



The Sower

*Newsletter for the Presbyterian Women in
the Synod of Lakes & Prairies*

January 2014

Editor: Karen Bartel

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS by Marilyn Stone

Happy New Year!

Hopefully you all have survived the frigid winter weather that has engulfed many areas of our synod in the past few weeks. Perhaps your thoughts have also gravitated to persons who lack safe, warm shelter on these cold nights and days, as well as hot, nutritious food to sustain them. It's hard not to think about what more can be done to ensure that no one's life is lost due to severe weather conditions.

Another thought that I find myself pondering these days is how more women can become actively involved in Presbyterian Women in our presbyteries and congregations across the generations. Older women might wonder where the younger women are. Younger women might not feel heard. When and how do we really share with one another across generations in a meaningful way? One suggestion is through intergenerational dialogue.

Intergenerational dialogue is an intentional gathering of women across the generations, for the purpose of gaining insight and providing direction around specific topics or events. There are six living generations (Digital Natives, Millennials, Gen-X, Baby Boomers, Silents, Civics) and each of these is marked by a different understanding of the world into which they were born, creating unique viewpoints of programs, activities, events, people, mission, etc. Providing an environment which includes respect, caring and cooperation where both sharing and listening equally occur is key to intergenerational dialogue. Through the use of intergenerational dialogue, one may discover that there are more commonalities than differences, and the focus may center on how to work together for a common goal, with enriching results.

A new resource, *Crossing the Boundaries through Intergenerational Dialogue*, is a joint effort of PW and Presbyterian Mission Agency's Young Women's Leadership Development (YWLD) office. This resource provides tools and inspiration to encourage intergenerational dialogue. Included are suggestions for preparation and invitation, as well as guidelines for dialogue participants, dialogue facilitators, choosing questions, and interpretation. According to Unzu Lee, this resource should be available in January. (I've only seen a preliminary copy). I encourage you to check it out!

If you attended the August 2013 Big Tent Event, you may have participated in an event specifically designed to facilitate discussion between and among different generations through a variety of activities. If any of you attended that event, I'd be interested in hearing from you as to your reaction to the use of this technique in experiencing a full spectrum of generations.

Blessings,
Marilyn Stone

***The following are letters & thank-you's from the recipients of
PWS 2013 Gathering gift cards.***

Dear Friends at PWSLAP,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of the Wholeness Center I would like to extend a huge and heartfelt "thank you" to all of you for the wonderful donation of Walmart gift cards. Each year the Wholeness Center of Flandreau serves hundreds of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, providing shelter, advocacy, food, financial assistance, and many other emergency services. Your generous donation of gift cards can be used for so many things most importantly to meet the emergency needs of our clients who need diapers, clothing, food, baby formula, gas, personal care items, etc. The priority for the cards will be to utilize them for direct client services.

Your generous gift could not come at a better time. We were recently informed that our state grant awards have been cut in all areas, the most significant of which was in the area of emergency services, with a cut of 69% from last year. And while we are bracing ourselves for a difficult year in light of the budget cuts, your donation of gift cards and the flexibility they will provide will help ease the burden of meeting the emergency needs of our clients.

We know that there is much need everywhere and we feel honored that you chose to make this contribution to our agency. We praise God for your generosity, and would ask that you pray for the clients we serve and our staff, as we work to end violence in the lives of people in our community. Again, thank you so much. Paula Clary, Executive Director

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David Madsen from Cottage Grove Sudanese Ministries in Des Moines, IA, reports that they received the gift cards and are using them as needed, to strategically buy food and personal hygiene pantry products when they are not available. Giving to individuals often times results in the money going to things not in their "best interests", so using them in this manner appears to work best. Thank you for your generosity. The cards were about half gone in early November.

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Dear Presbyterian Women,

We are very thankful for the gift cards we received following the Synod Gathering June 2013. The gift cards went toward meeting some emergency needs in the community, but the bulk went towards the purchase of school back packs. Other years we have received many backpacks to distribute, but this year only a few. I went to Walmart (Rapid City, SD) armed with the gift cards and purchased over 100 for our young people to return to school with this fall. The cashier was very patient and determined in running all the gift cards for the purchases. I think she shared with management about our program. The manager called and suggested I apply for a Walmart grant. I did and we received a generous check for \$1000 from Walmart to help with our lunch and meal program.

We distributed over 150 back packs stuffed with the items needed to start off the school year! Thank you for your generous hearts and hands!

May blessings abound, Rev. Karen Rupp, Director Pine Ridge Retreat Center, Pine Ridge, SD

Groups Make Changes to Attract Members

By Kay Olson, South Dakota

I recently read an article in our local newspaper, the Argus Leader Business Journal Dec 11-17, 2013. It was ideas and comments of how some civic organizations are attracting younger members. This peaked my interest. We are always thinking the same thing in PW. How do we

attract new members? As I read the article, I selected the following points. I have edited the points to relate to PW. Perhaps as PW leaders, we could rally around these simple ideas!

ASK:

A Presbyterian Woman rarely meets a new woman in her congregation without asking, “Have you thought about becoming involved in PW?” Even if the answer is “no”, it doesn’t hurt to ask! This simple question can be applied to the woman serving with you on the same committee, or that woman who is recently retired, or that woman you have known a long time who does not participate in PW.

HANDS –ON:

Younger generations engage in service differently. They want to be out there hands-on and doing. Groups that are about “tradition” and have their scheduled meetings need to be looking at how they do things. Perhaps a gathering with refreshments to put food baskets together or cutting out patterns would be better than a luncheon speaker. Have a “baking day” to prepare bars or cookies and casseroles for future funeral services or shut-ins.

IDENTIFY NEEDS:

Identify needs and start projects that meet those needs.

What are some needs in your church and community that your PW group could do? Generate a list and explore how PW could help with those needs. Meet with deacons to see what needs they are working on for your congregation.

Example: “100 Day Campaign” could be promoted with a display table of information where church members could donate quarters to the campaign. “Focus on fighting Human Trafficking” by arranging a speaker to present a program or give a Sunday school class on the topic. Write several articles for your church newsletter.

GROW:

PW Leaders make a commitment to add more members than they lose.

Would this commitment be that hard to implement if every member of CT was challenged to add a new member? No one wants to be part of a dying organization.

Work at events that are more family friendly. Invite the whole family to participate. Our programs don’t have to be just for women. Times change and you have to rethink what you are and who do you want to appeal to? There are benefits to being in an organization that has people around your age....young or older.

There is more to just bringing in more members. New members have to be nurtured and mentored, helping them feel welcomed and finding projects that appeal to them.

Quotes from Junior League, a woman’s civic organization:

“We find that once we get people to the meetings, we usually can hook them, but we have to always bring in new members.” “Women benefit from friendships and the continuing education and training, but they stay because they are passionate about what the group does.

All Presbyterian women are invited to attend a Dakota Presbytery meeting.

If you are interested, contact Kay Olson dkolson@sio.midco.net and she’ll help you with travel plans. Dakota Presbyterian Women usually have their meeting late Friday and Saturday afternoons. The meeting schedule for 2014 is:

1. Spring Presbytery Meeting – May 2-4, 2014
Long Hollow Presbyterian Church (northwest of Sisseton, SD.)
(Located on Lake Traverse Santee Dakota Sioux Indian Reservation)
2. 142nd Mission Meeting – August 7 – 10, 2014
Oahe Chapel (located on the Oahe Dam, north of Pierre, SD)
3. Fall Presbytery Meeting – October 3-5, 2014
(location to be determined later)

Book Review: Through Dakota Eyes

Edited by Gary Clayton Anderson and Alan R. Woolworth

This is a compelling read! There have been numerous books written about the Minnesota Indian War of 1862. Many books give personal accounts of what happened during that violent six weeks but most present the perspective from the white community.

Through Dakota Eyes, you read all or parts of thirty-six selected narratives from the Indian community. Knowing about the history of this conflict and the connection to South Dakota, I found the narratives to be enlightening. I was especially excited to read a brief acknowledgement of the Presbyterian connection to so many from the Indian community. Early Presbyterian missionary, John P. Williamson, was a presence among the Dakota people during the conflict. Several narratives by Dakota men connected to the Presbyterian Church are printed in the book.

To learn more about the Minnesota War of 1862, I recommend you read this book.

Kay Olson, South Dakota

2014 Global Exchange Rep from SLAP

Our Synod Presbyterian Women have been honored by the selection of a woman to participate in the Presbyterian Women's 2014 Global Exchange. Denise England of Des Moines Presbytery has been selected to represent us on the upcoming Global Exchange to the Caribbean.

Every three years, a group of Presbyterian women travels to another part of the world to hear the joys and pain our sisters there experience, and share the faith stories and ministries with one another. It is a global exchange because, the following year, a group of women from the same part of the world is invited to itinerate in synods and participate in the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, to share their stories.

Each Presbytery has the mechanism to contribute to the Global Exchange, but if you are interested in extra help for Denise's meeting her expense obligation, send any size contribution through your local Treasurer to the Presbytery Treasurer, who will send it on the SLAP Treasurer!

Crocheted yarn necklaces will be used as gifts during Global Exchange visits. Your help is needed in making these necklaces. Contact your PWP moderator for a pattern and return your completed necklaces to her by October 15th.

LEADERSHIP OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Most of you, by now, have a driver's license and have been driving for some time. That means that you're behind the steering wheel of a car and your hands and mind determine the direction and actions of the car you are maneuvering. Well, I would like to compare your leadership of women in the church to driving a car, if I may!

One of the focus' of the adaptive leadership model Presbyterian Women has adopted is "flexibility." Flexibility is of utmost importance when driving a vehicle. We are constantly confronted with new pathways to take, unexpected stops and detours, close encounters with accidents, backseat drivers blurting out their advice, and speed limits. Let's relate this to leading women in our churches and circles.

Because you are "behind the wheel" as a leader, you'll want to begin with a direction in mind. Where do you want to head or focus your group? What will your destination be? Will it be to increase your mission work; spend more time in Bible study; what is your purpose for being? Check those resources in your glove box- maps (PW websites; leadership handouts received at the Gatherings; leadership DVDs; and ask those who have led before you if they can give you 'travel tips'). Once you are "on the road", keep your focus there and not on distractions.

“Backseat drivers” have a way of agitating us as we drive/lead. They are free to do a lot of the things that you can’t do as a driver/leader. You lose some of the rights or freedoms you have enjoyed in the past when you begin to lead. No more pity parties and talk about those “above you.” You’re responsible for everything that happens on the road and can no longer blame others for a problem. You even lose the right to your time because you’re responsible for other people’s time as well as your own. Accept total responsibility for whatever happens and make adjustments from there. Spend your time “fixing the tire”/problem rather than blaming. You have control over how you react to any situation that arises while “on the road” of leading. How about eliminating the word “blame”, don’t even have the word in your vocabulary? Then, you can make positive changes and be “on the road, again.”

You may have detours on your “trip” of leadership, but keep your focus. Write things down when getting “new directions” and then commit to “arriving at your destination.” All along the way, keep your speed in check and remember to consult your right-hand traveling companion, our Lord, who wants you and others to arrive safely at your destination.

Sue Kimball, Leadership Enhancement for SLAP
Kimballsusan53@yahoo.com or call 515-961-2493

Inspired by reading the book “Monday Morning Leadership” by David Cottrell, 2002

Leadership Training Resource

Leadership Exercise I

What is your personal style of leadership??

November 2009

Do a simple exercise of determining your style of leadership at a Coordinating Team meeting, circle meeting or a Gathering.

Every woman at the meeting has a leadership style. Most will identify themselves more strongly with one style. Many of us can relate to all the styles suggested in this exercise but we are trying to identify our usual-dominant style. When we understand there are four leadership styles, we realize we may have to listen better, open our hearts to understanding that there is more than one way to lead. As a leader, we need to be aware and sensitive to other styles.

Start with the hand out that says, "To help you decide on your style". Ask participants to follow along with you as you go through all the options. This page will help them quickly find the leadership style they prefer. Ask everyone to identify which direction they relate to the best. Identify in the room, North, South, East, West.

Ask everyone to move to the direction that best fits them even though they may see themselves in one or two others. They need to select one for now. Look together at the page titled "Personal Styles: Compass Points".

Read the descriptions of the 4 directions. Did they select the right direction for them???? In small groups, based on the four directions, discuss questions 1-5 on the page titled "Personal Style Activity". If working with a small group, move to sit with those who chose the same direction but discuss the five questions together as one group.

Time permitting: Plan an event together for PW such as Thank Offering celebration, or how to increase new members, or planning a retreat, or identifying some project that would recognize PW in your congregation. This discussion will add to the time of the exercise but would be a valuable way to actually do some planning with a Coordinating Team.

Conclusion: Are there others doing the Personal Style of leadership that selected a different direction? Can you accept and work with the different style? Close with prayer. Ask God to help all PW members to be open and sensitive to the different styles of leadership.

To be utilitarian, this entire exercise is included in a separate attachment to “The Sower”

Book Report - Once Upon a Town by Bob Greene - is a nonfiction book that brings back a special time in American history. This is the story of a small town in the middle of Nebraska during WWII. Greene went in search of “the best America there ever was” and finds North Platte. Every day from 5:00 a.m. until the last troop train passed through after midnight, from December 25, 1942 until April 5, 1945, the people of North Platte met every troop train. Started as a result of a letter to the newspaper by a 25 year old school teacher, the canteen provided coffee, home-cooked food, magazines, music, and friendly conversation. By the time the war was over the Canteen had served over six million GIs. Green interviewed several individuals who had been involved in the North Platte Canteen and they shared how thinking of the warmth and friendliness of the people got them through some rough spots during the war. What is also amazing about this story is the giving spirit of the community. This was a time of rationing, yet the women and their families gave of their rationed sugar, flour, meat, and butter to make sure the GIs had something to eat. Some of the volunteers, and yes all the workers were volunteers, came from surrounding communities and farms. Because of gas rationing, they often walked to the Canteen! What a great example these individuals showed in loving their neighbor and caring for God’s sheep.

If you enjoy Amish fiction you might want to read *The Secret Keeper* by Beverly Lewis, This is the fourth book in her Home to Hickory Hollow series. Jennifer Burns has always felt out of place in the modern world. For years she longed for the quiet, less materialistic world of the past. Much to her family’s surprise she decides to move to Hickory Hollow and join the Amish community. Her way is not easy or smooth and she happens upon a secret which will destroy the life of the family with whom she is staying. No, this is not a mystery. Just a young woman trying to find her way in life.

Report on the \$25 for 25 Challenge

As PW’s 25th anniversary celebrations wound down at the end of 2013, in early December, the “\$25 for 25” Campaign took on new LIFE in our synod! Trudi Nelson, our PW synod mission coordinator, agreed to match every donation to the “\$25 for 25” Campaign -- up to \$5,000! All gifts made to this fundraising campaign benefited the Mission Pledge of Presbyterian Women, which supports every PW mission and ministry.

In order to double our contributions and have it matched by Trudi, we had to get our remittance sent to our PW Synod Treasurer, Jan Nelson, by December 26th. Jan kept the running total of contributions and then forwarded our funds to PW Churchwide. Ok! Now the DRUM ROLL PLEASE! In that short a period, our Treasurer was able to send \$1,136 forward! Wow!!! Next issue, we’ll report the total including the amount that was sent directly. More awesome!

PW Yearend Reports Reminder

PWP 2014 Mission Pledge Forms were due December 1st (4 out of 16 have been received)

Please forward them to Marilyn Stone ASAP.

PWP 2013 Mission Reports are due March 31st to Trudi Nelson

PWP 2013 Justice and Peace Reports are due March 31st to Sue Medsker-Nedderman

PWP 2013 Historian Reports are due March 31st to Janey Nottage-Tacey

NEW PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS COLUMN

Want to do a little boasting about your Presbytery? Want to share new ideas that are working for your PW’s? Here’s your opportunity! Send our **Presbytery Highlights** articles to “The Sower” at thesower.slap@yahoo.com

Ask Ms PW

A new column will be starting in the next Sower: DEAR MS PW. MS PW will be happy to answer any questions you may have about PW or where to look for them/ Send in your inquiries to Joan Berglund, joanberglund@gmail.com .

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**Note: “m” indicates PWP Moderator
“r” stands for PWS Presbytery Representative**

Learn about Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women (PW) is the national women’s organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). With more than 300,000 members and 25 years as an organization, PW is organized at all levels of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Learn more about PW and consider joining your local group. It’s a good read at our website.

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pw/>

Here is a link to the Who Ya Gonna Call? The Who’s Who at PW National

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/pw-staff-who-ya-gonna-call/>

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies website,

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/mid-councils/lakes-prairies/>

“Like” Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies on Facebook!!!

“The Sower” publishing dates are January, April, July & October. If you have an article or would like to have an article or information on any particular subject, please send the Editor your article or question by/before the first of each of the above cited months.

thesower.slap@yahoo.com

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