

PCA *Women's Ministry* RESOURCE Quarterly

Christian Education and Publications

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. Likewise teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the Word of God.
Titus 2:1, 3-5

Intentional *about living in relationship with other women* Connected *in a vital way with other women*

THIS IS THE WAY GOD HAS MADE US AS WOMEN. THIS IS TITUS 2 MINISTRY!

Even though we all know the important content of the Titus 2 Mandate, many women drag their feet, resisting this discipleship call upon their lives. The following is written from that perspective.

After “church shopping” for a few weeks, our family landed at Trinity PCA in Asheville, North Carolina, and chose to make it our church home. For four years we attended faithfully. For four years I knew that I should be involved in the lives of other women but for various reasons just never made it happen. And for four years I lived in isolation in this church.

Oh, I went to the retreats and I came to occasional women’s events. I even attended the women’s Sunday school classes, but I didn’t live in relationship with other women.

Then last year I came to an event to hear about Titus 2 ministries, and I knew it was time to take the next step. You see, I know the truth about women’s ministry. I know the purpose, the benefits, the joys. I’ve taught it, trained for it, lived it; and for four years I avoided it.

You may be thinking, “I’m not like her. I’m well connected in this church. I have plenty of friends. I

don’t need a Titus 2 group.” Or perhaps you’re thinking, “I’ve been in her shoes. I’ve been attending for a while and haven’t really connected with the women yet. But a one year commitment is a long time.”

So why a Titus 2 ministry?

- It is about growing as a female disciple of Christ.
- It is about relationships.
- It is learning about “biblical womanhood” from other women—what it means, what it looks like in our day-to-day lives, and what that means for our marriages, our families, our church, and our world.

God wants this for us. He wants us to be connected and live in community with other women. He wants us to grow in our womanhood so that we may look more and more like Him.

Don’t wait. Live in life-giving relationships with your sisters.

— Susan Phillis

Former Women’s Advisory Sub-Committee Member

The Birth of a Titus 2 Ministry

Whether physical birth or the birth of an idea or philosophy, emotions loom large at such a time. Often "birthing" is accompanied by polar emotions: disappointment/joy, patience/impatience, frustration/surprise, or success/failure. This birth of a Titus 2 ministry highlights a slow and steady progress resulting in a fruitful birth timed perfectly by God.

In January 2008, Trinity Presbyterian Church saw the birth of six Titus 2 ministry small groups consisting of sixty-two women, six small group leaders, and ten prayer partners. The conception of this ministry began in the year 2000 when the women's ministry group requested the Session to join with them in praying about their ministry. After eight years of prayer and waiting, God prepared the way to begin a Titus 2 ministry. This was God's perfect timing. Adrienne King, Trinity's Coordinator of Titus 2 Ministries, tells us their story.

The gestation seemed very long as we waited those eight years, but we knew we needed to wait on God's perfect timing and have definite goals and a definite plan for this ministry. In 2006, we utilized CEP's Titus 2 discipleship ministry model to give us structure for developing this ministry.

The purpose of the ministry is to help women establish covenant relationships with godly women who will encourage and equip them to live for God's glory. We also want to keep before them the principles of biblical womanhood.

So, beginning in January 2007, we taught a women's Sunday school class using *Spiritual Mothering* by Susan Hunt. From this class we saw the women learning about biblical womanhood and becoming excited about the possibility of a ministry that would help them to learn these principles as well as to encourage them to more intentionally encourage one another.

A Titus 2 subcommittee was then formed to begin to plan how to organize and train leaders for this ministry. The subcommittee was comprised of anyone who was interested in a spiritual mothering ministry. These ladies brought their suggestions to our Women's Ministry Group who refined the ideas and asked our Session for their guidance and approval. Our Session has always been so supportive of our women's ministry, and their oversight has confirmed God's direction for us.

The next step was to teach *Legacy of Biblical Womanhood* by Susan Hunt and Barbara Thompson in a women's Sunday school

class. The goal for this class was to have women attending the class become Titus 2 small group leaders. The class was open to all the women in the church and gave us the opportunity to again teach biblical womanhood and principles of living as godly women in our world today.

In January 2008, we provided training for the six small group facilitators of the first Titus 2 ministry small groups. For the training, we used material from CEP's Titus 2 ministry and added specific training in leading small groups using *Treasures of*

Encouragement by Sharon Betters. Susan Phillis, a former WASC member, led this training for us.

A Titus 2 Ministry Dessert Kick-Off and Informational Meeting was used to share the objectives and guidelines for this new ministry. The women were informed that Titus 2:1,

3-5 was the foundation for this ministry, and that God's Word is foundational to all we do. This time also provided an opportunity for them to sign up for a small group. We were overwhelmed with the number and diversity of women who were seeking an opportunity to develop relationships with one another, which was exactly the goal of that first year.

God has encouraged and equipped our women to live for God's glory. Yes, there have been challenges. We only met once a month so it took four - five months before some of the women were comfortable enough in the group to share their heart issues and struggles with one another. In several groups we had one or two women who, after even a year together, still did not feel that they "connected" with other women in their group. We have given these ladies an opportunity to join a different group this year if they prefer; but generally, most of the women began to share their lives with one another. Relationships were strengthened with the sharing of prayer requests together, and it was during these times that women would encourage each other with their experiences and point one another to Christ.



God has used these relationships and our study of *Treasures of Encouragement* to also reach beyond our groups. For instance, when we studied the chapter about “the tongue,” one woman was convicted of a relationship at work. Her willingness to “be real” with us was wonderful, and we all started praying for her and for this co-worker. Within three days she emailed us about her change of heart in this relationship.

As we begin in January 2009, we have the original six small groups continuing with some transition in the membership and three new groups beginning. It is exciting to see God maturing us and leading us into covenant relationships with one another that bring Him all the glory.



Comments from participants and Women’s Ministry oversight elder

A “younger” woman: *“I have never felt more safe to be ‘real’ with a group of women before, to share my spiritual struggles, etc., like I have with this group. The encouragement that I have received and been able to share through this class has been life changing.”*

An “older” woman: *“Covenant relationships are being formed in this group. The encouragement from other women is like a gentle rain on a parched garden! Because the focus is on Christ (and I especially love this book, Treasures of Encouragement, we are studying,) it is an encouragement with HOPE in God’s sovereignty over all circumstances.”*

Ruling Elder (on Women’s Ministry Group when we made the proposal to begin the Titus 2 ministry): *“I am so glad for the Titus 2 ministry the ladies have here. Ladies are helping, building, and investing in each others’ lives. Titus 2 is a wonderful ministry that our body needs and is supporting. I highly recommend this ministry to other churches.”*

Resources

- *Model for a Titus 2 Discipleship Ministry: Women’s Ministry in the Local Church*, Appendix 2
- *Becoming a True Woman Teen Studies* by Susan Hunt

CDs

- *Titus 2 Ministries*, Susan Hunt, WIC Leadership Training 2005. (#7053)
- *Kingdom Discipleship*, Susan Hunt, WIC Leadership Training 2006. (#8260)
- *Titus 2 Strategy: Discipleship Ministry*, Ann Kiftner & Panel Discussion, International Women in the Church Conference 2006. (#8386)
- *Apologetic for Women’s Ministry in the Church*, Ligon Duncan & Susan Hunt, International Women in the Church Conference 2006. (#8378)

Order CDs and books from the CEP Bookstore at 1.800.283.1357 or go online to www.cepbookstore.com and place your order. Georgia residents add 8% sales tax.



LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2009

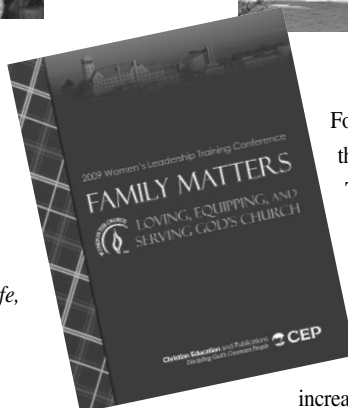
For the first time, CEP took the Women in the Church Leadership Conference on the road. It was truly a *mountaintop experience* as over two hundred women traveled to Lookout Mountain, Georgia, March 10-12, to the PCA's Covenant College.



PresWIC, Bible study, and local women's ministries leaders, including PCA staff women, gathered to be equipped corporately and individually for kingdom ministry. They were part of this annual CEP event that trains leaders to pass on their training in order that *every woman know Christ personally and be committed to extending His kingdom in her life, home, church, community, and throughout the world.*

As we listened to the women who came, we heard:

- "Leadership 2009 blended theology and truth-centered teaching from speakers and workshops with many practical applications for implementing ministry. Women left not just 'inspired,' but equipped with ideas and resources for leadership."
- "Covenant College was a great venue— [it] worked so well with the Family Matters theme. The quietness of the mountaintop campus and the absence of outside stimuli greatly enhanced this conference."
- "As a pastor's wife, fairly new to the PCA, I walked away with a better understanding of the regional discipleship of PresWIC, the PCA, and covenant theology."
- "Regional training sessions with women from my region of the United States were as beneficial as the plenary sessions."
- "Relationship building with women across the PCA is an important and beneficial equipping I am taking home."
- "Networking at the denominational level was so helpful."
- "Strong covenant theology from our LT pastor, Stephen Estock."
- "I loved the beautiful women who shared their testimonies!"



For those churches not able to attend, begin now to think, pray, and plan about attending Leadership Training 2010, February 25-27, in Atlanta, Georgia. Be strategic in looking at the women in your church and region. Who needs to be trained, encouraged, and equipped?

As the PCA continues to grow, there is an increasing need for the ministries of Christian Education and Publications to work with the local church in raising up a generation of leaders and teachers to build upon a firm foundation. Please join us in kingdom ministry.



2010 Leadership Training February 25 - 27 Marriott Atlanta Airport Hotel

A Prayer and Plea from CEP

Dear PCA Women,

We ask for your prayers as CEP continues in ministry. As you know, in the last year many families and churches have had to re-evaluate their priorities and tighten their budgets because of the staggering economy. Though these are difficult times, we trust that our Lord is working His good through all situations.

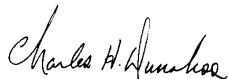
At the 2009 Leadership Conference in March, it was stated that if each person present or church represented at the conference were to contribute \$225 (the price of the conference registration), **CEP's whole deficit would be eliminated.** Donations have dropped another 25% since the first of the year as churches continue to remove low-priority items from their budget. In many cases, churches are hesitant to cut missionaries, church planters, or other individuals and instead opt to cut contributions to organizations like CEP, not realizing that CEP is dependent on donations to fund our ministry staff and their respective ministries.

We at CEP would like to ask you to consider supporting us as we carry out our mission of *discipling God's covenant people*. Being confident the Lord is using us for the purpose of equipping His saints for the work of ministry, we are not hesitant to ask this of you. As a program committee of the PCA we have been commissioned to serve the denomination by equipping the local church and providing it with resources; however, financial challenges are forcing us to make hard choices. We can assure you the resources entrusted to us are carefully stewarded to maximize the effectiveness of our ministries.

You can also support our ministry by encouraging your church to be involved in our work and to consider us when they are setting their budgets. Our events do not cover CEP's operating costs; and were it not for the backing and support of local churches, we would be ineffective in our ministry.

We need your help, and we thank you for considering our request. We hope to see you at future events sponsored by CEP.

Blessings,



Charles Dunahoo, Coordinator

You may also make an online donation if you go to www.pcacep.org and look for the "Donate Online" banner on the top right of the page. As a not-for-profit organization, CEP will provide you with a tax-deductible receipt for any donation.

LIVING LETTERS

In this issue and the next, we continue our practice to share “Living Letters” from Women’s Advisory Sub-Committee (WASC) members who have faithfully served their regions through CEP’s ministry to PCA women. These are letters from their hearts to you. But these go beyond moving stories. Use them with your leadership teams as a challenge to recommit to God’s call in your life to love and serve His family through discipleship ministry, woman to woman. Use them as a model when leadership roles change within your church or PresWIC.

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. 2 Corinthians 3:2-3 (NIV)

Marilyn Melton served as WASC representative for the Southeast region from 2004-2008.



Next to Jesus and my hubby, Ken, I love my gal friends the most. Our image-bearing female design is unique and wonderful; so, women’s ministry has become natural for me. Yet, it had always been in the context of my local church, my neighbors, and my circle of friends until I met Jane Patete.

Jane and I hit it off immediately (at least that’s my memory). Without my realizing it, she began to gently push me into a broader ministry beginning with PresWIC council. Next, she asked me to prepare and serve the meals for several WASC gatherings. I watched as women from all over came together to share their lives: loving, encouraging, and praying for one another. Their commitment to each other and to our denominational women’s ministry was so impressive. I watched and listened as they sought God’s wisdom and direction for leadership weekends, the ‘06 International Conference, and much more.

Then I realized that Jane was talking about me becoming one of them. Of course I said, “No thank you. I’ll just keep cooking and arranging food.” She couldn’t seem to hear me and kept repeating herself. I stood firm—for goodness sake, I didn’t even own a jumper (inside joke). Then the letter of invitation to join the WASC came from Dr. Dunahoo. I said, “Charles, you know I’m not as sweet or as sanctified as those women.” He said, “*That’s why we need you.*” Jane and Charles both asked me to pray about it and talk to Ken. I knew the outcome.

So there I was, scared to death, sitting around the table with a bunch of women who were “more together” than I could ever be. Over time, as we met and talked, I learned to trust them and they taught me much.

I was privileged to be a resource person for those gals in my regional PresWIC. I met so many wonderful, committed women while equipping and encouraging them to think biblically and live covenantally.

I’m always impressed at God’s providence and how He brings people, situations, and gifts together for His glory. “For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13

Judy Honeycutt has been the WASC representative for the Southeast region since March 2008.



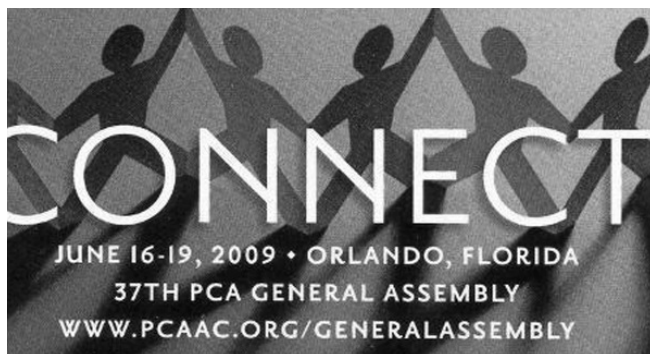
I suppose it’s only natural that I would be involved in “women’s ministry” because I’ve been surrounded by and learning from wise women my whole life. If I am a living letter, it’s only because there are beautiful and strong women’s faces all over the border of my stationary!

Both of my grandmothers were widowed in their forties, but I never remember them complaining about their life’s circumstances. Their homes were my favorite destinations, their stories were the best, and their love was unconditional. My mom, the tap dance teacher, taught me that you can genuinely dance through life with joy in your heart. My three sisters continue to teach me much about patience in parenting and generosity of spirit. From my lovely sixteen-year-old daughter, I have learned to slow down and dream. Most recently, from my future daughter-in-law I am learning that two women can love the same man at the same time! I have watched all of these women love Christ and display that love by serving His church. Watching them serve inspires me to do the same.

I went to a women’s college where women learned to lead. In law school, I learned that not all women lead with a servant’s heart. At Covenant Seminary with my husband Mike, I learned from other seminary wives how to persevere in prayer. These days, I continue to learn how to think biblically and live covenantally from the women in my church at Southwood, including the other staff wives, my small group Bible study, and our book club; from the women on Evangel PresWIC Council; and now from the women on the Women’s Advisory Subcommittee.

That's why I'm willing to invest in a denomination that values women enough to provide quality resources and training opportunities for us. My desire as Southeast representative is to strengthen our PresWICs as places of equipping and encouragement. A healthy PresWIC displays our unity while encouraging us to be outwardly focused; it is the antidote to tunnel vision and being ingrown. A healthy PresWIC provides a picture of body life as women and resources from one church are used to meet needs among women in other churches within the presbytery. PresWIC stimulates creativity as we fish in a bigger pond of experience and wisdom while protecting us with truth, consistency, and male oversight. The end product of a healthy PresWIC is not simply a strong women's ministry but rather a strong church.

In my limited travels this first year through the Southeast region, I have seen much that encourages my heart. No two PresWICs have been alike and that is as it should be. We operate from the same purpose statement but each council gives its unique expression to and for its women. I look forward to all the lessons I'll learn on this journey and to seeing the faces of other sisters in Christ along the way. Pray that I will be a wise steward of this opportunity. When I lack confidence for the task and feel like a dead instead of a living letter, pray that I will declare with Paul, not that we are adequate in ourselves, but our adequacy is from God.



Are you an elder's wife who plans to attend the 2009 General Assembly with your husband? This year's GA will be held in Orlando, Florida, at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Conference Center. The location alone is an invitation to plan get-togethers and outings with friends in the PCA family that you only see once a year! With that in mind, organized women's and children's activities have been kept to a minimum.

Planned Activities:

The annual GA Women in the Church program and meal will be on **Thursday, June 18, from 9:30-noon**. We will enjoy brunch in the Fiesta Ball Room; dress is casual. **Dr. Paul Tripp**, president of Paul Tripp Ministries, staff member of Tenth Presbyterian in Philadelphia, and author, will be speaking about disappointments—*Women: So You Are Disappointed. Now What?* This is the only time when child care will be offered.

Please go to www.pcacep.org/wic/GA/family.htm to register for the brunch and childcare. (This web address also gives information on attractions in and around Disney to assist you as you plan your own activities.)

Prayer times are designed to provide opportunities to exercise the gift of prayer for our husbands who serve the church of Jesus Christ and for the work and ministry of the church. Make time in your schedule to come to two specific prayer times:

Monday, 3pm-4 pm: Prayer and connections.

Tuesday evening: Gather immediately following the opening session to pray for the election of the moderator for the 37th PCA General Assembly. Both sessions will meet in **Monterey 2**.

Seminars for women are offered as usual on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. See the above web site for seminar descriptions. These are times planned to further equip and train you in your role as the wife of an elder. Please don't miss the richness of these seminars! Here are some recommendations that are uniquely related to women's ministry and marriage.

The Unexpected: What I Didn't Know I Didn't Know and What the Lord is Teaching Me as a Young Elder's Wife

– Chandra Oliver, Teaching Elder's wife

Women's Ministry in a Complementarian Framework

– Debbie Mays, Teaching Elder's wife

– Mary Beth McGreevy, Ruling Elder's wife

What Every Pastor Wishes the Women in His Church Knew

– Carol Arnold, Teaching Elder's wife

Loving Your Husband and His Calling to Lead

– Sally Gleason, Teaching Elder's wife

RESOURCES

This year CEP is suggesting the following study for PCA women's Bible studies. It comes from Frances Bennett, wife of Teaching Elder Christopher Bennett. Here is a review comment from Dr. Dennis Bennett, CEP Coordinator of Training and Resources.



JOB: LESSONS IN COMFORT

Frances Poston Bennett

Over the years I have read and taught many Bible studies, but never have I come across a study as well written and thought out as *Job: Lessons in*

Comfort. In fact, this is the best study in general that I have ever come across. Job is a long book that on the surface seems to have only one major theme, suffering. Yet, as Frankie shows us, there is so much more.

I found the manuscript for this work sitting on Jane Patete's desk and asked if I could look it over since I knew Frankie and went to seminary with her husband, Chris. Frankie asked CEP to consider publishing the study, and it is my pleasure to announce that Frankie has allowed us to be the exclusive publisher of this work.

Frankie approaches the book of Job from the angle of comfort in suffering. All thirteen lessons constantly point us not to Job or his situation but to our covenant-keeping God who has perfect, loving control of every aspect of our lives, even when it seems He is clueless to our needs.

One more thing. I not only read through this study, I had the pleasure of teaching this work to the women in the PCA office building each Tuesday. Every week there seemed to be a very special quote that we would find and share together. Each person in the group would also share their times of suffering. It was a special time watching these women minister to each other through each lesson.

I cannot recommend this book highly enough. If you cannot find a group to go through this with, then use it for your personal study. If you haven't

gone through serious suffering you probably will, or at least someone will to whom you can minister. This study will give you help to either go through suffering personally or walk alongside someone who is suffering.

— Dennis G. Bennett (no relation to Frankie except in Christ)
Coordinator of Training and Resources

Now let's listen to the author's heart for this study.

On a beautiful spring day while the children play happily in the yard, the average person does not open the Bible thinking, "Ah, the book of Job. Let's read a few chapters!" No, the average person opens the Bible to Job because of pain. Like Job, we have lost someone, lost something, lost hope, lost joy. Even then, the average person does not "read" the book of Job. In those times of sorrow, we search the book of Job. We hunt answers. We devour God's Word because we have a need that nothing else can satisfy.

Once upon a time I thought I would never know joy again. Sorrow beyond anything I had ever known crushed me. God broke my heart.

Jesus said, "Seek and you will find." So I sought comfort in God's Word. I read that when Job met God, Job said what he learned was "too wonderful for me." I did not understand what was so wonderful about Job's discovery, so I reread the book of Job. I looked up every cross-reference cited in my Bible. I searched recommended commentaries. I prayed. I read Job again and again and again!

What did I find? Jesus was right: I found what I was seeking. Job was right: God's Word reveals things that are "too wonderful for me." We can take any sorrow, any loss, any fear, any pain to God's Word. We can ask any question, as Job did. We can hurl any grief to God in prayer, as Job did. And at the end of our search, we will find Christ and comfort beyond our expectation. To my profound amazement, I now thank God that He led me through deep sorrow because it was sorrow that led me to seek; and as Jesus promised, those who seek do find. I learned things about God that I had not known. I found comfort. I found joy. God is indeed "too wonderful for me."

It is my prayer that others who study *Job: Lessons in Comfort* will also learn "things too wonderful for me." When we begin to grasp His goodness, we too can offer true comfort to others.



Frankie Bennett

CEP'S VIDEO LIBRARY

Have you been missing out on one of Christian Education and Publication's ministries? If so. . .

CHECK US OUT!

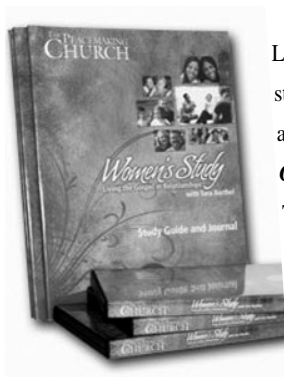
Jan Magnuson, CEP Video Librarian, says, "It's exciting to see God use CEP's video library in helping build kingdom disciples throughout our PCA family! It is both a blessing and a privilege for me to have the opportunity to be a part of this growing ministry. The best part about being the video librarian is the privilege of speaking and ministering to our churches around the country each day. I also have the opportunity to preview all new DVDs before they are added to the library ...
... it's just part of my job!"



Jan Magnuson

Churches use their memberships to check out DVDs for Bible studies, small groups, Sunday schools, retreats, seminars, training, mission's conferences, movie nights, the youth group, and much more. "Getting feedback from the churches is very important, whether the review is positive or negative. I encourage churches to let me know if there's a series they would like for us to consider carrying. We're here to meet the church's needs," says Jan.

The library adds new DVDs monthly. Since so many women's ministries in local churches rent from the library, topics of interest to them are given a priority. Particular topics include Bible study, Christian life, Christian worldview, counseling, family, marriage, teacher training, and many more.



Last summer, the video library added a study that Jan considers a "must see" for all women in the church: *Living the Gospel in Relationships* by Tara Barthel. Tara was formerly on the staff of Peacemaker Ministries. Based on the book *Peacemaking Women* that Tara co-authored, this video series delves

into women and relationships in an encouraging and honest fashion. Tara helps women "to remember anew God's grace for us through the gospel of Jesus Christ," and how, as God's children, we are to give that same grace to others. Some of the sessions include "The Gap Between What I Believe and How I Live," "A Biblical Response to Conflict," and "Relationships that Show the World Jesus." Every woman will take away some great lesson from this study. "We've received excellent feedback from every church so far," said Jan. "It's my prayer that we'll be able to get another study on DVD by Tara in the future."



Tara Barthel and daughter, Sophie

For more information about the DVDs available or questions about the video library, contact Jan Magnuson at 800-283-1357 or jmagnuson@pcanet.org. You can also visit our website at www.pcencep.org/video.

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SECOND QUARTER 2009

In this issue, WICK is being used to highlight an event that is transferable and can be adapted by your church to **Connect the Church to the Community**.

In July 2008, the women's ministry of Briarwood PC in Birmingham, AL, sponsored "Kingdom Klothes" as an opportunity for the church to team with another Christian organization reaching into the community. Briarwood's Director of Women's Ministries, Julie Elmer, explains the concept. "Kingdom Klothes is a gently worn clothing sale that is open to everyone. Our sale is a ministry and service to our community by presenting an opportunity for families to economically provide for their family's clothing needs. An environment of fellowship for volunteers and shoppers is created so that all may experience caring relationships with one another through the power of Jesus Christ."



The 2008 financial recipient of the event was Restoration Academy, which is a private inner city school located in nearby Fairfield. The school is committed to providing a quality, Christ-centered education to lower income families with children from K5 through 12th grade. It was founded in response to the crime and violence that ensnared many of the young people in the inner city church and community. Founded in 1988, the school is still meeting the needs of individual students today by providing an excellent curriculum, competitive sports program, and other opportunities for each student to meet his or her God-given potential. "The most celebrated outcome is seeing the students overcome the potentially destructive lifestyles of fatherlessness, functional illiteracy, and incarceration and be equipped to live productive Christian lives."

A brochure giving details on donated clothes' condition, times of collection, tagging, and the purpose of the sale was distributed to the members of Briarwood. Information on Restoration Academy and what the proceeds would fund was also included, along with the opportunity for members to buy gift certificates for friends or families.

How do you put into words the excitement of a little girl as she picks out a new outfit for school and the gratitude on the face of her mother as she realizes that she can afford it? What about asking a young boy, "If there was one thing you could buy in here, what would it be?" His quiet reply is "that bicycle," but it is too small. However, after a volunteer pumps up the tires, raises the handlebars, raises the seat, and lowers the price, he is the proud owner not only of that bicycle but the biggest smile in Birmingham! "We will not soon forget the blessing of spending time with the staff of Restoration Academy, Mamma Lois' Grace House girls, and our Mercy Ministry New Focus ladies as they shopped with gift certificates so graciously given by our church family," says Julie. "There was an atmosphere of genuine fellowship and heartfelt appreciation expressed with hugs and smiles. These are just some of the many wonderful experiences we shared at our Kingdom Klothes sale in Fairfield."

Julie adds, "We were recently challenged to be aware of what God can do to **make extraordinary ministry available in ordinary circumstances**. A used clothing sale is a pretty ordinary circumstance. But more importantly, this allowed us the extraordinary opportunity of sharing with dozens of shoppers that God loves us so much that He has provided a way we can exchange 'our wardrobe of filthy rags' for the 'perfect garment of salvation and robe of righteousness' required to enter into His presence; purchased for us through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross. His garments are free!"

How to use this article:

Use the following questions taken from WIC 201 (see www.pcacep.org/wic) with your leadership team to find the covenantal characteristics of ministry in the article. This process will aid your team as you intentionally plan and implement your ministries. Not every activity or ministry will accomplish all of these purposes, but every activity/ministry should accomplish some of them.

- ❖ Why are we doing this?
- ❖ How will this glorify God by reflecting His character?
- ❖ What is this teaching women about the biblical perspective of womanhood?
- ❖ What is this teaching women about living covenantally and reflecting grace to one another?
- ❖ Do our activities or tasks flow from Scripture?
- ❖ How will this build community among the women?
- ❖ How will this build community with other members, age groups, and ministries of the church, presbytery, and denomination?
- ❖ How does this advance God's kingdom in this world?
- ❖ How does this demonstrate the compassion of Jesus?
- ❖ What characteristic of the covenant does this express?
- ❖ How are we showing our answers to the above questions to participants in the ministry?

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH 2009 LOVE GIFT

PCA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE (AC)



As a connectional community—one family within the extended family of all God's people—the PCA believes, worships, and serves the Lord together. The Administrative Committee, through its functions and services, helps tie together the people and churches of our denomination, thus facilitating ministry.

Your 2009 Love Gift will enable the Administrative Committee to serve you more effectively, and in doing so, it will strengthen the PCA. Here are three resources that will be made possible by your faithful giving.

Digital Publications

Many of the useful official publications produced in the past by the Administrative Committee, such as the General Assembly's annual *Minutes*, are available only in print form. The *Minutes* include informational reports about the ministries of our Permanent Committees and Agencies, as well as a record of that year's Assembly proceedings. Most volumes are now out of print and can no longer be purchased. Your Love Gift will help make these and other records easily accessible in digital form.

New PCA Digest

The Digest, a handy reference guide, is a valuable aid to our church leaders and members wanting to know more about PCA positions on different issues. It was last updated, however, over ten years ago. Your Love Gift will help to produce a new edition.

Historical Center Improvements

The Historical Center helps us and our children know how God has worked in the past and so equips us better for ministry in our day. Your Love Gift will assist by providing funds for new shelving, furniture, and updated technology to care for the valuable historical records that have been entrusted to us.

The Administrative Committee staff members are here to serve you. Would you please take a moment to pray for their ministry?



Standing L to R: Rev. Wayne Herring, Carla Schwartz, Sherry Eschenberg, Richard Doster, Rev. John Robertson, Dr. Roy Taylor, Peggy Little, Monica Johnston, Rev. Bob Fiol
Sitting L to R: Angela Nantz, Ashley Cloud, Priscilla Lowrey, Katy Perkins Not pictured: Susan Cullen

2008 WIC LOVE GIFT

Thank You



Ps. 71.17.18

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