

Please note that attendees received a paper copy of the packet of flyers that provide details of upcoming Presbytery events. Additional copies are available on the Presbytery website. 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)

#### **Soul Shop: Ministering to Suicidal Depression**

Led by Michelle Snyder

Thursday, October 24 –Village Chapel Presbyterian Church

#### **Bluestone Summer Camp– Week 1**

June 9-15, 2019 at Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton

#### **Bluestone Summer Camp – Week 2**

June 16-22, 2019 at Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton

#### **Bluestone Summer Camp – Week 3**

June 23-29, 2019 at Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton

#### **Bluestone Summer Camp – Week 4**

June 30-July 6, 2019 at Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton

#### **International Peacemaker Visit**

Moon-Sook Lee, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

September 28 – October 7

Contact Robin Ray, Bridgeport Presbyterian Church, to host an event.

#### **Additional 2019 Presbytery Meetings**

Saturday, August 24, at Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton

Thursday, November 21, at Teays Valley Presbyterian Church, Scott Depot

*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  
Mark Miller.....Bluestone Camp and Retreat: Director of Facilities  
Amy Robinson ..... Director of Communications/Office Administrator  
Sarah Specht .....Bluestone Camp and Retreat: Program Director

#### **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**

*May 16, 2019*

The Presbytery met at First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown, with **Moderator** Stephen Hornbeck presiding. The Presbytery was welcomed by **Zac Morton**, pastor of the church. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

**Introduced** new Ministers of Word and Sacrament **Nancy Kahaian**, Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Charleston, and **Monte Mitchell**, Pastor of Beckley Presbyterian Church.

**Approved** the **Consent Agenda** which included the requests for excused absences and the Presbytery meeting dates and locations for 2020. The meetings for 2020 are as follows: February 15 at Riverlawn Presbyterian Church, St. Albans; May 21 at Ronceverte Presbyterian Church; August 15 at Fayetteville Presbyterian Church; and November 19 at Davis & Elkins College. The designation for the offering was also approved.

**Gathered** in small groups to plan a worship service in celebration of Pentecost. Presbyters and guests selected from the following groups: choir, selection of hymns and sung responses, visuals, liturgy selection/writing, communion liturgy selection/writing, presentation of scripture, Bible study of Acts 2, and offerings. Following a time of study and planning the body gathered in worship. Susan Faye Wonderland, Transitional Executive of the Synod of the Trinity, preached the sermon. Ministers of Word and Sacrament, John Koerner (First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg) and Robin Ray (Bridgeport Presbyterian Church) celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown, Ken Godwin, worked with and directed the choir. Bill Haller served as the organist. Members of presbytery served as liturgists.

**Heard** announcements from: Nellie Howard, **Resource Center Director**, who highlighted new resources, encouraged commissioners to visit the Resource Center Display and to come by the center at the Presbytery office.

**Received** an offering of \$859.60 for West Virginia Interfaith Refugee Ministry whose ministry is "striving to improve the lives of refugees". \$46.89 was collected for the Cents-ability Offering. The opportunity to impact the communities of our host churches continued. Presbytery host churches designate an item that may be brought to the meeting to support a local mission. First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown, requested travel-size toiletries to be used in its Warm Room, which welcomes housing insecure community members every Sunday

**Received** the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. The report included a motion to direct the Moderator to appoint an Administrative Commission to dissolve the Richwood Presbyterian Church. The motion was approved. She also stated that the 2018 minutes of the Presbytery were reviewed by the Synod of the Trinity on May 2, and were approved with three exceptions. The Presbytery Statistical Report for 2018 was highlighted

**Heard** the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson, who thanked the host church and commended the church for its efforts in composting. He also thanked those in attendance for coming. He shared the words of Dr. Lance Watson, Saint Paul's Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia, "What you have is more important than what you don't have," emphasizing that indeed God has given us what we need to do ministry. He also highlighted the work of Davis & Elkins College to strengthen its ties with the Presbytery and denomination, providing opportunities for students to grow in faith and spiritual leadership. He invited those present to encourage students in their congregations to consider D&E when looking at colleges.

The Teays Valley Presbyterian Church's recent worship service on *Understanding Addiction with Hope and Grace* was lifted up as an example for all of our churches. The West Virginia Council of Churches will host another Substance Use Disorder Conference at West Virginia Wesleyan College on September 4. In conclusion, Ed reminded those present "summer's coming" with opportunities for churches to send children to camp!

**Listened** to the report of the **Administrative Commission** to dissolve the McKinnon Presbyterian Church presented by the chair of the commission, Amy Wallace Parker. The Presbytery approved the recommendation to dissolve the church effective December 30, 2018. She shared highlights of the commission's work including a final service of worship and the bequests made by the church prior to its dissolution for continued mission in its name. The commission was dismissed with thanks for its work following a prayer for the ministry and mission of the church.

**Received** the greetings on behalf of the **Worshipping Community at Davis & Elkins College** brought by Laura Brekke Wagoner, Benfield-Vick Chaplain and adjunct Professor in Religion at the college. Tina Vial brought greetings from the **Westminster Foundation**. She highlighted the work of Shelly Barrick Parsons, campus pastor at West Virginia University, as she departs this summer to Richmond, Virginia.

**Heard** the report of the **Nurture Committee** given by Chris Kilbert, committee member. The committee has extended the deadline for applications for grants and loans for secondary education and vocational study. The committee encouraged all churches to participate in upcoming events including Soul Shop and the Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox events. Contact Susan Sharp Campbell for more information.

**Listened** to a presentation on summer programming at **Bluestone Camp and Retreat** presented by Bluestone Program Director, Sarah Specht. The camp is fully staffed for the summer! She offered an impassioned witness on the importance of sending kids to camp. One in five of today's children will be diagnosed with a mental health issue but camp offers a unique opportunity for kids to have a safe place to play, to share, to experience love and encounter the Holy Spirit. Camp offers kids a chance to be outside and to use their imaginations. Campers are free to talk and learn about diversity, to try new things, to re-invent themselves as children of God. There are spaces available in all four weeks of camp.

**Heard Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole, present the financial reports.

**Celebrated Good News from the Pews** where Ruling Elder Commissioners from churches throughout the presbytery shared good news of mission and ministry.

**Approved** the recommendation of the **Nominating Committee**, presented by John Bolt, to approve Mandy Lester, Ruling Elder from Gilbert Presbyterian Church, to serve on the Relations Committee, class of 2021.

**Heard** the report of the **Mission Committee**. Robin Blakeman, Stewardship of Creation Ministry Team member, recognized the Spencer Presbyterian Church as an Earth Care congregation. Following the presentation, Julie Hitsman, pastor of the church, encouraged churches to explore becoming an earth care congregation. Committee member Robin Ray presented a recommendation to renew the partnership covenant between the Presbytery and the Nyeri Presbytery, Kenya, through 2024. The motion was approved. She shared the ongoing efforts to support those traveling late this summer to Kenya as they raise money to build a church during their trip. A flyer detailing the fundraising project is available on the Presbytery website.

**Listened** to the recommendation from the **Trustees**, presented by Jim Robinson, to sell the property of the dismissed Presbyterian Church of the Covenant to the Risen King Church for \$501,615. The recommendation was approved.

**Heard** the report of the **Relations Committee** from chair, Elizabeth Campbell-Maleke. She highlighted the ongoing work of the committee to visit churches, encouraging churches to contact her to set up a visit. The committee will be posting details on the Presbytery website for congregations to request funds to support collaborative ministry efforts.

**Celebrated** the Honorable Retirement of minister of Word and Sacrament, Michael Seely led by **Ministry Committee** chair, Shelly Barrick Parsons, and the Moderator.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Hornbeck.