

# NEWSPAPER FOR WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY OF CHICAGO



FROM OUR MODERATOR. . . . .

FALL 2011

## Greetings Dear Sisters in Christ:

The CT and Earnestine Norwood have been busy working with organizations seeking endorsements from our local Presbyterian Coordinating Team. We conducted two intensive on-site visits to Jones Center and St Pius Church for Birthday Offering grants. Next week we have another visit to the National Association for Downs Syndrome in Park Ridge for a Thank Offering grant. Before our Presbytery PW Coordinating Team endorses a grant application, an on-site visit is required.

Three churches submitted their information about Together in Service Projects: PW of First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton, Niles Community Church, and Knox Presbyterian Church. If you have anyone in your group with a program other groups might enjoy, send information to my email or to the Weavers.

It's time to be planning to attend the Fall Gathering at Crerar Church. This year's Gathering is shaping up to be a great experience for all! The details are in the newsletter. We hope you will plan to attend. This Praise and Prayer Fest promises to be spiritually uplifting. Presbyterian Women have accomplished a great deal in our world, but our work is not finished. No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Ruby D. Brown, Moderator  
Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Chicago

## PW Chicago Calendar 2011-12

**October 22, 2011**  
Fall Gathering  
Crerar Presbyterian Church  
Praise and Prayer Fest

**Feb 11, 2012**  
PWPoC CT Meeting  
Presbytery Office  
9:15 a.m.

**April 28, 2012**  
Spring Gathering  
TBA

**May 12, 2012**  
PWPoC CT Meeting  
Presbytery Office  
9:15 a.m.

**July 18 –22, 2012**  
PW Churchwide Gathering  
Theme "River of Hope"  
Orlando, Florida



The three women on the left are members of the Chicago PW Coordinating Team: Ruby Brown, Karen Scouten, and Anne Moorman. They are visiting National Adult Down Syndrome Center in Park Ridge.

SPRING GATHERING  
 APRIL 30, 2011  
 FAITH IN ACTION  
 WESTERN SPRINGS



Rev. Corey Nelson

Baba Eli, Peggy Johnson, Teri Dreher



Honoring Betsy Hennessey



Worship Service  
 Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis

## PWs Enjoyed Gathering at Presbyterian Church of Western Springs

Eighty-five PWs from the Chicago area gathered on April 30th in Western Springs. The theme, *Faith in Action*, prevailed as we learned about Teri Dreher's mission trip to Africa and honored the memory of Betsy Hennessey. Coffee and sweets started our day as we explored PW resources and met new friends. After we were welcomed by Becky Glasscock, Moderator of Western Springs PWs, a short business meeting followed.



Teri Dreher of *Hands and Hearts International* reported on their annual trip to Nigeria. Members of the Libertyville Presbyterian Church are involved with this project. Each year a group of volunteers travel to the same area in southern Nigeria. Over the past years, volunteers have watched the community's health care situation improve through their efforts. Not only do they deliver health care, the group has provided medicine and equipment to improve their clinic. Read about this at [www.handsandheartsintl.org](http://www.handsandheartsintl.org). Next, The Rev. Corey Nelson, Associate Pastor for Mission at the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, explained his concept of mission, and accompanied on his djembe drum as we sang an African prayer. Breakouts followed with Rev. Nelson, Teri Dreher, and BaBa Eli. Baba Eli brought African instruments and PWs learned to play them.

The mission project for the Gathering was the Pine Avenue Food Pantry which is supported by Western Springs PW. The centerpieces for the luncheon were items that would later be donated to the food pantry; this is just another example of our hosts' creativity. After a delicious hot lunch, The Rev. Jennifer Burns Lewis lead worship which honored the memory of Betsy Hennessey. It had been Betsy's idea to host a gathering, and the PWs of Western Springs certainly followed through.

### 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: Donna Estler

1091 Brighton Drive  
Wheaton IL 60189  
Email: [donna.estler@gmail.com](mailto:donna.estler@gmail.com)

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. 12<sup>th</sup>!***

### 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 [ninakoelpin@att.net](mailto:ninakoelpin@att.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

Editions of this Weavers and others can be viewed online at

<http://www.chicagopresbytery.org/presbyterian-women-2/>



**Ozie Johnson  
At Churchwide  
Gathering in  
Louisville.**

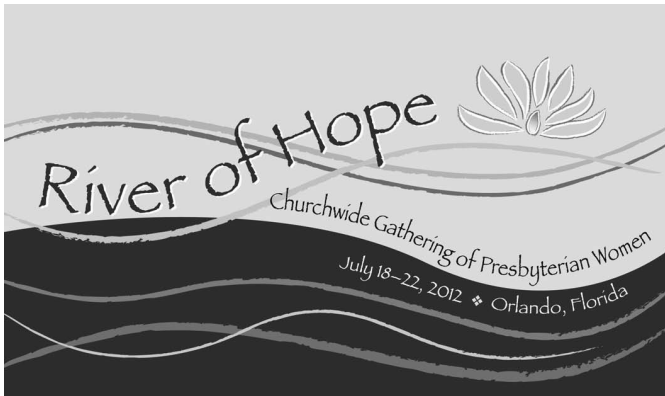
## Remembering Ozie House Johnson

Ozie Johnson, a member of the PW Coordinating Team, died at the end of August. She continued to inspire others throughout her illness. Her heartwarming smile will be missed by all PWs. Ozie served on the Presbytery Peacemaking Team as well as the PW Coordinating Team. She was member of Chatham Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, serving as a Deacon, Elder, and Moderator of Presbyterian Women. She was clearly a church leader.

At a recent Coordinating Team meeting for Chicago PWs, Ozie was remembered with fondness as members took time to talk about Ozie. Her sincere interest in others was a current theme. Ozie attended her first PW Churchwide Gathering in Louisville two years ago. When she returned, she encouraged all of us to attend the Gathering. She found the meeting meaningful and uplifting, and intended to go again.

Ozie always was willing to help at the Chicago PW Gatherings. As a member of the Spiritual Growth Committee, she participated in the worship services at the Gatherings, serving communion and as a reader. Six members of the Coordinating Team attended her funeral at Chatham Bethlehem church. Ruby Brown presented a resolution from the Presbyterian Women of Chicago.

Ozie's faith was an example for all. At one CT meeting, she shared a story of faith. She noticed a co-worker seemed to be worried. Ozie talked to her and they made arrangements to pray together after work. This was not a particular friend, just someone in her workplace. Ozie felt after that day that they had a bond of their faith. Ozie will be remembered to all on the CT as someone who took the time to share her faith and help others.



### Have you ever considered attending a Churchwide Gathering?

This gathering is open to all women in the Presbyterian Church. Members from The Presbytery of Chicago who have attended the meetings all say positive things about their trip. Devotions, workshops, spirituality, forums, — you also bring your family. Child care is available for a fee. Registration information and a list of all sessions and programs is available at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering)

### Where will this Gathering be held?

The Gathering will be held at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

### Can you tell me more about the theme?

“River of Hope” asks us to focus on two concepts—water and hope. Both are necessary to sustain life, but both are in increasingly short supply. The 2012 Gathering will be an opportunity to find hope in our faith, celebrating Jesus (our living water) and the ways the Spirit flows through us.

### When is the 2012 Churchwide Gathering?

The Gathering begins with dinner on Wednesday, July 18, 2012, and concludes after the morning plenary on Sunday, July 22, 2012.

Would you like a member of the Coordinating Team for PW in Presbytery of Chicago to visit one of your meetings? If we can work out a schedule, one of us might be able to come and talk to you in person. Would you like to host a Chicago area gathering at your church? We are interested in getting to know you better. You do not need to have a formal PW group. We want to communicate with any group of women.

[ninakoelpin@att.net](mailto:ninakoelpin@att.net) 630-690-5174

Fall Gathering October 22nd

Crerar Presbyterian Church

***Praise and Prayer Fest***  
***“And at midnight Paul and Silas***  
***prayed and sang praises to God.” Acts 16:25***

**Praise and prayer are the first steps to healing.**

Healing doesn't just happen; it involves both praise and prayer. This is the focus of the Fall Gathering on October 22nd at Crerar Presbyterian Church. Following a general session led by Walterene Johnson, participants will have the opportunity to attend two of three breakout choices: emotional healing, physical healing, and spiritual healing. These will be interactive workshops. Join with PWs as we pray and praise together.

**Walterene Johnson** is a sincere Christian who is serious about her religion. A certified Christian Educator, she has shared her faith throughout the Chicago area. Presently, she is Director of Christian Education at Hope Presbyterian Church in Chicago. With a Masters in Biblical Studies from Moody Bible Institute, Mrs. Johnson teaches others to love and appreciate Our Savior through praise and prayer. In 2006, she felt blessed to teach in Wiesbaden, Germany. In her own words she, "loves the Lord with all her heart and thanks God for the opportunities to serve him through her spiri-



**Crerar Memorial Presbyterian Church**

**8100 S. Calumet Avenue**

**Chicago Il 60619-4822**

**Directions to Crerar**

Crerar Memorial Presbyterian Church is located on the southwest corner of 81<sup>st</sup> Street and Calumet in Chicago. Calumet is one block west of King Drive and several blocks east of I94.

Whether you are coming from the North or South on I94, the exit is 60 C, which is 79<sup>th</sup> street. Exit 79<sup>th</sup> street and proceed east to Calumet.

Go south on Calumet to 81<sup>st</sup> Street. The Parking Lot is behind the church and entered from the alley.

\*\*Note. 81<sup>st</sup> street is one way east, so you will have to go around the block to enter the parking lot.



**The mission project for this gathering is to support a food pantry.  
Bring paper goods, non-perishable items, diapers, or money to donate.**

## Look What PWs are Doing!!!!

Whether a church is small or large, Presbyterian Women are doing amazing things. Impressive news comes from Niles Community Church. How do twelve women conquer all those tasks? A pastor from Knox PC in Naperville highlighted their "Main Events", and Wheaton sent us news, including the history of their projects. Wheaton's group must have many members. **Please send or email your news.** As Ruby Brown says, "Our work is never finished." Fellowship during retreats and "fun days" encourage members to keep working.

**NILES:** Niles Community Church Presbyterian Women consists of 10-12 dedicated women who meet at ten a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, with the exception of the months of July and August. Members bring a lunch, and refreshments are provided by a member.

PW serves local nursing homes and health facilities in the area with the following items: crocheted lap robes, walker bags for Rainbow Hospice, stuffed teddy bears for the children's unit at Lutheran General Hospital, floral napkin rings, napkins and mini-floral arrangements for the residents of certain facilities. These women also collect donations of paperback books, and items for local food pantries.

These PWs hold a February candy sale and a fall bake sale. They sponsor an all-church evening program (plays, choral groups, ethnic dinners, specialty acts) as a fund-raiser. The group has had speakers at meetings about health, and foreign countries such as Rwanda and Haiti.

This group supports the church's budget with frequent donations, such as underwriting the Easter breakfast and making donations to support the social hour following Sunday services. Church World Service, Kemmerer Village, the Yellow Ribbon Organization located in Palatine (items going to military personnel recuperating in hospitals in Germany,) the Night Ministry and Presbyterian Women of Chicago all receive support.

Their June "play days" might involve a visit to the Chicago Botanic Garden and lunch, a luncheon at a member's home, or a visit to an historic house. Their moderator, Barb Leske writes "For a small group {NCC has an average attendance of 55) we are proud that even though we are a small church, we are big in spirit."

**WHEATON:** Each program year for Presbyterian Women of Wheaton First Presbyterian Church begins in September with all of PW bringing a sack lunch and joining in our Gathering titled "Mission Possible". This is a hands on mission project to fill school kits and health kits. Kits are boxed up and sent to New Windsor, MD, for distribution wherever needed.

Each circle also has mission projects. *Elizabeth Circle* bakes homemade treats for church home-bound. This has been a circle tradition for 25 years. During the holidays, *Ruth Circle* members provide "manpower" at the community resource project where families in need are able to select gift items from new toys, to household items. This circle collected money in order to purchase twenty brand new basketballs to donate for the shoppers. *Grace and Hannah Circles* prepare sack lunches for the overnight guests at a homeless shelter, so they will have a meal in the middle of the day.

All of Wheaton PWs provide a tree for the DuPage Convalescent Center, presenting residents with gifts donated by all church members. This tradition started twenty years ago by a church member whose son was a resident of the center. Starting out as a circle project, it has expanded to a whole church project.

Presbyterian Women at many churches seem to have needlework projects. Wheaton knits caps for newborns and makes therapy dolls for patients facing surgery at Rush University Medical Center. They hold a Sewing Day to provide fleece blanket for "Good News" Day Care Center, which provides free care for children of teen, college and low income moms.

Each May, the PW Coordinating Team votes to distribute our funds to the eight local service agencies, many of which are our church's local mission partners. The women in PW have been supporting these agencies for many years. The dollar amount varies year to year based on our fundraising efforts.

**NAPERVILLE KNOX:** In a recent *Weavers*, Knox sent us information about their Auction Night which has become a major fundraiser. Rev. Cindy Karis sent us an update. Last winter they had a beautiful retreat dealing with the topic of "Balance". Naperville Knox has always kept the Presbytery Coordinating Team informed about mission work in New Orleans. Recently they had a presentation about Relief Efforts in Haiti.



**Presbytery of Chicago PW Fall Gathering  
Saturday, October 22, 2011**

***Praise and Prayer Fest***

***“And at midnight Paul and Silas  
prayed and sang praises to God.” Acts 16:25***



*Crerar Memorial Presbyterian Church  
8100 S. Calumet Avenue  
Chicago IL 60619*

**Please Register by Monday, October 17th**

**Call Valerie Gibbs  
Phone 773-874-2132 Email: [crerar\\_office@ameritech.net](mailto:crerar_office@ameritech.net)**

***Keynote Speaker : Walterene Johnson***

***Three Interactive Breakouts***

**Emotional Healing, Spiritual Healing, Physical Healing**

*Schedule:*

*9:00 a.m. Registration/Coffee  
9:30 a.m. Meeting/Program/Breakouts  
12:00 noon Lunch \$10.00 Pay at Door  
1:15 p.m. Worship*

*Resources*

*Mission Project = Food Pantry  
Thank Offering*

**Presbyterian Women of Chicago**  
**Nina S. Koelpin**  
**622 W. Wesley**  
**Wheaton, IL 60187**

### **Thank Offering to be Collected at Gathering**

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women met in Louisville, Kentucky, in March 2011 and approved grants totaling \$724,780 from the 2010 Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women. Twenty-six projects were chosen from 68 proposals—14 national and 12 international. Two Examples. . . .

#### **Bristol Faith in Action**

Appalachian Women and Children in Distress

Bristol, Virginia

\$30,000

Offer utility and housing financial assistance for struggling female heads of households.

#### **Community Livelihood Improvement**

Livelihood Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation Through Sustainable Fish Processing

Kasoa, Ghana

\$38,500

Build a cold storage facility for fresh fish and increase employment for women by teaching them fish processing, marketing and sales techniques and address food security and malnutrition challenges within the coastal villages of the Gomoa East District. It is a collaborative program in the community to involve mainly women in fish buying, processing and marketing. A grant from the Thank Offering will help build a cold storage facility for fresh fish and increase employment for women by teaching them fish processing, marketing and sales techniques.