

**Gay Mothershed** presented a report on the state of the Presbytery and challenged the Presbytery to continue to be faithful to its mission statement and to look for new possibilities in its future.

**Upcoming Events**

December 23-January 3	Presbytery office closed for Christmas
January 9, 16, 23	Lay Academy Classes
February 12-13	Council Retreat, John XXIII Pastoral Center
February 13, 20, 27	Lay Academy Classes
February 21-March 1	RHINO Mission Trip
March 5-7	Younger Youth Retreat, Cedar Lakes
March 9	Presbytery meeting, TBA
March 27	Festival of Faith

**YOUR PRESBYTERY STAFF**

Gay Mothershed .....	Executive Presbyter
Frank Mansell, Jr. ....	Acting Stated Clerk
Lois Coffey .....	Financial Administrator/Treasurer
Terry Cunningham .....	Ministry with Older Adults
Susan Sharp Campbell.....	Associate for Educational Ministry
Karen Robinson.....	Resource Center Director
Sherri Walker .....	Information Services Director
Diane Lunsford.....	Office Administrator
Erica Panaro .....	Bluestone Conference Center Secretary
Mark Miller .....	Director of Bluestone Conference Center
Carolyn Arbuckle .....	Hunger Action Enabler/Staff Resource for Quadrant 3
Mary Jane Knapp.....	Special Presbyter for Quadrant 1
Barbara Accord.....	Staff Resource for Quad 2
Bob Newman.....	Staff Resource for Quadrant 4

**PRESBYTERY OFFICE HOURS**

**8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Monday thru Thursday**

**Phone (304) 744-7634 Fax (304) 744-7649**

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# Presbytery Digest

## Presbytery of West Virginia

### December 3, 2009

The Presbytery of West Virginia met on December 3, 2009 at **First Presbyterian Church, Charleston**. Moderator **Jim Rowe** presided at the meeting which was attended by 174 individuals. Presbytery was welcomed by **Bill McCoy**, Pastor of First Church.

The meeting began with morning worship and joys and concerns of the Presbytery. Following morning worship, **Frank Mansell**, acting stated clerk, recognized **Bill Bowman**, a representative of Living Waters for the World; **Bruce Stevens**, Executive of the Synod of the Trinity; **Sue Wonderland**, Associate Executive of the Synod of the Trinity; and the **Rev. Dr. Brian Blount**, President of Union - PSCE and they were seated as corresponding members with voice but without vote. Presbytery also welcomed new ministers **Helen Young**, interim pastor of Highlawn Church St. Albans, **Lanny Howe**, temporary supply of Alderson Church; and **Doug Craven**, pastor of First Church Logan.

**Bill Bowman**, an elder in the Synod of Living Waters, presented information on the Living Waters for the World program and churches were encouraged to participate. **Bob Wood**, minister from Bream Memorial, encouraged continuing participation in Habitat for Humanity projects and **Carolyn Arbuckle**, Hunger Action Enabler, encouraged people to participate in a campaign to challenge Kroger to pay a fair wage to tomato pickers. Presbytery designated the \$1361.31 offering from the afternoon worship service to the Presbytery sponsored RHINO Mission trip to New Orleans in February 2010. In addition, churches were urged to participate in the annual Joy Offering.

Newly elected officers include Moderator **Cinda Harkless**; Chair of Council **Jim Rowe**; and **George Lilley**, Moderator- Elect. A number of individuals were elected to serve on Presbytery committees. The following were elected to serve as commissioners or alternates to the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2010:

- **The Rev. Mary Jane Knapp** – Quad 1 – Principal
- **The Rev. Paul Romine** – Quad 4 – Principal
- **The Rev. Peter Vial** – Quad 2 – Alternate

- **The Rev. Carl Pattison** – Quad 3 – Alternate
- **Elder Susan Eason** – Quad 2 – Principal
- **Elder John Arbuckle** – Quad 3 – Principal
- **Elder Ken Bibbee** – Quad 1 – Alternate
- **Elder Joyce Armentrout** – Quad 4 – Alternate
- Young Adult Advisory Delegate – **Lucy Swecker** – Quad 2 – Principal
- Young Adult Advisory Delegate – **Jonathan Rollins** – Quad 3 - Alternate

Presbytery approved three commissioned lay pastors, **Cherrie Sizemore** for **Winfield Church**, **Lynn Randolph** for **Spring Creek Church**, and **Norman Mills** for **Melrose Church**. Also approved were the renewal of four commissioned lay pastor covenants and the renewal of three stated supply covenants. In addition, the Presbytery validated the ministry of **Robin Blakeman**, **James Morley**, **Jean Sutton**, **Kathryn Willoughby Weed**, and **Richard Wilson** for 2010. Moderators were approved for six churches and finally, the Rev. **William Stutler** was approved to administer the sacrament of baptism at the Beulah Humble Church.

**Jim Robinson**, chair of Committee on Ministry, presented a proposed revision of our Sexual Misconduct Prevention Policy for information. The policy will be presented to a later Presbytery meeting for approval.

**John Koerner**, chair of Personnel and Administration Committee, introduced **Dave Lee** who led Presbytery in recognizing **Peter Vial**, the former Associate for Congregational Development. Peter left the Presbytery staff when he accepted the call as minister of Davis Memorial Church in Elkins. **Jim Robinson** led the Presbytery's recognition for **Margaret Bolt**, Office Administrator, who is moving to Morgantown. Finally, **Doug Heidt** led the recognition of **Gay Mothershed**, Executive Presbyter, who is retiring at the end of 2009. During the lunch hour, there was an 'open mic' time when commissioners shared favorite stories about Gay.

**John Arbuckle**, chair of the Interim Executive Presbyter Search Committee, reported that the position is currently being advertised on the denominational Church Leadership Connection website and was advertised in *Presbyterian Outlook*. A number of candidates have applied and the committee is working diligently.

**Tina Vial**, chair of Council, presented a recommendation from Council that in the event that the Interim Executive Presbyter Search Committee is ready to present a candidate prior to the March 9, 2010 Presbytery meeting, that the Presbytery empower Presbytery's Council to call the interim executive presbyter in consultation with the Committee on Ministry and this recommendation was unanimously approved.

Presbytery approved a recommendation from **Ed Rugeley**, chair of Trustees, asking the Presbytery to empower the trustees to convey, sell or transfer the real property and the other assets of both the **Scott Memorial Church** and the **French Creek Church**. These recommendations were approved. He also reported on work that the Trustees are doing with **First Church Morgantown**, **South Hills Church**, and **Kopperston Church**. The Trustees have also given permission for **Upperglade Church**, **Village Chapel Church**, **Pineville Church**, **First Church Fairmont** and **Richwood Church** to sell either manses or other property owned by the church.

**Lois Coffey**, Financial Administrator/Treasurer, presented a financial report and reported that Presbytery's receipts are higher than expenses and highlighted information regarding the status of per capita and shared mission giving from congregations. In addition, she reported that currently Bluestone's expenses exceed their receipts but that Bluestone should end the year with a positive balance.

**Ed Pettus**, chair of Camps Conferences and Retreat Ministries Committee, announced several events planned in 2010 and reported that the Friends of Bluestone have received donations totaling \$26,150.50 toward their \$30,000 commitment for 2009. The Friends of Bluestone hope to raise more than the \$35,000 commitment for 2010 next year.

**Mike Ducheneau**, chair of Worship Review and Polity Committee, presented the second reading of changes to Presbytery's *Manual*. The changes include adjusting the term of service for the stated clerk from 5 years to 3 years; adjusting the terms of service for the Financial Administrator/Treasurer from 5 years to an indefinite term; adjusting the term of service for the Executive Presbyter from 5 years to an indefinite term and removing the word 'contract' from these positions. These changes were recommended by an attorney specializing in employment law. In addition changes were made to the language regarding election of these individuals to assure that the *Manual* reflected the recent practices used by Presbytery. Finally, the Presbytery approved a recommendation that Appendix A of Presbytery's *Manual* which has the position descriptions for the Executive Presbyter, Stated Clerk and Financial Administrator/Treasurer be exempt from the requirement for a second reading before amendments can be made to these position descriptions. All of these changes were approved unanimously.

**Amy Sutherlun**, chair of Christian Nurture and Worship, announced several upcoming events including confirmation retreats in February, March and April; the Younger Youth Retreat March 5-7, 2010; and the Festival of Faith on March 27, 2010. General Assembly Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow will be the keynote speaker.