
MEMOS

Presbyterian Women in the Blackhawk Presbytery – August 2011

*Fall Mini-Gathering for Areas I and II
Saturday, October 8, 2011
Middle Creek Presbyterian Church
12473 Montague Road
Winnebago, IL*



*Area III Fall Mini-Gathering
Saturday, September 24, 2011
Mendota First
1003 5th Street
Mendota, IL*



*Area IV Fall Mini-Gathering
TBD*

REMINDERS & SUGGESTIONS

SUMMER READING



The PW Committee's suggested book for future reading is "How To Get A Smart Mouth - The Power of Using Your Words Wisely" by Dr. Robin Chaddock.

Dr. Chaddock was the main speaker at the Indiana Synod Gathering. The book can be ordered online at: robincoaches@aol.com.

As you know, postage rates continue to rise! It is now official that numerous post office locations will be closed in the future. *Memos* can be received electronically. A simple push of the button and you will have *Memos* at your fingertips! If your church is interested, please let us know. **Send a request to:**

Linda Bumgardner
360 Francis St.
Braidwood, IL 60408
bumbotta@sbcglobal.net

Church Name _____ City _____

Contact Person _____

E-Mail Address _____

To: Congregations in Blackhawk Presbytery

From: Church World Service-Illinois, and Mission Strategies and Resource Board

Date: May 10, 2011

Re:

2011 Kits Challenge

Dear colleague,

Recently, the Westminster Stateline Ministry Project, Blackhawk Presbytery's New Church Development, participated in the Ro/Ro (Roscoe/Rockton) Expo, where we were raising awareness for our developing faith community. It has been said that people don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care. I believe that people don't care what you believe until they know what your faith means, practically. So, inspired by the 4,800 Kits assembled and made by congregations in Blackhawk Presbytery in 2010, at our booth we invited the community to join with us in hands-on mission. We had all the supplies present for CWS Hygiene Kits, and we invited the community to join us in putting together Hygiene Kits. The Stateline Project put together 203 Hygiene Kits for CWS while at the same time raising awareness for our developing faith community AND demonstrating God's love and what our faith looks like when we put it into action.

Because of this experience, CWS and MSRB, in partnership with the Westminster Stateline Ministry Project, are issuing a new challenge for Blackhawk Presbytery:

The hands-on mission challenge for 2011 is for each congregation to create 50 Hygiene Kits.

Invite your church and invite your community to join with us in creating these much needed kits.

Each Kit contains:

- 1 Hand towel measuring approximately 16" X 28"
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 Wide-toothed comb
- 1 Nail clipper
- 1 Bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- 1 Toothbrush (in original packaging) (often dentist offices are willing to donate)
- 6 Standard size Band-Aids

All of these items should be placed in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure – remove excess air from the bag and seal it. Kits should be boxed and brought to the **November 8** presbytery meeting at Stronghold Center. Please write the name and address of your church and the number and kind of Kits on the outside of each box. (Although the challenge is to assemble Hygiene Kits, all Kits are needed and will be accepted in November.)

While we will get the Kits to the warehouse for free, a **gift of \$2 per Kit** enables CWS to get them from the warehouse into the hands of those in need. Checks can be made out to Church World Service and brought in November. Let's put our faith in action!

May the peace of Christ be with you,

Rev. Brad Rogers

The Westminster Stateline Ministry Project

Peace, Justice, & Hunger News

Learn & Serve Bus Trip: October 30-November 3, this hands-on mission opportunity will leave from Westminster Presbyterian in Joliet and give participants the opportunity to learn about the work of CWS through volunteering at the CWS Kits warehouse in New Windsor, MD. The cost is \$395 per person.



If you are interested, please call Julia Jones at (630) 200-4572 to see if there is still space available.

Hunger and the U.S. Budget

In 2005, the latest year for which data are available, 1.4 billion people in **developing countries** lived in extreme poverty—on less than \$1.25 a day—down from 1.9 billion in 1981.

In the United States, 14.6 percent of households struggle to put food on the table. Nearly one in four children is at risk of hunger.

We can **end hunger** in our time. Everyone, including government, must do their part. By making our voices heard in Congress, we make our laws fairer and compassionate to people in need.

Members of Congress are currently debating budget bills and deficit reduction proposals that will have major consequences for hungry and poor people. The debate can be confusing—how can we cut through the rhetoric and decide who's right about which budget decisions? A great guide for these complex issues can be found at:
<http://www.bread.org/hunger/budget/>

Give more meaning this holiday→

If your PW group would like to educate the congregation about justice issues and have fun while doing so, please consider doing some form of Alternative Gift Fair. Organizations like Heifer international, Church World Service, and others have created catalogs through which you can honor someone with the gift of a cow, or a birthing kit, for someone in need far away.

Visit www.heifer.org for more ideas, www.cwsbestgifts.org for items to "purchase" and "Alternative Holiday Fair Materials" to create your own event.

FALL MINI-GATHERING FOR AREAS' I & II

"HEARTBEATS FOR GOD"

Marian DeWall and I, Jill Sunday, Cluster Leaders for Areas II & I, invite you to come and participate in the Fall Mini-Gathering at Middle Creek Presbyterian Church, 12473 Montague Rd, Winnebago, IL, on October 8, 2011. Registration is 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. with Continental Breakfast. The day's activities begin at 9:30 a.m. and include a delicious homemade luncheon. We will adjourn by 2:30 p.m.

Rev. Phyllis Mueller, pastor at Marengo First, will present our program called "Drumming Circles".

Learn about the new Horizon's Bible Study, "Confessing the Beatitudes".

Dedication of Least Coin Offering – Please bring your Least Coin Offering in the form of a check with your church's name on it so you may be given proper credit.

Registration is \$7.00 per person. Registration deadline is September 28. Please send remittance to your respective Cluster Leader. Area II Cluster Leader's address is: *Marian DeWall, P O Box 443, Forreston, IL, 61030* and Area I Cluster Leader's address is: *Jill Sunday, 1728 Eastmoreland Ave., Rockford, IL 61108*.

Area I Churches

Aurora Second
Aurora Westminster
Belvidere First
DeKalb Westminster
Elgin First
Montgomery, Genesis Community
Geneva Fox Valley
Harvard First
Loves Park Bethany
Marengo First
McHenry Faith
Ridgefield-Crystal Lake
Rockford First
Rockford Korean
Rockford Third
Rockford Westminster
Waterman
Willow Creek
Winnebago First
Winnebago Middle Creek
Woodstock First

Area II Churches

Apple River First
Dakota Community
Dixon First
Elizabeth Schapville Zion
Franklin Grove First
Freeport United
Fulton First
Galena First
Galena Westminster
Garden Plain, Fulton
Hanover United
Morrison First
Oregon First
Savanna First
Shannon Prairie Dell
Sterling First

Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.

Area III News:

WALTHAM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Waltham Presbyterian women meet monthly in the homes of members numbering 8-10 in attendance.

In June we usually would have breakfast out, but we took coffee cakes, muffins and fruit salad to share with the ladies in residence at our Presbyterian Cora J. Pope Home in Ottawa. As we broke bread together, we visited and shared devotions, presented a part of the Beatitudes from the Horizons Bible Study and readings about aprons and clotheslines. For the Advent Season, we share a poinsettia with the home as well as handmade small gifts for the ladies in the home.

This spring we collected layette and toddler items for Sunset Gap, a Presbyterian mission station in Cosby, Tennessee. These items are either sold in their thrift shop to help support their mission work or given to needy families.

In April we were the host church for the Spring Gathering for P.W. in Blackhawk Presbytery. Two of our members were installed to serve on the coordinating team for P.W. in Blackhawk.

With the help of our church committees and members we served lunch during our August 5th & 6th yard sale and will serve at the Oct. 22nd Bazaar. We also do some handcrafts for the Bazaar.

In the fall we advocate the Blanket + and Thank Offering church wide. We are participating in the Kits Challenge— making one clean up bucket at a time (3 complete so far). We put a sticky note for each item needed to complete a cleanup bucket on the outside of a bucket for members to take and to purchase. We are also collecting for hygiene kits – again church wide.

In December we will host our 30th annual "Come to Christmas" Tea – a "time out" in preparation for the Advent Season. We present a time of reflection thru scripture, meditation and music followed by tea. We welcome all to join us Wed. Dec. 14th at 1:30 p.m.

FALL MINI-GATHERING OF AREA III

The PW of Mendota First cordially invite our friends to join us on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 1003 5th Street, Mendota, IL. Registration is at 9:00 and the day's activity will begin at 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meeting will adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

Registration cost is \$7.00 per person. Registration deadline is September 14. Please send remittance to your Area III Cluster Leader's address: *Melinda Stephenson, 1108 Fourth Avenue, Mendota, IL 61342.*

Remember to submit the Dedicated Least Coin Offering in the form of a check with your church's name submitted.

Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches



Earth Care Congregations are congregations that have committed to the "Earth Care Pledge" and accomplished a specific number of actions toward caring for God's earth in four categories: worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Congregations earning 25 points in each of the four categories will be certified as Earth Care Congregations and receive various honors. Congregation members will also be invited to participate as individuals by completing similar actions in their homes. A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches provides congregations with worksheets, resources, and instructions for becoming an Earth Care Congregation. The four categories of actions in the "Earth Care Pledge" were used as a guide for developing "Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches". <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/environment/>

Area I News:

"Happenings at Willow Creek Presbyterian Church In Caledonia"

On May 7, PW hosted our annual Women's Fellowship Luncheon/Tea, which this year was a Tea. The local Age Quake Theatres' Leading Ladies Ensemble presented a Tribute to Mothers. The group is composed of six (older) ladies. The setting was a Tea Room and each person related stories of their up-bringing especially involving their mothers. The skits, stories, and presentations were very well received.

Tea followed the play. Our hostesses, Barbara Johnson, Delores Hall and their committees, including some very able men, served tea and goodies to over eighty attendees. The decorations, food and service gave a great start to the Mothers Day weekend. At the Coordinating Team meeting on Tuesday, prior to the Tea, we decided to obtain some of the necklaces and potato pockets, which are being sold by Susan Barlow. Between Delores Hall, Susan and the U.S. Postal Service we had more than 50 items to sell. These were available for sale at the Tea and after church for the next three Sundays. I am pleased to report we were able to forward \$230.00 to Susan in support of her upcoming Global Exchange trip to India.

Next on our agenda was the Annual Retreat. This year we met at the McEachran Homestead in rural Caledonia at 9:00 a.m. on June 11, for breakfast dedication of the Birthday Offering and meditation. The retreat leader for the latter is the Rev. Colleen McDonald. The McEachran Homestead is the current home of Dr. Herb Greenlee, a third generation descendant of the original settlers from Scotland. Herb is retired and the Homestead provides organic fruits and vegetables to local markets. Recently a vineyard and winery has also been established at this location. Herb has always been very supportive of PW and was previously given an Honorary Membership certificate and pin. He encourages us to pick fruit, for free, to use in the making of jams and jellies for our Fall Country Store. The Homestead also donates many fall vegetables to this program. The McEachran Homestead is open to the public and is worth a visit. *Lee Pickett, PWC/CT Moderator*



BRAIDWOOD PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We have been very active during the spring and summer days! In May our PW manned the booth for two days during a Hanging Basket Flower Sale at Braidwood's Rt. 66 Red Carpet Corridor Event. It was a very successful project.

In June our church ladies were busy working at Braidwood's Town Garage Sale Days. During the two-day activity we held a garage sale, bake sale and outdoor luncheon. This is always a profitable weekend for our group of hard working women!

In July we joined the community assisting the Braidwood Lions Club Summerfest. Our PW coordinate the carnival ticket pre-sales and many volunteers (including husbands) work in the Bingo tent. The Lions generously provide a portion of the proceeds in return for our providing volunteers.

This summer we sent four boys to Stronghold Camp. We were thrilled at the opportunity for them to attend and they were so happy with camp life.....they are making plans for next year! We appreciate our church for helping to fund the youth at Stronghold camp.

The fall Bible Study will soon begin. We enjoy the fellowship of 9-12 friends gathering on Thursday mornings. Our Catholic neighbors share the devotional study with us and we are also happy to have gentlemen joining our group.

During the fall we will be preparing School Kits as suggested by Julia Jones, our Peace, Hunger & Justice Coordinator. These will be presented at Stronghold during the November meeting. The next large fundraiser event is our Hot Beef Dinner scheduled in October. We are grateful to our PW and volunteers assisting in the above areas and to those who continue making these functions a success!!

We had a successful VBS with the "Shake It Up Café", our annual joint venture with the Immaculate Conception Church. Our own Pastor Dale and young men from both churches were special volunteers! Following a week of Bible stories, crafts, games, music and snacks the children were guests to a movie and popcorn. We closed the week with a program and potluck. We were very pleased to have 160 friends and family members enjoy the evening! The children had a special project we wish to share with you: This year's mission project was "Manna Bags" for the poor and homeless. A Manna Bag contains a bottle of water, tuna box, health bars, crackers and cheese or peanut butter, fruit snacks and a pocket of wipes. Our youth have spent time visiting the Morning Star Mission in Joliet and while serving meals they distributed the Manna Bags to the adults and children. The VBS children also made cards for our service men and women which were given to MOM'S Cookies for distribution. The VBS collection of \$354 was donated to Braidwood's Food Pantry.

The children eagerly volunteered to load food boxes at the Braidwood Food Pantry. This endeavor led to planting a garden on the pantry property. Various seeds were planted in solo cups, Ace Hardware donated the tiller and we were on our way! The young people held contests as they pulled weeds and picked produce. The cucumbers, squash, peppers, tomatoes and strawberries are shared with pantry friends who have enjoyed watching the group action at the garden site! Our "Wild West" VBS theme float in the Summerfest Parade was **wild!** The "chuck wagon" decorations consisting of a kitchen scene covering one wall, table & chairs and checkered table cloth served as a reminder of more simple times. The huge stuffed horse head and reins leading from the truck top to the wagon was a hit!

2011 Fall Mini-Gatherings Registration Forms

Areas I & II – Saturday -- October 8, 2011

Middle Creek Presbyterian Church
12473 Montague Rd
Winnebago, IL 61088
815-335-2609

**Prepaid* Reservation Deadline is Wednesday, September 28. Cost -- \$7.00

Send payments to Cluster Leaders. See article on page 5.

Area III – Saturday – September 24, 2011

Mendota First
1003 5th Street
Mendota, IL 61342-1911
815-538-5603

**Prepaid* Reservation Deadline is September 14. Cost --\$7.00

Send payments to: Melinda Stephenson

1108 Fourth Ave
Mendota, IL 61342
815-343-3999

**Area IV Fall Mini-Gathering Has Been
Postponed Until Further Notice
Find Information on Page 7.**

Church Name _____ Location _____

Contact Person _____ Phone # _____

**NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE*

Please print clearly: The accuracy of your name badge depends on you!

CLUSTER AREA IV NEWS

Due to circumstances beyond our control the Fall Mini-Gathering has to be rescheduled.

The Area IV churches will be notified of a future date and location by Cluster Leader, Margie Mahler.

We urge you to consider holding the Fall Mini-Gathering at your church. It is a wonderful way to meet new friends, share devotional time and learn new fundraising techniques and..... enjoy great food! If you have any questions regarding the steps to arrange a gathering, contact Margie Mahler at 815-584-2894.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBER- AT- LARGE

Susan Barlow

Greetings to my friends in the Blackhawk Presbytery! In April, 2010, while attending a Presbytery meeting I saw an application for the Global Exchange to India. The information sounded exciting, so I completed the requirements and mailed it. Little did I think I would be chosen, and of course it sounded so far in the future that it was hard to comprehend.

Since then, with the help of many, I have raised the required \$5000 for my trip. This morning I mailed the completed forms for my visa and passport, along with copies of my birth certificate, marriage certificate, and driver's license to the headquarters in Kentucky.

As I write this, it is just two months until I leave. I am excited, but nervous! I will be gone nearly a month, leaving behind a husband in a wheelchair and 3 daughters who vow to take care of him. I also leave 11 grandchildren whom I am used to seeing several times a week. I already have questions of why I will be gone so long. One grandson told me to be careful, as India has tigers and boa constrictors!

I wish to thank all of you for your support and ask for your prayers as I travel. I will be gone October 9th to November 4th. When I arrive home and have my pictures and stories in order, I hope you will invite me to visit you. I will have much to share of what I have learned about our sisters in India.