

PCA Women's Ministry RESOURCE Quarterly

Christian Education and Publications

Planning a major conference is never done in a vacuum. Details about purpose and speakers go before the Christian Education Committee for input and approval. The Women's Advisory Sub-Committee members work in tandem with Christian Education & Publications staff. There is unity and diversity in the process. In this issue we have asked Dr. Charles Dunahoo, Coordinator of Christian Education & Publications and others to share their vision and prayers for the purpose of this conference. We start with Susan Phillis.

This issue is a special one. We are combining the 3rd & 4th quarters. It is full of information to help local and PresWIC leadership make plans for attending and promoting the 2006 Women In the Church International Conference. But we have more! Included are the regular resources, training and service opportunities that are available throughout the year.

- Leadership Training
- Bible Study Curriculum
- WIC Training Events
- General Assembly Dates
- Retirement Benefits Inc. Christmas Offering
- 2005 WIC Love Gift
- PresWIC President's List
- Equipping Articles

As I sat around a conference table with the WASC members, discussing the pros and cons of another international conference, one face kept appearing in my mind. It was my 18-year-old daughter Bethany. She has heard about the '99 conference in Atlanta. She has heard about the '95 conference in Baltimore, and has laughed with me as I tell the story of my friends and our first introduction to cous-cous and fine dining. She stayed home with her dad when I went to the conference in Atlanta in 1992, too young to know what was happening. But she is reminded of it as she daily passes a picture in the dining room that was received as a gift at that conference. Was it time? Was she ready? Would she be interested?

Bethany has been raised in the church and immersed in women's ministry her whole life. Yet I have to wonder if she understands that it is HER ministry—not just her mom's. THAT is why I want her to experience the big picture of the women's ministry of the PCA. That is why I said yes to another international conference.

Bethany's relationship with women's ministry—just like everyone else's—stretches beyond the mother-daughter ties. She has been loved and cared for by many women in her short life—and she practices the same types of relationships with girls younger than herself. The mandate to tell the next generation of the worthy deeds of the Lord rests with *all* of us, and Bethany is beginning to understand that.

How sad it would be if her mother had been the only person to challenge her and encourage her in her spiritual life. We need each other.

I look forward to my daughter being reunited with the ladies that have meant so much to her in each of our previous churches. I look forward to her sitting under the teaching of men and women that love God and His church, and can articulate that love in such a way that it will motivate her to “love and good deeds.” As I long for these things for my daughter, I know that I too will be the recipient of many blessings at the conference next September. But my greatest joy will be to watch my daughter in the months and years that follow—as she grows in her faith and knowledge of Her Savior, and declares His wonderful deeds to the next generation.



Susan Phillis. WASC member, and daughter, Bethany.

2006 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN

**"God's Faithfulness
Generation to Generation"**

*Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.*

*Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me, O God,
til I declare your power to the next generation,
your might to all who are to come.*

Psalm 71:17-18

FORMAT

Pre-conference equipping seminars Friday morning and early afternoon. The conference begins Friday night. Each evening worship session will be led by a PCA pastor. There will also be a special seminar time hosted by the Committees and Agencies of the PCA.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Tara Barthel
Sharon Betters
Paige Benton Brown
Elyse Fitzpatrick
Penny Freeman
Susan Hunt
Sue Jakes
Rebecca Jones
Diane Langberg
Kathleen Nielson
Carol Ruvolo
Joni Eareckson Tada

PREACHERS

Ligon Duncan, Mike Campbell, Bryan Chapell

PRE-CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ligon Duncan

SPECIAL YOUTH EVENTS

Kevin Twit of Indelible Grace—and more to be announced

SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS

The next generation—young women thirteen years and up are warmly invited and encouraged to attend.

Save the date!



September 15-17, 2006

Georgia World Congress Center/ Omni
Hotel at CNN Center
Atlanta, GA

I N THE CHURCH

CONFERENCE

WE ARE ALREADY HEARING FROM WOMEN WHO ARE COMMITTED TO BRINGING THE NEXT GENERATION:

- "I want to come to this conference with my daughter because I want her to experience several thousand women praising our Heavenly Father. I want her to hear others telling her in different ways what her father and I and our local church are diligently teaching her. I want her to see and hear the antithesis of what her culture tells her and to see that it is GOOD! I want her to experience the big kingdom picture that comes from worshipping with our sisters from across the country and across the world."
- "I am planning on inviting my daughter, daughter-in-law and granddaughter. What a blessing to have three generations learning together what it means to be part of the kingdom of God and celebrating His faithfulness to His covenant promises--We can hardly wait!"

"I cannot *wait* to share fellowship, grow in wisdom, and worship the Lord of Glory with my beloved sisters in Christ at the 2006 international conference. Life is hard and it can be so hard to persevere in faith, godliness, and love. But as we gather to pray, learn, and grow together, we have the opportunity to serve one another and better prepare to serve our families, churches, and communities. Plus, it's just a blast to be together! It's good to laugh, cheer one another on, and *enjoy* one another. Of course, if you're like me and you struggle with conflicts in your relationships, then you might be particularly helped by the seminars I will be leading on biblical peacemaking and unity in the Body of Christ. Join us as we learn together how to love as we have been loved, forgive as we have been forgiven, and accept one another, just as in Christ, God accepts us."

Tara Barthel, Author, 2006 seminar leader



"Effective ministry effort in our homes, churches, and communities flows out of effective equipping. The 2006 PCA WIC International Conference looks to me like a solid investment of time, money, and energy that will pay eternal dividends far into the future."

Carol Ruvolo, Author, and 2006 Seminar speaker



Dear friends:

Christian Education and Publications' mission is to make kingdom disciples among God's covenant people. This is the focus of all of our training and resources. A key part of our ministry is the Women In the Church. Consistent with all our parts, WIC plays a vital role in the disciple making process. Its training and resources underscore this, whether its emphasis is "spiritual mothering," coming along side in a ministry of encouragement, or serving the Lord in all areas of life. The 2006 WIC Leadership Conference and the 2006 WIC denomination-wide conference will demonstrate this commitment. Discipling God's covenant people or passing on the faith to the next generation sets the stage for the 2006 events.

In Psalm 71, David, as he was moving along in years, prayed asking God to give him the strength to pass on the faith to the next generation—to tell them of his power and might. This has become the grid through which CE&P implements its ministry. This will be the theme of the 2006 WIC conference.

We are excited about seeing women from over the PCA coming together under this banner. I am reminded in Jesus' commission to make disciples, and he promises his presence with those who do. What will God do in the PCA, our country and world as result? Only he knows, but we believe the 2006 conference will open new and challenging doors for us. Please pray for our faithfulness in serving his purpose to this generation and the next.

Charles H. Hunsicker

Coordinator of Christian Education and Publications



PRAYING AND PLANNING FOR THE

Locate your Presbytery's prayer month:

September 2005

Ascension, Grace, Missouri, Pacific, Louisiana

October 2005

SouthEast Alabama, Blue Ridge, Great Lakes,
Northern Illinois

November 2005

Nashville, Pacific Northwest, Southeast Louisiana,
Siouxlands

December 2005

Calvary, Gulf Coast, New Jersey, Palmetto, Warrior, Wisconsin

January 2006

Southern Florida, Central Carolina, Heartland, New River,
Evangel, Gulf Stream

February 2006

Philadelphia, Southern New England, Central Florida,
Metro New York, Chicago Metro

March 2006

Heritage, New York State, Piedmont Triad, Southwest,
Northern New England

April 2006

Central Georgia, Houston Metro, North Florida,
Pittsburg, South Coast

May 2006

Southwest Florida, Chesapeake, Illiana, North Georgia,
Western Carolina

June 2006

Potomac, Suncoast, Covenant, Iowa, North Texas,
Fellowship, Mid America

July 2006

Rocky Mountain, Susquehana Valley, Eastern Canada,

August 2006

James River, Northern California, Savannah River,
Tennessee Valley, Eastern Carolina

September 1-15, 2006

Mississippi Valley, Ohio Valley, South Texas, Westminster

*Use this prayer guide on the 15-17th
of each month preceding the conference.*

MONTHLY 15th - 17th CONFERENCE PRAYER GUIDE

Based on Dr. Ligon Duncan's presentation at LT 2005

Adapted by Barbara Thompson

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth."

Eph. 3:14-18

15TH PRAYERS:

Dr. Duncan: "Ministry of binding the broken-hearted and raising the dead begins at the end of competence and is beyond our capability."

- Humility and recognition of the lack of human strength individually or institutionally for this conference.
- Spiritual power and strength to Dr. Charles Dunahoo, Jane Patete, Kathy Stair, other CE&P staff, and WASC for the work and ministry of planning the conference.
- Dependence on God for power and strength will be communicated by regular, fervent, and widespread prayer.

16TH PRAYERS:

Dr. Duncan: "We love because He loves us!"

- God the Holy Spirit will dwell in hearts of staff and planners by faith.
- God the Holy Spirit will continue forming the hearts of women as a "suitable habitation for Christ."
- Women will adorn the gospel as their hearts, desires, and priorities look like Christ.
- The conference will be rooted and grounded in the love of Christ so that the deepest purpose is God's glory.

17TH PRAYERS:

Dr. Duncan: "Ephesians is an outline for 'intercessions for the Bride of Christ.'"

- All participants and planners will be "awash in experiential acquaintance with the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge."
- This conference from planning to purpose to presentation will be a call to spiritual reformation.
- That women of the PCA and women's ministries of the PCA will begin to look like our Heavenly Father.

CONFERENCE TOGETHER

WIC CONFERENCE PLANNING & PREPARATION FOR LOCAL WOMEN'S MINISTRIES AND PRESWICS

1. Be sure **September 15-17, 2006** is on your church and presbytery calendar.
2. STAY CONNECTED to the conference website at www.pcacep.org/WIC for increasing information on conference registration, hotel accommodations, special events, ministry opportunities, and speakers.
3. Appoint someone to mobilize women to pray. Note the specific time your PresWIC is assigned to pray.
4. Keep conference dates and updates in local church newsletters, bulletin boards and in PresWIC events and publicity.
5. Brochures will be mailed in October. Appoint someone in local church to coordinate registrations.
6. Space for the pre-conference equipping seminars will be limited. It will be important to reserve space early. As you read the list of topics and speakers you will understand why we expect this to fill up very quickly.
7. Study the 5th Women In the Church Bible study: *The Pastoral Letters to Timothy and Titus*.

Consider reserving a block of rooms and selling the spaces later. In October the four hotel options will be on the conference website. Plan well for the needs of your women.

The 2006 PCA International Women In the Church Conference is designed in concert with the PCA agencies and committees in a partnership of prayer, promotion and support. Sally Kaplin, Executive Assistant for PCA Retirement, Benefits, Inc.'s president Bill Kuh, recently came offering her gifts and time to help promote this conference. It's the covenantal way! Sally is a mother and a grandmother who resonates with the purposes for the 2006 Conference. Make copies of the bookmark Sally created and give to every woman in the church. Ask them to 'save the dates' and begin praying for the Lord to bless, protect and bring glory to His great name.



Sally Kaplin with daughter, Julie Weber and granddaughter, Rachel.

2006 PCA Women In the Church Conference



"God's Faithfulness Generation to Generation"

*Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,
And to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.
Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me, O God,
Til I declare your power to the next generation,
Your might to all who are to come.
Psalm 71:17-18*

September 15 -17, 2006
Georgia World Congress Center /
Omni Hotel at CNN Center
Atlanta, GA

Prayer Requests:

SPEAKERS:

Pray for wisdom for those who are being invited to speak. Pray that they will know God's will.

CE&P – WIC STAFF:

Wisdom and grace to know and do God's will in every plan and detail. Clear focus so we do not forget or neglect things that should be done.

ARRANGEMENTS:

That all will be done with excellence to the glory of our King.

DECISIONS:

Sound judgment in every decision.

RESOURCES...

CE&P announces completion of the fifth PCA Women In the Church Bible study by Susan Hunt, *The Pastoral Letters—Studies in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*. Also available are: *The Formation of God's People Israel*, *Paul's Letters to Maturing Churches*, *The Gospel of Matthew, Parts 1 and 2*. Each study offers a student book, leaders guide and commentary written by Dr. Jack Scott. This series is unique—biblical, Reformed, covenantal and written especially for the women of the PCA.



The new WIC Bible Study, *The Pastoral Letters*, will prepare women to gather with hundreds of sisters from throughout the world September 15-17, 2006 to consider how to serve the living God through His church and how to proclaim Him to the next generation.

The letters to Timothy and Titus are known as pastoral letters because they were written to these men in their capacity as pastors of churches. Paul stated his purpose clearly:

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and buttress of truth (1 Timothy 3:14-15).

In these letters, Paul teaches Timothy and Titus—and us—how the church should function as God's covenant family. He gives principles for the organization and covenant life of the church, including the role and responsibilities of women in the church. Woven throughout these letters are cogent, convincing, and convicting gospel imperatives for women's ministry in the local church.

The message of *The Pastoral Letters* undergirds the 2005 International WIC Conference. Studying these letters will prepare women for the conference, and prepared hearts produce gospel fruit.

— Susan Hunt
Consultant to CE&P
for Women's Ministries

Strategic ways to use this conference resource:

- Use 5th WIC Bible Study Series with Bible study leaders.
- Host a Bible Study Retreat using this as your material.
- Use the study with the women who are planning on attending the 2006 Women In the Church Conference.
- Use with local WIC leadership teams.
- Start a Bible study for your teen women—great conference preparation for them!

Bible teachers weigh in!

My local church valued the strong teaching found in *The Formation of God's People*. It was especially helpful for women who did not have a Reformed background. Three things that brought understanding and clarity were:

- The covenant of grace and God's faithfulness in spite of our unfaithfulness.
- The preparation of God's people for the coming of Christ.
- The relationship of the Old Testament to the New Testament showing the nation of Israel as a picture of the New Testament church.

— Marilyn Melton
Southeast Region
WASC Representative

I grew up in a home where my father was a PCA minister in MS. I couldn't have had a more wonderful childhood. I am married to a PCA minister and have a wonderful marriage and four beautiful children. I have been surrounded by Scripture my entire life—but it wasn't until I began doing the WIC Bible study series that I truly felt a deep, intense desire and love for God's Word. I had been searching and searching for a Bible study that spoke to me . . . The ten other women in our Bible study feel the same way. You have changed our lives.

— Robyn Candell
 Spring, TX

"Over the past two decades my love and understanding of God's Word has increased in depth as I have seen the continuity of Scripture and have begun to grasp the beauty of God's covenant with His people. As a teacher of the Word, it has been my desire to teach women how to study God's Word from a covenantal perspective. I want them to see God's redemptive plan being worked out from before time began until now and excite them about being a part of God's advancing kingdom in their individual lives, families, churches, and broader spheres of influence. The Biblical Foundation for Womanhood series has been an effective tool for communicating these ideas. Both the women and I have grown in our understanding of who God is, who we are, and what a privilege it is to be a part of what God is doing".

— Paula Miles
 Clemson, SC

Check out these new resources that are worth your attention!

Tara Barthel and Judy Dabler have co-authored a life-changing book— **Peacemaking Women**. It is practical and full of personal experiences, but always Christ-centered. They call for women to stop working in their own strength and to rest in the redeeming work of Christ. It is a book that offers truth, hope and peace to a world of wounded and broken relationships.



Does Christianity Squash Women? This is the question Rebecca Jones answers in her new book. As one endorser wrote— "it is a radical book, in the best sense of the word. It is radically biblical; it is radical in getting to the heart of a huge cultural shift, and radical in its practicality." It is a strong and clear message that points women to biblical womanhood.

Treasures In Darkness comes from the pen and heart of Sharon Betters. Many women have traveled the road of grief and hope with Sharon in her book, *Treasures of Encouragement* written after the loss of her youngest son, Mark. Here she opens her journal, "looking back to the time she unpacked each belief and examined it through the grid of God's Word. Rather than being simply my story, my personal grief journey is a platform for teaching practical application of sound theology in the midst of great sorrow."



TO ORDER
call the CE&P Bookstore
1-800-283-1357
or visit
www.cepbookstore.com



For many Christians **Valley of Vision**, a collection of Puritan prayers, is greatly loved and often part of personal devotions. Now these rich prayers are offered on CD. This audio collection will help inform and enrich your personal prayer life.

TRAINING...

ANNUAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE MARCH 9-11, 2006

SHERATON GATEWAY HOTEL, ATLANTA AIRPORT, ATLANTA, GA

BY INVITATION FOR: PresWIC Leadership, Local Women Ministry Leadership, Directors of Women's Ministry, Bible Study Leadership, Denominational staff

PURPOSE: Equipping women to serve the church

PASTOR/TEACHER: Dr. Phillip G. Ryken, Senior Pastor, Tenth Presbyterian, Philadelphia, PA

Invitations will be mailed in September—be sure to note updated registration procedure.

The CE&P/WIC staff can give you the details and purposes, but we want you to hear the voices of women who have discovered this equipping weekend to be of great kingdom value.

I have always loved family reunions. They held the promise of wonderful things: road trips back in the days when an AM radio and the window seat were entertainment enough, a steady supply of foods available throughout the day (heavy on the desserts), plenty of cousins and willing adults to form two complete teams of historic ballgames, and a chance to see my parents through the eyes of those who knew them best.

But what does all this have to do with women's ministry? Family matters—our church family matters in particular.

In February I traveled to Atlanta to attend a leadership training conference for the women of the PCA churches. As I left New York, I knew little of what I would find there. But it didn't take long to realize that I was attending a family reunion of a more significant and lasting nature.

Yes, the trip was exciting and the food was great. But the best part of this reunion was being introduced to some wonderful members of the family of God and getting to see my Heavenly Father through the eyes of those who know Him very well. The bonds we shared as we learned to better serve Jesus together truly touched me.

I was reminded of the fact that when we put our faith in Jesus, we become a member of His the eternal family. The Presbyterian Church in American puts a lot of emphasis on the covenant family, or community. The speakers used the word over and over. Just when I thought I couldn't bear to hear the word "covenant" one more time...I got it! I realized that in this culture where the individual is king and where personal concerns seem to be the only thing that matters, God calls us to put the needs of His family first. It's not about me; it's about strengthening and enlarging this supernatural family that we'll enjoy forever.

So I am glad to report that the reunion was a great success. Our last names were different and the unusual accents made us smile, but the family resemblance was obvious to us all.

Karen Cummings
First Presbyterian Church
Schenectady, NY

Make plans to attend the Leadership Training conference next March 9-11, 2006. You won't regret it! Here is what I heard from the Mid-America women who attended last year:

"I was encouraged to learn that our Bible studies are to undergird and support what is being taught from the pulpit. Our Bible studies are not to be a separate program but a part of the church body—a family. All WIC ministry—all ministry of the church—is for His glory."

"What was done right? Everything! What missed the mark? Nothing! It was such a blessing and I am humbled and honored that I got to attend."

"Some highlights of the conference for me were: workshops, particularly which addressed how Christians often have a disconnect between what they say and believe and how they live, a recommended reading list for Women's Ministry leaders, the bookstore (where I spent way too much money), the fun and silliness that results when four women share two beds and one bathroom, and the ride down to Atlanta and back."

"I am thankful for the privilege and joy of attending. The experience stimulated my thinking and I came back with many ideas to implement in my local ministry."

Martha Lovelady
Mid-American Region
WASC

*Want to know how to
book Women In the
Church training events
for local churches and
PresWICs? GO to
www.pcanet.org/cep/wic*

** North Georgia and
Philadelphia PresWICs are
committed to offer ongoing
WIC Training to equip
transitioning women's lead-
ership within their local
churches by hosting trainings
every two years.*

Leadership 2005 ministered to me both personally and in my ministry. Personally, I learned that as we are walking with the Lord our ministry comes from an overflow. We need not worry about the outcome of ministry; it is HIS opportunity, and we can be wonderfully surprised with His results. All the body has to do is cheer!! In ministry our motivation is to equip the Bride of Christ. The only proper motivation for life is the love of Christ out-poured, and for me, this realization creates a dogged love for individuals in the church.

Judy Lancious
First Presbyterian Church
Augusta, GA

2005 - 2006 WIC TRAINING SCHEDULE

Training events for local churches and PresWICs that want a ministry model based on Reformed and covenant theology.

June 18, 2005 – Hilton Head Multi ChurchEvent

* August 13, 2005 – North Georgia PresWIC

August 20, 2005 – First Pres. Augusta, GA

September 24, 2005 – Mitchell Road Pres

October 8, 2005 – Fellowship Presbytery

* October 15, 2005 – Philadelphia Presbytery

South Coast, New York State pending

Ministry to Chaplains

We are delighted to share with you a MNA ministry in supporting our troops through the new Chaplain Ministries. As you read the letter from Col. David Peterson, MNA Chaplain Ministries Coordinator you may also want to check the CE&P Women's Ministry website for archived related articles to help with ideas in supporting our troops at www.pcanet.org/cep/wic. If you keep a notebook of Resource Quarterlies, here is where you look:

- 2002, 4th quarter...Ministering in a Different World
- 2003, 1st quarter, WICK page Mobilizing PCA Women in Prayer for Our Frontline Warriors
- 2003, 2nd quarter, Ministry Project, Outreach Ministry to Chaplains
- 2004, 1st quarter, Frontline Warriors
- 2005, 1st quarter, Life on Life, Transferable from Local Church to Military

MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA CHAPLAIN MINISTRIES

Support Our Troops (and their families!)

I am encouraged to see this phrase on so many bumper stickers around the country. Americans should be supporting our troops, both those in harm's way, and our other military personnel supporting them. A more important question though, is how do we as Christians support them, and in a way that is particularly Christian?

Our calling at Chaplain Ministries is to **support our troops**, and in two very specific ways: by providing chaplains/pastors to Christian military personnel, onsite, wherever around in the world they are, and to also provide onsite evangelists to those who do not know Christ in a saving way. What better ways could there be for Christians to **support our troops**?

We are so very grateful for those of you who are currently supporting our PCA Chaplains. We continue working hard to train and encourage our chaplains in the field (both Military and Civilian), and to recruit even more men to this calling. We are now, however, expanding our scope of ministry to include PCA military personnel, particularly those who are deployed in the war on terror, and their families. The following lays out the initial scope of this new ministry:

- Identify PCA military personnel, particularly those currently deployed, or will be shortly, and their immediate family members.
- Enlist prayer support for them, and send along information, encouragement, and resources to these families, as they deal with this difficult trial in their lives. This material will be primarily communicated in the form of a quarterly pastoral e-mail letter from Dave Peterson, Coordinator of MNA Chaplain Ministries. In order to keep the cost of this ministry manageable, **we will ONLY be able to communicate by email initially.**
- Provide helpful information and tools for ministering to these families of deployed military personnel to the PCA churches where these families worship (or live).
- List deployed PCA military persons in the Guardian for prayer support.
- Send the deployed military personnel themselves, regular, spiritually encouraging communiqués from Dave Peterson and other



PCA Chaplain (Captain) Collin Grossruck with Iraqi children

PCA pastors. Although every military unit has a Protestant chaplain, we will attempt, whenever possible, to connect these men and women to a PCA/PRJC chaplain near them in the field (NOTE: Although we have around 150 PRJC Military Chaplains, this is improbable. That is why the regular communiqués from Dave might be especially helpful to them, to stay connected with the Reformed church). We also want to send them helpful, Reformed, discipleship resources, Bibles and hymnals (subject to available funding, of course).

Here is how you can help make this new ministry possible:

- Pray for this ministry. We recommend the Guardian as our primary prayer guide for Chaplain Ministries. It is a free publication, mailed to every PCA church (and to individuals who request a copy) each quarter, and it is also available online at www.pcanet.org/mna, to Missions Ministries, then to Chaplain Ministries.
- Seek out the military personnel and the immediate family members of deployed military personnel in your congregations and/or communities (this could also be a great new outreach ministry for your church). Register them with us in order for us to minister to them.
- Provide contact information for these persons to MNA Chaplain Ministries. (Mail us the completed form from the back of this flyer, or register them on-line at www.pcanet.org/mna, then to Mission Ministries, then to Chaplain Ministries, and then to Support Our Troops. You may also fax the information to 678-825-1252.
- Consider recommending this ministry to your church or presbytery, asking them to provide funding to MNA, designated for Chaplain Ministries. We are launching this much-needed and timely ministry in faith that the additional funding necessary to support it will come in.

Thank you very much for your heart for MNA Chaplain Ministries,

Col. David P. Peterson
MNA Chaplain Ministries Coordinator

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WISCONSIN

As the PCA continues to grow and multiply our presbyteries are dividing and multiplying! If you are in a newly formed presbytery and there is no PresWIC leadership what are you to do?

- Pray for women to come forward with a passion for women's ministries.

- Call and connect with the Women In the Church office for needed information and help.

- Dialog with presbytery CE Chairman and pastors in the presbytery.

- Create a steering leadership committee of women from key churches.

- Attend annual Leadership Training for PresWIC leadership.

How Could I Ever Be a Pastor's Wife?

by Patricia Clawson

This article appeared in New Horizons, the magazine of our sister denomination, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. It is a Titus 2 story with a biblical and honest look at being a helpmeet to your husband. Copy and share with leadership women in your church.

When my husband left the pastorate three years ago to become the associate general secretary for the Committee on Foreign Missions of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, I never imagined that I would miss being a pastor's wife more than anything else. You could have knocked me down with a balloon.

After fifteen years at Grace OPC in Hanover Park, Illinois, I missed our dear congregation, my sister who lived nearby, my job, and even Chicago. But the hardest thing to give up was the very thing I never wanted to be—a pastor's wife.

I remember when a group of ministers and elders crowded around my kneeling husband after he took his ordination vows. There was a sense of relief that the years of seminary and of summer and yearlong internships were finally over. No more macaroni dinners, typing papers all night, or graveyard shifts as a security guard. Finally my husband was fulfilling his calling ... and getting paid for it as well!

While the men were busy shaking my husband's hand in congratulations, I silently wondered whether I could live up to the role of a pastor's wife. Doug had four years of training to become a pastor. I had wide-eyed questions, a master's degree in changing diapers and cooking lentils, and a quaking stomach that echoed my fears that I would do something to hurt my husband's ministry. After all, I certainly was nothing like the pastors' wives I had known while growing up in United Presbyterian churches.

MY IMAGE OF THE PASTOR'S WIFE

I pictured pastor's wives as donning pleated polyester skirts, with bows on their blouses, dowdy true-to-its-color hair, and sweet, quiet, oh so sunny dispositions. Their homes were spotless; their dining rooms were filled with guests passing around perfect roasts and lumpless gravy each Sunday; their kids wore snap-on bow ties with lacquered-down hair and polished shoes. They played the piano and organ, sang in the choir, arranged flowers for services, and led vacation Bible school. If only I had looked more closely at this paragon of pastors' wives, I might have seen that their smiles waned in the moments between shaking the last parishioner's hand and arriving home to assemble Sunday dinner.

I wasn't cut out to be a pastor's wife. My husband needed a super woman, a super mom, the Energizer bunny of believing spouses. And I was just a garden-variety believer, an average mate with no musical abilities, who burned frozen pizza, yelled at her kids within the neighbor's earshot, wore pants to evening services, and talked too much for my husband's calling. What was I to do?

Back at seminary, most of the future ministers' wives were nurses or teachers, primed to nourish others with a gentleness I had to dig down deep to muster. They didn't seem to struggle with loneliness or questioning whether to buy milk and cereal or take their toddler to a follow-up doctor's appointment. Even worse, after seminary we headed for an internship in Oostburg, Wisconsin, where I envisioned dust bunnies and dishes in the sink as endangered species among the industrious Dutch. What was I to do?

I didn't have the heart to tell Doug to go back to being a security guard or painter. Nor did I want to interfere with God's calling. I was the one who needed to change. But how? And where was I to start?



Doug and Pat Clawson

WHO IS THE PASTOR'S WIFE?

I opened my ears, asked questions, and watched not only pastors' wives, but also other godly women, as they went about their everyday tasks. I copied down recipes for meals that I could make with my limited culinary skills, something that was affordable and wouldn't shrink into a hockey puck by the time church was over.

But when I asked several pastors' wives for advice on how to be a "good" minister's mate, I was surprised by their furrowed brows, which showed that they were puzzled by the question. Those whom I most admired shrugged their shoulders, utterly unself-conscious about their roles. They simply did what was needed to help their husbands.

As I checked through Scripture and listened to lectures, I began to realize that there was no biblical title of "pastor's wife." Nor were any specific spiritual gifts listed for the role. There also were no commands or biblical injunctions for this role that I felt so inadequate about. And even examples of minister's mates were scarce in Scripture.

Paul speaks about the wives of Cephas (Peter), the apostles, and the Lord's brothers in 1 Corinthians 9:5. But, as one minister's wife pointed out, all we know about these women is that they traveled with

their husbands, which meant that these women walked alongside their husbands in the course of their ministries. But the verse doesn't tell us anything else about what they did for the churches, nor offer any title beyond that of a wife.

Paul limits overseers to just one wife in 1 Timothy 3:2, which certainly is a relief. But Paul makes no distinction between the roles of an elder's wife, a pastor's wife, or a deacon's wife. True, the Proverbs 31 paragon is the wife of an elder, but nothing is mentioned about her work within the church body. And no doubt her domesticity was aided by hired help—unlike most of us. I sighed with relief. Slowly it dawned on me that I wasn't the "pastor's wife" as if that was a title or role. Rather, I was the wife of a pastor. And that made all the difference.

THE WIFE OF A PASTOR

I found myself greeting visitors, trying to say a kind word to those on the fringe of fellowship, teaching women's Bible studies, sitting in the nursery, bringing meals to the sick, and, yes, even inviting folks over for Sunday dinner—not because I was the pastor's wife, but because I was the wife of the pastor. My role as a wife prompted me to help my husband in whatever way I could to aid him in his calling as a minister.

Understanding the design for a wife set forth in Genesis, I gradually grew as a helpmeet to my husband. God made Eve a suitable helper for Adam (Gen. 2:20). The focus wasn't on

my role, but my husband's. I was his support team. My self-conscious battle with the role of pastor's wife slowly slipped away. Once I shed the title of pastor's wife, I found myself fulfilling many of those expectations I once had of a minister's mate. I learned to cook a roast for fifteen, keep my living room clean of kids' clutter, give dust balls limited visitation rights, teach women's Bible studies, and buy mousse for my daughters' hair. And, hopefully, I wear slacks on appropriate occasions. I have yet to fully master my tongue or show off my gray locks, but God isn't finished with me yet.

Thankfully, I no longer quake at the thought of being married to a pastor. When someone asks something of me because I was a pastor's wife, I smile, happy to do whatever they ask, because I'm the Christian wife of a minister. I no longer try to fulfill a special calling as a pastor's wife.

Although my relief was based more on semantics than on a transformed experience, I now can encourage seminary wives that the road to serving Christ as the wife of a pastor isn't based on pleated skirts or playing the organ. Nor is being a pastor's wife as constricting as other people's expectations. With the freedom granted to every woman in Christ, my role would be the same and gladly accepted, whether my husband were a painter or a pastor—that of a helpmeet to my beloved.

The author is a member of Calvary OPC in Glenside, Pa. This article first appeared in the August/September 2005 issue of New Horizons magazine. . . Used with permission.

2005 Calendar 2006

September 24 . . . WIC Training at Mitchell Road Presbyterian, Greenville, South Carolina

October 15 - 16 . . . Equip Conference, Coventry Connecticut

October 17 - 19 . . . Directors of Women's Ministry Retreat, Simpsonwood Conference Center, Atlanta, GA

January 17 - 19, 2006 . . . Children's Ministry Conference, Holiday Inn, Atlanta Airport, Atlanta, GA

March 9 - 11, 2006 . . . Leadership Training Conference, Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Atlanta, GA

June 20 - 23, 2006 . . . PCA 34th General Assembly, Atlanta, GA

September 15 - 17 . . . PCA 2006 Women in the Church International Conference Georgia World Congress Center/ Omni Hotel at CNN Center

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THIRD & FOURTH QUARTERS 2005

GENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Forest Presbyterian Church, Forest, MS... a local school teacher and other members of Forest Presbyterian Church have begun a "girls only" group to talk about issues that are important to girls and to learn what the Bible teaches about these issues. This group is unique because of its racial diversity. The girls who are attending are all African-American with the exception of one. This has opened the door for developing relationships with the younger generation and sharing the gospel with girls who have never heard it before.

East Cobb Presbyterian Church, Marietta, GA... organized a study for mothers of young children, led by mothers of older children. Ten topics of interest to younger mothers were selected for ten weeks of study. Then one or two ladies with older children donated their time and expertise to lead just one weekly topic for a two-hour period. Topics covered issues like character building, responsibility and chores for children, sibling relationships, and cleaning and organizational skills for moms. Nineteen women were involved as teachers and about 25 women were involved as students. In the end, young moms gained wisdom from older moms, many women of differing ages and stages became better acquainted with one another, and some spiritual mothering relationships were formed as a direct result of the study.

First Presbyterian Church, Enterprise, AL... uses their weekly tea ministry of fellowship, hospitality, and spiritual edification to model Christian women's behavior for their daughters of all ages. This gives moms, grandmothers, and daughters of all ages time to fellowship together as covenant women. Even the little girls participate in the serving of the tea. They are being taught at an early age to serve each other in love as Christian women. The women of First Presbyterian see their tea ministry as a covenant responsibility and privilege in modeling helping ministries for the body of Christ.

First Presbyterian Church, Summerville, GA... Each spring the younger women honor all church members 65 and older with a special luncheon. The Seniors are treated to a seated luncheon with all the trimmings and delightful entertainment. Food and decorations are prepared by the young ladies and fellowship is enjoyed by all. This is a tribute to the service given by the senior members of the church. It also shows them what an encouragement and blessing that they are.

OUTREACH IDEAS

Wheatland Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA... wanted to invite the community to worship with them. Women in the Church filled church logo mugs with coffee, tea, hot cocoa packets, small candy canes and candy kisses for Christmas. Each mug had a printed card with a Christmas message complete with a list of church

Christmas events. Church members went caroling in the neighborhood distributing their mugs inviting their neighbors to church. Mug 'Em!

Community Presbyterian Church, Moody, AL... included their Jr. and Sr. High school girls in the yearly Christmas cookie exchange that added a practical ministry of "Gifts in a Jar" to help the women at the Bethany Home. These are jars that are layered with non-perishable ingredients to make a food item. There are many websites and books with the recipes for these jars. To find the websites, just put in the key words "gifts mixes in a jar" or "cookie mixes in a jar." It can be as simple as a cookie or brownie mix, soups, flavored creamers, bread mixes, pancake and muffin mixes. This gift gives the women food items that are a special treat, which will last for several months.

Fairfield Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, FL... After the Florida hurricanes of 2004, Fairfield arranged a Flower Power Outreach. The objective was to help brighten the lives of hurricane victims who are living in the trailers along the path of the hurricanes. They delivered flower flats, small flower pots with potting soil to each trailer.

CARING FOR OUR PASTORS' AND ELDERS' FAMILIES

Central Carolina PresWIC... provided an enjoyable evening of fun, fellowship and food for the presbytery's pastors, ruling elders and their wives. The theme for the gathering was "March Madness," with the NCAA basketball tournaments in mind. The First Presbyterian Church of Stanley WIC

ladies were phenomenal hostesses. The theme was carried out with clever and attractive table decorations, including the ACC team logos, balloons of each school's colors, and popcorn. There were even bouncing basketballs on the walls around the dining room. The program included a mixer, uplifting music and a message from Scripture.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Brandon, FL... WIC newsletter gives these ideas: Write a note of encouragement and appreciation for their committee... Encourage their wives by being a friend, helping with chores and/or taking a dinner... Encourage pastors' children by not criticizing or expecting the them to act like junior pastors, but spend time with them for a day or an afternoon... pray for their families and let them know you are praying... Let the pastor know that the sermon spoke to you or changed your life and how you will apply his teaching... be on time for worship... Serve in the church, get involved, volunteer... remember special occasions with cards.

CREATIVELY SHARING THE WIC LOVE GIFT VIDEO

Southeast Alabama PresWIC... plans a viewing of the WIC Love Gift video to fund the visual arts program at Covenant College with a special morning meeting and lunch titled "The Arts: Pointing to the Creator, Shaping the Culture." They will have a speaker from Auburn University Montgomery and sharing of art and thoughts by three local artists.

2005 WIC Love Gift— COVENANT COLLEGE



Dear Women In the Church:

In just a couple of weeks, we will welcome a record number of students to campus and a new academic year will begin. Our students come from almost all fifty states and more than two dozen countries, and they bring an amazing array of gifts and talents and minds and hearts eager to learn and grow. What a delight to have this amazing calling – to prepare young people for serving Jesus Christ in all walks of life! And what a delight to see God bring partners together to support the college in this calling, in their prayers and in their giving.

The 2005 WIC Love Gift supports one of our more dynamic and exciting programs: art. We have produced a video describing our art program and the wonderful faculty and students whom God has brought together. *I hope that you will make it a priority to view the video within your local church.* This video and the ones produced each year by the committee or agency receiving the Love Gift are wonderful opportunities to engage the whole church in ministry, education, and support.

Our faculty – painters Jeff Morton and Ed Kellogg and sculptor Kayb Carpenter – are active and outstanding artists and very effective teachers, and our senior art exhibition this last spring was a wonder! Many of the works of our seniors continue to grace our campus and challenge us to think and feel more creatively and redemptively.

I am particularly excited about the college's commissioning Kayb Carpenter to create a sculpture to celebrate Covenant's fiftieth anniversary. This major piece of outdoor art will direct us to marvel

at our Creator God and to remember that all things come from him. The work is scheduled to be completed later this fall, and I invite you to visit campus to view it.

The WIC Love Gift will enable us to prepare our art students even more effectively for Kingdom service, by providing equipment, supplies, and technology to create better pathways of learning and productivity. All of us at Covenant are deeply grateful for your interest and for the specific focus that your gift to our art program will bring.

I write to encourage you, on behalf of our current and future art students, as well as for the communities and churches in which they will live and work, *to give generously* toward the *2005 WIC Love Gift*. In a culture consumed with images and accustomed to a visual vocabulary, there is no more important task than to equip young people to create images and to speak visible words that will direct others to the glory and gospel of Jesus Christ. Please join with us in working toward this end, in the providence of God and for this glory.

May the Lord bless you richly as you work and serve in all the places where God has called you. Please know that we are very grateful for the Women In the Church and for the ministry you do for the Kingdom.

In the grace and service of Jesus Christ,

Niel Nielson
President

Love Gift

Please schedule our church for the 2005 Love Gift video.

Church name, city, state and zip _____

Your name _____ Telephone (_____) _____

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Number of bulletin inserts needed _____ (*shipped in packs of 50*)

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You may also order by email: video@pcanet.org. In your message please include all the information requested on this form. When sending in your Love Gift, please indicate the Love Gift YEAR on your CHECK.



2005 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Many thanks to all of you who gave to the PCA Christmas Offering last year! Gifts from churches and individuals blessed many in their time of need, demonstrating the love, compassion, and provision of our Lord through His people.

Through the Ministerial Relief Fund, the Christmas Offering provides monthly supplemental, temporary, or one-time assistance to our retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, and their widows and dependent children who have low incomes and meet the Relief Fund guidelines.

Often the meager retirement incomes of retired pastors do not meet their living expenses. Pastors who are currently without call need temporary assistance in meeting health insurance premiums in their time of transition. Widows of our pastors and missionaries may be elderly with special needs while others are young with dependent children.

Your gift this year will encourage and impact lives to God's glory.

GIFTS MAY BE GIVEN ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR AND MAY BE SENT TO:

PCA Ministerial Relief, 1700 North Brown Road, Suite 106, Lawrenceville, GA 30043-8143

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