

The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

CONNECTIONS Newsletter



Vol. 13—
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Dec/Jan/Feb
2010-2011

807 W. King St., Elizabethtown, NC 28337

www.presbycc.org

General (Presbyter) Ponderings:

ARE YOU AWARE,
DID YOU KNOW,
DO YOU REMEMBER...?

- Every session, no matter how small the congregation, needs to have an established policy/practice of **internal financial controls**, spelling out: who receives, who pays/spends (different from who receives), who counts (never only one person), who signs the checks (ideally two signatures required), etc.
- Every congregation needs to have an established (by session) **sexual misconduct policy**, covering all staff, volunteer leaders, attached program (pre-school) leaders, etc.
- A **Per Capita** payment is not a stewardship issue which depends on our sense of generosity. It is a church polity issue which depends on our sense of commitment to the connectional system.
- All **temporary pastoral relationships** (temporary/stated supply & interim) are subject (at least) to an annual review.
- Every pastor stands before God and **the IRS** alone, and must therefore take personal responsibility for his/her own financial matters, and not rely alone on the church treasurer or the presbytery office. In fact, the IRS is a whole lot less forgiving than God in such matters.
- All end of the year adjustments to the pastors salary, housing, or other income matters must be **reported to the Board of Pensions** by the beginning of the next year. The pastor needs to be clear about the break down of items in the terms of call for tax and pension purposes.

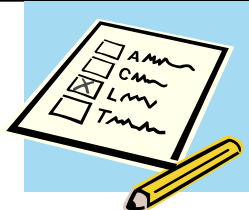
The session's election of an **elder commissioner to Presbytery** should be a matter of record in the session minutes, with reference to a particular elder by name, at the session meeting prior to the Presbytery meeting. That elder should reasonably rely on the pastor or moderator to preview the business for the upcoming meeting of Presbytery for the elder commissioner's benefit.

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God..." (I Thes. 5.16)

Following in His Way,

David Walker

Special Presbytery Meeting for Amendments Vote—and Discussion Opportunities



At the October meeting of Presbytery, a Special Meeting was approved, to be held on **March 26, 2011**. This meeting is for the purpose of considering and voting on the various proposed (by the 2010 General Assembly) amendments to the constitution. The location of the meeting is yet to be determined, but every effort will be made to find a site that is centrally located within the Presbytery.

Let's discuss and become informed...

Prior to this Presbytery meeting, opportunities for information and discussion are scheduled for February 13th and 20th.

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina's



Equipping the Saints

Workshops Promoting Christian
Education &
Stewardship Development
Saturday, February 12, 2011
Highland Presbyterian Church,
COST—\$10

KEYNOTE: The Commercialization of Children by **Martha Bettis-Gee, PCUSA Associate for Child Advocacy and Networking.**

Choose 2 WORKSHOP SESSIONS from 10 workshop offerings.

Find the flyer & registration online at www.presbycc.org.

Find the brochure/registration forms online at

www.presbycc.org/committees/ce/

WORKSHOP OFFERINGS ON ...

Sexualization of Children	Children in Worship
Lectionary Teaching & Preaching	Children Protection Policies
VBS: Two Choices for 2011	Intergenerational Festivals
Youth Ministry	FaithWeaver Curriculum
Curriculum Options	Bullying

YES! A Presbytery Revival

By Matthew A. Rich and Hazel Wilson



Photo (Matt Rich, J. Herbert Nelson, Hazel Wilson, Clarence Page, Evan Harrison)

One of the reasons that we are Presbyterians is because of the theological conviction that Christians best discern God's will as we gather together. For as we gather to hear scripture read and proclaimed, to sing, to pray, to listen to one another, and to sit in silence the Holy Spirit speaks and we as the church have a chance to respond.

In her ministry as Mission Coordinator for 61 of the 188 churches in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, Rev. Hazel Wilson listened to the voices of pastors and church members who longed for something more. She asked what more the Presbytery could do to support the churches she served. And she prayed and God placed upon her hear that our Presbytery needed a Revival.

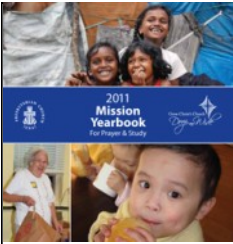
Eight pastors and Commissioned Lay Pastors and one elder joined Hazel in the planning process.

They prayed about if it was the right time for the Presbytery to hold a Revival and if so, who God was leading them to invite to preach. They heard God say yes it was time for a Revival. They heard God say, "Ask J. Herbert Nelson to come."

For three nights in October pastors and members from across the Central Community of the Presbytery gathered for a Revival. Small churches and large churches. Each night, with faithful scriptural exegesis and personal testimony, J. Herbert Nelson preached. He challenged those who gathered at Sunnyside Presbyterian Church not to focus on what we need to do to change ourselves, our churches, and our communities, but to examine who we are. For Revival comes not when we do more, but when we become more and join our lives with the work God is already doing. Revival comes when God transforms the same things we've always done into a new way for God's new day. Yes, Revival comes when the Holy Spirit moves us to rejoice when there is nothing to rejoice about.

A member and elder at First Presbyterian Church, Lumberton said after the first night of the revival, "Wow!!!! I am still blown away. The service was dynamic and one of the greatest experiences I've been a part of in many years."

CD's of the services will be available in Presbytery's Resource Center for those who wish to share in this experience.



2011 MISSION YEARBOOK

The Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study is a daily devotional with 365 inspiring mission stories that come from next door and all across the globe .

The stories for the 2011 Mission Yearbook were collected around General Assembly Mission theme "Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide" based on Matt. 28:18-20 and Mark 9:35. Each yearbook page bears witness to the abundant possibilities of the church because of the leadership of Christ.

Contact the Presbytery to purchase (\$10.50) your copy. Supplies are limited.

Blessing of the Animals Service—

On November 7, congregates entering church grounds were accompanied by pets. **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Wilmington** celebrated this annual observance of blessing the animals again this year.

Pictured is JoAnn Anderton and her dogs brought to experience the blessing.



Commissioned Lay Pastors Learning Together—



If there is any one person in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina who goes "where angels fear to tread," it is none other than Doug Hix, so publically demonstrated when he met with about 30 CLPs back in September. Nothing unusual about that; Doug has been meeting with CLPs as their instructor (and mentor) for many years.

But this time he led the group through an in-depth study of Professor Tom Long's book, "Accompany Them With Singing: The Christian Funeral," which is an essential guide for planning and conducting meaningful and theologically sound funerals. Doug was able, in two hours, to extract the substantive content from the book, give ample illustrations from personal experience, and bring some kind of understanding to that no-no subject—passed away, went home, better off now, looks so natural—DEATH. He elevated death into its rightful place as a meaningful and significant part of Christian faith and practice. Thanks Doug.

On Presbytery's web site you can find the following forms/handbooks:

- (1) Clerk of Session Handbook
- (2) Check list for Session Minutes
- (3) Nomination form for serving on Presbytery Committees
- (4) Financial forms and information www.presbycc.org/forms/ .



MISSION TEAM OF EIGHT headed to Tabasco, Mexico on January 24-31, 2011

In a continued effort to develop relationships between Presbytery of Coastal Carolina and *Presbiterio de Golfo de Mexico* of the Mexican Presbyterian Church, this presbytery will send a team of eight members to visit our partner presbytery in January. The team is made up of eight members representing: Faison, Lillington, Maple Hill, Old Laurel Hill, and Sneads Ferry churches.

The team will work along side our Mexican partners in construction work on the medical clinic that is the current mission project of our partner presbytery. They will worship in churches and stay in the homes of church members.

Please keep these team members in your prayers as they prepare for their journey in Mexico, and as they visit there in January. Please also continue to pray for our partner presbytery, its 45 churches and 40,000 members. Many in the region are continuing to try and rebuild their homes and their lives after terrible flooding there this fall.

Our 2 Cents Worth from Presbytery's HUNGER COMMITTEE

Did you know that the Hunger Subcommittee approved grants from six (6) organizations last month in our Presbytery valued at \$1,800 each?

Did you know that these six (6) organizations are impacting up to 72,600 children and adults in our communities during the year in our Presbytery who are in need of food?

Did you know that your 2 Cents-a-Meal Offering is making a difference in the Coastal Carolina Presbytery?

Your 2 Cents-a-Meal offering is making a difference beyond our Presbytery too! In fact, we're helping to support the organization, Matthew Twenty-Eight, Inc., in Haiti which has been serving 4 meals per week to little children in Haiti since 1991 in the Central Plateau area of that country. Matthew 28 also operates an orphanage with 63 children ages 0 to 21 living there, 20 of whom arrived after the January earthquake. Our help is particularly important since the earthquake because refugees from Port Au Prince have moved into the Central Plateau making food supplies even scarcer. Check out Matthew 28 at <http://www.matthew28.org> and see what Our 2 Cents Worth is doing in Haiti!

Your local organization providing direct food assistance can apply for a grant as well. Visit the Missions and Outreach web page for the application form: <http://www.presbycc.org/missions/default.htm>



PRESBYTERY OF COASTAL CAROLINA 2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRS OCTOBER 19, 2010

- Presbytery Council: Rev. Kimani K. Wright
 Committee on Nominations & Volunteer Development: Rev. Robb Lapp
 Committee for African-American Ministries: Mrs. Earnestine Wall
 Committee for Christian Education & Stewardship Development: Rev. Ann B. James
 Committee for Church Revitalization & Transformation: Rev. James W. Randall, Jr.
 Communications for Committee: Mr. James D. Bartlett
 Committee for Latino-Hispanic Ministries: Mr. Douglas Barney
 Committee for Ministry: Rev. Steven E. Hein
 Committee for Mission & Outreach: Rev. Philip K. Gladden
 Committee for New Church Development: Rev. Joshua L Bower
 Committee for Outdoor Ministries: _____
 Committee on Preparation on Ministry: Rev. Kimberly Justice
 Committee on Representation: Ms. Matlynn Yeoman
 Committee on Session Records Committee: Rev. William E. Pauley
 Committee of Strategic Planning & Organizational Review: Rev. William 'Pete' Brown

Please consider serving on any of these committees. You can find a volunteer form at www.presbycc.org or contact Rev. Robb Lapp at rlapp@sacpc.org .

SPECIAL—Presbytery's Committee Training Event is scheduled for January 15 at the Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church.

Sharing Your Blessings Through the Christmas Joy Offering



A Presbyterian tradition for nearly 70 years, the [Christmas Joy Offering](#) provides vital funding to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic schools and colleges. It is one of the four special offerings designated by the PC(USA) to provide congregations direct ways to support those in need. The Christmas Joy Offering is usually received the Sunday before Christmas.

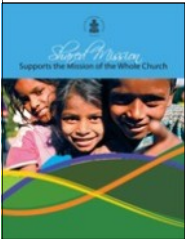
Last year, the Christmas Joy Offering provided \$2 million to the Assistance Program, helping to provide more than 1,400 grants to Presbyterian church servants and their families. The Assistance Program depends on the Christmas Joy Offering and other gifts from caring Presbyterians like you to fund its programs.

We encourage you to support the Christmas Joy Offering through gifts to your congregation's offering. Your generosity enables you to give from your own abundance to the pastors, missionaries, and other church workers who faithfully serve the PC(USA). Your gifts fill the hearts of the recipients with the knowledge that they are looked after by their fellow Presbyterians.



Add the **Presbytery logo** to your bulletin or newsletter! It is found at www.presbycc.org/forms/; there are options for color or black & white.

There are 4 image links which you can use save the image to your computer.



2011 Mission Planning & Budgeting—

The General Assembly Mission Council is providing each congregation with information about Shared Mission Support, World Mission Giving Opportunities, and more. Find the brochure online at www.pcusa.org/resource/shared-mission-brochure/.

Free Resource—

Copies of "A Guide to Mission Networks," FREE as long as supplies last. This 48-page booklet lists PC(USA) country networks and includes photos, stories, and contact information for each network. If you would like a copy, please email bruce.whearty@pcusa.org with your mailing address.



Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

DATES:

Nov. 10—Send Thank Offering to Joyce Winkler, P.O. Box 8291, Ocean Isle, NC 28469
Nov. 10—Send Quarterly payment of Mission

Pledges to Joyce Winkler

Jan. 31—Annual Reports are due to: Michele Simmons, Moderator, 1415 Can Mill Rd., Coats, NC 27521

Feb. 5—Coordinating Team Meeting

Feb. 14—Scholarship Applications due to :

Fran Lattie Brown, PO Box 543, Lumberton, NC 28359

Order PW and PC(USA) Leadership Resources—

By calling PDS at 800-524-2612 or visit www.pcusa.org/marketplace

- *How to Write Church History*—(PWR-02-105)
- *Together in Service Guide*—(PWR-07-431)

PW SCHOLARSHIPS—Each year Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina offer scholarships to an accredited institution of higher learning. Any deserving full time student from the Presbytery who is a member of a Presbyterian Church, USA of proven scholastic ability, who needs financial assistance to further his/her education will be considered. Preference will be given to students attending Presbyterian colleges.

Find the scholarship guidelines and application form at www.presbycc.org.

Deadline for submitting scholarship applications is February 14, 2011.



What's NEW with YOUTH —

MARK YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDARS!

- ♦ **January 8, 2011—YOUTH QUAKE—Mad Hatter's Mystery Party**—1:00PM—5:00PM at Raven Rock Presbyterian Church
- ♦ **March 12 & 13, 2011—Middle School Retreat - "INFLATE YOUR FAITH** at Camp Kirkwood. Keynoter: Hank Bellomy from MacPherson PC—Cost: \$40
- ♦ **Sign up for the Montreat Youth Conference**—"Searching for a Signal" - dates July 17-23, 2011. Registration forms are due Jan. 10, 2011.

Find information & forms posted at www.presbycc.org.

-If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer your church for a youth event, please contact Jennifer Maffia at the presbytery office or jennifermaffia@presbycc.org

Where to Go for Curriculum Help—

The following services can assist you or your congregation in meeting a specific concern or challenge:

Your presbytery resource center has samples of many resources and is staffed to help you connect with what you need. To contact your Presbytery Resource Center, call 1-800-277-7479; email: kaybledsoe@presbycc.org or Fax: 910-862-3524. Location: 807 W. King Street, Elizabethtown, NC 28337.

Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Training (POINT) representatives work closely with resource centers and have special expertise in helping your church with its educational program and curriculum selection. Coastal Carolina has two POINT representatives:

Suzu Edwards—Educator at First Presbyterian Church, Morehead City—sse@clis.com or 252-247-2202,

Betty Pope—Educator at Community Presbyterian Church, Pinehurst—bpope@cpcpinehurst.org or 910-295-6848



ANNOUNCING...Board of Pensions Seminars sponsored by The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

Location: Highland Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, NC

♦ **Getting in Shape Fiscally**—Jan. 12, 2011 from 8:30am to 5pm. Focused on basic financial planning for those who are in the early years of full time Christian service.

♦ **Growing into Tomorrow...Today**—Jan. 10-11, 2011—8:30am—5:00pm both days. Strongly recommended for those aged 40, and again some 10 years later, and the third time within a few years of possible retirement.

Registration open: October 11, 2010—December 10, 2011.

Register securely online at www.pensions.org—Click on "Educational Resources" then "Financial & Retirement Planning."



Trinity Presbyterian, Laurinburg Celebrates a YEAR of Free WAY

A monthly casual gathering for worship and praise

A time to gather together with others who are seeking to find their way in this life...

A place of acceptance with others who are seeking to be REAL in their search for meaning and direction for their journey.

G. A. Economic Crisis Statement Now Available—

Nominations sought to help with economic and peacemaking studies
The Reverend Grady Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), has announced the availability of the report, "Living Through Economic Crisis: The Church's Witness in Troubled Times".

www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/acswp/pdf/living_through_economic_crisis_ed.pdf

This report was approved by the 219th General Assembly with direction to make it available to all PC(USA) congregations.

Individuals interested in serving on the seven-member team that will develop the economic crisis study can find info at www.gamc.pcusa.org/acswp.