

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)

#### **Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Event**

Start Something New – Led by Michael Gehrling  
Thursday, March 12 – Presbytery Office

#### **Festival of Faith**

Keynote Speaker: Jill Duffield, Editor of *The Presbyterian Outlook*  
March 28 – First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

#### **The Guys Weekend**

April 24-26 – Bluestone Camp and Retreat

#### **Bluestone's Spring Getaway Retreat**

May 1-3 – Bluestone Camp and Retreat

#### **Montreat Youth Conference**

Theme: We Are – Keynote Speaker, Roger Nishioka  
July 11 – July 18 – Register now!

#### **Bluestone Summer Camp**

Four Weeks of Camp beginning June 14

#### **2020 Presbytery Meetings**

Thursday, May 21, at Ronceverte Presbyterian Church, Ronceverte  
Saturday, August 15, at Fayetteville Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville  
Thursday, November 19, at Davis & Elkins College, Elkins

*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**

*February 15, 2020*

The Presbytery met at Riverlawn Presbyterian Church, St. Albans, with **Moderator** Stephen Hornbeck presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer. The Presbytery was welcomed by **Chris Kilbert**, pastor of the church. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

**Installed** the 2020 Moderator, Andrew Kent Rice.

**Listened** to a presentation by **David Staniunas**, records archivist at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia. He focused on preserving and sharing church archives, offering tips for making sense of church records, including best practices in considering paper records versus digital records. Mr. Staniunas outlined a process for sorting records into “three buckets”: vital records (minutes and rolls/registers), commemorative items, and records of temporary value. The Presbyterian Historical Society is the best place for all vital records!

**Heard** an announcement 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. **Office Administrator**, Amy Robinson, encouraged all congregations to submit information for the 2020 Presbytery Directory.

**Worshipped** with Todd Wright (minister, Village Chapel, Charleston), who preached the sermon and Kari Preslar (ruling elder, First, Charleston) as liturgist. Minister of Word and Sacrament Glenn Coleman (First, Charleston) presided at the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Music was provided by Music Director Pam Johnson and the Riverlawn choir.

**Received** an offering of \$1,129 to assist with the costs of hosting visitors from our partners, Nyeri Presbytery, in August.

**Honored** those ruling elders, reported by their churches, who had joined the church triumphant in 2019, as well as ministers **Kenneth A. Atkins** and **Calvin Petrie Gentry**.

**Introduced** new Minister of Word and Sacrament **Steve Cort**, honorably retired minister from Beaver-Butler Presbytery.

**Approved** the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences and the designation for the offering.

**Heard** the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. The report highlighted the members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms have expired within the past six years as required by the Book of Order (D-5.0206). She also shared with the Presbytery that the overture on the *Laying on of Hands at an Installation* sent by Presbytery to the General Assembly had received the required concurrence. The overture will be assigned to a General Assembly committee for consideration.

**Listened** to the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. He began by expressing thanks to Riverlawn Presbyterian Church for hosting the meeting and to all those present for offering their time to the work of the Presbytery. Dr. Thompson asked those present if their church had an adult baptism in 2019. He shared the importance of church's being intentional about inviting people to be baptized and become members of the church. Congregations were reminded to watch for information on the **New Life Congregational Grants**; these grants will be funded by the sale of church properties from dissolved and dismissed congregations.

Dr. Thompson asked those present to think about the answer to the question, what is essential about a Presbytery? Using the idea of **Eight Word Mission Studies**, his answer to the question is *Supporting Churches Living the Gospel in Changing Times*. He challenged those present by asking what eight words they would choose to describe the Presbytery of West Virginia.

**Examined** **Garland Dale (Dale) Carey**, pastor from the Southern Baptist Church seeking to transfer to the Presbyterian Church (USA), Presbytery of West Virginia as a minister of the Word and Sacrament. He completed the necessary requirements outlined in the Book of Order. **Vocations Committee** member, Nancy Didway, asked Mr. Carey questions in the areas of polity, worship and sacraments, theology, Christian faith, and Bible. He successfully answered these questions. Following questions from the floor and discussion by the Presbytery, the transfer was approved. Rev. Carey will serve as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Williamson.

**Heard** the report of the **Committee on Ministry** presented by committee chair, Peter Vial. The Moderator and Dr. Vial led the Presbytery in the commissioning of Commissioned Pastor, John Yeager, to serve the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church.

**Listened** to a report of the **Nurture Committee** given by Sue Hollandsworth, committee chair, and Derek Hudson, committee member. All were encouraged to attend the upcoming Festival of Faith, March 28. The Editor of The Presbyterian Outlook, Jill Duffield, will be the keynote speaker. The committee also urged all churches to participate in other upcoming events including Ministry Toolbox courses, Montreat Youth Conference, and a fall Youth Retreat led by David LaMotte.

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

**Acted on** the report of the **Committee on Representation** given by Pam Johnson, chair. The committee nominated the following persons to serve on Presbytery committees. To serve on the Committee on Ministry in the class of 2020 Jim Gamble (RE, Upper Glade) and in the class of 2022, Rebecca Alvaro (RE, First Clarksburg) and Mike Seely (HR minister). To serve on the Trustees in the class of 2021, Bonnie Boyce (HR minister). To serve on the Vocations Committee in the class of 2020 John Bolt (RE, First Morgantown). There were no nominations from the floor; the nominees were elected.

**Heard** the presentation of the financial reports from **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole.

**Listened** to the report of the **Administrative Commission** to dissolve the Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church presented by the chair of the commission, David Richards. The Presbytery approved the recommendation to dissolve the church effective January 26, 2020. He shared highlights of the commission's work including a final service of worship. The commission was dismissed with thanks. The Moderator offered prayer in celebration and thanks for the years of ministry and mission by the church.

**Heard** the report of the **Mission Committee** given by Barbara Chalfant, **Associate for Mission**. Ms. Chalfant reported that the committee has formed a Nyeri Visitors subcommittee to plan the August visit from members of our partner Presbytery in Nyeri, Kenya, Africa. Churches who have an interest in hosting the visitors for an event are asked to contact the subcommittee chair, Rick Accord. The committee is also seeking churches who are willing to host screenings of "Flint", an award-winning documentary produced by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Ms. Chalfant announced two Cents Ability grants: LERMA sponsored by the Elk Hills church and United Christian Food Pantry sponsored by the Davis Memorial church, Gassaway. Additional grant money is available; contact Ms. Chalfant for details.

**Listened** to Sarah Specht, **Bluestone Camp and Retreat Program Director**, as she briefly shared plans for the upcoming camping season. Sarah introduced John Leftwich, member of First Presbyterian Church, St. Albans, long time camper and now a member of Bluestone summer staff. He spoke passionately about the importance of camp and the positive impact Bluestone has had on his life.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Rice.

Please note that attendees received a paper copy of the packet of flyers that provide details of upcoming Presbytery events. Some of these events are listed at the back of these Highlights. If readers have an interest in one of the events mentioned, please contact your pastoral leader or ruling elder commissioner to this meeting. Additional copies are available on the Presbytery website.