

Report to the Lake Michigan Presbytery February 9, 2010

The Lake Michigan Presbyterian Women continue to be active but as with all organizations everywhere we are struggling to find new members and members willing to step into leadership positions. We continue with our mission projects and would like to share with you what we have accomplished over the last year. Our disbursements have included:

\$19,457.21 Mission Pledge. Presbyterian Women have always cared about the mission of the church in a special way. From our early beginnings as "missionary societies" to our work with hospitals and schools, and our concerns for social justice issues, our caring has been tangible. Our caring has manifested itself in prayer, study, interpretation, advocacy and giving. We are challenged by our purpose to continue that caring. One response is to make a PW Celebration of Mission pledge that is over and above the pledge or tithe a woman makes to her congregation. This money is given through PWCs at circle meetings and gatherings and forwarded to the LMPW Celebrations Treasurer. Funds are used to support the mission of the PC(USA) worldwide. This includes mission programs at the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly levels of the PC(USA). The only support from the Presbytery is for the LMPW Moderator's responsibilities towards the Presbytery. In addition donations from this fund were given to the Synod of the Covenant and the Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

\$5,571.01 Thank Offering. The Thank Offering is received every fall in thankfulness for God's many blessings. At least 40% of the Thank Offering receipts are allocated for health ministries. These funds are sent to hospitals and community health programs that place priority on helping the most needy members of God's community. The remainder of the offering is used to fund proposals that deal with issues such as child care, the elderly, violence, hopelessness, and injustice.

\$3,070.46 Birthday Offering. We celebrate the birthday of PW every spring. There are no more than 5 projects selected by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee each year. The projects are not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support and are chosen on the basis on meeting the needs of hurting people and with the faith that adequate money to fund them will be received.

\$ 861.00 The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a worldwide fellowship of women who, through prayer and giving the least coin of their country, provide funding for mission projects and human needs. These funds are distributed ecumenically through Church Women United. The Circle of Prayer booklet has monthly devotionals to read while members pray and set aside a penny as a symbol for oneness on an equal level with women around the world. Many PWCs carry on this project at circle meetings or local gatherings. Local Least Coin offerings are forwarded through the LMPW Celebrations Treasurer.

\$860.00 Honorary Members & Memorial. Honorary Life Memberships are presented for outstanding service and leadership in the church. A life membership is given by a church group and may be purchased for women, men, or youth. Recipients receive a pin and certificate. Recognition and memorial gifts are a way to thank or to honor persons for their service to the church.

\$149.69 Two Cents a Meal (cents ability). This is a hunger ministry of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. By contributing two cents per person each time we enjoy the goodness of food, we are reminded that hunger is a daily reality for many. Proceeds are shared in partnership with congregations retaining up to 25% for local hunger relief, education and ministry. 25%

goes to worldwide program through the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the remaining is divided between Advent House (Lansing), Ministry with Community (Kalamazoo) and the Presbytery's Mission Partnership with Nueva Guinea, Nicaragua.

\$147.97 for the Leprosy Project.

\$40.00 Networkers Mother's Day Cards. This represents a donation made to the Networkers Malaria Prevention Program, which provides mosquito nets and malaria prevention education for mothers and children in Africa.

Also, this year we were fortunate to be able to give these additional one time only funds:

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| \$676.75 | scholarships to the 2009 Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering |
| \$400.00 | gift cards from Lowe's & Target for the Churchwide Gathering |
| \$1,000 | for "Reaching Out in a Networked World" Book for the churches in the Presbytery |
| \$1,000 | Ruth Azar's Second Mile Center in Detroit |
| \$1,000 | PC(USA) National Disaster Relief |
| \$1,000 | Synod of the Covenant Mobile Health Fair |
| \$2,500 | Presbytery of Lake Michigan Camp for Greenwood Scholarships |
| \$2,000 | Presbytery of Lake Michigan, Covenant Partners |
| \$2,000 | Heifer International, WILD Project |
| \$2,000 | International Aid, Clean Water Project |
| \$2,000 | Coalition for Appalachian Ministries |
| \$1,500 | The Charitable Union, Battle Creek |
| \$1,500 | Ministry with Community, Kalamazoo |
| \$1,500 | Kids Food Basket, Grand Rapids |
| \$50.00 | Alma College, V. Schultz Scholarship Fund |

In July we had seven women attend the 2009 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, Ky. The theme was "God Will Do Wonders Among Us." Among the highlights was an Honorary Life Membership presented to Charlotte Johnston, author of "Dispatches from Forbearance Church," for Horizons Magazine, for her years of moving readers to tears, laughter and insights on what all churches have in common. Also, Marta Rodriguez, 2009-2012 Moderator, is the first Hispanic Latin America woman to be elected a churchwide moderator. The gathering was filled with music, inspiration, and fellowship with many old and new friends. The next gathering will be in 2012 in Orlando, Florida.

We continue to hold annual Spring Gatherings with excellent programs. **This year's gathering will be in Okemos, on Saturday, April 17.**

The Coordinating Team will be working on our goals for the next five years and what PW will be to the women in the future.

Kathryn Wylie & Carol Hutton, CoModerators