

# Highlights

## of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

\*\*\*\*\*

Volume 28 No. 4      William Walton, Editor      December, 2006

---

### ***PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS***



The Round Pond Presbyterian Church hosted the November meeting of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky. All sorts of bread and other goodies had been baked by the church members and were arranged and placed on the kitchen counter with identification markers in front so each person could select their favorite ones. Fruit, juice, coffee rounded out the treats before the meeting of Presbytery began.

### **WORSHIP**

Host Pastor Gordon Foltz and the ministers and Commissioned Lay Pastors in Simpson County led the worship service. Virginia Johnson was pianist for the service. Bobby Russell led the Call to Worship; Rev. Curry Davis offered the Invocation; and Rev. Richard Bridges led the prayers. Gordon selected Luke 19:1-10, the story of Zacchaeus climbing a tree to see Jesus, and began the sermon by leading the presbytery in singing the Zacchaeus song. He reflected on the heart of gratitude as Zacchaeus said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." He reminded us that we

need a heart of gratitude to express thanks for all that God has given us.

### **MODERATOR**

Bell Muth, Ebenezer, was elected Moderator. Rev. Patrick Napier was elected Vice-Moderator. They will be installed at the February meeting.

### **DISCUSSION OF MISSING MEMBERS**

During the report of the Stated Clerk a motion was made to have the Committee on Ministry respond to remind the members of their obligation to attend and to encourage those who are often absent to be present. The motion was later withdrawn, but the C.O.M. chair said that the committee would consider this issue.

### **PERSONNEL**

In response to the request of Rev. Bill Walton to resign as Permanent Clerk, Wayne Goolsby, Hopkinsville, was named and elected as Permanent Clerk, effective January 1, 2007. Wayne is a librarian and will be able to arrange his work schedule to be able to attend the meetings.

An expression of thanks was made to Bill Walton for his 33 years of service. A card and gift of appreciation was presented to him.

(Response). It has been a privilege to serve the Presbytery as Permanent Clerk. To the best of my recollection there was only one meeting during that time that I had to be absent. I consider Western Kentucky Presbytery as my family and so many of you have been supportive of me along the way. I expect to continue seeing you but without the work responsibility. You are wonderful people.

### **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

The Rev. Larry Walker, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Paducah, was granted Honorable Retirement, effective January 1, 2007. A retirement service will be held at the August meeting.

The Rev. Mike McCormack was transferred to the Presbytery of Missouri Union.

### **LAY PASTOR DRAMA GROUP**

The Commissioned Lay Pastors have organized a drama group that is available for you. They can present a 30-40 minute program, or a 5-minute presentation. Contact Larry Isakson to schedule a performance in your church.

Rev. Ann Marie Montgomery encourages you to "Share the Well." This site began as an endeavor to connect students in the Lay Pastors Diploma School of the Western Kentucky Presbytery. These sermon texts, study ideas and serendipitous acts of God may be of use to all who thirst.

You are encouraged to participate in this ministry by sharing your stories. Where do you see God's hands at work in your life, in your church, in your community? How can you bear witness to the Spirit's work within and around you? Are there questions of faith that you are struggling with? Invite others into the conversation. Have you been

part of an amazing experience? Describe it so others might be blessed. Are there books that you are reading that have spoken to you or taught you and strengthened your spiritual development? Tell others so we might learn together. What insights or epiphanies have touched you? Share the good news with others. Have you found yourself standing on 'holy ground'? Bear witness to the Living God at work around us.

Share your stories by sending them to Nancy Taylor at [www.sharethewell@bellsouth.net](mailto:www.sharethewell@bellsouth.net).

You can read these stories by going to [sharethewell.net](http://sharethewell.net).

### **ELECTIONS**

The following were elected to serve:

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

(2009) Rev. Curry Davis; Mrs. Helen Jordan

#### **TRUSTEES**

(2009) Mr. Ray Kramer, Owensboro; Rev. Lynn Shurley, Jr.

#### **MISSION COORDINATING COUNCIL**

(2007) Rev. Ann Marie Montgomery, Moderator;

(2009) Mr. Larry Isakson

#### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

(2008) Rev. Wesley Kendall; Mr. Rob Wilson;

(2009) Rev. Curry Davis; Pat Renner, Owensboro; Grace Suh, Bowling Green

#### **MISSION DEVELOPMENT**

(2009) Rev. Tim Davis; Mrs. Vera Gramling, Bowling Green

#### **CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

(2009) Rev. John Griffith; Mrs. Helen Sears, Owensboro

#### **ECUMENICAL & INSTITUTIONAL**

(2008) Mr. David Dossett; (2009) Rev. James Stahr; Mrs. Maxine Bentley, Hopkinsville

#### **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

(2008) Rev. Jonathan Carroll; (2009) Rev. Charlie Evans; Mrs. Maria Flynn, Mayfield; Rev. David Montgomery; Mr. Charles Reece, Owensboro

## **COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION—**

### **Class of 2007**

Moderator Thelma Baker, Cecelia Memorial; Dr. Johnston Akuma Kalu Njoku, Bowling Green; Helen Jordan; Mr. Charles Reid, Bowling Green; Katie Fort, Lester Memorial

### **PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

(2009) Mr. Franklin Berry, Bowling Green; Rev. Jonathan Carroll;

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

(2007) Mr. Jerry Vaughan, Highland; (2009) Rev. Matthew Covington; Mrs. Beth Mullen, Highland

### **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

(2009) Rev. Lon Lorton; Mr. Jim Brown

### **PERSONNEL**

(2010) Mr. Franklin Berry, Bowling Green

### **COMMITTEE ON BILLS AND OVERTURES- (2007)**

Rev. Matthew Covington; Rev. Jon Faraone; Mrs. Helen Jordan; Mr. David Dossett; Rev. Ann Marie Montgomery; Rev. Charlie Evans (advisor); Rev. Rich Cooper (advisor)

### **LONG RANGE PLANNING**

(2009) Rev. Gordon Foltz; Mr. Wayne Goolsby, Hopkinsville

### **KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

#### **DELEGATES**

(2009) Mr. John Gramling, Bowling Green; Rev. Simon Scott

### **KENTUCKY CAMPUS MINISTRY BOARD**

(2009) Mr. Thomas Moody, Bowling Green

#### **2007 Presbyterian Campus Ministry Board, Murray State University**

Ms. Andi Denney, Student President; Dr. Mica Howe, Faculty Advisor; Mr. Wayne Goolsby; Dr. Ken Wolf; Ms. Katie Vowels; Dr. Marcia Hobbs, Vice-President; Ms. Kathie Fleming, President and KCMB Representative; Mr. Don Fleming, Treasurer; Mr. Don Barger; Dr. Sam McNeely; Ms. Shaina Slowiak, Service Intern; Ms. Anna Kimbro, Administrative Assistant; Rev. David Montgomery, Campus Minister; Rev. Rich Cooper, Executive Presbyter

### **SYNOD OF LIVING WATERS, ALTERNATE CLERGY COMMISSIONER**

(2007) Rev. Jon Faraone

## **Mission Development**

The Mayfield church has a covenant agreement with a church in Kenya. The Rev. Geoffrey Karugu, a member of Ngong Hills Presbytery, Kenya, and pastor for the LOITOKIDOK Outreach, spoke to the Presbytery regarding his work and ministry in this parish.

Rev. Tony Barta spelled out the tasks of the Mission Development Team which is available for any congregation: 1. Mission planning and resources; 2. Church Development and Redevelopment; and 3. New Church Development. He spoke of the need to be planning for new churches. The tasks are to: 1. Pray; 2. Pray; and 3. Pray. He asked us to address the question of “Where is God sending us to share the good news?”

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

About 60 ladies gathered to participate in the Fall Gathering at First Presbyterian Church, Owensboro, on September 25, 2006. There were five workshops including: Coordinating Team responsibilities; Together in Service (mission program); this year’s Bible Study and Celebrating Giving. The Least Coin Offering was dedicated. The Gathering Offering of \$256.67 was divided (2/3 to Living Waters for the World and 1/3 to the scholarship fund). They now have over \$800.00 to help Presbyterian Women attend the Synod Gathering June 8-10, 2007 in Franklin, Tennessee.

A Spring Gathering will be held in Bowling Green on April 21, 2007.

Other dates to remember:

Coordinating Team meeting, February 12, 2007.

World Day of Prayer, March 2, 2007.

Celebrate the Gifts of Women, March 4, 2007.

Synod Gathering, June 8-10, 2007.

See this month's Horizon magazine for information on World Day of Prayer and Celebrate the Gifts of Women.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A Senior High Retreat will be held March 9-11, 2007 at Camp Kum Ba Ya. Register by February 26<sup>th</sup> with [rschroder95@hotmail.com](mailto:rschroder95@hotmail.com) or 270-302-1248. Cost is \$40.00.

A Junior High Retreat will be held in April. Dates will be announced later.

MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE. (for rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders through Graduated Seniors). Up to twenty youth and four adults. Cost is \$525.00 per person, (Presbytery will pay \$100.00). Contact David Montgomery at (270)753-6460 or email him at [david.montgomery@murraystate.edu](mailto:david.montgomery@murraystate.edu).

SUMMER 2007 MISSION TRIP, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. June 9-17. Cost is \$450.00 per person. Contact Becky Durham, Henderson (270) 826-3981 x25 or [jbdurham@hotmail.com](mailto:jbdurham@hotmail.com). Registrations are due February 15, 2007 with \$50.00 deposit.

## CHURCH AND SOCIETY

An emphasis begun by Wabash Valley Presbytery titled "Code Blue" is a campaign to distribute buttons for: (1) public awareness of the issue of rising medical costs; (2) for increased legislator awareness of the need for health care cost reform; and (3) help in repairing our unhealthy health care system. Buttons are available from the Church and Society Committee members.

Bumper stickers from the denomination Peace Making program were distributed.

John Gramling was invited to share regarding his travels for Living Waters for the World. He recently spent time in the Yucatan in preparation for the Presbytery project next year. He was requested to go to install a unit in Brazil which turned out to

be a Medical Boat on the Amazon. As it turned out he received a lot of help from personnel on the ship.

## BUCKHORN CHILDREN'S CENTER

Anne F. Starr, President and CEO of Buckhorn Children's Center addressed the Presbytery. About 300 youth were served this past year, all of whom suffered from abuse and neglect. The staff of Buckhorn is seeking common concern with Bellewood. There are over 1,000 children each year in Kentucky that suffer from abuse. The staff at Buckhorn prays for the kids' safety, protection and for solutions. There was an increase of over 50 for the last month which Anne felt was a result of the staff prayer.

## EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

Rich Cooper spoke to the Presbytery. He called attention to the VOICE editor for Western Kentucky Presbytery, Willee Cooper, and the need to provide information to her regarding Christmas activities with a picture and two or three sentences to form a collage for the February issue. There is a January 7<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Larry Isakson was recognized for his three years of service as Vice-Moderator, Moderator and Moderator of the Mission Coordinating Council and was presented with a gift for his service.

The Presbytery will have a Living Waters for the World team to serve in the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. There are three people to attend training at Clean Water U and will have additional training. The installation will be in late March, a live Easter present for our Yucatan partners. What can you do? 1. Pray for the team. 2. Give to help, the size of the gift does not matter. The size of your heart and the number of prayers does matter. The project will cost about \$15,000.00. For information about how you can help or be involved call the Presbytery Office at 1-800-811-9170.

Thanks was expressed for what the Commissioned Lay Pastors do for our Presbytery.

Ann Mills is seeking help for “Ministry on the River” for the Christmas packages for those on river boats. Candy and other supplies are needed.

Rich called attention to the fact that three years ago the Round Pond Church was dealing with internal strife and the trust level was struck from within. The prayers requested from the members of Presbytery were felt and the Round Pond congregation is deeply thankful. It is what Presbyterians are good at, support for one another.

Jane Stevenson called attention to the book by Rev. William McAtee “*Dreams, Where Have You Gone*” dealing with unity and the history of union presbyteries.

## COMMITTEE ON THANKS

Larry Isakson expressed the fact that all of us have much to be thankful for and the Presbytery, with piano help from Bell Muth, joined in singing “Count Your Many Blessings.”

Before adjourning with prayer the following **Joys and Concerns** were shared:

Pat Napier thanked the Presbytery for their cards and condolences in the loss of his sister. Appreciation was expressed for the work of Buckhorn and Bellewood.

Prayers for Helen Jordan were requested.

Jon Faraone expressed joy for their Kenya connection.

Tony Barta reminded the Presbytery that a team for mission planning is available.

The Greenville Church will have the Editor of the Voice as a speaker on December 10th.

The Greenville Church is looking forward to hosting Presbytery in February.

## Upcoming Events

**Mission Coordinating Council** – Tuesday, January 9, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at the Presbytery Office.

**Next Presbytery Meeting** – Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at First Presbyterian Church, Greenville

## Presbytery Notes

What a great day at Round Pond! Hopefully, each presbyter had a chance to thank the folks who worked hard to make the day successful. It is great to enjoy the hospitality of the various churches throughout the Presbytery.

What a wonderful opportunity to hear the Reverend Geoffrey Karugu from Kenya, in the Presbytery of Ngong Hills in East Africa. The thought that one (young) pastor might be responsible for 15 separate churches (soon to be 16) is just amazing! The idea that they are experiencing such growth is truly something for which to be thankful, isn't it?

A little-noticed activity at Presbytery needs to be “highlighted.” Larry Walker, pastor at Westminster, requested that Presbytery affirm his honorable retirement. Even though we won't officially recognize Larry until later, I want to make sure that you are aware of his many contributions to Presbytery and that you keep him, Peggy and his family on your prayer list as he finds new ministry in retirement. Speaking of retirement, it is a great time to acknowledge Bill Walton's retirement as Permanent Clerk and “Highlights” editor. Our new Clerk, Wayne Goolsby (Hopkinsville, 1<sup>st</sup>) is already speaking of how long folks are expecting him to be “permanent”! Bill's service of over 25 years is a hard act to follow! We're thankful for his strong support and faithful service. Finally, it was great to acknowledge the wonderful service of Larry Isakson as Vice Moderator, Moderator, and Moderator of Council. As a person enters that journey, it always seems like it will be a long one. But, as Larry mentioned, it goes by very quickly. Larry was, and continues to be, a gift to the

Presbytery with his caring, concerned presence. We'll miss his gentle leadership!

Next to last, I hope you will continue to keep our missionaries in your prayers. The missionary that I mentioned at Presbytery, Tommy Preston, was headed home to Texas as we met. He called the day after the Presbytery meeting to say his tour in Iraq as the senior chaplain in the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was complete. We're glad that Tommy is home safely. It looks like he will soon move to Germany. Ministry to soldiers is never without moving!

Finally, let me say that it continues to be a blessing to labor among such wonderful folks in Western Kentucky. I'm especially thankful for Shirley, Lisa, and Willee Cooper (who edits the Voice, the Synod newspaper, in addition to putting up with me daily) for their great contributions to the Presbytery.

We all wish you the Merriest of Christmases and a Blessed New Year.

Rich Cooper

Shirley Pilleri

Lisa Troutman