

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY OF ELIZABETH

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Presbyterian Women continue to live out their purpose toward building an inclusive, caring community of women.

In 2009 we held our Spring Gathering in April at Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, and our Fall Gathering at Cranford Presbyterian Church. Attendance at these events, as in the past, has fallen. Where we once would have 80 to 100 come to these Gatherings, now we have 30 to 50. However, we remain a committed and lively bunch, and the Coordinating Team strives to bring speakers of interest to the community.

We reach out to all congregations, not only those with active PW groups. "Second Mile Giving" and "Blessings Without Boundaries" encouraged women to give to PW above and beyond what they have pledged to their home churches. Right now, PWP is in stable financial condition, and we pass through our account those donations received from PWs in the Congregation. Recipients include PW's own Thank and Birthday Offerings, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, PC(USA) Peace and Hunger projects, Elizabethport Center and Johnsonburg. Our financial support extends also to PW Churchwide and PW Synod of the Northeast. In 2009, we forwarded \$11,287.25 to Churchwide and \$1,193.62 to Synod.

PWP keeps a small reserve to assist our members in covering the costs of attending various PW and PC(USA) conferences and workshops. In 2009 PW held their Triannual Gathering in Louisville, "God Does Wonders Among Us," which was attended by nearly 20 PW members from the Elizabeth Presbytery. Together with other PWP's in our Presbytery Partnership Group, we are planning a summer Gathering in July 2010, entitled "We Gather By The River," which will be held in New Brunswick. We also look forward to the PWSNE Triannual Gathering in Albany in July 2011.

Through the PW publication Horizons, most of the local PWs cover the same Bible study. In June 2009 we finished "Jubilee: Luke's Gospel for the Poor," and in September began "Joshua: A Journey of Faith."

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Elizabeth continues to witness to the promise of God's kingdom and to work for justice and peace. We thank the Presbytery for their continued prayers and support.

Amy Aaroe, Moderator
January 8, 2010