

WOMEN MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT April 2019 – March 2020  
by Nan Lingenfelter Leadership Team President [nlingenfelter@charter.net](mailto:nlingenfelter@charter.net)

We had a blessed and full ministry year; here are the highlights.

**Northern Retreat at Pilgrim Pines, New Hampshire.** We welcomed 126 women on September 20-22, 2019. We were thrilled when speaker and author **Tessa Afshar** spoke about *Royal Daughters*. Her insights from growing up in Iran and her family background gave us an unique picture of life in the 'East' and what it means to have a loving father. Breakouts: B.L.E.S.S. by Nan Lingenfelter, Crescendo by Susan Scott, Me on a Mission Trip? God's Will! Gods Plan! by Sandy Gannon, Money Matters by Mayra Sanchez, and Prayer: Learning to Listen by Lauren Watka and Jenny Currier. We had warm weather and a fun tea with Tessa Afshar where we learned about her writing process. We all enjoyed snacks, a campfire, and some took time out for a movie. We laughed and cried as women shared what God taught them during the weekend.



**Southern Retreat at Sandy Cove, Maryland.** Wonderful sunny weather shined on our small but committed group of women on September 27 – 29, 2019. We learned from **Pastor Cathy Stanley-Erickson** about “Messy Faith.” *When life doesn't go according to plan.* Breakouts: Faith and Your Phone by Annette Bannister, Parenting: Past, Present, and Future by Donna Trumbower, and Sharing



Your Faith Story by Nan Lingenfelter. We all enjoyed getting to know one another, fun snacks, and having an in-depth tea talk on topics of adoption, loss, and life's challenges. We laughed during fellowship times and raised our voices in worship. Endearing conversations were held as women strolled by the Chesapeake Bay. Women were strengthened by joining together.

**Annual Spring Celebration:** On April 6, 2019 we had 54 women gather at Monadnock Covenant Church in Keene, New Hampshire. **Jenna Frost** spoke about *God of Women* and shared how Eve, Hagar, Miriam, Deborah, Mary, and Martha are proclaimers of the Spirit's enduring presence and how they teach us about God's character and love as well as our own identity. Breakouts included: Advocates for Victims of Abuse with Diane Riley, Parenting with Sheryl Duncan, Prayer with Wendy Smyth, and Seafarers Mission with Cheryl Hamel. Different churches host this “rotating” one-day conference to build leadership, expand teaching skills, and develop younger women.

**AVA Advances:** Advocacy for Victims of Abuse – Our new AVA Coordinator **Natasha Martinez** from Promise Land Church (Bronx, NY) is awaiting training. She looks forward to working with churches in this ministry of education, training, and healing. [Montanezn80@gmail.com](mailto:Montanezn80@gmail.com)



**Triennial IAM:** July 18-21 Minneapolis, Minnesota. There were 25 East Coast women

who attended this conference? We were pleased that 14 women from the East Coast Conference came to our reception on July 18 for food, fellowship, and a WM update. The 800 women who gathered loved the speakers, breakouts, exhibits, bookstore, excursions, and so much more. You can go to the website [iam.covchurch.org](http://iam.covchurch.org) and listen to the sessions.

Our **German Global Guests**, Stephanie Voland and Astrid Schwabe visited us from July 10 to July 18 and were hosted by Christ Covenant in Harleysville, PA, Movement Covenant in Staten Island, NY, Church of the Resurrection in NYC, NY, The Covenant Church in Thomaston, CT, Evangelical Covenant Church in Springfield, MA, and Pilgrim Covenant in Lundenburg, MA. They enjoyed the Broadway play Aladdin, the Norman Rockwell Museum, lunch at Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA, a tour of Pilgrim Pines, Swanzey, NH and all the special efforts women went to for their housing, meals, and special church gatherings.



**Financially:** We level fund events; consider a once a year offering for WM.

**The Leadership Team:** We welcome your feedback on ministry leaders, topics, ideas, as well as feedback on our **website [www.eccwm.org](http://www.eccwm.org)** which is constantly being updated. We are putting online current and past *News from Nan*, our **quarterly newsletter**. This is sent to our **Church WM Contacts** and each church office. If you missed seeing this posted in your church, mention it to your church office. If you are new to the Evangelical Covenant Church, you can see past issues to see how God has been leading us.

**Connecting with You and Conference Leaders:** The Lord has been so good at helping us connect women together. I love discussing with women how they can assess the needs of the women at their church and then take them one step further. I have lots of energy and commit my nights and weekends to be available to women to **meet in person or over the telephone**. Please let me know of special events with your women. I love seeing what God is doing in your midst. My heart is in evangelism and discipleship and seeing women come to faith through friendships. Call me any day after 3 pm when I am done teaching my high school history classes to discuss leading and outreach.

My highlight of the year is when I travel to gather with the other **WM conference presidents** for training. These wise, experienced women have so much to share. We fill a weekend with every minute of learning and dive directly into difficult topics. We also meet monthly for Zoom meetings to keep up to date on ministries of women in the Covenant, discuss books, and learn from one another.

### 2019 Financial Report

|  | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>Net</u> |
|--|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| AVA  | \$0.00        | \$0.00          | \$0.00     |
| Spring Celebration   | \$1,610.00    | \$1,509.97      | \$100.03   |
| Fall Retreats  |               |                 |            |
| Southern Retreat   | \$7,800.00    | \$8,747.50      | (\$947.50) |
| Northern Retreat*  | \$3,100.00    | \$1,544.21      | \$1,555.79 |
| * Deposit of \$2,493.75 for 2019 Northern Retreat was sent in 2018 and is not included in the 2019 expenses. |               |                 |            |
| Global Guests  | \$2,618.88    | \$3,539.87      | (\$920.99) |
| East Coast WM Admin.   | \$1,954.88    | \$2,312.79      | (\$357.91) |
| S.I.M. **<br>(Special Interest Missionary)   | \$100.00      | \$0.00          | \$100.00   |
| Totals   | \$17,183.76   | \$17,654.34     | (\$470.58) |

\*\*The Special Interest Missionary program of the Evangelical Covenant Church Women Ministries has been concluded. We encourage you to support the missionaries that your individual church supports. The money collected in 2019 for S.I.M. will be used for the AVA program.

**Thank You:** This volunteer team dedicates many hours of work so His Kingdom will be advanced. Ministry Leadership Team of 2019: **Valerie Baker** as Financial Secretary in East Hampton, CT, **Cristina Ferri** as Graphics Designer in Cranston, RI, **Ann Quinn** as Treasurer in Cromwell, CT, **Melissa Martino** as VP in Staten Island, NY, and **Marilyn Mears** as Secretary in Sharon, MA. We will miss Melissa Martino as she steps down. Please pray for volunteers as our treasurer and vice-president. We have monthly Zoom meetings on the first Tuesday of the month. We welcome our **new AVA Coordinator** to our Team in 2020, **Natacha Martinez** of Promise Land Church, Bronx, NY. Contact her at [natachamartienz.avamail@gmail.com](mailto:natachamartienz.avamail@gmail.com).

~~2020 Spring Celebration Christ Covenant Church, Harleysville, PA May 2. Speaker Cathy Bruce.  
Pilgrim Pines Retreat, Swanzey, NH, September 18-20. Speaker Tammy Gerhard.  
Skycroft Retreat Center, Middletown, Maryland, September 25-27. Speaker Billie Cash~~

**UPDATE : SAVE THE DATE FOR 2021 Retreats**

**Northern Retreat** at Pilgrim Pines in New Hampshire on **September 17-20, 2021.**  
**Southern Retreat** at Skycroft in Maryland on **September 24-26, 2021.**

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EAST COAST CONFERENCE WOMEN MINISTRIES