

The Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Fife.

**Upcoming Events**

(Details at [www.wvpresbytery.org](http://www.wvpresbytery.org) or call 304-744-7634)

**Equipping Disciples Events: *The Confession of Belhar and our Confessional Heritage***, January 25 & February 8

Maxwelton, Bridgeport, Charleston, Huntington, Vienna and Beckley

**Younger Youth Retreat**, March 6-8, Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley

**Festival of Faith**, March 28, First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

**Small Church Conference**, April 18, First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville

**Commissioner’s Forum**: February 27, First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

**Next Stated Meeting**

Saturday, February 28 at First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

**Additional 2015 Presbytery Meetings**

Thursday, June 11 at Davis & Elkins College, Elkins

Saturday, August 29 at Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg

Thursday, December 3 at Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, Huntington

*Digest Prepared by Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk*

**PRESBYTERY STAFF**

Forrest Palmer .....	Interim Executive Presbyter
Maureen Wright .....	Stated Clerk
Rocky Poole .....	Financial Administrator/Treasurer
Craig Butler .....	Transitional Associate for Congregational Development
Barbara Chalfant .....	Associate for Mission
Susan Sharp Campbell .....	Associate for Educational Ministry
Nellie Howard .....	Resource Center Director
Leslie Curtis .....	Office Administrator
Mark Miller .....	Director of Bluestone Conference Center

**PRESBYTERY OFFICE HOURS**

**8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday thru Thursday**

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

**Email: [office@wvpresbytery.org](mailto:office@wvpresbytery.org)**

<h1>Presbytery Digest</h1> <h2>Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia</h2> <h3>December 13, 2014</h3>
---

The Presbytery met at First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont, with **Moderator** Joan Stewart presiding. The Presbytery was welcomed by Rev. Elise Neal, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church. The **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright, welcomed new Teaching Elder Karen R. Kinney who is pastor of the Glenville Presbyterian Church. Mary Anne Collins-Stauffer visiting Teaching Elder from National Capital Presbytery was also welcomed. Presbytery approved the motion by Ms. Wright to seat Rev. Collins-Stauffer as a corresponding member for the duration of the meeting. Ruling Elders attending their first Presbytery meeting as a commissioner were introduced and welcomed.

Following the approval of the **docket**, the **Consent Agenda** was adopted. Items on the consent agenda included the approval of excused absences and the approval of session moderators. In addition, Authorized Lay Preachers (ALPs) were approved to serve communion in 2015: John Bolt, John Arbuckle, Jr., Rebecca Williams, James Johnston, Mike Stivers, Laura Boggess, Kellan Sarles, Beverly Sharp, John Nelson, Michael Lykens, James Irwin, Kathryn McCrary and Barbara Hopta. Various covenants between Commissioned Ruling Elders, Temporary Supply Pastors and churches were renewed.

The **Consent Agenda** also approved the worship offering to be divided equally between the Mountaineer Food Bank and Facing Hunger of Huntington. These two organizations address poverty in West Virginia. The offering totaled \$904.00.

Moderator Joan Stewart, appointed **Temporary Clerks**: Teaching Elders Susan Sharp Campbell and Greg Kupar, Commissioned Ruling Elder Cherrie Sizemore, and Ruling Elder Sarah Townsend. The Moderator also appointed Leadership Team members present as the **Bills and Overtures Committee**.

Presbytery **worshipped** together under the leadership of Teaching Elder John Koerner, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg, who preached, Ruling Elder Judy Shaver as liturgist, and Teaching Elder Julie Sterling, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Buckhannon, and Teaching Elder Leonard Hood, Honorably Retired, as communion celebrants. Worship included the musical leadership of John Morrison with the Chancel Choir, the Cambridge Handbell Choir and the Children’s Choir directed by Betty Pat Lee.

**Resource Center Director**, Nellie Howard, shared several new resources available in the Presbytery Resource Center. She encouraged those present to visit the Resource Center display. Ms. Howard also invited members of presbytery to visit the Prayer Room throughout the day to spend time in silent prayer for the meeting, the churches and the people of our Presbytery. Guided prayers and meditations, Bibles and a contemplative, quiet space were provided.

The morning was marked by a presentation from the **Missions Committee, Responding to Poverty in our Community**. The committee shared two thought provoking skits on poverty. Presbytery was then inspired and challenged by a presentation from Lisa Wotring of WV Healthy Kids & Families Coalition. Members of Presbytery were invited to gather at one of eight table discussions to hear about ministries in churches throughout the presbytery that are working to address the issues of poverty: Children's Health Pantry (Bridgeport), Free Lunch Program (Belington), Empty Bowls (First, Morgantown), Backpack Program (Riverlawn), Food Pantry (Summersville), Heartily Able Program (Davis Memorial, Elkins), Summer Work Camp (Ronceverte), and Shoes for Kids (First, Fairmont). In addition, Todd Wright, committee chair, expressed thanks to Interim Associate, Claire Butler, for her work throughout the presbytery.

The afternoon session began with a time of learning new Advent hymns from *Glory to God*. Moderator Stewart also led Presbytery in prayer.

Stated Clerk, Maureen Wright, declared a **quorum** present with 38 Teaching Elders and Ruling Elder Commissioners from 42 churches. Following this declaration the items of business from the morning were again approved by presbytery.

The **Stated Clerk's Report** was presented. The **Procedural Matters** were presented; the limitation of debate to 30 minutes per motion was approved.

WD Hasty, committee chair, presented the report of the **Nominating Committee**. Presbytery elected Recording Clerk, Mavis Grant Lilley, Class of 2017. The nominations from the Nominating Committee for the Leadership Team and presbytery committees were approved. In addition, David Lee was elected to serve as the Synod Commissioner, Class of 2017. Presbytery also elected the General Presbyter Nominating Committee; those elected to serve are: Stephen Baldwin, Joanne Glaser, George Lilley, Jim Musgrave, Amy Wallace Parker, Susan Perry, Jim Roberts, Cyndi Taylor and Jim Wilson.

The **Nurture Committee** report was shared by chair, Kari Preslar. Ms. Preslar highlighted several upcoming events (see the closing page) including a visit by **John Bell** June 19-20 at First Presbyterian Church, Charleston.

Mark Miller presented the **Bluestone Committee** report. Members of presbytery were encouraged to visit the **Bluestone** display to pick up camp brochures for 2015.

**Interim Executive Presbyter**, Forrest Palmer, highlighted the work of presbytery and its ministries. He reminded presbytery of its core values of **ministry, mission and building relationships**, sharing ways that these core values are being lived out in the presbytery and beyond.

Sharon Rowe presented the report of the **Administration Committee**. Ms. Rowe introduced the new Associate for Mission, Barbara Chalfant, who begins work January 1, 2015. Presbytery welcomed Ms. Chalfant.

**Good News from the Pews** was shared by Ruling Elder Commissioners from several churches.

The **Ministry Committee**, represented by chair, Cinda Harkless, recommended that an Administrative Commission for the purpose of dissolving the Brush Creek Presbyterian Church, Ridgeview be appointed at the church's request. The recommendation was approved. Presbytery also Commissioned Ruling Elders Jim Musgrave, Kari Preslar and John Yaeger to serve First Presbyterian Church, Logan, the Falls View and Montgomery Presbyterian Churches and Eleanor Presbyterian Church, respectively. The achievement of Certified Christian Educator by Teaching Elder Joanne Glaser was celebrated. The retirement of J. Dexter Taylor was recognized; Rev. Taylor has most recently served the Old Stone Presbyterian Church.

The **Leadership Team** recommended for approval two manual changes: allowing voice to certified church workers and granting churches one ruling elder commissioner to presbytery for every 500 church members. Both recommendations were approved. Presbytery elected the following persons to the Nominating Committee: Charla Waters Koerner, Class of 2016, Rick Johnson, Denise Parks and Bob Wood, Class of 2017. Terry Cunningham was elected chair of the Nominating Committee for 2015. In addition presbytery approved the Leadership Team recommendation that meetings dates be set using the following formula beginning in 2016: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in February, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in May, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in August and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in November. Chair, Pam Ferrell also shared a chart showing the progress of the Jeremiah 29:11 Plan.

**Treasurer** Rocky Poole presented the financial reports.

**Moderator** Joan Stewart recognized the service of outgoing committee chairs. Rev. Stewart led presbytery in the installation of Randy Fife, Moderator and Peter Vial, Moderator-Elect for 2015. **Moderator Fife** thanked Rev. Stewart for her leadership to presbytery throughout 2014. Mr. Fife led presbytery in the installation of the committee chairs and presbytery leaders for 2015.

Additional written reports included in the presbytery packet were received from the **Missions, Relations and Vocations Committees** and the **Trustees**.