

NEWSPAPER FOR WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY OF CHICAGO



FROM OUR MODERATOR.

FALL 2009

Voting Representative Report 2009 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

I would like to thank the Presbyterian Women of Chicago for selecting us as Voting Representatives (Ruby, Karen and Tracy) to the Churchwide Gathering. In addition to her VR responsibilities, Tracy took lots of pictures everywhere. Karen drove five people to Louisville Saturday. It was truly our pleasure to serve our Presbytery. I must say, "This was one of the best Churchwide Gatherings I have attended".

History is made at the 2009 Churchwide Gathering

Presbyterian Women approved incorporation, elected its first Hispanic Latin American moderator, celebrated more than 200 years as an organization, added a seat to the CCT and said goodbye to Louisville, Kentucky, as the site of the Churchwide Gathering of PW.

Chicago Connections. . . .The new CCT includes members from the Presbyterian Women of Chicago: Eda Nunez, Synod Representative of Lincoln Trails, and Yvonne Moore, Search Committee member.

Our global exchange guest Hana Slavickova of the Czech Republic, spoke at the business meeting on behalf of the women as Global Partners to the Czech Republic.

Ann Beran Jones, past vice-moderator 1997-2000 triennium was honored in celebration of 20 years service during the plenary session.

PW of Chicago gave gift cards and a quilt square at the July 2009 Gathering. I brought a quilt patch representing our presbytery to the Bellwood Presbyterian Homes for Children. PW donated the gift cards to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Synod Luncheon . . .Gathering attendees from Chicago (28) attended Synod of Lincoln Trails Luncheon in the Convention Center. The luncheon was well attended by over 100 SOLT members, and 20 PWoC wore their Chicago T. Shirts. Nadine Hill, a voting representative from Indiana, offered a reflection on the Gathering Theme verse, "God will do wonders among you". Each Presbytery created a gift basket centerpiece. Twelve names were drawn to receive a gift basket. I took a big beautiful basket home.

Finally, I was inspired by wonderful music, drama, and speakers at the plenary sessions. There is so much to tell you that it can be overwhelming. Learn more at our Fall Gathering at Ravenswood Presbyterian.

Ruby Brown

Moderator, Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Chicago

PW Chicago Calendar 2009-10

October 10, 2009

12:00 Noon
Church Women United
95th Anniversary
Celebration

October 24, 2009

Fall Gathering
Changing the World~
One Woman at a Time
Ravenswood Pres. Church

October 31, 2009

Synod of Lincoln Trails
Rantoul

February 13, 2010

PWPoC CT Meeting
Presbytery Office
9:00 a.m.

March 5, 2010

World Day of Prayer
Let Everything that has Breath
Praise God

April 25, 2010

Spring Gathering
Where Do Our Mission
Dollars Go?
First Presbyterian Church
Deerfield

GOD DID WONDERS! CHURCHWIDE GATHERING ~ JULY 2009

More than 2,500 Presbyterian women (and a few men) attended Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, July 11-15. Exploring the theme "God will do wonders among you," participants enjoyed fellowship with sisters in faith from around the world. A highlight of the Gathering was the synod luncheon. Tables were adorned with gift baskets prepared by the prebyteries. PW's worked, learned, and worshipped together in Louisville. Hear more about this at our Fall Gathering.



Left to right-Front Row :Eda Nunez, Rev. Magdalena Garcia, Betsy Hennessy, Becky Glasscock, Claudia & Jolina Hernandez.
Standing
Mary Gomez, Ruby Brown, Mary Ann Ballard, Patricia Eisenhart, Unknown, Karen Scouten, Louise Howe, Tracy Cargo, Leslie Mallory, Ann Beran Jones, Yvonne Moore, Ozie Johnson, Jan Niemeyer

GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTERFAITH LISTENING PROJECT VISITS CHICAGO AREA

Presbytery Joins with the Council for Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Tuesday, October 27th, 9:30 – 11:30 am, Presbyterian Church of Western Springs

Two guests from Beirut, Lebanon, will participate.

DR. MARY MIKHAEL has been the President of the Near East School of Theology since 1994, the first woman seminary president in the Middle East. She is involved in ecumenical and interfaith activities around the world and a noted authority on the Church in the Middle East and the role of women in it.

Of particular interest to Presbyterian Women is her authorship of the Horizons Bible Study for 2009-2010 on Joshua.

DR. MUHAMMAD SAMMAK is a noted scholar, author, columnist, counselor to the Mufti of Lebanon and the Prime Minister. As the General-Secretary of the Christian-Muslim Committee for Dialogue and the Islamic Spiritual Summit of Lebanon, he was a participant in the 2007 open letter to Christian leaders around the world entitled "A Common Word between Us and You", an invitation to cooperation as a step toward peace.

Discussion will allow for questions about the PW study on Joshua as well.

Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis is Pastor of Western Springs Church

Ruby Brown is the Moderator of Presbytery PW

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WESTERN SPRINGS

5250 Wolf Road, Western Springs (708-246-5220)

*** Dr. Mikhael and Dr. Sammak will also be speaking at other locations in the Presbytery. One event is Sunday morning, October 25th at First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton.**

Global Exchange: From the Czech Republic to Chicago

Six Chicago PW's hosted two participants from the 2008 Global Exchange program, Judith Lovejoy and Hana Slavickova. Judy is our synod



Willa Brown, Karen Scouten, Hana Slavickova, Judy Lovejoy, Eda Nunez, and Ruby Brown visit the Chicago Presbytery.

Global Exchange Partner from Indianapolis, Indiana, who visited eastern Europe last year as part of the program. Hana is from the Czech Republic. They arrived on Monday, July 6th, to participate in a Presbytery of Chicago orientation. On Tuesday, local Presbyterian Women accompanied the visitors on a Chicago Architectural tour and to a luncheon at the Presbytery Office. Judy and Hana shared their experiences and knowledge of Eastern Europe. Hana expressed her deep gratitude to PW for her Chicago experience. As Judy presented her host, Ruby Brown, with a scarf, she explained the theme of the Exchange, "Joined and

Knitted Together in Love". She explained that the scarves had been knitted by the sisters in Christ all over the United States. Hana presented gifts from the Czech Republic, a scarf and post cards from Prague. One of the goals of the Global Exchange program to allow ourselves to be transformed by these partnership experiences. Learning from Hana and Judy helped to achieve that.

Important Treasurer Information

Please send your contributions payable to "PW PoC" (with a memo on how they are to be distributed), to the Treasurer of PW in the PoC:

Merrilly Nicolazzi
1105 Wadsworth Place
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
Phone Number: 847/367-0487

She will then send your contributions as you have directed.

In order for the contributions to be listed in the current year, they must be received by Dec. 15th!

Please be sure to allow six weeks when ordering Honorary Life Memberships (**\$95.00 each for the Silver Pin**) from our PoC Treasurer. This will give sufficient time to receive the pin and certificate for the presentation date. A gold pin is also available for \$250.

Communications Information

We are working to update our data base. If you have had a change of leadership in your women's group, please email me the new address. My email is arxsam@ameritech.net You could also send me a note by U.S. Mail. Send all correspondence to:

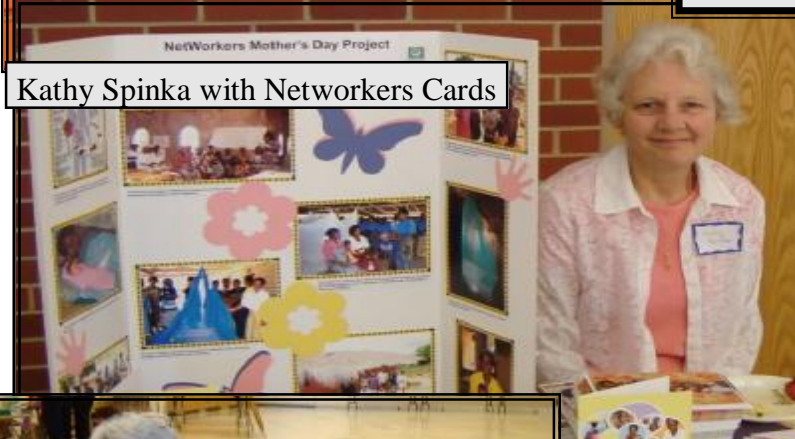
Nina Koelpin 622 W. Wesley Wheaton IL 60187 Phone 630-690-5174

Wheaton PWs welcome PW visitors.



Spring Gathering Wheaton April 25th

Kathy Spinka with Networkers Cards



Seventh BE-attitude of Jesus:
"Peacemakers will be called
the children of God."
(Matthew 5:9).

TRANSLATED TODAY AS

"You're blessed if you're...
Working for peace."

SUGGESTED PRAYER PRACTICE:

Pray the Prayer for a New Earth, letting
the Spirit guide you in sharing the olive
branch to promote God's Kingdom.

Ann Beran Jones and Elaine Werth



Left to Right: Rev. Katie Dooley, Ruby Brown, Rev. Barbara Peter, Nina Koelpin,
Rev. Lolly Dominski, Tracy Cargo, and Alberta Kimbrough



Spring Gathering April 25, 2009
"Rekindle the gift of God that is within you. ." (2 Tim 1:6-7)

Presbyterian Women rekindled relationships and our spirits in Wheaton on April 25th. Thank you to the Wheaton PW's for their warm hospitality.

Becoming Spiritually Receptive to God
"The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things." (John 14:26)

The Rev. Barbara Peter opened our 'teachable hearts' as she taught us what it means to be spiritually receptive to God. Using music and posters, she reminded us of what the scriptures say about the spirit. We learned about the nature of God as spirit, our reformed spirituality, being a spiritual person (I Corinthians 2:13-15) and entering into the mystery of Christ. Then she asked the audience to work in small groups to discuss building bridges for spiritual growth. Finally she listed activities that we might do to enrich our spirit and suggested scripture to guide these contemplative experiences. As she closed with the following Celtic prayer, we all felt encouraged to open ourselves to the power of God.

Kindle in our hearts within, a flame of love for our neighbors,
For our foes, for our friends, for our kindred all.
From the humblest thing that lives
To the Name that is highest of all,
Kindle in our heart within . . . a flame of love.

Next Spring Gathering ~ Saturday, April 25, 2010
First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield
Where Do Our Mission Dollar Go?

This Gathering will highlight some of the agencies that receive our mission dollars. The keynote speaker will be The Rev Karen Hutt from Companions Journeying Together Inc. She has a ministry to mothers in prison. One project, Aunt Mary's Storybook, involves providing books for the mothers, taping the mothers reading the story and presenting the new book and the CD to her child. The child is able to hear his mother's voice reading to him/her.

Sarah's Circle

Helping Women Rebuild Their Lives

Mission Project for Ravenswood Gathering

Sarah's Circle is a refuge for women who are homeless or in need of a safe space. By providing housing assistance, case management, referral services, and life necessities, Sarah's Circle encourages women to empower themselves by rebuilding both emotionally and physically; realizing their unique potential.

One branch of services provided by Sarah's Circle is *Life Sustaining Physical Services*.

Life-sustaining physical services include: a daytime shelter, lunch and dinner (five days a week), laundry facilities, lockers, bathroom facilities (including showers), an address and telephone number (for job applications), daily toiletries and clothing.

Ravenswood PW's prepare "Goody Bags" for Sarah's Circle. They collect small sizes of personal items:

- **shampoo and soap**
- **toothbrushes and toothpaste,**
- **combs and hair care items**
- **individual packs of cookies and cheese & crackers.**

Presbytery of Chicago PW Fall Gathering

**Changing the World
One Woman at a Time**
Saturday, October 24, 2009



*Ravenswood Presbyterian Church
4300 N Hermitage Ave
Chicago, IL 60613-1106*

Please Register by Monday, October 19th

Phone(773) 281-8172 Email: Ravenswoodchurch@aol.com

Keynote Speaker

Judy Lovejoy

Global Exchange Visitor to Eastern Europe

&

4 Breakout Choices ~ What women can do!

Community Garden ~ Global Exchange

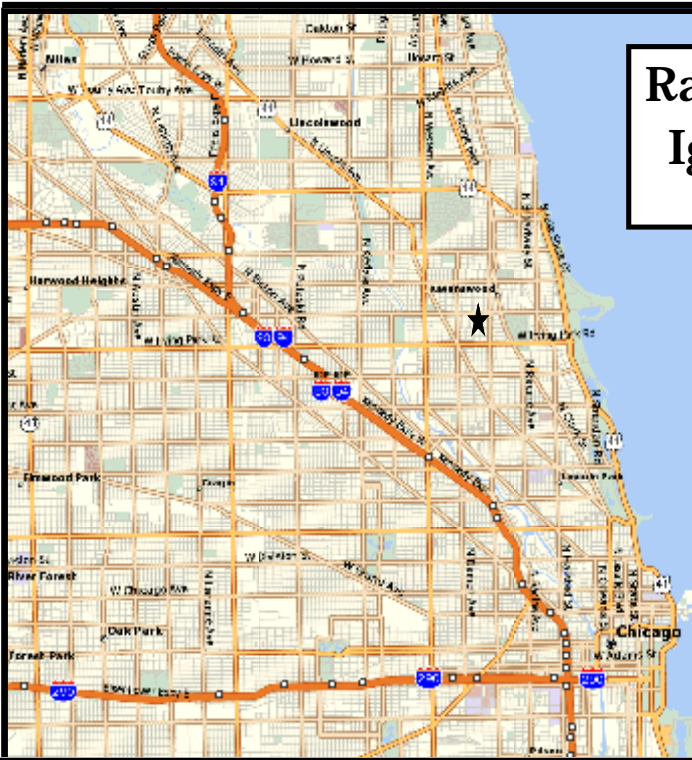
Opportunity International ~ Churchwide Gathering

Schedule	9:00 a.m. Registration/Coffee
	9:30 a.m. Meeting/Program/Discussion
	12:00 noon Lunch ~ \$7.00 <i>Pay at door.</i>
	1:00 p.m. Worship

- Mission Project: Sarah's Circle
- Resources
- Thank Offering

Bring used eye glasses to donate for "The Gift of Sight"

Ravenswood Presbyterian Church ~ Iglesia Presbiteriana Ravenswood



Ravenswood is located in a lovely north side location. Lots of on-street parking is available. The arrows on the map below denote one way streets. There is also a church parking lot. Plentiful parking is along Ravenswood Ave. by the Northwestern tracks. Ravenswood is one way north.

Ravenswood Presbyterian church was established in 1902. The congregation celebrates 40 years of multicultural, bilingual ministry. It also supports vibrant ministry partners such as CAAELII (Coalition of African, Arab, Asian European and Latino Immigrants of Illinois), Still Point Theatre Collective, and InterPlay. Their pastor, Rev. Magdalena Garcia, was the keynote speaker at the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville. She will also lead us in worship at our Fall Gathering .



Angle Parking along Ravenswood!

Directions to Ravenswood:

From South

- Take the Kennedy (I90-94) Northwest to Damen-Exit 47B
- Damen North to Belmont
- Right on Belmont
- Turn Left at Ashland Avenue for one mile
- Turn Left on Irving Park Road only .2 miles
- Turn Right on Ravenswood
- Take the third right on W. Cullum
- North one block on Hermitage

From North

- Exit Kennedy (I90-94) at Exit 45A for Addison St.
- Turn Left on Addison for 2.3 miles
- Turn left at N. Ravenswood for .9 miles
- Take third right on W. Cullum

Presbyterian Women of Chicago

Thank Offering to be Collected at Gathering

The Thank Offering is a PW offering collected in the fall of each year that gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. At least 40 percent of this offering supports health ministries throughout the world. The remaining 60 percent funds new creative ideas for mission. In 2009, fourteen projects in the United States and thirteen projects in other parts of the world will receive a total of \$684,000.

Chicago PWs collect the Thank Offering in the fall and dedicate their offerings at our Fall gathering. No giving guidelines are suggested other than “give as you are blessed.” Or, Chicago area groups should send their donation (as a check made payable to PW PoC) to Merrily Nicolazzi identifying it as Thank Offering.

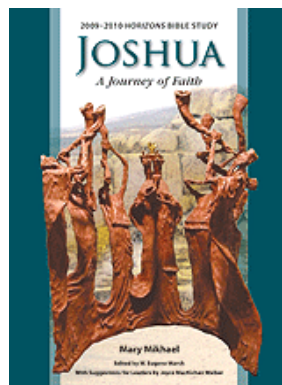
Joshua

A Journey of Faith

by Mary Mikhael

Suggestions for Leaders

by Joyce MacKichan Walker



In the nine lessons of *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*, Mary Mikhael invites us to explore the challenging, sometimes heartrending, book of Joshua. Pursuing such themes as leadership, the promise of land, the concept of “holy war,” and outsiders becoming insiders, we learn ultimately to find rest in the justice and mercy of God. The author Mary Mikhael will be in the Chicago area soon — see related article inside Weavers.