

September 2007

Dear Friends,

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN) provides this annual packet to assist your congregation as it seeks to bring healing to families affected by domestic violence. If you are not in a position to use this material, please pass it on to your pastor, someone in your congregation or to another congregation. People need to hear that violence is against God's plan for their lives.

The 2007 packet is **Back to the Basics!** This is the 6th year that PADVN has produced a packet for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. During those years, we have covered a number of topics: children who witness the violence, men's involvement in the movement, tough issues that arise in congregations, education and advocacy. Rather than choose a narrow topic this time, we have chosen to go back to the essentials when dealing with the violence that is, too often, part of our members' lives...safety planning, breaking the silence, the power and control dynamics, and identifying ways the church can work with our allies in the community. As always, there are worship materials.

Visit the PHEWA website and see several new additions: www.pcusa.org/phewa

- ❖ The PADVN site is being reconfigured to store our resources and tools under categories, instead of part of the yearly packets. Example: the worship materials will be clustered together - sermons, special services, and liturgy resources will be clearly identified. Only the current packet will remain intact. This should make locating the materials you need easier.
- ❖ The Presbyterian Health Network (PHN) is designing a web-based congregational **Wellness Connection**. We are asking you to register your congregation's health-related ministries, and to spread the word. The goal is to be able to identify which congregations are involved in particular areas of health-related ministry. Looking for information on parish nursing? Go to the directory and contact a congregation directly. The Connection will list various ministries: parish nursing, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, mental illness, etc.
- ❖ The Presbyterian Association for Community Transformation (PACT) is asking interested persons to join their E-Newsletter. If you would like to receive emails periodically on advocacy, news and updates on community transformation, visit the PACT site and subscribe.

As always, PADVN is available to help you as you engage your congregation in the work of making our homes and churches safe sanctuaries.

Sincerely, Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN)