



Tapestry

December 2021
Volume 34, Issue 6



Phyllis' Ponderings

In This Issue

- Conference Coordinator.....2
- Fall Gathering Highlights.....3
- Fall Gathering Thanks.....3
- Fall Gathering Reports.....4
- Leadership Changes.....5-8
- Board/Conf Leader Mtg.....8
- You Are Invited!.....9
- Love Offering Change.....10
- Improved access – LWR10
- From the Editor's Desk.... 10
- Board Listing.....11

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Dear Sisters in Christ,

What a wonderful Fall Gathering we had! It was great to be able to be together again after cancelling the 2020 Fall Gathering due to COVID. It was a busy, productive, and blessed weekend.

For those who haven't heard, I resigned at the end of this Fall Gathering so one of the items of business was to elect a new SWO President to serve for the remaining year of my term. **Anne Storan** was elected to complete my term and is your new President.

During the weekend, several ladies asked if my health was OK. The answer is yes, but like all of you, I'm not getting any younger, and I felt it was time to make the decision to move to be closer to family. I didn't want my children to have to make the decision for me. I also wanted to make this move while I'm still able to get involved in a new church and a new WELCA Unit. I will also have friends I grew up with that I've stayed in touch with so in many ways it is "coming home."

During this process, there have been mountains moved. I thought finding new doctors and making sure I could continue my IV infusions for Crohn's Disease would be a huge mountain. All it took was one phone call to one of those childhood friends, and I have my first appointment scheduled less than three weeks after I move. The new doctor's office even does IV infusions in the office so no more visits to a hospital. I definitely see God's Hand at work in this.

There is one more mountain—a place to live. I'm on a waiting list for an apartment in a senior's complex (over 55) so for a while, I'll be homeless. Well, not really; I'll stay with my daughter. I'm quite sure God has a plan; but I do have to admit, I would like to know what His timetable is!



While there have been many signs that this is the right decision, it doesn't mean it will be easy to leave all of you, dear sisters! I have lived in Fort Walton Beach since 1990; longer than any other place. I have been part of WELCA for almost that long. I have been so incredibly blessed to have been a part of the Florida-Bahamas SWO. I will miss you very much.

Phyllis' Ponderings continued from page 1

Some know that before I became a Lutheran, I felt my world was falling apart around me as my marriage of almost 25 years was ending. As bad as things were, I had this picture in my mind of being part of a church where people didn't just spend an hour at worship, but they were truly a family. During that time, I am attending some meetings at a Lutheran church and saw pictures of Mother/Daughter Banquets, church picnics, Easter Egg Hunts, etc. Wasn't it just like God that I worked with someone who was a member of that Lutheran church? I thought when I joined and became part of that church family, that was the fulfilment of the picture I'd hoped for. But God wasn't finished; He gave me more than I ever dreamed about; I was invited to be a part of this amazing sisterhood known as WELCA. I suppose you could say, "The rest is history." Thank you, Shirley Bow, for that invitation!

Don't ever stop inviting; you don't know the impact your invitation may have on that lady or where God will take her on her journey—all because you invited.

I don't plan to change my email address, and I would love to hear from you periodically. That address is: wade.phyllis73@gmail.com.

May each one of you have a very blessed Christmas, and may our Lord continue to shower you with blessings!

With love, your sister in Christ,
Phyllis Wade, past SWO President



Conference Coordinator—a change in the making

For almost two years, I've looked forward to a time when we could gather safely as women of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. On November 11-13, we came to Lake Yale for our Fall Gathering, *Faith Can Move Mountains*. We conducted the business of the Synodical Women's Organization, worshipped, had workshops, and made quilts. But best of all, we talked, sharing stories about what we've been doing and what we hope to do in the future. Many of you stopped at my table to give me the contact information of the current leaders of your church units and conferences. Thank you to all of you who provided contact information.



Conferences held meetings and made preliminary plans to hold Spring Gatherings again. Once again, we will have contact information so important information can be shared between meetings.

In the business meeting portion of the Gathering, new officers were elected and a new Conference Coordinator was appointed. Your newly elected Board Member, **Nina Jageler**, will be the Conference Coordinator. Nina can be reached as follows:

Nina Jageler
1018 Antelope Trail, Winter Springs FL 32708
(407) 773-2738
njageler@gmail.com.

I am honored that I was elected to serve as your new President. I have always known that the power of women united in faith can move mountains. I look forward to serving you as we continue to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Anne Storan
FL-BA SWO President

HIGHLIGHTS



Faith
can move mountains

"FAITH CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS" was the theme for our 2021 FL/BA SWO Fall Gathering. We were so blessed to be together on this week end. Seeing old friends and meeting new friends and for those that were comfortable with being together and giving and receiving hugs, it was marvelous. From the opening service to our final service Sunday morning our theme "Faith Can Move Mountains" was shone throughout the weekend. The Bible Study, Morning Devotions and Workshops were enjoyed by everyone that attended.



With no choir; we had beautiful music with **Marilyn Franz**, our Pianist, and with **Eileen Soler** and **Piper Spencer** assisting with music and leading all of us in singing.



ELCA Deacon Connie Schmucker, Assistant to the Bishop, brought greetings from the Bishop. **Joy Michalicek, WELCA churchwide board representative**, joined us by Zoom.

The worship services were awesome. **Pastor Nicole Eastman** was our Pastor for the week-end. She began serving as Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Vero Beach, Florida in October 2019.



We were blessed with so many of our Sisters in Christ sharing their gifts and talents. A huge THANK YOU to all who served to make this Fall Gathering so awesome! It could not have happened without all of you.

Blessings from your Co-chairs,
ANN ENGLISH & LORAIN VAN HAECKE



Thank you to the following ladies for loving and serving the Lord by sharing their time and gifts with us at this year's Fall Gathering:

Parliamentarian: Tracy Moffatt, Caloosa; Elaine Heine, alternate, Spacecoast

Timekeeper: Karen Weinrich, Flagler Volusia

Claims and Offerings: Laurie Nelson, SWO Treasurer; Karen Brown, First Coast; Evonda Pierce, Panhandle

Conduct of Elections: Debra Lantz, Chair, Suncoast

Credentials: Judy Driesbaugh, Chair, Flagler Volusia ,

Nominating Committee: Donna Person, Chair, Broward-Bahamas; Denise

Beumer, Heart of Florida

Committee on Minutes: Donna Person, Chair, Broward Bahamas; Rhona Diamond, Caloosa; Louise Willim, Heart of Florida

Committee on the Report of the President: Diane Spicer, Chair, Space Coast; Dona Charlton, Panhandle; Leone Goding, Pinelands

Resolutions: Sallie Haley, Chair, Pinelands; Georgeann Rhoeder, First Coast; Denise Coller, Broward Bahamas

We also want to say thank you to the ladies of our Conferences for helping make Fall Gathering a wonderful, inspiring, and hospitable event: Miami-Dade/Monroe & Broward Bahamas, Communion Set Up; Tradewinds & Space Coast, Morning Devotions; Flagler-Volusia, Credentials; First Coast, Prayer Room & Meditation Stations; Lake & Heart of Florida, Hospitality Room Saturday; Caloosa & Pinelands, Ushers; Panhandle, In-Kind Gifts; Mid-Gulf, Hospitality Room Friday; Tampa & Suncoast, Conduct of Elections; Gulf Coast, Registration; and everyone who stepped up when they saw a need!

Volunteering is
a work of heart





FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

2021 Fall Gathering Business Summary

Friday, November 12, 2021 - Sunday, November 14, 2021

Election Results: President: **Anne Storan**; Vice President: **Denise Beumer**; Treasurer: **Tracy Moffat**; Board Members: **Leone Goding, Sallie Haley and Nina Jageler**—all newly elected.

Approval of SWO Constitutional Change - Voting members at the 2021 Fall Gathering approved, on second reading, an amendment to the SWO Constitution which provides more flexibility in a Conference's leadership structure. All Conferences do not have a president, vice president, and secretary. With the adoption of this motion, each Conference will be led by a Conference Leadership Team of at least three members, including a key leader(s) named as coordinator, president, co-chairs, or other such term as defined by the Conference. Members of the Conference Leadership Team will be elected at the Conference meeting, serve as participants in a unit or special unit, and shall be voting members of an ELCA congregation. The first reading amending the SWO Constitution was approved at the Fall Gathering on November 8, 2019.

SWO Budget for 2022 through 2023: A motion was approved to accept the proposed SWO Budget for 02/01/22 through 01/31/23, as prepared by **SWO Treasurer Laurie Nelson** and presented on pages 24 -26 of the Fall Gathering booklet.

Submitted by
Donna Person, SWO Secretary

2021 FALL GATHERING OFFERING TOTALS

It was so good to be able to all be together for our Fall Gathering this year. There were so many highlights. For me, the most moving was the spirit filled worship service. I truly left the weekend ready to move mountains through Faith, trusting in the Holy Spirit to support and guide me.

I want to thank you all for the honor of serving you these past 3 years. Led by prayer and the Grace of God, I look forward to what the future holds. I will continue to keep you all in my prayers and am so thankful to be a part of the WELCA and the beautiful sisterhood we share.

At this year's Fall Gathering, two offerings were collected:

1. Communion Service Offering: \$4,064.00 (50% will stay in our SWO and 50% will be forwarded to the Church-wide Women's Organization)
2. C.A.L.M. Love Offering: \$4,632.00 plus \$1,191.92 in gift cards totaling \$5,823.92. In addition, \$350 in checks payable directly to C.A.L.M. were given to the organization.

Jewelry sales amounted to \$430.92 and will be distributed between the Let Your Light Shine and Share the Spirit scholarship funds.

Thanks to all of you for sharing your gifts. God's Peace is with us.

Your Sister in Christ,
Laurie Nelson, FL-BA SWO Treasurer



2021 Fall Gathering Service Project



Gloria Dei, Leesburg, brought materials to make 10 quilts this weekend. We set up in the back of Maguire Hall and many ladies picked up needles and pins. All 10 quilts were completed. We decided to give them to C.A.L.M. since a quilt is given to each woman once she leaves the facility to move to her own place.



Leadership Changes

Thank You Outgoing Board Members



Thank you to outgoing Board Members **Mae Haines** and **Marilyn Kreitzinger!** We also want to thank **Lisa Klima**, our outgoing Vice President. Their terms ended at Fall Gathering. Our thanks goes to **Laurie Nelson**, our Treasurer, who decided not to run for re-election; her term will end January 31, 2022! We have all been blessed to know you and to do ministry together within the Synodical Women's Organization with you! May God continue to bless you!

Phyllis Wade,
Outgoing FL-BA SWO President



to our new Board



From left to right, Treasurer Tracy Moffatt; Vice President Denise Beumer; Board Members Sallie Haley, Nina Jageler, and Leone Goding; and President Anne Storan



Churchwide Board Member of the Women of the ELCA Raeann Purcell installs our new Board at our Installation and Sending Service on Sunday, November 14, 2021.

From left to right: Treasurer Tracy Moffatt, Vice President Denise Beumer, Secretary Donna Person, Jackie Haynick, Sally Haley, Karen Weinrich, President Anne Storan, Leone Goding, and Nina Jageler.

Not pictured: Gayle Backiel

Current Members—New Positions

Anne Storan—elected President

As I write this I have just returned to my home in Citrus County after spending almost two weeks with adult children and their families in Ohio. Celebrating Thanksgiving always helps to provide a focus for my life. Finding gratitude each day in the life God has given me is key to the joy in my life.

I am grateful for my childhood in Dayton OH. I am grateful for my first marriage that gave me two wonderful children, and for later marriages that added five amazing stepchildren. Now I have twelve delightful grandchildren. (I've begun calling all of them Sweetie so I don't call them by the wrong name.)

I am grateful for the years I have been able to serve in the places I have lived. When my children entered school, I served as a classroom volunteer as well as the volunteer coordinator. As the children became more independent, I was a Girl Scout troop leader, then I was a council board member, president. When I was practicing law, I saw how people's lives were complicated by substance abuse and mental health issues, so I served on the Mental Health and Alcohol Board. After my first husband died of cancer, I was a hospice volunteer, and was later hired as executive director. After leaving hospice, I became the manager, and then the owner of an independent bookstore. I told each employee, "Your job is not selling books, it's serving readers."

I am grateful that the women of the Florida-Bahamas SWO have given me the opportunity to serve them as President for the coming year. During the nine years I have lived in Florida, the women of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Hernando, and the Pinelands Conference, and our Synodical Women's Organization have taught me the power of women acting together to glorify God. The WELCA Purpose and Mission provide a structure to use our gifts. I look forward to growing in faith with you in the years ahead.



From left to right,
Vice President Denise Beumer
and
President Anne Storan

Denise Beumer—elected Vice President

Newly Elected Vice President of Florida Bahamas Synod Women's Organization

Member of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Winter Park

Married to Deacon Steven Beumer of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church with a focus on Global Outreach and Care for Creation.

6 children, 13 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

3 years SWO Board, recent focus on Justice/Advocacy

2 years -Today's Dream Tomorrow Reality Congregational Anti-Racism Facilitator Serving With Grace

Member of "Just Love Team" Synod Racial Justice Team

Currently serving on the Board of Orlando Lutheran Towers

Congregation president, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Board of Family Promise of Orlando

President of Maitland Chamber of Commerce

Board of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

Board of Orange County Head start

Honored at Volunteer Appreciation Dinner of the Jewish Pavilion

Prepared and Served lunches for the Sandwich Ministry at St. John which serves meals at Winter Park low-income housing



Continuing Members

Gayle Backiel	Board Member (left)
Jackie Haynick	Board Member (left)
Karen Weinrich	Board Member (right)



Continuing Officer

Donna Person	Secretary (left)
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Additions

Tracy Moffatt—elected Treasurer



I'm Tracy Moffatt and I'm very excited to be serving on the SWO Board again; this time as your Treasurer! I live in Naples with my husband Mark and out two feline children, Kiley and Killian and serve. In my work life, I am a Golf Retail Consultant and when not crunching numbers for clients, I am presenting webinars and seminars and teaching at Florida Gulf Coast University. I love to travel both for business and pleasure.

I have been attending Lake Yale since 1998 when I was asked to co-lead a workshop on banner making. Since then, I have had the great joy of sharing many more workshops with you all! I have served on the WELCA Board twice, been Co-chair of a few Fall Gatherings, served as your President, Vice President, Coordinated Workshops for the Fall Gatherings, made many wonderful friends, and shared lots of laughs and a few tears! God is so very good.

Leone Goding—elected Board Member

I am a member of Gloria Dei in Leesburg since 2002. I was raised in Minnesota in a Dutch Reformed Community. Northwest Airlines needed agents in Miami so in November of 1967 I transferred to Florida, never to look back. I met my husband, Jerry, there and we were married for 43 years. He went to live with Jesus in October 2016. Anne Rusk at Gloria Dei took my hand one Sunday and asked if I would join the WELCA Board of our Church. I had no idea what she was talking about, but soon learned more than I wanted to know. I have been secretary, vice-president and President of our WELCA. In 2010 the leader of the Mary-Martha Circle moved away and the ladies asked me to lead; again I didn't know what I was doing. The first year we made 91 quilts and I was never so proud. Since then, we have made many for our local charities and Lutheran World Relief. I am so blessed to have so many dedicated ladies to help me. I also belong to Church Women United and have been President, Secretary and Treasurer of our Local Unit, also an Area Chair and then on the Florida State Board as Secretary for 6 years. I also belong to Christian Women's Connection of Central Florida where I maintain the Florida web-site for Stonecroft ministries. Thank you all for putting your trust in me to serve on this Board.



Additions continued

Sallie Haley—elected Board Member



I grew up in Aiken, South Carolina . The Granddaughter of a Pa. Lutheran Pastor, I don't ever remember not being involved in something at St. Paul. I sat at my Mother's feet during LCW meetings , sang in choirs, helped Mom and Dad with Altar Guild and all sorts of other things. Eventually I got old enough to teach Sunday School, Bible school, and sing in the Adult Choir and various area groups.

I graduated from the University of South Carolina with a BA in Music and a minor in Religion. I went on later to become an Electrician with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

I married my husband Bob in 1990. God took him home in 1995. He was 45 while I was 39. I then went on to marry Joe in 1999. He was an Electrical Engineer . We went on to move from job to job across the country about every 6 to 9 months. My job was to find a church. It was where I learned adapting. Joe joined the church eternal in 2015.

I have been very active in Veteran's organizations. I am Past President of both the AMVETS and American Legion Auxiliary. I have been also active in the Eagles and the Moose.

I joined St. Timothy in 2007 and have been very active, teaching VBS, and as President of WELCA. I am also an Assistant Minister, Communion Assistant, Council member, and Reader. I was Pineland Conference' President for 2 1/2 years and Vice President for 1/2 year.



Nina Jageler—elected Board Member

Hello, I'm Nina Jageler. I have been a member at Redeemer in Winter Park for over 10 years. I am married and have a daughter. I have been going to the Fall Gathering for about 10 years with my mom, Lisa Klima, and grandma, Loraine Van Haecke. I work full time and I also own a small bow shop. I am so excited to be on the board and work with all of these wonderful ladies.



SWO Board & Conference Leader Meeting

January 28, 29, and 30, 2022

Luther Springs

Hawthorne, Florida

The SWO Board and one Conference Leader will hold their joint meeting on January 28-30, 2022 at Luther Springs located at 264 Vause Lake Rd, Hawthorne, Florida. Each Conference is encouraged to send one Leader to this meeting. Conference Leaders will decide the theme for Spring Gatherings and Conference Assignments for the 2022 Fall Gathering will be made. More information will be coming via email from your new **President, Anne Storan.**



Church Women United are celebrating their 80th anniversary.

Founded in 1941, the Women of the Church Women United movement is an inclusive Christian women's movement to celebrate unity and diversity. Celebrate with them at their Virtual Zoom Event: **Saturday, December 11, 2021 11:00 am PST, 12:pm MST, 1:00pm CST or 2:00 pm EST.** Register online at www.churchwomennited.net. An \$80.00 donation to celebrate their 80th yr. can be mailed to Church Women United 3605 Campbellton Rd SW, Atlanta, GA 30331.

Luther Springs Quilt Retreat March 7-11, 2022



During our week together, we will laugh, quilt, worship and learn in a beautiful, tranquil space where we can spread out and quilt at our own pace. Our teachers will guide you through creating a Mystery Quilt using fat quarters and our service team will bring a special project to benefit a non-profit. On Tuesday, we offer an optional field trip to visit a local quilt shop and eat lunch out. To make

sure this is truly a relaxing experience, Anna Allen, Licensed Massage Therapist, will offer a complimentary 15-minute chair massage. Our teachers will be there to assist with the planned projects as well as answer questions regarding different techniques. Want to work on your own projects? Absolutely! You will also have time to explore and enjoy the camp if you wish.

Newbies need not be afraid! Whether you are new to this retreat or new to quilting, plan on being received with open arms! Our wonderful group of quilters are an encouraging group of charming, fun-loving ladies who are eager to welcome you and to share all that they know.

To register, go to: https://luthersprings.org/fall_spring_programs/quilting-retreat-3/ or call 828-209-6302. For any questions about our program or the camp, please contact Deacon Sue Mendenhall, Luther Springs Program Director at 727-415-9887/smendenhall@novusway.org or Chris Stout, Quilting Retreat Director at 407-701-1568/crsinorl@aol.com. Join our Luther Springs Quilting Retreat Facebook page to stay up to date and enjoy some quilting community. <https://www.facebook.com/lsequiltingretreat>.



Fall Gathering 2022 November 11 - 13

STEP by STEP

Plan to join us as the Lord directs our steps!

The mind of a person plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.
Proverbs 16:9 NASB



Co-Chairs for the 2022 Fall Gathering are **Loraine Van Haecke** and **Lisa Klima**.

**From C.A.L.M. to Sozo Kids
Our Love Offering Changes
in February, 2022**

Our new Love Offering recipient was announced at the 2021 Fall Gathering. Beginning February 1st, 2022 we will be supporting **Sozo Kids**. This organization headed by **Pastor David Houck** helps struggling families within the Ocala National Forest. The organization provides food, tutoring, school supplies, clothing, haircuts, teen pregnancy prevention, and an endless list of other services to help break the cycle of poverty.

More information will be provided on our website once we transition from our present Love Offer-

ing recipient; C.A.L.M. House. At the Fall Gathering we were blessed to have representatives from each of these deserving organizations.

The women from CA.L.M. were very pleased to go back home with many boxes of In Kind gifts as well as 9 quilts made at the gathering! The outpouring of support that was donated to them in the form of monetary donations, gift cards, and In Kind gifts was very generous. If you did not go to the Fall Gathering and would like to make a donation, please send your check made to: FL-BA SWO to our **Treasurer Laurie Nelson** with a notation-Love Offering.

In Peace,
Jackie Haynick, Love Offering Coordinator

Easier access to  Lutheran World Relief News

The drop-off information for our quilts and kits donations is available on the website. Our webmaster Cheryl Semmel has made it easier for you to access the website. Click on flwelca.com and you will find the delivery to church schedules plus the dates the truck will pick-up your donations. The truck will be heading to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Walton Beach on Wednesday, February, 9, 2022 at 9 am, and Sandy See is the contact person this year. Please call ahead at each collection site to make an appointment. Sandy's cell # is 850-259-3167.

From the Editor's Desk — Linda Greilick



From the Editor

Older or Younger? Each is a Gift!

In a recent shared devotion, I read Luke 1:39-56 describing Mary's visit to Elizabeth when she discovers she is pregnant. This Scripture reminds us of how God seems to love joining women of different ages to encourage, guide, and teach. In this Luke story, we see the young Mary hurrying to Elizabeth who is "well along in years." Elizabeth showers Mary with encouragement. She honors Mary with her proclamation "Blessed are you among women." She affirms Mary's mission saying "blessed is the child you will bear." And Elizabeth builds Mary's faith by closing with the words "Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" Mary responds with a song for the ages that reflects her increasing faith and gratitude.

For reflection: Have you had "Elizabeths" in your life? Who is an older woman who encourages you, calls out your gifts, or builds your faith? If you're now older, you are called to follow in your "Elizabeth's" faithful footsteps. Who is the younger woman in your life who you can encourage in the same way?

Florida Bahamas Synodical Women' Organization Directory

Executive Board 2021-2022

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
Anne Storan astoran46@gmail.com Planning Committee	Denise Beumer dbeumer1000@gmail.com Planning Committee	Donna Person dperson7@aol.com J-Historian	Tracy Moffatt tracymoffatt@aol.com

Board Members and Missions**

Gayle Backiel rbackiel@verizon.net J-Global Missions	Sallie Haley misssallie56@gmail.com	Nina Jageler njageler@gmail.com D-Conference Coordinator
Leone Goding stevemae@verizon.net J-LWR, CWU, Rachel's Day	Jackie Haynick jackiehaynick@yahoo.com S-Love Offering	Karen Weinrich weinrik@hotmail.com D-Publications

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<u>Human Trafficking Committee</u> Unassigned	<u>Churchwide Board</u> Raeann Purcell raeannpurcell@hotmail.com



What does our logo mean?

Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

**Missions

D Discipleship
J Justice
S Stewardship



Tapestry

The *Tapestry* is published six times per year. It is available online under the *Tapestry* link of the FL-Bahamas Women of the ELCA website located at www.flwelca.com.

To submit material for publication, contact **Linda Greilick, *Tapestry* Editor**
lindag65@verizon.net

Please submit *Tapestry* articles by January 15 for the February issue.