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Prison
Congregations
of America, Inc.

Executive Director:
Mary Mortenson

Address:
PO Box 1335
Sioux Falls, SD 57101-1335
Phone:
605-321-0509 or 800-417-6692
Email:
mary@prisoncongregations.org
Web Site:
www.prisoncongregations.org



Prison Congregations of America, Inc.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK Sunrise – Sunset

By Mary Mortenson

This morning the sunrise was a brilliant red rim on the horizon. Most of the sky was cloudy, so that narrow rim of light was compressed into something almost magical. It reminded me of the song, *Sunrise – Sunset* from one of my favorite musicals, *Fiddler on the Roof*. The plaintive words are sung by Tevye, the father who is reflecting on his daughter's upcoming wedding. There are no weddings going on in our lives, but there most certainly is the passage of time, which makes these lyrics touch my heart:

*Sunrise, sunset, swiftly flow the days
Seedlings turn overnight to sunflowers
Blossoming even as we gaze...
One season following another
Laden with happiness and tears.*

I've been involved with PCA for about 13 years, and in all those sunrises and sunsets there has been a sweet combination of happiness and tears. There is happiness when I meet someone with a story and a dream. Most of our prison congregations can be traced to one person who dared ask, "I wonder if this could work in my area?" There is happiness when the PCA Board of Directors gives their time to dream and strategize



Executive Director
Mary Mortenson

together about what the future of PCA might hold. There is the happiness that comes from experiencing the beauty and power of a prison congregation in worship and service. There is also happiness when our work is affirmed by people like you, who hold us through prayer and financial support.

We've had our share of tears, too. Certainly, along the way there is disappointment when plans don't go quite as we hoped, but the tears of which I speak come from loss of those we love. We've lost relatives and friends and colleagues – Don, Ed, Joel, Julie – most who have been remembered in our publications. In the last issue, we introduced you to our new Administrative Assistant, Debbie Gallipo. We knew that Debbie's time with us would probably be limited, but we still mourned when she died last month. For a while it seemed that there were just too many tears.

That's what happens when one engages in authentic relationship – community – congregation. There will be happiness and there will be tears and they are all the real deal and God is with us through every second, and if we're quiet for a moment, we can even hear a holy whisper: "Look, here comes the sunrise."

"... to collaborate with Christian denominations and prison officials so that prison congregations are established in state prisons across America."

PCA Board of Directors Meets in Memphis

Grace Place and Prisoners of Hope Christian Church hosted the PCA Board of Directors for the spring meeting. The time together began with worship with Prisoners of Hope, one of the newest congregations, and ended with worship with Grace Place, which has been around for over ten years. The group was the first to use the new office space for Grace Place called the Two Sisters Ministry Center. The meeting began with the all-important "Passing of the President's Book" from Chris to John. Then the board members got busy charting the course for the rest of 2018, including being sure things are in order for the new director. A Christ candle is used at every board meeting, reminding the



board that first and foremost, PCA is a ministry. The cross was given to Mary as a retirement gift by the women of Grace Place. The cross, crafted from kitchen trash, is a beautiful metaphor for the women of Grace Place, who may have been labeled trash by society, but now know that they are beautiful women of God. To say that the board members experienced great Southern Hospitality is an understatement!



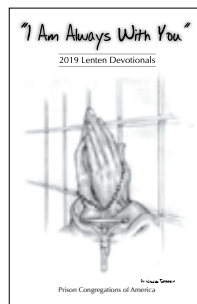
Back row: Steve Peterson, John Harrison, Rick Admiraal, Sarah Estes, Neil Bullock. Front row: Chris Flohr, Judith Roberts, Gloria Gurwell, Mary Mortenson, Pam Deacon-Joyner

PCA Transition News

The application instructions for the PCA Executive Director position are now available either online at www.prisoncongregations.org or by contacting the PCA office at 800-417-6692. Applications are being accepted now through July 1.

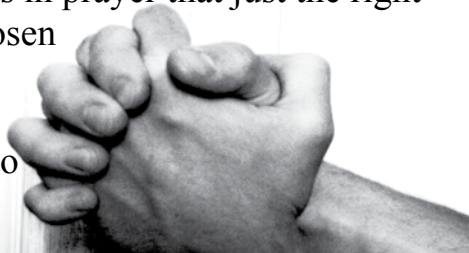
2019 Lenten Devotional Theme Chosen

In the coming months, members of prison congregations will be working on submissions for the 2019 edition of the Lenten Devotional Booklet. The 2019 theme is "I Am Always With You." Many people contact us each year to tell us how powerfully the Lenten Devotional meditations impact their Lenten walk. The booklets are sent to our prison congregations, our donors and anyone else who asks.



Prayer Corner

Please join us in prayer that just the right person is chosen as Executive Director, to lead PCA into the future.



Pastors' Retreat Planned for September

The third annual PCA Pastors' Retreat will be September 13-16, 2018 at the Sophia Center in Atchison, Kansas. This is an important opportunity for the PCA pastors to gather to learn from one another and to rest and renew. All Thrivent Choice dollars this year will go towards supporting this event, but it won't cover it all. Therefore, if you have a PCA congregation in your area, please consider making a special donation to sponsor the pastor's trip to the retreat. If you don't have a local prison congregation, your special sponsorship can be sent directly to PCA.

Sister Helen Prejean Visit to Sioux Falls Cancelled

Due to some health concerns, Sister Helen Prejean will be unable to travel to Sioux Falls, SD in October. Watch for news for if and when this visit will be rescheduled.

Web-based Donation Opportunities

GoodSearch and **GoodShop** are easy ways that we can contribute to PCA. GoodSearch (<http://www.goodsearch.com>) is an on-line search engine. If you sign up on their site to support PCA, a small donation will be set aside every time you use the search engine. If, when you are shopping on-line, you go to your favorite site through GoodShop, (<http://www.goodshop.com/goodshop.aspx?charityid=916169&widget=1>) a percentage of your purchase price will go to PCA.



Amazon Smile is another online way that you can support PCA. Simply go to the Amazon Smile site and sign up. (<http://smile.amazon.com/>)



YOU HAVE A HAND IN THIS MINISTRY!

DONOR LIST – GIFTS RECEIVED FROM JANUARY 1 – APRIL 30, 2018

Endowment Gifts

Marilyn Holmgren

Sponsors (\$5000-\$9999)

Mission Partners (\$1000-\$4999)

Church of the Damascus Road, Fort Dodge, IA
Faith Lutheran Church, Odebolt, IA
Jack & Mary Mortenson
New Beginnings Worshipping Community, Denver, CO

X-tra Milers (\$500-\$999)

Jeannie Bates
Becker Family Philanthropic Fund
Church of the Damascus Road – Texas, Weatherford, TX
Wayne and Debbie Gallipo
Living Stones Prison Congregation, Shelton, WA
Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church, Vermillion, SD
Santa Isabel Ministry to Immigrants, Elizabeth, NJ

Friends of PCA (\$100-\$499)

Doreen Arneson
Lois Bellows, in memory of Richard Bellows
Marsha Block, in memory of Dileen Ninke
Margaret Borstad
Raymond and Mary Burnett
Calvary Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD

Custer Lutheran Fellowship, Custer, SD
Myron and Constance Dahlstrom
Scott Daily
Pamela & David Deacon-Joyner
Dr. Kay Foland
Freedom in Christ Ministry, Anaconda, MT
Gayville Lutheran Church, Gayville, SD
John Harrison
Chuck & Kaona Hazlett
Steven and Wanda Helmers
Jayne Heying-Bilka
Sandy Jerstad
Living Word Lutheran Church, Milbank, SD
Michelle Loseke
Kathryn & John Miller Giving Fund
John & Mary Moe
Diane Nesselhuf, part in memory of Ron Moyer
Jerry and Karen Nettifee
OM and Beverly Osheim
Dave & Linda Osmundson
Jean Peszko
Shelly Pfaff
Wayne and Joann Piebenga
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN
Margaret Schulz
Glenn & Marlene Sellevold
Roger Semmler
Keith Smith

Southwestern Minnesota WELCA, St. Peter, MN
Paul Stone
St Francis of Assisi Christian Church, Draper, UT
Trinity Lutheran Church, Estelline, SD
Vic & Ethelyn Uttke
Arn Vollmer, in memory of Steve Vollmer
Trinity Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD
Jim & Gen Tuinstra
Gary Williams & Li Fjerestad
VIP (\$1-\$99)
Anonymous
Robert Barclay
Helena Bauer
Carol Bebo
Sharon Caffee
Earl Carlson
Bob & Carole Chell, in memory of Marvin Chell
Church of the Damascus Road, members at Fort Dodge, IA
Church of the Damascus Road, members at Rockwell City, IA
Ronald Couchman
Carol Cressman, in memory of Joel Cook
DeWayne Delzer
Scott & Barbara Dempster
Dan & Arlene Drew
Thomas Earley
Graydon and Karen Elverud

Drs. Joan England & Orla Christensen
First Lutheran Church, Torrance, CA
Carol Forster, in memory of Dick Forster
Charles and Patricia Graham
Norma Hofer
Dr. Marilyn and Jon Holmgren
Donald Holst
Bruce and Sandra Jordan
Gary and Patricia Junker
Rose Jurgens, in memory of Rose Goodroad
Charles and Mary Ann Kretschmar
Orand and Ruth Liebelt
Dottie Loos
Dr. and Mrs. Herbert McClellan, Jr
Kathryn Miller
Gail Morgan
Paul Olson
Ellen & Richard Plocek
Bill Roberts
Allan Saugstad & Cheryl Matthews
James Simons
Frank and Lorene Smedley
Shari Smith
Lloyd and Janet Sohl
Joseph and Gwendolyn Stanton
Debra Thormodsgard, in memory of Julie Thomas
Calvin Tonsager
Jeff & Stacey Tveit
Verlie Yockey

Give it TWICE!

Making a difference – impacting the lives of those touched by the ministries created and supported by Prison Congregations of America and all the organizations we believe in – that’s the ultimate goal of a legacy plan, isn’t it? But our love for children and grandchildren sometimes makes the decision difficult. We don’t want our gifts to take away from our family’s inheritance.

What if there was a way to provide income for your children and make a gift to PCA? The “Give It Twice” Trust allows you to transfer your IRA or other assets at the end of your life, creating a stream of income for a number of years (typically 10-20) to family, and then distributing the balance of the trust to charity.

Multiple benefits from this strategy include 1) **save** on income and estate taxes; 2) treat your children equally; 3) provide your children with a **regular income** over time; 4) **eliminate the temptation** for your heirs to spend your life savings immediately, reduced by a large income tax payment; 5) **leave a legacy** of generosity as an example to your family; 6) **make a**

difference in the lives of those who need it most with a second gift

If you’d like to know more about how to include this tool in your plan and double the impact of your resources by giving to both family and the ministries of Prison Congregations of America, please contact me or visit our website. Let’s make a larger difference together!

**Kathy McHenry, Executive Director
Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota**

partnered with Prison Congregations of America to encourage joyful gratitude and enduring generosity
**605.274.5030
kmcHenry@sdsynod.org
www.lpgsd.org**

Prison Congregations of America, PO Box 1335 • Sioux Falls, SD 57101-1335

IN MEMORY OF / IN HONOR OF GIFT FORM

Prison Congregations of America accepts gifts in memory of someone who has died or in honor of someone on a special occasion. Just note your contribution accordingly. Be sure to tell us to whom to announce your gift.

Please Print: I am enclosing a special gift in the amount of \$

In Memory Of _____ In Honor Of _____

To celebrate his/her/their _____

Send announcement of gift to: _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Indicate on acknowledgement that gift is being made by:

Your Name(s) _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone (in case of question) _____

PCA Seeks to be "Greener"

Would you prefer to get this newsletter via email? Please let us know at mary@prisoncongregations.org.

PCA and Social Media

If you look at: www.PrisonCongregations.org, you'll find:

- Updated news!
- Our blog!
- Links to Facebook and Twitter



**AND PLEASE
"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK**

Thrivent Choice

Thrivent Financial members, please direct Choice Dollars to PCA.

- Either: (1) Log in to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice and select "Get Started."
 (2) Contact a representative from the Member Connection Center at 800-847-4836 and, when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice." When next prompted, say, "Choice Dollars."



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 Problems? We'd like to make it right!
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