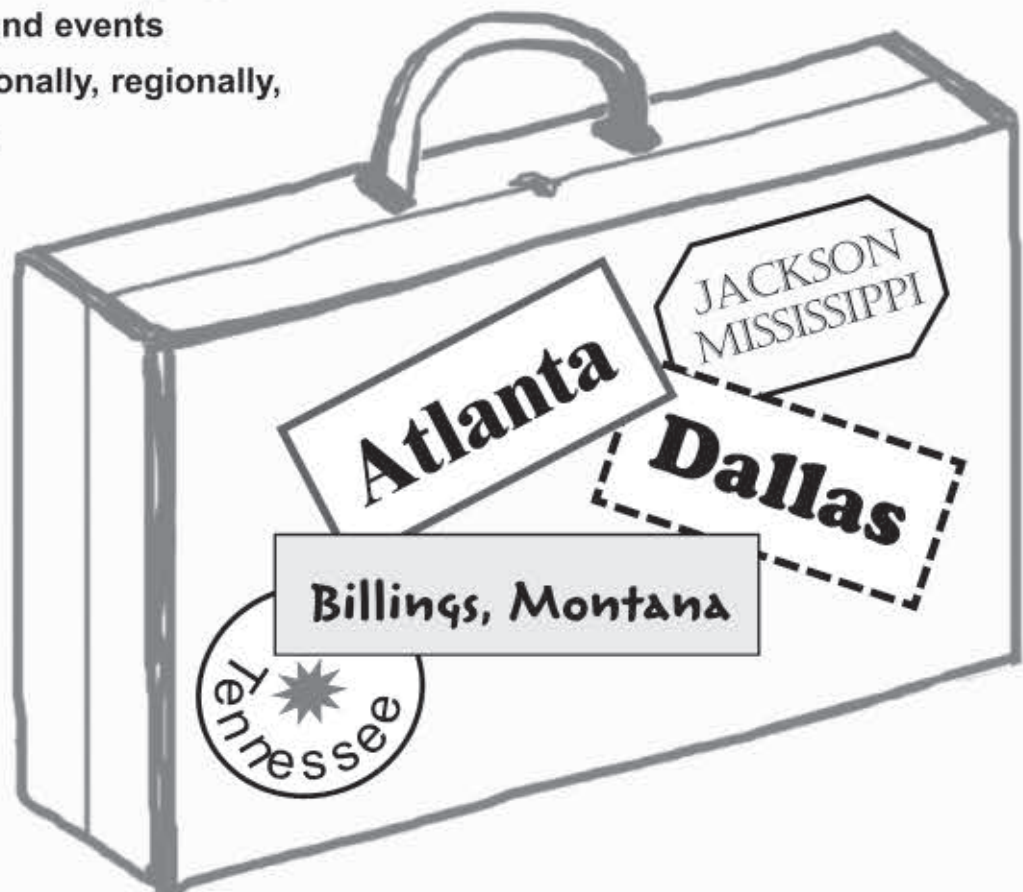


# PCA *Women's Ministry* RESOURCE Quarterly

Christian Education and Publications

For many of us, June is a traveling month! The PCA family packs up and heads for the General Assembly designated city.

In this *Resource Quarterly*, travel with us to Dallas, Texas; Jackson, Mississippi; Billings, Montana; Tennessee, and Georgia as we celebrate the *Big Picture* of who we are as God's church and highlight ministries and events denominationally, regionally, and locally.



36<sup>th</sup>

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE

*A call to*



The General Assembly is a week that brings the PCA family together. It is the highest court of the church that deals with issues facing our denomination. It is a time to hear reports on how God is advancing the cause of Christ through the ten PCA Committees and Agencies, and it is a joyous week of worship and fellowship.

*Enjoy snapshots of this important week in the life of PCA churches!*



# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

*loving unity*



*Seminar leader, Teri Anderson encouraged community building in Bible study.*



*Right: Marlys Mulkey and Ivy Munson welcome with warm smiles at registration.*



## HOW TO ORDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY CDs

Go to [www.pcaga.com](http://www.pcaga.com)  
or  
[www.barkerproductions.net](http://www.barkerproductions.net)

Prices are \$7.00+ plus \$1.00 for postage.



*Ed and Sheri Welch enjoy table fellowship at women's luncheon.*

## REGIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING



*Tennessee Valley is a PresWIC council that understands the theological and covenantal purpose of women's ministry. Co-chairman Sandy Hartley says, "Our mission is clear: to train and equip presbytery and local women's leadership, Bible study leaders, and Directors of Women's Ministries. We train leaders to train and equip others. We encourage these leaders to come to our annual Leadership Training Conference (LT) hosted by CEP for this purpose."*

*Cathy Wilson, Women's Ministry Advisory Sub-Committee Representative for the Mid-America Region, introduces Tennessee Valley PresWIC, comprised of churches from Tennessee and Georgia. Note their purpose and planning that models connectedness among their churches.*



Hearing at LT about the Big Picture of who we are as God's Church, His presence in His people, and as such our purpose and privilege to glorify Him in this world as He

extends His Kingdom, was a fabulous foundation for the Mid-America region to then begin discussing who we are and brainstorming what that meant for our women—as a denomination, as a region, as PresWICs and as local church bodies. It was a thrill to watch Tennessee Valley with its rich history and with its diversity of churches, ages, and backgrounds come together as a PresWIC with this big picture in view. During a break at LT, they planned out how they would transfer this vision to the women “back home.” The newer, younger members and their ideas were assimilated into the vision of those on whose shoulders they stand. As an outsider looking in, it was encouraging to see Titus 2 ministry at work, as well as women understanding and living their creation design in God's body. Because every group is a mix of personalities and views, this is not a smooth road. However, through prayer and an understanding of the big picture and a focus on God's glory, this group of women are connecting their churches and women in new ways so that God's church might work connectively to glorify Him and make Him known.

The Tennessee Valley PresWIC was formed soon after the PCA became a denomination in 1973. Like many, the PresWIC had a strong beginning, but weakened with time until there was very little or no PresWIC activity. In 1998, a Tennessee Valley Presbytery CE Chairman called the denominational office (CEP) asking for help in getting a presbytery-wide women's ministry going again. A steering committee was formed from local church leadership. Martha Lovelady, representing the steering committee, “cast a vision” of being “Christian women united in the Lord” at their first presbytery event, a luncheon. That day, she became a spiritual mother to many who “caught” the

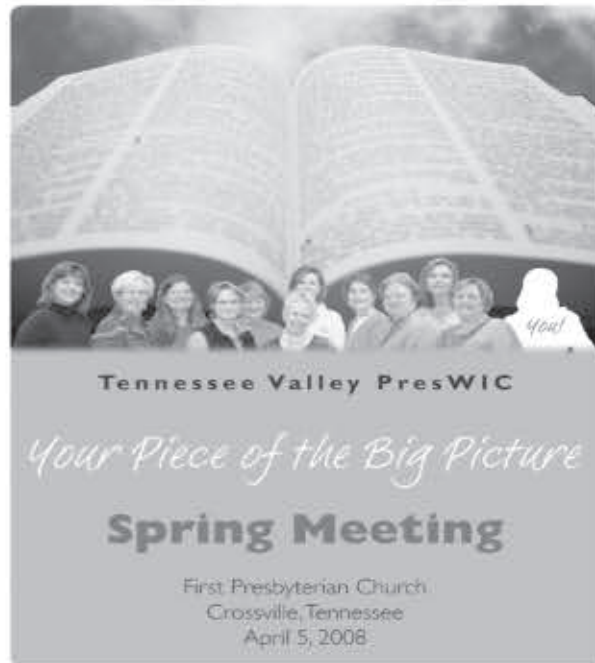
## *A call to Connectedness*

vision. So, TN Valley was brought back to life to become a thriving body of Christian women, united in purpose to glorify God in its ministry to women.

This year still finds TN Valley leadership functioning under its mission statement to train and equip local WIC leadership. The annual CEP Leadership Training Conference is a priority to this team. Excited to share what they learned, the program committee applied the 2008 LT training to the purpose of their spring event. "Your Piece of the Big Picture" was a variation of the "Big Picture" theme of the Leadership Training Conference. In her devotional, Sandy Hartley, co-chairman, gave an understanding of women's ministries placed under three "umbrellas of protection."

- 1** The **denominational** level of care and concern. The General Assembly placed us under the protection of PCA's Christian Education and Publications where the office of Coordinator of Women's Ministries exists. This keeps us all running on the same track.
- 2** The protection of the **presbytery**. TN Valley women know that they have the backing of funds and prayers of their elders. They want a member of presbytery to be present at each meeting. Also "being involved at the presbytery level with women keeps us connected to each other."
- 3** The third level is "the **local church session** with the teaching and ruling elders giving their protection to the women's ministry in the church."

Sandy stated, "I am thankful that we have umbrellas of a denomination, presbytery and local church that provide sound doctrine to our people in our women's ministries." What a wonderful overview of the big picture!



### **A take away idea for PresWICs and local churches!**

In order to enhance living covenantally, each church in the Tennessee Valley Presbytery was given a survey sheet to fill out and return to the PresWIC council so that they can compile information on demographics, ministries, Bible studies, and resources to use at their fall meeting. The purpose of this Women's Ministry Connections Guide is "to be a resource of encouragement through connecting women's ministries and their leaders." It should be a helpful tool for knowing the different pieces of TN Valley within the Big Picture!

# A GLIMPSE INTO A LOCAL WOMEN'S MINISTRY THEME



The women's ministry for 2007-2008 of First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS has a theme, a purpose, and a plan!

Using the theme, "Partnering in Fervent and United Prayer," the women of First Church Jackson are exploring the many aspects of prayer. From September through December the leadership hosted a three-part series that focused on unpacking the Purpose, Plan, and Particulars of Prayer.

The Purpose and Particulars of Prayer were taught and discussed at monthly luncheons. The Plan of Prayer was outlined at a Ladies Night Out that featured generational recognition of the rich community of faith that spiritually strong pilgrims had brought to the life and ministry of their church. Ashley Hall, the church's Director of Women's Ministries, gives us an inside view of that event.

"The evening began with card-making and appetizers and concluded with dinner and a speaker who focused on the 'plan of prayer.' The card-making has become a highlight among our ladies as it provides time for fellowship around the table while making beautiful Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and Valentine's cards for our 'Golden Circle.'

"The Golden Circle is comprised of ladies who are no longer able to regularly attend our monthly small group 'Circle' meetings or be active in our women's ministry due to age or illness. Each of our monthly Circles adopts three to four of these ladies, which helps us to keep them connected to our church body. The Circles do this by sending cards to them throughout the year, visiting and calling on occasion, praying for them regularly, and keeping them updated on church events and ministry.

"For the past two years, our Golden Circle ladies have loved receiving cards that are hand-made by our women in the church; but it is equally a time of being reminded of the lasting effect that these older ladies have had on



the lives of younger women in our congregation. As cards are being made, you can move from table to table and hear stories recounted of these dear saints who have labored in love for the Lord within our church through Bible teaching, children's Sunday school classes, missions, and in the ins-and-outs of everyday life. They

# *A call to United Prayer and Intergenerational Community*

have touched lives through teaching young moms, new grandmothers, and single women how to love the Lord and serve Him faithfully wherever He has placed them, regardless of the stage and circumstance.

“It is an encouragement to us to remember these servants of God and the ways that they modeled and taught us to love Christ and serve His church. It is always the case that the Lord uses those around us to teach us and encourage us forward in His ways, to keep our eyes focused on Christ, the author and finisher of our faith, and to remind us that we should be making the most of every opportunity to bless those around us by showing them His ways and His love. This year, following dinner and our speaker, we tied in our theme of prayer by spending time in prayer for these Golden Circle ladies.

“This spring the theme continued with the focus on ‘Pursuing Prayer.’ In our women’s newsletter, we have featured interviews with various prayer warriors whose lives are filled with the joy of praying for God’s glory and for His people. One of those highlighted was a pilgrim who is no longer able to be with her church

family, but who faithfully prays for ministers, missionaries, and other church members. She loves to use the prayers from the *Valley of Vision* and to pray the great hymns of the church.”

Are there prayer warriors within your church? Women whose stage and season limit their attendance but whose hearts are praising God, joyous, and fruitful? Take the time to seek out, care for, and learn from these saints who are finishing well and who can bring great encouragement and richness to the community of believers.

*O Father, thou are enthroned to hear my prayers; While Jesus is representing me in heaven, may I reflect him on earth; Answer my prayers, O Lord, for thy great name’s sake; Show us our danger, that we may fly to thee for refuge; Quieten our soul to call upon thy name . . . .*

Excerpted from *Valley of Vision*



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

## *Training Events and Resources*

*Just in time for evaluating and choosing curriculum for Bible studies!*

Dr. Dennis Bennett, CEP Coordinator of Training and Resources, introduces a new study, *Great Words* by Jack Arnold, and a leader's guide written by Carol Arnold and her son Dean Arnold.

**Dennis writes:**

"It took such a little sin to plunge the world into all the sin and misery we live in every day, but it took a great deal for God to be able to restore His relationship with us. This study, written by the late PCA pastor who died while preaching on heaven, will explain many of the words that help us to understand all God has done for us in Christ. Study about Predestination, Salvation, Gospel, Grace, Mercy, Atonement, Substitution, Redemption,



Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Propitiation, and Death. This is not just a study about words; it is intended to help you develop your relationship with God as you comprehend what He did for us in providing us with our salvation. The study is designed for individuals or groups."

**Carol Arnold writes:**

"When I get to heaven . . ." were my husband's famous last words from the pulpit before dying instantly of a heart attack and making international news. But Jack expounds on even greater words in this posthumously published book explaining important theological terms.

Often as I read through the Bible, I would skip over important words thinking, "I know what that one means." But do I really understand the essential significance and implication of each word and why that particular word is used? Jack had a knack for making theology simple and practical.

A great way to spend a Bible study is to meditate on one of God's great truths in the Bible. Jack's book, *Great Words*, provides just that opportunity, along with interesting discussion questions and anecdotes from Jack's life that make these theological truths clear, personal, and motivating. They can even make you chuckle once in awhile.



## YEAR 2 OF TEEN STUDY AVAILABLE



*Getting today's  
teen ready for  
tomorrow*

Who is teaching our teen and pre-teen girls what it means to be a woman—the church or the culture?

CEP's discipleship curriculum for girls will help the church to speak biblically and boldly to the issue of womanhood. This 3-year curriculum from author Susan Hunt (*Spiritual Mothering, True Woman*) is available for teen and pre-teen girls.

***True 2: Becoming a True Woman by Living in the Light of God's Word***

Student book: \$13.60 ea.  
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Leader's Guide: \$13.00

Visit:  
[www.pcacep.org/wicteenstudy](http://www.pcacep.org/wicteenstudy)  
for more details and a sample



## 2008 PCA Conference

### Making Visible GOD'S INVISIBLE KINGDOM



#### A Call to Discipleship

November 13 -15, 2008  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Omni Hotel at CNN Center

*Charles Colson*

**Have you and your church  
leadership looked at  
[www.pacep.org/discipleship08](http://www.pacep.org/discipleship08)?**

Please urge your pastor and session to examine the purpose of the 2008 CEP Conference. It is for men and women who work and serve at every level of church life. This conference is being built around CEP's philosophy and theology of making kingdom disciples who in turn will pass on the kingdom world and life view perspective to the rising generation. We are called by God to this privilege and responsibility.



## CALENDAR OF OTHER CEP TRAINING EVENTS

*Save the Dates Now  
and Pass Them On!*

#### 2008 Directors of Women's Ministries Retreat

September 29 - October 1  
Atlanta, Georgia  
[www.pacep.org/wic/down](http://www.pacep.org/wic/down)

#### 2008 CEP Discipleship Conference

November 13 - 15 CEP  
Omni Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia  
[www.pacep.org/discipleship08](http://www.pacep.org/discipleship08)

#### 2009 Women in the Church Leadership Training Conference

March 10 - 12, Covenant College  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
[www.pacep.org/wic/leadership09.htm](http://www.pacep.org/wic/leadership09.htm)

#### 2009 PCA Mercy Conference

March 12 - 14  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
[www.pacep.org/wic](http://www.pacep.org/wic)

#### Presbyterian Church in America 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

June 15-19, Orlando, Florida

THIRD QUARTER 2008

SEVEN THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU INVITE AN EVENT SPEAKER

by Tara Klana Barthel

Billings, Montana

Several years ago, Jane Patete asked Tara Barthel, a speaker who has had the great privilege of serving thousands of PCA women at retreats and conferences over the years, to share some of her hospitality experiences. At first Tara, the blessed recipient of wonderful hospitality across the US and Canada, was a bit reticent, not wanting to appear self-centered or ungrateful. Still, Jane persisted in explaining that a brief article like this might be a blessing to all of you hard-working, mission-minded event hosts. So here is Tara's list of "Seven Things to Remember When You Have an Event Speaker." Thank you Tara for letting us see things through the eyes of a speaker and helping churches to be more zealous to plan and serve invited speakers well! To those of you who know Tara, you know to read this with a smile!!!

**Don't forget that she is a human being.**

Your event speaker is undoubtedly there because she loves God and loves His people. She wants to serve! However, she is a human being—not an ATM machine. So if you schedule every single moment of her time and see that she is being bombarded with hour after hour of women wanting to speak with her and seek her counsel and care, please intervene and help her to "disconnect" so that she doesn't fall over from pure exhaustion. (Subtopics under this one would include "don't forget to offer your speaker occasional food & water" and "if it's minus five degrees, be sure she has a blanket in her cabin.")

**Think carefully about who you assign to drive her to/from your event.** This may seem like a small thing, but trust me, it's not. Most event speakers can hang in there with the best of them when it comes to wrong turns and delays due to simple driving mistakes. But when you assign your event speaker to a reckless driver who talks non-stop on her cell phone while gunning her sports car, or to a sweet but absent-minded and unsafe driver, it adds a level of stress to the event

that could be easily avoided. Ditto on putting your speaker in a minivan with five troubled women and expecting her to counsel them for the entire two-hour drive to and from the event. (If you burn your speaker out, she won't be able to serve well.)

**Don't elevate your speaker above her audience.**

I can't tell you how counterproductive it is when event hosts read my professional bio aloud to introduce me. Formal education, degrees, work, and ministry experience might be interesting to a person thinking about attending an event—but *no one* wants to hear that at an event. The people are already in the room! And the ground is absolutely level at the foot of the cross. The best introduction I receive at events is, "This is Tara. She is Fred's wife, Sophia Grace's mom, and a sinner saved by grace."

**Remember that even though this is your one big women's event for the year, it is probably one of many for her.**

Please don't expect your retreat speaker to both teach at your event and participate in all of the fun and games. She may be an extrovert who receives a lot of energy off of spending time with people and so she may want to join in with all of the festivities. But more than likely, she'll need some down time to rest, call her family, and prepare for the next session. Be sure her room is far away from the all-night "fun" and that her name is *not* on her door (to avoid any 2AM drop-by visits in jammies).

**Be careful how you provide her with information on your event.**

She may prefer long phone chats; but more than likely, she will organize event details in writing/via email. Please don't bombard her with contacts from multiple people on your event team. Instead, assign *one woman* to be the "interact with the speaker" contact person and have your team work through her. Also, whenever your event contact interacts with the speaker, be sure she identifies your event ("Florida, June 2008")

in her emails. Although it could be perfectly clear to *you* which event you're talking about, she may have hundreds of details to keep straight for multiple events. This will help her to serve you better.

**Think carefully about your speaker's thank-you gift.**

Huge gift baskets are really nice, but completely impractical if your speaker is running to make three flights home to her family at the close of your event. Ditto on the hand-blown glass trinket. If she is married and has children, consider remembering them. (Gift certificates for date nights are always appreciated!) As a general rule of thumb, unless you plan on mailing it to her, avoid gifts that can't be taken in a carry-on (and that includes lotions/liquids over 3 oz) or anything that requires bubble-wrap.

**Make sure she has water (or whatever else she needs).**

Not to sound too speaker-centric but if your speaker can't get to water and she's teaching for five or six hours, things are not going to go well. Consider assigning a happy and hospitable woman to keep an eye on the speaker and find ways to serve her. (Some of the off-the-chart generous things that have blessed my socks off have been having a woman do my ironing—especially when my flight was late and things were rushed, assigning someone to strip my linens and deal with my "self-cleaning" room requirements at more "rustic" retreat settings, and making sure someone was there to help with the baby when Sophie was a newborn.)

I hope these ideas help the ministry of your event to be even more effective! It is such an honor and a joy to serve you.

Your sister  
in Christ,

Tara B.

[www.tarabarthel.com](http://www.tarabarthel.com)





You can see it in their eyes



Ps. 71.17.18

Christian Education and Publications  
Discipling God's Covenant People



## 2008 WIC LOVE GIFT

### RIGHT TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

My four children are all grown up. When my youngest got married last year I was reminded, however, that the responsibility to train up our children is never ending. As the mother of the bride, I was supposed to stand up when signaled so that my daughter could begin her walk down the aisle. I missed the signal because I could not take my eyes off my grandson, the cutest ring bearer I had ever seen. My attention had already moved to the next generation. And so it is with the Kingdom of God. It will not end until Jesus comes back.

The 2008 WIC Love Gift will help provide new and better resources for equipping our churches to make disciples of the next generation. Making disciples of the next generation is the very heart of Christian Education and Publications, and we believe our heart is in the right place.

There was silence for four hundred years between the Old and New Testaments. God did not speak. But the last words spoken in the Old Testament were a prophesy fulfilled four hundred years later when God spoke again. *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction"* Malachi 4:5-6.

Luke 1:17 is the announcement of the coming of John the Baptist and his message to "turn the hearts of fathers to children." This message was to make the path straight for the Word to come forth.

Today, as we long for revival in Jesus' church, turning our hearts to our children will help straighten the path which has been made so crooked by our sin, the enemy, and our culture. What a sweet privilege we have to tell God's story to the next generation! What a sweet privilege you have to put your money where your heart is.

— Sue Jakes  
Christian Education Specialist



The website

[www.ppacep.org/lovegift](http://www.ppacep.org/lovegift)

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