

Birthday Offering—Fashion Show

by Charlotte Lyon and Barbara Lodwick

Spring 1994

Dear HORIZONS:

As you are aware, finding new and interesting ideas for a program for Presbyterian Women is the bane of all planning committees. Our immediate past moderator, Nelsen Gregory, came up with the idea of a Women of the Bible Fashion Show.

As we began planning, we realized there are not many ways to describe Middle Eastern clothing. So we decided to alter the direction a bit, with love and, we believe, accuracy, and by devising a script done with tongue in cheek. Charlotte Lyon and Barbara Lodwick are the writers.

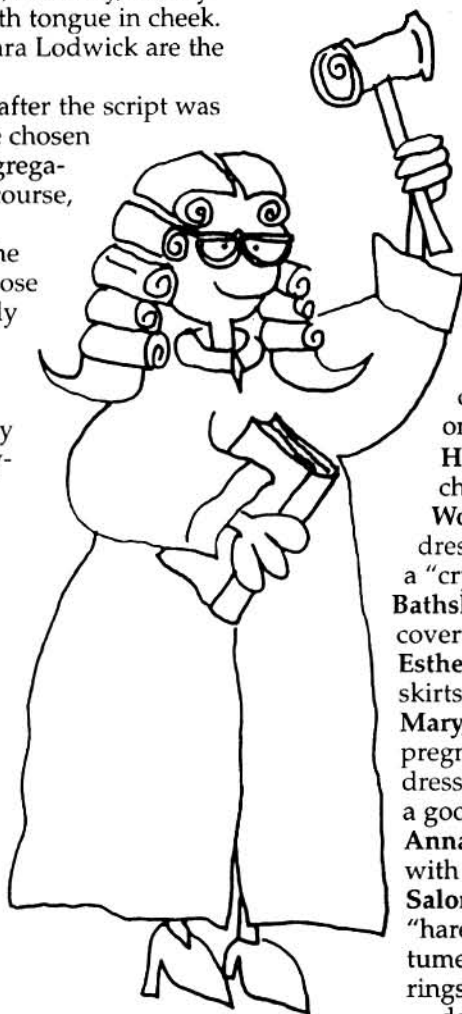
Costuming came easy after the script was written. The models were chosen from throughout the congregation. Our source was, of course, circles—the backbone of Presbyterian Women in the Congregation. We also chose adult women not currently active in Circle or PW, teenagers and younger girls.

The show lasted twenty minutes. Part of the enjoyment was seeing which “modern” woman was which biblical woman.

We concluded the morning by sharing a traditional Middle Eastern meal, and because this was our spring gathering, we conducted a Birthday Offering dedication service.

We hope our idea for sharing our heritage will be enjoyed by others.

Sincerely,
Linda R. Frangos,
Moderator of
PW Women,
Presbyterian Church of
Clarks Summit,
Pennsylvania



Here comes the judge.

List of Models and Costumes

Eve—Young woman in a body suit or ballet leotard, fig-leaf apron

Ms. Noah—hip boots, fishing vest, fishing hat, and fish net

Sarah—colorful over-robe, skirt, veil (scarf), sandals

Ms. Lot—head to toe in a white sheet (our pillar of salt!)

Rebekah—sandals or bare feet, long skirt, headpiece, carrying a jug

Miriam—young-adult woman, long skirt, peasant blouse, long hair, tambourine, jewelry. Someone who will move with music or sing a cappel-la.

Deborah—minister's black robe, gavel, use a tall woman who can look stern and loving at the same time

Delilah—long peasant-type dress, worn off-the-shoulder, use a teenager carrying a pair of scissors and braid of hair

Ruth—hiking boots, large cape that can double as a bedroll, need someone who can fling the cape

Hannah—caftan, holding a small child's coat

Woman of Endor—older circle member dressed like a seer, works the crowd with a “crystal ball”

Bathsheba—teenager in a bathing suit coverup, carrying a towel

Esther—tall regal looking woman, long skirts, wearing a crown

Mary, Mother of Jesus—an obviously pregnant member of the congregation, dressed in white and blue; otherwise, have a good sport stuff her clothing

Anna—an older woman, wearing a wig with a shawl, long skirt

Salome—preteen or teenager, “harem/dancing girl,” Halloween costume; gold bangle bracelets and long earrings; someone who can improvise a dance

Martha—“Carol Burnett char lady” outfit with a feather duster

Mary Magdalene—total black, we used black pants, turtleneck, and black but-

tonless robe (similar to what would be worn over an evening outfit, street length)

Eunice—over a long skirt combo, a multi-pocketed apron or smock, similar to an artist's or teacher's apron

Dorcias—craftsman with embroidery, carries an embroidery hoop

Priscilla—polyester nonwrinkling suit, tote bag, sorority letters (Greek) on shirt or neckline, sensible shoes, understated jewelry

Lydia—all in purple, tall, statuesque woman, basket filled with purple Rit® dye or purple cloth

The Script

Eve—Our first model shows us how our God wanted us to look in this world. But then—she ate the dreaded apple. Now she is wearing a fig-leaf apron, the hottest new fashion in the Garden of Eden.

Ms. Noah—Can you believe that you would be asked by your spouse to go on a houseboat excursion, not only with him and your family, but with umpteen animals? And you agree to the trip knowing that it will rain for 40 days and nights? Our model shows us the latest fashion for those long-lasting rainy days and nights.

Sarah—Sarah displays this power poncho, ready for the road yet lovely enough to wear to a tent-side brunch. Covered in this colorful robe, and a veil that partially covers the face, you look and feel like a princess. In this sturdy but elegant array, you can travel for days and still feel refreshed. Found in Genesis stores around the Fertile Crescent and south along the Mediterranean.

Ms. Lot—Here is a worldly, selfish woman who spent lavishly and entertained elaborately. She married her daughters off to Sodomite men with low ethical ideals and morals. Ms. Lot shows us what can happen when you disobey the angel of God. ZAP—you're a pillar of salt.

Rebekah—A thirsty traveler met our model as she was drawing water from the well. When he asked for a little drink from her pitcher, she poured it for him and then drew water for his camels. Little did Rebecca realize that the traveler was on a mission from Abraham to find Isaac a wife. This is the latest fashion from Mesopotamia.

Miriam—With Pharaoh's chariots and horse-men in hot pursuit, God delivered the Hebrews across the Reed Sea and onto dry land. Miriam, wearing a loose-fitting garment, in a burst of thankfulness led the women in song and dance, thus becoming the first female singer on record.

Deborah—In a land where most of the power was held by men, this woman's faith carried the Israelites forward unafraid. Like judges everywhere she was forced to make difficult decisions. So folks, "Here comes the judge! Here comes the judge!!"

Delilah—a woman of exotic beauty and deceitful ways who coaxed and cajoled from Samson the secret of his strength so that his enemies could conquer.

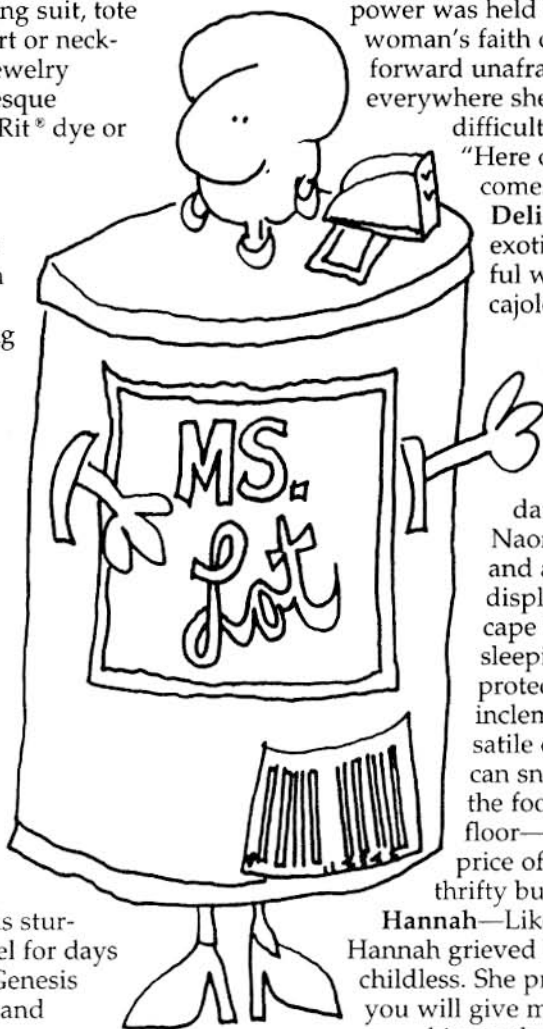
Here is how she did Samson in!

Ruth—A dedicated daughter-in-law to Naomi, a sturdy hiker, and a strong harvester, displays this lovely, long cape that easily becomes a sleeping bag. Useful for protection from the inclement weather, this versatile outfit rolls out so one can snuggle down in it at the foot of a bed or on the floor—two items for the price of one. A must for the thrifty but classy woman.

Hannah—Like Sarah before her, Hannah grieved because she was childless. She prayed to the Lord, "If you will give me a son, I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life and no razor shall touch his head." Samuel was born to Hannah and she gave him to Eli in the tabernacle. Each year she would sew a new coat and

bring it to him. In some ways this is the first story about foster care.

Woman of Endor—Oh, the road to Endor is the oldest road and the craziest road of all. Straight it runs to the witch's abode, as it did in the days of Saul. In her magic, she broke laws set down for the people of Israel. The day after King Saul visited her, he was beheaded by the Philistines. Let this be a lesson to you today—beware of visiting the Woman of Endor, lest you lose your head.



Looked back and zapped.

Bathsheba—Like Bathsheba, slinky and enticing, you will be a smash at any poolside party in this new import. For bathing or sunning, wearing this garment can dazzle kings. A lovely "coverup" is a companion piece when brisk breezes blow.

Esther—Hadassah, Esther as we know her, with stars in her eyes, love and courage in her heart, a crown on her head, graciously accepts the kudos from her people for a triumphant deliverance from wholesale massacre. A Mordecai design and production sold in Empire, Ltd. Shops throughout the land.

Mary—For her journey with Joseph to Bethlehem, this serviceable but stylish sheet that doubles as a traveling tog, adorns Mary, who is with child. Suitable for riding or walking, this durable maternity outfit sheds dust and keeps the warmth in for the wearer. A must for "mothers to be" during Advent season or for those chilly summer evenings in the mountains. Sold exclusively at "Star in the East" market centers.

Anna—An aged widow, Anna, a familiar figure in the temple, dons a lovely shawl of fine stitchery. To ward off Temple dampness, a shawl is a necessity. Note the elegant "fall" of the material—a must to keep my lady snug as she awaits the arrival of the Lord in the chill of weather amidst those rugged stone walls of the temple.

Salome—Here is the beautiful Salome in wispy gauze and whirling scarves. Coached by her mother, Herodias. Salome's dancing enchants King Herod and the entire court. Your wish, too, can come true in this alluring costume. All heads will turn your way—careful though, don't lose yours.

Martha—Like many of us who have sisters, there is always one in the family who is busy cooking, cleaning and straightening. On the day Martha prepared a lavish meal for Jesus, he was more interested in food for the soul than food for the body. Our Martha is modeling the latest fashion for cooking, cleaning, scrubbing and just doing all those wonderful chores women get to do.

Mary Magdelene—This once tawdrily attired madam now displays a dress of decorum. The

lines and folds of the fabric lend it to day or evening wear, and can be seen this season at church house gatherings or for more formal functions at Temple seminars. Basic black, always in good taste, will get you rave reviews from all quarters.

Eunice—Like her mother before her, Eunice was a teacher of the Word. Here she sports a smart smock with large pockets to hold bits of stone for slate writing or a pen or two when parchment is available. Her ever-present Scriptures are also accommodated by her roomy pocketed smock. This handy little number comes in pink, light blue and lush lavender.

Dorcas—Dorcas, whose name means gazelle, was a very good woman, a believer in Christ and, like her Lord, she loved the poor. Her life can be given in six words "full of good works and almsdeeds." We can be sure her nimble fingers stitched layettes for babies, made cloaks, robes, saddles and apparel for poverty-stricken widows, the sick and the aged.

Priscilla—Spouse of Aquila, weaver, tentmaker, first convert along with spouse at Corinth, missionary and instructor of the word, is showing this lovely traveling suit. Perfect for the missionary on the go. This nonwrinkle fabric with a stunning simple line is all the rage this season in Corinth and Athens. Sailing to Rome is a breeze in this charming apparel.

Lydia—And last in our fashion parade comes Lydia, savvy businesswoman, "Our

Lady of the Lavenders." An inspiration for us all, she was the woman in her generation very much like women in the 90s. God entered her life, making her Europe's first convert. She knows it takes

money to do mission. Our Lydia would like to sell you her wares—anyone for purple dye?



Forty days of rain and prepared.

Illustrator: Carol Cornette, a free-lance artist and writer, lives in Louisville, Kentucky; she wrote the humorous HORIZONS promotional skits for the 1994 Churchwide Gathering, available from HORIZONS.