

NORTH CAROLINA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

www.ncwelca.org

SEPTEMBER 2009 BULLETIN

SISTER TAKE MY HAND...

- **Come to the fountain**
- **Dance with me**
- **Let us serve together**

My Dear Sisters in Christ,

All the committees met Saturday, August 15th at Our Saviour's Lutheran, Southern Pines. We had a wonderful meeting and I was especially excited to see many new, young faces. We were all energized by each other and our theme for the year.

- Specific Committee goals were discussed and plans have been made to carry out the goals that support our theme. If you aren't on a committee I invite you to check the list of board members, which identifies who is responsible for which committee. If you have a particular interest please call that board member and talk to them about what talents you have and how you might fit into their committee. Mission-Growth and Gathering Planning are looking for more members.
- **The first Fall Gathering will be held September 12th and the last one is October 24th.** A listing of all the conference gatherings is contained in this mailing. If you are not sure which conference you are in just email Linda Holden, Conference Coordinator and she will let you know. Please make an effort to attend your Conference Gatherings. Remember that these smaller conferences cover a smaller area and our hope is that will make it easier for you to get to your conference Gatherings. It is a great opportunity for "engaging in ministry and action" and fellowship. They really are fun!
- **The Fall Gathering offering has been designated for the PNG Task Force.** If you were at our Annual Gathering you had the opportunity to hear The Reverend Charlene Limenih, our Chaplain. You also met our four guests from Papua New Guinea (PNG). The Evangelical Lutheran Church in PNG is having its assembly in January of 2010, and they have invited us to send representatives. The Board has asked Pastor Charlene to represent the North Carolina Women of the ELCA. Our offering will help to pay her travel and other expenses.
- **The Pennies Project FYE February 2010 is designated for Mountain Women Rising, a project of the Appalachian Women's Alliance.** The following is taken from their website www.appalachianwomen.org.

Who we are:

The Appalachian Women's Alliance is a movement of women and girls who are raising consciousness and self-esteem, creating a common vision, and taking collective action to make things better in Appalachian communities.

What We Do:

Together, we are working for economic justice, human rights and dignity, and safety for women and children in Appalachian communities.

Why We Do It:

Traditional roles based on male dominance, isolation, chronic economic struggle, violence, racism, internalized oppression, exclusion from educational, health care and social systems - all work together to keep women in Appalachia voiceless and powerless.

Together, we are challenging *and changing* the institutions which foster economic, physical, spiritual, and cultural violence towards women. Will you join us?

- News from the Churchwide Office of Women of the ELCA
 - Remember to **pray with your sisters** around the nation **each Monday at noon**. Just stop for a few minutes to pray for all the many projects we are all involved in remembering all those who might need a special prayer on that particular Monday or throughout that week. If you wish to receive our list let me know by sending me your email address.
 - **Add to Katie's Fund**. Right now you have the opportunity to shape the future ministry of Women of the ELCA by joining me in making a gift to the Katharina von Bora Luther Fund. Your gift of \$25, \$100 or more can ensure that Women of the ELCA ministries continue throughout this century and into the next. For more information about the fund and how to contribute go to the website – www.womenoftheelca.org.
 - **Have you made someone a Partner?** For only \$20 a year, you can give an individual partnership to your daughter, granddaughter, niece, aunt or friend. They will receive one-year subscriptions to the award-winning magazines *Lutheran Woman Today* and *Café*. They will also have access to Bible studies, global networks, advocacy efforts and other resources. Nurture their faith by making them partners today.

- Minutes of the 22nd Annual SWO Gathering are included in this letter. Evaluations of the gathering were discussed at the July board retreat and the Gathering Planning Committee meeting. Both groups will consider suggestions and recommendations. The board extends thanks and appreciation to the organizations, special guests and committee members who contributed to a wonderful weekend. A special thank you to Thrivent Financial Services for contributing \$1,200 to helping cover the cost of printing the Gathering Program of Reports. The 23rd SWO Gathering will be held June 11-13, 2010 at Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC. Mark your calendar NOW.

- Mission-Action :
 - See the notice from Lutheran World Relief about health kits needed.
 - See the article on Literacy Month and what your congregational expression can do.
 - See article about Disaster Response enclosed.

- Mission-Community: See the article enclosed.

- Mission-Growth:
 - It is almost time for the Women’s Theological Seminar. Registration closes September 15th. (See enclosed article for more information.) The Lenten One-Day retreat will be held February 27th. The spring retreat is in the planning stages. It will be held at Kure Beach April 9-11, 2010. Keep watch for more details as they become available.
 - A special prayer for September is enclosed.

- Leadership Committee:
 - See the enclosed rhyme.

- Gathering Planning:
 - See the “thank you” enclosed.

- November 3, 2009 has been designated as Women of the ELCA Sunday. Of course, this date can be changed to a more convenient date for your congregational unit. November is also traditionally Thankoffering month. For more information about thankofferings, visit the NC Women of the ELCA website, www.ncwelca.org. Ask your CU treasurer to help plan a Thankoffering Service using the *2009-2010 Stewardship Planning Guide* from Women of the ELCA.

- **A reminder from the NC Women of the ELCA treasurer, Karen Mitchell.**
 - Congregational unit treasurers, please be sure to mail your CU offerings monthly to your conference Treasurer Assistant – (See Conference leaders list). Conference Treasurer Assistants please mail offerings the 20th of each month as indicated in the TA position description to the NC Synod treasurer. This will ensure that banks can return checks to participants in a timely manner.

- Other items found in this mailing:
 - SWO Board Members Information
 - SWO Conference Leaders Information
 - SWO Committee Members Information
 - Planning Calendar
 - Annual Gathering Minutes

I thank you for your willingness to serve your congregational unit as president. Please let the NC Synodical Secretary, Kiana Sinz, know immediately if you are no longer president of your CU. Please remember that all board members offer their assistance in helping you and your congregational unit meet your goals for the coming year. **ACT BOLDLY – SISTER TAKE MY HAND... - stretch out and touch the future.**

Peace and God bless,

Cathy



Synod Update

Special E-News of the NC Synod

August 17, 2009

NC SYNOD DISASTER UPDATE

Hurricane Bill

Hurricane Bill, the first hurricane of the Atlantic Hurricane season is in our midst. While we do not yet know where this storm will go, or what, if any, effect it will have on North Carolina and our neighbors, we should always be prepared! The NC Synod, along with our partners in disaster response, is closely monitoring Hurricane Bill.

Is your congregation ready to respond?

Designate a disaster contact person in your congregation (someone other than the pastor) to serve as the main point of contact should a disaster strike in your community. If you have an individual in your congregation active with Habitat for Humanity, he or she may be an ideal disaster contact person. Contact [Charlene Deese](#) in the synod office to let her know who your disaster contact person is.

Take responsibility for the safety of yourself, your family and your congregation today. Make sure you have a disaster kit ready in the event that a disaster does strike. [Click here](#) to download a disaster kit checklist to use when preparing your kit.

The synod office and NC Lutheran Disaster Response are prepared to help however needed. Here are the emergency numbers that pastors and congregational disaster contacts will need to keep handy.

Synod Emergency Numbers

During synod office hours you can contact:

[Charlene Deese](#)

NC Synod Disaster Coordinator
704-633-4861, ext. 118

At any time, you can call:

[Pr. Judy Klusman](#) (cell) 704-351-5382

Coordinator, Lutheran Disaster Response in the Carolinas (LDR)

TOO MANY DISASTERS – NOT ENOUGH HEALTH KITS

Lutheran World Relief's supply of health kits remains critically low as requests for assistance across the world increase. As humanitarian crises escalate, requests for LWR health kits are outpacing the inflow of health kit donations from groups and congregations throughout the United States.

LWR needs more than **56,000** health kits to fill planned shipments to Azerbaijan, Mauritania, Tanzania, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Palestine (Gaza), Philippines, Peru and Guatemala by year's end.

"Kits not only send a tangible message of God's love amidst suffering, they also save lives. Health kits, in particular, help families stay healthy in difficult living conditions," says Brenda Meier, LWR's Director for Congregation and Community Engagement.

LWR is looking for a big increase in health kits as a result of fall ingathering contributions. The ingathering for North Carolina is scheduled as usual for early November. Check the October or November **Bulletin** for drop-off sites and dates as well as instructions for packaging your kits.

As a reminder, these items should be in the health kits. **DO NOT INCLUDE TOOTHPASTE AND PLEASE DO NOT ADD OTHER ITEMS OR LEAVE OUT ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED.**

- One hand towel, dark color recommended
- One washcloth, dark color recommended
- One bath-size bar (4-5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in its original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- One sturdy comb preferably wide-tooth, remove packaging
- One metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached, remove packaging (do not substitute cardboard emery boards for the file)
- Six Band-Aids® (or similar brand), preferably 1/2" to 3/4"; secure together with a rubber band

All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap smaller items in the washcloth; wrap washcloth and remaining items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

STARTING NOW ASK ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR CONGREGATION TO BRING SUPPLIES FOR THE HEALTH KITS. SET A DAY PRIOR TO NOVEMBER AND INVITE THE MIDDLE- OR HIGH-SCHOOL GIRLS TO HELP YOU PUT THE KITS TOGETHER. PLAY MUSIC WHILE THEY WORK, SERVE REFRESHMENTS (OR SUNDAY NIGHT PIZZA), AND LET THEM KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THE HEALTH KITS ARE TO THOSE WHO WILL RECEIVE THEM. INVITE THE YOUNG LADIES TO BE A PART OF OTHER ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA AND KEEP THEM INVOLVED.

LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship one health kit overseas is \$2.65 (includes the cost of toothpaste that LWR sends with the health kit). If your congregation cannot provide the kits, monetary donations are always appreciated.



HEALTH KITS NEEDED.

LWR is in urgent need of health kits. Help us continue to respond to the call of those in need. For more information, visit lwr.org/beinvolved

HEALTH KITS

People who must flee their homes quickly often do not have time to pack essential items. Health kits can help refugees maintain personal hygiene while living in exile. Items may also contribute to a new start for those who can return home.

Your group can also help LWR get health kits to the people who need them by donating a brick on the [Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza](#) or by making a contribution to the [Project Comfort Fund](#).

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Effective immediately, please do not include toothpaste in the health kits.

Toothpaste will be added at the warehouse prior to overseas shipment.

Send completed health kits to LWR in boxes labeled :

HEALTH KITS/NO TOOTHPASTE

Review the [General Assembly Instructions](#) before collecting items for the health kits.

Include the following items in each health kit:

- One hand towel, dark color recommended
- One washcloth, dark color recommended
- One bath-size bar (4-5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in its original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached, remove packaging (do not substitute cardboard emery boards for the file)
- Six Band-Aids® (or similar brand), preferably 1/2" to 3/4"; secure together with a rubber band

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap smaller items in the washcloth; wrap washcloth and remaining items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

Project Comfort Fund Note: LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship one LWR health kit overseas is \$2.65 (includes the cost of toothpaste to go with the health kit)

CALLED
TO

ACTION

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding - Proverbs 2:6

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY: September 8, 2009

On September 8, the nation and the world will celebrate International Literacy Day, a declaration first proclaimed by the United Nations in 1965. This year's theme, *The Power of Literacy*, will highlight the empowering role of literacy in its many forms and its importance for participation, citizenship and social development. Clara is an example of someone empowered by literacy.

Clara spent most of her life past age 10, first helping her family on their small farm, and then raising her own children and helping her husband keep their small farm producing. When she was 62 her husband died suddenly and her life became wrapped up in her grandchildren. Clara had never learned to read very well or write much more than her name. When she was ready for junior college, the oldest granddaughter challenged 'Nana' to go with her and join the adult literacy program. Clara was scared to death but excited by such a challenge. Well, Clara did learn to read and write (and even spell correctly). She now loves to read stories to and with the younger grandchildren and was thrilled when the local elementary school asked her to come and read to the kindergarten and first grade classes. We rejoice (and DANCE) with the newly empowered Clara and pray that others will follow her example.

The story of Clara reminds us of a time when literacy meant learning to read or to read better. Today literacy is "an individual's ability to read, write, speak in English, compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual and in society." Today one in five adults is still not literate and two-thirds of them are women (www.nifl.gov). In 2003 the National Center for Education Statistics assessed the status of adult literacy (previous assessment was 1992) and estimated that 14% of adults in North Carolina do not have the basic literacy skills. That is a four percent improvement over 1992 but still not good enough so let's take ACTION.

READY: Go to www.ncwelca.org--click on 'resources', then 'Mission: Action'

to find a LIST of literacy programs throughout North Carolina, CHARTS showing the percentage of adults lacking basic literacy skills in all North Carolina counties in 1992 and 2003 (most counties improved their literacy rates, 20 counties remained the same or showed very slight improvement, four counties lost ground), SUGGESTIONS for how to accomplish the "to do" list below and other ideas you can do.

SET: At the spring 2010 conference gatherings, we will collect story books and blank recording cassettes or CDs to be given to mothers and grandmothers in prison who will be able to read the story and share it with their children at home.

DO: Volunteer at your local literacy program; tutor elementary school children; start or support a children's library at your church; donate Sunday school and other printed materials for use in prisons; collect books to donate to a variety of programs.

MISSION GROWTH

Prayer for September

Heavenly Father, as you delight in your children, help us to seek joy and encourage others to join the circle of light.

Sister take my hand...

come to the fountain and delight in the swirl of grace that first washed over us in baptism.

Sister take my hand...

dance with me as we praise God and rejoice in the freedom of the redeemed.

Sister take my hand...

let us serve others, fulfilling the mission of Jesus Christ with compassion and love.

Together we are stronger, together we are bolder, together we are happier,
for our Lord has promised to go with us.

And let the sisters say... **Amen**

Deadline nears for Women's Theological Perspective Seminar

"Christ For Us, Christ Among Us" is the theme for the Women's Theological Perspective Seminar to be held September 25-26, 2009, at the Ramada Convention Center in Burlington.

Our presenter, Mary J. Streufert, PhD., serves as the Director of the Justice for Women program at the ELCA Churchwide Organization in Chicago. There she works with others to develop and promote theological and social analysis, discussion, and action that seeks to promote justice for women and girls in church and in society.

Women who heard Mary at the recent Triennial said she was an excellent presenter. Don't miss this opportunity to expand your knowledge of faith, the scriptures, and how you apply it in today's world.

The registration deadline is September 15. Reservations for the Ramada at the special seminar rate need to be made by this same date. The fee of \$60 covers snacks and Sat. lunch. The hotel offers free breakfast; room rate is \$63. (Bring a friend and split the cost.)

The program begins at 6:30 p.m. Friday and ends at approx. 3:00 p.m. Saturday. (Time to get in a few hours of shopping in Burlington.)

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA

I want to thank Krickett Militello, my Co Chair of the Gathering/Planning committee for all the hard work she did on the Annual Gathering this year. I know she will equally work just as hard on this year's Gathering.

I want to thank all of the Committee Members of Gathering/Planning. Without their help Krickett and I would have been lost. So to you that went separate ways and those of you who will be returning, a job well done.

I want to thank all of you who hold Executive Office, Board Members, Committee Members, Presidents, Treasurer Assistants and Directors for Communications for all the work you do.

I want to thank all of the CU Presidents and their Executive Officers for all the work you do on the local level.

I want to thank all the Participants all over the state who have their meetings and Bible studies each month, make quilts, make health kits, make school kits, collect ups codes on soup labels and collect can tabs, without you we would not have a Women's organization. **Do Not** think you are not important. You are the **most important** part of our organization!!!

FYI-CAN TABS

I just learned after delivering the tabs to my American Legion representative that they can not accept colored tabs because they are made of steel not aluminum. Please do not bring colored tabs for us to use. We collected 482 pounds this year. Way to go!!! Thank you.

Kathy Wallace
Co Chair Gathering/Planning Committee

MISSION COMMUNITY

Be on the lookout for "Tidbits & More" in upcoming issues of The Bulletin.

"Tidbits & More" will replace "Morsels." In it Mission: Community will continue to keep congregational leaders informed of issues that welcome and include others. Together we will continue to celebrate the unity we have in Christ and join our efforts in service.

Mission: Community reminds everyone of the International Day of Prayer for Peace on September 21. Please invite others to join you in prayer on that day. Your prayer might include, " Loving God, You continue to bless the world with the love of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, continue to mend broken relationships and to heal divisions as You continue to reveal Your love among us and to establish Your reign of eternal peace."

And now, a brief message from your Leadership Committee...

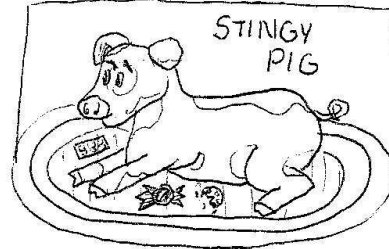
Share the News

(sung to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")

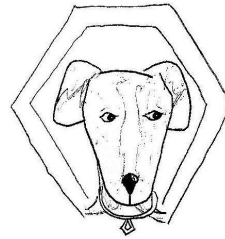
Lyrics by: Janet Creasy

Illustrations by: Maria Grissino

Here's a stingy piggy, short and stout;
She reads her *Bulletin*, but won't send it out.
No one ever knows what's going on.
They're missing out on all the fun.



Here's a sharin' shepherd, she leads the herd;
She reads her *Bulletin*, then spreads the word.
All the other ladies know the news.
They have a chance to pick and choose.



How it goes with your group is up to you;
When you get the *Bulletin*, here's what you do:
Make a lot of copies, paper or email.
Share all the news, and wag your tail!

Notable Notes:

If you have email addresses for the women in your church, forward them the bulletin after you receive it. It's fast and easy, and it saves paper!

PLEASE NOTE – CAROLINA VINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due to Budget constraints the Board voted to send the Carolina Vine only to those who have paid their \$5 subscription fee. The annual subscription begins May 31. For your convenience the subscription form is included in this Bulletin. It is also available on the website. The next issue will be coming out in the fall. You won't want to miss it. Subscribe now.

**NC WOMEN OF THE ELCA
PLANNING CALENDAR 2009-2010**

July 2009

10-12 Board Retreat - Lutheridge

August 2009

1 Deadline for September **Bulletin**
15 Committee Day I, Our Savior, Southern Pines
22 Send September **Bulletin**

September 2009

Literacy Month
1 Deadline for October **Bulletin**
12 North Coastal Fall Gathering, Shepherd of the Sea, Atlantic Beach
Sandhills Fall Gathering, St. Mark's, Lumberton
15 Send October **Bulletin**
Fall **Carolina Vine** article to Editor
19 Alexander/Iredell Fall Gathering, Friendship, Taylorsville
Central Fall Gathering, Becks, Lexington
Smoky Mountain, Fall Gathering, St. Mark's, Asheville
21 International Day of Prayer for Peace
25-26 Women's Theological Perspective

October, 2009

Domestic Violence Awareness Month
1 Deadline for November **Bulletin**
1 **Carolina Vine** copy to Graphic Designer
3 Blue Ridge Fall Gathering, Grace, Boone
3 Salem Fall Gathering, Epiphany, Winston-Salem
10 Cabarrus/Stanny Fall Gathering, Mount Olive, Mt. Pleasant
10 Triangle Fall Gathering, Christus Victor, Durham
15 Send November **Bulletin**
15 Send Fall **Carolina Vine**
17 Mecklenburg/Union Fall Gathering, Morning Star, Matthews
Catawba Fall Gathering, Zion, Hickory
Northern Fall Gathering, St. Paul, Alamance
South Coastal Fall Gathering, Lutheran Church of the Reconciliation, Wilmington
Southwestern Fall Gathering, Beth Page, Lincolnton
23 Board Reports Due
24 Rowan Fall Gathering, St. James, Rockwell

November, 2009

Thankoffering Month

1	Deadline for December Bulletin
3	Women of the ELCA Sunday (or other date designated)
6	Church Women United, World Community Day
6-7	SWO Board Meeting – Synod House
15	Winter Carolina Vine articles to Editor
15	Send December Bulletin

December, 2009

1	Deadline for January Bulletin
1	Carolina Vine copy to Graphic Designer
1	World AIDS Day
15	Send January Bulletin
15	Send Winter Carolina Vine
19	Board Reports Due

January, 2010

Happy New Year

1	Deadline for February Bulletin
15	Send February Bulletin
23	Committee Day II
18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
30	Committee Day II (Snow date)

February, 2010

Black History Month

1	Deadline for March Bulletin
15	Send March Bulletin
15	Spring Carolina Vine articles to Editor
18-21	Conference of SWO President's
20	Board Reports Due
27	One Day Retreat, Refill the Well

March, 2010

Women's History Month

1	Deadline for April Bulletin
1	Spring Carolina Vine copy to Graphic Designer
5	World Day of Prayer
12-13	SWO Board Meeting,
15	Send Spring Carolina Vine

April, 2010

Child Abuse Prevention Month

1 Deadline for May **Bulletin**
15 Send **Bulletin**
15 Summer **Carolina Vine** articles to Editor
9-11 Spring Retreat, Kure Beach, Come to the Fountain of Mary

May, 2010

1 **Carolina Vine** copy to Graphic Designer
1 Deadline for June **Bulletin**
3 Rachel's Day
15 Send Summer **Carolina Vine**
31 Renewals due for Carolina Vine

June, 2010

3-5 NC Synod Assembly
11-13 Annual Gathering

July, 2010

9-11 Board Retreat – Agape Retreat House

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE



Carolina Vine
Subscription Form



New
Name

Renewal

Change of Address

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Gift Subscription: If you are requesting a gift subscription, fill out the Recipient's name and address **BELOW**.

Recipient Name _____

Recipient Address _____

Recipient City/State/Zip _____

Recipient Phone _____

Recipient Email _____

The subscription rate is \$5.00/year for four issues: winter, spring, summer, and fall. The subscription year runs June 1-May 31. Please send check, payable to North Carolina Synodical Women's Organizations, and subscription forms to:



Linda Schmidt
1618 Paisley Ave.
Fayetteville, NC 28304-2029
910-424-0167
tootoot@embarqmail.com



**North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization
Women of the ELCA
Pre-Board Meeting
May 29 – May 31 2009
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Annual SWO Gathering**

Friday, May 29, 2009

The Pre-Gathering Board Meeting was called to order by Cathy Sell with Susan Harris, Linda Holden, Kathy Wallace, Krickett Militello, Kiana Sinz, Elizabeth Webb, Kelly Barrett, Alice Nelson, Gail Starr, Judy Gainey, Karen Mitchell and the CWO Representative vEnessa Acham present. The meeting was opened with the Purpose Statement.

Elizabeth Webb made a motion to accept the Agenda as presented and Karen Mitchell seconded. The motion passed.

Susan Harris made a motion to accept the minutes of the March Board Meeting as read. Kathy Wallace seconded. The motion passed

Karen Mitchell passed out the information on the Budget. Kiana Sinz made a motion to accept as presented and Alice Nelson seconded. The motion passed.

Our CWO Representative vEnessa Acham brought greetings and was excited about being here for our Annual Gathering. This was her first Gathering as Board Member of the CWO. vEnessa brought some maple candy for us to try.

Krickett let us know that the ladies from the Rowan Conference who are our hostesses for the weekend will be wearing yellow t-shirts with a duck on them (signifying they had their ducks in a row). The Gathering Planning committee ladies will be wearing purple t-shirts. This should help the participants to find someone if they have a question. There are 32 first-timers this weekend. Krickett went over some corrections for the Gathering Planning Report. The number of people registered for the weekend as of now is 274.

The meeting was ended with the revealing of secret prayer sisters. The meeting was closed with prayer by Judy Gainey. The meeting was adjourned until Sunday following the communion service.

Kiana Sinz
Secretary

**North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization
Women of the ELCA
Twenty-Second Annual Gathering
May 29 – May 31, 2009
Lenoir-Rhyne University**

Friday May 29, 2009 First Meeting

Alice Nelson led the delegate orientation, which was followed by singing of the opening hymn. President Cathy Sell opened the Twenty-Second Annual Gathering of the North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization. Cathy Sell introduced our Chaplain for the weekend, the Rev. Charlene Limenih. Pr. Limenih led us in our devotion to start the weekend.

The welcome was presented by Rowan Conference in a song. Rachel Nichols gave greetings from the president of Lenoir-Rhyne University.

Krickett Militello and Kathy Wallace presented the Gathering Program Report. There were some corrections and changes. It was moved, seconded and passed that the Gathering Program and Reports (GPR) be adopted as revised and that the President be able to make any further adjustments as needed. The nominees for Vice-President, Secretary and Board can be found on pages 81 through 84. The budget can be found on pages 67 through 69. The introduction of the Gathering Committees and the Chairperson was made by the Secretary, Kiana Sinz. Patti Lovell presented "Everything you ever wanted to know about your weekend on Campus."

Ballot for Vice-President

Lorri Montrose, chair of the Credentials Committee, announced the following in attendance: delegates 88, visitors 86, Young Women Gifted and Blessed (YWGaB) 3, Teens Gathering in Faith (TGIF) 7, Totally Awesome Groupies for God (TAGG) 5, guests 6, clergy 3, NC Synodical Officers 4, NC Executive Board Members 8, CWO Representative 1, for a total of 211.

Patti Lovell, chair of the Committee on Nominations, on behalf of the committee proposed the names of Susan Harris and Phyllis Myers for a two-year term as Vice President of the NC SWO. There being no further nominations, the vote was taken by ballot following a prayer for guidance by Pr. Limenih. Teller Team One collected and counted the ballots.

Brandy Smith from the Leadership Committee introduced our three YWGaB. The three young women were Ann Casper, Amanda Gough and Callie Laffon.

Ginny Hultquist gave greetings from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and informed us they are still going strong.

Sandra Cline gave greetings from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. She showed a short film about Southern Seminary.

Krickett Militello introduced our CWO Representative, vEnessa Acham. vEnessa gave greetings from the Executive Board of the Church Wide Organization (CWO) and from her Synodical Women's Organization. She reminded us to keep up our offerings. She also mentioned several resources available from CWO.

Following a song, the offering was received. Half was designated for the Nicaraguan Water Project and half to CWO.

Maxine Amos, chair of the Elections Committee, announced the results of the balloting for Vice-President: 96 ballots cast, 0 illegal ballots, 96 legal ballots, 49 needed to elect. Susan Harris received 70 votes and Phyllis Myers received 26 votes. Susan Harris was declared Vice-President.

Ballot for Secretary

Patti Lovell, chair of the Committee on Nominations, on behalf of the committee proposed the names of Kiana Sinz and Sherry Grissino for a two-year term as Secretary for the NC Synodical Women's Organization (SWO). There being no further nominations, the vote was taken by ballot following a prayer for guidance from Chaplain Limenih. Teller Team Two collected and counted the ballots.

We had a short break for the game "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" led by Krickett Militello. The questions helped inform people of some things to remember to do and to teach some things they may not have known, about the NC SWO. The game was played several times during the weekend.

The Rev. Judy Klusman brought greetings from Lutheran Family Services Carolina, representing CEO, Suzanne Wise. She thanked us for all in-kind gifts that were brought this weekend.

Cathy Sell read greetings from Central States SWO, our ELCA Synod Partner.

Cathy Sell introduced special participants, Kaye Lineberger, Ann Tucker, and Beth Wrenn who are past presidents of the NC SWO. She also introduced our four guests from Papua New Guinea: Pr. Gedisa Okamaisa - District President, Mr. Titi Solomon - ELCPNG Church Council Member for Yabim District, Ms. Nganuo Irintz - Yabim District Women's Desk (Coordinator), and Manao Yawising - Malalo Circuit Women's Leader/Coordinator.

Pr. Charlene led the service of Affirmation of Baptism. Personal and/or group devotions followed in the residence halls.

Saturday, May 30, 2009 Second Meeting

The business meeting resumed following a Bible Study by Pr. Charlene Limenih.

Maxine Amos, chair of the Elections Committee, announced the results of the balloting for Secretary: 92 ballots casts, 1 illegal ballot, 91 legal ballots, 46 needed to elect. Kiana Sinz received 61 votes. Sherry Grissino received 30 votes. Kiana Sinz was declared Secretary.

Ballot for Board Members

Lorri Montrose, chair of the Credentials Committee, announced the following in attendance: delegates 98, visitors 123, YWGaB 4, TGIF 8, TAGG 7, Guests 4, Clergy 4, NC Synodical Officers 4, NC Executive Board Members 8, and Representative of the Women of the ELCA 1, for a total of 263.

Patti Lovell, chair of the Committee on Nominations on behalf of the committee proposed the names of Vicki Fink, Judy Gainey, Donna Prunkl, Bobbie Slaughter and Kathy Wallace for board. Lois Beddard, delegate from St Peter, South Port nominated Sherry Grissno from the floor for board member. This is for a two-year term as Board Member of the NC SWO. Being no further nominations, the vote was taken by ballot, following a prayer by Pr. Limenih.

Alice Nelson introduced the TAGGs and TGIFs. The young guests were learning a dance to perform on Sunday morning and plan do an act for the talent show on Saturday night.

Kathy Wallace introduced our Keynote Speaker, the Rev. Sue Gamelin.

Pr. Sue Gamelin brought greetings and told about her travels and on becoming a minister in trying times. Reminding participants that the Gathering theme invited women to “Make a Ripple, Make a Wave, Make a Difference,” Pr. Gamelin charges that the church is called “...to make a tidal wave, a tsunami of grace.” Upon reading II Corinthians 9:6-15, she encouraged generosity in sharing God’s gifts. “Giving produces a fountain of living water,” said Pr. Gamelin.

The offering received will be divided between the Nicaraguan Water Project and CWO.

Kelly Barrett, Vice-President, assumed the Chair as Cathy Sell gave the report of the President. Cathy highlighted some of the things she did this year. She attended several Fall and Spring Gatherings and wrote articles for the *Bulletin* and *Carolina Vine*. One of the most exciting things she did this year was travel to Papua New Guinea on behalf of the N.C. Women of the

ELCA and spoke to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea National Women's Convention in September 2008.

Don Williams brought greetings from the NC Lutheran Men in Mission. One of their programs is to give a Bible to all N.C. Military Personnel.

Elizabeth Merritt brought greetings from the NC Lutheran Youth Organization. She will attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July and will participate in a "Bible to Share" program.

Judy Springer brought greetings from North Carolina Church Women United on behalf of Joanne Sharpe. Judy announced they will have a new web site. The web site is www.cwunc.org.

Karen Mitchell, Treasurer, presented the Budget for 2010-2011. The information can be found on pages 67 through 69 in the GPR. On behalf of the Executive Board, Karen made a motion to adopt the 2010-2011 Budget. The motion was approved.

Melissa Jernigan, Triennial Gathering Promoter (TGP) encouraged participants to attend the next Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering, in Spokane, Washington in July of 2011.

Saturday, May 30, 2009 Third Meeting

Maxine Amos, chair of the Elections Committee, announced the results of the balloting for Board: 111 ballots cast, 0 illegal ballots, 111 legal ballots, 57 needed to elect. Vicki Fink 87 votes, Judy Gainey 52 votes, Donna Prunkl 86 votes, Bobbie Slaughter 47 votes, Kathy Wallace 69 votes and Sherry Grissino 69 votes. Cathy declared that Vicki Fink, Donna Prunkl, Kathy Wallace and Sherry Grissino elected SWO Board Members for a two-year term.

There were no Resolutions brought before the Gathering.

Beth Wrenn, CWO President brought us greetings. She thanked the N.C. Women of the ELCA for their prayers and support, and for being one of the most active SWOs.

Cathy Sell presented a report of the SWO Board while the board members acted out their roles.

Doris Roof brought greetings and gave a report from the Patterson Memorial Committee. This is the 60th Anniversary of this Memorial. Doris shared some pictures and gave a brief history of this Memorial.

Karen Birkdale, chair of the Committee on the Report of the President, requested the report be submitted for information.

Sue Misenheimer, chair of the Committee on the Minutes, requested that the minutes be approved, and that the balance of the minutes be approved by the president and secretary.

Lorri Montrose, chair of the Credentials Committee, announced the following in attendance: delegates 99, visitors 129, YWGaB. 4, TGIF 8, TAGG 7, guests 9, clergy 4, NC Synodical Officers 4, NC Executive Board Members 8, CWO Representative 1, for a total of 273.

The amounts for the in-kind gifts were: items \$7260.00, cash \$718.00 for a total of \$7978.00. There was also \$35.02 collected pennies project.

Joy Cook brought greetings on behalf of Randy Youngquist-Thurow, from Apage+Kure Beach Ministries. They are getting ready for summer campers.

Pr. Judy Klusman brought greetings on behalf of the Bishop Leonard Bolick and the N.C. Synod ELCA.

Gelene Lineberger gave a report on the Rainbow Scholarships. The two Rainbow Scholarships were presented this year for \$1,000.00 each for Lisa Berry and Susan Jackson.

Cathy Sell presented lap quilts and aprons to our guests from ELC-PNG. Each of them shared a little about themselves and what they do for ELC-PNG.

After singing a hymn we went to the Awareness Sessions. The Awareness Sessions can be found on pages 15 through 18 in the GPR.

Saturday, May 30, 2009

Saturday evening entertainment was "Showcase of Conference Stars - Talent/No Talent Show." Patti Lovell and Melissa Jernigan were our emcees for the evening. Dorm devotions were held in the Residence hall and were led by the Host Conference.

Sunday, May 31, 2009

A service of Holy Communion was led by Pr. Charlene Limenih. The Rev. Doctor Leonard Bolick, Bishop of the N.C. Synod delivered the sermon. vEnessa Acham recognized and thanked the retiring officers and board members. She installed the newly elected officers and board members for 2009-2010. There being no further business to come before the assembly, the Twenty-Second Annual Gathering of the North Carolina Women's Organization was closed by Cathy Sell.

Kiana Sinz
Secretary

**North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization
Women of the ELCA
Post Gathering – Board Meeting
May 29 – 31, 2009
Lenoir-Rhyne University**

Sunday, May 31, 2009

Cathy Sell called the meeting to order following the close of the Gathering.

Pictures of the returning and new officers and board members were taken.

The Board welcomed newly elected Vice-President Susan Harris; Secretary Kiana Sinz; and Board Members, Vicki Fink, Donna Prunkl, Kathy Wallace and Sherry Gissino.

New and returning officers and board members completed profiles. Remarks were made by the retiring officers and board members and introductions were made by new and returning members.

Karen Mitchell reported that the Gathering Offerings totaled \$4,856.92.

Krickett Militello and Kathy Wallace reported that the Annual Gathering went well.

vEnessa Acham said that she enjoyed being with us this weekend.

Cathy Sell announced that the dates for 2010 Annual Gathering will be June 11, 12 and 13 at Lenoir-Rhyne University.

Cathy Sell recognized the departing officers and board members with a small gift. The Committee Evaluations are due June 10. The deadline for articles for the *Carolina Vine* is July 1. Our SWO Board Retreat will be July 10 – 12 at Lutheridge. Committee Day I will be at Our Savior, Southern Pines on August 15.

The meeting was adjourned and Gail Starr gave the sending Prayer.

Kiana Sinz
Secretary



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