



WOMEN OF THE NALC NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 1

++++
This newsletter is intended to share information about Women of the NALC with the women in our congregations. Please make additional copies and give them to the leaders in your women's groups/ministries. Thank you.

My Dear Sisters (and Co-workers) in Christ,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Women of the NALC newsletter. This has long been a dream since the inception of our organization and we are glad to share this with you. Many of you may have been with the WNALC since the beginning and some of you are new to the organization and I am sure there are many women in between. I hope that you find the newsletter to be a place where we, as women of faith, can connect. A place to share not only our successes, but also our struggles and of course what connects us so strongly our belief in our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

As I was reading in my devotional the other day, I was reminded of our goal as not only women, but of all believers. I was reading an excerpt from Philip Yancy's Grace Notes entitled, "Who's the Audience?" In that piece, Mr. Yancy challenged the reader to remember that we are not the consumer of what worship has to offer, but rather God is the audience. We need to ask ourselves if our worship was something that pleases Him. This struck me. So many times we think about what can our women's group, church, church body, mission district, or The Women's Council of the WNALC do for us. Instead we should be asking, "Is what we do pleasing to God and meeting what God has called us to do?" Therefore, I am asking you and your women's groups to spend some time in prayer reflecting on this very question. Is your emphasis on pleasing God or pleasing yourselves? Are there ways we can add to what we do, or are there some activities that are detracting from focusing on our audience: God. This of course is a very personal answer. However, The Women's Council of the WNALC promises to be there with you cheering you on, praying with and for you/your women's group as you decide how God is calling you in His work.

Karen Hansen
Co-chair The Women's Council of the WNALC

2013 WOMEN OF THE NALC ANNUAL GATHERING

Sixty-five ladies met on Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA for the 3rd Annual Gathering of this organization. The Women's Council (the governing board of this organization) members present were: Jeanne Wallace, Chair; Lynn Coughenour, Vice Chair; Sherrie Palan, Secretary; Jan Williams, Treasurer; Darlene Deck, Dorothy Johnson, Karen Hansen and Juhree Polkowski. Our theme was "Women of the NALC: Connecting to Share God's Love in Mission.,"

Seminarians Nicole Collins, Tonya Brittain and Cassie Light led the group in prayer throughout the day, and Deaconess Mary Beth Howe gave the opening devotion. We heard reports from the Mid-Northeast Mission District, Carolinas Mission District and South Texas Mission District. Our keynote speakers were the Rev. John Nunes, president and CEO of Lutheran World Relief, and Rev. Josh Hansen, pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Colorado Spring, CO, each one speaking about being in mission as people and congregations, and about partnering in mission, locally, nationally and globally.

We adopted a budget of \$23,318.46 for 2014. We said thank you to outgoing council members, Dorothy Johnson, Juhree Polkowski and Jan Williams, and elected 3 new members to the council, Brenda Boor of Meyersville, TX, Jessie Phillips of Watertown, WI and Kay Weaver of Hickory NC; Jeanne was re-elected to a 2nd term. Our offering of \$690.00 went to The Great Commission Society, an organization within the NALC.

We were also addressed by the Rev. Mark Chavez, General Secretary of the NALC. He encouraged the Women of the NALC to be in the Word, and to help transform our congregations into discipleship congregations. The meeting adjourned in time to break for dinner, but everyone was invited to return in the evening to view a documentary, "It's A Girl" which is about gendercide. Ladies were also given the opportunity to visit with and receive information about various mission partners who were present for the NALC Convocation.

2014 WNALC BUDGET

<u>Estimated Carry Over</u>		\$10,554.99
Balance as of August 1, 2013	\$7,924.99	
Estimated Offerings	\$3,500.00	
2013 Annual Gathering Registrations	\$2,170.00	
[Minus Annual Gathering Expenses		\$ 3,040.00]
<u>Estimated 2014 Income</u>		\$23,318.46
Estimated 2013 Carry Over	\$10,554.99	
Offerings	\$ 9,013.47	
2014 Registrations	\$ 3,750.00	
<u>Estimated 2014 Expenses</u>		\$23,318.46
Gift to NALC	\$ 1,276.34	
Administrative	\$ 700.00	
TWC Mission District Development	\$ 2,500.00	
TWC Meeting	\$ 7,400.00	
Annual Gathering	\$11,442.12	

North American Lutheran Church Mission Districts & Your WNALC Contact Person

Atlantic Mission District

CT, DE, ME, MD (east), MA, NH, NJ,
NY (east) RI, VT, DC

Virginia

Virginia

Kay Weaver

828-326-9836

lutheranchick@gmail.com

2380 Glennola Lane
Hickory, NC 28168

Caribbean & Hispanic Mission District

Caribbean & Hispanic Ministries

Ohio Mission District

Ohio

Sonshine Mission District of Florida

Florida (except Panhandle area)

Jessie Phillips

920-285-1558

imp218@att.net

N562 County Road R
Salisbury, NC 28146

Central Pacific Mission District

Northern CA & Northern NV

Mid-Northeast Mission District

Western MD, Western NY, Western PA & WV

Brenda Boor

361-275-9895

brenniboor@icloud.com

1762 Meyersville Rd.
Meyersville, TX

Eastern South Dakota Mission District

Eastern South Dakota

Minkota Mission District

MN & Eastern ND

Western Dakotas, Montana, & Wyoming MD

Western Dakotas, MT & WY

Jeanne Wallace

830-990-1002

jeannewallace.wnalc@gmail.com

60 Quail Run
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Great Rivers Mission District

Illinois

Heartland Mission District

Indiana & Kentucky

Michigan Mission District

Michigan (Lower Peninsula)

Darlene Deck

219-962-2197

darlenedeck@frontier.com

3375 Randolph Place
Hobart, IN 46342

Iowa Mission District

Iowa

North Texas Mission District

TX (north)

South Texas Mission District

TX (south) & LA

Sherrie Palan

830-660-0446

sherriepalan.wnalc@gmail.com

133 Lauren Court
La Vernia, TX 78121

Northwest Mission District

AK, ID, OR, & WA

Rocky Mountain Mission District

CO, NM, UT, & corner of TX below NM

Southwest Pacific Mission District

AZ, Southern CA, HI, & Southern NV

Canada Mission District

Canada

Karen Hansen

814-889-9980

bulterhansen@hotmail.com

180 Paloma Heights
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

WNALC MISSIONS COMMITTEE

If your women’s group is looking for ways to help the victims of Typhoon Haiyan that struck the Philippines early in November, the NALC has recommended and provided information on two organizations that are currently sending aid to those affected:

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has mobilized an initial emergency fund of \$50,000 for typhoon response activities and is seeking \$2,500,000 to help communities recover with broad relief efforts (shelter, food, medical aid, etc.)

Water Missions International (WMI) is mobilizing to provide safe, drinkable water for those in need. They currently have staff and water treatment equipment en route capable of providing safe water for up to 160,000 people. Gifts to WMI will enable them to move quickly in order to meet the immediate need for safe drinking water.

Please send your gifts directly to these international relief organizations:

Lutheran World Relief –

- Gifts by telephone or mail: 1-800-597-5972 Lutheran World Relief
P.O. Box 17061
Baltimore, MD 21297-1061
- Gifts online at www.lwr.org

Water Missions International –

- Gifts by telephone or phone: 1-843-769-7395 Water Missions International
P.O. Box 31258
Charleston, SC 29417
- Give online at www.watermissions.org/haiyan

Please pray for all those affected by this storm and for those who are working to respond to help those in need.

NEWS BRIEFS/REMINDERS

---An important Reminder: Has your women’s group sent in their annual Roster/Leadership Form for 2013-2014? A ratification process is included in our guidelines which allows each women’s group to have their input in our ministry. This requires that we maintain a current membership roster. Our organization is for all the women, but it requires that you complete the Membership Form and return it to the Women’s Council annually. It also gives us your current leaders information, including the e-mail addresses, so you can receive information from WNALC. Please send in your form to your Mission District WNALC contact person. If you need a form or have questions please contact her.

---MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JULY 23, 2014 – WNALC ANNUAL GATHERING - Charleston, South Carolina
More information will be coming out soon!

MEET JESSIE PHILLIPS!
WNALC Co-Chair. 2013-2014

I believe one of the hardest things to do is to describe oneself. What do people want to know about me? Who really is this person, Jessie Phillips? We are a product of our upbringing and our trials in life. The choices we make in this life shape our character and beliefs. So, to find out about someone, the best thing would be to start at the beginning. I am the eldest of four children, born in 1954 to a Caucasian father and Japanese mother in Tokyo, Japan. I am an "Army Brat" who lived most of her formative years (until I was 13) moving back and forth from the United States and Germany. My father retired in 1967 and decided to move back to his hometown of Caldwell, Ohio. In the early 1970's, I felt that there was something missing in my life (I was not raised in a Christian home) and so I started attending a First Church of Christ, where I would sing on special occasions during my junior and senior year of high school. I left the church when I got married in 1972. When my second child was born in 1980 I was invited by a friend to attend her church. I was baptized and became active in the church teaching Sunday school; I stayed with that church until they went through a split. Shortly after that, my grandfather-in-law was unable to drive his wife to their church anymore. So, since I didn't have a home church, I volunteered to take grandma, to their small, rural United Methodist Church. I found a church home that shared God's word not only by scripture but also by deed. I loved teaching Sunday school, VBS, being a lay leader, and preaching when we didn't have a pastor. During this time (2000), my husband and I divorced after 27 years of marriage. We had been blessed with three beautiful children (two girls and a boy). All adults now, the girls have blessed us with two granddaughters and a grandson. It was during this difficult time that I leaned so heavily on the promises of Scripture. I know that if it wasn't for His presence in my life, I would not be here today. In 2005 I married David Phillips, who was an interim pastor at that time and gained four step-children (three boys and a girl). We moved to Dearborn, Michigan, joined a Lutheran Church and lived there for 6 years. So now I am embarking on a new chapter in my life, serving the Lord as a pastor's wife and thanking Him every day for his love. David and I have been married for 8 years and have been truly blessed to be called to our church, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Lebanon in Watertown, WI, a church filled with the love of Christ and eager to serve. I am on the Outreach Committee, teach art at our school (grades 3-8), sub at our daycare, serve as Chairperson of our WNALC women's group, volunteer in community and do those "other duties as assigned." Being elected to the WNALC Women's Council has allowed me to share my love of God and all that He has done with my sisters on the Council and those within the mission districts to which I serve as liaison. When I look back and see where my life has taken me, I am amazed; I continually see God's hand at work. I am thankful for his love and faithfulness.

May all glory and praise be to our heavenly Father,
Jessie Phillips