

Highlights

of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

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William Walton, Editor

August, 2006

PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS



Highland Presbyterian Church, Hopkinsville, hosted the Saturday, August 12, meeting of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky. Registration and refreshments, (if you did not get a donut it was because Larry Isakson ate them all, but there was lots of fruit) was in the Presbytery Office next door to the Highland Church. The offices are in a house remodeled by the Highland congregation to fit the needs of the staff.

Worship was led by Rob Wilson, Lay Pastor Designate for the Madisonville Church, and Wes Kendall, Associate Pastor elect for First Presbyterian Church, Owensboro. Mr. Kendall read John 2:13-25 for the text of the sermon titled "What Profit is there in the Lord's Business." He referred to the cleansing of the temple and related the themes Jesus Saves and Jesus Sells. Christ's word on our behalf is profit for us. Mrs. Patricia Thomas was the organist for the service.

YOUTH SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Rachel Schroeder had youth participants report on City Sights, City Lights, Hopkinsville, June 20-22; the youth painted for the Salvation Army, the Crisis

Pregnancy Center, helped at Head Start and weeded for the Sanctuary House, a home for abused women.

A team of youth worked for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Mississippi serving the needs of families following Hurricane Katrina.

Our youth also attended the Youth Conference at Montreat, North Carolina. Reporting for these various events were: Brianna Trickey, Russellville; Ellen Bravard, Hopkinsville First; Chris Bowers, Meredith Bowers, Sarah Clancy, Rachel Schroeder, Owensboro First; Zach Gatten, Will Garrott, Travis Williams, Sturgis; Becky Durham, Harrison Bailey, Henderson; Charly Morgan, Princeton; Virginia Kirk, Crayne.

A Power Point presentation was then shown depicting these various activities.

LIVING WATERS FOR THE WORLD

Steve Young, Synod of Living Waters, reported on the Living Waters for the World Program. John Gramling, one of the founders of the project was presented with a plaque bearing his picture and words of thanks for his service since 1992. The August 2006 issue of "Presbyterian Voice" has a page (10) featuring John and his service to this project. Also Martha Haynes wrote a tribute to John who appears on the same page.

In 2004 there were 15 systems installed by Living Waters for the World. In the fall of 2006 there will be more than 67 systems. Steve reminded us that churches don't do mission, churches are mission. Churches are mission, doing things with others.

BUILDING PROJECTS

Mayfield Presbyterian Church, upon recommendation by the Trustees of Presbytery, was approved for a \$650 thousand building project. They are constructing a Family Life Center.

Sunday, August 13 was the last Sunday the Murray Church will worship in their present sanctuary. Due to asbestos the entire structure must be renovated.

The congregation will worship in a chapel at Murray State during the demolition/rebuilding process.

Highland Presbyterian Church purchased a house next to the church and renovated the house to fit the needs of the Presbytery Office. The congregation is also adding Sunday school rooms on a second floor of the church building. They are doing this with labor from the congregation.

COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR BOBBY RUSSELL

Commissioned Lay Pastor Bobby Russell resigned due to health problems. Presbytery observed the event with the following tribute:

A response of "Well Done, O Good and Faithful Servant" was a refrain used by the presbytery.

"After retiring as a truck driver for the Kroger Company, we give thanks that Bobby was willing to drive 43 miles from his home to serve the small church at Caney Fork and THEN was open to also serving at Ebenezer! For 13 years of faithful service to those two churches, serving the people with energy, creativity, compassion and love. For sermon preparation and delivery week after week, for

providing pastoral care to those in need, for sharing your life in ministry and for the countless ways you've made a difference. "Well Done, O Good and Faithful Servant."

We give thanks for Bobby's commitment and dedication. He was in the first group to go through the Diploma School process with Dottie Kipp. He has continued all these years to meet with his study group for ongoing growth and learning. We celebrate the relationship he has had with his mentor Lon Lorton and the endless miles they have covered in making time to get together. For his desire to do things decently and in order and for meeting all of the requirements of this Presbytery as a Commissioned Lay Pastor. (R)

We give thanks for unique ministries you share with each of your churches. Attending Homecoming dinner each year on the grounds at Ebenezer, marking their long history as a faith community. For your work with the young people at Caney Fork, starting the "Super Sunday" program and your willingness to spend time with teenagers playing, studying, praying and having fellowship together. We celebrate that as a result of your work and influence, Caney Fork had youth participate this year at Montreat. (R)

We celebrate the love and energy you have given to the church. For your exuberant love of gospel music. For your community work that pulls churches together, and especially for instigating the community hymn sing where several churches come together each year, singing praise to God and making a joyful noise to the Lord. (R)

Bobby, you have been a faithful servant of Jesus Christ among us. Over the years you have given up growing corn, raising goats, and working with wood. But you've not given up your work with the church. We know that even now, if your health permitted, you would continue to serve willingly at Caney Fork and Ebenezer churches. We pray that you will now take care of yourself, that you will rest in the knowledge of work well done. Just one last reminder, God is always full of surprises, so keep your heart and mind open to what possibilities God might yet have in store for you. Bobby, hear the

church as we both bless you and give thanks for your ministry. (R)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Wes Kendall, Associate Pastor Elect for First Presbyterian Church, Owensboro, and Rob Wilson, Lay Pastor Designate for the First Presbyterian Church, Madisonville, were examined and approved for service.

Wes Kendall was born in Indiana near Indianapolis. When he was two his parents separated. His parents married others and at an early age he was aware of the divisions working to fragment God's creation. His stepfather's life was taken by cancer, an event that provided Wes the opportunity to begin wrestling with questions built up in his first fifteen years of life. It was at Zionsville Presbyterian Church where he wrestled with these questions. Christ became a living and new hope in his life.

In his collegiate years his personal faith and hope in Christ became tied to a group of Christians. In his participation in a mission trip to Romania and his involvement with a Christian fellowship group Wes discovered the definite need for Christian service into realms of suffering and tragedy, and his involvement with the Christian fellowship at DePauw, served as a source of his life throughout college.

By his senior year of college Wes felt assurance in devoting his life to ministry and proclamation of Jesus Christ. He worked and was a part of Center Grove Presbyterian Church under the guidance of Steve Oglesbee. In the midst of his service there it was evident that he had a call to full time ministry.

Wes is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary. Before he attended seminary he married Anna Christine in the summer of 2002. They have been blessed with a son named Wyatt Addison.

Rob Wilson grew up in Madisonville, Kentucky and attended First Baptist church, but was not greatly involved. A wake up call came at the death of his grandmother and a friend on the same night on October 31st 1983. This caused him to turn towards God and see the gift of Grace in His Son Jesus Christ. After a short time the pastor left and he gradually strayed away. Denise is the person God used to get his attention once again. She invited him to attend the "Great Banquet" a three day weekend, which he did in the spring of 1992 at First Presbyterian Church, Madisonville.

After their marriage First Presbyterian became their church home, and they worked with the 4th and 5th grade youth group. Then he became a deacon, and served on the Christian Education Committee and building and grounds. During those years the pastor left which split the church. It was during the years that the pulpit was vacant that he had the opportunity to continue on with an early contemporary service. This was his first experience of filling the pulpit as an elder. He has served on the Pastor Nominating Committee, led the Senior High Youth Group and a ministry to the congregation.

For the last 14 years God has been leading Rob to the place where he is now. He has completed the Lay Pastor training program of Western Kentucky Presbytery. He has felt a call to serve full time at First Presbyterian Church in Madisonville. He will fulfill the functions of a Lay Pastor and also has been granted permission to serve Communion.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Letters were written during Presbytery for Senator Mitch McConnell regarding Bread for the World. The letters addressed the issue of poverty-focused development assistance for poor people around the world.

PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rachel Schroeder remains an Inquirer as she ministers to the youth of First Presbyterian Church, Owensboro and of our presbytery.

Archie Fugate remains a Candidate as he attends Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary full time and ministers as lay pastor at First Church, Central City.

Karen Russell is a full time student at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and is a member of First Presbyterian Church, Paducah. Action was taken during the meeting to receive Karen as Inquirer status.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Western Kentucky Presbyterian Women received an award at the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville in July, being the 4th highest per capita support of General Assembly programs through Presbyterian Women's giving.

The Fall Gathering is scheduled to be held at the First Presbyterian Church, Owensboro, September 25, 2006.

The Synod Gathering will be in Franklin, Tennessee on June 8-10, 2007.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Rich Cooper reported to the Presbytery. Thanks was expressed to the Highland church for the work to construct the presbytery offices.

Attention was called to today's presbytery packet assembled by Lisa Troutman.

Rich called attention to the "Youth Stuff" as a strength of this Presbytery. He encouraged churches to send representatives to the youth council.

He reaffirmed the thanks for Bobby Russell's services as a mainstay for a long time.

Helen Jordan became physically exhausted at General Assembly and had to be transported home, which Jon Faraone did. David Dossett's being at the assembly enabled him to move into position as Delegate without any loss apart from the vote on Moderator. He affirmed the aspect of sending alternates to General Assembly as a plus.

The 29th of August is the first anniversary of Katrina. Work continues through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

The Presbytery Executive was instructed to hug the Western Kentucky Editor for the Synod Voice when he gets home.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Christine Coy was welcomed back to First Presbyterian Owensboro from Belfast Northern Ireland where she has spent the past year as a Young Adult Volunteer. She will be working as an intern this next year recruiting Young Adult Volunteers.

Simon Scott requested prayers for his wife undergoing a hysterectomy this week.

Jane Stevenson expressed the joy of having Wes Kendall serving at Owensboro.

Sympathy was expressed for Mary Neil's family. She died yesterday.

David Montgomery expressed that Sunday will be the last worship in the present sanctuary at Murray.

The Round Pond congregation is looking forward to hosting presbytery in the November meeting.

Elliot Joiner expressed the joy of serving the Cecelia Memorial Church and of being able to attend today's meeting.

Sadness was expressed for the death of Elder Barbara Woody, July 21, 2006. Barbara served both the PCUS and the PC(USA) for many years. In 1988 she became Associate Executive for the Synod of Living Waters. After earning the Diploma in Pastoral Studies from Louisville Seminary she served as Lay Pastor for the Trenton Presbyterian Church until 2005.

Rich Cooper was pleased to announce that the Guatemala Living Waters for the World installation by Western Kentucky Presbytery is on again.

James Brown, Jim Brown's father, had heart surgery.

Thanks was expressed for the ministry of the Gartrells.

The Crayne Presbyterian Church invited presbytery to prayer regarding actions of the General Assembly.

John Griffith requested continued prayers for service personnel and chaplains in the Middle East.

Congratulations is extended to Chaplain Pete Brezezinski, Fort Stewart, Georgia for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel (Chaplains Corps).

GARTRELL UPDATE

“Greetings from Recife, Brazil. It is nice to be back in Brazil with warm-hearted Brazilians, enjoying its natural beauty and good food. We arrived July 8 and the adults began looking for an apartment while the children Elizabeth and Daniel, returned to Salvador where we had lived, to spend time with friends. After ten days we were able to rent a very nice apartment in the neighborhood that the church would like us to begin a new church. The children will be able to walk to school, as it is a half block away.

Recife is a big city of 1,500,000 people, located on the northeast coast. Our apartment is eight blocks from the beach. The area of the beach is well

known for being shark infested. It seems funny to have the sun set at 5:30 p.m. but we are only 8 degrees south of the equator. Although it is rainy season, it is still very hot.

Our address is:
Rua Joao Eugenio de Lima, 207/302
Setubal
5130-360 Recife, PE
Brazil

Our e-mail address continues to be dggartrell@juno.com. Please stay in touch with us, either by “snail mail” or e-mail.

The Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPI) has invited us to start a new church in a middle class neighborhood. The first week we met people and attended a small Bible Study that already meets in the neighborhood. We have found people in the neighborhood who hunger for Christ. The Presbytery is composed of five churches in neighborhood and have offered to help.

Brazilians love to sing, thus music is a very important part of worship here. A number of Worship Praise Teams from another church have offered to help us lead the singing and time of praise in our Bible studies and worship services. Both pastors and lay people are excited about us beginning new work in Recife and its suburbs.

John remains in the U.S. doing his sophomore year at Presbyterian College, Clinton, South Carolina. It seems funny without him.

Thank you for your continued support of our work. Please pray for our new work, as we strive to share the love of Christ.

In Christ,

Dorothy and Gordon Gartrell.”

HARVEST FEST 2006

Harvest Fest will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Hopkinsville September 17th, 3:00 to 5:30 PM. Registration begins at 2:30 p.m.

There will be three adult workshops and four youth workshops. Bring your whole church to Harvest Fest 2006.

E-mail Address

The e-mail address for Westminster Presbyterian Church is as follows: wpc@hcis.net

Upcoming Events

Mission Coordinating Council Meeting – Tuesday, October 10, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. at the Presbytery Office.

Next Presbytery Meeting – Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Round Pond Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Kentucky.

Highlights August 2006

Immediately following the Presbytery meeting I spent the whole week away from the office attending a Synod Executive's "Mini" Forum in North Alabama, a planning meeting for the Synod of Living Waters First Call Seminar, and at the Presbyterian Global Fellowship event at Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. The week was so full of good things that I can't help but tell you of some of them.

First, the "Mini Forum" experience. Meeting with the other 11 Presbyters (some General, some Executive!) and the Synod Executive is always an enriching experience. We were at the Maranatha Camp, the North Alabama Camp and Conference Center. If you would like some very nice accommodations at a reasonable price, you might check them out at www.maranathaccc.org ! They are only about 2 ½ hours from here in the northeastern corner of Alabama. While

there we concluded that the Synod should provide an opportunity for Committees on Ministry, Committees on Preparation for Ministry, Stated Clerks, and Executives to gather to discuss the ramifications of having to find an appropriate way for Presbyteries to help churches and candidates understand what are clearly Essential Tenets of the faith. The Synod Executive Committee has approved and funded the concept. Hopefully, we'll hear about it in the spring.

Second, I met with the planning team for the First Call Seminar to be held in Louisville in February (8 – 13) 2007. The Seminar gathers ordained ministers who have just begun a call to a church for networking, considering their leadership style, considering the "context" of their ministry, and a host of other topics. This year, Western Kentucky Presbytery is responsible for providing the "dean". That means I get to do a lot of administrative work to help insure the pastors have a valuable learning experience. In spite of the work, the pastors who have attended have been VERY complimentary of the process. We're going to help make sure that it is as good next year!

Finally, I went to the 1st meeting of the Presbyterian Global Fellowship. Over 1000 people from all over the USA (and some from Korea, Pakistan, Brazil, Mexico, and beyond) gathered to consider how we "do mission" in the 21st Century. There was a lot of discussion about the "Missional Church" and "Transformational Ministry". It was a powerful Conference and is worth your visit to the website where you may better understand how it is we can be better evangelists on behalf of Jesus Christ.

And a final note that doesn't have anything to do with my week. Immediately after the Presbytery meeting Bill Walton indicated that he will not be able to serve as the Recording Clerk for the Presbytery. I want each of you to know how much we depended on Bill to keep the minutes of Presbytery and to edit the "Highlights". We're going to miss him and his wealth of knowledge. He's one of the "unsung" heroes of our Presbytery and we wish him well. Now, I'm sure he and Joyce will find excuses to NOT make the trip from Frankfort!! Blessings to Bill and Joyce!

Blessings,

Rich Cooper

Opening for Permanent Clerk of Presbytery of Western Kentucky

Due to the Resignation of Rev. William G. Walton
Permanent Clerk of Presbytery of Western Kentucky

The Personnel Committee of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky announces the opening for Permanent Clerk of the Presbytery. The position is open to a minister of Word and Sacrament or Elder in good standing with the presbytery. This person will be filling Rev. Walton's 2007 unexpired term, to rotate to an additional 3 year term beginning January 1, 2007.

Deadline to submit resumes to the Personnel Committee, C/O the Presbytery office is October 1, 2006. Resumes should include qualifications, and a statement of why you believe you are called to this position.

Listed below is the job description:

From the Manual for Administrative Operations of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

IV. Officers; D. Permanent Clerk

The permanent clerk shall record all the proceedings of all meetings of the presbytery and shall submit them promptly with supporting documents to the stated clerk. Election shall be upon recommendation of the stated clerk to the Personnel Committee, and shall be for a three year term, and may be elected for additional terms.

In addition to above, the Permanent Clerk is responsible for submitting the information for Presbytery *Highlights*. The Permanent Clerk shall assist the Stated Clerk and the Associate Stated Clerk in the annual review of session records. The Permanent Clerk shall help assist the Stated Clerk and Associate Stated Clerk in the planning and conducting annual clerk of session training. Compensation includes a stipend and travel expense.