



August 2019
Volume 32, Issue 4

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FB-SWO Board

President:

Tracy Moffatt

tracymoffatt@aol.com

Vice President:

Lisa Klima

lisamarie274@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Donna Person

dperson7@aol.com

Treasurer:

Laurie Nelson

nlsnlaur@yahoo.com

Tidbits from Tracy



As I write this, a “milestone” birthday for me looms just a few days away. It is surely a time to reflect on years past – way too many years past – but also a time to look ahead. I find myself wondering if it is now time I finally grow up - or maybe it is just time I accept that somewhere along the way I *actually* did grow but have chosen to ignore that fact. What I do know is that in my walk with Jesus I am still growing and that will never stop. I also know that when I reflect on my journey, I see WELCA shaping me as a woman, a leader, and a Christian. What a powerful organization we are part of!

At the Synod Assembly in June I had the opportunity to give a WELCA report to the entire body. With great joy I shared how WELCA had influenced my life – how I first met WELCA. I'd like to share a portion of that speech with you.

Women of the ELCA or WELCA, as most of us know it, has been an important part of my life for a long time. My first contact with a WELCA group or circle or whatever you might choose to call it today was at a small church in Antioch, IL. I had just moved there, leaving a church three times the size where I was very involved with a young adult ministry group – if it had a WELCA Unit I never knew it.

I felt a bit uneasy entering that small church on Sunday but was quickly greeted by the Pastor's wife who even let me sit in her pew! After the service she introduced me to several ladies and one said you must come to our WELCA Circle this week – I can honestly say I had NO clue what she was talking about – but of course, I said yes!!

A few days later I showed up for “Circle” and was handed a copy of Lutheran Women Today Magazine which contained the Bible Study we used that evening. Here I was not even 30 years old sitting around a table with a bunch of “old” ladies, most of whom could have been my grandmother or at least my mom, and feeling more at home than I ever had at a church. Feeling ALIVE.

Over the next several years I would share so many experiences with these WELCA ladies – making banners for the Confirmands, leading the Bible study, assembling kits for LWR, helping in the kitchen every so often, leading worship, and most importantly, growing strong in my faith and sense of mission.

My career saw me transferred to Cape Coral in 1997 and I arrived with a list – straight from Google – of Lutheran Churches to visit – but only if they had a WELCA group! My boss was in the Rotary with an Associate Pastor from Christ Lutheran Church and suggested I visit there. Before that first Sunday came, the Pastor stopped in and extended a personal invitation to come and added – my wife is in the Miriam Elizabeth WELCA Circle that meets in the evenings – you'll have to check that out!

I visited only one church on my list and have been a member of Christ, Cape Coral for over 20 years and yes, I joined the Miriam Elizabeth Circle. Feeling ALIVE – continuing my faith journey, serving in so many ways, and eventually getting involved in the SWO – or Synodical Women's Organization also known as the Synod-wide WELCA. I started as a workshop presenter, then board member and officer, Fall Gathering Co-Chair, even a reluctant youth leader, and today I stand before you as their President!

Tidbits from Tracy continued from page 1

Yes, my story could be your story – you could be the one being called to leadership now; you could be the one inviting a young woman to your Circle; or you could be the one encouraging another woman in her faith journey. This November my term as your President will be ending – another “milestone”. I will leave this role with great sadness but also with great excitement for the woman who will be elected to serve our organization going forward. I know the joy she will experience, the support she will have, and the growth she will experience.

I pray each of you will consider taking a journey, being open to the Lord’s work, and becoming a part of the leadership of our great SWO. Your journey will be different than mine...but it will be a wonderful one.

Your Sister in Christ,
Tracy Moffatt

Calling all Seminarians...

ELCA Fund for Leaders
for this church and for our future

Our Florida Bahamas Synodical Fund for Leaders in Scholarship wants to help with your seminary expenses!!!

The Fund for Leaders Scholarship Application for the 2021-2021 academic year is available on our website, www.flwelca.com. The deadline is midnight, January 1, 2020. Applications should be submitted to **Tracy Moffatt**, SWO President, 1944 Crestview Way, Naples, FL 34119 or electronically to tracymoffatt@aol.com.

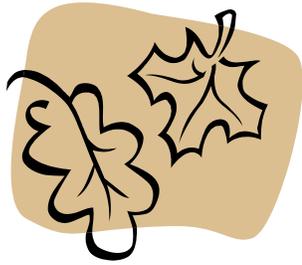
The scholarship will be awarded by the decision of the FL-BA SWO board at their February Board Meeting each year using the following criteria:

- The applicant must be a student in the candidacy process attending one of the eight ELCA seminaries in either the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts program, or a student in an approved extension program of one of the ELCA seminaries and be enrolled in an approved program, such as the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program.
- Preference will be given to residents of the Florida-Bahamas Synod.
- Preference will be given to female applicants.
- Preference will be given to an active member of a congregational unit of the Women of the ELCA.
- Applicant should exhibit faith qualities that empower others.
- Applicant should demonstrate leadership qualities in church and the community.

Thank you, Florida-Bahamas Women of the ELCA, for your generous support of our Fund for Leaders Scholarship! It is your financial support that allows us to make scholarships available which, in turn, reduce the amount of debt our recipients will have after leaving seminary. If you would like to donate to the Fund for Leadership Scholarship, please send your donation to our Treasurer, **Laurie Nelson** at 22223 Buffalo Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33952. Be sure to indicate that it is for the Fund for Leaders Scholarship.



Plus One - At the November Fall Gathering, new circles will be recognized that have formed in the past year. Has a new circle been formed in your church, conference, or area? Contact **Donna Person** at dperson7@aol.com and include the name of your new circle, your church's name and location, and a brief summary that describes the mission or purpose of your circle. Each new circle will be acknowledged and its representative will receive a Plus One patch to affix to their banner.



**FALL
GATHERING
2019
NOVEMBER 8-10**

“Come to the Table”



“Come here....and take your place at the table” Luke 17:7

Have you made your reservation for your place at our Fall Gathering table? It isn't too late; there is still room for you at one of our tables at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center in Leesburg November 8-10!

The menu for this year's Fall Gathering includes:



- * Worship
- * Bible Study
- * Workshops
- * Fellowship
- * Elections & other business
- * Table Games
- * Tying quilts for LWR
- * Making new friends
- * Reconnecting with old friends

Online registration for this year's Fall Gathering, including workshop information, is available at www.flwelca.com. The forms are also available for those who want to mail in their registration forms.

Registration costs include two nights lodging in a motel style room and six meals along with materials and snacks. Consider bringing your granddaughter, niece, daughter, or cousin as a Youth Shepherd will be there for the Youth (5th grade – college). There are grants, Share the Spirit and Let Your Light Shine (youth), available on a first come basis. Forms for the grants are available on the website (www.flwelca.com).

We hope to see you there!

**Ann English &
Phyllis Wade**
Fall Gathering Co-Chairs



It's definitely time to register. Use the method that works for you!

Register on-line at www.flwelca.com. Or you can download the appropriate Registration Form (General, Commuter, Workshop Leader, or Youth) from the same spot and mail or email to **Registrar Diane Cummings**. Her address is on the form and her email is sworegistrar1@gmail.com. Voting Members should be registered by October 1 and all the rest of us by October 15th. Make your plans now to join your sisters in the fall! The sooner the better!



Be it resolved...

WELCA can make a difference in so many ways and writing a resolution is one of them. Resolutions call us to action as an organization, give us strength to facilitate change as a group, and empower us to make a difference. Resolutions will be read and acted upon at our Fall Gathering business meetings. Your resolution brings issues that are important to you, your congregational unit, and community to the attention of all women in attendance. Actions taken may include asking all

women to take them back to their own units or even sending it on to the next Triennial Gathering in the form of a memorial. According to the Women of the ELCA website: "Memorials and resolutions can direct future actions of all expression of our organization." The process starts with you...

Resolutions need to be submitted prior to the Fall Gathering - deadline is October 15.

Instructions for writing a resolution, a blank resolution form, and a short sample are available on the FL-BA SWO's website at www.flwelca.com. There is still time to draft a resolution, get your Congregational Unit's approval, and submit before the **October 15, 2019 deadline**.

Resolutions should be sent to the **Chair of the Resolutions Committee, Diane Spicer**, by email at dlsic@juno.com or by the postal service to **Diane Spicer**, 5601 NW Scepter Dr., Port St Lucie, FL 34983. Or you may e-mail the form to the **SWO President Tracy Moffatt** at tracymoffatt@aol.com.



Serving Can Be Fun

The 2019 Nomination Committee is currently seeking candidates for SWO Board positions. Do you want to be part of a great group of women that can multi-task? If your answer is "Yes," there is a place for you on the SWO Board. Come be a part of a group that takes care of business along with sharing a laugh or two along the way.

Serving on the SWO Board offers you the opportunity to make a difference in the church and world while providing life-long friendships and growth experiences. Please prayerfully consider putting your name in for a position.

Open Board positions: 2-year term

President (ecclesiastical ballot)

Secretary

3 Board positions

Elections will be held at the 2019 Fall Gathering at Lake Yale on November 8-10, 2019. Since nominations for President is by ecclesiastical ballot, candidates' names will be written on the ballots by voting members. Nomination forms can be found on our website at: www.flwelca.com under Elections tab. Send completed nomination form to **Chair Denise Beumer** at dbeumer1000@gmail.com. Forms must be received by September 15, 2019.

Nomination Committee

Denise Beumer dbeumer1000@gmail.com

Loraine Van Haecke loraine.vanhaecke@gmail.com

Jackie Haynick jackiehaynick@yahoo.com



Is Your Constitution Updated?

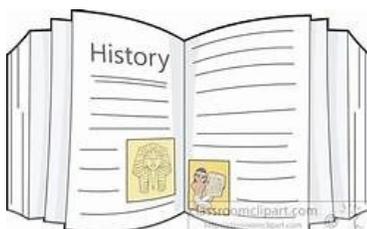
According to the www.womenoftheelca.org, the definition of Constitution is: A legal document that outlines the name, purpose, authority, relationship and financial structure of an organization (churchwide organization, synodical women's organization, congregational or intercongregational unit, special unit).

Our constitutions describe how Women of the ELCA operates as an organization. The constitutions are living documents that explain how we will live our lives together as a community of women created in the image of God. From time to time additions and deletions are made to the constitutions (through the process for change that is laid out in the constitutions themselves), as our circumstances change.

Download the latest versions of the constitutions that reflect changes voted on at the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017). Changes in the constitutions voted into effect at the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017) are reflected below. All changes are effective immediately, as provided for in our constitutions. Congregational and special units and synodical organizations need take no further action on these changes; they need only update their constitutions to reflect these changes.

- ◆ **Model constitution and bylaws for a congregational/intercongregational unit**
In English [PDF](#) | [Word](#)
- ◆ **Constitución modelo y estatutos aprobados unidad congregacional o intercongregacional**
En Español [PDF](#) | [Word](#)
- ◆ **Model constitution and bylaws for a special unit**
In English [PDF](#) | [Word](#)
- ◆ **Constitución modelo y estatutos aprobados unidad especial**
En Español [PDF](#) | [Word](#)
- ◆ **Model constitution and bylaws for a synodical organization**
In English [PDF](#) | [Word](#)
- ◆ **Constitución y estatutos aprobados organización sinodal de mujeres**
En Español [PDF](#) | [Word](#)

Email your updated constitution to *Lisa Klima* at lisamarie274@yahoo.com.



SWO Historian - The role of the Historian is to collect photographs, documents, and memorabilia pertaining to the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization ("SWO"). Share your memories and pictures of special events and activities in your circle, Unit, Conference, and Spring Gathering. Any remembrances and impressions of Fall Gatherings and Triennials would also be appreciated. You can e-mail your photo or document, preferably in a pdf format, to **Donna Person** at dperson7@aol.com or bring it with you to the Fall Gathering.

**Lutheran World Relief
A Change in Mid-Gulf Conference
&
2020 Truck Schedule**



Please note there is a location drop-off site change for the Mid-Gulf Conference. After many years of being the drop off site for all of the churches in the Mid-Gulf Conference, Redeemer Lutheran in Bradenton is no longer able to be the truck pick up site. Our thanks to **Carol Hughes** and all of the volunteers at Redeemer for a job well done. Thank you so much for your labor of love working with Lutheran World Relief as the ingathering resource. You have truly been a blessing.

The new drop off site for the Mid-Gulf Conferences is Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Venice. **Samantha**

Schnittker is their contact person. Thank you Emmanuel for your willingness to serve.

The LWR truck route schedule for all of Florida for 2020 is located on our FL-BA SWO website at: www.flwelca.com — Click on Lutheran World Relief on the left side of the page and scroll down to the LWR Truck Schedule 2020.pdf. Open the file by clicking on the blue arrow on the right so you can print.

Mae Haines
FL-BA SWO Board Member—LWR Coordinator



HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMITTEE ADDITION!

We would like to welcome **Elizabeth Becton** as a new member to the SWO Human Trafficking Committee. Elizabeth lives in Bruce, Florida (Panhandle Conference)

and is a Certified Mental Health Professional with over 20 years of experience, including 6 years as a Victims Services Practitioner. Elizabeth will be able to attend some meetings and seminars in the Panhandle that take place during the daytime. She is a welcome addition to the Committee!

Elizabeth attended “*More Than A Number: A Human Trafficking Seminar*” on July 26 at FSU’s Panama

City Campus. The conference focused on not only recognizing the signs, but what we as individuals can do to eradicate Human Trafficking. Speakers included specialists from across the Panhandle of Florida. The keynote speaker was **Nicole Phillips** of *Lavished*, an organization that works with women who currently work or are transitioning out of the commercial sex industry. We look forward to Elizabeth sharing information with us in a future Tapestry.

Phyllis Wade
Chair, Human Trafficking Committee

Join Us at the Women of the ELCA Gathering



You are invited to experience a life-changing event with other bold women of faith in July 2020.

WHERE? Phoenix, Arizona

WHEN? July 16-19, 2020

“Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice. We are not perfect. We are one body in Christ.”

Registration opens September 30. Early-bird registration through January 6, 2020 is \$325. After that, registration is \$375. Day registration is \$200. Some of you may have registered when you attended the 2017 Gathering or you may have registered during the registration following the Gathering.

Watch for additional information about The Gathering at www.womenoftheelca.org or on our web site www.flwelca.com. If you have questions, please contact me at dlsic@juno.com.

Diane Spicer, TG Promoter



by Gayle Backiel

KEEP GLOBAL MISSION ALIVE!

Members of the Global Mission Committee for Florida Bahama Synod met at the Synod Assembly in June and presented information about all the countries with which we have a relationship. Over two dozen people who attended the Assembly said they would like to get involved in the committee and work with our companion churches.

There are some familiar names for the new Sub Committee Chairs. They are:

Sister Michelle Collins

Leading the Jamaica Team

Marcee Strickland

Chair of Guyana/Surinam Task Force

Congratulations and many thanks to both of you. If you would like to get involved in the work of either of these committees, contact Marcee or Michelle.

The GMC would also like to remind everyone that October 6, 2019 is Global Mission Fund Day. The committee is asking for prayers for our committee and companion churches. They are also hoping churches will have some kind of fund raiser to assist in the work of the missions. The following ideas are an excerpt from the:

FLORIDA BAHAMA SYNOD GLOBAL MISSION NEWSLETTER

- ◆ Have Sunday School, Bible study class, or Youth Group do a display on one or more of our companions – Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Guyana and Suriname
- ◆ Include music from our companion countries (or other countries) in worship service
- ◆ Lift up our companions and the Synod Global Mission committee in the prayer of the church
- ◆ Have a luncheon or social hour following worship to include foods from our companion countries
- ◆ Apply for Thrivent Action Team project and get \$250 to buy foods for a luncheon or social hour and have people donate money that would go to Global Mission Special Projects Fund
- ◆ Take up a *special collection* for Global Mission Special Projects, or a companion project (please contact PJ May for ideas)
- ◆ Invite a former YAGM to do a presentation

Speak with your pastor, church council, worship & music committee or others to start planning now for your congregation and/or conference to increase awareness and keep Global Mission ALIVE!

KATIE'S FUND

Raising up bold women of faith

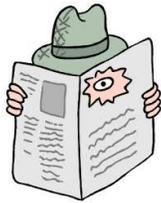
by Marilyn Kreitzinger

Wow! Over \$1.5 million has been collected for Katie's Fund! This life changing ministry fund was established in 1997 and is helping women in three areas: leadership development, living theology and global connections. The goal is to grow and triple that amount by the Triennial convention and gathering in 2020.

I am sure Katie, coming from a humble background, would be amazed to see what has been done in her name. As Martin traveled preaching and lecturing around the area, he did not take payment. And when others came to their home, especially the theology students from the University of Wittenberg, they were not charged for room or board. Katie was an expert in running the financial part of the household. She bought and sold land and livestock, crops, kegs of beer,

and was always looking for good bargains. Because she was a careful steward of the finances, Martin was able to travel and preach. So we, like them, are to be stewards of the funds given to us to help others.

Recent Katie's Fund projects include sending a dozen diverse young women from our church to the Holy Land on a journey of accompaniment and discovery with the ELCA Global Mission and Young Adult Ministry program, Peace Not Walls. It has changed their lives, and as they share what they learned with the rest of the church, our lives are changed. Maybe we can all look around our churches to have a fundraiser for Katie's Fund. Some suggestions are auction baskets or crafts, bake sales, or selling bean soup mix. The list is endless. **Have fun!**



WHERE TO LOOK? TRY PUBLICATIONS!

by Karen Weinrich

Have you checked out the WELCA website lately? It has a wealth of information for all women of the ELCA. Start by going to www.womenoftheelca.org. There you will see many options.



Shop Tools For Leaders Publications Español Contact



DISCIPLESHIP

Under **Ministry & Action**, you will find ways to advocate for justice, promote discipleship, and learn more about stewardship, membership, and scholarships.

JUSTICE

MEMBERSHIP

STEWARDSHIP

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

SCHOLARSHIPS

The **Resources** tab has a large variety of resources in both Spanish and English.

RESOURCES

Lutheran women have a long history of Bible study, discipleship, and desire to deepen their spiritual life and learn about issues.

Women of the ELCA offers free, downloadable program resources—all in English and many in Spanish—to help you grow in faith and engage in ministry and action.

There is also a **blog**, which has a variety of inspirational and thoughtful posts. Some of the most recent include “Your plans are not always God’s plans” and “Show hospitality to strangers.”

Want some WELCA swag? Hit the **shop** button on the top to find jewelry, clothing, and accessories. You can even order swag for next year’s Triennial Convention in Phoenix! Also, the **publications** button will take you to links for all of the Women of the ELCA’s publications, both online and print. This includes *Bold Connections*, *Gather*, *Interchange*, and *Bold Café*. The **tools for leaders** includes a wealth of information for congregational and synodical officers.



Take some time to check out www.womenoftheelca.org! You’ll be amazed at how much is there.



from your Treasurer

Thank you to all the women who have accepted the responsibility of handling financial matters for your units and conferences. I look forward to meeting you at our Fall Gathering. It so exciting that registration is now made easy through our on-line link. (Thank you Cheryl Semmel)

Please be sure to use the proper form when sending in an offering and clearly designate where your funds are to be recorded. Feel free to call, email or text me if you have any questions. You can reach me at nls-nlaur@yahoo.com.

Your Sister in Christ
Laurie Nelson
Treasurer

Book Review



by Laurie Nelson, Treasurer

'STEWARDSHIP' - A BIBLICAL VIEW

What does stewardship look like in our lives today?

I recently read '*Leadership Is Stewardship*' by **Bill Peel**. His essay gave me insight into the biblical idea of stewardship. A biblical world view of stewardship can be consciously defined as: "Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation." Peel suggests that there are four important principles about biblical stewardship

The principle of ownership - The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. This is the fundamental principle of biblical stewardship. God owns everything; we are simply managers or administrators acting on his behalf.

The principle of responsibility - Although God gives us "all things richly to enjoy," nothing is ours. Nothing really belongs to us. God owns everything; we're responsible for how we treat it and what we do with it. While we complain about our rights here on earth, the Bible constantly asks, What about your responsibilities? Owners have rights; stewards have responsibilities.

The principle of accountability - Like the servants in the Parable of the Talents, we will be called to give an account of how we have administered everything we have been given, including our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships, and authority.

The principle of reward - In Colossians 3:23-24 Paul writes: *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*



From the Editor

Making a difference

From the Editor's Desk — Linda Greilick

In the June issue, I presented a Franciscan blessing and discussed making a positive difference in our interactions with our neighbors. While compiling this issue, I realized that our organization offers many avenues for us to make positive differences. We can encourage young women to join us as sisters in Christ. We can present resolutions that help us to make the world around us better. We can serve on the board in our community of women and be called to greater discipleship to engage in much ministry

and action. We can join our sisters in fellowship at our annual Fall Gathering or our Triennial event. We can study social issues and work toward solutions as on the Human Trafficking committee. We can quilt and gather goods for LWR to serve many across the world. We can raise up bold women of faith in our support of Katie's Fund and Fund for Leaders scholarships. We can minister to those globally by sharing God's word with them. We can continue as faithful stewards of the gifts given to us by our Lord. We can truly make a difference in this world with so many actions.

Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization Directory

Executive Board 2019

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
Tracy Moffatt tracymoffatt@aol.com Planning Committee	Lisa Klima lisamarie274@yahoo.com Planning Committee	Donna Person dperson7@aol.com J-Historian	Laurie Nelson nlsnlaur@yahoo.com

Board Members and Missions**

Gayle Backiel rbackiel@verizon.net J-Global Missions	Mae Haines stevemae@verizon.net J-LWR, CWU, Rachel's Day	Debra Lantz dlantz13@tampabay.rr.com S-Love Offering	Anne Storan astoran46@gmail.com D-Conference Coordinator, Plus One
Denise Beumer dbeumer1000@gmail.com J-Anti-Racism, Justice Advocacy	Marilyn Kreitzinger manyjoys2u@gmail.com S-Katie's Fund, Disaster, Scholarship	Cheryl Semmel clsemmsel@gmail.com D-Social Media	Karen Weinrich weinrik@hotmail.com D-Publications

Non-Board Members

<u>Registrar</u> Diane Cummings sworegistrar1@gmail.com	<u>Triennial Promoter</u> Diane Spicer dlsic@juno.com
<u>Tapestry Editor</u> Linda Greilick lindag65@verizon.net	<u>Planning Committee Co-Chairs</u> Ann English aenglish228@yahoo.com
<u>Webmaster/Web Advisor</u> Elaine Heine dheine3@cfl.rr.com	Phyllis Wade secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com
<u>Human Trafficking Committee</u> Phyllis Wade secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com	<u>Facebook Coordinator</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).

A Personal Note:

I would like to thank all my sisters in Christ for their healing prayers, heartwarming cards and calls. It is truly amazing what doctors can do nowadays when it comes to surgical technique. The power of prayer is my pain medicine and I am doing better every day. I should be back to normal (whatever that is) in around 3 months. I am overwhelmed with emotion and so blessed to be a part of a community of women guided by the Holy Spirit and so full of compassion. God's peace be with you all.

Laurie Nelson - FL-BA SWO Treasurer

**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 September 15th for the October issue.**