

A Word From Susie Stanley

Executive Director, WHWC, Intl.

My focus the past couple weeks has been on prophetic authority and priestly authority, particularly the impact they have on supporting or limiting women's opportunities for professional ministry. I've been working on an article reviewing the role of Pentecostal women in ministry over the past hundred years. The parallels to women in the Wesleyan/Holiness movement are striking. Initially, both groups relied on prophetic authority which derives from the Holy Spirit who calls and gifts people for ministry. Primarily, these ministries included evangelism and social holiness activities such as working with prostitutes and establishing housing at missions for those who were out of work or recovering alcoholics. By recognizing prophetic authority and the fact that the Holy Spirit gifts and calls both women and men, women played prominent roles in these activities.

At the time when both Wesleyan/Holiness and Pentecostal movements began organizing into denominations, an ecclesiastical hierarchy developed. Priestly authority resides in the church structure itself rather than flowing directly from the Holy Spirit. While many women continued to actively engage in ministerial activities endorsed by prophetic authority, they were excluded from roles depending on priestly authority. In many ways, the two understandings of authority continue to exist side by side.

One difference between Holiness and Pentecostal groups is that most Holiness denominations did not establish explicit policy which excluded women from exercising priestly authority while many Pentecostal

Mission Statement

"The mission of Wesleyan/ Holiness Women Clergy is to equip and encourage divinely-called women in vocational ministry and professional leadership positions."

groups did. However, the results for both are the same. Very few Wesleyan/Holiness women have held leadership positions within our churches. Of course, there are several exceptions but the statistics, historically and today, indicate an imbalance, with men holding most of the jobs within our denominations as well as a high majority of our pastorates. For the most part, we have never recognized that women can exercise priestly authority.

Sociologists hold that once a group shifts from an emphasis on prophetic authority to priestly authority, there's no turning back. I don't want to be deterministic and fatalistic. Such a view isn't appropriate for someone who believes in free will and that social change is possible through the power of the Holy Spirit!

So, how do we open up all church positions to women who are gifted to fill them? Denominational support for the Come to the Water conferences has been extremely encouraging. There is an increased interest among our denominations to involve women in every area of ministry. What specific actions do we need to take to make this happen? What are your answers to this question? I'd love to continue the discussion. (sstanley@messiah.edu). †

CONFERENCE BROCHURES

One of the perks of WHWC membership is receiving a brochure via first-class mail as soon as they're printed.

If you would like to receive more brochures or promotional post cards to distribute, please e-mail whwc@messiah.edu providing the number you would like and the address where they should be mailed.

Newsletter Editor Pamela Thompson

If you have announcements, news, articles, book reviews, or any other information you'd like to be included in the fall newsletter, please contact Pam at pam@marysvillenazarene.org.

Good Things are Happening

Dr. Corlis McGee Elected as President of Eastern Nazarene College



On Friday, May 13, 2005, the Board of Trustees of Eastern Nazarene College (ENC) elected Corlis McGee as the school's 13th president, McGee will begin to serve as president July 1. Daniel C. West, chair of the Board of Trustees, made the following announcement to the ENC community:

"It is my distinct pleasure to announce that Corlis McGee has been elected president of ENC. After a thorough and comprehensive international search process, Dr. McGee arose as the candidate chosen by the search committee to present to the executive committee of the Board for nomination. The Board of Trustees unanimously endorsed her nomination and is looking forward to working together during this next chapter of ENC's story."

McGee presently serves as rector of European Nazarene College in Büsingen, Switzerland. She was elected to this position in January 1999. Previously, she served as dean of Graduate Studies at Point Loma Nazarene University and vice-president for Academic Affairs and dean at MidAmerica Nazarene University (MNU). She has served as a member of the Board of Commissioners for the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs and continues to be a member of the Board of Directors for Nazarene Publishing House, as well as a member of the International Board of Education of the Church of the Nazarene.

McGee holds a Doctor of Arts degree in Economics from Middle Tennessee State University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Tennessee, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Trevecca Nazarene University.

-ENC

Rev. Vicki Copp Nominated to the Faculty at Nazarene Theological Seminary (NTS)



Rev. Vicki Copp was recently nominated by the president and faculty of NTS to Assistant Professor of Practical Theology with responsibility for supervised ministry. During the 2005/06 academic year, Vicki will serve part time as visiting professor while completing her doctoral studies, and assume full

time faculty status the following year.

Rev. Vicki Copp is the Church of the Nazarene's representative on the Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy's planning board.

Mount Vernon Nazarene University (MVNU) Hosts Women in Ministry Networking Day



Over 50 women gathered in Mount Vernon, OH, for the bi-annual Women in Ministry Networking Day on April 7. The day included times of worship, prayer, fellowship, and workshops on topics such as conflict management, authentic worship, creating boundaries and balance in

ministry, small group ministry, and professionalism in ministry. Keynote speaker Dr. Mary Paul challenged attendees to become Christ to their congregation with the power and authority given by God.

Conference organizer and dean of MVNU's School of Theology and Philosophy, Dr. Jeanne Serrão, commented, "I was impressed with the quality of the workshops and Mary Paul was able to deliver a message with the authority of her experience and education, which together make a power impact that we needed to hear. We had a great response from the women clergy in our educational zone which was very encouraging. Having the women gather together added richness to the conference because of the experience they bring to the discussion."

William and Catherine Booth College (Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada) Initiates Urban Advance

In the past 30 years, over 1 billion people moved from rural areas to cities and in the next ten years that number will double. Today's mission frontier for evangelism, discipleship, and service is literally the urban poor who make up from 30 to 90% of the population of most of the world's great cities.

Booth College has initiated its Urban Advance this summer with a comprehensive assessment and interpretation of the two neighbourhoods of Winnipeg immediately on its doorstep that are enormously diverse culturally and poor. Booth College is urban in location and focus with a higher education agenda which is both local and global. For more information on the Urban Advance, contact barmstrong@boothcollege.ca.

First Women's Clergy Retreat

As a result of several women attending the Come to the Water conferences, Southern Michigan Conference of the Free Methodist Church had its first

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Good Things are Happening (con't)

annual clergy women's retreat in April. We had about 20 women come from various levels of their call. Some came just beginning their investigation and others came seeking clarification of their call. Overall we learned how to discern the call through prayer, what is the path for ordination and the various ways of education for ministry, and how to work with the local church to support our call. As a result, one woman has begun her ordination process, another one realized she was being called into the ministry, and another gained more confidence in working with the local church in fulfilling her call. We had over 60 inquiries from women around the Conference who are planning to attend next year's retreat.

Resources for Women in Ministry

(From the Church of God magazine, OneVoice)

Go Preach My Gospel: Women in Ministry in the Church of God (Church of God Ministries, 2004), book and video. This book and video are FREE. There is a \$5 shipping and handling fee for the video, however. Write to Congregational Ministries at 1201 E. Fifth St., Anderson, IN, 46018-2420. Or call 800-848-2464 and ask for Pam at extension 2175 or Vivian at 2169.

Randal Huber, Called, Equipped, and No Place to Go: Women Pastors and the Church (Warner Press, 2003). This book is available through Warner Press. Call 1-800-741-7721 or go to www.warnerpress.com. Ask for item number D3576.

Cheryl Sanders, Ministry at the Margins (InterVarsity Press, 1997). ISBN # is 0-8308-1997-5.

Susie Stanley, Holy Boldness: Women Preachers - Autobiographies and the Sanctified Self (The University of Tennessee Press, 2002). The ISBN # is 1-57233-199-2.

Diana Swoope, Chosen and Highly Favored: A Woman's Sacred Call to Holiness (Beacon Hill Press, 2001). The ISBN # is 0-83411-884-X. †

WANTED – Promotions Director

The Come to the Water conference needs someone who can come up with creative ideas to promote the 2006 conference. The position will include writing press releases and coordinating promotional efforts. If you have a passion for women in ministry and would be interested in helping the conference in this way, please contact our office at whwc@messiah.edu.

Come to the Water Display on the Move

The display was at the Southern Michigan Free Methodist Annual Conference and the North Carolina West District of the Wesleyan Church Annual Conference in Hickory during June. In North Carolina, 900 people had the opportunity to view the display and learn about our conferences and other programs we sponsor.

We now have two displays. If you'd like to use one, just contact our office at whwc@messiah.edu. †

Think Fun – Think Sun – Think San Diego!

Are you wondering if WHWC is now in the travel business? Well, in a way we are. Our upcoming 7th International Come to the Water Conference is being held in warm and sunny San Diego, California, and it's a great place to visit with family and friends. San Diego boasts an average temperature of 70° and an abundance of beautiful beaches and world-class attractions that appeal to visitors of all ages. Plan on making San Diego your next big family vacation destination. Once there you don't have to worry about having nothing to do—quite the opposite—you'll have to work hard to decide what not to do!

For instance, do you have children with imaginations that run wild? Or crave adventure around every corner? Then San Diego is the place for you. Visit LEGOLAND California with more than fifty rides, shows and attractions for the whole family to enjoy; set out on a safari to the world-famous San Diego Zoo; or have a tidal-wave of fun at Sea World Adventure Park.

Are you or a family member a PGA or LPGA player in the making? Then San Diego is the place for you. Named "One of the Top 50 Golf Destinations in the World" by Golf Digest, San Diego has over 90 courses located throughout the region, from seaside settings to desert mountains. There is a course for every type of golfer and a range of greens fees that will fit every budget. So bring your golfers along and let them dream about birdies and eagles all day long!

Are you on the move—craving fresh air and outdoor adventure? Then San Diego is the place for you. From gentle foothills to mile-high mountains to seventy miles of Pacific Ocean coastline, outdoor activities are limitless. The choice is yours to go surfing, boating, sailing, swimming, or more—just don't forget your sun block!

Or maybe you have an appetite for big city dining and cultural arts. Then San Diego is the place for you.

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-Alane Fagan
Conference Coordinator