

# **ADDENDUM**



## **PRESBYTERY MEETING**

### **SEVENTY-EIGHTH STATED MEETING**

**OCTOBER 24-25, 2008**

**LAKE JUNALUSKA CONFERENCE CENTER  
LAKE JUNALUSKA, NC**

# ADDENDUM B-3

## THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA STATED CLERK'S REPORT James Aydelotte, Stated Clerk October 24-25, 2008

### FOR INFORMATION:

18. THAT *The Presbyterian Outlook* has recently sent to its subscribers an edition that includes a 4-page overview of all the proposed amendments that the Presbytery will be voting on at the January 31, 2009 Presbytery meeting. Copies of the amendment analysis may be ordered by email ([circulation@pres-outlook.org](mailto:circulation@pres-outlook.org)) or call Gillian Kunkel, Circulation Director at *The Presbyterian Outlook*, 1-800-446-6008.

Prices for additional copies are as follows:

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# Addendum D-6

## THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Chair: Rev. Dr. James F. Bernhardt

October 24-25, 2008

### FIRST SECTION

*RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, AN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION, OR A TASK FORCE THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY PRESBYTERY.*

#### III. RECOMMEND TO PRESBYTERY FOR EXAMINATION AND ORDINATION/INSTALLATION:

##### A. DWIGHT CHRISTENBURY

From: Candidate, National Capital Presbytery

As: Associate Pastor, Trinity Presbyterian Church

Effective: December 7, 2008

(See COM Addendum Attachment 2 for Bio Credo.)

#### IV. RECOMMEND TO PRESBYTERY THE VALIDATION OF MINISTRY FOR:

A. Monty B. Burnham, Executive Ministries, Campus Crusade for Christ, through October 24, 2009.

B. Margaret B. Peery, Pastoral Counselor, Pastoral Counseling and Growth Center, through October 24, 2009.

C. Edwin R. Brenegar, III, Facilitator/Consultant/ Speaker, Community of Leadership, Inc., through October 24, 2009.

D. Richard Morgan, Author and Speaker, through October 24, 2009.

#### V. RECOMMEND FOR COMMISSIONING BY THE PRESBYTERY AS LAY PASTOR:

##### A. OSCAR GARCIA

From: Presbyterian Seminary in Mexico (Member of Northminster)

As: Commissioned Lay Pastor, Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel Fellowship

Effective: October 24, 2008

(The commissioning is to include permission to celebrate the Lord's Supper, Baptisms and weddings and Moderate the Session.)

(See COM Addendum Attachment 3 for Bio Credo.)

##### B. PETE PETERSON

From: Commissioned Lay Pastor Student, Presbytery of Western North Carolina (Member of Reems Creek-Beech)

As: Commissioned Lay Pastor, Jack's Creek and Micaville Presbyterian Churches

Effective: October 24, 2008

(The commissioning is to include permission to celebrate the Lord's Supper, Baptisms and weddings and Moderate the Session.)

(See COM Addendum Attachment 4 for Bio Credo.)

#### VI. APPROVED MOVING ROBERT P. MILLS TO THE INACTIVE ROLL. (Pursuant to *Book of Order*: G-11.0415)

# Addendum D-7

## SECOND SECTION

*The Book of Order* provides that the Committee on Ministry may be given authority by the Presbytery to find in order calls issued by churches, to approve and present calls for service of ministers, to approve the examination of ministers transferring from other Presbyteries required by G-11.0402 and G11.0502g, to dissolve the pastoral relationship in cases where the congregation and pastor concur, and to dismiss ministers to other Presbyteries, with the provision that such actions be reported at the next stated meeting of the Presbytery. (G-11.0502h) This permission was granted to our Committee on Ministry; therefore, the following actions are to be simply admitted to the record.

**I. APPROVED THE EXAMINATION AND TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA (Continued . . .):**

**B. PAUL EDWARD FORSYTH**

From: Presbytery of Eastern Virginia  
As: Pastor, New Hope Presbyterian Church, Gastonia  
Effective: January 4, 2008  
(See COM Addendum Attachment 5 for Bio Credo.)

**C. ASHLEY J. "JERRY" BEAVERS**

From: Muskingum Valley Presbytery  
As: Member-at-Large  
Effective: October 14, 2008  
(See COM Addendum Attachment 6 for Bio Credo.)

**D. JAMES H. KENNEDY**

From: Presbytery of Tropical Florida  
As: Honorably Retired  
Effective: October 14, 2008  
(See COM Addendum Attachment 7 for Bio Credo.)

**II. APPROVED INTERIM PASTOR RELATIONSHIPS (Continued . . .):**

C. Hayden Britton and Tryon Presbyterian Church  
Effective: August 1, 2008 - October 31, 2008

**III. APPROVED STATED SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP (Continued . . .):**

E. Laura Long and Clinchfield  
Extended: November 1, 2008 - October 31, 2009

**IV. APPROVED AS MODERATORS (Continued . . .):**

C. Donald C. Mullen and Highlands First Presbyterian Church  
D. Michael Poulos and Asheville First Presbyterian Church  
E. Jim Cockerham and New Hope Presbyterian Church, Gastonia  
F. Terry Hanna and Hayesville Presbyterian Church  
G. Jim McPherson and Saluda Presbyterian Church  
H. Haydon Britton and Tryon Presbyterian Church

# Addendum D-8

## VII. APPROVE CONTINUATION OF COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR RELATIONSHIP (Continued . . .):

- D. Randy C. Patterson and Dixon Presbyterian Church  
Extended: September 7, 2008 - September 6, 2009

## IX. APPROVED ORDINATION/INSTALLATION COMMISSIONS (Continued . . .):

- C. Approve Administrative Commission for Ordination of Laura K. Becker on Sunday, November 16, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, Swannanoa, North Carolina.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Minister/Elder</u>
Bobbi White	Moderator/Preside	Minister
Bobbi White	Propound Constitutional Questions	Minister
Bob Tuttle	Preach the Sermon	Elder
Diana Sanderson	Propound Questions to Congregation	Elder
Steve Runholt	Charge the Minister	Minister
Carol Steele	Prayer	Minister

### Guests

Bill McDonald	Lead in Worship	Elder
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- D. Approve Administrative Commission for Ordination of Dwight O. Christenbury, III, on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville, North Carolina.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Minister/Elder</u>
Bobbi White	Moderator/Preside	Minister
Pat Green	Propound Constitutional Questions	Elder
Kaye Papazian	Propound Questions to Congregation	Elder
Bob Tuttle	Charge the Minister	Elder
Pete Peery	Charge the Congregation	Minister
Carol Steele	Lead in Worship	Minister
Mark Stanley	Lead in Worship	Minister

### Guests

Dwight Christenbury, Jr.	Preach the Sermon	Minister
Beth Ann Miller	Lead in Worship	Minister

## X. APPROVED PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP AND TERMS OF CALL:

### A. PAUL EDWARD FORSYTH

Salary	\$32,050
Utilities Allowance	3,600
Housing Allowance	12,000
Social Security	3,645
Auto Allowance	3,600

# Addendum D-9

Professional Dev.	1,200
Total	\$56,095

Pension/Insurance	Yes
Four Weeks Vacation	Yes
Two Weeks Study Leave	Yes

## **B. DWIGHT CHRISTENBURY**

Salary	\$31,000
Housing Allowance	10,000
Automobile Allowance	Reimbursed
Professional Dev.	Reimbursed
Social Security	3,136
Total	\$44,136

Pension/Medical	Yes
Four Weeks Vacation	Yes
Two Weeks Study Leave	Yes

## **XI. APPROVED DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS:**

- A. Albert G. Peery, Jr. and Asheville First Presbyterian Church  
Effective: October 31, 2008
- B. Cynthia A. Williams and Newton First Presbyterian Church  
Effective: October 15, 2008 (Severance continued through July 15, 2009)

## **Statement of Faith**

Dwight Christenbury

I believe in the true and living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—one God, the Holy One of Israel, and yet distinct in three persons. Relationship is at the mysterious heart of God's being, and I trust that the way God acts toward creation reflects who God is in all eternity: God creates, redeems, and sanctifies. God created humanity good, in God's image, to live in unity and community and to live in harmony with the rest of creation. But, like Adam, we all sin; nothing we do is free of the corruption of our sinful self-interest. Still, though we are undeserving, God acts to redeem us through the gracious gift of Jesus Christ and to make us holy through the power of the Spirit.

I believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly human, the eternal Word made flesh, who was Jesus of Nazareth. He taught and lived the example of faithful life in community with God and others: he healed the sick and raised the dead, he ate and drank with outcasts and sinners, and he undertook the mysterious work of salvation through his life, death, and resurrection. Even now, Jesus, the resurrected Christ, goes before us as redeemer, reconciler, and head of the Church.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who justifies us by grace through faith and sanctifies us in the life of faith; who fulfills the work of reconciliation and creates community between God and humanity; and who binds us together as the Church, enlivening our worship and service and leading us to right interpretation of Scripture.

Scripture, the rule of faith and life, bears unique and authoritative witness to the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. The Bible is testimony by prophets and apostles, inspired by the Spirit, of the experiences of people with God; nonetheless, the works contained in it were written and transmitted down the generations by human beings living in particular times and places. The Church, guided by the Spirit, must grasp this reality, even as it seeks nourishment of its faith and obedience through the reading and proclamation of the Word.

The sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, are visible signs of invisible grace. Baptism is the sign of our adoption into the covenant of grace; in Baptism, we die to sin and are raised in Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit. In the Lord's Supper, we actively remember Christ's sacrifice and look forward to his return; in the bread and wine, God's Spirit nourishes us with the real presence of the living Christ, who continues to host outcasts and sinners at his table.

The Church is the body of Christ: imperfect people called to community in worship and mission and guided by the Word of God and the Spirit. The Church, as the confessions remind us, is distinguished by proper preaching and hearing of the Word; by right administration of the sacraments; and by orderly, Spirit-filled government and discipline, as embodied in its polity. But the Church is also sent out into the world in service and mission—feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, visiting the prisoner, celebrating and protecting God's good creation, working for justice and peace.

In worship, community, and mission, the Church is guided by its devotion to the Triune God alone. The Reformed emphasis on the sovereignty of God—God who creates, rules, redeems, and sustains—is what continues to draw me to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), reminding and reassuring me that I am not in charge! Empowered by the Spirit, I do my best to join with my sisters and brothers in this community of faith, both working for a better world and looking forward to the final victory of God—because God is God of all the world, but also because God's sovereign grace cannot be confined to the limits of space, time, or human comprehension. In seeking to answer God's call to truly be God's people, we, the Church, live our lives in hope of the renewal of creation, of the resurrection we anticipate in Baptism, and of the joyful feast we sample in the Lord's Supper—all the while rejoicing, as Paul put it, that nothing in life or death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Brief Biography**

Dwight Christenbury

I grew up in the Presbyterian Church in various cities, towns, and campsites throughout Virginia. Some of my earliest memories are of the country churches in Southside Virginia where my father, a Presbyterian minister, had his first several pastorates. In the sanctuaries of those little churches I was aware of an abiding sense of comfort and peace, and even as a preschooler I loved the smells of the old buildings and the hymnals, the smooth feel of the worn wooden pews, and the glow of sunlight and dust through stained glass.

As I grew, I learned that the Church was more than only a building and that the work of Jesus Christ takes place outside as well as within physical walls. In addition to the formative influences of family and the congregations with which I worshiped as a child, my growth as a Christian was complemented by years of attending and working at Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) summer camps and in other nontraditional church settings.

In retrospect, I believe that I first felt a call to ministry at the beginning of my final year of college, as I was leaving the camp, Camp Hat Creek (Presbytery of the Peaks, Brookneal, Virginia), where I had by then served as a counselor for several summers. I was leaving for what felt like the last time, and I believe now that my first inkling of God's call manifested itself in a feeling of sadness and loss—loss of a sense of God's presence and peace that I felt most strongly in that place. I assumed that I would graduate from college and go on to a then-indeterminate "real" job; despite being the son of a Presbyterian minister, it did not then occur to me that ministry in the church might constitute my "real" job!

In the years that followed, I did indeed work at a variety of jobs, including teaching middle school English and editing scientific journal articles—and I worked equally hard at resisting the call to ministry. A particularly happy accident of the Spirit was a stint in graduate school that allowed me to return as an assistant program director to Camp Hat Creek, which I thought I had forever left behind. Back in the woods again, but by now recognizing that God's presence does not depend on sentimental attachment to a particular place, I rediscovered forgotten gifts of teaching and leadership and met Carol Steele, who would eventually be my wife.

In the years that followed, Carol and I both sensed a growing call to professional ministry in the church inspired by our camp and conference experiences and, later, by our membership and involvement in the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C. As Frederick Buechner has written, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." This is a familiar and oft-quoted statement, but it sums up well my sense that God has given me gifts and interests that intersect with Christ's ministry to the world through the Church. Thus, Carol and I left Washington to attend Union Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Richmond, Va.), graduating in 2005. We moved to western North Carolina when Carol was called to the position of Senior Associate Director of the Center for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Montreat Conference Center.

I served as Pastoral Intern at First Presbyterian Church, Morganton, from the fall of 2005 to the summer of 2007. Since August 2007, I have served Trinity Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville, as Director of Christian Education. The congregation at Trinity has welcomed and accepted me, and they have trusted me to work and discern with them where God is leading, through the church's educational ministry and its ministry with children and youth.

Most recently, on September 18, 2008, Carol and I welcomed a baby boy, Dwight Olin Christenbury IV, to our family. Learning to be parents has been a joyfully frightening experience, and while we don't know everything that the future holds for our family, we're grateful that Olin will start his life in the warm embrace of his parents, the Montreat Conference Center family, and the Trinity congregation.

Statement of Faith  
Oscar Garcia

I believe in God, “the author of creation”. God is almighty. By God’s word the heavens and the earth in the beginning were created. God is sovereign and takes care of the creation; supporting it and controlling everything, which means nothing surprises God.

I believe in one God who is manifested in the course of history as the Father, adopting the sinners by grace; as the Son, saving the sinners by grace and as the Holy Spirit, consoling and sustaining the sinners by grace. These three persons are equal in substance, power and glory because they are only one God. We must worship and pray to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit because they are only one God.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God, as the Christ, as the Messiah whom the Old Testament prophets announced by God’s revelation. In that sense, I believe Jesus Christ is the greatest mystery revealed by God, the Lamb of God who was sacrificed on a cross to atone for the sins of the people elected by God for salvation.

I believe Jesus Christ fully completed the salvific work his Father sent him to do because his sacrifice on the cross was unique, perfect and sufficient for the salvation of sinners. When Jesus Christ lived among us, he did miracles, taught the Good News to his disciples, suffered, never sinned and lived as an example for us. Jesus Christ is fully human and fully divine. He is victorious over evil, sin, death; his resurrection testifies he is truly alive.

For those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit is the agent that restores their lives, transforms their hearts, calls them to gather and worship, sustains and seals their salvation.

I believe the Bible is the Word of God, which means it is God’s special revelation to show us the way we must live and the way to heaven.

The Church is the Body of Christ. People from every tribe, nation, race and language believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are the New Israel. They are the children of God who worship in different places, ways, and times but united by one Head: Jesus Christ the “King of Kings”

I believe the sacraments are vital for the Church. Baptism certainly does not save us but allows us to be called children of God, members of the New Israel, which means we start to be blessed by God. It also helps us remember the way our sins are washed, how the Holy Spirit comes to our lives, and the commitment made by the Church to help the new members to grow in their faith. The Lord’s Supper reminds us of the broken body and the blood of Jesus poured out for the forgiveness of our sins. It also announces the victory of Jesus over death, the new covenant in his name and the eternal Kingdom of God in heaven and earth.

## Biographical Sketch Oscar Garcia

My name is Oscar Andres Garcia Flores. I was born November 30, 1984, the second of three children to the Garcia family. My father, Ruben, is an elder at El Buen Pastor Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas. My mother, Angelica, is living in Morelia, Michoacan with my older sister: Indra. My other sister lives in Merida where she is studying at the seminary to get a bachelor 's degree in Christian Education.

I was born in Mexico City but at the age of two my family moved to Morelia where I lived for about 16 years. My background is Roman Catholic, but because Rev. Alfredo Miranda (Salem Presbytery Hispanic Mission Evangelist) was our neighbor, he really influenced my faith. He was God's instrument to convert my family to Presbyterianism. My family attended Salem National Presbyterian Church in Morelia where Rev. Alfredo Miranda was pastor. At the age of 18 I professed my faith and decided to move to Merida, Yucatan to attend San Pablo Theological Presbyterian Seminary. I graduated with a B.Th. (Bachelor of Theology) in June 2007.

During my years at the seminary, I preached several times at the seminary chapel, I served for one year in Corpus Christi National Presbyterian Church and for three years in Roca de la Eternidad National Presbyterian Church preaching, teaching, organizing evangelistic campaigns and concerts, counseling and presenting at youth conferences regarding the relationship between parents and their children.

In order to get my B.Th. degree, I wrote a theological essay titled "La Migracion desde la Perspectiva del Antiguo Testamento" (Migration from the Perspective of the Old Testament). During my research I realized the great need in the US for bilingual pastors who can address the needs of the Hispanic population. That is when I felt God calling me to come to the US.

I have worked part time for one year under a religious worker visa at Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel in Hickory and part time with Ministerio Hispano de Rowan (a covenant between 6 Presbyterian Churches in Rowan County committed to reach out to Hispanics). I am also an elder at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Hickory.

During the last year, God blessed me through many people but especially through Rev. Alfredo Miranda, Rev. Deborah McEachran, Rev. James Bernhardt, Rev. Barrie Kirby and Rev. Ike Kennerly. They have become my advisors and friends; their love has given a new sense to my ministry.

STATEMENT OF PERSONAL FAITH of **PETE PETERSON** – February 2008

I believe in the triune God – God the Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit. I believe God is creator of all things and all things created by God are good. Most of evil is what we humans do to others and the planet. I believe humankind is finite while God is infinite and that He continually creates situations whereby we humans can make decisions.

I believe that we are by nature separated from God and responsible for our own sin, but that salvation, redemption, and forgiveness of sin are freely offered to us by the grace of God in our Lord Jesus Christ. The freely given grace, given before the ages by God in Jesus Christ, is for all mankind, everyone, especially to those who cannot help themselves. I believe we receive this grace from God as a gift as a result of **no** merit of our own but only by trusting through faith in God. When we repent our sins and accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, trusting by faith in Him to save, I believe we are immediately born again, all our sins are forgiven, and we become one of God's "Elected", destined to spend eternity with the Lord.

I believe Jesus Christ is wholly God in the Spirit and in the flesh, he was conceived in the Virgin Mary by the Holy Ghost, and in the flesh walked among man teaching us. I believe he suffered under Pontius Pilot, was crucified, died on the cross, was buried, descended into hell and on the third day rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father and from there intercedes on our behalf.

I believe in the universal church and the communion of the saints. I believe in the sacraments as practiced by our denomination. At baptism we are consecrated to God, to serve God, to live for God. We belong to God. The Lord's Supper I believe is a renewing of the vows taken at Baptism. Breaking the bread and taking the Wine renews us and reminds us that we are a party of the Body of Christ. I believe the Eucharist is the eternal binding of us into the body of Christ we experienced at Baptism. I believe we are empowered by the Holy Ghost at baptism to a free life to do the will of God.

I believe God works continually in this world and He works continually creating situations in which we make our decisions and thus God directs our lives - our paths for this journey through life. I believe in the second coming of Christ, the Second Advent, at which time we shall all be judged and I believe as we pass through the door at the end of this journey our spirit will be immediately in communion with God as we await the raising of our bodies at the Second Advent after which we will have eternal life with God.

I believe the Holy Scriptures are God inspired and remain the source of answers to our questions and problems. I believe the Holy Scriptures trumps all others in being the answer.

I believe in the holy Catholic Church and that each of us is but a part of the body of Christ making up 'the church'. I believe all Christians are a part of the Body of Christ. I believe in our denomination and the precepts cherished and taught by our denomination.

## **Bio Sketch and Faith Journey of Pete Peterson**

I was born August 12, 1939, in Texas. My first memories are of my little sister and myself as we lived and played while my mother worked to support us. I have no memory of our biological father. We came from very poor beginnings the three of us living in one room in the vast desert of West Texas. We had no running water and no electricity. We had a coal cook stove that also provided us with heat. We had a table with apple crates for chairs and one double bed in which we all three slept. I missed starting to school at age 6 because we lived too far from the nearest school – some 35-40 miles. That year my mother remarried and the gentleman who adopted my sister and me is my dad. I owe my character, my sense of right and wrong and my deep belief in God, Jesus, charity, love, honesty and just plain hard work to my dad. I was introduced to church at an early age – 7 and took to it immediately. It wasn't until high school that a friend introduced me to the Presbyterian Church. I married in 1968 to a beautiful life long Presbyterian girl. We have three grown children and three grandchildren.

In 1958 I joined the US Army and spent most of my 22 ½ years as an intelligence office servicing some 6 years with US Special Forces. I retired in 1978, spent 10 years with Marriott Corporation retiring in 1988. The first church I joined was the First Presbyterian Church, Griffin, Ga, in the early 70's. Having been baptized a Baptist I joined on a profession of faith. Our church affiliation was off and on until settling in the Asheville area some 16 years ago. We visited every Presbyterian Church we could locate in the area and found none that met our needs. The Reems Creek-Beech Church has been our Godsend. At age 21 I took a psychological battery of tests at SMU to help me find direction in my life. After several weeks the Doctor asked if I had considered the ministry. My answer was an emphatic no. My first real close encounter with God was as a young teenager when He enveloped my entire persona. It nearly scared me to death. Since that time I have struggled against the will of God even to, as the cliché says, leaving skid marks up the steps to my first class at the School of Laity. Throughout our lives Holy God has been the guide for me and my wife, Billie. The only regret I have in life is that I didn't start spreading the Holy Gospel 40 years earlier – but then I might not have met the angel God wanted me to marry.

**Statement of Faith**  
**Paul Edward Forsyth**

My faith begins with my belief in and experience of a loving and caring God in my life. It is in love that God created the world and each person in it. It is in love that God sent Jesus Christ, God's only Son, to live, to die and to live again that we might know the fullness of life as a forgiven people. It is in love that God sends the Holy Spirit, God's own Holy Spirit, to fill our lives so that we can be the people that God calls us to be.

I believe that God created us to be in relationship. We are each called to be in relationship with one another, with ourselves, with our world and with God. And it is within each of these relationships that we can deepen our awareness of God's presence and love throughout our lives. As we love one another, as we accept who we are as one created by God, as we sense God's presence in the creation that surrounds us, and as we seek God through the Bible, service to others, worship, prayer and meditation we become more aware of the reality of God and the depth of God's grace in our lives.

In Jesus Christ, God chose to reveal God's own self to us. I believe that Jesus Christ is God's only Son, Emmanuel, God with us. I believe that Christ broke down and continues to break down the walls of sin that divide us from God and one another. Through Him, His life, death and resurrection, we can experience the fullness of life that comes through freedom from the bondage that forgiveness of our past and present sins can bring. In this freedom, we can be the people that God created us to be, a loving, caring and just people. In this freedom, we can have abundant life. In Christ, we can also see the Kingdom of God, where we can live with God, without the barriers that sin and evil bring.

In God's Holy Spirit, we are given the grace to fully experience God in our lives. It is God's Holy Spirit that acts in and through our lives, causing us to be the forgiving and loving people that God calls us to be. It is through God's Holy Spirit that the Church truly becomes the Body of Christ. It is through the Holy Spirit that the Church is able to follow its calling and remain faithful to its mission of proclaiming the Good News of Christ to a hurting world through service and worship. It is through the Holy Spirit that we are able to hear and understand God's Word in the Holy Scriptures. It is through the Holy Spirit that the sacraments become signs and seals of God's grace and the reality of Christ in our lives; that the sacraments help us to remember who we are. It is through the Holy Spirit that we are able to experience the Kingdom of God at many points in our lives, and are called to hope for the fulfillment of that Kingdom which will come at God's appointed time.

I believe that, throughout our lives, we are called to be open and aware of God's presence, of God's reality in our lives. Whether in special moments or the day to day ordinary routines of life, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is there, loving and caring for each of us and calling us to follow God's ways which will lead us to the fullness of life that God created us for.

## **Biographical Sketch**

### **Paul Edward Forsyth**

I was born in Birmingham, Alabama, but moved to Mobile by the time I was one. My father was a pharmacist, and my mother was a choir director. I am the oldest of three children, having a younger sister and brother. I was a rarity in Alabama in that I grew up Presbyterian. My earliest memories of the church were formed at Springhill Presbyterian and later Central Presbyterian Churches in Mobile. I particularly remember Central's Communicants' Class which met in our pastor, Dr. John Crowell's office. It was there along with other experiences at Central that I caught my first glimpse of my sense of call as well as experienced the beginnings of my faith in Jesus Christ and an understanding of God's grace in my life and in others. I stayed in Mobile through college, graduating from the University of South Alabama with an education degree and a major in English. For the next three years, I taught high school and middle school English.

Over this period of time, God's call to me grew stronger. After my third year of teaching, I acted on that call and through God's grace moved to Richmond, Virginia, and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. It was a wonderful two years, and by the time I graduated with a Master of Arts degree, I knew I was in the place that God had called me to be. I became the Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Anniston, Alabama.

About a year after arriving in Anniston I found myself questioning my call following a divorce. This was a time of soul searching for me as well as a time of great pain. I left the work of the church and moved into the world of business. I soon found that I was a fish out of water. I did well, but did not understand why. I also felt completely out of place. This was not where God was calling me to be. I was then called to Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia. I felt at home again in my role as Youth Director. While at Trinity, I sensed another call – the call to ordained ministry. I went from Trinity to Columbia Theological Seminary following my sense of call to work on my Master of Divinity degree.

When I graduated, I spent the next year in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at the Emory University Affiliated Hospital System. It was not an easy year, but I continued to grow in my understanding of God's call to me while at Emory, although I still had many questions.

At the end of this year, I sensed a call to remain a Christian educator, and did so for several years in churches in Georgia and North Carolina. Again, God's grace continued to work in my life through my family and my work. I believe that, at that time, I was following God's call in my work as a Christian educator, but there was always that pulling that I felt toward a different ministry. Responding to that call to the ministry of word and sacrament, I began the ordination process.

I continued that process and responded to a call to serve at the Green Acres Presbyterian Church, in Portsmouth, Virginia, where I have served for almost eleven years as associate pastor. It has been the most fruitful time in my ministry. I continued my work in Christian education, and broadened my call to all areas of work in the church. I have developed new church-wide programs, including a program of annual mission trips in this country and internationally. At Green Acres I have particularly found a love for preaching, something I had avoided in my earlier years.

During my time at Columbia, I married Terri Jackson, whom I had met while serving at Trinity. Terri is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner who has specialized in newborn care and more recently in sickle cell disease. We have two sons (both Eagle Scouts), Charlie, age 22, who is in his fourth year at Georgia Tech, majoring in mechanical engineering, and Ryan, age 19, who is in his first year at Brevard College, majoring in wilderness leadership and experiential education. I have an older daughter, Mary, who, along with her husband, Jason, and the two most beautiful grandchildren in the world, Patton, age 3, and Audrey, age 18 months, live in Birmingham, Alabama.

Leaving Green Acres will not be easy. I have been very happy there and felt a deep sense of God's leading in my life as I have served there. But that leading is calling me now to New Hope Presbyterian Church as their pastor. I look forward to my time there and to the new paths on which God will lead me and lead the people at New Hope toward further service to and faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

A Brief Statement of My Faith  
Ashley J. (Jerry) Beavers

I believe in one true and living God who is far greater than my understanding, but who is known to us in history as the God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Rachel. I acknowledge no other God and set my reliance on God alone. My greatest goal is to praise and enjoy God in all that I am and do.

God is the creator and sustainer of creation. Men and women, though made in the image of God, because of their humanity, break communion with God and become estranged. This is the state of sin. God's love continues to reach out to God's people, delivering us from bondage, binding us as people of God through covenants, and, at the center of history, coming to us as God-with-us in Jesus the Christ. God is made known to us in him.

Jesus lived a truly human life while truly God. In his death on the cross, God achieved and demonstrated once for all the costly forgiveness of our sins. Jesus Christ is the Reconciler between God and the world. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. Jesus lives as God-with-us touching all of human life with the presence of God. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life.

The Holy Spirit is God active in the universe, the Lord and giver of Life, the Renewer and Perfecter of God's people, and the One who makes real in us what God has done for us. Through the Holy Spirit we experience God's creative and loving activity throughout the world.

I believe God's Word is God's communication with us. Although God is free to speak to us in unexpected ways, we confidently listen for God's freeing Word in Jesus Christ, in Holy Scripture, and in preaching and the sacraments.

Jesus Christ is the living Word of God. The Bible is the written Word of God and the necessary, sufficient and reliable witness to Jesus Christ.

Preaching communicates the Word of God. When it is faithful and obedient, the Holy Spirit uses it to convert unbelievers, to strengthen believers, and to form and reform the church.

The sacraments make visible the Word of God. In baptism and at the Lord's Supper the Holy Spirit demonstrates and confirms the promises of the embodied, written, and preached Word with vividness and power. Baptism sets us in the visible community of Christ's people and joins us to all other believers. Christ makes himself known to the community of believers at the Lord's Supper where we receive strength and courage to continue our pilgrimage with God in the world. We celebrate his victory here and now and anticipate the joyous feast in his coming realm.

Those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior have gathered around the Word and sacraments and have formed a corporate, visible body in pilgrimage with God across the centuries. The church is founded on Jesus Christ, marked by the Holy Spirit, and sent by God into the world to proclaim the good news. Aided by the Holy Spirit, the church is ordered by faithful attentiveness to the guidance of the Scriptures, confessions and disciplines.

Our hope for the future is based on our memory of the past. We can be certain of what the God who is revealed through Jesus Christ will do because we know what God has already done and is doing even now.

Credo, including brief statements of faith, are necessary, but are contextual and always incomplete. My life is a gift and a trust, and is lived in gratitude and wonder of God's care. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, I try to articulate in words and deeds the amazing graces and the great joy of the all-pervasive gracious love of God, who was made incarnate as Jesus the Christ. I eagerly look forward to that time when the love of the Triune God will transform all of creation.

September, 2008

## Biographical Faith Journey – Ashley J. (Jerry) Beavers

My earliest experiences of faith center around my family. My father was a career naval officer and a Presbyterian Ruling Elder. Both my parents were very active lay people. We children became imbued with the goal of service; service to God, to family, to others and to the nation. I see this as a contributing factor in the selection of my brother, sister and me into service orientated professions. We lived along the East Coast (especially Virginia) and in Germany. My mother would take us to her mother's home in Georgia while my father was at sea, so I grew up with the experience of a number of different communities and churches, as well as the stability of being a long term part of a small town and The First (and only) Presbyterian Church there. I was fortunate in growing up to have a procession of authentic adults, mature in their faith, to guide and mentor me.

As I felt called to serve in the Navy, I attended the U. S. Naval Academy. The time there was one of wrestling with what it meant to be a Christian in a secular world. I applied for duty in submarines because of the philosophy and person of Admiral H. G. Rickover, and the spirit of community present in that group. For over seven years my duties in submarines kept me away from home and isolated for long periods of time. Although I felt that I was called as a missionary to the US Navy community, I became increasingly frustrated with the lack of continuity in my family life, my personal relationships and my involvement in church and community affairs.

I resigned my commission in 1996 and worked as an engineering manager for an architectural engineering firm for a year. This year was an opportunity for full involvement in the life of a congregation, Grace Church in Wyckoff, New Jersey. As this large church near New York City had few programs for adults, I initiated and organized a couples' group, a singles' group, and an Adult Christian Education program. I served on the personnel committee, led in worship, and preached twice while the senior pastor was away. Grace Church confirmed my sense of God's call into professional church work. I also took an evening class at a Roman Catholic Seminary (taught by a Rabbi) which whetted my appetite for deeper theological study. Becoming more convinced that full-time seminary training was necessary, and acknowledging the special gifts that I had, I entered Princeton Theological Seminary in 1977.

My years as an active adult lay person while pursuing a career in government and industry gave me a broad perspective of the church and a special sensitivity to the ministry of the laity. My ecumenical appreciation had been enriched by adult church involvement in different contexts, including membership in churches in Charleston, SC, Dunoon, Scotland, and in a predominately non-caucasian Episcopal parish in Hawaii. Upon graduation from Princeton, I accepted a call to Broad Street Presbyterian Church, an exciting and engaging downtown church in Columbus, Ohio, as an Associate Pastor with primary responsibilities in education.

A procession of events helped me to sense a call to minister in an academic setting to young people and faculty. As a Chief Engineering Officer in nuclear submarines, I had responsibility for the education, training, and lifestyles of over 50 young men in an environment of intense intellectual rigor. My activity as a Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counselor in my off duty hours helped make God's love for me especially evident. During seminary I organized the seminary's retreat program and worked directly and successfully with high school students in two churches. In Columbus I invigorated and improved a static education program. Young adults became involved in serving as church officers, church school teachers, and as work project volunteers. Students attending colleges and technical schools in downtown Columbus were attracted to the church because of its programs and outreach especially for them. I took a graduate seminar on young adult ethical development, and later on, an elective in my Doctor of Ministry program on ministry in higher education.

After a high school and college Peacemaking Study trip to Iona and Coventry, during which I was distressed about the materialism and self-centeredness of American youth, an Elder of the church, who was an alumnus and Trustee of Muskingum College, mentioned to me that the college was searching for a College Minister and that he thought I might be perfect for them. I was intrigued because they were looking for a College Minister rather than a Chaplain. I had experiences with Navy Chaplains (and had tried to apply in seminary, but I was too senior an officer in the Reserves to transfer), and their institutional accommodation seemed to truncate the prophetic aspect of ministry for them. But a minister to the entire community seemed God's way of effectively using my training and experiences.

I eagerly accepted their call, and loved almost every minute of the experience. I was able to foster and encourage Christian students in their vocation, helping students to see the breadth and depth of the Spirit's work in creation, and to have focused outreach to disaffected and agnostic students and faculty. I was able to employ my nuclear physics, my seminary studies, my love of and study of the arts from my DMin, and my life experiences as I served as a missionary of the PC(USA) to that campus community. I saw that the Gospel of Christ can stand unapologetically in the realm of higher education. God gave us minds and expects us to use them. I also had a growing awareness of paradoxical trends. While the amount of education is inversely proportional to church involvement, a higher proportion of Presbyterian Church leaders have advanced education. The intersection of these two trends affirmed my belief that the college years are times of powerful vocational discernment, and vitally important for the future and health of our denomination.

A confluence of events, including serving as a GA Commissioner on a committee embroiled in college ministry issues, led me to think and act nationally about collegiate ministries. I have been fortunate enough to plan and conduct national conferences, present workshops, and to represent the Presbyterian Church at International and Global Higher Education conferences, and to attend a number of GAs, both as an observer, and as a resource exhibitor for church-related colleges and collegiate ministries.

In 2007, God called me to leave my home and job in Ohio and step out in faith. While I was successful and effective at the college, I felt that I was being called to use my experience and talents more on national collegiate issues. Our four children were grown and living around the country. Location and travel were issues because my wife, as a result of a traumatic brain injury, required fairly constant attention. Her support network in Ohio had deteriorated through natural attritions, so when our oldest daughter made it possible for us to move near her in Asheville, we moved. Much of my national volunteer work could be conducted on the Internet. It has felt as if we had come home to a home we didn't know we had.

Our children grew up knowing that location need not be an issue for relationships, so while they and their families are scattered, we all remain close. Every summer all the families make time to be together at the beach. Holidays bring together those who are able to travel. The beach is a "thin place" for me, as is Iona, and major art galleries around the world.

Hobbies and interests include music of every type, films, and collecting old toy trains. For a number of years I hosted a regular radio show, "The Blues and Gospel Hour," and hosted a "Is that Really Religious?" film series. I have an extensive collection of Christmas music (especially the strange and unusual) and crèches (especially culturally specific ones). Our Asheville daughter found us a home which had a basement that could be used for a train layout.

If you had asked me any time in my adult life what I would be doing in five years' time, my answer would have turned out to be wrong. So I am always on the lookout for signs of the Spirit, and full of awe for the way God's purposes unfold. I face the future expectantly, not knowing what God might have in store for me, but knowing that it will be grace-full.

James H. Kennedy

What I believe about:

GOD - I believe that God is Creator of all things, Supreme, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I do not profess to 'understand' the Trinity, but do believe that God functions/lives as Three Beings, yet One. God IS love. God allows us freedom, choice, is a fair judge, compassionate and loves all human beings equally.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, sent to earth by the Father to show us what God is really like in actions and judgment, and willingly sacrificed, suffered and died for all people. Jesus Christ, being both divine and human, enacted miracles (not magic), sharing with us God's wisdom and power...and is continued today in us through the Holy Spirit.

Bible - The Bible is the story of God's love for all of God's creation. It contains wisdom, counsel which provides us with strength and inspiration for our daily living and growth.

SACRAMENTS - In Baptism and in celebration of the Lord's Supper/Communion, God's Holy Spirit - in response to our prayers and God's promises, uses human tools - water, bread and wine (?) - in sharing forgiveness, power, rebirth in our spirits, comfort and assurance of God's love and grace for and in us.

CHURCH GOVERNMENT - I support the form of Government of the Presbyterian Church (USA) while being aware of our human imperfections. I greatly appreciate the great latitude in freedom of thought provided for us 'with' valued oversight provisions. Our system provides a congenial atmosphere of caring, compassion, truth, love and support of each other in sharing our sincere concerns openly.

THEOLOGY - I tend to be 'practical' in my theological beliefs, very nonjudgmental. I believe that God speaks to us in great variety of ways, and that we learn and grow continually through sharing and discussion of our thoughts with each other, as well as our inspiration and leading shared with 'us' through God's Holy Spirit. I believe that God loves and cares for every human, just as Jesus Christ died for ALL PEOPLE, that we might know inner peace for all eternity.

## JAMES H. KENNEDY - Biographical Sketch

Every time I attempt to write about myself, I remember hearing a friend say many years ago, that some day he was going to preach a sermon titled, 'Humility, And How I Got It'.

I was born and grew up in Slippery Rock, PA . I was graduated from Warren Wilson (then Jr. College) in 1954, Maryville College in 1956 , and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1961. I later did graduate work at Springfield College, Massachusetts, Slippery Rock University and Columbia University in NYC. Between my junior and senior years in college I work during the summer at El Guacio Presbyterian Community Center in Puerto Rico.

After my first year at seminary, I was offered an Internship at Granada Presbyterian Church in Coral Gables, FL. To my surprise, soon after I arrived at Granada Church, I learned that the pastor was being asked to leave, and found myself alone serving an 800 member congregation until the new pastor arrived. It was at that time - that I learned the true value of Office Managers/Secretaries!

I was married before my last year of seminary, then served four years as pastor in St. Louis. Prior to our marriage, my wife had performed on Broadway. She was/is a wonderful woman, who in spite of sincere effort, was unhappy being a pastor's wife.

We moved to NYC where I served as Youth Director of the Flatbush, then Grand Central YMCA's, and President of the Greater NYC Youth Directors and she returned to performing. After being married for ten years, we divorced.

Later I organized and directed the first YMCA Summer Day Camp in Freeport, Grand Bahama, then served for eleven years as Executive Director of a Family YMCA in CT. During that time I went into NYC and preached at the Glenmore Ave. Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn.

After serving as pastor of two churches in Western KY for five years, then after taking certification at Montreat, I completed three Interims in MI, before being called to service as IP at Presbyterian Kirk of the Keys in Marathon, FL.

When I arrived at the Kirk, the building was in great need of repair. They also had huge financial concerns. The Presbytery changed my status to Supply Pastor - we tore the old building down and built a million-plus building. Support grew. In 2005 the congregation gave me a surprise testimonial dinner including financing for a trip to Europe.

There is some confusion regarding my retirement date. I actually retired at the end of August 2007. In meeting with the Presbytery Executive a few days before I left the Keys, I was assured that the Presbytery would act on my retirement in September. However, later I was told that no one had told the Chair of the COM that I was retiring, so I was officially retired at the Presbytery's meeting in February stating my retirement date as January 1, 2008.

# ADDENDUM I-9

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Dr. H. Richard Graham, Chair**

**October 24-25, 2008**

The Nominating Committee presents the following addition(s) and correction(s) to nominations to fill the year of 2011 and other class vacancies. If you have suggestions for the remaining vacancies, please complete the enclosed form from the Nominating Committee. Suggestions will be considered at its meeting on November 3, 2008.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

*If a committee still has a known vacancy, it will be indicated following the recommendation.*

**19. Missions Committee**

*(4 vacancies for the class of 2011 and a committee chair. In order to balance clergy and lay person representation, the committee needs 2 ministers and 2 lay persons from cluster A, E, and F.)*

**Rev. Allen Huff (Shelby) (C) Chair**

**Rev. George Alexander (E) Class of 2011**

**\*Ms. Janet Jolly (Rutherfordton) (C) Class of 2011 (Correct cluster)**

**Rev. Hunter Coleman (A) Class of 2011**

*(1 vacancy for the class of 2011. In order to balance clergy and lay person representation, the committee needs 1 lay person from cluster F.)*

**27. Budget and Finance**

*(4 vacancies, 3 for the class of 2011, 1 for the class of 2010 and a committee chair. In order to balance clergy and lay person representation, the committee needs representation from cluster A, B, E, and F.)*

**Mr. David Wylie (Spruce Pine, First) (F) Class of 2011**

**Ms. Terry Haas (Kings Mountain, First) (C) Class of 2011**

**\*Mr. Charles Sellars (West Avenue) Chair**

*(2 vacancies, 1 for the class of 2011 and 1 for the class of 2010. In order to balance clergy and lay person representation, the committee needs female representation from cluster A, B, and E.)*

*\*indicates change made within the report*

# ADDENDUM K

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY  
THE REVEREND MICHAEL J. POULOS, CHAIR  
October 24-25, 2008**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry reports the following to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina for information:

- Emily Virginia Nisbet, a member of the Hendersonville First Presbyterian Church, was enrolled as an inquirer on August 21, 2008. Emily is enrolled at Columbia Theological Seminary.
- Tai Zimmerman Magette, a member of the Waldensian Presbyterian Church and a candidate from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, has accepted a call as Associate Pastor for Christian Education with Rock Hill First Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Tai will be ordained at Waldensian Presbyterian Church on November 16, 2008.
- Laura K. Becker, a member of the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church and a candidate from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, has accepted a call as Pastor of the Northminster Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Laura will be ordained at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church on November 16, 2008.
- Allen M. Thompson, a member of the Lenoir First Presbyterian Church and a candidate from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, has accepted a call as Associate Pastor for Mission Renewal with Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Allen will be ordained at Lenoir First Presbyterian Church on November 30, 2008.

# ADDENDUM GP-1

## GENERAL PRESBYTER'S REPORT PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA OCTOBER 24-25, 2008

Having just celebrated World Wide Communion, and moving soon to celebrate Thanksgiving, now is a helpful time to reflect on our blessings. We have so much for which to be grateful:

- ✠ for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and for his death and resurrection that brings us life abundant and life eternal. We give thanks that Christ is head of the church and is guiding our ways;
- ✠ for our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world, praying for the gospel to be known to all people;
- ✠ for God's great love for us so that we are "chosen in Christ" and "adopted as children through Jesus Christ;" (Ephesians 1:4-5)
- ✠ for the action of the Spirit in each of our lives, in the life of our churches and denomination, and in the world; and,
- ✠ for each of you! As Paul said, we remember you, constantly praying with joy for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel. (Philippians 1:3-5). We are blessed by your witness and by the faith of so many congregations and people.

As I look across these mountains and visit in your churches, I see all manner of growth taking place.

**Growth in Living out the Faith:** The message of Christ's love is so needed in this anxious time of economic uncertainty, with people searching for answers and community. We, as a church, have the good news of Christ to share and we can welcome people into a caring community. Now is an important time to be inviting people to your church and into a relationship with the Lord. Invite! "You are to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8b)

**Growing in Faith and Vitality:** As our churches continue to grow in faith and vitality, I see exciting plans developing for the future. After much research, we will be providing the churches with a unique opportunity to discern where God is calling them at this time, to grow in discipleship and to reach out to others as a demonstration of God's love.

Working with this process has energized churches in a number of presbyteries. It can be a help to our Sessions and pastors. In the next few months, I look forward to sharing more about this three-year journey of revitalization. "The churches were strengthened in their faith and increased in numbers daily." (Acts 116:5)

**Growing in Knowledge and Faith:** The Christian Education Committee has planned a one-day workshop and retreat in January for people working in Christian Education. They are also looking at ways to challenge the churches in helping people grow deeper in their Biblical knowledge and faith. "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

# ADDENDUM GP-2

**Growth in Demonstrating God's Love for Others:** Churches reaching out in love are monthly washing feet at the homeless shelter, providing safe sleeping places for women and families, taking food to the food pantry, tutoring children, visiting the sick and those in prison, telling the broken hearted about the love of Jesus, teaching English as a second language and welcoming the stranger, building Habitat houses, teaching children and adults about Jesus, just to name a few. Churches are supporting mission co-workers who teach theology in Indonesia and Taiwan, heal the sick in Guatemala, minister to the people of Brazil, and more. As I visit the churches, I see these things happening in addition to many others.

The shower trailer for Disaster Recovery is now ready!! We should take pride and be grateful for the work that has made this possible. The shower trailer will be going to either the Gulf Coast or to Texas to be used by the many people coming to offer God's love in those places of need. Presbyterian Disaster Recovery is excited to have it ready to go. Thanks to all that have worked on the trailer. Let us keep in our prayers the Presbytery team going to the Gulf in November and the many church teams going from this presbytery.

**Caring for our Youth:** Bring your Middle Schoolers to Camp Grier, November 21-23 for a wonderful retreat. Sign your Senior Highs up for a mission experience in July and for the retreat in February. If your youth are not part of the Youth Council, plan to have them apply next year and watch them grow in faith, confidence and leadership.

**Growing in Giving to others at Christmas:** For several years the PWNC has made available alternative Christmas giving options. Cards announce your choice of an alternative Christmas gift, including four options for adults: Guatemalan children's scholarships, Guatemalan health work, the Nkhoma hospital in Malawi and the new school for children in Nkhoma. There are also options for children. Give thanks that through the monetary gifts from this Presbytery, the walls and roof for a new school are a reality.

**LOOKING FORWARD:** As we approach Thanksgiving, I am confident that God will continue to guide us in the rough and smooth places. I pray that we all will take time to reflect on our blessings, give thanks and stay open to seeing God's active guidance and work among us and in the world.

Peace,

*Bobbi*