

Two of your synod coordinating team members, Stella Wilson and I (Mary Weber) participated in a new method of learning on March 31. We joined the eMinistry conference call with Eugenia Gamble, *Spinning the Sacred Web*. For an hour Eugenia informed, entertained, and held us spellbound with her stories. When we compared our experiences via e-mail the next day, Stella gave me permission to share her story on our Website.

Three years ago about this time of the year, I received a phone call from a member of the search committee for Presbyterian Women of Northern Alabama Presbytery. I knew next to nothing about PW other than in my own church. This woman asked me if I would consider taking the leadership job of Moderator Elect. I say again, I knew nothing about this, but said, "Well, if you need me, then I guess I will do it. But, you don't know what you are getting yourself in to!"

I was installed as Moderator Elect, then the next year became the Moderator. At the Spring Gathering I took over the gavel and then said "Ladies, you don't know what you have done by installing me into this position. Let me tell you a story..."

During this past winter I decided (or rather my husband decided) that I needed to defrost our upright freezer. This freezer is in our laundry room directly across from the washer and dryer. I got a couple of coolers and a big garbage can and began cleaning out the freezer. I threw away lots of "unknown" items, filled up a couple of coolers, and still had a few items to contend with. I came across a honey-baked ham that someone had given us for Christmas. I didn't need it at the time so decided to freeze it. When I saw it, I thought, "Well, I'll defrost this and then cook it sometime in the next few days." I had run out of counter room to stack items and thought, "I'll just set this down in to the washer – it will stay cool there and when I'm finished I'll take it into my kitchen."

I guess I was just too lazy to walk the fifteen steps from the laundry room into the kitchen! Can you see what is going to happen here? I FORGOT all about the ham (in the washing machine) and went about my business. Later that day, I routinely stuffed some clothes in the washer and set it to wash. A little later the washer had gone into the spin cycle and I heard this awful noise – THUMP, THUMP, THUMP!!! I thought that I had stuffed too many clothes in the washer and it had gotten off kilter. I opened the washer and began to move the clothes around and started finding big chunks, little strings, etc. of HAM!!!

I began to laugh so hard I couldn't stop – there was no one home. I just had to tell someone – it was so funny! (I don't mind being the butt of a joke!) So, I called my sister-in-law and told her the story. Before long the entire family knew about it (and I'm talking a big family.) People began saying things like "You are so clean around your house you even wash your hams!" My brother-in-law even said, "I saw Ken walking along the street by his business, and I wondered why a pack of dogs was following him! Then I remembered – Oh yes, the ham!"

Eugenia taught us a LOT about story-telling in our hour together—how important story is in the Bible; that we learn a lot about individuals, even God, through stories; that through stories what has happened to others becomes our truth. One of my favorite comments from Eugenia was "God's self is revealed in story—not just in the Book of Order!

Story does reveal so much about the person. So what did the participants at Stella's Gathering learn about her through her story? I can think of several things—

- They understood that Stella can make a mistake and laugh about it.
- They knew that their leader for the next 2 years would not be an old fuddy-duddy.
- They learned that mistakes would be handled with laughter rather than complaints.
- They anticipated that the next 2 years would be Fun!!!

What a glorious gift this story is!!

What a glorious gift this class was!!

Stella and I agree that classes offered through eMinistry are worth taking. We encourage you to check out future offerings and sign up for a class. You can find them on the web by typing in

The eMinistry Network

We also urge you to tell your own stories, for it is through us that God is at work in the World.

For our website, send your stories to

Polly Banks: pbanks1957@charter.net

Or me, Mary Weber: hillsidetwo@roadrunner.com

PW blessings to all,

Stella and Mary