

Highlights

of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

Volume 29 No. 3

Wayne Goolsby, Editor

August, 2007

PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS



The Presbytery of Western Kentucky met for its quarterly stated meeting at United Central Presbyterian Church in Paducah, Kentucky, at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, August 11, 2007. Welcome refreshments were provided by the members of the church.

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Elder Bell Muth, Moderator. Worship was led by Rev. Cheryl Duke of First Presbyterian Church of Russellville, Kentucky. Rev. Duke was assisted by Central Presbyterian's Commissioned Lay Pastors Ann Mills and Bill Farr. Ms. Mills and Mr. Farr read from Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 and The Gospel of St. Luke 12: 32-40. Rev. Duke delivered a sermon entitled "You also Must be Ready...". She illustrated to the worshippers the foolishness of an "easy chair" faith. Beautiful music was provided by Elder J. Logan Blewett, pianist/organist; and violinists Amy Blewett and Angela Smith.

At the conclusion of the worship service, Rev. Larry Walker was honored by Elder Bell Muth and Western Kentucky Presbytery Executive Rev. Rich Cooper upon Rev. Walker's retirement in January, 2007. Rev. Walker is currently serving as an educator in the public schools in Paducah, Kentucky.

Elder Logan Blewett of United Central Presbyterian welcomed the members and guests of Presbytery to the meeting and thanked the congregation for its hours of work in preparing for the meeting.

Leadership Development Committee

A good number of young members of the churches of the Presbytery made several presentations devoted to their several mission trips and projects this summer. They included:

The Montreat Mission Trip: Twenty-two young people representing five churches in our Presbytery were in attendance. Many of the people who attended helped narrate a power point presentation.

The Toronto, Canada, Mission Trip: This trip was led by Becky Durham of Henderson. Several young people presented a power point presentation related to their mission work in Toronto and shared their favorite memories and experiences.

City Sights, City Lights - Steve Garden presented a power point program related to the mission work of our junior high members in Bowling Green this summer as they helped clean the historic Rock Church.

Youth Council - Rev. Wes Kendall of First Presbyterian of Owensboro reported on the activities and plans for the Youth Council including a workshop at Camp Loucon in November and a

Youth Council meeting scheduled for September 15, 2007 in Madisonville.

The Presbytery was reminded of Harvest Fest to be held on the afternoon of Sunday, September 16, 2007 at First Presbyterian Church of Madisonville.

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Lynn Shurley, Jr., reported on several items including the installation service for Rev. Cheryl Duke at First Presbyterian of Russellville on July 1, 2007.

In addition, he reported that (a) Rev. Timothy Davis' contract at First Presbyterian Church of Greenville has been extended through March, 2008; (b) the relationship between Rev. Richard Bridges and the Franklin Presbyterian Church of Franklin, Kentucky, has been dissolved; (c) Rev. Bridges retired effective July 31, 2007; and (d) Rev. Charlie Evans has been hired as Temporary Supply for the Franklin Presbyterian Church.

Three candidates were presented for examination. They included Mr. Don Barger, commissioned lay pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church of Paducah; Rev. Beth Walden-Fisher, minister of education at The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green; and Rev. Jennifer Rodgers, United States Army Chaplain.

The three narrated their respective faith journeys and they were examined by Reverends Matthew Covington, Jonathan Carroll, Jon Faraone, and Patrick Napier. The pastors answered the questions put to them with knowledge, authority, dignity, and humor.

Moderator Muth thanked the First Presbyterian Church of Paducah for producing so many commissioned lay pastors.

Mission Development

Rev. Dr. Anthony Barta thanked members for their responses regarding surveys related to new church

development. Rev. Barta suggested that the focus of the committee might need to be one of "reinvigoration". He also reported on a General Assembly sponsored conference in Nashville, Tennessee, on evangelism.

Board of Trustees

Elder Ray Kramer reported that the First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis and Central Presbyterian Church of Princeton had recently purchased property adjacent to their facilities. He also reported on the decision of the session of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church of Owensboro to dissolve effective August 11, 2007.

Sadness was expressed by Presbytery at the loss of this fine congregation. Joy was expressed for the long service and commitment of this congregation. The members of the congregation will be joining fellow believers in Owensboro and continuing doing the work of our Lord.

Personnel

Rev. David Montgomery reported that staff evaluations were completed with the staff of Presbytery receiving high marks for their work.

Structure Task Force

Rev. David Montgomery reported that responses to the survey sent out by the task force has been minimal and that additional surveys are available to those in attendance. He reported that one focus of the task force would be in the area of educating members to the question "What does Presbytery do?"

Presbyterian Women

Mrs. Debbie McCoy reported on the success of the gathering of Presbyterian Women last June in Franklin, Tennessee. She also reported on a YouTube space related to the Living Waters

program that had been filmed in Mexico. She noted that the next Bible Study would consist of a study of the Old Testament books of Ruth and Jonah.

The next Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering will be held on Thursday, October 25, 2007, at Round Pond Presbyterian Church in Franklin, Kentucky.

Church and Society

Rev. Simon Scott reported for Susan Webb. He reminded us of the October 7, 2007, Peacemaking Offering and informed us that 25% of the offering could go to the charity of the choosing of the individual congregations. Rev. Scott reported that Nancy Troy would present a program on domestic violence at the November meeting of Presbytery to be held in Hopkinsville at First Presbyterian Church.

Preparation for Ministry

Rev. Lon Lorton reported on the status of three individuals: Rachel Schroeder, inquirer; Karen Russell, candidate; and Archie Fugate, seminary candidate with one more year of preparation. Rev. Lorton also noted that Christine Coy of First Presbyterian of Owensboro would begin her studies this fall at the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. She will be identified as an inquirer.

Nominations Committee

Rev. Curry Davis reported that Elder Martha Jo Ross and Rev. John Griffith would serve as Commissioners to Synod, Class of 2009, and that Rev. Griffith would serve on the Committee on Ministry, class of 2008.

Korean Administration Committee

Elder Frank Montgomery reported on significant strides of this committee and growth in leadership in the First Korean Presbyterian Church's congregation.

Executive Presbyter

Rev. Rich Cooper reported on the recent promotions of Chaplains Tommy Preston and Pete Brzezinski to Colonel and Lt. Colonel, respectively.

He stated that the congregation of St. Andrew was currently working on a closing service.

Rev. Cooper praised the work of Lisa Troutman at the Presbytery office following the retirement of Shirley Pilleri.

He also noted the service of Elder Ellis Polk of the Highland Presbyterian Church upon his retirement as that congregation's Clerk of the Session for fifty-three years.

Committee on Thanks

Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery commented on the connectional value of Presbytery and its evidence of the Holy Spirit at work. She and CLP Sharon Murray led the congregation in a litany of praise for the joys of the day to which those present responded with the phrase "now thank we all our God".

Joys and Concerns

Joy was expressed for the Caney Fork Presbyterian Church which will celebrate 200 years of ministry on August 26th

Joy was expressed for the dedication of the new facility at First Presbyterian Church of Murray that will take place on September 9th

Joys were expressed for jobs and service to the Lord

Concern was expressed for the health of members of Presbytery

Joy was expressed for Howard Moffett and his thirty-five years of work at Bellewood

Joy and concern was expressed for the committee working with the First Korean Presbyterian Church

Joy was expressed for the Ninth Annual Multi-Cultural Festival in Owensboro to be held on Saturday, August 18th

Concern was expressed for Rev. William Walton

Concern was expressed for the First Korean Presbyterian Church in Clarksville

Concern was expressed for the grandson of Bobby Russell

Joy was expressed for the new students at Murray State University

Following a productive day of service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Presbytery adjourned with prayer by Moderator Bell Muth.

2007 AAPC Midwest Region Annual Conference

"USE OF THE SELF IN PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING" is the theme of the Fall Conference of the Midwest Region of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Reserve September 28-29, 2007, beginning at 11:30 am Friday through 12:30 pm Saturday at the Fort Wayne Marriott, Fort Wayne, IN. Our keynote speaker will be Pamela Cooper-White, Ph.D., who will facilitate Friday's plenary sessions, "Intersubjectivity and Use of Our Selves in Pastoral Care," and a Saturday Workshop entitled "Use of the Self in Pastoral Assessment and Theological Reflection (the Case of 'Linda')." Dr. Cooper-White is Professor of Pastoral Theology at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and the author of four books, including the recently released *Many Voices: Theology and Therapy in Relational Perspective* (Fortress Press, 2006). Three additional relevant workshops for both pastoral counselors and pastoral care specialists will be offered on Saturday morning. Pastors and persons working in related healing professions are welcome to attend.

Registration information is available on our website (www.aapcmidwest.org) or by calling Melisa Scarlott at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary - 502-992-5427 or Ryan LaMothe - 812-357-6623.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or Dr. LaMothe. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Best regards,

Melisa T. Scarlott
Assistant for MWAAPC Annual Conference
Faculty Secretary
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
1044 Alta Vista Road
Louisville, KY 40205-1798
Phone: (502) 992-5427
Fax: (502) 894-2286
Email: mscarlott@lpts.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mission Coordinating Council Meeting -Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at the Presbytery Office

Next Presbytery Meeting - Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at First Presbyterian Church in Hopkinsville, Kentucky

August Highlights 2007

During the Presbytery meeting a friend spoke to me and said, "Wouldn't it be great if we had this many people at every meeting?" That certainly captures the situation at Paducah, United Central on the only Saturday meeting that we hold during the year! It may have been a small church, but they were "big" hosts and were able to accommodate a near overflow crowd for our meeting. We owe them a great deal of thanks for their willingness to make us so comfortable – even

if the temperature got into triple digits outside and the air conditioner had to work overtime to keep us cool inside.

After the meeting several people spoke to me about the very special time of prayer and laying on of hands for Chaplain (Captain) Jennifer Rogers whom we accepted from Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery and will continue as an Army Chaplain stationed at Ft. Campbell. Each of you should ask your Presbytery Commissioner about that experience. Our Committee on Ministry Moderator, Lynn Shurley, indicated that we would have a special service for Don Barger, CLP for Westminster, and for Beth Walden-Fisher, Associate for the Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green. We would not normally have something for our Chaplains and so he arranged the very special prayer by Jonathan Carroll. Lots of folks commented it was “powerful.” Jennifer will deploy to Iraq (again) in the fall.

We had an opportunity to thank Lisa Troutman for her hard work since she assumed Shirley Pilleri’s responsibilities in the office. We noted that our Stated Clerk, Charlie Evans and our Associate Stated Clerk, Lon Lorton, had been rated very high by all you who participated in their rating. Additionally, Wayne Goolsby, our “new” Recording Clerk has been noted as being a great addition to the work of the Presbytery. With great folks like them (and Ellis Polk, Treasurer) it’s really easy to be the Executive Presbyter. I hope I can keep up with them as we work hard to help YOU and YOUR church understand better what we’re about and to meet your needs.

There really are a lot of things to be thankful for in our Presbytery. If you or your church doesn’t participate in the Youth Council and the many retreat / mission possibilities, make sure you get in touch with us at the office. We’ll be glad to put you in touch with the right person.

Blessings,

Rich Cooper