

The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

CONNECTIONS Newsletter



Vol. 12—
Summer Issue
Jun/July/Aug
2008

A Look at How We WORK...

Presbytery's work accomplished through committees embodies the **mission statement** approved in 2003—

AS PEOPLE REDEEMED BY GOD'S GRACE, SEEKING TO LOVE AND TRUST ONE ANOTHER, WE OFFER THE WORLD A VISIBLE WITNESS OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH WORSHIP, TEACHING, EVANGELISM, PROCLAMATION, NURTURE, JUSTICE AND PRESERVATION OF THE TRUTH IN FAITHFUL COVENANT WITH OUR CONGREGATIONS, THE SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA).

The Presbytery is responsible for mission and government of the church throughout the geographical jurisdiction.

Communities/Regions—

Presbytery is divided into three geographical communities each of which include two geographical regions.

West Community

Region 5: Lee & Harnett Counties;

Region 6: Moore, Hoke & Scotland Counties.

Central Community

Region 3: Cumberland & Sampson Counties;

Region 4: Robeson, Bladen & Columbus Counties.

East Community

Region 1: Duplin, Jones, Onslow, Carteret, Craven, Lenoir, & Wayne Counties;

Region 2: Pender, New Hanover & Brunswick Counties.

PRESBYTERY COMMITTEES—

Program Committees:

Committee for Christian Education & Stewardship Development

Committee for Church Revitalization & Transformation

Committee for Communications

Committee for Mission & Outreach

Committee for New Church Development

Committee for Outdoor Ministries

Committee for Racial Ethnic Ministries

Operational Committees

Committee on Ministry

Comm. on Nominations & Volunteer Development

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Committee on Representation

Committee on Self Development of People

Committee on Sessional Records/Overtures/
Higher Governing Body Directives

Committee on Strategic Planning and Organizational Review

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL—

Chair—Julie Stocks

Vice Chair—Rev. Keith Grogg

With a mission to oversee all aspects of the work of the Presbytery, the council has a membership of 12 regional or at-large members, and chairs of the Program & Organizational Committees. It is Council's role to facilitate communication among the committees of Presbytery and of Council itself. Council is a coordinating body whose work should result in increased efficiency and effectiveness because of each part of the "church body" knowing what the other parts of this body are doing.

The local congregation and Council have a relationship through the work of Presbytery because the reports of Presbytery are funneled through Council and Council sets the agenda of all stated Presbytery meetings. The delegates and ministers of local congregations have representation on Council through their participation in the meetings and activities of Presbytery.

COMMITTEES AT WORK IN 2008...

Christian Education & Stewardship Development— Plans and implements *Equipping the Saints Workshops for Christian Education* in February; *Senior Adult Picnic* in May; *Learning Fair/Leadership School* in September; *Officer Training Events* in October/November.

Church Revitalization & Transformation— works to identify churches that show signs of readiness for a significant change (transformation) in character and provide appropriate resources of support. Individual consultations and regional workshops have been provided.

Communications Committee—with the mission to improve overall communications in the Presbytery has created a DVD about the Presbytery to be distributed and held two web site training events for small congregations to learn how to set up and maintain a web site.

Mission and Outreach Committee—works to promote and support the mission of Presbytery and PC(SUA), special ministries such as campus ministries, prison ministries, counseling centers, and ecumenical and institutional relations. They are to bring to the attention of the Presbytery and the churches issues, needs and opportunities which need study and action by the Church. The newly formed CC-PANDA (Coastal Carolina Presbyterian Aid Network for Disaster Assistance) subcommittee plans to help Presbytery stay informed; enabling us to act when disasters happen at home, across the country and around the world

Committee for New Church Development—plans for New Church Development by determining the feasibility of a new church development in a particular location and to follow through with the plans. This committee hopes to bring on board a New Church Organizer/Evangelist.

Committee for Outdoor Ministries—gives oversight to all aspects of providing support and supervision for our 2 camp sites, conferences and retreats for various age and interest groups. They have created a partnership with the YMCA in Wilmington, NC to promote use of Kirkwood Camp and Conference Center for the summer camping season.

Racial Ethnic Ministries Committee—works to assist Coastal Carolina Presbytery to become a more racially just, inclusive as well as culturally diverse group of churches and to strengthen the ministries of the racial ethnic congregations within the context of their unique faith heritages.

Committee on Ministry—works to serve as pastor and counselor to the ministers of the Presbytery, to facilitate the relations between congregations and ministers, and the Presbytery, to settle difficulties on behalf of Presbytery when possible and expedient, and to provide for commissioning persons as lay pastors.

Committee on Nominations & Volunteer Development—works to identify and nominate qualified candidates to serve on various entities and to develop a comprehensive volunteer development strategy. To volunteer to serve on a committee, go to www.presbycc.org and click on "committees" to find the form.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry—is responsible for care and oversight of persons from churches in the Presbytery who are preparing for ministry of Word and Sacrament and other church vocations.



Board of Pensions Retiree Luncheon—sponsored by the Committee on Ministry, will be held 12:30 PM Friday, **June 20** at Scotia Village. Please make your reservations promptly by calling Penny Cooper (910-862-8300) at the Presbytery office. The Rev. Helen Locklear, the Board's Regional Representative, will make the presentation and answer your questions.

Cultivating Generosity

How do you spell Generosity?
How about V-I-S-I-O-N...?!
I have recently seen a generosity of vision in the Presbytery. The setting was Budget & Finance Committee meeting with various other Committee reps to discuss a budget for the years 2009-2010.



Looking into the future, I heard Mission & Outreach Committee anticipating the opening of the Health Clinic in Tabasco; New Church Development looking forward to a New Church Organizer/Evangelist; Outdoor Ministries Committee anticipating a Camping/Retreat experience for the 21st century; Revitalization and Transformation looking forward to a trained "revitalization coach" in all 6 Regions; Preparation for Ministry looking for more scholarship funds; the Personnel Committee excited about the new Mission Coordinators.

Those are reflections of a generous vision for what God has in mind for the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina!

Each church to be visited by a team of Ambassadors—

In a joint effort of Presbytery's Communication Committee, Regional Coordinators, and the Committee on Ministry, visitations will proceed region by region providing opportunity to share a new DVD presentation about the Presbytery and time for questions and answers.

Presbytery Meeting on JUNE 19, 2008—

The 81st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina to be held at First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, NC. The Presbytery Packet will be posted at www.presbycc.org/packets.htm

218th General Assembly of the PC(USA) - Meets JUNE 21-28 in San Jose, California Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with Your God

www.pcusa.org/ga218/

- Follow the events online at www.pcusa.org/ga218.
- Follow the actual business of GA at <http://PC-biz/org>

THE PLACE TO BE... Presbytery's Learning Fair/Leadership School SEPTEMBER 20, 2008

Robeson Community College, Lumberton, NC

Explore the theme "Cultivating Generosity" with a keynote address & workshop (Creating Congregations of Generous People) by Michael Durall. 30-some workshops on PW Bible study, music, youth ministry, small group ministry, church revitalization, mission trips, puppet ministry, family ministry, clerks of session and church treasurers and much more....

Brochures & registration forms will be distributed at the June Presbytery meeting. Watch for brochure/registration form at www.presbycc.org by June 23.

Fayetteville Hispanic Ministry...Alive and Well!

This Hispanic mission, founded in Fayetteville in 2001, continues to meet regularly for worship, fellowship and service. Under the lay leadership of Louis Nino and the guidance of Eduardo Moreno, the members of the mission have continued to be faithful to their calling as a small, but active Body of Jesus Christ. The Galatia Presbyterian Church offers its support for the mission by providing a meeting place for the group. On Sunday, March 30, the congregation voted to welcome Victor Espinoza as evangelist for the mission. Victor will be a "tent maker" in the area, working to develop his painting business while offering his service to Christ in building up the Fayetteville Hispanic Mission. Louis reports that the group is already out "knocking on doors" in the community, inviting new comers to join them as they seek to grow in numbers and in their witness to their faith.



Presbytery's Senior Adults Celebrate

Life Well-Lived— The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina's Older Adult Ministries Committee sponsored a Senior Adult Picnic on May 17, 2008 at the Elizabethtown Church. Presbytery proudly acknowledges the following nominees who have in love of God and neighbor, produced a positive impact upon others in their church and community.

Nancy Ray Blue –	Jackson Springs
Cecelia Boykin –	Bethany, Lumberton
Lucille Bramble –	Caswell, Atkinson
Milton Cole –	White Hill, Sanford
Doris Failing –	Windermere, Wilmington
Mexie Fields –	Haymount, Fayetteville
Robert Kelly –	Erwin
Raymond Leavee –	Brownson Memorial, Sou. Pines
Lillian Lindgren –	First Church, Morehead City
Lorena Breeze McBroom –	Chestnut Street, Wilmington
John McGirt, Jr. –	Faith, Laurinburg
Arthur Smith McInnis –	Philippi, Raeford
Mildred Melvin –	Big Rockfish, Hope Mills
Gerald Oakley –	Shalotte
Billy Parker –	Westminster, Fayetteville
Stefano M. Riggio, Jr. –	First, Lumberton
Sarah Ruth Thompson –	Jackson Springs
Margaret Trainer –	Burgaw
Geraldine Tucker –	Smith, Pink Hill
Vira Watson –	Trinity, Havelock

Evelyn York – Jonesboro, Sanford is the recipient of the 2008 Presbytery of Coastal Carolina's Outstanding Older Adult Award

Pink Hill Presbyterian Church hosts **Burning Bush Project**—

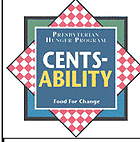
Twenty girls from the Pink Hill community participated in a **Girls of Grace Lock-In** at Pink Hill Church on March 28. This event was planned and hosted by Mary Kathryn Howard, who attended *Project Burning Bush* last summer.

Project Burning Bush, sponsored by Union Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA, is a program for high school kids considering ministry as a vocation. The project takes place over a year's time and consists of three phases: Institute, Mentored Projects and Vocational Retreat.

As part 1, Mary Kathryn lived on campus with other participants and attended classes led by faculty. "My favorite class of all was the Hebrew class. Surprising, I caught on very quickly and even learned how to say rubber ducky in Hebrew!" She also explored her spiritual gifts in worship, drama, video, recreation, mission and music. Kathryn completed the phase two by planning and hosting the *Girls of Grace Lock-In*. If you are interested in Project Burning Bush, see www.projectburningbush.org or contact Mary Kathryn Howard at marykhoward@yahoo.com.

BIBLE QUEST Sunday school curriculum will no longer be available after Summer 2008. A chart providing other curriculum options is posted at www.presbycc.org or contact Kaye Bledsoe at Presbytery's Resource Center. 800-277-7479; kayebledsoe@presbycc.org

Presbyterian-related Senior Care Communities— The Presbyterian Church (USA) has been sponsoring senior care organizations for more than 100 years. More than 475 U.S. retirement communities and community-based services relate to or are sponsored by the PC(USA) and its churches. The Presbyterian Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (PAHSA) represents these communities and services. For contact information and locations, go to www.pahsa.org.



Presbytery's 2-Cents-a-Meal Grants— The following 6 grant applications were approved unanimously by the Hunger Sub-committee. All grants will initially be given \$1,000 for direct food relief.

- Cape Fear Church Food Pantry—Cape Fear Church, Wilmington
- Christian United Outreach Center of Lee County—Pocket Church, Sanford
- Church Community Services of Scotland County—Laurinburg Church, Laurinburg
- Page Memorial Interfaith—Brownson Memorial, Southern Pines
- Southport/Oak Island Interfaith Fellowship—Southport Church, Southport
- Tileston Outreach Center—Little Chapel on the Boardwalk Church, Wrightsville Beach



Missionary Support—

At the end of June, we will be coming to the close of our first year of a three-year-covenant to support missionaries from Coastal Carolina, the Revs. David & Sue Hudson and their daughter, Mary (serving in Delhi, India). As part of the covenant, we supported a goal to provide \$25,000 each of three years for their support which was approved by Presbytery last summer. By April, \$20,000+ had been received. We look forward to the churches meeting the goal by the end of June. The Hudson's appreciate the prayers and support of the congregations. A link to their monthly newsletter is found on our Presbytery's web site (www.presbycc.org).

Tips for Mid-Week Programming—a great idea...why is it such a challenge? www.pcusa.org/ideas

- Develop clear goals
- Strive for creative solutions
- Listen to the people you want to reach & focus on quality
- Share the leadership responsibilities
- Appeal to every age group
- Food is important
- Consider the timing & location
- Develop Rituals
- Try the special event approach
- Complement—Don't compete
- Remain positive

Find more information on each tip in the summer '08 issue of **ideas for Church Leaders** magazine.

www.pcusa.org/ideas/2008summer/tips.htm



Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina Name Scholarship Recipients— At the April Spring Gathering of Coastal Carolina's Presbyterian Women, the following students were announced as scholarship recipients:

- Whitney Paige Chrisco**—Olivia Church
- Jennifer Michelle Davis**—Raeford Church
- Phillip Jackson Gladden**—Wallace Church
- Stephen Hunter Lanier**—Maple Hill Church
- Anne Catherine McRae**—Old Laurel Hill Church
- Brittany Williams**—Jackson Springs Church

PW 2008-2009 Horizons Bible Study Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor

By Dale Lindsay Morgan—This 9 lesson study highlights Jesus' message of jubilee, which calls for the reversal of the social order— the poor will be rich, the rich will be poor. The study has suggestions for leaders, definitions, a bibliography, and other resources to enrich the study experience. Order your copies at www.pcusa.org/horizons or by calling 1-800-524-2612—item # HZN-08-100—\$6.00 each.

**Together in God's Love—
2008 Synod PW Summer Gathering
June 12-15**

at Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA.

YMI Live (Youth Mission Initiative LIVE)

is a Web-based project launched by the PC(USA) Foundation in November to create an Internet community of Presbyterian youth and adults joined to engage around the mission and goals of the denomination.

"We are really focusing on the theme of connectionalism, and how important unity is," said Ryan Little, senior vice president and director of marketing for the Foundation. "This is about the church and who or what makes up the church."

www.ymilive.org



Make plans now to train and mentor new teachers using

Opening Doors to Discipleship, the free online leader academy for Reformed/Presbyterian congregations. The program includes three 12 session courses:

Course A: Teaching Skills

Course B: Bible Background

Course C: Presbyterian/Reformed Faith (to be released Fall '08)

Contact the Office of Christian Education, vennie.constant@pcusa.org or ext. 5460, for the PC(USA) login code and register at www.openingdoorstodiscipleship.com.

RECLAIMING THE OLD: SHAPING THE NEW— WITH DON GRIGGS

**A continuing education event for all Christian Educators
AUGUST 7-9, 2008**

MASSANETTA SPRINGS, HARRISONBURG, VA

SPONSORED BY APCE—MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Take a look at some of the values, resources, and strategies that are as valuable today as they were years ago and at some ways we can help shape the "new day" in Christian education. Contact Kaye Bledsoe (800-277-7479) for a registration form.



www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm

2008 Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference—

Sowing Mustard Seeds: Working for God's Justice—

Confronting Poverty

July 15-19, 2008

Chapman University, Orange California

This conference is intended to deconstruct the multiple issues that connect and entwine to sustain poverty in our communities and the world. It is designed for participants who want an introduction and participants who seek in-depth understanding and skill building. People of all ages who work toward peace and justice will join in fellowship, learn, play and worship together during this time for re-energizing and re-connecting.