

Upcoming Events

December 24 – January 4	Presbytery Office closed for holidays
January 7	Remittance deadline for submitting 2008 payments
January 9-10	Youth Council
January 16-17	CPM Retreat, WV Institute of Spirituality
January 18-19	COM/CDC Retreat, John XXIII Pastoral Center
February 6-7	Council Retreat, Hawk's Nest State Park
February 8-16	RHINO Mission Trip, New Orleans
February 21	Amendment meetings – First Beckley & Beechwood
February 23-24	Educator/Clergy/CLP Retreat, Hawk's Nest State Park
February 26-28	VBS Fair, Resource Center
February 28	Amendment meetings – Bridgeport & Highlawn, St. Albans
March 13-15	Younger Youth Retreat, Cedar Lakes

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 Ministry
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/Staff Resource for Quadrant 3
Mary Jane Knapp.....	Special Presbyter for Quadrant 1
Peter Vial.....	Assoc. for Congregational Development/Staff Resource for Quad 2
Frank Mansell.....	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

Email: office@wvpresbytery.org

www.wvpresbytery.org

Presbytery Digest

Presbytery of West Virginia

December 4, 2008

The Presbytery met on December 4, 2008 at **Old Stone Church, Lewisburg** which, along with Union and Spring Creek, Renick, is celebrating its 225th Anniversary this year. **Moderator Kristi Moore** presided at the meeting which was attended by 174 individuals. Presbytery was welcomed by **Dexter Taylor**, pastor.

Following morning worship, **John Bolt**, stated clerk, recognized two visiting ministers, **W. Murray Page** and **Lanny Howe**. Also, **Debbie Garber**, a seminary intern serving the **Alderson Church** was recognized and granted voice at Presbytery meetings during her year-long internship.

John Bolt also reported that the session of the **Rock Forge Church** has voted to end its relationship with the Rock Forge Neighborhood House; that the Presbytery has received a letter of thanks from the Theological Education Fund for contributions; and that a letter had been received informing Presbytery of a bequest from the estate of Mildred Broome Pack to establish 'The John Calvin and Mildred Broome Pack Endowment Fund' to assist churches in the Presbytery.

Susan McGhee, Chair of Worship Review and Polity Committee, presented information on locations for Presbytery meetings in 2009 and Presbytery approved a waiver of the Presbytery's *Manual* for one additional year so that it might continue to hold quadrant meetings. In addition, informational meetings will be held in each quadrant on either February 21st or 28th to discuss the proposed amendments to the *Book of Order*. The voting on the amendments will be at the March 21, 2009 meeting of Presbytery at **First Morgantown**.

Following lunch, Lucy Youngblood led worship which included special music from the Old Stone Choir. Stephen Baldwin and Janice Tiedeck celebrated the Lord's Supper. The Presbytery designated the \$1,030.14 offering from the service to the Presbytery's mission trip to the RHINO project in New Orleans.

The Nominating Committee presented an extensive list of nominees to serve on Presbytery committees and all nominees were approved unanimously.

Lois Coffey reviewed the Presbytery's financial statement for 2008, reported on churches' payments to per capita and shared mission giving and updated Presbytery on Bluestone's financial situation. In addition, she reported on donor designated funds and indicated that the Finance & Development Committee would be making a recommendation to Council with regard to the 2009 Presbytery budget which was approved in May prior to the downturn in the nation's economy.

The Congregational Development Committee began a new initiative by inviting **Joan Stewart**, executive director of **West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW)**, to share information on a new coffee house ministry begun at the **Montgomery Church**. In addition, a number of elders reported during "Good News from the Pews."

Amy Sutherlun, chair of Christian Nurture and Worship, reminded Presbytery of a number of upcoming events; **Amy Wallace Parker** presented an invitation to the Festival of Faith; and **Karen Robinson** shared a number of interesting resources.

Rob Laukoter on behalf of the Camps, Conferences and Retreat Ministries Committee invited men to join Hans and Franz at the upcoming "Guy's Weekend" at Bluestone on April 24-26, 2009.

Tom Hastie presented an annual report on representation on Presbytery's committees and encouraged commissioners to share information about Presbytery with their congregations and to encourage not only elders but lay members of congregations to participate on Presbytery committees.

The Presbytery staff was introduced by **John Koerner**, chair of Personnel and Administration, and thanked for their service to the Presbytery.

Presbytery saw a video produced by the Synod of the Trinity and received a written report from Synod Commissioners **Ron Buckalew** and **Mavis Grant-Lilley**.

The Committee on Ministry recommended and Presbytery approved the Commissioned Lay Pastor covenants between **Gordon White** and **Mill Creek Church**; **Jean Summerfield** and **Eleanor Church**; **Jim Musgrave** and **Alexander Memorial, Baxter and Liberty Churches**; renewed the Commissioned Lay Pastor covenant between **Tom Hastie** and **Milton Church** and **Jim Harless** and **First Kenova Church**. All were commissioned as part of the COM report. Presbytery also approved renewal of the stated supply covenant between **Dan Festa** and **Winfield Church**; **Cinda Harkless** and **Beverly Hills Church**; and approval of the stated supply covenant between **William Sullivan**, a United Methodist deacon, and **Valley Bend Church**. Presbytery approved the pastor compensation report from **Highlawn, Huntington**. In addition, the following moderators were approved:

Kristi Moore for **Eleanor Church**; **Dexter Taylor**, **Spring Creek Church**; **Jim Roberts**, **Teays Valley Church**; **W.D. Hasty**, **Whittico Memorial Church**; **Pamela Eliason**, **Forrest Memorial Church**; **Janice Tiedeck**, **First Church Whitesville** and **Orgas Church**; **James Morley**, **First Church Fairmont**; **Vaughan Smith**, **First Church Logan**; **Frank Mansell**, **Comfort Church**; and **Vaughan Smith** for **Clothier Church**, if the way be clear.

Presbytery also made changes to the administrative commission appointed to dissolve the **Scott Memorial Church**; approved the request of the **Alexander Memorial Church** for a waiver of the requirements of elder rotation; and validated the ministries of **Kathryn Willoughby Weed**, **Jean Sutton** and **Rick Wilson**. The Presbytery approved the requests of **Boyd Purcell** and **Alice Monschke** for honorable retirement. Finally, the Presbytery approved the following elders to administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009: **Rick Accord**, **Jeff Barton**, **Arline Beveridge**, **John Bolt**, **Bill Brown**, **Nancy Bulla**, **Pat Collier**, **James Dempsey**, **Barbara Hopta**, **Michael Lykens**, **Kathryn McCrary**, **Robert Lynn Randolph**, and **Cherrie Sizemore**.

Bonnie Morrison, moderator of **Presbyterian Women**, encouraged women to register for the Churchwide Gathering to be held July 11-15, 2009 in Louisville, KY. Registration materials were distributed and scholarships are available from the Presbytery, the Synod and the denomination.

Ed Rugeley, chair of Trustees, reported that **First Church Morgantown** has contacted the Trustees regarding restructuring of the finances for its Westminster House project in light of current economic conditions. The Trustees hope to bring a recommendation to the March Presbytery meeting.

Presbytery approved the following dates and locations for meetings in 2009:

- Saturday, March 21 – First Church Morgantown
- Saturday, May 16 – Bluestone Conference Center
- Quadrant Meetings*
- Monday, September 14 – TBA
- Tuesday, September 15 – TBA
- Monday, September 21 – TBA
- Tuesday, September 22 – TBA
- Thursday, December 3 – First Church Charleston

The Worship Review and Polity Committee will receive invitations from sessions willing to host the quadrant meetings until January 15, 2009. Contact the Presbytery office.