

Additional written reports included in the presbytery packet were received from the **Bluestone Committee, Leadership Team, Missions Committee, Nurture Committee and Vocations Committee.** Bluestone welcomes additional registrations for this summer's camping program!

The Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Stewart.

Upcoming Events

(Details at www.wvpresbytery.org or call 304-744-7634)

Small Church Conference, Fayetteville Presbyterian Church, May 17

Come to the Party, Bridgeport, Edgewood, First (South Charleston), First (Williamstown), Highlawn (Huntington) & Riverlawn Presbyterian Churches, Pentecost Sunday, June 1

Play-o-logy: Experiencing God through the Art of Play, Fayetteville Presbyterian Church, August 23

The Road To... Elementary School Retreat, September 19-21, Bluestone

Next Stated Meeting

Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at First Presbyterian Church, St. Albans

Digest Prepared by Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk

PRESBYTERY STAFF

Forrest PalmerInterim Executive Presbyter
Maureen Wright Stated Clerk
Lois Coffey Financial Administrator/Treasurer
Craig Butler Transitional Associate for Congregational Development
Claire Butler Interim Hunger Action Enabler and
Ministry with Older Adults
Susan Sharp Campbell Associate for Educational Ministry
Karen Robinson 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
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Presbytery Digest

Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia

May 3, 2014

The Presbytery met at the Larry Joe Harless Community Center, Gilbert, WV, hosted by Gilbert Presbyterian Church with **Moderator** Joan Stewart presiding. The Presbytery was welcomed by Rev. Doug Pendleton, Pastor of Gilbert Presbyterian Church. Rev. Pendleton thanked the churches of the Logan Cluster for their help in hosting Presbytery. The **Stated Clerk** then welcomed new Teaching Elders Frank Cunningham serving First United Presbyterian Church, Ravenswood and First Presbyterian Church as Interim Pastor, Ripley and Bruce Stevens, Member at Large. Ruling Elders attending their first Presbytery meeting as a commissioner were also welcomed.

Presbytery **worshipped** together under the leadership of Teaching Elder Bruce Stevens, Executive of the Synod of the Trinity, who preached, Ruling Elder Mavis Grant-Lilley as liturgist, and Teaching Elder W.D. Hasty Jr. who presided at the Table. Worship included the musical leadership of pianist, Jessica Houck, violinist, Laura Bobbera and the Margaret Peak Memorial Handbell Choir.

Leadership Team chair, Pam Ferrell announced the **Institute for Leaders in Ministry**, a new leadership development course sponsored by the Presbytery of West Virginia. The course will be held from September 2014 through May 2015 and is for educators, commissioned ruling elders and teaching elders currently serving a congregation.

The morning was a marked by a presentation from Jim Robinson, Honorably Retired member of Presbytery and Moderator of the Synod of the Trinity, who offered information and reflection on the Synod of the Trinity. Rev. Robinson highlighted the new vision of "being Synod."

At the conclusion of the Synod Presentation Rev. Robinson invited Bruce Stevens, Executive of the Synod of the Trinity, forward to recognize his retirement as Synod Executive on July 31, 2014. Presbytery presented Rev. Stevens with a West Virginia pottery jug created by PWV Teaching Elder Doug Minnerly. Rev. Stevens thanked presbytery for their recognition and gift.

Stated Clerk, Maureen Wright, declared a **quorum** present with 33 Teaching Elders and Ruling Elder Commissioners from 29 churches.

Following the approval of the **docket** as amended with the addition of an announcement from Leadership Team, the **Consent Agenda** was adopted. Items on the consent agenda included the approval of excused absences and the approval of session moderators: Doug Pendleton, First Presbyterian, Logan; Leonard Graham, Mannington Presbyterian; John Koerner, Fleming Memorial Presbyterian, Fairmont and Joanne Glaser, Upper Pocahontas Parish. In addition, the Pastor's Compensation Report was approved, the Honorable Retirement request for Doug Craven was granted, and various covenants were renewed.

The **Consent Agenda** also approved the worship offering to go to CEPAD, the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua. CEPAD has a unique strategy for supporting vulnerable communities in Nicaragua, partnering with village organizations—pastoral committees and collectives—to share expertise, encouragement and resources in a manner that creates self-sufficiency and sustainability after 5 years of accompaniment. The Missions Committee of Presbytery is exploring the possibility of developing a partnership with CEPAD. The offering totaled \$861.00.

Moderator, Joan Stewart, appointed **Temporary Clerks**: Rev. Elise Neal, Rev. David Richards, Ruling Elder Susan Conn, and Ruling Elder Mike Lykens. The Moderator also appointed Leadership Team members present as the **Bills and Overtures Committee**.

The **Stated Clerk's Report** was presented. Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk, highlighted the training of the PWV's Permanent Judicial Commission and the election of Barbara Accord, Moderator and George Spransy, Jr., Clerk of the PJC. The **Procedural Matters** were presented.

The afternoon session began with a hymn and prayer led by Moderator, Joan Stewart. Claire Butler, Interim Associate for Ministry with Older Adults and Hunger Action Enabler, presented the annual **Older Adult Award**. The recipient of the award was Jean White, Frankford Presbyterian Church. The award was accepted by Rev. Susan Sharp Campbell, Teaching Elder and Ruling Elder Commissioner, Clifford Gillilan.

The **Relations Committee Report** was presented by John Bolt. Mr. Bolt shared information about our growing and developing clusters. He highlighted the work and activities of several clusters including supporting food pantries and gathering for picnics. Several clusters are in need of a Cluster Shepherd and members of Presbytery are encouraged to consider serving in this way.

A highlight of the meeting was the **Recognition of a Faithful Servant: Buck Harless**. Moderator Stewart recognized Rev. Doug Pendleton to lead presbytery in

a celebration of the life of James Howard "Buck" Harless. Mr. Harless became a Christian in 1955 in the Gilbert Presbyterian Church. He lived his life as a Christian giving generously to his church, the community and presbytery. Several members of the Gilbert Presbyterian Church shared their words of admiration and respect for Mr. Harless and excerpts from his book, *A Most Fortunate Life* were read.

Treasurer Lois Coffey presented the financial reports. Ms. Coffey also reported that an audit of the 2013 financial statements has been completed by the CPA firm Gibbons and Kawash. Copies of the report are available by contacting the Presbytery office.

During the sharing of **Good News from the Pews** Ruling Elder Commissioner, Jim Sothen, of the South Park Presbyterian Church in Charleston gave witness to the work of the church in their community. On Easter Sunday this church of 18 members baptized 13 children, one adult and received four new members by reaffirmation of faith, and are sending 10 children to Camp Bluestone as part of the Send-A-Kid-to-Camp program.

Sharon Rowe presented the report of the **Administration Committee**. The committee has extended the terms of Claire Butler's position as Interim Associate Presbyter through December 31, 2014. In addition, the committee has extended Craig Butler's position as Transitional Associate through August 31, 2015. The committee joyfully announced that Nelle D. Howard has been hired as Resource Center Director effective May 12, 2014.

The retirement of Karen Robinson, Resource Center Director and Certified Educator was recognized with a power point slide show and music performed by West Virginia artist, John Lilley. Karen was presented with a decorative outhouse in honor of her work with the Waste Water Treatment Coalition. Presbytery honored Karen with a gift in her honor to WVMAW.

The **Ministry Committee**, represented by Cinda Harkless, recommended approval of the request for Honorable Retirement by Gary McGrew. This was approved. Rev. Harkless led presbytery in a recognition of the Honorable Retirement of John Riley, pastor Fleming Memorial, Fairmont.

Interim Executive Presbyter, Forrest Palmer, highlighted the core values of the Presbytery: **ministry, mission, and building relationships**. Mr. Palmer encouraged participation in the Small Church Conference to be held May 17, 2014 at the Fayetteville Presbyterian Church.