

A Word From Susie Stanley

Executive Director, WHWC, Intl.

This issue focuses on some of the many resources available that support the full ministry of women in all areas of church leadership. Don't forget the texts of 70 articles on the WHWC web site (www.messiah.edu/whwc) by Wesleyan/Holiness authors who also address issues relating to women in ministry!

I've thought a lot about holiness this semester. Teaching an undergraduate course on Wesleyan/Holiness doctrine to students who were primarily from other traditions was a challenge. While I subjected the students to John Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection to expose them to a primary source, I focused continually on love. The first day, they listened to "All You Need Is Love" as they entered the classroom. They ate heart-shaped chocolates and other candies during class and left with heart-shaped lollipops. They definitely got the point that holiness was about love. While students found some aspects of Wesley's doctrine hard to understand (So do I!), they realized that his understanding of holiness was love, a fact emphasized by theologian Mildred Wynkoop. To live out Wesley's emphasis on love of God and love of neighbor as yourself means to affirm our neighbor's gifts and calling, whether the neighbor is male or female.

Mission Statement

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

My conviction that the doctrine of holiness has been a

primary basis for supporting women in ministry has never wavered. As pastors have preached the doctrine less and less, our support for women clergy has diminished accordingly. While this would be hard to prove from statistical analysis, the correlation seems obvious. The one belief that has distinguished us historically from other Protestants has been holiness. As we have become more like conservative denominations around us, we have abandoned holiness. We have also compromised our affirmation of women clergy.

For some of us, holiness may have negative connotations. I challenge you to look at the doctrine again and explore its relevance for the twenty-first century. Authentic Christian love is still in short supply in our world. Preach on holiness and its ramifications which include emphasizing the Holy Spirit's gifting of both women and men for service in God's realm. †

Called, Equipped, and No Place to Go: Women Pastors and the Church

a summary of his book by Dr. Randal Huber

Called, Equipped and No Place to Go presents a compelling case for women pastors. Employing a dialogical approach, it addresses common objections offered by persons opposed to women in ministry. The Biblical argument begins with discussion of the Pentecost text in Acts. The Holy Spirit grants power to exercise the gift of prophecy. Appealing to the creation account in Genesis 1, Huber demonstrates that there was no hierarchy between man and woman at creation. It is the "fall" which resulted in patriarchy and the subjugation of women. Overviews of Miriam, Deborah, Huldah and Anna demonstrate that God calls women to prominent leadership. Further biblical argument is based upon the treatment of women in the gospels. Unlike the rabbis of his time, Jesus treated women with respect and dignity. The biblical case next focuses on the writings of the Apostle Paul who practiced the equality of men and

women. Paul's instructions for silence in 1 Corinthians 14 are a particular rather than a universal prohibition. Finally, cogent argument is made that Paul does not give a universal prohibition against women teaching or having authority in 1 Timothy 2:11-12.

Huber answers the objection that women should not be leaders outside of the domestic sphere. He considers childcare options for women pastors, male headship, and alleged ethical dilemmas of women pastors working with males. The text next refutes the claim that women cannot be effective leaders in the church by referring to historical and contemporary examples of effective female leaders. A popular argument, that advancing women in ministry is following the lead of modern feminism is challenged by historical information. Advancing women as pastors is a biblical issue that has

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Called, Equipped and ...

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been historically affirmed by holiness groups that predate modern feminism. The text concludes with the judgment that sexism is a sin against God and includes practical applications to aid church leaders in combating this sin.

Available for purchase at Warner Press. Call 1-800-741-7721 and order item # d3576. For further information from Randy: (phone 717-528-4693; address 4495 Oxford Road, York Springs, PA 17372). †



Congratulations: Keepers of the Secret

by Janet Peifer

I shall never forget the dismay I felt that day in 1987 when I learned while doing research in our denomination's archives that five years earlier a motion had been passed in our General Conference to accept and encourage women to pursue ministry positions in the church. Why, I wondered, was that action not published in our official magazine, or reported to our congregation by delegates who attended the conference? Was it not perceived as important? Or was it one of those church actions, that now having been passed, could be forgotten and hopefully, would soon go away?

How can a congregation respond in order to keep the biblical mandate for women in ministry and leadership out of the best-kept-secret compartment? Many women who receive this newsletter are involved in important modeling in their congregations as they serve in pastoral and leadership roles. Others, whether male or female, have preached sermons on the biblical basis for women in ministry. When women officiate at child dedications, baptisms, weddings, funerals, or Communion services, important modeling and education happens for persons of all ages.

Congregational newsletters and those sent from bishops' and other executive church leaders' offices could include articles about women leaders or easy to understand articles on the biblical basis of women in ministry. Sermons and Sunday School lessons should intentionally include the stories of biblical and contemporary women preachers and leaders. When guest preachers are invited to the congregation for revival, renewal, or other special preaching services, clergywomen can be among those invited. The church library can serve an important role in the education of the congregation on women in ministry through the placing of

E-mentoring Program

eMentoring

Purpose: To mentor women students in the Wesleyan/Holiness Colleges, Universities, and Seminaries, and mentor women new to Wesleyan/Holiness ministry.

Be Connected with:

- A woman who cares about your life and is committed to help you in your journey
- A woman who will connect at convenient times, via e-mail and telephone

Discuss topics that will help you in your journey

Receive advice, support, and prayer when you need it

If interested in being a mentor or a mentee, contact Sarah Thomas Baldwin (Sarah_Baldwin@asburyseminary.edu).

books not only about the lives of women in church leadership but books to help in the explanation of the oft misinterpreted scriptures on the role of women in the church.

I have invited Rev. Randal Huber to write a brief summary of his recently published book, "Called, Equipped, and No Place to Go: Women Pastors and the Church." Randy is pastor of the Chapel Hill Church of God in York Springs, PA. You will likely want to read his book. Why not buy a copy and donate it to your church library? Randy is a fine example of an advocate for women in ministry.

Another important book which is reviewed in this issue is our own Dr. Susie Stanley's most recent book, "Holy Boldness: Women Preachers' Autobiographies and the Sanctified Self", The University of Tennessee Press, 2002. This book should also be in church libraries and would make a great study text for a Sunday School class or small group Bible Study.

What methods are you involved in to ensure that women in leadership is not the best kept secret in your church? Send your suggestions to Janet Peifer, Editor, 156 Lake Meade Drive, East Berlin, PA 17316; or, email to revjmp@equalworth.net for inclusion in a future issue of the newsletter. †

If you have announcements, news, articles or any other information you'd like to be included in this newsletter, please contact the editor,

Rev. Dr. Janet Peifer
revjmp@equalworth.com

Wynkoop Center for Women in Ministry Established at Nazarene Theological Seminary

Dr. Judith Schwanz has been named Director of the Wynkoop Center whose mission is to equip, empower and encourage women called by God to serve in and through the Church of Jesus Christ. The center seeks to equip women by helping them recognize and nurture the spiritual gifts endowed by God and prepare the Church to receive their ministry through educational initiatives. Women will be empowered to be confident representatives of Jesus Christ and will seek to clear the systemic roadblocks they sometimes encounter. Women will be encouraged as they interact with effective women leaders in the church. WIM Resources is the imprint of the Wynkoop Center for the distribution of Bible studies and worship resources. Four Bible study units are planned, with five or six lessons in each unit, that will consider the biblical teaching concerning the role of women in leadership within the church. Each Bible study will feature a commentary on the biblical passage, an exposition, and teaching methods. The worship resources will focus on the inclusive nature of the gospel and will include sermons, readings, hymns, and worship orders. Material from the Wynkoop Center will be available without charge on a website currently under development. For more information contact Dr. Judith Schwanz, Director, Wynkoop Center for Women in Ministry, Nazarene Theological Seminary, 1700 East Meyer Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64131 or by email: jaschwanz@nts.edu. Judith served on the 1998 WHWC Intl. Planning Board. †

Rebels in the Pulpit: Early Alabama Women Clergy

Documentary Video Produced by Wendy Bruce

R*ebels in the Pulpit: Early Alabama Women Clergy* was produced by Wendy Bruce for the University of Alabama Center for Public Television and Radio. The video examines Mary Lee Cagle's struggle to reconcile conscience and obedience and explores how the leadership role of women is debated in some denominations. All too aware of the sentiment against women preachers, Cagle thought she might be called to serve on foreign soil where women missionaries experienced more freedom to preach. She did not, however, become a missionary but was issued invitations to preach in black churches and later she also held tent revivals in the Southeast United States. Cagle became one of the founders of the Church of the Nazarene. See www.cptr.ua.edu/rebels/index.asp for more information and to order the video for \$21.00 which includes postage and handling. †

How to Become a WHWC List Serv Member

To subscribe, send an email message to:
listserv@listserv.messiah.edu

Which states in the body of the email:
Subscribe WHWC enter your name here

(That message will reach Janet Peifer who will approve your membership, and you should receive a return message in a couple minutes indicating the approval).

After you are a member, you will send messages to the entire list at WHWC@listserv.edu

Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy International Membership 2002–2004

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\$25.00 Membership \$15.00 Student/Senior (over 55) Contribution

I request scholarship assistance to pay for my membership dues. (Please pay what you can.)

Your membership card will be sent to the above address, unless otherwise specified. Mail this form and your check (made out to WHWC) to: Major Donna Hurula, The Salvation Army National Headquarters, 615 Slaters Lane. P.O. Box 269, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Please encourage others to join by sending a copy of this form. Thank you.

Booklets available

Booklets Published by WHWC and available for \$4.50 each (for WHWC members \$4.00 each which includes postage). Send requests to whwc@messiah.edu or call 717-691-6021 x5911. These booklets are a great resource for a Sunday School class or a small group Bible Study.

1. *Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy: A Preliminary Bibliography* compiled by Susie C. Stanley.
2. *Ezer Cenegdo: A Power Like Him, Facing Him as Equal* by Joseph E. Coleson
3. *Inclusive Language Handbook* by Don Thorsen and Vickie Becker
4. *Satisfied: Women Hymn Writers of the 19th Century Wesleyan/Holiness Movement* by Keith Schwanz
5. *Reclaiming the Wesleyan/Holiness Heritage of Women Clergy: Sermons, A Case Study and Resources* by Randy Huber and John E. Stanley
6. *Cloud of Witnesses: Portraits of Women Ministers in the Wesleyan/Holiness Women Movement* edited by Gloria J. Bell
7. *God's Call: From Infilling to Outpouring* (Sermons by Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy) edited by Margaret Dunn

Put This Date and Event on
Your Calendar!

Come to the Water Conference April 15-18, 2004

The Westin Cincinnati Hotel,
Cincinnati, Ohio

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of
Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy, Int'l

Theme
***Holy Boldness: By Faith...Without
Fear...Going Forth***

Check our web site for more information
and to register
www.messiah.edu/WHWC

Featured Preachers:

Rev. Dr. Susie Stanley, WHWC Convener
Commissioner Linda Bond, Salvation Army
Rev. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, Wesleyan Church
Rev. Dr. Estelle Gross, Church of the Nazarene

To request a supply of brochures, send an
e-mail to WHWC@messiah.edu



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