

Upcoming Events

Confirmation Retreat – Highlawn, Huntington – September 19-20
Elementary Age Retreat – Bluestone Camp – September 19-21
First Call Pastor’s Retreat – John XXIII, Charleston – September 22-23
Clergywomen’s Retreat – Knotty Pine Lodge – October 6-8
Presbytery Staff Retreat – Knotty Pine Lodge - October 14-16
Confirmation Retreat – First, Colcord – October 17-18
Equipping Elders – Beckley – October 19
Missional Church Workshop – First, South Charleston – October 25
Equipping Elders – Ronceverte – October 26
Council Meeting – Edgewood, Lewisburg – October 30
Equipping Elders – First, St. Albans - November 2
Older Youth Retreat – Bluestone Camp – November 7-9

YOUR PRESBYTERY STAFF

Gay Mothershed Executive Presbyter
John Bolt Stated Clerk
Lois Coffey Financial Administrator/Treasurer
Terry Cunningham Ministry with Older Adults
Susan Sharp Campbell..... Associate for Educational Ministries
Karen Robinson..... Resource Center Director
Sherri Walker Information Services Director
Margaret Bolt Office Coordinator
Erica Panaro Bluestone Conference Center Secretary
Mark Miller Director of Bluestone Conference Center
Carolyn Arbuckle Hunger Action Enabler/Co-Staff Resource for Quadrant 3
Mary Jane Knapp..... Special Presbyter for Quadrant 1
Peter Vial.... Assoc. for Congregational Development/Co-Staff Resource for Quad 3

PRESBYTERY OFFICE HOURS

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

Monday thru Thursday

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Presbytery Digest

Presbytery of West Virginia
Quadrant Presbytery Meetings
September 4, 5, 8 & 9, 2008

The Presbytery met in quadrants in the following locations: Quadrant 3 - September 4th at **Mount Pleasant Church, Sinks Grove**; Quadrant 1 – September 5th at **Bates Memorial Church, Huntington**; Quadrant 2 – September 8th at **Fleming Memorial Church, Fairmont**; and Quadrant 4 – September 9th at **Westminster Church, Charleston**. Moderator **Kristi Moore** presided at all four meetings, which were attended by 236 individuals. A number of individuals attended more than one of the quadrant meetings so that total attendance was 287.

Presbytery welcomed **Ken Atkins**, pastor of **Oak Hill and Summerlee Churches**, and commissioned **Tracy French** to serve as a Commissioned Lay Pastor for **First Church, Mullens** during the Quadrant 3 meeting; examined and approved **Joanne Glaser** and **Elizabeth Glaser Troyer** for candidacy in Quadrant 2; and commissioned **Mike Elliott** to serve as a Commissioned Lay Pastor for **Ruffner Memorial Church, Charleston** during the Quadrant 4 meeting.

Each meeting was designed for worshipful work with committee reports and business items woven in with prayers, litanies, scripture, hymns and celebration of the Lord’s Supper. The Quadrant 3 meeting was treated to special music provided by the Alderson Federal Correction Institute Praise & Worship Choir. Each meeting included a time for discussion on initiatives sent out from the 218th General Assembly to *Grow Christ’s Church Deep and Wide*. After a time of quiet reflection, commissioners and others attending were divided into four small groups to discuss the following:

- **Grow in Evangelism:** Share the good news of Jesus Christ. Invite persons to join in the church’s worship and fellowship. Baptize children and adults.
- **Grow in Discipleship:** Rediscover Scripture, including daily reading and study. Nurture relationships with Jesus Christ in the context of our Reformed heritage.
- **Grow in Servanthood:** Stand alongside the wider community to promote the well-being and love of neighbor. Embrace stewardship in all of life.
- **Grow in Diversity:** Welcome everyone. Learn from others. Reflect the culture and ethnic diversity of God’s peoples in the world.

Because the intent of the quadrant meetings is to promote fellowship and our connectional life, minimal business was included. However, some essential business was conducted and votes were recorded by hand counts in each meeting with the final vote total determining whether or not the recommendation was approved.

- The Committee on Ministry presented a recommendation that the minimum compensation for pastors and Christian educators in 2009 be increased by 5% to a minimum cash salary of \$29,704. This recommendation is based on the cost of living as determined by the US Department of Labor Statistics. In addition, it recommended that those persons above the minimum also receive at least a 5% increase. This recommendation was approved by a vote of 141 to 1.

The Stated Clerk reported on a number of items of correspondence including a letter from the Synod of the Trinity notifying Presbytery that Synod's per capita assessment for 2009 will be \$2.10, an increase of 10 cents.

The Presbytery Worship, Review and Polity Committee asked attendees to complete an evaluation form regarding the quadrant meetings which have been a two-year "holy experiment." The committee will be reviewing the evaluations and will make recommendations to Presbytery's Council about continuing the quadrant meetings in the future.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry announced that **Joshua Trautmann, First Church Bluefield**, had been enrolled as an inquirer and has begun his studies at Union-PSCE in Richmond, VA.

The Presbytery's commissioners to the 218th General Assembly in San Jose, CA June 21-28, 2008 reported and shared written reports as well as a colorful pictorial presentation. The commissioners were: **Nancy Baldwin**, elder from Winfield Church; **George Spransy**, interim pastor of Bridgeport Church; **Adrian Pratt**, pastor of Beckley Church; and **Bob Hutton**, elder from Highlawn Church, St. Albans. The Youth Advisory Delegate was **Kelly Stephens** from Clifton Church in Maxwelton, whose grandfather was instrumental in establishing the YAD program a number of years ago.

The Congregational Development Committee sponsored its "Good News from the Pews" reports and invited teams from all churches to attend a missional church workshop on Saturday, October 25th at **First Church, South Charleston** from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Social and Ecumenical Ministries Committee sponsored a presentation on Alzheimer's disease by Terry Cunningham, Associate for Older Adult Ministries.

Terry reported that every 71 seconds someone is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and requested that all congregations observe 71 seconds of silence during worship on Sunday, September 21st which is World Alzheimer's Day.

Lois Coffey reported on the Presbytery's financial condition and shared statistics on church size and per member giving in each quadrant.

Number of Churches	Median Pledge 2008	Shared Mission Pledge 2008	Shared Mission Pledge 2007	2006 Members	2006 Median Membership	2007 Members	2007 Median Membership
Quad 1 28 24 Pledges	\$3,075	\$155,145	\$152,746	3084	63	3046	67
Quad 2 40 33 Pledges	\$1,697	\$122,606	\$109,318	2457	35	2457	30
Quad 3 45 38 Pledges	\$1,764	\$206,430	\$183,026	3217	39	3118	37
Quad 4 32 24 Pledges	\$5,125	\$272,876	\$299,270	4244	70	4149	72
Total 145 119 Pledges	\$2,730	\$757,057	\$744,360	13,002	41	12,770	37

The Christian Nurture and Worship Committee sponsored an offering of new and gently used children's books in recognition of the Decade of the Child. Over 1,500 books were collected and were distributed to agencies serving children in each quadrant. Thank you for your generosity! The committee also announced dates for Fall Confirmation retreats, the Older Youth Retreat, and Equipping Elders events. See the calendar for more details.

The Mission Interpretation and Stewardship Committee recommended that the offering from the quadrant meetings be designated for floods in the Midwest, fires in California and hurricanes in Texas along with other disasters through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. A total of **\$1,605.62** was received. The committee also reported that letters had been mailed to all congregations with regard to the 2009 per capita and shared mission pledges.

**The next Presbytery meeting will be:
Thursday, December 4, 2008 – Old Stone Church, Lewisburg**