

Widening the Circle for the Future

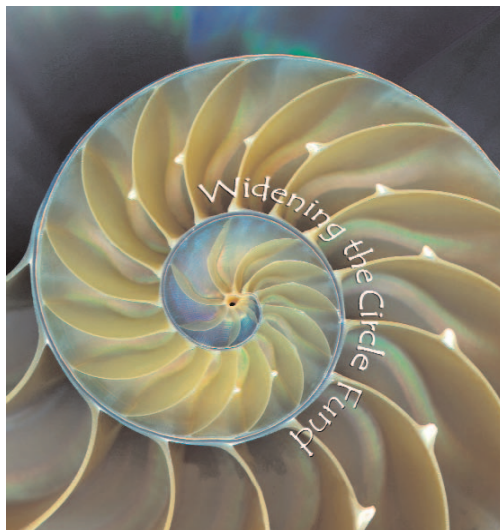


BY MARY ANN LUNDY

Women have always dreamed of an ideal world—a world of justice and peace, in which their daughters and granddaughters (and sons and grandsons) could fully realize their lives. Cultures throughout the world have rituals for telling, remembering and sharing dreams, all in the hope that they will eventually come true. Remember the dream box that you put beside your bed that contained your written dreams? Remember the Native American legend about the dream catcher? Even now I have one hanging on the post of my bed, ready for the web to entangle the bad dreams, and the hole in the middle to let my good dreams reach me.

Presbyterian women have been in the business of pursuing dreams since the founding of women's groups. Dedicated women have changed the face of the church with their far-sighted dreams. Sadly, staff and programs for women's ministries have been reduced drastically in recent years. We can no longer be certain that our daughters and granddaughters in the church will be challenged with programming and education that helps them reach their potential. Thus, with their usual farsightedness, Presbyterian Women has established an endowment fund to make the dreams for the future come true.

The Widening the Circle Fund has been created so that all may have an opportunity to share in the dream of a future for women in the



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Financial contributions to this endowment will ensure and enhance financial resources for emerging programs. The fund has already realized \$75,000 through gifts from individuals, presbyteries and local associations; the goal is \$500,000.

Consider all the opportunities women have to celebrate and grow in their faith. The 2006 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will have speakers, workshops and events that challenge and inspire participants. 2005 and 2006 mark anniversaries of the ordination of women as deacons, elders and ministers of Word and Sacrament. Women's full, thoughtful participation will always be needed in the life of the church.

How might you participate?

- ✓ Contribute honoraria you receive for leadership roles.
- ✓ Collect a special offering in your

- church or PW group.
- ✓ Give a gift in honor of
 - your mother or grandmother
 - a woman who has meant much to you as a church leader
 - a young person, granddaughter, niece or young leader in the church
- ✓ Hold a "Dream Day Celebration," in which women in your church or PW group gather their dreams for the future for specific young women in your church. Celebrate their gifts and make a contribution to Widening the Circle in their names.

In whatever way and in any amount, it is the dream of the Task Group guiding the process that every Presbyterian woman will contribute to making the dream of Widening the Circle come true. Just think of the opportunity we have to dream dreams and catch them for the future!

Mary Ann Lundy served as director of the Women's Ministry Unit from 1987 to 1993, associate director of the GAC from 1993 to 1994 and deputy general secretary of the World Council of Churches in Switzerland from 1995 to 1999. She is retired and lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Widening the Circle brochures are available through Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS), 800/524-2612 or www.pcusa.org/marketplace; item 72-700-04-002; free.

Mail contributions to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Foundation for Widening the Circle Fund, Account #51058979, P.O. Box 406863, Atlanta, GA 30384-6863.