

Highlights

of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

Volume 31 No. 2

Wayne Goolsby, Editor

May, 2009

PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS



The Presbytery of Western Kentucky met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at The Presbyterian Church of Henderson, Kentucky. A breakfast buffet and tremendous hospitality awaited members and guests as they assembled. Elder Willee Cooper, Moderator of Presbytery, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., with the constituting prayer.

Morning worship was led by Rev. Jennifer Rogers, Chaplain (Captain), US Army. Rev. Rogers read from the first epistle of St. John as well as the gospel of St. John. She presented a sermon entitled "God's Virtue" and encouraged us to emulate such virtues in our everyday lives. Beautiful music was provided by Rachel Maurer, organist.

Members and guests were welcomed to the beautiful Presbyterian Church of Henderson by Rev. Dr. John Guthrie, pastor. He told briefly about the history of the church.

Elder Willee Cooper, Moderator, welcomed corresponding members and led introductions of first time commissioners to Presbytery. Rev. Dr. Charlie Evans, Stated Clerk of Presbytery, declared a quorum present. The working docket was approved.

Finance Committee

Rev. Dr. John Guthrie presented the financial report. He noted that a vast majority of the thirty-six churches had

already paid their Per Capita dues and that financial concerns were proceeding in a positive manner.

Personnel Committee

Rev. David Montgomery reported that several members in attendance had received evaluation forms for Rev. Rich Cooper, Executive Director of Presbytery, and Rev. Dr. Charlie Evans, Stated Clerk of Presbytery. Rev. Montgomery urged those who received the forms to complete them soon and to return them to the Personnel Committee. Rev. Montgomery reported on Rev. Cooper's approaching Sabbatical. He asked Rev. Dr. Jonathan Carroll to lead those present in prayer for Rev. Cooper. The members of Presbytery participated in the laying on of hands while Rev. Dr. Carroll prayed.

Leadership Development

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis reported on two mission events available to middle and high school students. He introduced Rev. David Montgomery and Elder Andi Denney who presented a power point presentation showing the successful retreat held at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya April 17-19, 2009. Over fifty middle and high school students were in attendance with ten M.O.T.A. students leading the retreat entitled "Outrageous Generosity". Music for the service was provided by the Cornerstone Praise Band of First Korean Presbyterian Church. Rev. Montgomery told of events to be observed this summer at Montreat.

Nominations Committee

Rev. Dr. Curry Davis expressed gratitude for the support of conferences and for those individuals who serve on the various committees of Presbytery. He noted two

vacancies on the committees: a clergy opening on the Leadership Development Committee, Class of 2011 and an opening on the Bellewood Board, class of 2010.

Presbyterian Women

Elder Anne McNeilly reported on the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering held at First Presbyterian Church of Mayfield on April 18, 2009. She noted that six quilts for Bellewood residents were on display and that over 100 quilts had been made for Bellewood at Bowling Green since 2000. Seventy-four women were in attendance at the Spring Gathering with worship led by Rev. Jennifer Rogers. The Fall Gathering will be held in Henderson. She commented on the availability of an e-newsletter to be coming soon. Elder Willee Cooper urged those present to consider forming a Presbyterian Women's Group if one was not in existence at their home church.

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington expressed pleasure in regards to the strong ministry found in our Presbytery as the result of people working well together. He commented on the challenge regarding the former pastor of the First Korean Presbyterian Church and his current association with a nondenominational church geographically close to the Korean Presbyterian Church. Rev. Dr. Covington expressed gratitude to Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery and the Commissioned Lay Pastors Program, calling it a model for similar programs in other presbyteries. He also reported on changes in the calls of Ann Mills and David Dossett. Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery reported on the continuing progress of the CLP program and its sessions.

Mission Development

Rev. Dr. Jon Faraone reported on the *Five Practices for a Fruitful Congregation* program currently being evaluated and used by a few congregations. He called it a practical, down-to-earth program. Rev. Dr. Faraone also commented on the continuing Clean Water project and the plans to organize a second team from our Presbytery.

Presbytery paused for lunch at noon. Rev. Dr. John Guthrie asked Grace. A delicious meal was served by members of The Presbyterian Church of Henderson.

Following lunch, Presbytery reconvened.

Ecumenical and Institutional Relations Committee

Rev. James Stahr introduced Mr. Jerry Cantrell and Rev. Sally Pendleton of Bellewood Children's Home. They reported on the continuing success of the 160 year-old institution. Names of individual Bellewood residents were given to those in attendance. We were urged to pray for the individuals.

Preparation for Ministry

Rev. Lon Lorton reported on the status of individuals who have expressed interest in the field of ministry.

Executive Presbyter's Report

Rev. Rich Cooper, Executive Director of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky, reported on plans for his Sabbatical. He urged prayer for Rev. Don Troutman and Rev. James Stahr, both of whom are scheduled for surgery later this month. Rev. Cooper praised the Lay Pastors Program and its leader, Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery. He reported that in Rev. Montgomery's recent absence, the class was successfully led by Rev. David Montgomery. Rev. Cooper reported that Elder Martha Haynes was the recent recipient of a Jefferson Award in Bowling Green and that she would soon travel to Washington, D.C., to a meeting for other winners. He thanked Rev. Dr. Jonathan Carroll for his earlier prayer. Rev. Cooper called on Rev. Lon Lorton to lead prayer for Rev. Don Troutman while those present participated in the laying on of hands.

Committee on Thanks

Rev. Dr. Patrick Napier asked Elder Kendrick Nuttall of Madisonville to report on thanks. She expressed thanks to God for the beautiful day; to the Henderson Church for its hospitality; to Rev. Rogers for her inspiring sermon challenging us to experience the virtue of God; to the youth of Presbytery for their "Outrageous Generosity" mission; to the Presbyterian Women; to the Lay Pastors Program and Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery; to Mission Development and to Bellewood and the people who carry on that work; to those new enquirers; to Rich Cooper for seizing the opportunity for renewal; to Moderator Willee Cooper for a well run meeting of Presbytery.

Joys and Concerns

A number of joys and concerns were addressed in Rev. Rogers' closing prayer. Joys included graduations of children and grandchildren; new jobs and careers for graduates; marriages. Concerns were indicated for the unemployed; for safe travel for many; for those awaiting doctor's reports. Concerns were also expressed for Elders Thelma Baker, Martha Jo Ross and Joyce Phillips related to health issues. Rev. Dr. Lynn Shurley, Jr., expressed gratitude for the life and ministry of Rev. David Shepperson who passed away on April 1, 2009, and for Rev. Betty Shepperson and her ministry.

Rev. Jennifer Rogers presented Rev. Lon Lorton and members of First Presbyterian Church of Madisonville with a citation expressing thanks for support of American troops in Iraq through the generation of books and study guides purchased by a donation from the family of a veteran in the Madisonville Church in his memory. The citation came from the 101st ABD (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Moderator Willee Cooper in a charge of dismissal reminded us that we go nowhere by accident, but that God has a purpose for all of us.

Presbytery was adjourned with prayer by Elder Willee Cooper at 2:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Mission Coordinating Council Meeting – Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at the Presbytery Office

Next Presbytery Meeting – Saturday, August 8, 2009 at First Presbyterian Church, Paducah, Kentucky

Highlights May 2009

With typical grace, the folks at Henderson made the May meeting of Presbytery even more delighting! Many folks commented on the opportunity to listen as the water in the fountain in the garden outside the sanctuary made such a

delightful sound! We could not help but “remember our baptism,” could we?

My comments are as short as my time in the office! As I write this I'm still trying to insure that the last minute projects get done before I leave for Germany, France and Spain. On Monday, 18 May (next Monday as I write), my friend John Klein and I will meet in Baltimore to begin the great journey of “my Camino.” Again, for those who may not have heard, I'm traveling to France where John and I will begin the Camino del Santiago de Compostela (the way of St. James). It will be a pilgrimage of 500 miles across the north of Spain until we reach the city of Santiago where legend has it that St. James is buried.

I intend to take much of the time to be in prayer. My promise is that each church will get a day of prayer. We'll be “on Camino” about 35 – 36 days so it will work out just right! Please know that most of my waking hours will be lifting you in prayer.

You each know that Lisa will easily handle all the office issues. Any other issues will be handled by the Presbytery Moderator (Willee Cooper, my wife), Pat Napier (Moderator of Council), or Matthew Covington, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry. All are able folks.

Finally, please remember to keep the many folks in prayer that have been noted. Lisa will be helping care for Don Troutman who faces a heart-valve replacement so leave your messages at the office and Lisa will get back to you as soon as she can. Meanwhile, have a blessed summer. I will!

Buen' Camino!

Rich