

Highlights

of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

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Wayne Goolsby, Editor

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PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS



The Presbytery of Western Kentucky met for its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, at the Lester Memorial Presbyterian Church at St. Elmo, Kentucky. A delicious brunch buffet awaited members and guests as they enjoyed fellowship with one another.

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier, Moderator of Presbytery.

Worship was led by Rev. Rich Cooper, Executive Presbyter, and Rev. Don Troutman, pastor of Lester Memorial and Highland Presbyterian Churches. Rev. Cooper read from the gospel of St. Luke 22: 7-23. He presented a Communion meditation entitled "Some Common Sense about Communion". Rev. Cooper asked those in attendance "What will you take from the table?" Music was provided by Teresa Meacham Turner, organist at Lester Memorial. Rev. Cooper and Rev. Troutman presented the Elements for the Sacrament of Communion. Communion was served by Lester Memorial Elders Allison Fort, Livy Leavell, Jack Meacham, and Billy Turner.

The Rev. Dr. Charlie Evans, Stated Clerk of Presbytery, presented the Necrology, giving thanks for the lives of the Elders of Western Kentucky Presbytery who had died during 2008. The list included:

2008 Necrology Report

Zeffie Woods	January 3	Murray
Raymond Meacham	January 12	Lester Memorial
Ed Phillips	January 17	Russellville
Edwin Akers	January 29	Owensboro First
Vernon King	March 8	Round Pond
Polly Holt	April 8	Sturgis
Julian (Skip) Henderson	May 8	Bowling Green
William "Rube" Turner	May 13	Lester Memorial
Marjorie Lofton Nussbaumer	July 21	Westminster
Bob Welch	August 18	Madisonville
Robert Cooper	August 23	Paducah First
Mrs. Eula Benson	September 11	Central City
Merle Fowler	September 16	Paducah First
Betty Sue Rich	November 17	Sturgis
Curtis Lee Englebright	November 26	Bowling Green
Jerre Nelson Fitts	November 29	Bowling Green
Robert T. Baxter, Jr.	November 30	Central City
Judge William E. Allender	December 19	Bowling Green
Bryan Ray Muffett	December 22	Bowling Green

Rev. Napier and Rev. Cooper presented to Presbytery Elder Willee Cooper and Rev. James Stahr, nominees for the offices of Moderator and Vice Moderator of Presbytery, respectively, for the year 2009. Following an examination of the two candidates, they were installed into the offices.

Rev. Don Troutman welcomed members and guests of Presbytery to the historic Lester Memorial Church.

Elder Willee Cooper, Moderator, introduced and welcomed corresponding members to Presbytery. They included Rev. Dr. Samford Turner, Rev. Dr. Helen Locklear, and Elder Andi Denney. First-time Elder commissioners were also introduced.

Rev. Dr. Charlie Evans, Stated Clerk of Presbytery, declared a quorum of members present.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Rev. Lon Lorton reported on the status of several individuals. He informed Presbytery that Elder Andi Denney had been received as an inquirer and that Miss Denney will attend the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in the fall of 2009.

Board of Pensions

Rev. Helen Locklear addressed information and sources of additional information related to the Board of Pensions. She also answered several questions from the floor.

Trustees

Reporting for the Trustees, Rev. Rich Cooper presented a motion related to the purchase of a lot adjacent to Central Presbyterian Church in Princeton by the church. The motion carried.

Presbytery of South Alabama (Synod of Living Waters)

Rev. Dr. Samford Turner, Executive Director of the Presbytery of South Alabama, spoke on the connectional aspects of the various Presbyteries of the Synod of Living Waters. Rev. Turner expressed his gratitude to Rev. Rich Cooper for his support of the Presbytery of South Alabama following the devastation

visited on that community by Hurricane Katrina. He also shared a number of things that were going on in the Presbytery of South Alabama.

Rev. Don Troutman asked Grace prior to Presbytery's adjournment for lunch. (The word "lunch" is totally inadequate for the feast the ladies of Lester Memorial prepared and served as our midday meal! Their hospitality was greatly appreciated by all in attendance).

Following the midday meal, Presbytery reconvened.

Committee on Ministry

Rev. David Montgomery presented several motions regarding the clergy of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky. Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery reported on the progress of the Lay Pastor Program. A number of graduates and current students of the program spoke of its importance in their lives and faith journeys. They thanked Rev. Dr. Montgomery for her work and devotion. Rev. Dr. Montgomery informed Presbytery that a new cycle of studies was just beginning and that anyone interested was welcome to become involved.

Finance Committee

Rev. Dr. John Guthrie presented the report of the finance committee, the 2008 year end financials.

Mission Development Committee

Rev. Dr. Jon Faraone thanked Rev. Dr. Anthony Barta for his leadership of the committee during the year 2008 and for the work with the Acts 16:5 program. He promised additional, similar programs to be made known to Presbytery in the near future.

Leadership Development Committee

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis presented a number of opportunities for the youth of Presbytery of Western Kentucky including "Outrageous Generosity" at Camp Kum Ba Yah on April 17-19, 2009, for junior and senior high students to be led by students from Murray State University's outstanding M.O.T.A. (Ministry Open to All) with music provided by the Cornerstone Praise Band from Korean Presbyterian Church; "City Lights/City Sights" to be held in Russellville on June 8-10 for middle school students; the high school mission trip at Bowling Green to be held July 6-10; and two Montreat Youth Conference opportunities entitled "World on Fire" to be held at Montreat June 13-20 and July 19-25, 2009. Rev. Davis urged members of Presbytery to help inform their youth of these events. Flyers were provided for distribution.

Nomination Committee

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis reported that a vacancy for a clergy member was open on the Leadership Development Committee.

Personnel Committee

Rev. David Montgomery reported that during the upcoming sabbatical of Executive Director Rev. Rich Cooper, the needs and concerns of members of Presbytery would be addressed by Moderator Elder Willee Cooper, Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier, Rev. Dr. Charlie Evans, Presbytery Administrative Assistant Lisa Troutman, and the members of the Personnel Committee.

Discernment Task Force

Rev. Dr. Jon Faraone reported that the seven-member task force was progressing well and that they were working on new ways to live together as believers.

Ecumenical & Institutional Relations (Campus Ministry)

Elder Andi Denney reported on activities at MSU's Campus Ministry, including the addition of ten new freshmen members this year! The students will be traveling to John's Island, South Carolina, during spring break to work with Habitat for Humanity. Rev. David Montgomery reported on the financial status of the campus ministry program.

Executive Presbyter's Report

Rev. Rich Cooper thanked Elder Karen Napier for making him a black locust walking stick to be used during his sabbatical this summer. He thanked Rev. Samford Turner for visiting and sharing with Presbytery. He commented on the strength of the Commissioned Lay Pastors Program and the Campus Ministry activities. Rev. Cooper thanked Rev. Dr. Napier for his excellent work as Moderator of Presbytery during 2008. He expressed continued gratitude to Lisa Troutman at the Presbytery Office and to Martha Haynes for ten years' service to the Personnel Committee. Notice was also given to Elder Thelma Baker who recently attended the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Committee on Thanks

Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier called on Rev. Gordon Foltz who reminded Presbytery to be thankful to God "for His love endures forever". Rev. Foltz expressed thanks for all the saints who have gone before; for the new moderator and vice moderator of Presbytery; the noon meal; the Presbytery of South Alabama; Andi Denney and M.O.T.A.; the Commissioned Lay Pastors; and the Lester Memorial Presbyterian Church. "Thanks to the Lord for His goodness and mercy endures forever".

**Presbyterian Historical Society Announces
Spring 2009
Local Church History Seminar**

The Presbyterian Historical Society is pleased to announce the dates for the annual Local Church History Seminar. From April 30 through May 3, 2009, the society will hold its seminar at William Black Lodge in Montreat, North Carolina. The event is designed for persons interested in the management and preservation of records and writing congregation history. The seminar features workshops on Presbyterian history, oral history, researching and writing a church history, managing and preserving congregation records, disaster planning, exhibits, and anniversary celebrations.

The society is pleased to offer a scholarship to one participant from a small church. The scholarship covers the seminar fee and the housing costs. Scholarships are open to congregations that have fewer than 250 members, have been in existence for at least 50 years, and demonstrate financial need.

For additional information about the seminar, scholarships, housing at the William Black Lodge, and for a seminar registration form, visit the society's website at:

<http://www.history.pcusa.org/cong/lchs/index.html>

Or contact us at:

Presbyterian Historical Society
425 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215-627-1852
refdesk@history.pcusa.org

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dukes expressed joy for a young man, Jack Sisson, who passed through the Russellville community on an east-west coast pilgrimage and send a postcard at the end of his journey thanking the Presbyterian Church for helping him along the way

Rev. David Montgomery expressed celebration for a phone call from his son in Kosovo who phoned the Reverends Montgomery during the recent ice storm

Rev. Don Troutman expressed thanks for the connectional church and concern for Elder Jack Meacham who became ill at the Presbytery meeting

Rev. Dr. Jon Faraone expressed concern for the people in his community who had suffered and were still suffering from the effects of the storm; Rev. Faraone reminded the Presbytery that "in a mess, God does His best!"

Thanks were expressed for Rev. Cooper's moving Communion meditation by Rev. Bill Krepps

Bobby Russell gave thanks for the recovery of his wife from recent surgery

Mrs. Martha Haynes asked for prayers for Elder Thelma Baker who was ill and unable to attend Presbytery

Rev. Charlie Evans told of joy inasmuch as the minutes of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky were approved by Synod without exception

Rev. Lon Lorton reported a joy as his congregation and community, hit hard by the recent ice storm, had received assistance from other churches in states far away from Madisonville, Kentucky. He rejoiced in the connectional, ecumenical church

Rev. John Griffith reported on the success of his and Martha Jo Ross' attendance at the January, 2009, Synod meeting

Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier thanked Presbytery for entrusting him with the job of Moderator

Following a hymn, Presbytery adjourned following a pleasant and productive day.

Moderator Willee Cooper reminded those present that "wherever you go, God sends you".

The next meeting of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky will be May 12, 2009, at The Presbyterian Church in Henderson, Kentucky.

Upcoming Events

Mission Coordinating Council – Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the Presbytery Office

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering – Saturday, April 18, 2009 in Mayfield, Kentucky

Next Presbytery Meeting – Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at The Presbyterian Church in Henderson, Kentucky

Highlights February 2009

Several folks asked me during (and after) the Presbytery meeting how I would "handle" having the Moderator of Presbytery being my loving wife! Well, for those of you who were there you now know. Willee Cooper is a very competent and capable leader and has a strong and deep love for the work of Jesus Christ! She's the Moderator and I'll be (like the rest of us) both supportive AND subservient to her leadership! I'm proud that she accepted the call. (She's not intimidated by following Pat Napier, either!)

Once again the meeting went very smoothly, didn't it? Those of you at Lester Memorial heard my good friend, Samford Turner, from South Alabama Presbytery as he described the work that Presbyterians were doing in their "neck of the woods." It was very generous of him to make the trip to, in part, thank Western Kentucky Presbytery for our help in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Many of you know that I went down there right after the storm. The Mission Coordinating Council members indicated that it was not only a good idea it was our responsibility to help however we could.

There are some long stories that go with this one but Mississippi Presbytery was without an Executive and South Alabama worked hard to coordinate the recovery effort along the Mississippi coast. "They" were thankful for "us".

I would like to make a couple of points about caring for others, too. So many people at the Presbytery meeting had gone through some tough times during the week or two before. They were, along with those who couldn't be there, in very good spirits. Lester Memorial (which got power only 4 days before the meeting) folks were both gracious hosts and hostesses and they were quite sensitive to everyone's need for a warm meal and a warm atmosphere!

Don't forget to keep Thelma Baker in prayer. Her shoulder is still giving her problems. For those at the meeting you should know that Jack Meacham is doing much better. He had immediate surgery for a blocked artery.

I'm already using my walking stick for practice! Thanks, Karen, for your generous effort.

Blessings to all,

Rich Cooper