THE BREEZE

Southern Ohio Women of the ELCA Newsletter

Summer 2018

From the President

Spring Gathering 2018 Wrap-up

Whew! Just wrapped up Women of the Southern Ohio Synod Spring Gatherings 2018. Fantastic programs, eye-opening speakers, fun fellowship and spirit-filled worship – and of course, delicious FOOD! If you didn't attend your gathering, you missed out!!



At the Dayton gathering, we learned about transitions in our lives and how to deal with them. Rev Mary Leyman of Tikkun Farms told us that, due to fear of the unknown, human nature tells us to hurry and jump into the next phase, often repeating what we just left, which may not be a healthy response.

Northwest Conference with Miss Kennedy Chase, Miss Teen USA, whose platform is dealing with bullying and Linda Locke, author, former elementary principal and professor at Urbana University, looked at the bullying issues in our world.

Muskingum Conference focused on the human trafficking dilemma. Pastor Catrina led us in worship and communion. The election of board members for the Muskingum Conference was one of the most exciting things I've witnessed during a spring gathering business meeting! Hands began popping up. It was as if a merry-go-round started with changes being made and women got off when they found a position where they felt most comfortable; changing from synod to conference and conference to synod. In the words of St. Paul, we all have a variety of gifts and I think the spirit was moving these women into positions where they are best suited. I feel great things coming to the Muskingum Conference. Blessings Abound!

Cincinnati Conference spring gathering was held at Peace Lutheran Church in Beautiful Arnheim. Mr. Chuck Swanson from Inter Parish Ministry shared how this ministry provides food, clothing, and communal support to those in need. Statistics on the growing hunger problem - especially among older folk - was staggering. Emma Barnaclo led us in stuffing Comfort Bags which we can keep in our car and hand out to those we might see in need.

Central Conference wrapped up the spring gatherings by sharing and comparing Bold Women of the Bible with Professor Sally Stamper, from Capital University.

I traveled over 800 miles attending five of the six spring gatherings. It was inspiring and amazing being in the company of the women of the Southern Ohio Synod. (Continued on page 2)

From the President (continued)

There are some fall retreats in the planning. Please share those on the Southern Ohio Women's Facebook page for all to see and consider attending.

Biennial Convention 2019 will be held at Ascension in Montgomery (Cincinnati) in September. Delegates for the 2020 Triennial will be elected. More details will be coming out in the near future.

At most of the Spring Gatherings, Women of the ELCA water bottles filled with goodies were raffled with a grand total of \$191 being raised for <u>Current for Curran</u>. This is an initiative supported by WELCA to provide solar energy to the hospital and village of Curran Liberia. The hospital at Curran was bombed three times during the civil unrest in the country. Upon reconstruction, the hospital was used even without a roof overhead! The goal of Southern Ohio Women is to raise \$3000 to support the initiative. Consider how you can make the Current for Curran an initiative in your local unit.

Katie's Fund All Anew was another initiative encouraged at the Spring Gatherings. The goal of the Women of the ELCA Churchwide is to grow Katie's Fund to a \$4.5 million endowment. These funds are used by the churchwide women's organization for leadership development, living theology and global connections. (See Audrey Riley's article elsewhere in this publication)

Exciting news to share is that during our days together in Spring Gatherings, prayers were sent up in the search for a woman to fill the role of Treasurer of the SOS Women of the ELCA. Gratefully, Kathy DeLong prayerfully considered and accepted the call to be our Treasurer! We look forward to working with Kathy on our SOS Board.

As I said at each gathering that there is much work to be done. We certainly have our boots on the ground and we, being led by our Lord and Saviour, are BOLD and we have FAITH in working to make a better world for our neighbors and brothers and sisters in Christ. Blessings to All! Have a great summer!

Susan Wyckoff, Southern Ohio Synod President of the Women of the ELCA.



Last fall, your churchwide board approved an exciting new initiative—

The All Anew Campaign for Katie's Fund—with the goal of tripling our endowed Katie's Fund by the 2020 Triennial Convention and Gathering. That means *tripling* the life-changing ministry that Katie's Fund can make possible!

The total goal of The All Anew Campaign for Katie's Fund is to grow the fund from its current total of about \$1.5 million to \$4.5 million by July 2020. Your elected board members and other dedicated women from throughout the church are forming a leadership circle—Katie's Sisters—to get The All Anew Campaign off to a rousing start, with a goal of raising \$1 million in gifts and commitments.

Our friends at the InFaith Foundation are offering their gift-planning expertise to women who'd like to learn more about how they can put their assets to work with a commitment to The All Anew Campaign for Katie's Fund.

As an endowed fund, the money held in Katie's Fund is invested carefully to generate income. That annual income—which is generally about 4 percent of the amount invested—may be used by the churchwide women's organization for leadership development, living theology and global connections. Your generous support of Katie's Fund, through regular gifts and through The All Anew Campaign for Katie's Fund, really makes a difference in women's lives. Thank you and watch for more information about The All Anew Campaign for Katie's Fund as it becomes available!

Audrey Novak Riley is director of development and stewardship for Women of the ELCA.

Now, Here's the Challenge!

The 65 Synods of the Women of the ELCA are being asked to raise \$2,000,000 by Triennial 2020.

Let's look at a break-down of funding:

That's \$30,000 from each synod

Boiling down to \$5000 from each of the 6 Conferences in the Southern Ohio Synod

That's only \$1666 per year per conference of the SOS for 3 years = 2018, 2019, 2020.

A 2020 VISION!!

BE BOLD! BE CREATIVE! THIS IS DO-ABLE!!

SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH THE SYNOD AND WE CAN REACH OUR GOAL!



PLACE STAMP HERE

Southern Ohio Women Changing the World, one day at a time.

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