

Highlights

of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

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Wayne Goolsby, Editor

August, 2008

PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS



The Presbytery of Western Kentucky met for its regular quarterly meeting on Saturday, August 9, 2008, at Highland Presbyterian Church in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Many of those attending were impressed with the beautiful landscaping at the church, a good bit of which had been done by the Youth Group. A delicious brunch of fruit, coffee, juices, and homemade goodies was awaiting the members and guests of Presbytery, compliments of the Highland Church members.

The Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier, Moderator of the Presbytery, called the meeting to order with prayer. Highland Presbyterian pastor Rev. Don Troutman introduced Clerk of the Session, Donna Grant, who welcomed Presbytery to the church.

The worship service was led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Don Barger who read from Romans 8: 1-11 and presented a sermon entitled "A Sign of the Times" in which he related events at the fictional "Second Presbyterian Church". Music was provided by Patricia S. Thomas, Highland organist.

Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. Charlie Evans declared a quorum present and Presbytery recognized first-time commissioners and guests. Rev. Evans reported on the success of the July Session Review

meetings at Hopkinsville and Madisonville. He also reported that Presbytery had been invited to Sturgis in November, 2008; Lester Memorial in February, 2009; The Presbyterian Church of Henderson in May, 2009; First Presbyterian of Paducah in August, 2009; and First Presbyterian of Madisonville in November, 2009. Approval was granted to serve Communion at Harvest Fest at Central Presbyterian in Princeton, Kentucky, on September 21, 2008.

Mission Coordinating Council Report.

Elder Bell Muth reported that the Council members had not met formally in July, but had been in communication via e-mail.

Leadership Development Committee

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis reported on the successes of the Presbytery's Summer Outreach activities for young people and introduced Becky Durham, Adam Quine, Cheryl Duke, and David Muffett who reported on activities at Henderson Presbyterian; City Lights/City Sights in Owensboro, and Montreat. Rev. Davis distributed pamphlets related to the September 21, 2008 Harvest Fest to be held at Central Presbyterian in Princeton. He reported that the keynote speaker would be Charles Wiley of the Office of Theology and Worship, General Assembly Council.

Presbyterian Women

Elder Ann McNeilly reported on the success of the recent meetings at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Paducah and at First Presbyterian in Central City. She told about the new Bible Study material entitled "Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor". She also reported that two new groups would be formed: one at Highland Presbyterian and one at Central City. Mrs. McNeilly informed Presbytery of a meeting of the Coordinating Team to be held at Pennyriple State Park on October 24-25, 2008.

Board of Pensions

Rev. Dr. Helen Locklear, Regional Representative, reported on new programs and policies.

"The Voice"

Elder Willee Cooper asked for the churches of Presbytery to have their secretaries/staff to evaluate the lists of members with regards to those who receive "The Voice". "The Voice" will only be published five times next year. Information for the November, 2008 edition is due by October 10, 2008.

At noon, Presbytery adjourned for a delicious catfish (with all the trimmings!) lunch prepared and served by members of the Highland Church. Tables featured an aquatic theme, decorated with seashells. The meal was blessed by Highland member Faye Pool.

Following lunch, Presbytery reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Ecumenical & Institutional Relations Committee

Rev. Jim Stahr presented "A Covenant Between the Presbyteries of Kentucky and Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky, Inc." The Covenant was approved.

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Dr. Lynn Shurley, Jr., reported on the successful installations of Reverends Archie Fugate and Sam Yang. Their installation committees were dismissed with thanks.

Rev. Shurley reported on the renewal of the covenants of Rev. Jim Brown, Larry Isakson, Bill Farr, and Don Barger.

Rev. Shurley introduced Rev. Pete Phelan, of Madisonville who spoke about his prison ministry. Rev. Phelan was presented as a candidate for commissioning to serve at the Hopkins County Correctional Institute as an outreach of First Presbyterian Church, Madisonville. Following examination, Rev. Dr. Napier asked the questions for commissioning to which Rev. Phelan responded appropriately. It was moved, seconded, and carried to commission Rev. Phelan as a Commissioned Lay Pastor. Rev. Sharon Murray led prayer for Rev. Phelan and his ministry.

Rev. Rich Cooper, Executive Presbyter of the Western Kentucky Presbytery, presented the Certificate of Ordination to Rev. Archie Fugate.

Nominations Committee

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis, representing the committee, moved that Rev. Charlie Evans be elected to the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission (class of 2014) and that Rev. Jonathan Carroll be elected to the Synod Committee on Representation (Class of 2011). The motion was carried. Rev. Davis reported on several outstanding committee vacancies.

Mission Development

In the excused absence of Rev. Dr. Anthony Barta, Rev. Rich Cooper reported that the Acts Initiative team was continuing to make progress.

Finance Committee

Rev. Jon Faraone reported that giving in the churches was going well. He encouraged members to continue giving. He reminded the committees that the budget committee would soon be meeting to consider requests for 2009.

Trustees

Elder Ray Kramer presented an independent auditor's report from Thurman, Campbell and Company. He moved to accept the financial statement. The motion carried.

Personnel Committee

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

Church and Society

Elder John Gramling presented Rev. Nancy Jo Kemper of the Kentucky Council of Churches who reported on the activities of the KCC in Frankfort.

Executive Presbyter's Report

Rev. Rich Cooper presented Rev. Ann Mills who distributed flyers related to her congregations' Christmas mission projects. Rev. Mills urged all the churches of Presbytery to participate.

Rev. Cooper offered prayer for Rev. and Mrs. Bill Walton.

Rev. Cooper thanked the Commissioned Lay Pastor Program leaders for their continued work.

He also expressed thanks to Lisa Troutman for her continued work in the Presbytery Office.

Administrative Commission Report.

Elder Frank Montgomery reported on the positive feeling at the First Korean Presbyterian Church and the progress being made there.

General Assembly Report

Presbytery received reports from the individuals who served as representatives to the General Assembly.

Summer Youth Institute

Miss Jean Foltz of Round Pond reported on her pleasant experience at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Summer Youth Institute this summer.

New Contact Information For Stated Clerk

Please send any future correspondence that you might have for our Stated Clerk, Rev. Evan "Charlie" Evans, to the following address:

Rev. Evan "Charlie" Evans, Stated Clerk
1800 Morgantown Road
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Home Phone: 270/393-1898

Office Phone: 270/586-4535

Email address: evanscharlie@rocketmail.com

Committee on Thanks

Elder Bell Muth offered thanks to Rev. Troutman and the members of Highland Church for their hospitality and for "bringing the beach to us". She commented on four words so important to Presbyterians (energy, intelligence, imagination, and love) present at the meeting. Mrs. Muth thanked the young people for their devotion, Rev.

Phelan's ministry and its relation to Jesus' comment "You've done it to me". She offered thanks to Rev. Kemper for reminding us of the importance of ecumenical efforts. Mrs. Muth also mentioned that we have much to look forward to, too, including the Women's Retreat and Harvest Fest.

Joys and Concerns

The fellowship of the Presbytery was felt by all as those present related Joys and Concerns:

Jon Faraone - concern for two former members of his church who are experiencing serious health issues;

Wes Kendall - joy for First Presbyterian of Owensboro's 10th Annual Multicultural Festival;

Frannie Griffith - concern for a young member of the Owensboro church battling cancer;

Don Troutman – concern for Dr. Bill Horrell who suffered a stroke and is in the Leitchfield nursing home;

Don Troutman - joy at having Presbytery at Highland Church and joy at having Presbytery meet at Lester Memorial in February;

Don Troutman - joy that his daughter Abigail has been present at every Saturday meeting of Presbytery her entire life!

David Dossett - joy over his experiences at General Assembly and thanks to Rev. Jon Faraone and his support at the meeting;

David Montgomery - joy at being back in the USA after his and Ann Marie's visit to their Peace Corp volunteer son in Europe;

Charlie Evans - concern for Commie Jo Hall who recently had surgery;

Charlie Evans and Wes Kendall - joy at the births of their daughters;

Linda Perkins - concern for teachers everywhere and their need to show the love of Christ in their classrooms;

John Gramling - joy regarding clean water in the community;

John Griffith - concern related to the economic situation in the community;

Beth Walden-Fisher - joy at the work of John Gramling and concern for his health.

Following a successful day of fellowship and work, Presbytery was adjourned with prayer by Rev. Dr. Napier. We will gather again in November in Sturgis, Kentucky.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Harvest Fest – Sunday, September 21, 2008 at Central Presbyterian Church in Princeton, Kentucky

Mission Coordinating Council Meeting – Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. at the Presbytery Office

Next Presbytery Meeting – Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at First Presbyterian Church in Sturgis, Kentucky

AUGUST 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

Besides being very easy for Lisa to move all the registration materials, the August meeting of Presbytery at Highland Presbyterian Church was (again) very special. The wonderful congregation at Highland excels at hospitality! I am always deeply appreciative when our congregations work hard to make the meeting of the Presbytery an enjoyable occasion – a kind of picnic and get together. Thanks to all who made it such a pleasant experience. And to whoever is taking credit for the great weather I want to thank you, too!! (Sometime I'll relate my stories about my chaplaincy days and my unwillingness to "do weather.")

We all had a great opportunity to consider one of the ministries that often eludes the average missionary in the Presbyterian Church, Prison Ministry. The Madisonville Church (1st, Madisonville) and their focus on prison ministry led us to commission Pete Phelan as a CLP to that service. I think everyone at the meeting was able to acknowledge how important a ministry it is and to consider how often we do not think about it. I know I considered just how little time I have spent ministering in prisons on behalf of Jesus Christ. I guess, in one way, I've been fortunate. I am thankful for churches like Madisonville and for elders like Pete.

I also want to remind everyone who is reading this to talk to someone in your church about getting a new list of folks who want to read the "VOICE" (the Synod newspaper) to the editor of the paper. If there are any questions about where to send the information you may email Willee Cooper (willee@newwavecomm.net) or call her at 270-886-1565 for information. Don't forget that she always wants to know about special programs or activities that your church is doing so that we can get more coverage of the Presbytery on our "Voice" page.

Finally, as the summer ever-so-quickly comes to an end, please remember to keep our various programs and activities in your prayers. Please let the Presbytery Office know what kinds of exciting things your church is doing. I am always willing to visit and or preach (remember I don't accept honorariums). I'm always glad to give your pastor a break – just get on my schedule!

Blessings,

Rich