Editorial
Carla Sunberg

In 2004 I attended my first *Come to the Water* conference. I had come all the way from Moscow, Russia with my local pastor, Tatiana Cantarella. I had no idea what to expect, but I was pleasantly surprised. It was at this conference that I felt more affirmed in my call to the ministry than I have ever felt in my life. It was such a joy to experience being with so many other women called to the ministry. I was impressed to find this was not a time to whine! Rather, this was a time to celebrate what God was doing in all of our lives. I have to confess, I had no idea that there were so many “Reverend Doctors” in the world! The educational level of these women was impressive, and not just their educational level, but their professionalism. Every workshop was useful and of very high quality. Finally, I had no idea that there were such fine women preachers in the world! I should have known; I simply did not.

This year I attended my third *Come to the Water* conference, and again, I brought someone very special with me: my twenty-year-old daughter, Christy. God has been leading her on a journey in her life that may someday include full-time ministry. The exact form of ministry is not yet known, but she came away encouraged. Her response was much the same as mine four years earlier. She had no idea that there were so many talented, Spirit-filled, committed women serving the Lord.

This summer I have had the privilege of participating in a number of the Prayer Summits for pastors. It is at these summits that I have been able to meet many of you who are serving in ministry. Many of you, however, told me that you had never been to a *Come to the Water* conference, and many of you had never even heard of the conference. It is our desire that this copy of New Horizons will whet your appetite, and that you will mark your calendars, planning to attend the 2010 conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

Carla Sunberg is the Evangelism and Outreach Pastor at Grace Point Church of the Nazarene in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Carla also serves as the Nazarene representative to the Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy Board of Directors and the co-editor of New Horizons.

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Leadership in a Time of Change: Carla Sunberg Representative to Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy

Edited by Stefanie Hendrickson

Carla Sunberg currently serves as the Evangelism and Outreach Pastor at the Grace Point Church of the Nazarene in Fort Wayne, Ind. Carla and her husband, Chuck, served as missionaries for thirteen years in eastern Europe before accepting the assignment at Grace Point. Carla’s journey has taken her to many places; it has lead her to serve as the current Nazarene representative to Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy (WHWC), an organization embracing eight holiness denominations. Following is a description of her experience serving WHWC and women clergy in her own words.

I became the Nazarene representative to WHWC in April 2006, following Vicki Copp. The first meeting I attended was held at the end of the Come to the Water conference in San Diego. Suzie Stanely, the founder of WHWC, read her letter of resignation to the WHWC board at that meeting. This became a pivotal moment in WHWC history: we were faced with a time of transition for the organization that necessitated changes within the organizational structure.

Later in June 2006, the WHWC board met in Kansas City, hosted by the Church of the Nazarene. An organizational consultant met with the board to help direct the changes necessary for the WHWC to move forward in the future. Many of us who were present when Suzie resigned thought we were simply the next planning committee for the 2008 Come to the Water conference. We quickly learned that we were, legally, the Board of Directors and governing body of WHWC. Officers were elected for the organization during the June meeting. I was the only one who seemed to know how to read a spreadsheet; I was elected Treasurer. At the time, I was not aware of all that this position would entail. Not only do I keep track of the financial information for WHWC, but I am also responsible for filing all legal documents for the organization on an annual basis, including taxes and registration documents.

WHWC has come a long way since 2006, moving up to the next level of organization and functioning. Now we operate in a new way, with the Board of Directors acting as the governing body, giving direction to vision and leadership. The Board of Directors has committees that help fulfill the vision of WHWC. One of these committees, with representatives from each denomination, plans the Come to the Water conferences. Joy Wisehart, a Nazarene chaplain in Indiana, is the current representative to the Come to the Water planning committee. We are working on adding a second Nazarene to the planning committee for the next conference. We now have an official representative on the Board, a representative on the Come to the Water planning committee, and the involvement of more volunteers in the planning process. It is a good change!

WHWC is currently working to expand our e-mentoring program, our international programs, and our academic programs. Since Come to the Water 2008, we have had more people volunteer to become an active part of WHWC. The Board of Directors will be meeting together at the Salvation Army National Headquarters this fall and will be moving on to work on these initiatives.

These first two years have been a lot of work in reorganization, but we are excited to see where we go from here! I am grateful that I am able to represent the Church of the Nazarene on this board at this time. To our knowledge, this is the last functioning association of holiness churches in the United States and Canada. We, women, have a vision for what God can do through us as we are unified for Him!

Vicki Copp and Carla Sunberg

www.NazarenePastor.org
Allyson Jule and Bettina Tate Pedersen have gathered together a comprehensive look at the multi-faceted world of what it means to be Christian and how that journey is effected by gender.

While each individual bears challenges as part and parcel of a Christian walk, this book looks specifically at the issues facing women, and how “Being Feminist, Being Christian” is not as oxymoronic as many presuppose. Through a variety of essays, the book illuminates the many reasons why being a feminist and Christian are complementary.

Many women in the church skirt the issue of being a feminist because of the negative overtones assigned by the culture to being a feminist. The detriment here is that this silence stymies much-needed discussion and dialogue.

As stated in the title, this is a book written by those serving in academia. At times it offers an idealized perspective in somewhat intellectual language. The challenge will indeed be for those concepts to work their way down and translate into the daily grind women encounter as they serve the Lord Jesus in the Church. However, the rationale offered for the notions of being a Christian who is a feminist (or feminist who is a Christian) are both strong and compelling.

For more information about Jule and Pedersen’s book, click here.


Margie Bryce serves as the senior pastor at Attica United Methodist in Attica, Michigan. She is also a Professor of Bible and Theology for Nazarene Bible College online.

The Wesleyan Center for 21st Century Studies at Point Loma Nazarene University has an e-journal, called Susanna, devoted to the work and witness of Christian women, in the spirit of Susanna Wesley. You may visit the Susanna e-journal by clicking here, or visiting the Wesleyan Center at Point Loma Nazarene University’s website.
In the late 20th century, increasing numbers of Wesleyan women were being called into full-time ministry, but fewer women were being placed in church leadership positions. This decline disturbed Dr. Susie Stanley, and a dream began to be born in her heart and mind. In 1987, Dr. Stanley was an ordained minister in the Church of God (Anderson) and professor of Church History and Women’s Studies at Western Evangelical Seminary. She began talking to people in a variety of Wesleyan-Holiness denominations about an international gathering with the objectives (1) to encourage women clergy and (2) to recover the rich heritage of women in ministry in the Wesleyan-Holiness movement.

In November 1991, Dr. Stanley was a guest speaker at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. She dialogued with NTS students at a “Women in Ministry” meeting. She had conversations with Dr. Stan Ingersol, Archivist for the Church of the Nazarene, and met with Dr. Wilbur Brannon, then Directors of Pastoral Ministries for the Church the Nazarene. They discussed the possibilities of a women clergy conference and decided to seek support from Wesleyan-Holiness denominations.

When Dr. Brannon sent letters to six denominations, inviting them to help sponsor a conference to benefit women in professional ministry, five responded positively. Subsequently, the Salvation Army (U.S.A.–Western Territory) also joined in a supportive role.

With seed money from the five sponsoring denominations, the Planning Committee met in the fall of 1992 and in May 1993 to prepare for the first Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy Conference. One representative from each denomination served on the Planning Committee: Nina Gunter (Church of the Nazarene), Bonnie Brann (Free Methodist), Shirley Cathie (Church of God [Anderson]), Retha McCutchen (Evangelical Friends, International), and Lois Watkins (The Wesleyan Church). Dr. Stanley served as convener.

The dream of this first ever Wesleyan/Holiness women clergy conference became reality on April 14-17, 1994, in Glorieta, New Mexico. It was organized around the theme: “Come to the Water: A Celebration of Our Call.” And 103 Nazarene women clergy came! They were a large part of nearly 400 clergywomen from 14 denominations and movements, from several countries who participated.

Dr. Nina Gunter, then Director of NWMS and now General Superintendent preached Friday night on “Hearing Our Call Clearly.” Five of the workshop leaders on Friday and Saturday were Nazarene clergywomen: Rebecca Laird, Phyllis Perkins, Susan Downs, Janet Williams, and Nita Ridley.

The moving of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Wesleyan clergywomen that weekend rippled across their several denominations and beyond. It showed up through glowing reports in Christianity Today (May 16, 1994), Christian Century (June 29–July 6, 1994), Herald of Holiness (August 1994), GROW (Summer 1994), as well as in periodicals of other participating denominations.

By consensus, the Come to the Water confeerees voted to have another conference in two years. I was invited to be the Nazarene representative on the Planning Committee for continued on page 5. Come to the Water
continued from page 4. *Come to the Water*

the 1996 conference, which was held in Indianapolis.

In succeeding years, Nazarene clergywomen who served on the *Come to the Water* Planning Committee were:

Dr. Judith Schwanz for the 1998 conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Janine Metcalf with Dr. Schwanz for the 2000 conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

Dr. Janine Metcalf for the 2002 conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Dr. Vicki Copp for the 2004 conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the 2006 conference in San Diego, California.


*Come to the Water* today is more organized and wider in scope and vision than that first conference in 1994. Yet, the Spirit that fueled that beginning dream continues to inspire oncoming generations of Wesleyan clergywomen and challenge their supporting denominations.

*Phyllis Perkins is Professor Emerita at Nazarene Bible College in Colorado Springs, Colorado.*
Biblical Foundations Still Influence Women in Ministry

Kelly Diehl Yates

When Mary Magdalene encountered the risen Christ, He told her to go and tell His brothers what she had seen and heard. Without hesitation she ran. She told. She preached the first message of Christ's resurrection to those who were hidden away, afraid of persecution.

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fell and those in the Upper Room saw the Spirit descend as tongues of fire filling both men and women. They rushed into the streets, unable to contain their joy. The group who had been afraid now boldly preached in the same city where Jesus had been crucified. As Peter stood before the crowd, he quoted Joel 2:28-29, "I will pour out my spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy . . . even on my servants both men and women will I pour out my spirit in those days." Not only was this preached, but it was practiced that day as women preached the message of Christ's resurrection alongside men.

When Phoebe Palmer (1807-1874), known as the "Mother of the Holiness Revival," professed an "inward baptism of pure fire" after attending the Tuesday Meetings for the Promotion of Holiness, she preached. Her fiery messages proclaimed across the United States and the British Isles: in camp meetings and conferences lit a fire that burns today. We call this fire the Holiness Movement. From this movement the Church of the Nazarene sprung.

Although she used many passages to support a woman's right to minister, Phoebe often returned to Acts 2 as the foundation. In her book, The Promise of the Father, she quotes Acts 2:16-17, claiming that the Spirit given to all flesh gives all who are called the right to preach.

It was to a conference not so unlike those that Phoebe preached where Holiness women clergy gathered April 11-13, 2008, in Nashville, Tennessee. Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy, an organization of eight denominations, including the Church of the Nazarene, hosts a conference, Come to the Water, every other year. The conference this year drew together over 500 women to worship, pray, learn, network, and fellowship. Kim Rosfeld, Minister of Worship Arts at Oklahoma City First Church of the Nazarene, and a first time attendee of the conference writes:

It was the most meaningful weekend in my ministerial life. I was able to focus on my calling and my place in the Kingdom of God. One of the most meaningful times was the prayer labyrinth. I was able to have a deep time of communication with the Father in a unique setting. I also enjoyed the wonderful time of fellowship around tables and in hotel rooms with women who have felt the call of God on their lives. It is something that I would encourage every clergywoman to attend.

While doing research for this article, I encountered story after story of women in the Holiness movement who preached the Gospel after being filled with the Spirit. While attending Come to the Water 2008, I heard the same stories. Jesus calls. The Holy Spirit falls. Both sons and daughters prophesy. Go and preach, my sisters. The Scripture supports you and so does your heritage.

Kelly L. Yates is Adjunct Professor of Theology and Ministry at Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, Oklahoma, and Small Groups Pastor at Oklahoma City First Church of the Nazarene.
Devotional Thoughts:
Letters from Come to the Water

Vicki Copp

The following are fictional letters from Vicki to her daughters, Mackenzie and Megan, who were eight and seven at the time of the first Come to the Water Conference.

April 1994

Dear Mackenzie and Megan,

Pastor Nancy and I are having a great time in New Mexico with about 400 other women pastors. She is a fun roommate! Mommy is getting some help in understanding what God wants me to do about my call to preach. Sometimes it is not easy to know what God wants you to do.

Pictures of women clergy from lots of different churches from long ago hanging all around the meeting room. Seeing those pictures made me realize that I was not so unusual; God will show me what to do. The women here have a lot in common and tell each other stories about our lives and pray for each other. It is very encouraging! There are also lots of cool books—about women pastors—like I have never seen before. I’m bringing some of them home.

Hope you are having fun with Daddy while I am gone. I know Mommy has been really busy this past year with her classes and work at church. You girls have been really understanding and have made me very proud. Can you still sing the Greek alphabet I taught you? Be good for Daddy and enjoy eating at McDonald’s!

Love you,
Mom

April 1998

Dear Mackenzie and Megan,

Do you miss me? San Antonio is a fun place! Maybe we should come here on vacation some time. There is a river that runs through the town with shops on both sides and boats that travel along them. When we have breaks from our meetings we all go out and enjoy the sights. We went to see the Alamo—cool!

I have been having fun seeing old friends and meeting new ones. A group of us went out to eat at a Mexican place and had a great time. I wondered if the waiter could have imagined that the table was full of Nazarene women clergy. I saw Norma, a friend who was in seminary with Daddy. She interpreted the services for a group of Spanish-speaking women who are attending the conference. I met a woman, Judi, who is a pastor’s wife like me. She has her doctor’s degree. There are a lot of very smart women here.

One of the exciting things about this conference is that I get to be with women clergy from other denominations. There are Salvation Army women in their uniforms, Church of God women, Free Methodist women, and lots more. We have so much in common and are having fun learning about each others’ churches.

I’ll see you when I get home.

Love you,
Mom

Vicki Copp is the Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of Supervised Ministries. She also serves a co-editor of New Horizons.
April 2000

Hey girls,

I know this is a hard time for me to be gone, but I will be back soon. Jacksonville is muggy and hot and you wouldn’t believe this crazy hotel! The place is a mess, but we are still having a good time. Actually, this has been a good place for me to process our move and Dad’s new District Superintendent job. I have enjoyed rooming with Janine. She is a hoot! My workshop on worship went well according to my friend Susan. Thanks for praying for me.

I have heard some very painful stories at this conference. There are lots of women who have had a really hard time trying to follow their calls to ministry. Some of them can’t get ministry jobs; others have jobs but are not allowed to preach. It is very hard to hear their pain and it makes me want to do something to help.

See you soon.

Love you,
Mom

April 2004

Meg and Kenzie,

Hope you are enjoying being with Dad while I am gone, Meg. How is Point Loma, Kenzie? I am working hard. The conference is very different when you are on the board. It is kind of like camp meeting when you are the district superintendent! I spend most of my time working with those involved in the worship services, but it is going really well and I have gotten very positive responses to the music. The choirs we invited were a big hit and I was able to see a former music professor who is now directing the women’s choir at Mount Vernon. I miss the relaxed conversations with the other women, but I smile and wave as I hurry past them. I suppose this is the price of leadership.

I gotta go.

Love you,
Mom

April 2008

Girls,

Greetings from Nashville! Hope school is going well. It was great having you in Kansas City over spring break. Dad and I are enjoying the conference. This year we are hanging together since I am not on the board. It feels kind of strange. It is fun seeing old friends and meeting new ones who are in theological education like me. Guess what, I got drafted to do a workshop on preaching! The presenter got stuck in the airport so I pulled together a panel and we made it work.

It is fun seeing the people I’ve worked with over the last four years on the board. They are working hard, and so is Carla, who assumed my position. I have also enjoyed seeing some of our NTS students who have graduated and are now pastoring churches. The conference is such an encouragement to them and allows them to see their former classmates.

I hope someday that you girls will be able to attend with us.

Love you,
Mom

April 2006

Megan and Mackenzie,

Dad and I are enjoying your great weather in San Diego, wish you guys were able to get away from campus to visit the conference. I haven’t seen Dad much since I am working with the worship services again. It is kind of weird having Dad with me at the conference, but it is so encouraging to our women to have the Director of Clergy Development here. They know that he is concerned about women clergy in the Church of the Nazarene and his being here allows him to hear their stories.

There are a lot of PLNU people here helping. Sylvia was able to get a stained-glass backdrop like you guys had at camp. It looks great! We are having a meeting of Nazarene women and are going to celebrate communion together. It has never been done at this conference before and I am looking forward to it. Concert Choir is coming to sing for us on Saturday.

We’ll see you Sunday afternoon.

Love you,
Mom.
Come to the Water: 2008

Compiled by Stefanie Hendrickson

Come to the Water conference, hosted by Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy in Nashville, Tenn. April 11-13, 2008 was an opportunity for enrichment, encouragement, and empowerment. Women clergy of all ages and roles came together to worship God and rest at Jesus’ feet. Everyone, including those who have attended every Come to the Water conference and those who first attended in Nashville, left transformed by God. Take a moment and read about those encounters:

What did you experience at Come to the Water?

I experienced the blessing of connecting with women of sister denominations who I don’t see any other time, and of re-connecting with women I have grown to love but only get to see in person every 2 years at this conference. This conference also brought for me a new awareness of the blessing of interaction across generational lines, as I met with college students, young mothers with new babies, and 70-year-old women still serving in ministry roles, and people of every age in the middle. Each has a unique gift to bring to our times together and to our service to God.

Judi Schwanz

Come to the Water was a wonderful time of personal renewal and healing for me, as well as a wonderful time for making connections with other women clergy. I found the workshops to be very relevant and interesting. God spoke to me the whole weekend through workshops, conversations, and worship services about His desire to deliver me from anxiety. I began to experience His healing that weekend, and continue to live into it now.

Mindy Hancock

More than anything, the Come to the Water conference was encouraging. It reminded me of my calling to preach and to pastor, affirmed that calling as spoken by God, and challenged me to keep trusting the One who called me. Being around so many women clergy from so many places is also very powerful. At that conference were women who have encouraged me at every step in my journey of faith. I don’t often have the chance to share with them, to rejoice at how God has taken us further, and to feel supported for the challenges of the present and future. Worshipping with them, partaking of the bread and cup together, and being sharpened by their iron is always a privilege and it’s lots of fun, too!

Christa Klosterman

I had a wonderful time with the women in ministry from my district, The New England District. I was able to have a time of sharing with one of the more experienced pastors whom I really admire. We mutually encouraged one another. I was enriched by all the workshops and sessions I attended. I volunteered at the conference for the first time. This was my third Come to the Water conference.

Marcella L. Charles

I was a little nervous at first going because I did not know anybody other than Carla and Annette from Grace Point. That changed immediately at dinner, I meet some wonderful pastors from the Nazarene churches in Ohio. It was fascinating to hear the stories they had from their churches. I was able to gain some great ideas from other women in the ministry.

Sandy Grogloth

I came to Come to the Water weary and in desperate need of refreshing. I was discouraged by many things, largely relating to my broken body. From the drive down to Nashville with a dear sister in the Lord, God began speaking to me. I could, in a sense, feel His presence in every space, in every session, in every conversation. I had some very intimate conversations with God, and some intense ones with sisters and even a brother in Christ. This was my second time at Come to the Water, and both times I’ve come away renewed, affirmed in the ministry to which God has called me, and freshly anointed. I have already announced that I have every intention of being at the next one, if the Lord allows me to take part.

Jenny Mitchell

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The Come to the Water conference was a great experience for me. The fellowship was great, but beyond that it was a time of confirmation. It was awesome to be with all the other women called by God to preach and pastor. I have felt alone so much of the time, but not anymore.

Genell Knisley

How did the Come to the Water conference shape you?

The Come to the Water conference is always a time of encouragement and blessing to me. The opportunity to see so many women gathered to worship together, to become better equipped for ministry, to experience an affirmation of their gifts and calling and to connect with one another is unlike anything else I ever get to do!

Judi Schwanz

It caused me to re-affirm my call to preach and disciple. It encouraged me as a pastor. It motivated me to strive for excellence in my ministry.

Marcella L. Charles

I felt my burdens being lifted. I joined with others as we cast our cares on Jesus. What a freeing thing to know He cares for the deep, painful, confusing, and difficult parts of my life. I think I keep coming back to this conference because Come to Water is the best community I have found in helping me trust God with the messes of life and ministry. Casting my cares alongside other women who understand was very meaningful.

One other significant realization I had while I was there—the women present at the conference included a woman from two of the Nazarene churches I attended in the past, a woman from a church I formerly pastored, a woman from the church I am currently pastoring, a woman from my sister’s church, and two women who minister to the church my parents attend. These women I am connected with are from five different states and a Canadian province! God is calling and filling his church with women clergy—I was very clearly reminded of it!

Christa Klosterman

The worship times were so rich. Every song that was sung and every speaker that shared—just a wonderful time of sharing together as we came to the foot of the Throne. I already have my calendar set for 2010. I’ll be there with bells on!

Genell Knisley

This conference is always such a time of renewal. The fellowship with other women in ministry is so rich. It’s a place where I can let my guard down—these are “my people.” It feels much like a family reunion to me.

We had wonderful sessions and times of worship. I love to hear my peers preach. We come ready to hear from the Lord and it is always a blessing.

Susan Armstrong

Even managing my little 5-week-old son, I still felt renewed! (I never knew he could have so many surrogate moms and grandmas!) After being an associate pastor for several years, I’m looking to make the transition to a senior pastor position, and in that process I’m confronted with a lot of insecurities. Hearing MaryKate Morse’s message on “Release” helped me to let go of those and hear the truth from the Lord!

Deanna McCleskey

This was my first conference. I started the course of study about four years ago and will be finished in 18 months. The speakers and workshops filled me with a sense of inner renewal and revival. I loved sitting at meal times and listening to the enthusiasm of the young women that were there. I felt that God has placed the future of many of our churches in very capable and willing hands. I also was encouraged by the number of women my age (not quite so young) who have walked this path before me and were so open with their encouragement and their prayers. What a wonderful few days I experienced and I plan to make it a part of my schedule in the future.

Rhonda Bare

continued on page 11 Come to the Water: 2008
I experienced healing, renewal, and the joy of being with women who understand where I'm at both personally and professionally. I was inspired by the examples and faithfulness of the older women and the sheer number of the younger women. At both of my Come to the Water experiences I have sensed God's own joy at the faithful response of His daughters who answer His call no matter the cost.

Mindy Hancock

This conference changed me in a way that I did not expect to happen. It was during the second day of the conference, I felt God telling me not to get to comfortable at what I was doing. I was a little scared because I knew what happened the last time I had one of these feelings, I ended up going into the ministry. It was a feeling God was preparing me for something else in my life. I do not know if it is something with Children's Ministries or some other type of ministry. I know whatever God has planned He will direct me in the direction I need to go. I am thankful I serve a loving God.

Sandy Grogloth

The next Come to the Water conference is planned for April 15-18, 2010 in St. Louis, Missouri at the Millennium Hotel. Mark your calendars today!

Stefanie