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SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS MARCH 2010

The headline for the Synod of Living Waters begins with the Annual Synod meeting in Franklin, TN, in late January. (not a Presbyterian Women meeting) Mary Weber has a seat on the Synod Executive Committee (SEC) as Moderator Presbyterian Women. At each annual Synod meeting, there is a special presentation, which usually is an up date on Living Waters for the World (LWW). This year, the SEC asked for a presentation from Presbyterian Women. She broadcast her presentation by Power Point. The presentation was great and very well received. Presbyterian Women are “stars” in Living Waters and received a lot of praise from all in attendance. She happily announced that Peace Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY will be the recipient of the 2010 Birthday Offering! This is the home church of Gloria Moorman, PWP Moderator for Mid Kentucky. A line item in the Synod budget each year is \$4,500 for the support of Presbyterian Women. You could say that there is a love affair between the two.

Mary Weber, Carolyn Jordan, and Martha Knichel arrived in Franklin on October 12 to begin a marathon of meetings. The first was the Synod Executive Committee on October 13. They each needed to arrive in Decatur, GA the following day before 1:00 p.m. to attend the Mission Haven Board meeting. There was no time to waste along the way. Following the Mission Haven Board meeting was the Columbia Friendship Circle Board meeting on October 15. Martha serves as President of the Mission Haven and the Columbia Friendship Circle Boards. On October 16, they are off to Birmingham for a Synod Coordinating Team meeting and dinner at Carolyn Jordan’s home. What a wonderful whirlwind with great fellowship. Carolyn also opened her home for the night and hosted Martha, her husband Bill, and Polly Banks, the Synod Web Master and Secretary.

The Synod Triennial Gathering will be in Huntsville, AL on June 3 – 5, 2010. Sylvia Washer will be a Keynote speaker and lead a workshop. The Rev. Louise Lawson Johnson will bring the Bible Study on Revelation, and The Rev. Leah Bradley will bring a keynote address and participate in the worship and communion closing service.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SIX OF THE TWELVE PRESBYTERIES:

- **EAST TENNESSEE:** Doing something different was the watch phrase. They decided to take a 'twist on the "usual" in the fall by having three Fall Cluster Gatherings geared to the topography of presbytery. Less driving, programs planned by each Cluster and planned by the PW in that area. All three Cluster Gathering had variations on the theme of the Churchwide Gathering, “God Will Do Wonders Among You”. One cluster developed the theme "God will do wonders among us... Be a wonder woman... No cape needed!" The Gathering included a labyrinth and an overview of our Joshua Bible Study. There was a time for PW to share concerns of their responsibilities with the PW Leadership. Worship and Communion followed. In the past, with only the one Fall Gathering, they expected the attendance to increase with the Fall Cluster Gatherings.

- **MIDDLE TENNESSEE:** Until last year, Presbyterian Women had a seat on Presbytery Council and then came down sizing of the Council or “restructuring.” PW lost that seat, but the PWP Moderator still maintains voice and vote at Presbytery Meetings, if she is an elder. Rob Moreland, a member of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team, was the featured speaker. Through a grant from Middle Tennessee Presbytery (the first ever), PW’s mission giving and the offering, they were able to complete the mission project of making 75 PDA “Gift of the Heart” and clean up buckets. Fifteen PW attended the Churchwide Gathering and four others attended over the weekend.
- **SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY:** The Linkage is their newsletter. It is without a doubt, one of the best in the country! You can find it posted on the PW Synod web site at www.pwslivingwaters.org. Polly Banks is the web master for the Synod PW and serves as the editor of the Linkage. Everyone in the Synod is in awe of her computer skills that she so freely gives. The “necklaces” continue to be a great project for the Presbytery. In the past year, thousands of dollars have been raised for mission projects. The First P. C. in Bessemer raised \$1,000 with a cake bake to finance their mission work. Another church had a “high tea” to celebrate the presentation of Honorary Life Memberships to three from the group.
- **SOUTH ALABAMA:** The Mission Chairperson introduced two new mission projects for 2010. The first is a Mother/Daughter work trip to Mission Haven, a furlough home for missionaries, in Decatur, GA. They will be painting and making some repairs. The second is Presbytery Mission Trip scholarships for two women of \$500 each. Funds for the scholarship will come from Bible Study Circles and churches. The scholarship recipients will speak to the groups contributing to the fund after the mission trip has been completed.
- **ST. ANDREW:** Unlike the Presbytery of East Tennessee, St. Andrew decided to have a Fall Gathering in place of the Fall Cluster Gathering. Sadly, attendance was low, so the decision has been made to return to the Fall Cluster Gatherings in 2010. The Rev. Bill Connolly gave an overview of the Joshua Bible Study. An educational Panel Discussion followed, led by PW Leaders. The Annual Spring Gathering will be in Greenwood, Mississippi on March 6 and the theme will be “Jazz in the Delta.”
- **TRANSYLVANIA:** Nine women attended the Churchwide Gathering in July and enjoyed every minute. One of the highlights for them was the Commissioning Service of the missionaries that were heading out into the mission fields around the world to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted by:

Martha Knichel