecting the courage of Puah and Shiprah who meddled and talked to Pharaoh so that Hebrew babies might live.

Also, we now have five sisters from the PW Synod of the Northeast serving on the 2009 - 2013 Churchwide Coordinating Team.

The Synod of the Northeast hosted a delicious luncheon. Although time was not allotted for speaking at the luncheon, however, many of our international sisters were eager to speak and share. Therefore, we relinquish our photo session for the individual presbyteries.



THOUGHT ON HOPE—Jaxie Julian

With all that is going on in our world today we need to focus our thoughts on hope and anything positive to keep ourselves alive and well! It is so easy to get on a downward spiral of “ain’t it awful” and wring our hands in despair! But hope will keep us going.

HOPE is defined as:

*A powerful, spiritual force activated through a positive attitude.

*Anticipation of good things....not *hoping* sets up a negative lifestyle.

*Researchers report *hope* is essential to aging well and performing well, healthier, and happier.

*Hope sustains our intimate bonds; gives life purpose and meaning.

*Hope is about a vision of the Kingdom of God---masters of hope are the mystics not the theologians!

H Hold fast to God’s Word, turning to God where all Hope resides; Make a list of Hope scriptures for yourself as daily spirit lifters; The book of Hope in the Bible is the Psalms)

O Others (lean on others for support)

P Persevere.... A hopeful attitude expects the best; is prepared for the worst and is flexible to take what comes. Hold fast to what you know to be true...DON’T GIVE UP!!!

E Energy.....replace negative energy for positive energy in thoughts and actions. Tapping into the deep reservoirs of religious faith re-focuses energy and offers HOPE.

“HOPE IS THE ABILITY TO BELIEVE THAT GOOD

WOMEN OF FAITH IN NYCP

The Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of New York City plan to honor **Women of Faith** that represent the ethnic and culture diversity in our presbytery. Each church in the presbytery of New York City is invited to submit one name, a biography, and a picture of a woman of faith from its congregation. From these nominees we will choose several women of faith to be honored at the luncheon.

Look at the women in your church, is there someone who has ministered in an exceptionally tireless and faithful way? Is there someone who, by her own witness, has been inspirational, has made a difference in the lives within your congregation, in her home, and/or in her community? Is there an unsung heroine who is not in the limelight but who labors faithfully behind the scenes for her Lord? Do you know someone who exemplifies the spirit of the Presbyterian Women Purpose?

The “Women of Faith Celebration will be held on March 20, 2010. Please save the date.

Send nomination letter to the Women of Faith Committee before January 10, 2010. **Mail to:**

Shirley Fine
134-17 166th Place, #3A
Jamaica, NY 11434-3828

News From The Churches

Rendall Presbyterian Church will celebrate their 90th anniversary on November 15, 2009. The Reverend Spencer Gibbs will preach the 11:00 am service and The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes will preach the 3:00 pm service. Join Rendall for a Spirit filled day. For further information call or e-mail Dorothy Washington (201)827-8015 or by e-mail dot-tiecub@aol.com

Join St. Augustine on Sunday, October 18, 2009 in celebrating Women’s day. The theme is “Changes, Changes, Are You Ready?” This celebration will take place during the 11:00 am service.

On Saturday, October 3, 2009 Dunton Presbyterian Church presented their annual “Women in White—Celebrating Women of the Bible”. This was a glorious occasion to celebrate the great heritage and legacy of biblical women.

This event was a time for women in different communities to come together to share their interpretation of women in the bible. If you have not join the women in Dunton, make sure you are present next year. It is a wonderful learningful experience.

Cont'd from pg. 1 Recap of Churchwide Gathering "God will Do Wonders Among Us" by Alpha

music director Tracy Keenan and Dave Powers were exciting to watch as they demonstrated movement of each song. We listened to various speakers who brought a message each day sharing their interpretation of Joshua in worship service. The Rev. Margaret Aymer encouraged us to become *meddling* and search for justice. The Rev. Cynthia Rigby reminded us that talking back is needed and can be helpful rather than complaining or gossiping. The musical production of *Puah's Midwife Crisis* was amazing and brought the courage of Puah and Shiprah meddling and talking back to the Pharaoh so that Hebrew babies might live came alive on stage. God calls us to gratefully offer our talents and service in a new way that will strengthen His body.

God's Grace in community - we rejoiced by listening to our sisters all over the world telling their stories and learning new ways to understand life through the eyes of another. We also had the chance to meet women from all of the United States and we embraced each other as sisters. We look forward to the future in faith and hope that we all

live together in peace all over the world as one family in our diversity and versatility.

God's wonder in business - we came together in a meeting to vote to be incorporated so that we will have the ability to move forward in a new vision. All of the committee reports were received and acted upon, the budget was passed for the next 31 months and we voted to have a fiscal year not a calendar year. The election of new officers to the Churchwide Coordinating Team was voted in and PW covenant with the whole church is still in existence.

"Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you". The title God Will do Wonders comes from the promise given to the Israelites in Joshua 3:5, as they are about to enter the Promised Land. Presbyterian Women are entering a new promise land with new ideas, new visions and new ways of thinking.

What an awesome God we serve!

More Recap of the Churchwide Gathering by Magdalene Lewis

Riding in the taxi from the airport to the hotel my thoughts were, I have missed the beginning of the Gathering. By the time I checked in the hotel picked up my registration packet and met old acquaintances from previous CWG. That feeling had faded away.

The great room was overwhelming with all the exhibits, entertainment, and resources when I first entered. But as the time went by I settled in. I found abundance of resources and ideas to share with my Presbytery and congregation.

My leadership skills were enhanced by the different workshops I attended. Just to name one, (Together in Service). We shared Mission ideas that we were during in our congregation. Including the projects that were on exhibit in the Great Room. International and U.S.A Mission ideas. Also the fact that the quilt pieces that we brought to the Gathering were being used to make quilts for (Bellwood) an agency that change lives and building futures for one youth at a time.

My spirit was uplifted through the plenary. Especially by Nancy Benson-Nicol. She explored the Wonder of Grace with paints and paint brush in her hand. She painted with a palette of warm colors throughout her message. Nancy explained, "God calls us to smudge our finger prints all over the sanctification process as we prepare to experience the wonders God has in store for us.



Dates to Remember

October 2009

- 10/17 PW Fall Gathering
- 10/18 St. Augustine—Women's Day
- 10/24 Presbytery Day

November 2009

- 11/5 Fifth Avenue Christmas Bazaar
- 11/7-8 SYNOD PWP Moderator's Training
- 11/15 Rendall's Celebrating 90th Anniv.
- 11/25 UN Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women

December 2009

- 12/10 Human Rights Day

March 2010

- 3/5 CWU Word Day of Prayer
- 3/12-17 UN Status of Women
- 3/20 Mid-Winter Gathering
- Celebration of Women—*God Did Wonders*
- 3/27 Presbytery Meeting

May 15, 2010

- Spring Gathering

October 2, 2010

- PPG Fall Gathering—Holmes, NY

If you have not returned your pledge commitment form please do so as soon as possible to: Grace Haas, 85-29 89th Street, Woodhaven, New York, 11421—(718) 849-9005



When writing checks for pledges, please make them payable to Presbyterian Women Presbytery of NYC

If you have a story or news from your church please send to publisher: Alpha Brown at aobrown44@msn.com or call (718) 949-0402 - Editor Sally Howard

We are on the web: newyorkcity presbytery site and pwpnyc.ning

Immigration and the Law

If you are faced with limited opportunities, what would you do? Having no way to provide for your family, traveling to other countries to search for work or health care have been done for centuries. These immigrants travel a long danger journey to the United States, most coming from Mexico and Central America looking for an opportunity to earn a fair wage for a day's work. So, their families and love ones can have food and a decent place to live. We called them "illegal's" and forget they are men and women sometimes children.

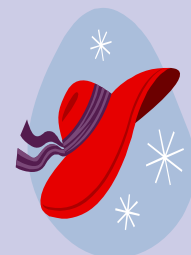
In their pursuit approximately 400 men, women and children die every year crossing the desert to enter the U.S. They enter this country and are faced with laws that are complex and American employers and consumers say they are welcome. The Presbyterian Church (USA), has issued a call for "a commitment from both Presbyterians and the government to work toward welcoming immigrants into our communities and providing just laws that affect those who live and work in the United States.


"I was a stranger and you made me welcome" (Matthew 25:35)

Let's talk about hats! By Alpha Brown

Most of you know that women during the 50's were a sight to see. I remember my mother wearing her favorite hat to church. It was a big purple hat with pink flowers around the brim. Not only did she wear that hat to match her purple dress and her purple gloves, she had an attitude to go along with the hat. She wore her hat pull to the left side and all her girlfriends made comments. She would politely say, thank you, my sister. My mother says wearing a hat encourages the woman you want to be. It means to have a graceful strutted with your hip swaying, your shoulders in place and knowing whom you are. Wearing a hat means you go – girl.

Let's talk about hats today! The young women today have an attitude but not the stride or the gracefulness in wearing their hats. Today, young woman wearing a hat means a bad hair day. I have seen young women going to church and going to important events wearing any kind of hat depending on their attitude of the day. The women of the 50's chitchat about the young women in this generations and their hats and how they do not continue a tradition that our grandmothers bestowed on us. So young ladies bring back the hats and the gracefulness and the positive attitude that goes with wearing a hat.





The Women's Association of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
7 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019 212-247-0490 wassoc@fapc.org
presents

JOY OF CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Christmas Collectibles

Handmade Gifts
Gourmet Holiday Food & Nuts
Collectible Treasures & Silver
Artwork, Stationery, & Frames
Linens & Collectible Dolls

Women's Boutique
Men's Boutique
Jewelry
Handbags & Scarves
\$1.00-\$5.00 Booth

Friday, November 6, 2009

10 am - 5 pm

Saturday, November 7, 2009

10 am - 4 pm

7 West 55th Street at Fifth Avenue
Church House - Lower Level

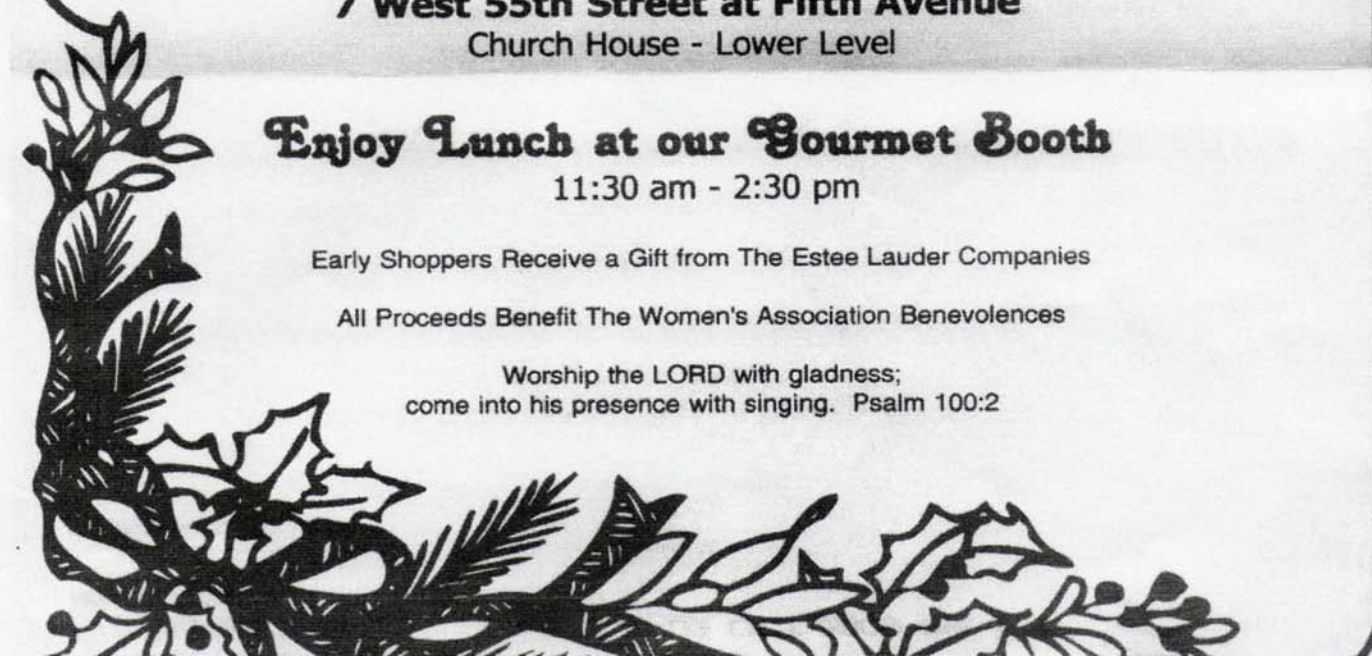
Enjoy Lunch at our Gourmet Booth

11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Early Shoppers Receive a Gift from The Estee Lauder Companies

All Proceeds Benefit The Women's Association Benevolences

Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing. Psalm 100:2



Alpha Brown
PWP of New York City
255-39 147th Drive
Rosedale, NY 11422



Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5

!



Thought Questions

HEALTH TIPS - CUT THE SALT!

Read labels and compare the amount of sodium in different brands.

When eating out ask for your meal to be prepared without salt.

Shop for fresh food such as fruit, vegetables and nuts

Create your own salt-free seasonings

Try not to use salt substitute

Most people should only have 1,500 mg or sodium per day.