

April 2008 Spring Gathering Report

Spring Gathering was a great success. We had about 150 people attend, representing 23 congregations at Anchorage Presbyterian church on March 29th. We had fellowship and snacks during registration, then opened the meeting with devotions and a moment of silence in memory of the Rev. John Bare, husband of Edith Bare, our Cluster E Leader.

We were welcomed by Rev. Andrew Miller, associate pastor at Anchorage. During the business meeting, the minutes from the previous meeting, the treasurer's report, the budget and the proposed changes to the bylaws were read and approved.

Verna Williams, the 2007 recipient, presented the 2008 Honorary Life Membership to Amy Parker of Second Presbyterian for her work with PW, her church and her community. Banners were awarded to Hebron PW for having the most members attending. They had 17 members present, followed by 16 from Peace, 11 from Second, and 10 from Harvey Brown.

The Rev. Cindy Cushman installed the 2008-2009 leaders and was the Program speaker. She is program manager of Project THRIVE, a mentoring program at Bellewood Homes for Children. Her topic was "Answer the Call, Be a Mentor". She stressed the importance of children & youth having persons in their lives who love them, are there for them and serve as role models for them. The Rev. Art Turner, Associate Director for Church Relations at Bellewood gave an overview of Bellewood's work with children and youth. This year's offering of \$2,781 was given to The Bellewood Homes. Rev Turner also led a tour for those of us interested in seeing the campus and hearing more about the programs.

Volunteer mentors are needed for Bellewood's Mentoring Programs! They have two programs in need of volunteer mentors to work with their youth. One serves 16-26 year-olds with mental or emotional disabilities, the other serves 15-21 year-olds who are or have been in the foster-care system. Volunteer mentors make a one-year commitment to spend 4 hours per month with a youth. All volunteer mentors must be 21 years old, have a valid driver's license, submit to background and personal reference checks and attend a new mentor training session. To sign up contact Rev. Cushman at 479-3732 or email ccushman@bellewood.org.

PWP Spiritual Leader Hugh Ella Robinson gave the closing prayer and the blessing for the luncheon that followed.