

For more information about reports, opportunities or events please see the website or call the presbytery office.

**Upcoming Events**

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

**The Saint John’s Bible**

March 31, 2017 at First Presbyterian, Charleston

**Festival of Faith**

April 1, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

**The Guys’ Weekend**

April 28-30, 2017 at Bluestone Camp & Retreat

**Spring Getaway**

May 5-7, 2017 at Bluestone Camp & Retreat

**Bluestone Games Day in the Park**

May 13, 2017 at Rock Lake Community Life Center

**Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox**

June 2-3, 2017 at Kanawha United Presbyterian, Charleston

**Next Stated Meeting**

Thursday, May 18 at Bridgeport Presbyterian Church, Bridgeport

**Additional 2017 Presbytery Meetings**

Saturday, August 19 at Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Elkins  
Thursday, November 16 at Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg

*Highlights Prepared by Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk*

**PRESBYTERY STAFF**

Ed Thompson .....General Presbyter  
Maureen Wright .....Stated Clerk & Associate for Congregational Support  
Rocky Poole .....Financial Administrator/Treasurer  
Susan Sharp Campbell .....Associate for Educational Ministry  
Barbara Chalfant ..... Associate for Mission  
Nellie Howard .....Resource Center Director  
Amy Robinson ..... Director of Communications/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)**

**Presbytery Highlights**  
Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia  
*February 25, 2017*

The Presbytery met at First Presbyterian Church, Charleston, with **Moderator** Susan Perry presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The Presbytery was welcomed by the Rev. Doug Jenkins, interim associate pastor of the church.

The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

**Engaged** in small group discussion. Those gathered explored the proposed amendments to the Presbyterian Church (USA) constitution sent to presbyteries by the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.

**Visited** the Mission Fair. The fair featured displays and representatives from ministries throughout the state. All those present are supported through the mission giving of the presbytery!

**Worshipped** with Rev. Karen Kinney (Teaching Elder, Glenville) who preached the sermon and with Rev. Patricia Jarvis (First, Dunbar) as liturgist. Teaching Elder Patterson Lyles (Kanawha United) and Commissioned Ruling Elder Cherrie Sizemore (Elk Hills) presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

**Received** an offering of \$945 for the Presbytery of West Virginia’s Nyeri Partnership, Kenya.

**Listened** to an announcement from Nellie Howard, **Resource Center Director**, who shared books on CD, encouraging members of presbytery to listen and learn while driving throughout the presbytery.

**Approved** the **Consent Agenda** which included such items as approving the celebration of the Lord’s Supper at Bluestone’s Spring Getaway, appointing Session Moderators, an Installation Commission, requests for the waiver of rotation of officers, and covenant renewals.

**Received** the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright, who highlighted the upcoming Session Record Reviews and recommended the body grant approval for the Moderator, General Presbytery, Stated Clerk and chair of the Ministry Committee to appoint a property negotiating team of three to work with the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Hurricane, session’s request to be dismissed

to the Evangelical Order of Presbyterians (ECO). The recommendation was approved.

**Voted** on the proposed amendments to the constitution. Presbytery voted in the affirmative on all of the proposed amendments: 16-A Child and Youth Protection Policy, 16-B Parity in Committees, 16-C Ordered Ministry Titles (eight recommendations), 16-D Relationship to the PC (USA) of a Person Who Has Renounced Jurisdiction of the Church (two recommendations), 16-E Certified Service Requirements, 16-F The Ministry of Members, 16-G Access to the Lord's Table and 16-H Directory for Worship. [Details of the proposed amendments can be found at [pcusa.org/amend/](http://pcusa.org/amend/).]

**Heard** the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. Rev. Thompson reflected on his first year of ministry within the presbytery. The report included presbytery strengths and weaknesses. Rev. Thompson reiterated his desire to visit churches and leaders throughout the presbytery, contact him at the presbytery office to arrange a visit. The report also included joys and concerns from around the Presbytery.

**Examined** Presbytery of West Virginia candidate for ordination, Elizabeth Stone. The **Vocations Committee** chair, Kevin Starcher (Teaching Elder, Davis Memorial, Elkins), asked Ms. Stone (Ruling Elder, Beckley) questions in the areas of polity, worship and sacraments, theology, and Christian faith. Ms. Stone successfully answered these questions. The ordination was approved. Ms. Stone will serve the Bradley Presbyterian Church as Stated Supply pastor.

**Accepted** the financial reports presented by **Treasurer**, Rocky Poole. **Stewardship Committee** chair, Karen Kinney (Teaching Elder, Glenville), shared that the committee granted the request of the Bluestone Committee to establish a line of credit of up to \$70,000 from the Mission Development Fund to complete necessary electrical improvements at the camp. The **Friends of Bluestone** have committed \$15,000 toward the cost of these repairs; they have set a goal of raising an additional \$10,000.

**Heard** the sung thanks of **Bluestone Committee** chair, Denny Dodson (Teaching Elder, Belle), for the presbytery's support of Bluestone camp. Mark Miller, **Director of Bluestone Camp and Retreat**, encouraged churches to pick up their 2017 Bluestone brochures. He highlighted upcoming events at Bluestone: Guys Weekend and the Spring Getaway. Summer staff applications are being accepted.

**Watched** a video on the Saint John's Bible during the report of the **Nurture Committee**. Committee chair, Kari Preslar (Commissioned Ruling Elder, Falls

View), shared that the committee will host a workshop on the St. John's Bible on March 31 followed by the Festival of Faith event on April 1.

**Listened** to **Good News of Cooperative Ministry** from several Ruling Elder Commissioners who told of ministry partnerships between churches and community organizations.

**Learned** about the leadership development opportunities sponsored by the **Leadership Team**. Commissioned Ruling Elder, Kellan Sarles (First, Bluefield), shared her experience at the first event and encouraged other pastoral leaders in the presbytery to participate. The **Ministry Toolbox** events are being offered throughout 2017; these two-day workshops provide professional level continuing education opportunities in West Virginia. (See the *Upcoming Events* list for details.)

**Voted** on the report of the **Nominating Committee** presented by Terry Cunningham (Ruling Elder, First, Charleston). Jim Musgrave (Ruling Elder, Highlawn, Huntington) was elected to serve as the chair of the Vocations Committee March 1 – December 31, 2017. Parry Johnson (Laity, Riverlawn) and Robin Ray (Teaching Elder, Bridgeport) were elected to serve on the Leadership Team in the class of 2017 and 2019, respectively. Alan Light (Ruling Elder, First, Bluefield) and Sarah Townsend (Ruling Elder, First, Parkersburg) were elected to serve on the Stewardship Committee in the class of 2019.

**Received** the thanks of the **Mission Committee** for those who attended the morning's Mission Fair. Committee Chair, Larryetta Ellis (Teaching Elder, Edgewood, Lewisburg), assisted by Barbara Chalfonte, **Associate for Mission**, awarded door prizes to several lucky members of presbytery. The printed report of the committee noted \$2,000 Hunger Action Grants to First, Bluefield for its Bluefield Union Mission; Falls View for its North Fayette Food Pantry, Kuhn Memorial and Bates Memorial for Eastern Cabell County Humanities Org (ECCHO); Village Chapel for Common Grounds food pantry.

The Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Perry.

**For Information:** the Relations Committee provided printed a report.