



Together In Ministry

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina

October 2010



From our General Presbyter, Bobbi White

“We have been praying” was a phrase we heard at the office numerous times when people called to see how Marcia Puckett was doing. Marcia, who has worked at the Presbytery office over 15 years, and works closely with COM and CPM, had emergency open heart surgery on Wednesday, September 29. Her surgery was successful, and the prayers of God’s people were answered.

In our Presbytery, we are family. Robbin sends out numerous prayer requests for pastors and people in the Presbytery’s family. Many people in this Presbytery pray for those pastors and people on the prayer concerns list. It means so much to everyone involved. As your staff, we are blessed by people saying “I am praying for you.” Recently, at a meeting, a person spoke to another person they had never met and said, “We have been praying for you.” It’s such a comforting expression.

Each week, many of our churches pray for one church in the Presbytery. Some even send cards to the churches saying “we prayed for you.”

Our Guatemalan brothers and sisters in Christ have asked for our prayers as they experience flooding and destruction in various regions of our partner presbyteries. Often, it is us requesting prayers from the churches in Guatemala.

We pray for each other. What would it mean if we became more and more a Presbytery of prayer? God hears the prayers of his people.

Sharing Good News . . .

New Vision Church (NCD) in Conover opened the Pumpkin Patch on October 3 and will be open daily until October 31 or until all of the pumpkins are gone.

This is our third year for the Pumpkin Patch, and it is a great way to welcome people on the church campus that might not come any other way. There will be a photo spot to take pictures with our Scarecrow, and great fun picking out the perfect pumpkin (or 2).

The Patch will be open every day 10 am to 6 pm (Sundays 1 to 6 pm). On Saturday, October 12, from 12 to 5 pm, we will have a Fall Festival with a Bounce House, games, face painting, music, food (brats and hotdogs on the grill), and all kinds of good fun.

The pumpkins come from New Mexico and we pay only for those pumpkins we sell. Our earnings come from those pumpkins sold. (A great deal!)

For more information about the Pumpkin Patch, contact Rev. Ann Aichinger, New Vision Church, 502 Thornburg Dr. NE, Conover, NC 28613 or call (828)464-1330 or e-mail annaichinger@gmail.com.





October is Clergy Appreciation Month!

October means so many things to so many people...fall colors on the trees (and in the yard) cooler temperatures, watching the squirrels gather their food for the coming winter, football, and "Clergy Appreciation Month".

What are you doing to honor your pastor? Our PWNC office is distributing a document prepared from several nation-wide studies regarding the stress and debilitating health problems being suffered by alarming numbers of our clergy.

Please take a few minutes to go to these articles and then think about ways that your congregation might say "Thank you" to your pastor(s) for their hard work, dedication and love.

Taking a Break From the Lord's Work by Paul Vitello and published on August 1, 2010 in the New York Times; available at http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/02/nyregion/02burnout.html?_r=1&pagewanted=1&hp

Members of the clergy now suffer from obesity, hypertension and depression at rates higher than most Americans. Larger social trends sometimes spur some ministers to push themselves past their limits.

Death by Ministry: Why is Being a Pastor so Unhealthy? By Eugene Cho posted on August 12, 2010 on the *Sojourners* blog: <http://blog.sojo.net/2010/08/12/death-by-ministry-why-is-being-a-pastor-so-unhealthy/>

Just a few items to pique your interest...

- ◆ 1,500 pastors leave the ministry each month due to moral failure, spiritual burnout or contention in their churches.
- ◆ 33 percent say that being in ministry is an outright hazard to their family
- ◆ 58 percent of pastors indicate that their spouse needs to work either part time or full time to supplement the family income.

While pastoral ministry is at times exhausting, draining, depressing, and overwhelming, it is also meaningful and fulfilling. In the words of the apostle Paul, "*honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!*"

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, The Message

2011 Presbytery Meeting Dates

January 29, 2011 ~ Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville NC
April 26, 2011 ~ Montreat Conference Center, Montreat NC
July 26, 2011 ~ First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia NC
October 21 & 22, 2011 ~ Lake Junaluska Assembly

Guatemala Partnership

Our presbyteries in Guatemala are experiencing major flooding which is causing severe land slides, and the lack of infrastructure causes more problems.

Since Tropical Storm Agatha, 64 bridges in the country are damaged and 24 are completely collapsed, including the main bridge leading from Guatemala to Honduras. Many highways



are seeing landslides, especially the Inter-American highway between Guatemala City and Quetzaltenango which was recently constructed (poorly/improperly) and which is seeing almost daily landslides. It was along this highway that a landslide fell on a bus, and while people were trying to dig for the victims another landslide fell on the same place, adding tragedy to tragedy and causing at least 44 deaths. Many communities are beginning to lack

gas, food, and other materials. This is all complicated by the fact that the government has little available funds to continue responding.

In our partner presbyteries, **Sur Occidente** and **Suchitepéquez**, the major problem is flooding of the communities that are located close to rivers and to the Pacific Ocean. People have been evacuated especially from Anata Ana Mixtán, La Sabana and Tecojate. There is a shortage of food, medicine and drinking water. In both presbyteries, the leaders are trying to respond as best they can, helping with rescue efforts, taking food to families, and children to the hospital. We have received communication from both presbyteries telling us of their needs, of their efforts to help, and asking for prayers.

The Partnership Committee of our presbytery will be sending money to the Emergency Funds of our partner presbyteries. The Guatemalans will use the money to purchase food and medicine. Monies can be sent to the Presbytery office in Morganton and will be wired to each presbytery in Guatemala. Checks should be made payable to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and marked for "Emergency Fund" Guatemala Presbyteries.

As we read in the letter to the Corinthians, when one part of the body of Christ suffers, all feel that pain. Our sisters and brothers in Guatemala are suffering, we know their pain, and can respond generously to their needs. - Ellen Dozier



Sharing Good News . . .

Maggie Lauterer is retiring at the end of October and plans to spend lots of time with her grandchildren.

Allen Huff (Shelby) has accepted a call to Jonesborough Presbyterian Church in Jonesborough, TN. We wish him well in this new pastorate.

Jim Shoryer (Forest City) has accepted a call and will be moving to Oklahoma. We wish him well in this new pastorate.

Shelby Presbyterian celebrated its Heritage Sunday on September 12. They had a special service in the Don Gibson Theater with several guests and members wearing vintage hats and narrow ties. All of this was followed with an "Old Fashioned Dinner".



Crossnore celebrated its wonderful summer with an ice cream social and talent show on September 17. The talent shared with us was the "Almost Andrews Sisters" just returning from a very successful world tour and the Nebraska State Champion fire baton twirler Pyrotechnic Pastor (Kathy Campbell) twirling her fire batons and drawing lots of oos and ahhhs from the audience.



SL/CLP Kick-off Retreat

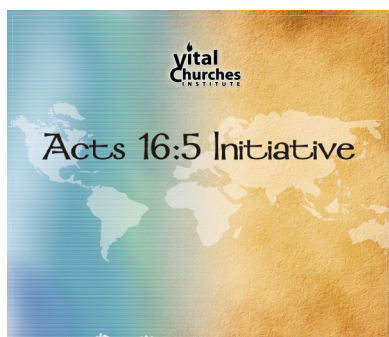
The **School for the Laity/Commissioned Lay Pastors** retreat was held at William Black Lodge in Montreat on September 10 & 11, and started the new term in a very positive and worshipful way. The opportunity to meet fellow students and the use of the Myers-Briggs personality profile helped us discover (or re-discover) what “makes us tick”. We have 3 husband-wife couples in the program and a wonderful variety of viewpoints and methods of thinking through the theology we are studying. The classes began October 2. If you are interested in the program, please contact the Presbytery office for more information.

Mark your calendar . . .

The **Acts 16:5 Initiative** workshop was held on September 18 with approximately 90 participants attending from 21 churches. The workshops continue to provide for us new ways of looking at what we do and how we can move toward vision driven work to make the transformations we want for our churches. We heard practical ideas for making disciples.

Mark your calendars for the fourth and fifth Acts training events in 2011:

- March 26, 2011
- September 17, 2011



Moses Dimmock Going to Northern Ireland

Moses Dimmock was commissioned as a Young Adult Volunteer to Northern Ireland on August 22nd, during a combined service of worship planned by Black Mountain and Montreat Presbyterian Churches (PCUSA).




Moses and his immediate family are members of Montreat Church and several members of his extended family are members of both Montreat and Black Mountain. Rev. David Miller, former missionary to Africa as well as Moses' grandfather, took part in the commissioning along with Rev. Susan Denne and Rev. Shannon Kershner. It was a joyful celebration centered around the grace and calling given in baptism.

Moses is the child of missionary parents, **Frank and Nancy Dimmock**, who are members of this Presbytery and who have served in Africa for over 25 years. Moses feels called to this mission “because Christianity is spreading faster in Africa than in Ireland.” We will continue to support Moses with our prayers, communication, and funding. The Montreat Session has set up an account to help support Moses in his mission. If you would like to contribute send checks to Montreat Presbyterian Church USA marked to support Moses. More information is also on available on the PCUSA.org website.

Good News (continued)

The Mayland Fellowship (made up of the PCUSA churches in Mitchell, Avery and Yancy counties awarded 9 scholarship at its July meeting. All of the students were in families within the Mayland church family. The fall quarter meeting will be held at Newland Presbyterian Church on October 10 at 5:30 with a meal followed by a business meeting and a program.

 Make your plans now to attend the fall **Presbytery meeting** at Lake Junaluska Assembly on October 22 and 23. This is our only overnight meeting of Presbytery. Come worship, learn, and fellowship together.

Hear **Becca Young** talk about her work in Indonesia. **John McCall** will discuss disciples.

Even if you can't stay over, reservations are required for the lunch on Friday, October 22. The lunch reservation deadline is October 13. Read more about the meeting on our web site—
www.presbyterywnc.org.

In 2009, there were 20 new church developments in the PCUSA.

GA Discussion Sessions

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 require our vote and results sent back to the General Assembly by June of 2011. These upcoming discussions will take place from 3 to 5 PM at the churches listed below.

November 7 at Spruce Pine, First

November 14 at Northminster, Hickory

October 22-23 at Presbytery meeting at Lake Junaluska

January 20, 2011 at Presbytery meeting at Grace Covenant in Asheville. Time will be docketed for presentations, debate and to vote on the overture concerning Ordination Standards.

What a Blessing!

Blessed are the Pets at **Mills River**. Pastor Randall Boggs provided a hands on prayer/blessing for about 20 pets on Saturday, August 28. The dogs were from a variety of breeds and at least one was a therapy dog engaged in visiting schools and retirement and/or nursing homes. There were also dogs brought by members of the humane society, so potential adoptees could also be blessed.



Something to CELEBRATE!

Let's Celebrate was a huge success ! There were 297 attendees attending 2 workshops each. Why not volunteer to work on the Task Force for the 2011 Let's Celebrate? There will be a meeting for the new task force held during lunch on Friday, October 22 at the Presbytery meeting.

