



The Stream

A Monthly Newsletter of the Presbytery of West Virginia

August 2010

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“Paths Along the Stream”

thoughts from Stephen Melton

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As I enter the sixth month of our tenure together, we are beginning to get into the substance of transitional work.

The role of an Interim Executive Presbyter (IEP) is different from the role of a “permanent” Executive Presbyter (EP), thus an IEP operates different than an EP. It is somewhat like the difference between a barn builder and a cabinet maker. Both are carpenters, but they approach their work in totally different ways. [read more...](#)

I thank you for the honor of serving Christ by serving West Virginia. There is a big learning curve for first-time Executive Presbyters. No doubt I have made some errors - like going to the Highlawn in Huntington instead of Highlawn in St. Alban's - but, I am open to your suggestions. Please let me know how I can assist you, your Committee or your congregation.

Finally, most days I send out an e-mail “Thought for the Day.” These are quotes I select from books I have read. They are meant to be thought-provoking and/or inspiring. If you would like to receive a Thought for the Day, please send me an e-mail and let me know: exec@wvpresbytery.org. [entire article...](#)

Called Meeting of Presbytery

Will be held on August 10, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at the Bream Presbyterian Church in Charleston. Cinda Harkless, Moderator, has called the Presbytery to meet in order to examine Joanne Glaser, a candidate under the care of the Presbytery, for ordination to the office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament. Information about the meeting is available online at www.wvpresbytery.org and [click on Documents, then scroll down to Presbytery Packets](#). Remember to register by calling 304-437-5683 or by email at office@wvpresbytery.org.

219th General Assembly

by Frank Mansell, Acting Stated Clerk

The Presbytery of WV was well represented at the meeting of the General Assembly, July 3-10, in Minneapolis. Our commissioners were Elders Susan Eason (Morgantown) and John Arbuckle (Edgewood), and Ministers Paul Romine (St. Albans First) and Mary Jane Knapp (Ripley). Our Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) is Lucy Swecker (Tygarts Valley), a rising senior at WV Wesleyan College. Stephen Melton and Frank Mansell attended the Assembly as staff members in support of our commissioners and YAAD, and to be informed of matters that are of importance to our presbytery. Our commissioners will report to the Presbytery at the Quadrant meetings in September. I will also have a report on major items that the Assembly has sent to the Presbyteries for action. You can read “The Assembly In Brief” by [clicking here](#).

Christian Nurture and Worship Events for 2010-2011

As you put together your calendar for the 2010-2011 program year, here are some important dates to include from the Christian Nurture and Worship Committee:

- August 20-21, 2010: Youth Council Leadership Retreat, Cedar Lakes Conf. Center
- November 5-7, 2010: Older Youth Retreat, Bluestone Camp and Retreat Center
- February 26, 2011: General Youth Assembly, a new event for grades 9-12, place TBA
- March 4-6, 2011: Younger Youth Retreat, Cedar Lakes Conference Center
- April 2, 2011: Festival of Faith, First Presbyterian Church, Charleston



Join us to explore pathways to excellence in youth ministry. Come for a training, worship, and fellowship. [Click here](#) for more information and places near you.

Adult Track: Theological and practical training for volunteer youth leaders, pastors, DCE's and youth directors. Explore relational youth ministry, mission and service, developing a vision, and spiritual practices. Sponsored by the Princeton Theological Seminary Institute for Youth Ministry.

Youth Track: Leadership development for youth (grades 9-12) who are interested in leadership in their congregations and youth groups. Engage in workshops on theology of leadership, vocation, and spiritual practices. Sponsored by the office of Ministries with Youth and the Office of Christian Vocation PC(USA).

Cost: Adult Track - \$65.00 Youth Track - \$40.00



Peter and Tina Vial are leading a trip May 20 – June 1, 2012 to explore our Scottish heritage, present day church partnership and time of spiritual retreat. The group is forming now and will be limited to 14 people. For more information please contact Rev. Vial at pvia@inbox.com, or 448 Randolph Ave, Elkins, WV 26241.

Need Help With Your Christian Education Program?

As you finalize plans for your fall program or move later in the program year and a need arise, Susan Sharp Campbell, our Associate for Educational Ministry, is available to work assist your committee or session on a variety of topics, including planning and evaluating your educational ministry program, selecting curriculum, training teachers, child protection policies, youth ministry, officer training. You may contact her at 304-645-4568 or susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com to schedule a visit to your church.

“Five Smooth Stones” Celebrating the Work of Churches in the Presbytery of West Virginia

by Stephen Melton

You may recall that in the last issue of *The Stream* I spoke of the “Three Smooth Stones” that David would use to down Goliath. We don’t know how many stones David actually used, but, in fact, he picked up five, not three!

Each month, I want to celebrate churches and people who are picking up small stones and using them to dismantle despair and bring hope. They are not using over-bearing means or big programs, but they are picking up local resources - familiar means - just within their reach - like David - to bring down fear and inspire hope. [read more...](#)

Lay Academy Continues...

It's not too late to register for a fall class, or two, or three.

The Lay Academy continues this fall and new participants are welcome to sign up. Those who serve on committees in our churches whose work relates to the topics to be covered are particularly encouraged to consider signing up. Each course is taught in three different places in order to encourage folks from around the presbytery to participate without having to drive too far. Different ministers around the presbytery provide leadership for these courses. The course schedule for the fall is as follows:

Worship – September 11, Bridgeport; September 18, Beckley; September 25, Hurricane. **Christian Education** – October 9, Bridgeport; October 16, Beckley; October 3, Hurricane. **Stewardship and Mission** – November 6, Bridgeport; November 13, Beckley; November 20, Hurricane. The cost of each course will be \$10 per course.

A registration form can be found at www.wvpresbytery.org, click on Documents and then Lay Academy Application. In order to ensure enough materials, please observe the **three week in advance** registration deadline for each course. If you have questions, or would like more information, please contact Susan Sharp Campbell, by phone at 304-645-4568 or by email at susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com.

JOB OPENING

Interim Associate Presbyter for Ministry with Older Adults

With the retirement of Terry Cunningham, Associate Presbyter for Ministry with Older Adults, the Presbytery of West Virginia is looking for a person who would serve in this role as an Interim Associate for one year, beginning October 1, 2010. If you know of anyone who would be interested in this Interim position, please contact Dr. Melton, the Interim Executive Presbyter, to schedule an interview on August 13 or 14. If you would please place the following ad in your Church bulletins and newsletters, we would be grateful.

The Presbytery of West Virginia is looking for a qualified candidate to serve as the Interim Associate Presbyter for Ministry with Older Adults. This is a part-time (4/5 time) one year interim position that requires a bachelor or masters degree in social work. We are looking for someone who has had experience working with older adults. If you know someone that may be interested in this position, please refer them to Dr. Stephen Melton, Interim Executive Presbyter, at the Presbytery office, 304-744-7636, or send resume to Dr. Stephen Melton at 520 Second Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303.