

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Women of the ELCA Mission Statement:
“TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY ON THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.”

Oregon SWO Mission Statement:
To promote spiritual growth through faith in Jesus Christ.

Please don't throw me away or stick me in a file! Take me apart, copy me! Share me with your friends. Your editor and I thank you.

*The Oregon Grapevine
Oregon Synodical Women's Organization
Volume 22, No. 4 - April/May 2008*

*April Showers Bring May Flowers:
Can you believe the month of April? I am so ready for our Spring weather to set in. I have flowers on my porch that need to be planted, and Little League games my grandkids are counting on their grandpa & grandma attending.*

Thanks to all of you for your patience in our transitional period in sending the Grapevine out to those with email. The new board has decided to continue to send the Grapevine newsletter out by email through the synod office. We will send hard copies to those of you who would like to receive yours in the mail. We've gone over lists and have tried to do that this month. Please let us know if the process is working. All church units with email should be receiving an electronic email through their office. Please pass on, and/or make copies for those that should be receiving a copy.

Here's to warmer weather and all the joys that Spring holds.

*Becky Smith,
Grapevine Editor*

**Oregon Synodical Women of the ELCA
Board Members
October 7, 2007 to October, 2009**

President:

Margrethe Farmstrom
7988 SW Scholls Ferry Rd.
Beaverton, Oregon 97008
503-526-1025
gefarn@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Judy Ann Johnson
52068 SE 5th
Scappoose, Oregon 97056
503-543-2031
judvannj@centurytel.net

Vice President:

Charlene Beedle
965 Molokai St. SE
Salem, Oregon 97317
503-581-7588
charbeedle@earthlink.net

Treasurer: (term is 2/1/08 to 1/31/10)

Naoma Lee
8960 SE Dean Drive
Clackamas, Oregon 97015
503-655-7655
sslc@sslcladstone.org

Board Members:

Sonja Hoffman
3925 N. Longview Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97227
503-282-8119
queensnj@comcast.net

Gloria McCucheon
PO Box 23352
Eugene, Oregon 97402
541-344-1969
glojmc@yahoo.com

Ruth Vandebos
1470 SW 6th Place
Gresham, Oregon 97080
503-666-7273
ravinredhat@mailbug.com

Virginia Van Nortwick
1441 Morrow Rd. #209
Medford, Oregon 97504
541-734-5065
licorice77@gmail.com

Marcia McClanahan
11895 SE Kehrli Dr.
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222
503-659-3440
mcclanahan001@comcast.net

Marilyn Crawford
238 Quinault St.
Salem, Oregon 97306
503-581-4803
marilync818@hotmail.com

Cynthia (Cindy) Greaves
PO Box 266
Coquille, Oregon 97423
541-396-4342
cgreaves@mycomspan.com

Anna Munson-Lund
64748 Saros Lane
Bend, Oregon 97701
541-617-8985
anna@bendbroadband.com

From the President:

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

What a glorious time of year, both the church year as well as spring time outside. Christ is alive! - in each of us, and in our units, clusters and SWO. We know that because of His promise to us. We have good news to tell and we are empowered to do so as we draw support from each other by being together, sharing together, and working together. Could you do as much alone without others around you having the same mission and goals?

We have just had our OR SWO weekend board meeting. What a fine, ambitious group of women on your board, each with good ideas, working toward the purpose of the Women of the ELCA. In February I went to Chicago for the Conference of Presidents. This was a special time meeting with other SWO presidents and feeling the strong support of our churchwide staff and board. They are truly there for us to provide new materials and support in every way.

Elsewhere in this newsletter are notes of discussion and decisions at the board meeting. I hope you will read these and contact any of us with questions, comments, or suggestions.

If you have not already registered, I hope you are thinking of attending the Triennial Convention/Gathering in Salt Lake City, July 8-10/10-13. From what I'm learning, it promises to be a wonderful time being together, learning, and drawing from each other. New things will be happening in addition to many good things from prior gatherings. It is not too late to register. Linda Bradshaw, our TGP (Triennial Gathering Promoter) would like to know who is planning on attending from OR SWO. If you need information or are considering going but have not yet let her know, please do so at 541-383-7182 or g-lbradshaw@bendcable.com.

In August OR SWO is hosting one of the authors for our Lutheran Women Today Bible Study from September 2008 thru May 2009. Rev. Ann Fritschel will lead an overview of the study, "The Hidden Hand of God: Wisdom Stories from Ruth, Daniel, and Esther." Please mark your calendars for August 16 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Gresham. Further details in this newsletter.

**God's peace and blessings to you.
Margrethe Farnstrom**

**OREGON WOMEN OF THE ELCA SYNODICAL BOARD MEETING
APRIL 4-6, 2008 - HIGHLIGHTS OF MINUTES**

Friday, April 4th - Margrethe called the business meeting to order with prayer. Minutes of the 2007 convention and the executive meetings of October 26, 2007 and January 25, 2008 were accepted as presented.

Naoma presented a financial report. She has opened a new account at Wells Fargo bank, and all four officers are registered as signers. Current balance in this account is \$3964.40, with about \$638 of that due to Churchwide for offerings. Marilyn assured the officers that all commitments for last fiscal year have been met. She will have last year's records audited, and then turn over any remaining funds and all previous records to Naoma. Naoma shared information on units who made special contributions, and new information provided from Churchwide about travel/accident insurance. She also shared what she learned at the treasurer's training in Chicago.

General Discussion: The rest of the evening was spent in conversation about how to encourage women to move beyond their own little group, and ideas for encouraging participation. Margrethe shared some of her experiences at the president's conference, including information about how clusters should be functioning. The cluster handout was reviewed later in the day. The evening session closed with devotions on guidance by Sonja.

Saturday, April 5: Following breakfast, Marcia opened the meeting with devotions on service.

Polish Exchange: Margrethe and Judy Ann shared their experiences hosting Halina following last year's convention. Halina had also spent time with Linda Bradshaw and Peggy Jefferies.

Sonja brought questions from Becky Smith, who will be traveling to the Polish Women's Forum this year. Becky requested information about who to contact, both here and in Poland, and wondered about what she should purchase as suitable gifts to take with her. She has some ideas. A guideline for the Polish exchange prepared by Peggy Jefferies was presented.

Grapevine: Becky submitted questions, via Sonja, about whether she should go entirely electronic, resume mailing, or a combination, for future issues of the Grapevine? Consensus was that the electronic version should continue, but that some mailed issues are necessary, for those who don't have computer access. Judy Ann volunteered to work with Becky on a mailing list for the hard copies. The Oregon Synod office has included all the women in the roster who have email addresses in their data base, and will forward the newsletter, as well as their own

synod newsletters and information.

Goals: Following a short break, goals for the next two years were discussed. Concentration will be placed on education, communication, inclusiveness, connecting generations and outreach to clusters. The latter will be the primary focus for the next few months.

Bible Study Introductory Event: Margrethe has been in contact with the authors of the new study, Dr. Ann Fritschel and Gwen Saylor, both from Wartburg Seminary. Gwen would be available in June, Ann in August. Marcia moved that we invite Dr. Ann Fritschel to present a Bible study introduction on August 16, with second by Naoma. Motion passed unanimously. Ruth will ask her unit, Trinity in Gresham, to be hostess. A possible lunch menu of salads, rolls, cookies and drinks were discussed. Margrethe will contact Ann again to determine actual costs and plans of transportation, which could be shared with SW Washington, where Ann will present a session on August 23. Registration fee for the event will be determined after costs are known, but an amount of \$10 was suggested. SW WA is asking \$15 for their event in Poulsbo.

Triennial Convention: Linda Bradshaw, promoter, plans to use the green scarves from last convention as the Oregon identifier. Our SWO will provide 10 packages of hand quilting sewing needles for the servant event.

Convention 2009: Suggestions for a site were discussed, including pros and cons of using a small hotel with meeting rooms versus a church. Several sites will be researched, and a final decision made at the next meeting. Theme ideas included "Love One Another" and "Love Boldly". Dates will be October 2, 3, and 4 (or two of the three), 2009. No souvenirs are planned, or very limited items such as a magnet may be used. A suggestion was made to include a time for each cluster to caucus. Marcia will check out Canby Grove, Sonja will check with some small hotels, Margrethe and Judy Ann will drive by Our Saviors in Salem to check for lodging in the area, and Aldersgate Retreat Center at Turner will be investigated as potential sites.

Next Meeting: The board will meet on August 2, 2008 at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Eugene (pending confirmation of availability). Agenda items will include the 09 SWO Convention, Reports of Cluster Contacts, and non-convention year activities.

Convention evaluations were mostly very positive. The board signed letters of appreciation for each unit or individual who had contributed to the special appeal for financial support following last year's convention deficit.

Sunday, April 6, 2008: After breakfast, Naoma closed the weekend with devotions from "Hugs", using Psalm 19:1. Bags were packed, and the group attended services at Trinity Lutheran before departing for home.

Judy Ann Johnson, Secretary

Introducing Naoma Lee, Treasurer for the Oregon Synodical Organization

Women of the ELCA

Naoma has a history of bookkeeper, tax preparer and City Recorder. Upon returning from Churchwide Treasurer training in Chicago, she began to set up the budget for 2008-09. Most important are the forms A and B. To send “thankofferings” to Churchwide use Form B, to the Oregon Synodical here in Oregon, please use Form A and send to 8960 S.E. Dean Dr., Clackamas, OR 97015. Inform Naoma if you need these forms.

Naoma is married to John Lee. They make their home in Clackamas, OR. Both are active members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Gladstone, OR. Naoma’s two daughters, Pam and Donna are both grown, she has two “wonderful” grandsons. Nick is a sophomore at Oregon State and Sam a senior at Sunset High School, where their mother Pam works in the counseling office. Her youngest daughter Donna is an electric engineer at Verizon Wireless in Kirkland, WA., where she is presently working on her Master’s degree.

“After serving as President of the Women of the ELCA at St. Stephen, I was looking for a new challenge“, Naoma said. Her plans as Cluster coordinator of the Oregon Trail Cluster are to assist in planning cluster gatherings.

Her hobbies include doll collecting, angels and rocks! She enjoys yard work and does stain glass mosaic for said garden.

Naoma can be reached at 503-655-7655 or 8960 S.E. Dean Dr., Clackamas, OR.

Cluster Liaison assignments were made at the recent Synodical board meeting. They will be contacting each unit in the next few weeks to update records. Call the board member assigned to your congregation with any questions or concerns you may have.

**Columbia Coast: Judy Ann Johnson, 503-543-2031
(First and Peace in Astoria; Faith, Clatskanie; Our Saviour's, Seaside and St. Peter, Tillamook)**

**Southern Coast: Cindy Greaves, 541-396-4342 or Judy Ann Johnson,
503-543-2031
(Gloria Dei, Coos Bay; Faith, Coquille; New Life, Florence; Bethany, Gold Beach; Atonement, Newport; Faith, North Bend and Zion, Port Orford)**

**Sunset: Sonja Hoffman, 503-282-8119
(Light of Life, Aloha; Mission of Atonement, St. Matthew, St. Andrew, Shepherd of the Valley and Portland Taiwanese, all Beaverton; Emanuel, Cornelius; Trinity, McMinnville; Calvary and Community of Christ, Hillsboro; Joyful Servant, Newberg and Christ the King, Tigard)**

**Mt. Tabor/Rose/Plum: Marcia McClanahan, 503-659-3440
(Augustana, Holy Trinity, Bethel, Luther Memorial, Bethany, Bethlehem, Central, First Immanuel, Messiah, Mt. Carmel, Peace, Portsmouth Trinity, St. Mark's, Redeemer, St. Paul, St. James and St. Luke, Portland; First, St. Helens and Bethany, Warren)**

**Mt. Hood: Ruth Vandenbos, 503-666-7273
(Trinity, Gresham; Our Redeemer, Hood River; Gethsemane, St. Timothy, Resurrection and Good Spirit Mission, Portland; Zion, The Dalles and Hoodland, Brightwood)**

**Oregon Trail: Naoma Lee, 503-655-7655
(Christ, Aurora; St. Paul of Damascus; Macksburg and Zoar, Canby; Creator, Clackamas; Colton; St. Stephen, Gladstone; Our Savior's, Lake Oswego; Milwaukie and King of Kings, Milwaukie; Prince of Life and Zion, Oregon City; West Linn; and Community of Hope, Wilsonville.**

**Vineyard: Charlene Beedle, 503-581-7588
(Faith and Good Shepherd, Albany; Grace, Corvallis; Christ the Good Shepherd, Holy Cross, Our Savior's and St. Mark, Salem; Trinity, Dallas; Faith, Keizer; Our Saviour's, Lebanon; Immanuel and Trinity, Silverton; Fir Lawn, Sweet Home; Emmanuel, Willamina; and House of Zion and Immanuel, Woodburn)**

**Emerald: Gloria McCuchen, 541-344-1969
(Bethesda, Central, Emmaus, Good Shepherd, Our Saviour's, Our Redeemer and United, Eugene; Faith, Junction City; Faith, Roseberg; and Springfield Lutheran)**

**Crater Lake: Virginia Van Nortwick, 541-734-5065
(Good Shepherd, Cave Junction; St. Matthew, Central Point; Calvary, Grants Pass; Hope and Klamath, Klamath Falls; Ascension and Zion,**

Medford; and Trinity, Tule Lake)
High Desert: Anna Munson-Lund, 541-617-8985
(Grace First and Nativity, Bend; Peace, Burns; Good Shepherd, Madras;
Our Savior, Prineville; Zion, Redmond; Shepherd of the Hills, Sisters; and
Shepherd of the Mountains, Sunriver)

Blue Mountain: Marilyn Crawford, 503-581-4803 and Margrethe Farnstom,
503-526-1025
(First, Baker City; Good Shepherd, Boardman; Grace, Enterprise; Hope,
Heppner; Trinity, Hermiston; Valby, Ione; Zion, La Grande; Christ the
King, Milton-Freewater; St. Paul, Ontario; Peace, Pendleton and Grace,
Vale)

+++++

Bible Study Event Registration Form

Trinity Lutheran Church
507 W. Powell Blvd.
Gresham, Oregon

Saturday, August 16, 2008 from 9am - 3pm

Meet co-author Rev. Ann Fritschel and learn more about the new 2008-
2009 LWT Bible Study. The cost is \$10.00 for the day and includes
lunch served by the ladies of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Cost is \$10.00 for the day. This includes your lunch.
Make checks payable to Oregon SWO and mail the payment and
registration form to: Naoma Lee
8960 SE Dean Drive
Clackamas, OR 97015

LOST AND FOUND

Did you lose a blue fleece zip-front jacket at the SWO convention at the Red Lion, Portland, in October, 2007? It is X-Lg with black trim. It is “living” in a box at the home of Margrethe Farnstrom and is not being worn! If you own it, please call her at 503-526-1025 or email at gefarn@yahoo.com. Also, there is one purple shirt with the convention logo, size medium, for \$24.00 and several black and white convention tiles with the logo for \$6.00. Thanks.

COME TO THE WATERS

July 10-13, 2008 - Salt Lake City, Utah

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’”

Oregon Women are the “Salt of the Earth” women. Please join us in Salt Lake City.

**Triennial Promoter,
Linda Bradshaw
60830 Jennings Rd.
Bend, Oregon 97702
1-541-383-7182
g-lbradshaw@bendcable.com**

Prayer Concern Update:

Teisha Helgerson (niece to Becky Smith - Grapevine Editor) who received a bone marrow transplant on March 2, 2007. Engraftment has taken hold. She continues to improve each day. Her lymph nodes are normal size. That’s a biggie. It means no sign of cancer. Brand new immune system is maturing and developing. Teisha is back to work and playing with her band Amelia and continues to be upbeat. We’re hoping she can get off the steroids ASAP as they seem to raise havoc with her body.

Prayer Concerns:

**Cynthia Greaves diagnosed with pancreatic cancer (board member).
Anna Munson-Lund taking a leave from her job (board member).**

SYMPATHY

Mary Jean Bey - Peace Lutheran Church - Portland, OR diagnosed with pancreatic cancer went to be with her Lord on January 26, 2008. We thank you for your prayers and concern for her and her family. Blessed be her memory!