

## Upcoming Events

June 7	TOOLS Workshop
June 12-14	Synod Gathering, Waynesburg, PA
June 15-21	Bluestone Camp – Week 1
June 21-28	General Assembly, San Jose, CA
June 22-28	Bluestone Camp – Week 2
June 29 – July 5	Bluestone Camp – Week 3
July 6-12	Bluestone Camp – Week 4
July 10	Called Council Meeting, Village Chapel, Charleston
July 14-15	PW Churchwide Gathering, Louisville, KY
July 19-26	Youth Mission Trip – Heifer Ranch, AK
August 2	Council Meeting, Point Pleasant

## 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/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](mailto:office@wvpresbytery.org)**

# Presbytery Digest

Presbytery of West Virginia  
May 17, 2008

The Presbytery met on May 17, 2008 at **Davis Memorial Church, Elkins**. **Moderator Kristi Moore** presided at the meeting which was attended by 138 individuals. Presbytery was welcomed by **Jan and Doug Jenkins**, co-interim pastors.

After the meeting began with morning worship, **John Bolt**, stated clerk, reported that **Moderator Moore** and Chair of Council **Jim Harless** had approved the request from **First Church, Morgantown** to borrow \$2.35 million dollars to purchase property and begin work on the Westminster House project. This was done in accordance with the policy of the Presbytery as affirmed during the March meeting. In addition, he reported on the 2007 Statistics of the Presbytery noting that our membership is 12,770 down from 13,009 in 2006. Sixteen churches did not report statistical data. Finally, mandatory session record reviews were done in each quadrant in April and early May. Forty-four churches have not submitted their records for review.

**John Bolt** also reported on his work with the General Assembly Council of the PC (USA) highlighting much of the mission being done locally, nationally and internationally.

**Peter Vial**, associate for congregational development, presented information on behalf of the Congregational Development Committee regarding basic missional concepts and some of the plans for a media campaign, planting of a missional church, and for continuing transformational initiatives and missional church development grants.

The Presbytery designated the offering during the afternoon worship to the Good Samaritan Ministries of **First Church, Whitesville** to help in the purchase of a new facility to house its thrift store.

The Committee on Ministry recommended and Presbytery approved the Commissioned Lay Pastor covenant between **Kari Preslar** and **Falls View** and **Montgomery Churches**; renewal of the Commissioned Lay Pastor covenant

between **David Pettry** and **Clear Creek Church**; and the request of **First Buckhannon Church** for permission for **Bob Heavner**, a retired United Methodist minister, to serve communion. In addition, the following moderators were approved: **Doug Jenkins** for **Parsons Church** and **First Thomas Church**; **Shelly Barrick Parsons** for **First Buckhannon Church**; **George Spransy** for **Church of the Covenant**; **John Sonnenday** for **First Terra Alta Church**, if the way be clear.

The annual pastor compensation report was approved with the exception that **Highlawn Huntington Church** and **Riverlawn St Albans Church** did not report pastor compensation. **Kari Preslar** was commissioned as part of the Committee on Ministry report.

Presbytery approved the following meeting dates for 2009:

- Saturday, March 21, 2009
- Saturday, May 16, 2009

*If Quadrant Meetings are continued:*

- Wednesday, September 9, 2009
- Thursday, September 10, 2009
- Monday, September 14, 2009
- Tuesday, September 15, 2009

*If Quadrant meetings are not continued:*

- Thursday, September 10, 2009
  
- Thursday, December 3, 2009

**Jim Harless**, chair of Council, presented the proposed 2009 Presbytery Budget. During his presentation he outlined the process that Council had used in developing the budget beginning with a retreat in January. Representatives from most of the Presbytery's committees then presented the committee's hopes and dreams for 2009 as we begin to "*imagine new possibilities for our future.*" The \$1,074,127 budget includes per capita of \$26.00 per member; a "challenge" of shared mission contributions of \$622,103 which is \$102,000 more than the 2008 budget; and use of 5% of Presbytery's donor restricted funds; along with outside funding of \$47,500 and other gifts of \$22,500. During the discussion of the budget, Presbytery moved into a quasi committee of the whole so that questions and concerns could be addressed more easily. The budget was approved as presented.

Presbytery approved the recommendation of the Worship Review and Polity Committee for commissioning the September Quadrant Meetings of Presbytery to:

- Act on recommendations from COM to approve honorable retirement,
- Act on recommendations from CPM to examine persons for candidacy within that person's quadrant,
- Act on recommendations from COM/CPM to commission persons as commissioned lay pastors within that quadrant,

- Act on recommendations from COM for the approval or renewal of commissioned lay pastor covenants, stated supply covenants and temporary supply covenants within that quadrant,
- Act on recommendations from COM to approve session moderators within that quadrant and
- Act on recommendations from Mission Interpretation and Stewardship to approve recipients of offerings received at the quadrant meeting.

The following commissioners and youth advisory delegates to the General Assembly meeting in San Jose, California June 21-28, 2008 were commissioned: Elder Commissioners – **Bob Hutton** and **Nancy Baldwin**; Minister Commissioners – **Adrian Pratt** and **George Spransy**; and Youth Advisory Delegate – **Kelly Stephens**. In addition, the following alternates were commissioned should they be required to serve: Elder **John Arbuckle**, Minister **Paul Romine** and YAD **Lucy Swecker**.

**Thomas Joseph Marchio**, a member of **First Charleston Church** and a candidate under care of the Presbytery of West Virginia, was examined and approved for ordination. Joe will serve as the temporary associate pastor of **First Congregational Church** in **Chatham, Massachusetts** where he already serves as director of music. First Congregational Church is a United Church of Christ congregation and Joe will serve under the Formula of Agreement between our two denominations.

The Finance and Development Committee reported it has approved grants to the following congregations: **Grace Church, Lashmeet** for \$5,000; **Alexander Memorial Church, Stony Bottom** for \$5,175; **First Whitesville Church** for \$10,000; and **Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Hurricane** for \$10,000.

The Christian Nurture and Worship Committee announced a Presbytery wide *Decade of the Child* project. The committee will be collecting children's books at the September quadrant Presbytery meetings. Local congregations are encouraged to send new and gently used children's books with their commissioners.

Finally, Presbytery approved another Gulf Coast Mission Trip for February 8-14, 2009. More details will be available later.

**The next Presbytery meetings will be:**

**Thursday, September 4 – Mount Pleasant, Sinks Grove (Quad 3)**  
**Friday, September 5 – Bates Memorial, Huntington (Quad 1)**  
**Monday, September 8 – Fleming Memorial, Fairmont (Quad 2)**  
**Tuesday, September 9 – Westminster, Charleston (Quad 4)**