

## **NEW RIVER NEWS AND REVIEWS**

***"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."  
1 Thessalonians 5:11***

***October, 2008***

Hello dear Ladies!  
When I was growing up in England, this was the time of year when we sang a lovely old Harvest hymn called "We Plow The Fields". Would you believe, we actually sang this in School, and not just in Church! As soon as the leaves begin to change into their glorious Autumn shades of fiery reds and oranges, and deep yellows and olives, this hymn always comes to mind. The third verse and the refrain say:

*"We thank You, then, O Father,  
For all things bright and good,  
The seed-time and the harvest,  
Our life, our health, our food;  
No gifts have we to offer  
For all Your love imparts,  
but that which You desire now:  
Our humble, thankful hearts."*

*"All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heav'n above;  
Then thank the Lord,  
O thank the Lord for all His love."*

As with many of the old hymns, the words also make some of the most beautiful prayers. And this one is filled with grateful thanks to our most merciful God. I pray that as you go about your busy days this Autumn season, you will see God's handiwork all around you, and offer up your own hymns of thankful praises!

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### ***PRESWIC HIGHLIGHTS***

From the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting:  
**Nominations:** Sue Parker from Providence Reformed has been nominated for Vice President!

Praise the Lord! Thanks to Sue for being willing to serve.

**2008 Annual Love Gift:** Just a reminder that the bulletin inserts and DVD are available, at NO charge, from the PCA CE&P Bookstore.

Email: [www.pcacep.org/lovegift](http://www.pcacep.org/lovegift)  
phone: 1-800-283-1357

This year's recipient is Christian Education & Publications (CE&P) for creating powerful, relevant tools for generational ministry.

**Prayer Schedule For Our Churches:** more about that later on in this newsletter.

### **2009 WIC Leadership**

**Conference:** March 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> at Covenant College Chattanooga, TN. Ladies, it would be fun if a group of us attended this conference, don't you think? Apart from the training and the fellowship, think how many Cracker Barrel's & Outlets we could visit along the way! Details to follow.

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### **FALL RETREAT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September at the John XXIII Pastoral Center

**Nominations:** We voted to approve Sue Parker, Providence Reformed, as Vice President, and Jeannie Hennen, Faith Reformed, to continue another term as Treasurer.

To both ladies, thank you so much, and we look forward to serving with you for the next two years.

Sue and Jeannie will be installed at the January Presbytery meeting.

**New Nominations:** It's time once again for us to accept nominations

for the offices of President and Secretary. Their terms begin on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, and end December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

Please prayerfully consider before asking a potential nominee to run for either of these offices, and please be in prayer with her as she prayerfully considers accepting. Nominations will be open from now until May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

### **Stitches of Love Ministry:**

Dianna Perdue shared with us the special time of blessing that she and some of the ladies from Winifrede, and Dianna's husband Sam, spent with the women and their babies at the Greenbrier Birthing Center in Hillsboro, WV. Many of you already know about this from our last newsletter. The Center is part of the Federal Prison system, and is one of six birthing centers in the country.

Dianna and the ladies set up a display table in the lobby of the John XXIII Center, and there were handmade blankets and toys and hats and all sorts of things that will be taken back to the Birthing Center on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Ladies, please prayerfully consider helping Dianna and the Winifrede ladies with this ministry. They need our help with hand made items, donations, and the visits to the Center. Please contact Dianna at: 304-949-4089 or email her at: [diannaperdue@suddenlink.net](mailto:diannaperdue@suddenlink.net)

**Praying For Our Churches:**

An updated prayer schedule has been completed and will be sent out with this newsletter to each of our churches. The names of all our Teaching and Ruling Elder's and Deacon's and their wives have now been included.

More about this in a few minutes.

**Roma Marshall, Missionary to Jinja, Uganda**

We welcomed Roma back, and she gave us a report from her time in Jinja. At her display table in the lobby of the John XXIII Center, she had a DVD to share with us, as well as pictures and lots of information.

We encourage you to call or email Roma to get a copy of the DVD, or to ask her to come and speak to you about her ministry.

Email: romajinja@gmail.com

Cell phone: 304-634-4996

Roma is home for now and prayerfully planning her return to Uganda on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This time for long-term service, remaining until April 2010.

Please prayerfully consider partnering with her in pray and financial support.

**Annual WIC Love Gift:**

As we voted to do at last year's Fall Retreat, an offering was taken up and given to our Treasurer, Jeannie Hennen, to send to Atlanta on our behalf. This year we collected \$120.00.

As we ended the Fall Retreat Annual Business Meeting, it was with praises and thanksgiving to our Most Awesome God for the work He is doing through His servants in New River!



**2008 FALL RETREAT**

September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, at the John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston.

Ladies, those of us who were able to attend this year wished that you all could have been there with us! We missed you!

The setting was peaceful .... well, it was except in some of the rooms late on the Friday night! The food was terrific. Kendra Allen and Pam O'Dell from Faith Reformed in Fairmont led us in hymns and songs.

THANK YOU so very much! Our speaker, Grace Honeywell, kept us on our toes, and on our knees, as she spoke to us about the kind of legacy we might be leaving in three particular areas of teaching: *Teach Me To Teach,*

*Teach Me To Be Content,*

*Teach Me To Honor.*

This year Grace had work sheets to help us, and there were even homework questions .... which many of us didn't get to until after the Retreat was over.

We thank God for your teachings Grace, you convicted and encouraged and equipped us.

On Friday night, after Grace's teaching session, we congregated in the lobby area for some impromptu singing ... and we learned about the beginnings of church planting from Suzi Stapleton, (more about Suzi and her husband Curt and their children later on), and Roma shared more of her ministry with us too. Debi Brabbin from Covenant, Nitro made us the most adorable "Scripture Verses in Little Purses", and little purse name tags too! Debi, you are so gifted! We thank God for you!

Our SPECIAL THANKS go to Lois Fawcett from Faith in Cross Lanes, for being such a big help as the registration forms came in, and tracking who was staying for what, and for working at the registration desk. We thank God for you too!

**And, just a reminder, please, please fill in your Fall Retreat Evaluation Forms and send them in soon! We really need your feedback before work begins on next year's Retreat.**



**"WOMEN'S CHOICE"**

Pregnancy Outreach

Volunteer's are always needed to man the phones! Please prayerfully consider this outreach ministry and contact Kris if the LORD leads you to consider this ministry.



**FAVORITE CHURCH RECIPES**

Ladies, this is something new, and thanks to Kathy Calhoun from Riverview for submitting the first of what we pray is many! Kathy also has a wonderful suggestion to go along with these favorite recipes, that as we use them, we remember to pray for the women who shared them with us. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we collected enough recipes to make a New River Cook Book!

Kathy said that the ladies at the Retreat mentioned one particular lady's recipe, and Kathy asked her if she would mind if she submitted it for her, and she readily agreed! Here it is:

Mexican Cornbread  
from Olive Dewitt, Riverview

- 3 cups cornmeal
- 1 cup oil
- 1 cup sweet milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 tblsp sugar
- 1 green pepper, diced fine
- 1 can cream style corn
- 1 hot pepper, diced fine
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 cup onion, diced fine
- bacon bits to taste (I use about 1/4 cup)

1. Mix all the ingredients together and pour into a 9 x 13 pan.
2. Bake at 450 degrees till done, 30 - 35 mins.  
Delicious!



## **PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCHES**

As noted earlier, a new schedule has been made and a copy has been sent to your churches along with the newsletter. Copies will be made and distributed to you soon. For the month of October, we are praying for Christ Community in Fairmont. Pastor Bob Wildeman and his wife Nancy, and the Ruling Elders and Deacons and their wives, who are listed on your schedules.

*“do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”*  
*Philippians 4:6*

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## **CALENDER OF EVENTS**

### **November 13-15:**

2008 PCA Discipleship Conference in Atlanta

### **January 24, 2009:**

Presbytery & PresWIC meetings at Providence Reformed in Barboursville

### **March 10-12:**

Wic Leadership Conference at Covenant College in Chattanooga

### **March 12-15:**

Mercy Conference at New City Fellowship in Chattanooga, TN

### **May 16:**

Presbytery & PresWIC meetings at Kanawha Salines, Malden

### **June 16-19:**

37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Orlando Florida

### **September 19:**

Presbytery & PresWIC meetings at Trinity, New Martinsville

### **September 24-25:**

Annual Fall Retreat at the John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston

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## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU: REPORTS FROM OUR CHURCHES**

We thought that rather than have a "Report From Our Churches" at the annual Fall Retreat, it would be wonderful to put the reports

into this newsletter, so that we could all learn a little more about each other.

I humbly ask your forbearance as I sometimes "cut and paste" the reports that you have sent in.

THANK YOU all so much for taking the time to share them with us. We will also share an update from Wendy Hammond with Mustard Seeds and Mountains.

First of all, I'd like to introduce you to the Stapleton Family, who are beginning a church plant in Morgantown.

### **Mercy Church, Morgantown**

When Curt and Suzi met nearly 15 years ago, Curt planned to go to seminary, work for RUF and possibly plant a church. Suzi loved her experience with RUF (Reformed University Fellowship) at Winthrop University and was eager to become an RUF campus minister's wife. So, here we are. God has blessed us richly through prayer and financial support to bring us to Morgantown in time for our kids to start school. We have been married 14 years and have four children. Katie is 12 years old and in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at South Middle School. Knox is 10 years old and in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at

Mountainview Elementary School. Kristy, our 7 year old, is also at Mountainview in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Kenzi turned 2 at the end of July and is home with Suzi.

We have come to Morgantown from north east Tennessee at the calling of the Lord to plant a PCA Church. We lived in Tennessee for the last 10 years. The first 5 were immediately following Covenant Seminary working as an RUF campus minister at East Tennessee State University. The last 5 years Curt was the Associate Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church. We are looking forward to seeing the Lord continue to work.

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### **Christ Community, Fairmont**

From Pam Stickley: We are very active! 1. We have a craft day once

a month 2. We collected items for HOPE, which is a home for abused women and children.

3. We also had a weiner roast with devotions and singing for the whole church, and we continued even in the rain ... we sat around the fire under umbrellas! 4. The church celebrated Judy DeLarenintrie's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. And this was all done in September! Pam sends blessings to us all.

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### **Covenant, Nitro**

From Anna George: We are truly blessed to have so much going on in our congregation. At present we have 3 Bible studies taking place. Every Friday, from 11 - 1 pm, you will find a group of women meeting for study and prayer. We have been meeting for a year now, going through "Peacemaking Women" by Tara Barthel & Judy Dabler. This has been a wonderful time of encouragement, sharing one another's burdens, crying, laughing, growing, and "one anothering". We have all been convicted of sin in our lives and pray that God will continue to grow us and use us in His kingdom.

Another group of women meet on the first Tuesday evening of the month, spending an hour on their study of "Peacemaking Women" and then an hour of prayer. Still another group meets every other Friday night at the church, and this is a group of husbands and wives who are studying "Sweethearts For A Lifetime" by Wayne and Carol Mack.

In addition to these Bible studies, we have a group of men who have been faithfully meeting for several years now every Thursday at 11:30 am for prayer. And a group of women meet every other Tuesday at the home of Geneva Brabbin for the sole purpose of praying together. They are praying through the Psalms ... and they are willing to share with other churches how they have been

doing this.

As an outreach to our community, we are involved in a weekly Bible Club at Rock Branch Elementary School, for a period of 6 weeks in the Fall and in the Spring. A few of our folks are also involved in a Good News Bible Club held weekly at Point Harmony Elementary. We are thankful to be involved in a weekly mentoring program at Nitro Elementary, being paired up with one child during the entire school year and meeting with them weekly. This is the second year we have been privileged to spend time with these sometimes needy children.

The highlight of this year would have to be the new activity building that the Lord has blessed us with! We were so thankful to be far enough along to be able to use the building for lunch when

Presbytery met here on September 20<sup>th</sup>. One of the Lord's wonderful blessings was when He provided us with some retired men in the community who volunteered their time and talents by framing the building. The only compensation they received was a lunch provided daily by one of the women in our church. And, to beat it all, these men are not members of our church, just a group of Christian men who wanted to do this! A dedication service is planned for Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm for the building, which has yet to be named. We are praying that God will use our congregation and this building in our community to see men and women, boys and girls, come to know the Lord.

We are so very thankful, and humbled, as we see God working in and through us. Please pray that we will be a light in our community to those that are walking in darkness.

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### **Faith, Cross Lanes**

A note from Lois Fawcett:

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, sixteen young people and adults from our church loaded into a rental van driven by Pastor Mike Hall, and headed for the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky, not far from the Cincinnati Airport. After touring the beautifully landscaped grounds and the petting zoo, it was time for lunch ... at your choice of 2 or 3 cafe's. After lunch we headed inside for a self guided tour of larger than life scenes of God's creation, with narration from a Biblical perspective. From the garden of Eden to Christ's second coming, the animation and narration made for a clear and convicting case for "In the beginning *God* created ..."

If you haven't yet been to the Creation Museum, it is a very worthwhile trip to make.

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### **Faith Reformed, Fairmont**

From Jeannie Hennen:

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month, and this Fall and Winter, we have decided to have different ladies do the lesson on a subject of their choice. We also have "yummy treats" ... you know how we Presbyterians like to eat!

We are involved in "Operation Christmas Child", a shoe box gift ministry sponsored by Franklin Graham, and in the past we have sponsored a coat drive for underprivileged children. At our next meeting we will decide if we will do that again this Christmas, or something similar.

Something special that the Lord has brought about between our church and Christ Community, is that Pam O'Dell from Faith and Betty Cox from Christ Community have started a joint Christmas Cantata ... this is so exciting, and we have a nice sized choir when both churches get together. We did an Easter one and it was great! The two churches are doing other things together too ... God is good!

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### **Kanawha Salines, Malden**

From Cathy Proctor:

1. We continue to support Miss Lorena. She is an elderly lady that we have been helping for a year. Donna Casdorff goes to the local church in Lorena's neighborhood each Monday to pick up food for her. The ladies paid the men to erect a storage building for Lorena in the Spring.

2. We contributed towards the Food Pantry for the same church. They were getting low on supplies. We will continue to contribute on a monthly basis and collect food from our church members.

3. We had a fellowship dinner on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, and we are planning a Birthday Dinner for December 14<sup>th</sup>. Each lady in our circle is responsible for two months, and the tables are decorated for that month with each person sitting at his/her birthday month table. This gets people sitting with folks other than family and gives a topic for conversation!

4. We will show the Annual WIC Love Gift tape on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, during our 11:00 hour. We will continue to collect for the month of October.

5. Once again, Kanawha Salines will participate in Operation Shoebox. We take our young people shopping at the Dollar Tree where they spend their Missions offering filling the shoe boxes. The church collects 17-25 boxes.

That is our agenda till January. We are excited as we had three new attendees at our September meeting. Please keep us in your prayers.

We do have prayer requests:

Donna Casdorff had hip replacement surgery on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please pray for our Church and for our Country.

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### **Pliney**

A note from JoAnn Withers:  
Our congregation might be very

small, but we are mighty in the Lord! We worship together every Sunday, and share a time of fellowship and food after each service.

On a little personal news, my husband Bill and I recently celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. God is very good! And some practical good news for our Church building, which was 100 years old last year .... our heating and air conditioning have been updated!

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### **Providence Reformed, Barboursville**

Sue Parker: Summer/Fall News: Babies, babies and babies - we welcomed Cole Taylor, Howard Herz and Joshua Cook to our church family since May. That's a lovely way to increase church membership!

Following up on PresWIC's Spring Conference, this summer we met on Tuesday evenings to watch and discuss Tara Barthel's study on "Living the Gospel in Relationships".

In August, we had a picnic to celebrate six months of prayer partners, and we reassigned our ladies to new partners for the next six months.

In Sunday School, Sue Parker and Janet Meriwether are teaching our middle school girls "Becoming a True Woman", a curriculum from the PCA's Christian Education & Publications. We hope the young ladies are taking the lessons to heart; their teachers certainly are learning a lot!

October 10<sup>th</sup> was WIC movie night (we are all big on Jane Austen!), and a Christmas luncheon is planned for early December.

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### **Redeemer, Teays Valley**

From Teri Bailey:

Redeemer has several weekly women's Bible studies going on right now, as discipleship continues to be the emphasis of our

ministry. Each study is led by a woman from our leadership team, paired with another woman who hosts the study in her home. *When People are Big and God is Small* meets on Monday night. *Psalms of the Ascent* meets on Sunday night.

*The Excellent Wife* meets on Wednesday mornings.

*Stepping Heavenward* meets on Thursday mornings.

We have 2 monthly studies, which includes the teen study of *Becoming a True Woman ... while I still have a Curfew!* And a new study *Becoming a True Women ... while I'm trying to make it through Middle School* for preteen girls and their Mom's. Tuesday mornings is set aside for women's prayer time, which we began during preparation for the Peacemaking Women Spring Conference. Our leadership team also meets once a month for prayer, training and encouragement.

During the summer, we offered *The Young Peacemaker* during Sunday School for children and their parents. We had two classes, divided according to ages, and it was a wonderful continuation of what was begun at the Spring Conference.

Finally, we participated (along with our men) with the local food bank two days a week for two weeks, giving out food to people in need. This effort is a combined ministry with local churches in our community, and we hope to incorporate this as a regular part of our outreach.

God is good and He does good! We praise Him and love Him so much. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

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### **Riverview, Charleston**

From Kathy Calhoun:

**Shut-Ins:** Easter gifts and visits. Cards a couple of times during the year. Prayed for as a WIC body weekly in June.

**Remembering those who have passed:** Dinners for services for

June Ferguson and Phyllis Phillips.

**Special Projects:** Union Mission Adopt a Family in Dec. 2007. Purchased new blinds for Pastor's study.

Created a bulletin board for WIC events.

Fall Circle kick-off with salad luncheon, special speaker Kris Rollins and guest Geneva Brabbin from Covenant, Nitro.

White Elephant Christmas gift exchange.

February Secret Pal gift exchange.

Prayed for each of our church Elders and Deacons throughout the summer.

**Monthly:** WIC circle studying various women in the Bible.

Dutch treat at Shoney's.

Church dinners after am Worship.

**Bi-Weekly:** Work in the kitchen at Union Mission.

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### **Trinity, New Martinsville**

From Marion Stemple:

Trinity PCA Church is continually seeking God's will for our church as we are small in number, but faithful in members. Four of our ladies attended the WIC Fall Retreat, and the church officers are planning a Missions Conference for the first weekend of

November, with a speaker from Cherokee Indian Reservation in North Carolina, Tammy Jackson, who was born and raised on the Reservation. She will be joined by

Lisa Miller, Pastor Kelly's daughter, who has worked at the Reservation with MTW (Mission To the World) Short Term Missions ministry in the summer for 16 years, and Julie Swann, a high school senior, who has also helped at the Reservation for several years.

For more information, call the church at 304-455-3690. We'd love to have visitors!

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### **Winifrede**

From Dianna Perdue:  
Here are some of the things that Winifrede has been doing since May:

1. Celebrated the wedding of Matt Deal, the son of late Pastor Tim Deal and his wife Lois, on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
2. Made up and sent a goodie box to David Deal, who is in the US Marine Corp and at sea right now.
3. May 30<sup>th</sup> was the first visit to the Denmar Federal Correctional Birthing Center. (A report of this visit was in June's newsletter.)
4. Our WIC group meets each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday. We have had a Bible Study from Elizabeth George's book *A Woman's High Calling/ 10 Essentials For Godly Living*, led by a different instructor each month. We are averaging 12 to 15 ladies at each meeting.
5. September 20<sup>th</sup> a baby shower was given by the WIC.
6. September 27<sup>th</sup> our Sonsetters group held a birthday dinner for the months July, Aug, and Sept. We had the Goldtown Gospel Travelers sing their gospel songs with a bluegrass mix, and they were great! We enjoyed a homemade roast beef dinner, and cake and ice-cream of course!
7. October 26<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm, is a very special evening service for our Church ... Pastor Dennis Bills will be ordained! There will be a reception to follow.
8. October 28<sup>th</sup>, we return to the Greenbrier Birthing Center at Denmar. There are 12 babies now, and 2 Mothers are due in November, with 2 to 4 Mother's due to arrive by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Note: Deanna will write us a report about this special ministry visit and PresWIC will send out a bulletin insert late next month.

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#### **Mustard Seeds & Mountains**

From Wendy Hammond: God has been so faithful this past year! My main focus of ministry here in McDowell County is with my

Elkhorn Girls' Group, 7 girls ranging in age from 9 to 15. Those are certainly challenging ages to work with, especially in young girls and their ever-changing emotions! Last Fall we struggled through a very rough time as a group as I discovered they didn't have much understanding of forgiveness and reconciliation. There were tense relationships between some of the girls that needed to be worked out.

It took much prayer and effort, and the girls learned that friendships can be saved. They also learned that there are consequences for our actions, and we cancelled an activity that had been planned for months, and we also quit meeting for several weeks. That helped them see what they were missing as a girls group, and I think they appreciated it even more after that time of absence. Since then the girls know that I expect them to work out their issues with each other, and they have done well with it.

We had a good year together and our big event was our camping trip at Pipestem State Park in June. The girls were required to memorize Bible verses each week and help with fund raisers to go on the trip. It was a fun time for everyone and we were quite proud of ourselves for setting up camp!

This Fall we're looking at some different logistics for girls' group. Two sisters in the group are moving to another town very soon, but we've arranged for them to still attend meetings. Others face some rough family issues right now, so please pray for me as I try to help the girls through these hard times.

What they're going through is so foreign to me!

As a group we're learning more about responsibility and how we treat others. I try to choose memory verses that apply to what they are experiencing, so they see how the Bible applies to everyday life. Our big goal this year is to work towards a trip to the beach

next June! Some of the girls have never been to a beach, so for 2 years I've searched for a way to make this trip happen. Our plan is to go to Charleston, SC for a few days and experience the beach and some of the history of the area. I've never heard such screaming as when I announced this trip! Some of the girls cried! We make and sell greeting cards as a fund raiser, and we also do bake sales, and we're having a carnival in a couple of weeks. This trip will require quite a bit more than we've ever had to raise before, so if any of you would like to make a donation for the trip, it would be much appreciated!

Tax-deductible gifts can be made out to:

Mustard Seeds and Mountains with "Girls Group" on the memo line, or donations can come straight to me: Wendy Hammond  
P.O. Box 3, Elkhorn, WV 24831

Either way, the check can be mailed to my address and I'll route it accordingly.

Thanks so much for your interest and prayers!

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**WOW! God is so very good to His people! We praise His Holy Name!**