



Together In Ministry

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina

August 2010



From our General Presbyter,
Bobbi White

Ephesians 3:16-21—I (Paul) pray that, *according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his (the Father's) Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you will have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with the fullness of God.*

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him by glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and forever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

What are you praying that God will do for your church? As I read this scripture several nights ago, I reflected again on the questions, What are you asking God to do? Are our prayers large enough? When I first considered this question several years ago, I realized my prayers for the Presbytery were not always very large. I prayed for specific people and churches. I prayed for "a good presbytery meeting." Now, in addition, I pray that God will renew all of the churches in the Presbytery and give the pastors, elders, members and visitors a deeper walk in faith as we reach out to those not in church. I pray that we will be open to the Holy Spirit's guidance, that we will demonstrate Christ's love and grace, and that we will be able to see God at work in our midst. Paul's prayer is a good prayer for us to pray.

What do you think we should be praying for as a Presbytery? For ourselves? Our churches? The world? What are you asking God to do for your church?

Peace,
Bobbi



Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT)

Close on the heels of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT) was held. The theme for this year was "For Such a Time as This." Thousands of Presbyterian Youth meet at Purdue University every three years. Our presbytery had 53 youth participants, 9 adult chaperones and 3 folks helping on the work crew. The week allowed them to work deep into their Biblical study themes and use a variety of learning methods/styles. All phases of learning were pursued; such as through visual arts, physical movement and tactile expression. Many went away deeply moved by their experiences and announced that they "now really do know what it means to be a Presbyterian and a Christian."

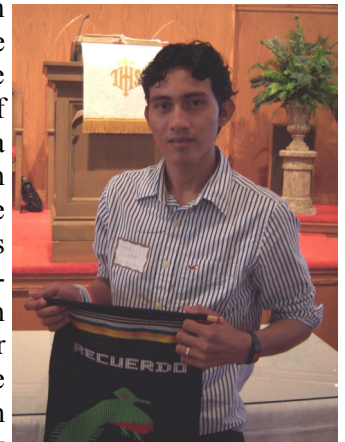


**Malawi Mission Team
May 16—June 2, 2010**

**Visiting from Guatemala
June 17—28, 2010**

The nine members of the Malawi Mission team worked at Nkhoma Hospital and Ebenezer School, and the remote Chiwe village clinic. The team brought medical and office equipment that the hospital had requested and school supplies for Ebenezer. Two members of the team were able to use their medical skills at the Hospital and the Chiwe clinic. Others worked at the school making curtains, painting murals, or supporting Dorothy McKenzie (FPC Gastonia) and Jessi Stitt (Black Mountain) who are volunteering there for the year.

In January, the Presbytery's Guatemala Partnership committee offered to help both our partners, Suchitepequez and Sur Occidente presbyteries, send a youth to the Youth Triennium in July. Sur Occidente accepted the offer, and gave us the privilege and joy of meeting Fredy Samuel Rivera Paz. Fredy just turned 20 in May. He is a member of the Horeb congregation that is partnered with Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian and was one of their scholarship students. Since graduation, he has been working as a mechanic. Fredy serves as the Youth Leader for his congregation, the chair of the Youth Council for his Presbytery, and is on the Partnership Committee for his Presbytery as their secretary. In Sur Occidente Presbytery, Fredy helps with youth rallies, educational events for youth leaders, church visitations, workshops for youth, and youth retreats.



At the Chiwe village, team members renovated an old building so that it could be used as a home for a nurse to live in the village full time in order to provide ongoing medical care in this remote area.

Fredy arrived July 17 with Alejandra Solano, a young woman that Grace Covenant had invited to attend Triennium from their partner church. Grace Covenant showed both Alejandra and Fredy wonderful hospitality, and their member Lynne Meacham served as interpreter on the July 19-24 Triennium trip. Afterwards, Fredy visited with his partner church in Brevard July 25-26, spoke to a Guatemala gathering in Black Mountain on

If you would like for someone to speak at your church about the recent trip, either contact Grace Boyer in the Presbytery office, 828.438.4217, Ext. 17, or contact a member of the Malawi Mission Team directly. The next trip will be May 23 -June 8, 2011.



July 26, and spoke to Presbytery in Cherryville on July 27. At the Presbytery meeting, Fredy presented PWNC with a *recuerdo* (a gift to remember him and his presbytery) in

the form of a banner, and also an offering of money to help with the support of Dr. Barbara Nagy in Malawi. Fredy returned with the Grace Covenant group to the Atlanta airport, where they all flew to Guatemala on July 28. Many who met Fredy remarked on his maturity and ability. We were blessed to have him in our midst.

- Tommy Burluson (Fletcher) 828/733-4107
- Gail Lehman (Franklin First) 828/524-5298
- Doris Munday (Franklin First) 828/524-2057
- Tom Kilgore (Morganton First) 828/438-0844
- Lynn Hovis (Southminster) 704/864-9264
- Stanley Hovis (Southminster) 704/864-9264
- David Layne (Southminster) 704/867-8784
- Jo Ann Taylor (Walnut Grove) 828/765-2981
- Teresa Locke (Southminster) 704/867-8135

- Grace Boyer

- Grace Boyer

One of our own preaching for the G.A. of the Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa!

Elizabeth Michael, a child of this Presbytery, will attend and preach for the General Assembly of the Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa this September. Elizabeth served Trinity Presbyterian Church in Edenvale, South Africa during a summer seminary internship and was invited back by that church's pastor, George Marchinkowski, who will be serving as the General Assembly's moderator for the next two years. The UPCSA is comprised of Presbyterian congregations in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. Elizabeth was ordained by the Presbytery of Western North Carolina in 2008 and is beginning her third year as the Associate Pastor of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church in Durham, NC.

School for the Laity/ Commissioned Lay Pastor Classes Offered . . .



Have you felt a little tug to study the Bible more thoroughly, a desire to be better equipped to be a leader or Bible teacher in your church, or are you seeking more knowledge/understanding of our faith and our denomination? What about Calvin? What did he do that was so different from what Luther did? Why do we have all of those long confessions? What is the *Book of Order* and how are we supposed to use it? You can get the answers to these questions and many more, listen to very qualified and interesting teachers, interact with people from all over our Presbytery who are probably experiencing the same feelings or little tugs that you are, as you go deeper into theology.

Go to our Presbytery's web site for more information, an application form, a schedule for the upcoming school year and cost. Don't put it off any longer!



PW 2010 USA Mission Experience

Presbyterian Women of PC(USA) will be having its second USA Mission Experience, "Meeting Our Sisters in South Dakota," in September.



It is an honor for me to have been selected as a member of the team of about 20 for this experience, representing the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic and PWNC. Participants will encounter challenges to God's promise of a beloved community and witness to the faithful work being done by our Native American sisters. We will travel to a different community each day.

My preparation includes considerable reading and daily study, drawing from the lengthy list of books and PCUSA reports from several General Assemblies. One such report has this title: "Mission and Ministry with Native American Peoples: A Historical Survey of the Past Three Centuries."

Also, I am working on increasing my physical stamina as I stated in my application that "I can carry my luggage anywhere."

As a follow-up to the experience, I have made a two year commitment to visit in the synod interpreting this Mission Experience. I look forward to visiting many of you in the PWNC. I cherish your prayers and encouragement.

Hopefully, I will have my program ready by mid-October. You can contact me via e-mail, phone or US mail: Patricia Clark, patriciahc@bellsouth.net, 828/433-1726, 2880 Irish Creek Road, Morganton, NC 28655.

Please join us at one of these two upcoming Fall PW events:

- ◇ **September 18**, Highlands First
- ◇ **September 25**, Lowell Presbyterian Church

- Patricia Clark

Make plans now to attend the 2-day Presbytery meeting, scheduled for October 22 & 23, 2010 at Lake Junaluska Assembly. Pre-registration is required. More details can be found in the monthly update. Deadline for registration is September 17, 2010! Hope to see you there!



Calendar Notes

This Saturday—August 21, Let's Celebrate—Check the Presbytery web site (www.presbyterywnc.org) for the descriptions of the 22 workshops being offered. I'm sure that you will be able to find one that appeals to you. Encourage your elders and church members to attend. Cost is \$30 per person at the door.

September 10-11, School for the Laity/Commissioned Lay Pastors Retreat at William Black Lodge, Montreat.

September 18, Acts 16:5 Initiative, Session 3, Morganton First. Another great opportunity to continue gathering ideas and methods to implement the transformation which we are bringing about through the process of the Acts 16:5 Initiative. If you haven't signed up for the Initiative, why not come to this one day session and see what it's all about! **Deadline is September 3rd!**

September 26, Senior High Rally at Montreat.

***Two upcoming Board of Pensions seminars you might be interested in attending:**

- ◇ **September 28, Post Retirement Seminar, Morganton, First**
- ◇ **September 29, Getting into Shape Fiscally, Morganton, First**

**PRE-REGISTRATION is required for these workshops. Contact the Presbytery office (828/438-4217) if you are interested in participating.*

What Happens in Summer?

"Kids Kitchen," a new project at Fairview Presbyterian Church in Lenoir, started with that question.

When Mission Chair Jason Myers talked with clients of the church's "Pay-It-Forward" food pantry, he realized summer is especially hard for families with school-age children. Their limited food budget is supplemented during the school year by the reduced or free lunches



their children can have. At one Lenoir school, over 95% of the students fit that category.

Jason worked with the school staff to offer lunch for their children and their families each Tuesday during the summer. About 50 come, not just for the food, but also for the friendship they find at Fairview. A supervised crafts corner keeps the children occupied while their parents finish eating and spend some relaxed time together.

When the families leave, they can take a good package with them to help stretch the food supply a bit further.

And what happens in summer has led to the next question: What happens in the fall? Church members are providing children with backpacks filled with school supplies so the youngsters get off to a good start in the fall.



G.A. Discussion Sessions Scheduled

Several discussion sessions have been scheduled so that we may educate ourselves on the items sent down to the presbyteries by General Assembly. These are items which we are to vote on and send results back to the General Assembly by June of 2011. These discussions will take place from 3:00—5:00 p.m. at the churches listed below.

September 12—West Avenue, Gastonia

September 26 —Waynesville First

November 7—Spruce Pine First

November 14, - Northminster, Hickory

October 22—23 Presbytery meeting at Lake Junaluska.

January 29, 2011 Presbytery meeting at Grace Covenant in Asheville. Time will be docketed for presentations, debate and to vote on the overture concerning Ordination Standards.

Celebrations!

The First Presbyterian Church in Highlands was established in 1885. On September 12, 2010, Highlands First will celebrate its 125th anniversary. They are excited to have Dr. Stephen A Haynor, President of Columbia Theological Seminary, to be preaching at this grand occasion. Feel free to join us as we celebrate 125 years of service to our Lord Jesus Christ!



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The Long Creek Church is celebrating its 230 year anniversary on October 10, 2010. Long Creek is mentioned in the minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States which met in Philadelphia, PA in 1789. This will be a full day of worship, fellowship, and praise befitting both our great history and the newness of life today! In tribute to the historic nature of Long



Creek, plans are being made to worship God in Revolution-period clothing and a Reenactment Camp along with dinner enjoyed on the grounds, as in the “old days” There will be music provided by a contemporary praise band, Tower of Mercy. The invitation has been extended! Come celebrate God’s greatness with us as we bear witness to His steadfast love as found in this particular place for 230 years!

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina
Strengthening congregations to witness for Jesus Christ.

Drayton Cooper Retires . . .

Drayton Cooper has retired from Old Fort Presbyterian, where he has served as their Stated Supply for a number of years. The church celebrated his ministry and wished him well with a dinner Saturday evening, August 14. Keep Drayton in your prayers as he deals with cancer.



John Craven Retires . . .

Dr. John Craven, who has been serving the Bridgewater Church for nearly ten years, has decided to retire, again. We wish him well and expect to see him on the tennis court even more frequently. He admits to being 86 years old, but like the energizer bunny, he just keeps going and going and going!

Just a reminder . . .



October is “**Pastor Appreciation Month!**” Look for the *Care of Church Professionals* article in September’s monthly update for more information on ways to show your appreciation!

Share your good news! We want to tell others about exciting things that are happening in your church. If you have articles, pictures or areas of interest that we can publicize in the *In Touch*, send your info to Barbara Ross at bwross542@charter.net. Thanks in advance!