

# Highlights

## of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

\*\*\*\*\*

Volume 30 No. 2

Wayne Goolsby, Editor

May, 2008

### *PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS*



The Presbytery of Western Kentucky met for its regular quarterly meeting on May 13, 2008, at First Presbyterian Church of Murray, Kentucky. For many, in attendance, it was the first time to visit the beautiful new edifice in Murray and everyone commented on what a great place it was to worship. The church members provided a fine brunch as the members of Presbytery assembled.

The Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier, Moderator of Presbytery, called the meeting to order with prayer. One of the first items of business concerned the commissioning of individuals who will represent our Presbytery at the meeting of the General Assembly in San Jose, California, this summer. Dr. Napier and Rev. Rich Cooper, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery, led the commissioning of Rev. Jon Faraone of Mayfield, Elder David Dossett of Mt. Zion, and alternate Rev. Lon Lorton of Madisonville. Unable to attend the service were youth delegate Ellen Bravard of Hopkinsville and alternate Elder Donna Houston of Franklin

The Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery, on behalf of the church family, welcomed

Presbytery members and guests to First Presbyterian Church of Murray.

The worship service was led by Rev. Beth Walden-Fisher who read from Psalm 92 and the Gospel of St. Matthew (chapter 13, verses 1-9) and assured us of God's constant presence in our lives through a meditation entitled "God will be there in that, too". Beautiful music was provided by First Presbyterian Church of Murray's organist Todd Gill and flutist Kayla Dunn, a MSU student from Central Presbyterian Church in Princeton, Kentucky.

In the absence of Stated Clerk Rev. Charlie Evans, Rev. Lon Lorton, Associate Stated Clerk, declared a quorum present and Presbytery proceeded to recognize first-time commissioners and guests.

### **MISSION COORDINATING COUNCIL**

Elder Bell Muth reported on the continued progress of the council. She introduced Rev. Jonathan Carroll of First Presbyterian Church of Owensboro who brought as a motion an overture regarding support of the Living Waters of the World program. The Presbytery voted to concur with Holston Presbytery and forward

our action to the General Assembly. The motion was carried.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Rev. Jon Faraone reported on the status of Presbytery's finances. While stable at the moment, he urged those present to remain diligent in giving during the summer, a time that often sees a slump in contributions.

### **LIVING WATERS OF THE WORLD**

Elder Ralph Young reported on the success of the recent trip to Ticul, Mexico on the Yucatan Peninsula where another water purification system has been installed. Also present was Elder Jerry Vaughan, another member of the team. They showed a photographic exhibit of this most recent mission endeavor of Presbytery.

### **MISSION DEVELOPMENT**

Rev. Dr. Anthony Barta reported on the success of the Pennyrile State Park retreat where representatives of twenty-nine churches (eighty-nine individuals) gathered to learn about the Acts 16:5 church building concept. There will be an additional activity at First Presbyterian of Madisonville on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Barta challenged Presbytery to ask "What next?"

### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis reminded Presbytery of a number of youth mission opportunities in the near future including:

**City Sights/City Lights** - Middle School Mission Trip in Owensboro, June 23-25, 2008

**"Gather 'Round the Table" High School Mission Trip** in Bowling Green June 2-6, 2008

Rev. Davis also presented a handout of interesting responses gathered at Camp Kum Ba Ya on April 18-20, 2008, in response to the question "If you could give your pastor/church leader a word of advice, what would you say?" The Presbytery Youths' responses are quite revealing and thought-provoking.

Rev. Davis discussed a form of seeking input from the church families with regard to the Great Ends of the Church to be discussed at Harvest Fest. A blog is currently available for interested individuals to participate in a conversation at the following website: [www.westernkentuckypresbytery.blogspot.com](http://www.westernkentuckypresbytery.blogspot.com)

### **ECUMENICAL & INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS**

Rev. Jerry Cantrell of Bellewood Presbyterian Homes for Children presented a CD production as part of Bellewood's annual report. It was truly informative and inspiring. Rev. Cantrell thanked Presbytery for its continued support of Bellewood.

Following a prayer of thanks by Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery, a delicious lunch was served in the fellowship hall by the members of the host church. It was enjoyed by all!

### **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

Rev. Dr. Lynn Shurley, Jr., reported on the revisiting of two pastoral covenants. That of lay pastors Rev. Bobby Russell at Caney Fork and Ebenezer has been extended until April 8, 2011, and that of Rev. Ann Mills at Trenton and United Central of Paducah until February 1, 2011.

Rev. Shurley also moved to dissolve with thanks the committee that installed Rev. Dr. John Guthrie as pastor at The Presbyterian Church, Henderson. Motion carried.

Rev. Shurley reported that a portion of the Gilmour Funds would be used for the debt reductions for Rev. Wes Kendall and Rev. Sharon Murray.

He also reported on the approvals of sabbaticals for Rev. Ann Marie Montgomery and Rev. David Montgomery.

A highlight of the afternoon was the examination of Archie Fugate (who will graduate from the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary on May 18<sup>th</sup>) for ordination and installation at First Presbyterian Church of Central City, and of Rev. Sam Yang, transferring from Florida Presbytery, to be installed at First Korean Presbyterian Church. Rev. Jonathan Carroll, Rev. Sharon Murray, and Elder Frank Montgomery led the examination of the candidates with questions regarding theology, sacraments, and polity, respectively. Both candidates answered soundly and sufficiently. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the examinations be sustained.

Rev. Yang will be installed on June 1, 2008. Archie Fugate will be ordained and installed on July 13, 2008.

The Rev. Jonathan Carroll offered prayer for these two gentlemen and for their work.

### **COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR PROGRAM**

Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery reported on the continued success of the program and encouraged anyone interested in the program to contact her.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Elder Martha Haynes reported on evaluations for members of the Presbytery staff.

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Elder Anne McNeilly reported on the Spring Gathering in Murray which was attended by sixty women. She thanked Debbie McCoy for her years of service and devotion to the Presbyterian Women. Presbyterian women's offering went to local victims of the recent tornadoes. The special offering for Living Waters totaled \$3,143.35! Funds are still being collected for the Net Working Project. Mrs. McNeilly stated that Presbyterian Women were always looking for "ways of service". There will be a conference at Pennyrile State Park in October.

### **CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

Rev. Bill Krepps reported that arrangements had been made for a leader from the Kentucky Council of Churches to speak at Presbytery in August, 2008.

### **PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

Rev. Lon Lorton reported on the committee's examinations of Archie Fugate and Karen Russell.

### **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT**

Rev. Rich Cooper, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky, commented on the non-threatening atmosphere that was present at meetings of our Presbytery. He reminded all present that while some things might appear somewhat casual on the surface;

that great pains and hard work had gone before.

He asked for prayers for Rev. and Mrs. Wes Kendall who are expecting a baby very soon and Rev. and Mrs. Charlie Evans who recently celebrated the birth of a daughter.

Rev. Cooper also asked for prayer for Rev. and Mrs. Bill Walton as well as missionaries Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Gartrell.

Rev. Cooper honored Elder Martha Haynes for her devoted work with and contributions to Bellewood and Living Waters.

He praised the efforts of the Round Pond Church and its work for Living Waters in the USA.

He asked for prayers for First Presbyterian of Owensboro and the proposed use for St. Andrew property and for David Faxon of Bowling Green who lost a roof in the recent storms.

Rev. Cooper commented on the continued hard work and devotion of Lisa Troutman at the Presbytery Office.

### **COMMITTEE ON THANKS**

Elder Bell Muth presented a litany of thanks to which those present responding "Yes, Lord!" The thanks included the host church; two young ministers; the accomplishments of the Living Waters program; the celebration of Pentecost; and wonderful people who traveled many miles. She reminded all present that Christ is glorified when we call on His name and asked, as did our Kentucky pioneer ancestors, "Are you tending the fire?" Presbytery responded "Yes, Lord".

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

As our time together came to a close, joys and concerns were shared. They included:

Elder Willee Cooper and her work with "The Voice."

Rev. Larry Isakson's proud announcement that he would soon be a grandparent.

Archie Fugate's announcement that the Voices of Appalachia Choir would perform in Central City on Friday evening

Logan Blewett's report on the clean-up following a fire at United Central Presbyterian and an accident in which he was involved

Prayer was sought for Elder Thelma Baker who recently broke her shoulder

Rev. Lon Lorton commented on a trip to Atlanta, Georgia, and the availability of information regarding pensions; a piano concert by Calvin Taylor in Madisonville on Sunday; and First Presbyterian of Madisonville's completion of five Great Banquet observations with over 275 individuals participating!

Following this productive and inspiring meeting, Rev. Dr. Anthony Barta offered a closing prayer.

Presbytery will meet next at Highland Presbyterian Church on August 9, 2008.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

**Next Presbytery Meeting** – Saturday, August 9, 2008 at Highland Presbyterian Church, Hopkinsville, Kentucky

## Highlights May 2008

At the recent meeting of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky in Murray we certainly were treated to some great stuff! It was only a little over 3 years ago that the folks at Murray decided that they really needed a new building. Their new building and their hospitality made it clear they made a great decision! Ann Marie Montgomery, the session, and the great ladies (and gentlemen) who put the morning together deserve our thanks. Many presbyters noted that they did it without the co-pastor who will go unnamed!!

Speaking of thanks, it was great to hear from those folks who represent organizations which we support through our mission dollars. Elder Ralph Young who showed us the photos from the recent Living Waters Project and Jerry Cantrell, Chief Executive Officer of Bellewood, reminded us of the importance of our support. We're thankful that they are thankful and that we can support missions serving other folks across Kentucky and the world.

If you pause for a moment and think about the time we spent examining ministers you will be amazed. Archie Fugate is the second Commissioned Lay Pastor that we have sent off to seminary and has returned to a call in our Presbytery. Archie has made a dramatic impact at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and we expect that he'll do likewise here. We are really grateful for him, Sharon, and Sam for their patience while he completed his Masters of Divinity. Thanks be to God for the folks in Central City, too. Sam Yang comes to us from Florida and comes with the reputation as a wonderful and caring pastor for our Korean and American community. We are really blessed by God, aren't we?

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