

ANNA HOWARD SHAW CENTER NEWSLETTER

Boston University School of Theology Summer 1985 Vol.1, No.3



God's Possibility

POWER SHARED, NOT POSSESSED

Spring is the time for Annual Conferences in the United Methodist Church. The Southern New England Conference is no different, having its Annual Conference June 6-8. What was different, however, was that Margaret Wiborg, Director of the Anna Howard Shaw Center at Boston University School of Theology, was announced as the preacher of the Saturday session.

Preach she did. If some of the prolonged debates on issues tended to dilute the awareness of the presence of the Spirit, Margaret's presence in the pulpit resurrected it for us. The view from where I sat was not much more than a pair of brown beckoning eyes, full of warmth and hope, to say nothing of joy.

She was not long into her message when she announced, "I'm not an only child, Methodism is not an only child, America is not an only child." From this, she reminded us of the starvation in Ethiopia, apartheid in South Africa, and United Methodism's exclusion of gays and lesbians from its ordained clergy. Her resounding word was that all these persons are children of God, our children, and our brothers and sisters.

About half way through her proclamation of the way in which God calls all of us to ministry, she made a plea for her need and our need of sharing each other's faith story. "I need the stories of Moses and Miriam, of Jesus and the disciples. Yet I also need here-and-now faith stories." She then shared a number of inspiring illustrations from her own experience.

I knew that she would not finish preaching without mentioning the Women and the Word Conference recently held at STH. She summarized that conference by saying, "that event belonged to everyone who had any part in it." Drawing on Letty Russell's definition of infinite power, power that is shared, not possessed, she indicated "that the whole event became God's event--a holy event--a time filled with the Holy Spirit."

The new experience for me, in being present to her proclamation, was my awareness of a message being preached on behalf of all who were present. She was preaching out of the community, not just to the community. I can now say that there was a growing consciousness in me that Margaret's energy was the energy of all those persons who were in community and communion with her, lives that she had touched and who had touched hers.

The sense of the Spirit was not only coming from the pulpit, it was coming from all around me. When we all stood and applauded at the end of her sermon, it was the culmination of an intense and exciting involvement with an authentic human being who had called upon us to celebrate our humanity as a gift from God. It was a different kind of applause, and I was glad to be part of it. Thanks, Margaret, and all the Margarets who were preaching through you.

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Rev. Dick Harding, author of this article, is a former Council Director and District Superintendent. He is presently pastor of Wellesley UMC.

FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION: NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR WOMEN IN MINISTRY

At Founder's Day, a part of each year's graduation weekend, we recall past ministries and celebrate the future ministries of students. In former years, these graduating students have been male and their professional direction has been toward ordained ministry. This year, the focus shifted. With Dean Richard Nesmith's announcement of the endowment of a new professorship, and the awarding of two new scholarships for women, the \$600,000 campaign for WOMEN IN MINISTRY began.

Florence Freeman, an attorney and first selectwoman in Weston's town history, is making possible through her will the establishment of a professorship in the field of theology, addressing the innovative and creative aspects of the discipline. This professorship has been designated for a woman.

The Martha Muelder Scholarship has been established in honor of the wife of Dean Emeritus Walter Muelder for a woman planning to pursue pastoral ministry as an ordained clergy. This scholarship was awarded to Betty Westhoven of York Beach, ME. Betty has previously taught sociology at Pahlevi University, Shirez, Iran, and at the University of Southern Maine in Portland. She has most recently been employed at Portsmouth Naval shipyard in Portsmouth, NH.

The Mary Lou Evans Scholarship has been established in honor of Mary Lou Evans, an active United Methodist laywoman, formerly from southern New England and now living in Maine. This scholarship award is designated for a woman going into lay ministry and was awarded to Mary Elizabeth Gannon of Durham, NH. Mary Elizabeth is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and has most recently been employed as personnel officer at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. She has enrolled in the MTS degree program and has interests in counseling, teaching, and spiritual growth. Mary Elizabeth and Betty will both enter STH in the fall of 1985.

The ministry of lay and ordained women, both as givers and receivers of the awards, was truly a cause for celebration. An added dimension to the awarding of these scholarships was the opportunity for the women involved to meet one another. Before the end of the evening, Martha Muelder and Betty Westhoven were holding hands. Mary Lou Evans and Mary Elizabeth Gannon were naming mutual friends. This recognition of the power of the sisterhood of women is just the beginning.

SUMMER READING POSSIBILITIES

Suggested readings by some STH faculty women.

Peg Huff, Coordinator of Psychological Testing.

Schuessler-Fiorenza, Elizabeth. Bread, Not Stone. Beacon Press, 1984. In this collection of essays, Schuessler-Fiorenza explains and expands upon the hermeneutical principles set forth in her previous book, In Memory of Her (Crossroad, 1984), and makes application to current situations.

Hayden-Elgin, Suzette. Native Tongue. Daw Publishers. This linguist and science fiction writer combines both talents to present a novel from the 23rd century.

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Kathe Pfisterer Darr, Assistant Professor of Old Testament.

Brenner, Athalya. The Israelite Woman: Social Role and Literary Type in Biblical Narrative. JSOT Press, 1985.

In this book, Brenner discusses depictions of women in biblical narrative.

Trible, Phyllis. Texts of Terror. Fortress Press, 1985. A biblical scholar with unusual sensitivity and insight brings literary critical skills and a feminist perspective to her interpretations of four tragic stories about women in Ancient Israel.

RESOURCE POSSIBILITIES

Hunter, Jane. The Gospel of Gentility:
American Women Missionaries in
Turn-of-the-Century China. Yale
University Press, 1984.

Brumberg, Joan Jacobs. Mission for Life:
The Story of the Family of Adoniram
Judson. The Free Press, 1980.

Both of these books are historical works
on the role of women on the mission field.

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Theresa Scherf, Director of Field
Education and Lecturer.

Julian of Norwich. Showings. (Clas-
sics of Western Spirituality
Series).

Writings of the early English woman
mystic.

Kelsey, Morton. Dreams: A Way to
Listen to God. Paulist Press.

In this book, Kelsey relates dreams
and psychological processes to spiritu-
ality.

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Elizabeth Bettenhausen, Associate Pro-
fessor of Ethics and Theology.

Morgan, Robin. Sisterhood Is Global.
Anchor Doubleday, 1984.

This is a sourcebook of information
on women and feminism in the countries
of the world from Afghanistan to Zimbab-
we, and most everything in between.

Jaggar, Alison M. Feminist Politics
and Human Nature. Rowman and
Allan Held, 1983.

Jaggar's book is a helpful study of
four types of feminism and their under-
standing of human nature and politics.

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Linda Clark, Assistant Professor of
Sacred Music.

Baruschello, G., & Martin, H. How to
Imagine.

This is a narrative on art and agricul-
ture. It makes connections between
being an artist and a lover of life.

Marshall, Pauli. Praise Song for the
Widow.

Praise Song is a novel about a woman's
life and the rituals of her home coun-
try.

The AHSC is proud to provide this
list of only a few of the resource possi-
bilities that exist through the women of
STH. These women are willing to attend
women's groups, churches, or support
groups and share their special gifts and
talents. They can be contacted through
the Anna Howard Shaw Center at 353-3075.

"Lost and Found"

Elizabeth J. Davis and Linda Y.
Bandelier reclaim biblical stories of
women in song and story. These very
talented women use all original material.
They say, "If we don't hear and tell our
stories, we lose a sense of who we are
as Christians and as women."

"Women's Religious Lives"

Linda Clark, an Assistant Profes-
sor of Sacred Music at STH, shares her
message in a workshop format, as she
is committed to exploring the lives of
women, past and present.

"Energetic Worship"

Nancy J. Ginty's energetic worship
is for fun, faith, and fitness. It is
a workshop of choreographed spiritual
expressions designed to "center" us by
letting go of the physical/psychological
tensions of the day. Sessions include
prayer exercises, movement, relaxation,
and periods of guided and quiet medita-
tion.

Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship

This is a new book of worship re-
sources for Sunday worship and special
occasions, edited by Ruth Duck with 54
different contributors. Ruth is a UCC
pastor and a doctoral student at STH.
Her previous works are Everflowing
Streams and Bread for the Journey. Mail
\$6.95 to: Ruth Duck, 147 Hamilton St.,
Cambridge, MA 02139.

"Issues in Sexual and Domestic Violence"

Several students and faculty have
training and work experience in this
area and are willing to share informa-
tion and experiences with outside
groups.

"The time has come to make the ministry of the laity explicit, visible, and active in the world: the real battles of faith today are being fought in factories, shops, offices and farms, in political parties, in countless homes . . . and in the relationship of nations. Very often it is said that the Church should 'go into these spheres,' but the fact is that the Church is already in these spheres in the

persons of the laity. It is the laity who draw together work and worship; it is they who bridge the gulf between the Church and the world, and it is they who manifest in word and action the Lordship of Christ over that world which claims so much of their time and energy and labor."

--The Report on the Laity at the
Second Assembly of the World
Council of Churches

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School of Theology
745 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

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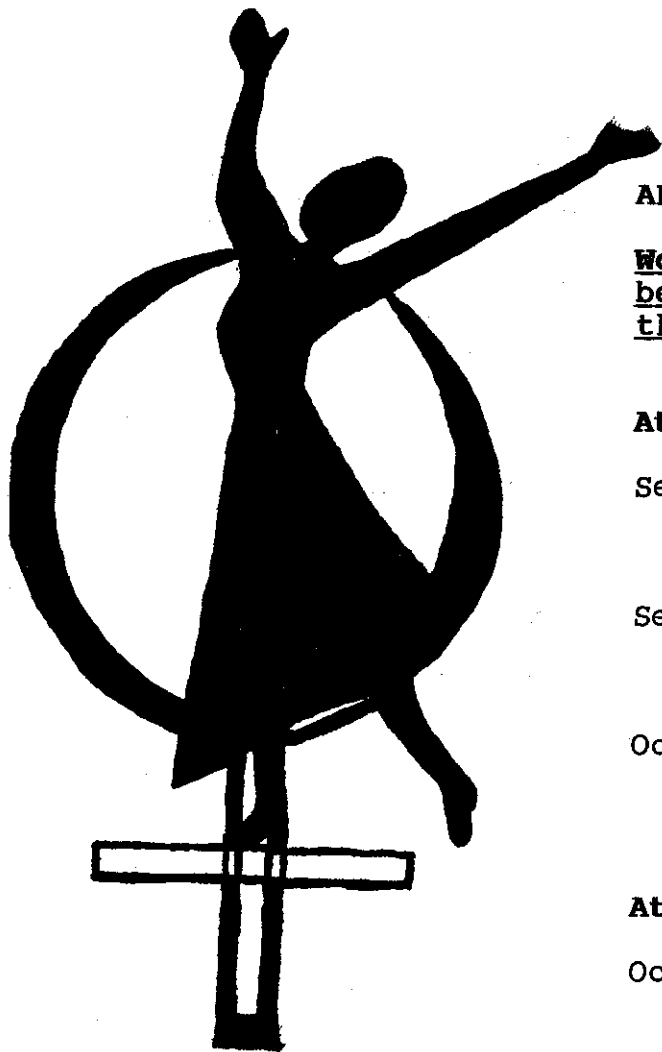
COSROW Training Event

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women of SNE Conference is sponsoring a training event for women and men interested in establishing local church COSROW's. Nancy Grissom Self, General Secretariat of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and Rev. Rebecca Dolch will lead this education and celebration event. It is to be held Saturday, October 19, 1985, from 9:00 to 5:00 at Wesley UMC in Worcester, MA. For more information call 617/485-7484 or write 50 Church St., Marlboro, MA 01752.

NEW ADDITIONS

The AHSC library continues to increase its collection of books relating to the issues of women. One PhD student located two books on Anna's shelves that were not available through any BU library. Come and make use of these valuable resources!

WATCH for the article on Kathleen Weed in next fall's issue. Kathleen recently retired from the Maine Annual Conference and was honored as the woman serving the longest time in the ordained ministry in the United States.



ANNA HOWARD SHAW WOMEN'S STUDY SERIES

**Women in the Church Today: Conversations
between women in the congregation and women in
the seminary**

At Wellesley United Methodist Church:

- September 23 Biblical Perspective
 Kathe Pfisterer Darr
 Asst. Prof. of Old Testament
- September 30 Psychological Perspective
 Carole Bohn
 Adjunct Assistant Prof.
- October 7 Theological/Ethical Perspective
 Elizabeth Bettenhausen
 Assoc. Prof. of Ethics & Theol.

At Boston University School of Theology

- October 21 Spiritual Perspective
 Linda Clark
 Asst. Prof. of Sacred Music
- November 4 Missional Perspective
 Dana Robert
 Asst. Prof. of Int. Mission

Each session begins at 6:30 with time for coffee and conversation. The presentations will begin at 7:00 with discussion following. Registration is a suggested \$20 tax-deductible donation to the Anna Howard Shaw Center for the entire series or a \$5 tax-deductible donation for individual nights. Our primary concern is to gather women for interaction. Whatever your financial situation, please come and donate what you can. Checks should be made out to the Anna Howard Shaw Center, BUSTH. Preregistration is not absolutely necessary but is encouraged.

Registration Form

**Women in the Church Today: Conversations between
women in the congregation and women in the seminary**

Name _____
Address _____
Church _____

Amount of donation enclosed _____ Do you need travel information? _____
In order for our conversation to begin immediately, please express on the back of this form any issues or concerns that you would like to see addressed at each session. Thank you.

In order to stimulate an exchange of information and ideas between women in congregations and in the seminary, the Anna Howard Shaw Center is sponsoring a women's study series. By coming together, we seek to address women's life issues and new developments in women's studies to enable one another to lead more creative lives as church women in the world today. In the spirit of Anna Howard Shaw, an ordained Methodist minister, medical doctor, and active worker for the cause of women's rights, we will look at issues of women in the church from several different perspectives - biblical, psychological, theological and ethical, spiritual, and missional.

For seminary women, the issues and perspectives of women in the congregation are of primary importance as they strive to better understand their own roles in ministry. Likewise, women in the congregation can share the excitement of new educational developments, issues, and concerns of their sisters in seminary.

This is an opportunity for women with various interests and perspectives to come together and learn from one another. Please come, and bring your friends!

Return registrations to: Anna Howard Shaw Center Box 150
Boston University School of Theology
745 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, MA 02215

ISSUES _____

