

An online and print newsletter of Presbyterian Women/ National Capital Presbytery  
[www.presbyterianwomenncp.org](http://www.presbyterianwomenncp.org)

Welcome to our new lighter and more compact publication. This newsletter is designed to be on our WEB site as well as printed and distributed in digital or ink forms. You will notice that there are various references to 'more' which can be found by clicking on the word in the digital version or going to our WEB site to obtain the online version. Please circulate this newsletter freely. Encourage your friends to join us online. Blogging is available under **NEWS** tab, so let us know what is happening.

## Fall Gathering October 5th Ebenezer Presbyterian Church Flyer and Registration Attached and Online

### Workshops for all:

**Bible Study-An Abiding Hope.** Rev. Hwang will continue the plenary's Bible study presentation. Especially relevant for Circle Leaders and Bible study leaders.

**Little Dresses for Africa.** For A Nonprofit Christian organization, distributing clothing to schools, churches and orphanages throughout the world. Learn to sew a pillow case dress (also instructions for Little Britches for Boys ). Bring new or gently used standard pillow cases if you can, and \$5 to cover cost of shipping and adornments. If you can use a sewing machine, we could use your help. Led by Mary Ellen Absetz.

**Something to Sing About!** Do you love the Lord? Have you been blessed? Would you like to enrich your personal worship and spiritual journey? If your answer is "yes", then you have something to sing about! We will discuss the role of praise and worship music for corporate and personal worship, and will have the opportunity to sing various praise songs. Presenter Shirli Hughes, the newly appointed Minister of Music for Westminster Presbyterian Church in S.W. D.C.

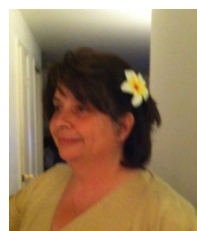
**Praying with Art, Images and Contemporary Icons.** In this workshop, we will open a window that allows our imaginations to include ourselves in the

stories of our faith, in the experience, in the feelings, in the continuing wondering, and yes, in the "ah-ha" of spiritual insight. Facilitated by Lakesha S. Bradshaw, Spiritual Nurture Communicator.

**Issues workshop.** Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director, Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Disciples of Christ in US and Canada will discuss general immigration reform updates, plus Biblical reflection on why as faith members we are engaged in these efforts.

**Bible Trivia/Jeopardy** Come test your knowledge of the Bible. Led by Sandy Mori.

**Our Place at the Table** – What does it mean to be a Ruling Elder? Service during and after the years of session meetings takes many forms., as we bring our gifts to share with our church. Facilitated by Rev. Margee Iddings.



### Greetings from Presbyterian Women of the National Capital Presbytery (PW/NCP),

The saying that time flies when you are having fun is true. I can't believe it has been 5 months since our Annual Meeting/Spring Gathering this past April. When I think back, it brings a smile to my face, we accomplished a lot at the meeting, receiving the audit report, approving the budget, honoring our Honorary Life Membership recipients and recognizing memorial gifts, approval of a by-laws change to add three new CT positions and electing the new officers for the class of 2015. I am glad to announce that the CT appointed 2 women to fill 2 of the 3 new positions, Publicity Secretary and Communications Coordinator.

We are still looking for an Assistant Treasurer, so if you know someone who is good with numbers, Excel spreadsheets, and willing to assist the Treasurer at

all gatherings as registrar and otherwise assist the Treasurer as needed, please feel free to contact me or our Search Committee Moderator, Bonnie Nasr. We are also looking for cluster leaders, someone who enjoys keeping in contact, providing advice and encouragement, arranging events and reporting on events occurring within a cluster of local PW groups.

In May, I visited the PW at Trinity Herndon along with Margaret Anderson and Marilyn Dorn, we learned about a number of activities, outreach, and mission work this group established and continues to support which is quite impressive. Additionally, PW/NCP is one of the sponsors of the Multicultural Gatherings of the Presbytery and we were well represented in the planning of this event by Margaret Washnitzer, Barbara Allen, Judy Wenig, Lakesha Bradshaw, and me. Planning continues for a second event to be held on October 19 also at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, I look forward to meeting you there. The NCP CT enjoys the opportunity to visit our PW's in the Congregation groups and other women's groups interested in learning more about PW when the opportunity arises.

In June we attended the Synod Summer Gathering in Massenetta..

In August, several NCP CT members attended the Big Tent in Louisville, KY. What a rewarding and awe

inspiring event, just the multi-generational /multicultural worship alone was well worth the trip. I attended the Justice, Peace and Compassion conference and learned how to identify an injustice, and then work with the community to develop a plan of action to address the injustice. Once a plan is agreed upon then we need to implement the action plan and periodically evaluate if the plan is effective or not. I also stayed over for Sunday's Culturally Proficient Leadership Education hosted by Presbyterian Women; the study guide "Radical Hospitality" will be available from the resources table at the fall gathering. I am excited about this new resource from Churchwide and hope many of our area PW groups will use this study in your churches.

And now we are in September and looking forward to the Fall Gathering to be held at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Woodbridge, VA on Saturday, October 5, 2013.

PW/NCP CT members always look forward to attending your local PW gatherings so please send a copy of your flyer or an email to [peggy@sissons.org](mailto:peggy@sissons.org) and I will let you know who will be attending.

Blessings,

*Peggy Sisson*

Moderator



What a wonderful attendance at this Summer Synod Gathering at Massanetta Springs. Pictures are being placed on our WEB site, pic by pic. This is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of Presbyterian Women in its current form. PW/NCP was responsible for Hospitality, Judy Wenig Chair, which as you know included a lot of

goodies at various locations. Our Moderator Peggy Sisson went down the aisle with banner to help open the program with the bagpipe playing of Fred Holbrook, the center's Executive Director.

The workshops kept pace with our interests and included the Horizon Bible Study each day, led by Rev. Janice Catron, author. We are all off to a good start this Fall due to her efforts. Patricia Clark, a delegate of the January 2013 PCUSA Delegation Trip to Nicaragua talked about how our choices can work for JUSTICE, for instance coffee farmers. The workshop concerning our keeping balance is important at all times in our lives.

These outstanding workshops are from this past summer, but it is not too early to look to our 2014 PW Mid Atlantic Synod Gathering. The 'Save the Date' Flyer is already out on the WEB sites including ours. It will be held June 5-8<sup>th</sup>. Put it on your calendar!

## Mission Matters

Jan Summers  
Mission Coordinator

Are we making progress in creating the kingdom of God in the world? One wonders if we are even making progress in bringing all peoples and lands into a modern or "civilized" and ethical age, regardless of their faith. The following quote was taken from The Hunger Site (The Greater Good Network) on July 11, 2013:

Women around the world live in constant fear of death by burning, decapitation, stoning, or acid attacks for dishonoring their family. "Dishonorable" acts can be simple exercises of free will: marrying the man of their choice, divorcing abusive husbands, or unacceptable dress. They are even murdered for actions beyond their control, including rape.

A Pakistani mother recently doused her 15-year-old daughter with acid for allegedly looking at a boy. She died slowly after suffering agonizing burns to 70% of her body. This is the latest example of a chilling, global phenomenon that arose from the cultural commodification of women and is reinforced by misguided concepts of honor. It's estimated that as many as 5,000 women are killed by members of their own families annually.

Such "honor killings" are as abominable as trafficking. If you cannot be safe from harm committed by your own family, especially by your own mother, how can you be safe anywhere in the world—much less reach for your own goals and potential? We need to make ourselves heard at every forum where action can be taken and awareness raised, whether at the United Nations (its Commission on the Status of Women, the Office of the High Commissioner on Refugees, and all its other bodies) or within our own government. Please pray for women who fall victims of such acts and consider how we might be better advocates for them, given that they cannot always do so themselves.

Many of us heard mission co-workers Rev. Richard and Marilyn Hansen speak at the Summer Gathering at Massanetta. Rev. Hansen teaches in the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology, and Mrs. Hansen teaches English, leads Bible study, and works with various entities in the country's capital. She spoke of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, which works to heal women who have suffered this childbirth injury and are left incontinent and physically and psychologically impaired. The group listening to her speak was horrified at the extent of this problem, but heartened at the work this hospital is doing—it is the only one in the world devoted to care of these women, and it teaches surgical and care techniques to local medical providers. I commend it to you, and hope you will pray for the work being done there and consider other support: <http://www.hamlinfistula.org/our-hospital/history.html>

Please share the mission and advocacy activities of your own women's groups and congregations! And if you have goals for mission you can't achieve alone, please share them—you might find a partner. Want to share now go to [www.presbyterianwomenncp.org](http://www.presbyterianwomenncp.org) and click on the NEWS tab.

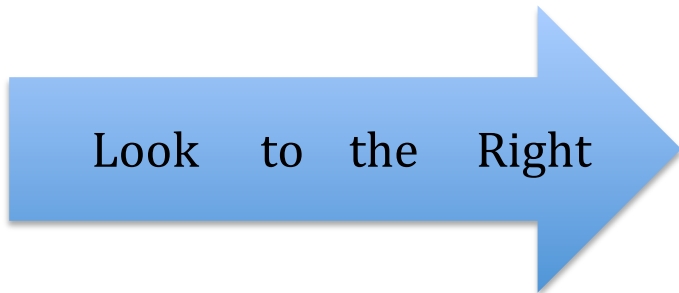
**Ecumenical Advocacy Days**  
**March 21-24, 2014**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**Resisting Violence,**  
**Building Peace**  
[www.advocacydays.org](http://www.advocacydays.org)

## Social Issues

Keeping track of what is happening in the world is one of the steps of discipleship and making that happen is our own Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. Reading their newsletter can be accomplished by subscribing directly or linking online from our own WEB site.

Currently Syria is much on all our minds and hearts. References and resources may be obtained in the current Newsletter- **Discipleship in the Global Community** on the WEB.



How will you seek peace in Jesus' name on September 21 – the day set by the United Nations as the [International Day of Peace](#)? This day provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. Share with us, get to our Blog at the [NEWS](#) tab on our WEB site.

Read the first newsletter from the [NGO Working Group on Food and Hunger](#) at the United Nations

Subscribe to:

### **Discipleship in the Global Community**

An e-newsletter of Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/subscriptions>

## Help Shape Advocacy Efforts at the Commission on the Status of Women

The [fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 10-21, 2014 (tentative dates). The Presbyterian delegation will work with our partners, Ecumenical Women, to join in advocacy on this year's priority theme, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the [Millennium Development Goals](#) for women and girls."

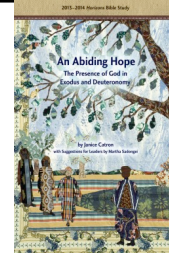
Their efforts depend on feedback from women, men and young people from diverse faith-based organizations. [Let us know what you think.](#)





PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN  
NATIONAL CAPITAL PRESBYTERY



# FALL GATHERING

Saturday, October 5, 2013

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church

14508 Telegraph Road

Woodbridge, VA 22192-4624

**Bible Study Overview and Workshop Leader**

**The Rev. Yena Hwang**

**Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation at Fairfax Presbyterian Church**

Served as Vice-Moderator (2010) and then Moderator of the National Capital Presbytery (2011). As part of this service, she served as a Commissioner of the National Capital Presbytery to the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Yena delivered the closing message at the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

Yena is married to Rick Choi and they have two sons, Justin and Nathan. Her personal interests include various arts and crafts, traveling and watching sports. She also enjoys home decorating and doing small DIY projects. Mostly, she enjoys quality time spent with friends and family over good food and good conversations.

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**Workshops will be available at the Fall Gathering on Bible study, leadership, mission & issues, etc.**

**Watch for more details!**

**Also, Least Coin Dedication**

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**Registration fee is \$15.00 (\$5.00 for students)**

**Please register by September 28, 2013**

**Mail this form with your check made payable to Presbyterian Women, NCP to:**

**Michelle Clover, 4926 Celtic Dr. #102, Alexandria, VA 22310**

**571-287-9955 | e-mail: [mmclover2009@gmail.com](mailto:mmclover2009@gmail.com)**

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I plan to attend the Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 5, 2013

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_