

Highlights

of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

Volume 29 No. 1

Wayne Goolsby, Editor

February, 2007

PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS



The Presbytery of Western Kentucky met at the First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, Kentucky, on Tuesday, February 13, 2007.

The opening worship service was led by Elder Steve Young, Administrator for Living Waters for the World, and Ms. Karen Russell of Paducah. Mr. Young and Ms. Russell read from the Gospels of Saints Matthew and Mark. Elder Young spoke a sermon entitled "Mission: Where the Person You Think You Are Meets the Person You Really Are." He reminded us of the irony often present in the Scriptures as well as in our own lives.

Rev. C. Timothy Davis, pastor of the host church, led in observing the Sacrament of Holy Communion. He reminded us that this observation was truly a Sacrament. Beautiful music was provided by Greenville organist, Don Pryor.

Rev. Charlie Evans presented the Necrology report for 2006. Those names included:

Necrology

William C. Greenwalt	January 7	Bowling Green
William Kenton Mullins	January 14	Bowling Green
William F. Holt	January 20	Bowling Green

Joe Ralph Hinton	February 25	Sturgis
John Leishman	March 28	St. Andrew
Bill Arnold	April 17	Madisonville
Pollard White	May 10	Hopkinsville First
Glenn Scott	May 15	Madisonville
Mildred Cole	May 29	Paducah, United
Will Henry Cox	July 13	Lester Memorial
Walter "Pete" Bruce Mason	August 21	Rockport
Doris Long	August 27	Murray
Rev. Marvin L. Ramer	October 5	
Rev. Thomas D. Kennedy Bowling Green)	November 8	(former Pastor at
Helen Herbig	November 27	Calvert City
Harold Pickering	December 28	Calvert City

Welcome

Rev. C. Timothy Davis of the host church welcomed the members of Presbytery and guests to the First Presbyterian Church of Greenville. He urged all in attendance to visit the church's museum room where a number of artifacts and historical memorabilia were housed, reflecting the church's 200+ years of history. Greenville Mayor Eddie DeArmond also welcomed Presbytery to the town of Greenville.

Installation

Rev. Ann Marie Montgomery, Rev. Charlie Evans, and Rev. Rich Cooper led the installation ceremony of Elder Bell Muth as Moderator and Rev. Patrick E. Napier as Vice-Moderator.

Leadership Development Committee

Rev. Curry Davis reported on several mission opportunities in the near future. They included:

1. Senior High Retreat will be March 9-11, 2007 at Camp Kum Ba Ya. The cost is \$40.00 per person. The theme will be "Looking Beyond Ourselves".
2. The Youth of Western Kentucky will be encouraged to participate in Summer Bible School, the theme of which will be the coral reef. Additional information and preview kits are available from the Presbyterian Church (USA).
3. The Presbytery of Western Kentucky is sponsoring a Middle School Retreat at Camp Cum-Ba-Ya on April 20-22. The retreat will be led by members of MSU's MOTA (Ministry Open to All) group and the Presbyterian Youth Council. The theme is the same as the Senior High Retreat, "Looking Beyond Ourselves".
4. City Sights, City Lights to be held in Bowling Green on June 26-28 at a cost of \$35.00 per participant with participation available to students in grades six through eight.

Presbyterian Women

Elder Debbie McCoy of Presbyterian Women reported on upcoming events and projects including:

1. March 4, 2007 - Celebrating the Gifts of Women Sunday
2. April 28, 2007 - Spring Gathering in Bowling Green

3. Networkers Mother's Day Cards, the proceeds from which go to help purchase mosquito netting for African families.
4. June 8-10, 2007 - Synod Gathering for Women in Franklin, Tennessee.
5. Birthday Offering to be collected this Spring, of which 1/5 of the proceeds will go to Living Waters for the World Mission.

Finances

Rev. Richard Bridges referred the members to accompanying packets. He reported on what he deemed a "plateau year" and reminded churches of the importance of turning in funds before the last of December each year in order for such monies to be counted as a part of the appropriate year's budget.

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Patrick Napier presented Rev. Cheryl Duke as a candidate called to the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church of Russellville, Kentucky. Rev. Napier led the examination of Rev. Duke. Reverends David Montgomery, Charlie Evans, and Matthew Covington led the examination of Rev. Duke with questions related to the Theology, church polity, and the Sacraments. Rev. Duke responded eloquently and without hesitation, commenting on her faith journey and the many individuals who had played a role in bringing her to this point in her life. Rev. Duke's call was approved by Presbytery. She will be installed in May, 2007, and assume duties at the church on June 1, 2007. Presbytery welcomes Rev. Duke.

Cheryl Duke, A Personal Biography

I was born in Kansas on Abe Lincoln's birthday in 1956. Mom worked to support her three kids after her first marriage ended, and my "daddy", immediately adopted us when he and mom married in 1959. I am the middle child of five, with two older brothers and two younger sisters.

My life as a Presbyterian begins with their love and my daddy's parents who were very active in their very small Calvary Presbyterian Church in Jeanerette, Louisiana. When we came to visit, we nearly doubled the congregation's size. My grandparent's generosity, and work with the local Salvation Army and their active civic life, made faith visible

to me. Welcoming Jesus as my Lord and Savior at the age of 12, (at a Southern Baptist revival meeting), moved me to seek membership in Parkway Presbyterian Church near my home. I began to attend Sunday School regularly with my sisters. Mr. Brown, aka "the gum man", encouraged me to stay for worship. This soon led to my parents becoming active members in the church. This congregation blessed and encouraged my faith journey with its welcome and opportunities to learn. At age 16, I was asked to teach 1st grade Sunday School, an experience which I credit for my perfect score on the Bible Content Exam (one of the ordination exams at seminary).

Work experience after high school and junior college included summer work at the local Presbytery camp as a counselor, and a five-year stint in broadcast journalism. I married a Presbyterian minister, and moved to Long Beach, MS. When my husband decided to leave parish ministry and train as a pastoral counselor, we moved to Richmond, VA.

Life experiences over the next three years, as house manager of the Ronald McDonald house and as an intake receptionist for the Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care, began a journey that led me to consider ordained ministry. I finished my Bachelor's degree at Virginia Commonwealth University, and enrolled at Union-PSCE in Richmond, VA. (formerly Union Theological Seminary in VA). Soon after I enrolled, my husband determined to demit the ministry. Despite our efforts, with much sadness and regret, our eight-year marriage ended.

I completed a four-year degree at Union Seminary, which included 4 quarters of CPE training, resulting in a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1986 with an emphasis in new member assimilation. The day of my graduation from seminary was particularly memorable and blessed. During morning worship in Watts Chapel, my husband, Presbyterian minister and college professor, the Rev. Clifton Dixon, Jr. and I were married.

Twenty years later, I look back with joy, at the places and people God has given me to love. Associate pastorates in Lynchburg and Roanoke honed skills in CE, Evangelism and Youth, and gifted me with mentors and life-long friends. Our daughter Sophia was born in December of 1990. Her birth combined with a desire to do more general pastoral ministry rather than continue to specialize led me to return to Richmond, where I soon accepted a stated supply position at the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church. Preaching, teaching, visitation, and building the membership of a church fed my excitement and joy for the pastoral ministry and affirmed my gifts in this calling.

In 1994, I accepted a call to the Byrd Presbyterian Church of Goochland, VA as redevelopment pastor where in 6 1/2 years, I assisted them to become self supporting and nearly double in membership. In 2001, I moved back to Panama City, FL to be interim associate executive for Florida Presbytery. My work with new church development efforts, including three Korean NCD's, and general committee staffing was rewarding but left me longing for the pastoral ministry. This 6-month interim functioned as a "sabbatical", providing cutting-edge training and hands on application of new learning in a presbytery of 43 mostly small congregations.

The failure of my next call, and my wish to understand (and never repeat) that experience moved me to begin three years of study in Bowen Family Systems for pastors. This training proved useful in my interim pastor work with the Falling Waters Presbyterian Church in Hedgesville, WV. Their success in healing and growing in preparation for their next pastor also reaffirmed my skills in thoughtful self-awareness and ability to assist a congregation regain energy for ministry. Currently, as a Parish Associate in the Parish of the Valleys, I am preaching and helping two congregations grow and minister in the Winchester, VA area.

My hobbies and interests include a homebuilt airplane, which is a shared hobby with my husband. I am a student pilot and love flying, camping, 35-mm photography and reading.

Rev. Lynn Shurley, Jr., reported that Rev. John Skelly's call as interim pastor of the Presbyterian Church had been renewed.

A committee is being formed to address concerns at the First Korean Presbyterian Church in Clarksville, Tennessee. The committee will consist of Rev. Patrick Napier, Rev. Charlie Evans, Elder Frank Montgomery, and a second Elder to be announced soon. At the suggestion of Elder Linda Perkins, prayer was offered for the church and its congregation by Moderator Elder Bell Muth.

Elder Jimmie Blackwood presented information from the Lay Pastors' drama troupe and shared some of the group's work. He also related information regarding the "Share the Well" project.

Preparation for Ministry

Rev. Lon Lorton introduced seminary students Karen Russell of First Presbyterian Church of Paducah and Archie Fugate, Jr., lay pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Central City. Both Ms. Russell and Mr. Fugate spoke eloquently regarding their faith journeys and their current positions as seminary students. Upon Rev. Lorton's motion, Ms. Russell and Mr. Fugate were advanced from "inquirer" to "candidate" status.

Board of Trustees

Elder Raymond Kramer moved that the Bevier Presbyterian Church be dissolved as of March 15, 2007, and that the congregation be allowed to sell the property and the congregation merge to the Central City Presbyterian Church with proceeds from the sale to go to the Central City Church. The motion was seconded and carried. Presbytery honored the heritage of the Bevier Church and its members.

Ecumenical & Institutional Committee

Rev. David Montgomery reported on the Bridges to Montreat Program and the importance of Montreat to the Denomination.

Mission Development Program

Rev. Anthony Barta reported that mission speakers were available through the denomination.

Rev. Curry Davis reported on the mission trip for Junior and Senior students to Toronto, Canada, this summer. Participants will work with a number of activities and experience

Executive Presbyter

Rev. Rich Cooper, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky, asked for prayers for Shirley Pilleri of the Presbytery office.

Rev. Cooper expressed gratitude for the work of the Bevier Church, the scene of a youth mission program a few years ago, and its members.

Rev. Cooper reported on a meeting sponsored by the Louisville Theological Seminary for first-called pastors from across the Synod at which Rev. Ann Marie Montgomery led worship.

He also discussed the Living Waters for the World mission trip and presented the names of ten individuals from our Presbytery who will be participating in the program. They leave on March 11, 2007, for the Yucatan.

Committee on Thanks

Rev. Jonathan Carroll and Rev. Wesley Kendall led a prayer of thanks and celebration of the day's events.

Joys and Concerns

Sadness was expressed at the closing of the Bevier Church.

Concern was expressed for the situation at the First Korean Presbyterian Church.

Joy was expressed for Montreat.

Concern was expressed for the health of John Griffith.

Concern and joy was expressed for the Presbytery and the denomination as we go through change and transitions.

Joy and concern was expressed for those participating in the Living Waters of the World Program.

Concern was expressed for the New Church Development program.

Joy was expressed by Rev. Jon Faraone for the upcoming March 25 dedication for a newly constructed building addition at the Mayfield Church.

Joy was expressed by Rev. Lon Lorton for three new members at the Madisonville Church.

Joy was expressed by Rev. Lorton for thirty men from the Madisonville congregation participating in

a mission program at a nearby correctional institution.

Many thanks to Rev. Davis and the Greenville Church for their hospitality. The breakfast treats certainly warmed a rainy, gloomy day. The lunch was delicious, served with red and white plates to remind us of St. Valentine's Day. Another highpoint of the day was Rev. David Montgomery's asking the out-going moderator, the Rev. Ann Marie Montgomery, to be his valentine. We were reminded of the affection felt for one another in our Presbytery. (She accepted!). Of particular notice was the dignified manner in which Elder Bell Muth as Moderator led the meeting in true Presbyterian (decent and orderly) fashion. It was a great day for all who were able to attend!

Upcoming Events

Mission Coordinating Council – Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at the Presbytery Office

Next Presbytery Meeting – Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at the St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Owensboro, Kentucky

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS 2007

Another great time in Greenville! I heard several folks say how much they appreciated the Presbytery meeting. I've said it before; I'll say it again, "Presbytery meetings just aren't supposed to be enjoyable!" Well, at least that is what I've heard from many who have been to meetings in other presbyteries and in other places. I guess, in this case, it's good to be in Western Kentucky!

I need to be on to prayerful considerations. I hope each of you continues to pray for the office staff. Shirley is feeling much better and when she is here, Lisa doesn't have to serve in two offices. Lisa has been working hard to learn Shirley's job and is doing great. I hope you'll pray for both of them. Shirley is feeling better due to your prayers, but still isn't feeling "tip-top." The next prayer concern is

for the Yucatan Living Waters for the World Team. In just 2 weeks from when I'm writing this, we'll be in the Yucatan putting a water purification system in a town where there is a new church development for the Synod of the Peninsula. We're excited and enthusiastic. Watch for pictures in the Voice! Meanwhile, maybe you can think about whether you might be interested in doing a project. We'd like to send another team in a couple of years. Pray. God just might want you to be on it!

I know many of you are rejoicing for Russellville. As part of the Presbytery meeting we approved the Reverend Dr. Cheryl Duke for her call as pastor at Russellville. Cheryl will join us in May / June when she, her husband and her 16 year old daughter come to labor with us. I'm sure that Russellville is thrilled and so are we.

It's always important to share a meal together. This meeting was even more special as we shared communion and remembered all the saints who have entered the Church Triumphant in 2006. It is a blessing to be a church that recognizes that we are an important family in the work of Christ. Our necrology and communion together really reminds me that we're more than a connectional church, we're a church who covenants together to care for one another and honor one another's service.

And, finally, let me note our outgoing and incoming Moderators' service. The Reverend Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery did a great job for us in 2006. It's clear that Elder Bell Muth will be every bit as effective in 2007. We're thankful for Ann Marie's service and we rejoice that Bell has agreed to serve God in such an important way. It's going to be a great year.

Blessings,

Rich Cooper