

# 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 for its regular quarterly meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Russellville, Kentucky, on Tuesday, February 12, 2008. The cold and gloom of the outside was quickly dispelled by the warm welcome and hospitality provided by members of First Presbyterian Church of Russellville. A delicious brunch was enjoyed by all the members and guests of Presbytery in the historic church.

The meeting was called to order by Elder Bell Muth with prayer. Members and guests were welcomed by Rev. Dr. Cheryl Duke and Clerk of the Session Christine Flis. Rev. Duke led the worship service, reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. The Rev. John Guthrie, Pastor-Elect of The Presbyterian Church of Henderson, Kentucky, read from the gospel of St. Mark. He spoke on "One of Those Transforming Moments". Beautiful music was provided by organist Mary Beth Dowden. The Rev. Dr. Charlie Evans, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, read the Necrology, calling to remembrance twenty elders of the churches

of Western Kentucky Presbytery who died in 2007:

#### Necrology Report

Ruby Louis Frost	January 5	Westminster
Norma Siria	January 7	Madisonville
Dot Presler	January 21	Princeton
Walter Cole	February 11	Madisonville
Dr. Donald Haugh	March 8	Mayfield
W. L. Gresham	April 7	Owensboro First
Irma McFarland	April 15	Owensboro Central
Minnie Veatch Gullett	May 2	Westminster
Robert Louis Holt	May 14	Greenville
Dwight Detraz	May 24	Hopkinsville First
Leslie Holt	June 3	Sturgis
Dan Upton, Sr.	July 8	Mayfield
Stanley Boekhout	July 10	Mayfield
Norma M. Dattoli	July 23	Westminster
Thomas W. Garnett, Jr.	August 2	Hopkinsville First
Dan Matthews	August 23	Mayfield
Carney Wrather	September 10	Mayfield
Sarah M. Howerton	September 24	Central City First
Janet Hough	October 25	Murray
Ronald Raby	November 14	Round Pond

The Sacrament of Holy Communion was observed with the Rev. Dr. Cheryl Duke and the Rev. Dr. Rich Cooper serving the elements.

#### Installation

Elder Bell Muth, Moderator, and Rev. Dr. Rich Cooper, Executive Presbyter, led the installation of Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier and Elder Willee Cooper as Moderator and Vice-moderator, respectively, for the year 2008.

First-time commissioners and visitors were recognized and welcomed by Dr. Napier. It was noted that a number of individuals were absent due to the bad weather that had hit Western Kentucky.

## **Presbyterian Women**

Elder Debbie McCoy reported on the Presbyterian Women. Plans are being made for a Mother's Day Networking Project; the proceeds from which will be used to purchase mosquito netting and educational materials regarding malaria for use in Africa. Mother's Day cards will be available at the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering on April 19, 2008, at First Presbyterian Church in Murray, Kentucky. Speakers at the Spring Gathering will include Mary Webber, Synod Moderator, and missionaries Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell.

## **Mission Development**

Rev. Dr. Anthony R. Barta of First Presbyterian of Hopkinsville on behalf of the Mission Development presented a CD-ROM related to the "Acts 16:5 Initiative". Dr. Barta informed Presbytery of a conference to be held at Pennyriple State Park on March 28 and 29, 2008, that will examine this program in greater detail. Information will be sent to local churches soon.

Rev. Duke offered a blessing before the noon meal. The members of the Russellville church served a delicious soup and sandwich lunch in their beautiful fellowship hall. Homemade desserts followed.

## **Committee on Ministry**

Rev. Lynn Shurley, Jr., reporting for the Committee on Ministry, informed Presbytery

of certain changes in ministerial situations and covenants including the appointment of Ann Mills at Trenton for three years; Ron Milburn at First Korean Presbyterian, and Commissioned Lay Pastor Don Barger's covenant with the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Paducah, Kentucky, be extended to allow Mr. Barger to moderate session meetings.

Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery reported on the continuing progress and success of the Commissioned Lay Pastor Program.

The Reverends Jonathan Carroll, Matthew Covington, Jon Faraone, and David Montgomery led the oral examination of Rev. John Guthrie, candidate for the position of pastor at The Presbyterian Church of Henderson. Rev. Guthrie answered the questions with dignity and conviction. Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier, Moderator, moved to sustain the examination. A date for Rev. Guthrie's installation will be set in the near future.

## **Finances**

Rev. Jon Faraone reported on the status of Presbytery's finances. It was approved by Presbytery to advance a loan of \$10,000.00 from unrestricted funds to finance part of the Clean Water Project this year. The funds will be replenished by donations from the individual congregations.

## **Leadership Development**

Rev. Curry Davis of the Leadership Development Committee reported on a number of Youth Events in 2008 including:

**April 18-20** at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya for Junior and Senior Highs led by MSU's MOTA (Ministry Open to All) and the Youth Council

**June 2-6** - High School Mission Trip in Bowling Green

**June 23-25** - City Lights/City Sights for middle school students from their base at Owensboro First Presbyterian Church

**July 5-12** - The Montreat Youth Conference with its theme "Throw Open the Doors"

**July 13-19** - The second Montreat Youth Conference (same theme)

**November 7-9** - Camp Loucon Retreat for Junior and Senior Highs

### **Ecumenical & Institutional Committee**

Rev. David Montgomery and Elder Andi Denney of the Presbyterian Campus Ministry at Murray State University reported for the Ecumenical & Institutional Relations Committee and informed the Presbytery of the many MOTA activities including Bible studies, a Spring Break mission trip to Harlan, Kentucky, and work with other surrounding Presbyteries to secure the names of Presbyterian students attending MSU. Members of Presbytery were encouraged to report any students from their congregations to MOTA so that the students could be contacted and invited to participate in campus ministry activities.

### **Executive Presbyter**

The Rev. Dr. Rich Cooper, Executive Presbyter, welcomed Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell and thanked them for their years of service in carrying the Gospel abroad.

He requested continued prayers for Chaplains Pete Brzezinski, Tommy Preston,

and Jennifer Rogers. Rev. Rogers is currently serving her second tour in Iraq.

He applauded the response of the churches and people of Central City and Greenville to the recent damaging tornadoes in those communities and asked for prayer for those affected by the storms.

Dr. Cooper thanked the Rev. Duke and the members of First Presbyterian of Russellville for their grace and hospitality.

He also expressed thanks to Lisa Troutman of the Presbytery office for her continued work.

### **Presbyterian Voice**

Willee Cooper reminded Presbytery of the deadline for submitting articles and/or information for The Presbyterian Voice newsletter was March 7, 2008.

### **Thanks**

Lisa Troutman thanked Presbytery and the churches and members for their kindnesses and support following the December, 2007, death of her mother.

Bellewood Representative Art Turner extended thanks to Presbytery for its welcome to him in his new position at Bellewood Children's Home.

On behalf of the Committee on Thanks, Dr. Napier thanked the Russellville Church for its hospitality.

Elder Bell Muth expressed thanks to the church members who provided umbrellas and to God for the blessings of the day. She also offered thanks for the remembrance of the elders who in the past year have passed

away; for the observation of The Lord's Supper; for the presence of Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell; and for the addition of Rev. John Guthrie to the Presbytery of Western Kentucky.

## Joys & Concerns

A number of joys and concerns were observed:

Joyously, Rev. Wes Kendall announced that he and Mrs. Kendall were expecting a baby in May

Elder Jim Allen of Greenville expressed thanks for the outpouring of help to the Muhlenberg County community and especially the American Second Harvest for its response to the tornado victims

Elder Thelma Baker of Cecelia Presbyterian Church offered thanks for this first meeting of Presbytery in 2008

Mrs. James Allen expressed joy that she and her daughter were both cancer survivors.

Concern was expressed for Bell Muth's son who is being deployed to Iraq

David Dossett expressed concern for a Mt. Zion member, Dick Dozer, who suffered a fall

Elder Linda Perkins of Round Pond Presbyterian Church expressed concern for school students in Trousdale and Marion Counties in Tennessee and their coping with the disasters of the tornadoes in their community

Rev. Dr. Anthony Barta expressed joy regarding the sharing of fellowship in the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

Warmed by fellowship and the assured presence of the Holy Spirit, the members and friends of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky adjourned with a feeling of joy and hope to come together again at the First Presbyterian Church of Murray, Kentucky, on May 13, 2008.

## Upcoming Events

**Mission Coordinating Council** – Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. at the Presbytery Office

**Next Presbytery Meeting** – Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at the First Presbyterian Church in Murray, Kentucky

## Highlights February 2008

Several things drew my attention during the recent meeting of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky in February. They were all very good. Some of them were great. They all speak well of the great spirit among the churches and presbyters.

First, there is the issue of the **Acts 16: 5 Initiative**. This may well be the most important thing that this Presbytery has undertaken since I have answered God's call to minister among you. This Initiative has great potential to make our churches very responsive to the changing needs of our folks. I know for certain that it will deepen the spiritual journey of many of our parishioners! That is a wonderful thing for us all.

Next, I've noticed that we seem to continue to receive folks of high "quality" as both Commissioned Lay Pastors and members of Presbytery (for those who may have forgotten, Pastors are "members of presbytery"). Over the last several years our churches, through their Pastor Nominating Committees, have listened closely to

God as God provided very quality people to be part of our community. We all ought to be grateful for God's goodness to us.

Thirdly, I note that the idea of putting clean water "into the mouths" of people with a real need for it is catching hold. Last year we ventured into new ministry by sending a team to Mexico to put clean water into the hands of a church in the state of Campeche, Mexico. This year, growing out of that experience, another team will go to a small church in Ticul, Mexico. The town is very close to the Mayan Ruins just south of Mireda, Mexico (look it up on your map)! Most of the expense for the trip will be handled by the team. The Presbytery will fund the equipment for purifying the water, but the folks with the vision are the ones who will make it work. We all can be thankful for the willingness that the team shows!

Finally, I just want to say how much I appreciate worshipping God at our meeting. I appreciate having the opportunity to ponder the lives of those Saints of the church who have gone before us to the Church Triumphant. Often we think of Presbytery as a business meeting. We do that, of course, but we first gather to glorify the God, in Christ, that has called us into being. It was a wonderful worship time with y'all!

Rich Cooper