

# News and Information About Presbyterian Women and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



## Come! Be Refreshed!—The PC(USA)'s First Consultation of Racial Ethnic Women



Photos by Susan Jackson Dowd

**Top: The planning team of the 2005 Racial Ethnic Women's Consultation**  
**Bottom: Participants gathered water from the streams and rivers in their home towns to pour into a communal basin that symbolized the waters of life.**

"Come! Be Refreshed by the Waters of Life: A Gathering of Women of Color to Rejuvenate Our Ministry" was the theme of a consultation that brought 180 women of color to Atlanta in October 2004. This historic event was the culmination of the process instigated by the Presbyterian Women's Racial Ethnic Dialog in January 2001. Presbyterian women of all ages and from all racial ethnic backgrounds gathered with 40 PC(USA) staff and consulting partners to share struggles, perspectives and ideas, and to build bridges across race, ethnicity, age and gender lines.

Plenary sessions focused on immigration and the history of organizing by women of color in the Presbyterian Church, and prepared participants to engage in one of 10 topics of interest, which were presented in mini-consultations. As the heart of the event, these consultations included the topics of sexism and racial ethnic women in the church; women's organizations; immigration, women and the Presbyterian Church; breaking down cross-cultural barriers; racial ethnic church growth strategies; support and recruitment for racial ethnic clergywomen; culture, gender and age in PC(USA) resources, including *Horizons* Bible study; the question of identifying ourselves first by gender or race and ethnicity; developing a theology of money; and theology and its relationship to faithful living.

Each mini-consultation generated recommendations for action by the larger church. The gathered community as a whole adopted two resolutions:

- That General Assembly Council (GAC) support racial ethnic women by providing resources with which to hold biennial or triennial consultations of racial ethnic women.
- That recommendations and resolutions of the consultations be referred to GAC, the Advocacy Committee on Women's Concerns (ACWC), the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns (ACREC), Presbyterian Women (PW), racial ethnic caucuses and other appropriate entities, for endorsement and implementation.

For a full report of the consultation and the recommendations, see the March/April 2005 issue of *Church & Society* magazine. Order your copy from Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS), 800/524-2612, item 72-431-05-602, \$3 each plus shipping; 10 or more, \$2.50 each plus shipping.



### NNPCW 2005 Leadership Event

On July 27–31, 2005 the National Network of Presbyterian College Women will hold its annual leadership event in Chicago, Illinois. The event, titled *Many Hands, One Spirit*, aims to confront prejudice through education and social action. Participants will engage in dialogue, worship and workshops to discern how women of faith can respond to issues surrounding prejudice. Registration fees are \$200 per person if registered by June 1, 2005; \$225 if registered after June 1. For more information, visit [www.pcusa.org/nncpw](http://www.pcusa.org/nncpw) or contact Kelsey Rice, 888/728-7228, ext. 5848 or [krice@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:krice@ctr.pcusa.org)



### In Memoriam

As Presbyterian Women goes to press with this issue of *Horizons*, the world mourns the passing of one of the great spiritual leaders of our time, Pope John Paul II. He was a man of deep devotion, clearly discerning God's direction for his life and having the courage to follow. God was his center, his life and work radiating from this divine presence.

Devoted to Christian unity and interfaith relationships, Pope John Paul opened dialogue between Roman Catholics and other Christian faith traditions; and between Roman Catholics and Jews. Let's be reminded to continue in this spirit. I write while millions take their place in line in Vatican City to pay their final respects to this beloved spiritual leader. As Presbyterian women, let's take our place in line, standing with our brothers and sisters in Christ, with faith in our hearts and in our prayers.

—Kristen York Gerling  
PW Moderator, 2003–2006

### PW Mission Opportunities Update

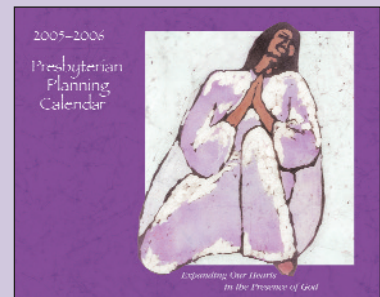
In August 2003, the Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women responded to concerns of many Presbyterian Women by appointing a task group of six knowledgeable women to review the PW Mission Opportunities Program and make recommendations for improving it. In 2004, the task group conducted a survey of a broad group of PW, and is now creating a proposal for a program that better matches the needs of mission partners with the gifts that PW has to offer. In addition to smoothing logistical details, the plan provides freedom and new, exciting opportunities for more women to participate. The new Mission Opportunities Program will be instated in July 2006. More information about the changes will appear in the September/October 2005 issue of *Horizons*.

### 2005–2006 Presbyterian Planning Calendar Expanding Our Hearts in the Presence of God

“Enlarge my heart, that it may be big enough to receive the greatness of your love,” begins a prayer by Kapinga Esete, a woman, now deceased, who was a member of the former Presbyterian Church in Zaire. Her prayer is one of 12 prayers highlighted in the 2005–2006 *Presbyterian Planning Calendar*. The prayers come from around the world; some are historical, some contemporary, prayed by men and women, by old and young, by Presbyterians and Christians of other denominations. The theme of the calendar is from a quote by John Calvin, who likened prayer to “an

expanding of our hearts in the presence of God.”

The 12 prayers, which include prayers by Marian Wright Edelman of the Children's Defense Fund and Joan Brown Campbell of the Chautauqua Institution, are accompanied by 12 batik images created by artist Sandra Charles especially for the calendar. Sandra's artwork has appeared in several PC(USA) publications, including *Horizons* magazine, *Celebration of Women: Clergy Women of the Presbyterian Church*, *Steal Away: Journeying Toward Spiritual Maturity* and the 1999 Peacemaking Offering poster.



The calendar, available in May, also features:

- pages for June 2005 through December 2006;
- lectionary for the Lord's Day and liturgical colors;
- liturgical days, PC(USA) programmatic emphases and secular holidays;
- synod, presbytery and General Assembly staff directories.

The Calendar is an excellent resource to use in conjunction with your 2005–2006 *Horizons* Bible study, *For Everything, A Season*.

*Presbyterian Planning Calendars* can be ordered from Presbyterian Distribution Service, 800/ 524-2612 or [www.pcusa.org/marketplace](http://www.pcusa.org/marketplace); item 70-612-05-500, \$9.95 each for 1–9 copies; \$7.50 each for 10–49; \$5.50 each for 50 or more; plus shipping.

### Correction

The 2006 Gathering scripture was printed incorrectly on the back cover of the March/April 2005 issue of *Horizons*. The scripture for the Gathering, themed “Creation! Celebration! God's Word—Light for the Journey is

In the beginning . . . God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. . . . God saw everything that [God] had made, and indeed, it was very good.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . all things were made through the Word, and without the Word was not anything made that was made. In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all.\*—*Genesis 1:1a, 3, 31a* and *John 1:1, 3–4*

\* *An Inclusive-Language Lectionary*, copyright 1988 by the Division of Education and Ministry, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.