

# Highlights

## of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

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### **PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS**



The Presbytery of Western Kentucky met at the First Presbyterian Church, Owensboro on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2006. The meeting was hosted by First, Owensboro Central and St. Andrew congregations.

The opening worship service was led by host pastor Jonathan Carroll and Rich Cooper. Commissioned Lay Pastor candidate Don Crousore led the Call to Worship. CLP Edd McCoy read the Old Testament Lesson, Jeremiah 29:11-14. The combined choirs of the Owensboro Presbyterian Community sang an anthem, "Deep Within." Sharon Murray, CLP and candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament, read the Gospel, Mark 16:1-8 and preached a sermon titled "The Frozen Chosen." Sharon shared an incident in her life when she was "frozen" by a snake stretched out on the road in front of her which paralyzed her movement. She related this to the women at the tomb following the Resurrection. She reminded us that as Jeremiah proclaimed God "knows us," and that following the Resurrection Jesus "went before them into Galilee." Thus when we come to situations in which we might become "frozen" we need to remember that Jesus has gone ahead of us.

Rev. Charlie Evans, Stated Supply for Owensboro Central, led the Affirmation of Faith. In the context of the Lord's Supper liturgy shared by Jonathan

Carroll and Rich Cooper, Stated Clerk Charlie Evans, read the Necrology report.

Rev. Ann Marie Montgomery was installed as Moderator of Presbytery by Larry Isakson and Rich Cooper. Larry Isakson presented Ann Marie with the gavel and the Moderator's Cross. The benediction was given by Jonathan Carroll. Phil Stovall directed the Choir and sang during the serving of communion by intinction.

### **NECROLOGY**

Dorothy Pearson	January 6	Bowling Green
Randolph Alan Synder	January 10	Henderson
Virginia Gross Shutt	January 12	Greenville
Margaret Kirkland	February 21	O'boro Central
Jean Goddard	March 28	Bowling Green
James. W. McGuirk	May 2	Smiths Grove
Ms. Ki Sok Chung	May 8	Korean
Don Maddern	May 21	Madisonville
Marvin Guthrie	June	Franklin
Gene Usher	July 13	Mayfield
Dorothy Walton	August 26	Henderson
Helen Robertson	August 27	Paducah First
CorDelia Perdue	September 2	Round Pond
Willard Winkenhofer	September 6	Bowling Green
Elsie Tatum Bond	September 9	Lester Memorial
Hattie Green	October 8	Murray
Dr. George T. Bailey	October 8	Westminster
Martha Waters	October 10	Smiths Grove
Earl F. Staub, Sr.	October 19	Westminster
Virginia Hinton	November 1	Sturgis
Ina Mae Little	November 7	Crayne
Mildred Boren	November 25	Round Pond

Virgil Gilliam	December 1	Mayfield
Eugene Stricklin	December 17	Lester Memorial
Dr. Don Cantley	December 19	Henderson
Nelda Easley McKinney	December 23	Ebenezer

### ***FINANCES***

Rev. Dick Bridges reported that the presbytery had its best year of giving financially.

### ***PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN***

On Saturday, February 18, 2006 the Bowling Green Church is hosting a luncheon from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Dianne Reistroffer as speaker

All churches are encouraged to honor “The Gifts of Women” on Sunday February 26, 2006, celebrating 100 years of Ordination as Deacons, 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women Elders, and 50 years of ordination of Women Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta is hosting a celebration March 9-11 titled “Spirit Flames” Sisters...Celebrating our Witness, Claiming our Ministries, Sharing the Sacred Table, and Discerning Our Way into the Future. Rev. Margaret Towner, Rev. Dr. Katie Cannon, Rev. Catherine Gunsalus-Gonzales, and Rev. Rebecca Reyes are presenters.

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary is hosting a Celebration titled “Wind and Flame—Women Claiming Sacred Space” March 26-27. Rev. Dr. Katie Cannon is the keynote speaker.

Presbyterian Women’s Spring Gathering will be Saturday April 8, 2006 at Madisonville. The theme is “Reaching Out in Love.” The speaker will be Barbara Snyder, a participant in the 2005 Global Exchange to Brazil.

The BIRTHDAY OFFERING is to be collected in May.

A Churchwide Gathering will be held in Louisville July 7-11. We have been asked to help locate families who would be willing to host 1 or 2 of our Global Partners in their homes, July 3-5. It would be wonderful to celebrate our 4<sup>th</sup> of July with these international guests. Contact Jerie Britton, 1213 Garvin Pl. Louisville, KY 40203; 502-637-9988 or e-mail [jjbrittn@hotmail.com](mailto:jjbrittn@hotmail.com).

Our youth have been asked to help stuff tote bags on July 6 for the Gathering.

### **CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

(The report by John Gramling is quoted)

“My task for this morning is to request prayers from this gathering for the people of Guatemala. I am a person who believes if the subject of prayer is not connected to the heart strings, then the prayer is nothing more than an essay floating in the air...I’ll try to make that connection before we go to eat...

Usually when we are attempting to raise the awareness of people in pain we paint the picture with numbers...In Guatemala, the number of hurricanes, inches of rain, number of dead...particularly the number of children...the impact on the economy, which was in a state of disaster before the natural disasters...Decades of living in a state of revolution, the number of villages that have become mud-covered grave yards...this is the numbered picture of this small Central American Country.

But you and I have a difficult time seeing this picture because this picture lies in the shadow of the tsunami, Katrina, and earthquakes. We have been sapped and drained of compassion. Guatemala is out of sight and out of mind.

Perhaps the most telling picture of the pain and suffering comes in the expression on the faces of the people. Three or four years ago when I first started working in this part of the world, the women of the village, after putting in a full day’s work in the fields, sometimes with babies on their back...working in fields that in reality were the sides of a mountain, would come in singing with

huge smiles on their faces. The kids would gather around just to talk. When I was there last, ...December of the past year, the Easter expression on their faces were gone...they were grim and unhappy...a look of betrayal...the children would not speak.

Perhaps one story tells it all:

In December our assignment was to retrofit three of the sites previously installed around the vicinity of Xela. On Friday afternoon, at the site of La Cumbre, the church that the Bowling Green Church is responsible for, was completed and we moved on to the second one. The local person responsible for operating the La Cumbre water purification site, Freddie Gomez and his father was there waiting...how he found us we will never know...he had come for the sole purpose of thanking us for the work we had done and to bring us a gift.

You can't appreciate the story unless you know Freddie...he would never look you in the face, always down and away and I was very self-conscious knowing he had driven a long way down the mountain, not knowing where we were staying...knowing he was not in a position to hand out gifts...Our gift was a single ear of dried out corn, wrapped in plastic...perhaps that says it all...That was all he could do.

I have seen worse, but not much. I realize I am taking advantage of this body, being a member of the same, but one has to go where the heart leads...If I have touched you in the very least, tell me so that I don't become depressed."

Following John's report, the presbytery requested that the Moderator lead in prayer for Guatemala.

### ***PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY***

Sharon Murray was declared ready to receive a call.

Archie Fugate was enrolled as an Inquirer. He is attending Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

### ***COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY***

Rev. Pat Napier is serving as Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Russellville.

Rev. David Montgomery has been reinstated as Co-Pastor for the Murray Church.

Rev. John Skelly is serving as Interim Pastor for The Presbyterian Church, Henderson.

Don Crousore, member of the Caney Fork Presbyterian Church, was examined and approved as Commissioned Lay Pastor for the Mt. Lebanon Presbyterian Church.

Sharon Murray was examined and approved for ordination and installation as pastor for the First Presbyterian Church, Sturgis. She will be ordained and installed at 3:00 p.m. on March 19th in Sturgis.

### ***LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT***

A Senior High retreat will be led by MOTA and Rev. David Montgomery.

A Middle High retreat will be led by Sharon Murray.

A Mississippi Mission Trip has a March 1st deadline for participants.

A youth and adult mission trip to the Gulf Coast Region will be planned with the Presbytery of Mississippi.

### ***ELECTIONS***

Rev. Curry Davis was elected to serve as moderator of the Leadership Development Committee, Class of 2006.

Rev. Jon Faraone was elected to serve on the Mission Development Committee, Class of 2006.

## ***EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT***

Rev. Rich Cooper reported to the presbytery:

Thanksgiving was offered for John Skelly working as Interim in Henderson and the work of the Rev. Doug Blair in his service there and the many hours of gifts he brought to the presbytery.

A January Pastor/Commissioned Lay Pastor Retreat at Lake Barkley focused on the report of the Peace, Purity and Unity report. Planning is underway for a late fall retreat, prior to Thanksgiving, to follow up on this report.

Rich attended an ordination of an elder for the First Korean Presbyterian Church last Sunday. The gym dedication was held the same Sunday. The elder gave a gift of thanks in the form of a check for \$20,000.00 to the church.

Next Sunday the Graham Presbyterian Church will have a dedication service for a new building. First Presbyterian Church, Greenville will give a gift of \$30,000.00 for the event.

Thanksgiving was given to John Gramling for his work in Guatemala with the Living Waters for the World.

Plans are underway for a project by Western Kentucky Presbytery for Living Waters for the World in Guatemala.

The presbytery will be celebrating a graduation class of six at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary for the Lay Pastor program.

### ***COMMITTEE ON THANKS***

(Reported by Larry Isakson and David Dossett)

Thanks was given for Martha Haynes and Gladys Combs being present for today's meeting.

And we give thanks for:

1. Our host churches and music by choir, food and a sunny, beautiful day.
2. New moderator and vice-moderator.

3. New attendees and visitors at our meeting today.
4. Financial report with no concern or complaints.
5. Presbyterian Women and their activities.
6. Guatemala prayers.
7. Sharon Murray and Archie Fugate in their call to ministry.
8. Lay Pastors in our presbytery.
9. The women of First Presbyterian, Central and St. Andrew for the soup, salad and dessert.
10. Commissioned Lay Pastor Don Crousore and his willingness to serve.
11. Sharon Murray and her faithful work for the Lord and her desire to teach and to preach the Gospel.
12. The youth of our presbytery and Rachel and her work with the youth.
13. The work of the Nominating Committee and those willing to serve.
14. The smooth order of business conducted by this presbytery.
15. The Graham Church new building and Dedication coming this next Sunday and for small congregations serving the Lord.
16. The work of the Living Waters for the World for providing fresh water.

### ***SHARON McCORMICK MURRAY***

Sharon was born and raised on a small farm in Western Kentucky with three older sisters. Her childhood adventures in the woods and hills of the farm, her religious training in a small Baptist church, and the influence of community rural life laid the foundations for her own faith experience.

She graduated from University of Kentucky Community College in Hopkinsville in 1974. Following college she married her childhood sweetheart, Mike Murray.

They have three children, Suzanne, who is married and lives in Milwaukee. Suzanne graduated from UK with a master's degree in environmental resource management and is employed by EnviroTech Corporation in Milwaukee. Her husband Isaak, will graduate in May from the University of Wisconsin as a Physician's Assistant. Son Adam trains horses for Howton's Stables in

Western Kentucky. Ali, the youngest, will graduate in May from Transylvania in Lexington where she has majored in Art and minored in Women's Studies. Mike owns and operates Murray Drilling Corporation in Princeton, Kentucky.

In 1996 Sharon accepted God's call to preach, and began the Lay Pastor Program in Western Kentucky Presbytery, preaching as needed in the presbytery.

From 1998-1999 she was Commissioned Lay Pastor at the Central Presbyterian Church in Princeton. From 2001-2003 she was Commissioned Lay Pastor for First Presbyterian Church, Sturgis and then continued as Student Intern. In May 2005 she graduated from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree.

### ***DONALD CROUSORE***

Donald was raised in North Central Indiana. In 1953 he joined a United Brethern Church and was baptized there.

Later he attended a Baptist Church in the same community together with his parents. In 1957 he joined the Army and served in Alaska for two years as a firefighter.

After the military service he continued with the same Baptist church, was elected Deacon, taught a Sunday School class with the young adults. In October 1960 he married his wife Janet. In 1962 he went back to school and received a diploma in Industrial Engineering.

Following graduation he moved several times for better wages to support the family of four children. In 1982 they moved to Butler County and began attending the Caney Fork Presbyterian Church.

Over the last 15 years he has been teacher of the senior adult Sunday school class, song leader, and treasurer. He was ordained an Elder in 1994. Two years ago he began attending the Lay Pastor program to seek to learn more about the Presbyterian Church for help in teaching Sunday

School. He accepted a call to become Commissioned Lay Pastor for the Mt. Lebanon Presbyterian Church.

### ***JOHN SKELLY***

John is a member of Middle Tennessee Presbytery and the family lives in Nashville, Tennessee. He has served as Interim Pastor in a number of places including South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, as well as Middle Tennessee. He and his wife Jane have three daughters all in their 20's. He has been called to serve as Interim Pastor for The Presbyterian Church, Henderson.

### ***JOYS AND CONCERNS***

Larry Walker expressed the joy of the birth of a granddaughter Caroline.

Jon Faraone spoke of the mission to Burlington, Mississippi, leaving Sunday and requested prayer. There are four open slots for persons to participate.

Jonathan Griffith has been running a temperature that they have not been able to locate the source.

Jim Brown requested prayer for Mt. Zion for family deaths, and for David Dossett's mother having leg problems.

Bill and Dorothy Krepps expressed the joy of the birth of a granddaughter, Isabell.

A request was made to continue holding Helen Sears in prayer and progress on her recovery was given.

David Montgomery spoke of the Murray campaign and that the building project is being re-figured for 1.2 million instead of 1.7. He also applauded Western Kentucky Presbytery celebration of women, and the first woman Minister Moderator. With the addition of Sharon Murray the number of women ministers has doubled.

Logan Blewett requested prayers to continue for the persons still struggling from the Marshall County tornados.

Bell Muth requested prayer for the families of Kenton Mullins, Bill Holt and Ellsworth Strickler.

### ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

**Mission Coordinating Council** – Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. at the Presbytery Office

**Next Presbytery Meeting** – Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at the Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, Central City

### ***Highlights February 2006***

Don't spend a lot of time reading what I write below – well, spend a little time! But, spend time looking at the FLYER that accompanies the **HIGHLIGHTS** this quarter. I'm beginning to get excited that this Presbytery can put together a team of folks who will install a water purification system that helps some folks in Guatemala understand better why it was that Jesus Christ said HE was "Living Water."

That's why we do things like this. We'll go to a town and work with a church group that will provide safe drinking water for people who don't have safe water now. In the process we allow the church people there to have an outreach to their community. They will use the "potable" water to be the way they tell the story of Jesus in their community. We can be evangelists by being the folks who simply bring the technology to the town.

For anyone who doesn't know the technology or doesn't know much about LIVING WATERS FOR THE WORLD, please go to their website: [www.livingwatersfortheworld.org](http://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org) or call them at 615.261.4008 to get a CD or Video about the project. This is exciting stuff, folks. You can donate your time and your money to a project that really makes a difference. You can, with the Western Kentucky Living Waters Project, make a direct contribution to the well being of folks.

Don't confuse our project with the larger Living Waters organization! Support our local project and don't be afraid to support the many projects they offer!

Blessings,

Rich Cooper