

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 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Owensboro, Kentucky, on Tuesday, May 8, 2007.

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Moderator Elder Bell Muth who thanked God that we were able to "rise into this beautiful day".

The delegates and guests were welcomed by Rev. Dr. Rich Cooper, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky. He also thanked St. Andrew's Pastor, Edd McCoy, for the hospitality of the St. Andrew congregation. Dr. Cooper also led the morning worship service. Reading from the book of Jeremiah (32:16-25) and from the Gospel of St. Luke (8:16-25). In a sermon entitled "Getting More and More", Rev. Cooper urged us to "sew with confidence" and to have the courage to plant seeds where they will do the most good. Beautiful music was provided by St. Andrew's pianist Martha Jo Ross.

Rev. Charlie Evans presented an invitation from First Presbyterian Church of Murray, Kentucky, to host the May, 2008 meeting of Presbytery in their new facility. Presbytery gratefully accepted the invitation.

FINANCE

Rev. Richard W. Bridges reported that we were currently about 1% ahead in unified giving and that the financial report was appearing in a new, one-page format in an environmentally aware movement.

TRUSTEES

Elder Raymond Kramer reported that Rev. Cheryl Duke, soon to be installed at the Russellville Church, had bought a house in that city and that the Russellville church desired to sell their manse and use the funds for their manse fund. Permission was granted.

PERSONNEL

Rev. David Montgomery presented a plaque and a gift from Presbytery to Shirley Pilleri upon her retirement from the Presbytery office after twenty-seven years of tremendous service. Rev. Montgomery referred to her as a "messenger of grace". A standing ovation followed.

MISSION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Rev. Anthony Barta reported on a questionnaire he had recently sent to pastors regarding new church

development. He also reported that a missionary to South Korea would be available through the General Assembly to visit in our Presbytery during early October, 2007.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Rev. Curry Davis reported on several activities for mission trips for Presbyterian Youth: the trip for senior highs to Montreat; the senior trip to Toronto, Ontario, Canada; and City Lights/City Sights scheduled for this summer in Bowling Green.

Rev. Wes Kendall reported on a new Christian Leadership opportunity scheduled for June 1-2, 2007, in Owensboro, for senior high youth. Congregations are encouraged to send two or three youths and an adult sponsor to this workshop designed to promote Christian leadership in our young people.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Debbie McCoy reported that over fifty Presbyterian women attended the annual Spring Gathering on April 21, 2007, in Bowling Green. The offering, totaling \$593, will be used to purchase uniforms for nurses in Haiti and bicycles for care givers in Europe who work with AIDS patients.

Mrs. McCoy told about a proposal from Presbyterian Women of Ohio regarding a five-minute moment of reflection scheduled for Mother's Day, May 13. Additional information is available at www.standingwomen.org. She also reminded those in attendance of the Synod Gathering in Franklin, Tennessee, in June.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Rev. Lynn Shurley, Jr., reported that Doug Blair would serve as interim pastor at Owensboro Central and that Steve Graham would serve at the Crayne Church. He also reported on the installation of Rev. Cheryl Duke at the First Presbyterian Church of Russellville on Sunday, July 1, 2007, at 4:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery reported on the upcoming graduation of three members of the Commissioned Lay Pastor program to be held at the Seminary in Louisville on May 20th.

A delicious lunch was served at noon and enjoyed by all in attendance. It was also a time of great fellowship.

ECUMENICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE

Jerry Cantrell, Executive director of Bellewood, presented a new power point program prepared by a Bellewood resident.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

Dr. Cooper expressed thanks for:

1. Those individuals who recently participated in the Clean Water Project in the Yucatan;
2. Small churches and their willingness to participate;
3. Mrs. Willee Cooper who regularly edits our contributions to **The Presbyterian Voice**;
4. Mrs. Lisa Troutman who has worked so diligently at the Presbytery Office mastering new skills and assuming new responsibilities; and
5. Mrs. Shirley Pilleri for her tremendous role at the Presbytery Office. Dr. Cooper commented "the Holy Spirit is so present in her!"

COMMITTEE ON THANKS

Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery and Elder Ann Mills presented a reading of the Twenty-fourth Psalm with the focus on "learn to pray".

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Celebrations were offered for:

*Construction at the Murray Church and a tentative dedication date of September 1, 2007

*the trees putting out new greenery following the incredibly late (and heavy!) frost

*Rev. Cheryl Duke and the Russellville Church

*Students who are graduating (including Rev. Jon Faraone who will receive his D.Min this spring)

*the new youth director at the Owensboro Church

Concerns were expressed for:

*Children serving our country in Iraq and around the world

*the daughter of Chaplain Tommy Preston who had surgery on her ear

*Wesley Ford, the father of Loyd Ford, (Calvert City) who has lung cancer

*The Hutchings family on the death of Clara Hutchings (Mt. Zion)

*Larry Key (Round Pond) who is having surgery following an accident where a 2000 lb. cable caught his legs

*Ross Meloan (Murray) who has had one hip replacement and is facing another

*Gloria McLaughlin (Murray) who is facing dialysis

*the health of Mr. & Mrs. John Griffith (Owensboro)

*John Mark Morris, the son of Laura Morris, (Owensboro) who is facing a heart transplant

*family members and church family members soon to be making mission trips

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mission Coordinating Council Meeting -Tuesday, July 10, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at the Presbytery Office

Next Presbytery Meeting - Saturday, August 11, 2007, at United Central Presbyterian Church in Paducah, Kentucky

Highlights May 2007

At the recent meeting of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky at the St. Andrew Church in Owensboro, Kentucky, we certainly were treated to some very good hospitality. Some very hard work by Edd McCoy, Martha Jo Ross, Dick Smith, and the great ladies from the other churches in town who put the morning together deserve our thanks. As I mentioned, it is wonderful to have the smallest of churches host a Presbytery Meeting. Don't forget to go to Paducah, United Central in August!

It was great to hear from Jerry Cantrell, Chief Executive Officer of Bellewood who reminded us of the importance of our support. We're thankful that Bellewood is there and that we can support missions serving other folks across Kentucky.

It was two years ago that the Personnel Committee recognized Shirley Pilleri, our Administrative Assistant, for over twenty-five years of service to the Presbytery of Western Kentucky. This year David Montgomery, Moderator of the Personnel Committee, recognized her because she is retiring at the end of May. For many it seems that she just came here a few years ago. Her tireless effort in meeting the needs of churches and in dealing with finances is only out-done by her hard work in preparing for meetings, making sure that Synod and General Assembly issues are dealt with correctly, and making sure that I'm where I need to be!

Shirley will be nearly impossible to replace, but both Lisa and I will try to make her departure (almost) unnoticeable. Lisa has had a years worth of training and I'm sure that she'll keep us on track. Sometimes the office will be a bit slower to respond to your needs, but we'll work to accomplish all the things we have in the past. Keep us in your prayers as we struggle to not "bother" Shirley in her

retirement! Keep Lisa Troutman in your prayers especially since she has to put up with me “alone” for a time!

Finally, it’s always a blessing seeing those of you who gather at Presbytery. Please continue to report to your churches the wonderful spirit of cooperation which we feel. And, don’t hesitate to remind everyone how important your church’s input is.

Blessings,

Rich Cooper