

December 2011

The Linkage

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San Jose



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Individual Highlights:

Special Insert—
Scholarship Application
for PW Churchwide
Gathering

Join us for an
Epiphany Tea
**“One Blessed World...Let There
Be Light”**
A Winter Gathering



Sunday, January 8, 2012

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Stone Church of Willow Glen

1937 Lincoln Avenue at Clark Way, San Jose

On-the-street Parking

**Begin the New Year with food for the body and
soul.**

Featuring a candlelit experience of worship in the style of the Taizé Community, using chanted song, prayer and meditation, and scripture and seasonal readings.

We would like to know that you are coming! Please R.S.V.P. to Pat Jones at (408) 356-7689 or pwlady2@comcast.net.

Moderator's Column: An Active Advent



“Let us be the ones who
create and sustain
communities that provide
support and safety for
those who do not feel
safe.”

Our Advent Journey 2011 began Sunday, November 27. We make our Advent wreaths, begin to decorate our homes and church sanctuaries, do our daily readings from our Advent booklets and Bibles, shop for gifts, bake goodies and cook hearty meals, and spend time with our families and close friends. Our image is a warm and cozy time of waiting, watching, preparing, and rejoicing as we re-experience the birth of Jesus. Advent can also be a time of reflection and support of those whose lives are less fortunate than our own.

I read about the *16 Days* advocacy campaign in the September/October 2011 issue of *Horizons*. Here is a short description:

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

(www.16dayscwg.rutgers.edu) is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates Nov. 25 (International Day Against Violence Against Women) and Dec. 10 (International Human Rights Day) to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights. The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

We know that violence against women exists all around us. We do our small bit to help with our support of Emmaus House in Hollister. While we will not be active participants in the *16 Days Campaign*, I would like to encourage all

of us to pray the following prayer through the season of Advent as a way of standing together with all the women of the world as we work toward the end of gender-based violence.

A Prayer for Peace for the Women of the World

(From *Justice and Peace Links*, Nov. 2011)

O holy God, when we know about the pain and suffering of our sisters around the world who are beaten, trafficked, raped, abused and silenced, how can we be silent? How can we stand by the side and let this happen? Certainly, it cannot be in your name that such violence is done. You call us together as one, into community and caring for those most vulnerable.

When we pray for peace in the world, let us remember that many of our homes are not places where peace lives. Let us be the ones who create and sustain communities that provide support and safety for those who do not feel safe. Let us be the neighbors who reach out to women threatened by violence or violation. Let us be the ones who bring perpetrators into accountability. We are all in need of your healing love and grace, O God. Help us remember that each one of us, female and male, has been created in your divine image. Help us remember our broken bonds with each other with tenderness and love.

In the name of the Risen and ever-rising Christ, we pray. Amen.

In tenderness and love, and with wishes for a Blessed Advent season,

Claudia

PWP Moderator



Justice and Peace News

Report from Immigration Issues Luncheon

The Interfaith Council lunch gathering, Immigration Issues, occurred on November 10, 2011, at Westminster Presbyterian Church in San Jose and Linda Hagan attended representing PWP. Westminster has been active in PACT (People Acting in Community Together) for years along with the Interfaith Council and the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley. The luncheon hosted a variety of church, synagogue, and civic leaders. PWP is always pleased to be included to Interfaith Council events.

Speakers included Santa Clara County President of the Board of Supervisors David Cortese, San Jose Police Chief Chris Moore, and District Attorney Jeff Rosen. All of the speakers were eloquent and helpful in shedding light—not myths—about the current immigrant realities in our area. They live within and execute governmental practices that are aimed at ameliorating this broken system.

Santa Clara County and the city of San Jose are working to be immigrant friendly by not working with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to round up undocumented residents and workers. The county and city are working within their offices to remember the human faces of these people, our people. A short example is that not as many, if any, cars are being towed as this causes tremendous difficulties for low-income people and doesn't really 'curb' crime. On this issue, Police Chief Moore emphasized public safety. This fairness policy has actually been cost effective, which is critical in these resource-restricted times.

District Attorney Rosen gave a brief summary of his personal/faith stand on justice (Jewish). As Christians, we can

relate to his faith stance—treat well the strangers.

This quarter's Presbyterian Women's *Peacelinks* is focused on the Dream Act, which effects immigrant children brought to the United States as children. To read, think, and act check out the PC(USA) website to download *Peacelinks*.

In closing, the Reverend Dale Weatherspoon, pastor at Alum Rock United Methodist Church, challenged us to "Drop the I-Word" (illegals). His church and others are working within the premise that "no child of God is illegal." Inflammatory, derogative naming doesn't give insight to the reasons for immigration backlogs, enforcement inequities and other 'beyond borders' realities.

There are myths that we have been led to believe. The article by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, "Immigration: Myths and the Facts Behind the Fallacies," is informative and can be read at www.immigrationworksusa.org/uploaded/file/U_S_%20Chamber%20Myth%20Fact.pdf. The Chamber of Commerce is not a liberal think tank.

The immigration issue, in fact and faith, requires that we be informed and that we be willing to inform others by speaking up and out.

Want More Information?

For more information about any of these Justice and Peace topics contact Linda Hagan by email at ljhagan@sbcglobal.net or phone (408) 255-5879.

"The immigration issue, in fact and faith, requires that we be informed and that we be willing to inform others by speaking up and out."



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“Every minute, at least one woman dies from complications related to pregnancy or childhood. For every woman who dies in childbirth, around 20 more suffer injury, infection or disease.”
World Health Organization



“There is a river of hope whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.”
Psalm 46:4-5

Safe Motherhood Kits

IMA World Health’s Safe Motherhood Kits provide clean and sterile birthing supplies to Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa and Haiti in the Caribbean—areas where infant and maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the world. PC(USA) is a member agency of the IMA.

Too often, the cause of infant and maternal mortality is infection from unsafe supplies. The Safe Motherhood Kit is designed to provide a clean delivery and a safe birth. After war or natural disasters women continue to deliver babies and IMA provides clean supplies where they are needed the most. Each kit includes four sterile items (gloves, an

umbilical tie, a scalpel, and gauze pads), plus plastic sheeting, a bar of soap, a washcloth, and baby items (a clean hat, tunic, and blanket).

In addition, IMA provides education on the importance of clean and sterile birthing procedures and training on the proper use of a Safe Motherhood Kit. A donation of \$25 provides one Safe Motherhood Kit. Consider setting a goal in your PW circle to raise funds for one or more Safe Motherhood Kits. For more information or to donate, contact IMA at (877) 241-7952 or www.imaworldhealth.org.

Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women—River of Hope

Presbyterian women from around the globe will gather in Orlando, Florida, July 18–22, 2012, to celebrate through the theme “River of Hope.” Inspiring worship, Bible study, thought-provoking speakers and workshops on mission, leadership and spiritual growth will provide nurture and challenge for all who attend.

Registration includes daily worship and plenary sessions, forums and workshops, resource and exhibit areas with a wealth of information, and the opportunity to shop at the “Enough for Everyone Global Marketplace” where you’ll be able to find items created by artisans from around the world.

This will also be a time for fun and renewal in The Sunshine State!

Scholarships are available from the Presbytery of San Jose to offset the cost of the Gathering. Complete and return the scholarship application form included with this newsletter and make the decision to attend the “River of Hope.” The Gathering is a life-changing event—don’t miss out!

For more information about the Gathering and to register online, visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering.

2012 Mission Pledge—Your Dollars At Work

When you give to PW, you are truly supporting each and every facet of programmatic and publishing ministries, as well as the general operating budget of the organization. PW spends money to fulfill the commitments outlined in the PW Purpose:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the PC(USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

How do these commitments translate into programs and initiatives in our world? Well, your Mission Pledge gifts support:

- The PC(USA)—your denomination—up to half of all PW Mission Pledge gifts go directly to the church to carry out our mission and address critical funding needs
- PW justice and peace initiatives and advocacy efforts, including participation in the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women in New York
- Domestic and international partnerships through participation in PW's USA Mission Experience and Global Exchange
- Mission projects, like the documentary *I Believe in You: Faiths' Response to Intimate Partner Violence*, a film that sheds light on intimate partner abuse through personal

testimonies from women who have survived physical, verbal and/or sexual assault, and from representatives of the shelters that supported these women

- Training and events that develop and enhance PW leadership
- The publishing ministry of PW, including partial support for *Horizons*, the Bible study, quarterly newsletter for PW leaders and other vital communications and outreach materials
- PW groups at all levels—congregation, presbytery, synod, and churchwide
- The opportunity to build inclusive communities and witness to God's kingdom at the PW Churchwide Gathering
- Programs that nurture young women, like the National Network of Presbyterian College Women and Racial Ethnic Young Women Together
- Necessary operating expenses for PW, from office space and technology services to copy paper and staplers, all things needed to manage a national organization implementing programs that make a difference all over the world.
- Funding the national staff who carry out the work of PW.

Thousands of lives have been transformed through your gifts to the PW Mission Pledge. Want to learn more? Visit the PW website (www.presbyterianwomen.org) each month to read a new story that shares how gifts to the PW Mission Pledge impact us all.

“Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

Matt. 25:34b-36



The Linkage

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN IN THE
PRESBYTERY OF SAN
JOSE
888 N. First St., Suite 320
San Jose, CA 95112

EDITOR:
Bethann Merriam

PHONE:
(408) 371-6474

E-MAIL:
bdmerriam@att.net



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



More information and a scholarship application for the Gathering are included with this newsletter. Join women from around the world this summer and see how PW is making a difference across the globe!

Our Vision Statement

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we believe that Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San Jose is a community of faith growing together to build a community of love, which seeks reconciliation with families, congregations, and the world.

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in the Presbytery of
San Jose*

888 N. First St., Suite 320
San Jose, CA 95112