Dear Sisters,

Many of you know that I serve the church in two positions. I am the regional staff person for Disciple women, meaning I work for you. But I also serve a church part time as a co-pastor with my husband. Every once in a while I hear someone comment, “Oh, You mean you work more than Sunday morning?” This is usually from someone who is new to the life of church. I also hear, “what do you mean they aren’t in the office”, or “oh, they have a day off?

Now all of this is just to point out that unless you are involved in an activity or an event, you usually do not know what details or which people are involved in making that event happen. The regional Disciples Women is a volunteer organization whose purpose is to lift up women of our churches to use their gifts to serve their God, and to focus on Mission at home and abroad.

So if you attended the District 1 event ‘Spiritually Ignited’ in January or the San Diego area ‘Circle of Sisters’ in February or the ‘Women’s Convocation’ in March or the Spring Event in April, you experienced the gifts of many women. Some of the women who plan and execute these events have years of experience but more are new to their tasks, because the Disciple Women is as much about leadership training as we are about presenting events, programs and resources for the women of the church.

Continued on Page 2...

News & Notes Publishing Schedule

News & Notes is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. It is a publication of the Office of Disciples Women, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Pacific Southwest Region headquartered in Altadena, CA. Rev. Susan Gonzales Dewey is the Deployed Regional Staff person. Articles of interest for the next issue should be received by July 14, 2007. Please send to N&N Editor:

Linda Hernandez Williams
7231 Boulder Avenue # 263
Highland CA 92346

Better yet, Please E-mail to: pswdw@aol.com
It seems to me that I have always been a late bloomer and frankly, a slow learner in the areas of life and faith. I hope the point is that I get there eventually. As this is my last article in this role, and I want to share with you some of the experiences and ‘aha’ moments I have had as a direct result of ‘just saying yes’ instead of my oft repeated ‘thank you God, but I am not worthy’ or ‘not right now God, I’m too frightened, but ask me later.’

As with so much in our journey, fears serves only to hold us back. So, out of my comfort zone I leapt four years ago, ready to try something new. I have not had one moment of regret. The experience of praying, planning and playing with the women of the Full Commission and the women of our region has been not only a positive one, but one that has deepened my faith, challenged my talents and provided a support system beyond what I could ever imagine.

Another thing you have taught me is how to allow you to ‘be church’ for me. By that I mean, that when I shared my health concerns and fears, and was able at long last to ask for help, you didn’t hesitate. The prayers, cards, and calls meant more than I can say. I learned that my ‘job’ was to trust, surrender, and say yes to God. By your example and love I was able to do just that. Thank you for ‘being church for me.’ Now, the fact that I am well…..seems like gravy, delicious, but as with so much in our experience of God, more than I could have even thought to hope for!

For those of you who attended the Spring Event in Bakersfield, I know that you join me in thanking the Disciples Women, led wonderfully by Minnie Trader, Susan Boyd and Mary Jane Pierson, for a full and wonderful day. Thank you so much for preparing a welcoming and nourishing table for us. It was a very busy and gratifying day. We also elected our officers for next year. The ballot is posted, so go see just what a stellar group God has put together to serve next year. Blessings on you all.

That’s it for me. Good bye and thank you so much for this wonderful experience of getting know you and for letting me be of service. And remember: “well behaved women rarely make history.” See you at the Spiritual Growth Retreat. Peace, Linda
Regional Bake Sale

Women at churches throughout the region will be holding a bake sale to raise money to support Leadership Development. This program offers leadership training and opportunities for women throughout the region.

Please contact your church coordinator to sign up to participate by baking or selling goodies. We will be one in spirit and one in the Lord as women throughout our region come together on this day.

Monies collected should be sent to:
Disciples Women
c/o Cindy Barr
2719 Warwood Rd.
Lakewood, CA 90712

Hello Ladies!

I hope that you have had a wonderful Easter and are looking forward to the end of school, graduations and the summer months ahead.

If you were able to attend the Spring Event in Riverside you are already on the road to feeding your Spirit, feeding the Church, and feeding the World. The theme “Come To The Table” was wonderfully presented and gave participants a glimpse into the study materials for this year and what we can do as faithful women to transform the world, one meal at a time. The Executive Committee and Full Commission were also voted on and will start their new positions in June coordinating your women’s events for the next year.

Your PSWR Disciple Women’s Web Page (www.pswdw.com) is updated on a monthly basis (sometimes more frequently) and is a place where you can find current event information and registration, links to other sites and resource material. As of April 1st we have over 2000 members in our database, and over 420 of you are now receiving your News & Notes via e-mail. (Thank you for allowing us to use our resources towards women’s events and programming, instead of postage). To prevent our messages from being swept up by the overzealous email filters, please remember to add our email address (pswdisciplewomen@yahoo.com) to your email address books and update your information if it changes, so that you don’t miss out on any valuable information regarding regional and local events.

Blessings,
Jenice Carter

“...and you spent 5.73 years of your life deleting spam from your e-mail.”
NEW THINGS???

What new things are happening with the Regional Disciples Women’s Ministry?

1. The Leadership Apprentice program is up and running as the first class for the region finishes with their first year. We are receiving names to recruit for the second class now. If you have women from our constituency communities to recommend, please contact me at sgdewey@fccventura.com.

2. The planning has begun for a gathering of young women in their 20’s to discuss what it means to be faithful Christian women today and what tools are needed to live a life of faith as women in their 20’s in the 21st century. The scheduled date for this gathering will be May 31-June 2, 2008.

3. How do we raise the funds to carry out the ministry God has called us to do in this new day? In the 1800’s, women donated their pennies and nickels from the sale of their extra eggs to fund the ministry. In the 19th century, women held rummage sales and bazaars, and many still do. But did you know that there is a Not-for-Profit section on E-Bay and that the Disciples women are going to move into the new century with a virtual rummage sale? When the regional Disciples women meet for their orientation, we will learn how to list and sell our donated items on E-Bay. We will tell you how it all works once we are up and running.

CAROLYN PURSER  Legislative

Some may say the subject I'm going to talk about is a world away and why should we be so concerned about it? It's the horrible situation in Darbur, Sudan. Yes, geographically it is on the other side of the world but, in a humanitarian sense it's next door. A quote from John Donne says, ...Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind;... So how diminished are we by the senseless deaths of the thousands of men, women and children of Darfur. Women and children are the most at risk. A woman should not have to risk rape and/or murder when performing such a simple task as gathering fire wood for her cooking fire. But this is exactly what the women of Darfur face everyday. There is a way this risk can be lessened somewhat, and that is through the use of a solar cooker. Not only are these devices good for the environment they are also safer for the women and their families to use. The women don't have to put themselves in further danger when gathering the firewood and because there is no fire the risk of burns or their homes catching fire is greatly diminished. Solar Cookers International is an organization helping to provide solar cookers to the people of Darfur and the refugee camps in surrounding countries where conflicts can arise between the refugees and the local populations because of the scarcity of fire wood.

Of course this is just one piece of the puzzle. There are so many other issues to be addressed, there simply isn't time to do so here. But, there are things we can do to help. We can donate money to help provide solar cookers and other humanitarian aid, we can contact our elected representatives to let them know what we think and feel about this and other issues, they won't know unless we tell them. And most importantly we can all pray. Great things can and do happen when God's people unite in prayer. Love and God Bless, Carolyn

Solar Cookers International  1919 21st Street # 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.solarcookers.org

In Washington D.C.: Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
www.senate.gov
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510-6225

www.house.gov House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515
This year, the Women’s Commission with the encouragement of the Faith in Action committee adopted two projects, Loch Leven Camp and Conference Center as our service project and Eastmont Community Center as our mission project. It is our hope that the women in our region will be able to make a significant difference to both of these organizations.

Susan Richardson has compiled a report and wish list on Loch Leven Camp. Look for it in this month’s N&N and online at www.pswdw.com under Service Project.

I compiled a report on Eastmont Community Center, which is located in East Los Angeles. They serve pre-school through seniors. My original report was distributed at the Spring Event and is four pages long. Too long for this newsletter but you can find it on www.pswdw.com under Mission Project.

We are offering the wish lists with the hope that each women’s group or church will find something that speaks to their passions and interests. Your projects can be worked on all year or you can make it a one-time event.

I hope to have a registry online where the women can report what dreams they have answered, whether it will be a painting weekend at Loch Leven or Spanish/English Dictionaries for Eastmont. There are very small requests and some very large. Pick what speaks to you and your organization and step forward in faith knowing that you are making a difference. Look for follow up information in the next newsletter.

If you would like to have a hard copy of the report on Eastmont Community Center sent to you or your organization, please call me at (818) 845-2347 or email me at dianecripe@yahoo.com.

**CATHY PERRING**

**Worship**

- The music was wonderful and uplifting (thanks Susan Boyd and Kathy Hilberg)
- The Blessing Box wasn’t big enough (and we were drinking from our saucers because our cups had overflowed)
- Bakersfield First Christian was beautiful and welcoming
- The lilacs smelled great (ask Linda Houston)
- The business session went well after Susan Dewey and Linda Houston stopped hiding behind the communion table
- The "Come to the Table" theme was lifted up through Psalm 23: 5-6 and Mark 9:37
- Our offering was blessed and given to leadership training for all women, especially our women of color
- The liturgical dance set the table for communion
- We were walking on Holy Ground as we left for the day

As the worship/spiritual leader for our regional Disciples Women, I would like to lift up two important ways you can support mission in our region through prayer (and action). **Eastmont Community Center** and **Loch Leven Christian Camp and Conference Center** need our prayers and our support. Information was distributed to those attending the Spring Event; please read it and pick a project that needs your help. The information will also be available via the website: www.pswdw.com, so everyone can see the needs of these two facilities. Specifically, the Outdoor Ministry Committee of the Region asks for prayers as they discern direction and guidance through the hiring process for a new manager who will serve at Loch Leven, so that Loch Leven can continue to fulfill its mission of serving all God’s people in a mountain retreat setting.
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/SOUTHERN NEVADA
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR STATE ASSEMBLY - MAY 18-19, 2007.

(Friday Evening) Ramada Inn, 5550 Kearney Mesa Road, San Diego, CA 92111 and (Saturday) Northminister Presbyterian Church, 4324 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92117.

Theme: "BE OBEDIENT TO THE HEAVENLY VISION AND DREAMS" Acts 26:19b.

Gail Mengel, National President, CWU, will be our special keynote speaker.

Friday - May 18: Ramada Inn
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Tours to Agencies.
2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Registration Hotel and Check-in Begins.
4:30 - 5:00 p.m. Social time with Gail Mengel, Nat'l President.
5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Welcome and introductions
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner
6:30 - 7:25 p.m. Panel on Priority #3 & 5, Justice, safety, education for women and children.
7:25 - 7:35 p.m. Devotions by Area 10 worship team
7:35 - 8:00 p.m. Worship - Jill Kirschner.

Saturday, May 19: Northminster Presbyterian Church
7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration
8:45 - 9:00 a.m. Gathering Music
9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Call to Order & Opening Devotions
09:30 - 10:30 a.m. Gail Mengel, Nat'l President, Keynote Speaker
10:30 - 11:15 a.m Recognition of Young CWU Unit Women
11:15 - 12:00 a.m. Exhibits, Fellowship
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch
12:50 - 1:05 p.m. Gathering Music
01:00 - 2:10 p.m. Workshop Choices: #1 Fueling the Dream, #2 Educating the Dream, #3 Sustaining the Dream, #4 Protecting the Dream.
2:15 - 3:00 p.m. Closing Worship.

Mail or call registration to: Ilse Peetz, Treasurer, 33115 N. 135th St., East, Pearblossom, CA 93553 (661-944-2842) cipeetz@netzero.net
Cost: Friday Evening (Dinner) $8.00, Saturday, Registration $40.00.
Hotel Reservation: Ramada Inn (858) 514-1951

A Big Thank You to our Commission members who have completed their terms:

Linda Houston
Andrea Whobrey
Diane Cripe
Joanne Kegel
Sandy Everett

Nancy Fowler
Maria Tafoya
Courtney Stanton
Kel Henderson
Cathy Perring
"Come to the Table" is the theme for the 2007-08 New Day for Christian Women. The sixth year of this program looks at three distinctive topics:

1. "Awareness of the danger we face when we do not know the scripture and spend time in study of the Bible. How can women of faith grow without knowing the Bible’s wisdom?"

2. "... concern that women needed to know the stories of the whole church. ... This issue of New Day reflects parts of the stories of Asian, African American, Hispanic, and Native American experience in the Christian Church."

3. "Finally, this issue of New Day tells some of the story of the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide trip to Korea in the fall of 2005 as well as relates information about the Women’s Action Web. ..."

New Day for Christian Women "Come to the Table" is available from Christian Board of Publication. Contact them by visiting www.cbp.com or calling (800) 366-3383. Available from CBP is the Leader’s Guide (contains English and Spanish), magazine (available in English or Spanish), News & Views Map of Korea, and Yearbook & Calendar.

MARIE DURFLINGER  MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY 2007
Church Women United  "FRIENDS UNDER GOD'S WING"
Sponsored by Church Women United (CWU)

The Church Women United Celebration called May Friendship Day (MFD) is an annual event nationwide. This year it is scheduled on Friday, May 4 (or whenever your Local Unit chooses). Women from all faith congregations are cordially invited.

The 2007 theme for the MFD Celebration is "Friends Under God's Wing," centering on the scripture Matthew 23:37. The program will present two aspects of friendship: the treasured longtime friends and the new friends one makes by intentionally reaching out to others. Readings, music, group participation, and devotional presentations will emphasize friendships bound together under the shelter of God's care.

This MFD Celebration also includes the annual ingathering of pennies for Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC), a worldwide movement now in service for more than 50 years. Church Women United is an active partner in supporting Fellowship of the Least Coin. Each woman participating in FLC prays regularly for peace and reconciliation in families, work places, communities, her nation and the world. With each prayer, the woman sets aside the least coin of her nation (a penny in the U.S.) When least coins are collected each year from women in countries around the globe, the coins amount to many thousands of dollars. An international FLC committee prayerfully considers current needs in the world and spends the year's fund in grants to alleviate women's hardships and thus promote reconciliation and peace in the world. Many CWU Local Units name May Friendship Day as the annual ingathering time for FLC.
DISCIPLES WOMEN COMMISSION ELECTED BALLOT
JUNE 2007-JUNE 2008

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
PAT MESSENGER
NANCY FOWLER
MICHEL JOHNSON
CINDY BARR
JENICE CARTER
LINDA HERNANDEZ WILLIAMS
CHERY CAREW
KATHLEEN BYBEE
MARATHA CAUSEY

Co-Facilitators
Secretary
Treasurer
Co-Communications
Celebrations
Leadership
Faith In Action

FULL COMMISSION
SANDY EVERETT
SUSAN BOYD
CATHY PERRING
SUSAN RICARDSON
MARTI CORRELL
EVY HORIGAN
CAROLYN PURSER
JENNY SHERMAN
MARCIA DAUNER
CHERYL GEISEN
DEBRA MOOGAN
DONNA ELSASSER
TIFFANY GOSSETT
LEISA PUGH
SANDY BONDESEN
JILL FOSTER
SANDRA DRAPER
BETTY DRAPER
VALERIE NOE

Mailing Coordinator
Study
Worship
Service
Stewardship
Co-legislation Coordinators
Development Chair
District 1 Coordinator
District 2 Coordinators
District 3 Coordinator
District 4 Coordinators
District 5 Coordinator
District 6 Coordinator
District 7 Coordinators
District 8 Coordinator

This ballot represents elected positions. Our full commission also includes appointed representatives from our constituency groups.
SUSAN RICHARDSON

Service

Your Faith In Action team has chosen Loch Leven as our Service Project for the '07-'08 year. (See what they chose as our Mission Project for this year when you read the Faith In Action article by Diane Cripe.) Loch Leven Christian Camp & Conference Center is owned & operated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Pacific Southwest Region. We purchased the property on October 23, 1956 from James & Joy Favour. That year saw the first Summer camp program. NOTE: the 50th Anniversary Celebration below.

Loch Leven Volunteers Needed!

We have two projects and are in need of volunteers. Please help us form committees for the following:

1. Loch Leven manager’s house – The house needs a minimum of paint (inside and out), carpeting and drywall. We need people to help, in-kind and cash donations. This project needs to be done by mid-August, 2007.

2. Loch Leven 50th Anniversary Celebration – On September 22, 2007, we will have a day of celebration for the many years and the many people Loch Leven has served. A committee is needed, which will include fundraising, activities, food and advertising to plan this exciting event. The entire Pacific Southwest Region will be invited to participate on this fun-filled day.

Perhaps you can donate items, support financially or help in some other way (ideas, recommend others, etc.). There are many other ways to help. Contact Susan Richardson if you are interested in helping, have ideas or questions. (714) 685-6827 or email her at kymomcat@aol.com

In addition, there are two ways to give your financial gifts to Loch Leven. One is to make a donation directly to Loch Leven Camp & Conference Center. The other is to donate to the Brad & Lindsey Carter Memorial Fund. This Permanent Fund will be invested with the Christian Church Foundation for the use of Loch Leven Conference Center. The annual income from the Permanent Fund is to be utilized for new projects, major capital needs and/or operations.

Please make checks payable, note in the memo and send as follows to direct your donation:

- Loch Leven Christian Camp
  Memo: Operating Donation
  36910 Mill Creek Rd.
  Mentone, CA 92359
  (909) 794-2507
  www.lochleven.org

- PSW Regional Church
  Memo: Brad & Lindsey Carter Memorial Fund
  2401 N. Lake Avenue
  Altadena, CA 91001
  (626) 296-0385
  www.disciplepswr.org/bradlindsey.html

LOCH LEVEN WISH LIST

- Grant writers
- New Computers
- Heaters for housing
- Riding lawn mower
- 12 ton log splitter

- New Copier with auto. document feeder
- Commercial grade wood/brush chipper
- Tractor with front loader & Ganon drag
- 150 ft commercial grade sewer snake (1/2 in. min.)
- Compact fluorescent lights

*In our continued commitment to quality and excellence, we ask you to consider condition of tools and/or equipment with regard to safety. For details of tools & equipment or other tools needed, please call the Loch Leven office.

WORK DAY: JUNE 9th, and others TBA
MISSION CAMP: OCTOBER 5-7

In Service Together,
Stacy Smith, Margo Allen & Susan Richardson
(714/685-6827) or kymomcat@aol.com
Hello to the Women of the Pacific Southwest.....I am Pat Messenger and with Nancy Fowler, we will be your Co-Facilitators for the next two years. Nancy and I follow some awesome leadership in this region and are humbled and inspired by the faith, skills and exuberant leadership of those who "have gone before us."

I became a card carrying member of Disciples Women in 1963 and have served in many capacities during those years. I was a teacher, a substitute teacher, staff for Disciples Women in Michigan. Married to a retired Disciples Minister, we moved to California seven years ago to be close to our two grown children and two grandsons. My passions include my family, my friends, reading, walking, music, theater and "new experiences", and the church.

I am always transformed by the women of this church who can catch a vision, design an event or experience to transport that vision, laugh on the way, carry the plans out with focus and grace and "live" to do it again. The wonder of it all (witness the Convocation, the Spring Event to mention only two recent offerings) nurtures and inspires those who plan and those who come open-handed and open-hearted to receive.

As we move into this next two years, please know that we are here to serve, that we are a phone call away, that we have resources beyond ourselves. In a world increasingly splintered by pain, social, religious antagonisms, wounded by hatred, war and violence, women are needed more than ever to bond together, to choose carefully and prayerfully our joint ministries so that the world can see the Divine. Also, at any time, we stand ready to receive you to help us do this work. The prayer and group energy of you all are needed at all times. Blessings, Pat

From Nancy:

I am Nancy Fowler. I am a member of Torrey Pines Christian Church. For the past two years I have served on the regional DW commission as District 8 Coordinator. I have loved serving with the women of this region. Having served with many of the women who will be continuing on the commission, I know how deeply committed they are to the ministries of Disciples Women. I also know how much we have supported each other, inspired each other, and laughed together. It doesn't get any better! So when I was asked if I would consider continuing to serve on this board, I didn't hesitate. This decision was greatly helped when I was told that Pat Messenger would be Co-Facilitator with me. I look forward to the close relationship I will be developing with her and I know I will learn so much from her.

For the last eight years, I have been a student at the Claremont School of Theology. I finished my courses in December and will graduate with my Masters of Divinity on May 12. My ordination service will be June 17 at Torrey Pines Christian Church.

I spent over 20 years of my adult life not even considering God or church. I came back to church 13 years ago so I could raise my children (now 16 and 14) in a faith community. Little did I know what would happen to me. I am so blessed!

I don't know yet where this journey will next lead me. But I do know that serving on this board is part of my call. I look forward to sharing this part of my journey with you.
WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE REGION—DISTRICT NEWS

District 2 – Debby Moogan Reporting

There are a lot of exciting things going on in District 2 in the women’s ministry groups at our churches. I was fortunate to visit Church of the Valley for a women’s breakfast that was cooked and served by the men with a focus on raising money to send a congregant abroad for ministry. Tyanna Parr and Patsy Meyer of First Christian Church of North Hollywood provided the music at the Regional Convocation March 3 & 4, while Joy Brittain, the Children’s Minister at First Christian Church of Burbank ran the Cool Kids program that weekend. Spring Event is right around the corner! I hope your church will be well represented there – I will be there along with about 10 other women from Burbank First Christian. We will be introducing this year’s New Day study materials. How will your women’s group use the study materials? Several churches in our district are starting or already have active prayer shawl ministries. I’d love to hear what your women’s group is doing or planning or doing with prayer shawls and how you have gone about it. Email me with news from your District 2 women’s group at debby-moogan@verizon.net.

In His Love,
Debby Moogan

District 8—Nancy Fowler Reporting

This is the last time I will be writing to you as District 8 Coordinator. I have been elected to serve with Pat Messenger as regional DW Co-Facilitator. But never fear, our District will be well cared for. Valerie Noe of Torrey Pines Christian Church has been elected to be the new Coordinator. Look for more about her in the next issue.

Spring Event was great, as usual. Unfortunately it was a bit far away from San Diego. Valerie and I represented all of us. Next year it will be closer to home, so I hope that all of you regulars will be able to participate again.

Many of you were able to attend the Circle of Sisters held at TPCC in February (about 40). We are planning to keep this as an annual event because so much in the region is not geographically convenient. Once again, this was a great event. We had fun, shared stories and were spiritually fed. Many thanks to all who helped to make this event so wonderful!

For information on any of the DW goings on in San Diego, please contact me at FOWLERNANCYL@AOL.COM or 858-450-4442.

PLEASE SEND US INFO ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES, FUNDRAISERS, MISSION PROJECTS, ETC. OF YOUR WOMEN’S GROUPS.

You can send them to your District Coordinator or directly to the Newsletter Editor at:
pswdw@aol.com
Over the years, most of us have gotten e-mails about clicking on the breast cancer site. Maybe like me, you clicked religiously every day...until like me, you changed jobs and hence computers. I got the e-mail again a few days ago and all of sudden it dawned on me that I had stopped clicking. Well, the site is again my home page for the Internet to remind me to click every day. Maybe you have dial-up and it takes too long to click, or to scroll through all six web pages. But then again, maybe your one click can save a life (human, animal or plant), won’t it be worth the wait? Heck, you could say a little prayer while you wait...

http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/

The site is part of CharitiesUSA.com a network of charitable sites that use the marketing power of the World Wide Web to get corporate sponsors to donate in exchange for advertising. Just another way to use the power of 21st century technology to get the job done.

**DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

05/05  Disciples Men’s Retreat, Loch Leven
06/01-06/03 Disciples Women Commission Retreat
          Loch Leven
07/21-07/25 General Assembly, Fort Worth, TX
10/20 - Regional Gathering, Church of the Valley,
        Van Nuys