

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

Moderator's Report--Fall 2009

It doesn't seem possible that it has been a year since about forty-five Presbyterian Women from thirteen different churches in the presbytery met for an overnight spiritual retreat at Pennyrile Forest State Park. Under the leadership of Lorna Loeffler, we explored ways in which our creativity can be expressed through art, story, song, prayer, and meditation to worship God and serve our neighbors.

The Spring Gathering was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Mayfield, KY. The theme of the meeting was "Get Moving" led by the featured speaker Theresa Rowe, a physical fitness leader who encouraged us to use exercise as a time for spiritual development. Worship with communion was led by Chaplain Jennifer Rogers. The offering that day was divided between the Chaplains' Emergency Fund at Ft. Campbell and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. New officers were installed by the Presbytery Moderator Willee Cooper. More than seventy women attended the gathering.

Only three from our presbytery attended the Churchwide Gathering in July for the entire time, although there were others who helped with hospitality or came for specific sessions. One highlight for us was the inclusion of Bellewood homes as a recipient of gift cards valued at more than \$23,000. Also, hundreds of quilters made their way to the Bellewood booth in the market place to bring a quilt square for our quilt ministry. Inviting quilters to donate quilts squares provided the staff a wonderful opportunity to tell the Bellewood story. Many of these squares will be used to create banners for the Bellewood offices around the state; others will be incorporated into quilts for clients at Bellewood homes. Since we began the project in 2001, the women of Western Kentucky have made more than 100 quilts for the boys in the residential home in Bowling Green. This ministry is now expanding to other residential facilities in the state--spreading God's love like "loaves and fishes".

In early August, the coordinating team met at the Trilogy Center in Hopkinsville, KY. This is a new regional center for women recovering from substance abuse that is funded by both public funds and private donations. The team members were moved by the stories that two women shared with us. The facility now treats fifty women and expects to soon have one hundred. The Coordinating Team voted to give the offering at the Fall Gathering to this Trilogy Center, and we will ask attendees to bring small gifts of toiletries as well. The CT will encourage congregational PW's to support local centers that serve women and children in need as a Peace and Justice focus in the our presbytery for the year.

On August 15 and 16 we held previews of the Joshua Bible study in two locations, Calvert City and Central City, for the study leaders of the presbytery. Karen Russell, who graduated recently from LPTS and is now working in the office of Theology and Worship in Louisville, led the sessions attended by nearly fifty women. We look forward to this study, expecting that God will continue to do wonders among us, just as God did for Joshua and the people of Israel long ago.

The Fall Gathering will be held at the Presbyterian Church in Henderson. The featured speaker will be Clemette Haskins, a new LPTS graduate. Betty Shepperson will lead worship. The theme will be "God's Realm: A Patchwork Quilt," using the liturgy from one of the churchwide gathering sessions.

Anne McNeilly, Moderator