

The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina *CONNECTIONS* Newsletter



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807 W. King St., Elizabethtown, NC 28337 - 910-862-8300

www.presbycc.org

WORLD MISSION TODAY

by Bill Reinhold, General Presbyter

As many of you know, Ginnie and I not only served as PC(USA) missionaries we were both raised on the mission field – Ginnie in Brazil and me in the Congo. So it will come as no surprise that we have a deep appreciation for the efforts of those who continue to represent the PC(USA) in other countries and cultures.

The legacy of our missionary efforts has born incredible fruit. Many of the churches that were planted by PC(USA) missionaries all over the world are now larger in number than our denomination – some even larger than when we were at our numerical peak as an American denomination. Some of these sister churches have sent missionaries to the United States to work both among immigrants from their own countries and among peoples from all over the world who now live here.

Even as these sister churches have come into their own there is still good reasons for us to work in partnership in the sharing of personnel and resources. Our experiences with Christians from other nations and cultures reminds us that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is larger than we can imagine. Our ways of being and doing church are sometimes challenged by how sisters and brothers are and do church in their contexts. Their efforts to determine what parts of their culture are compatible with the Gospel and which are not helps us to see our cultures in a new light as well. Their ways of expressing the Gospel to people in their context helps us to find new language with which to share the Gospel in our contexts. We can be pleased that our sisters and brothers report that they also appreciate these same things about the relationships we enjoy with them.

This – and much more – is experienced by the many individuals and groups who visit to learn and to share faith with the members of our sister churches around the world. The ability of all of us to enter more fully into this sharing of faith and mutual encouragement in the Gospel is one of the blessings of our modern, technological world with faster telecommunications and safer and less expensive travel than ever before. However what brings these experiences from a casual mission-tourism to real encounters of faith and life is the presence of long-term mission partners who have learned languages, studied histories, absorbed cultures, and lived, worked, and worshiped with our partners.

In recent years the decline of the membership of our beloved PC(USA) and the increase in spending on locally directed ministries has drastically reduced the capacity of Presbyterian World Mission to send mission coworkers around the world. Each year our partners request far more missionaries that we are able to send. In the next year or two we may in fact be compelled to recall some of these people who have spend years and decades become the representatives that we need around the world.

What can we do about this? How can we avoid losing the skills and experiences that this dedicated group of people bring to our common ministry for Christ? Here are a couple of ideas.

Learn more about all our mission personnel – get their prayer cards. www.pcusa.org/browse/resources-resource/tag/prayer%20card/

Adopt a missionary – designated contributions to one of our mission coworkers builds a long term commitment to that person or family and to the country in which they serve. www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/get-involved/

Support Presbyterian World Mission by supporting the **Presbyterian Mission Agency**. The single largest part of the General Assembly Mission Agency goes to World Mission. As many congregations and members have reduced their giving to “the General Assembly” in reaction to decisions taken by those who gathered at the General Assembly meeting, the end result is that the very parts of the church that we hold dearest have been the hardest hit by our decreased funding.

Pray that God will continue to raise up men and women who are called to share the Gospel with and among the peoples of the world so that all of us together can worship and praise one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Mission



Outreach

Mission & Outreach Awards Grants to Three Churches

Presbytery's Committee for Missions and Outreach congratulates the three recipients of 2015 mission grants.

Oak Plain Presbyterian Church received \$1000 for their young adult mission scholarship fund. This year's scholarship recipient is Jenny Ricci who will be serving with CRU this summer in Southeast Asia.

First Presbyterian Church, Dunn received \$900 to help send three folks to Clean Water University in October. Clean Water University is the training program of Living Waters for the World (<http://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/cwuindex.php>).

Lillington Presbyterian Church received \$1000 for their fabulous quilting ministry. This is an interdenominational, multi-age group that makes quilts for Teens as Parents (<http://www.teensasparents.com/>) and Children's Hope Alliance (Barium Springs Home for Children). The grant will help pay for a new sewing machine and quilting supplies, such as fabric.

Growing in Grace & Gratitude—

NEW Curriculum—Beginning in fall 2015, children of the church (ages 3-10) and those who love them will have a brand new and exciting way to explore and claim their lives together in Christ.



Join us for a **Growing in Grace & Gratitude Workshop**—

Thurs., **June 11, 2015** at the Presbytery meeting.
Location: Culdee Presbyterian Church, 916 NC-73, West End, NC 27376

Schedule:

Registration— 8:45am
Presbytery worship—9:45am
Curriculum Workshop—11am—12:30pm
Lunch—12:30pm

Please notify kaybledsoe@presbycc.org if you plan to attend. To learn more and download curriculum samples, go to www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/growinggracegratitude

Personal Evangelism for Ordinary People—

featuring Chris Walker, of www.EvangelismCoach.org.



AUGUST 14-15, 2015—9am—4pm
Two FREE Presbytery Sponsored Events

Two locations:

- **August 14**—First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, NC
- **August 15**—Jonesboro Presbyterian Church, Sanford, NC

This seminar is designed to give you a clear understanding of personal evangelism which results in a compassion that swallows fear and equips you to be effective in everyday life.

Chris is fittingly known as the Evangelism Coach because of his extensive work with churches in the US and Latin America in the areas of evangelism and church growth. Chris is an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Register online—www.evangelismcoach.org/2015/conference-personal-evangelism-for-ordinary-people-eastern-north-carolina-august-14-15-2015/

Lunch will be provided for \$8.00.

**PRESBYTERY YOUTH EVENTS—
2015-2016**



- **SEPT 12, 2015—**
All Youth Gathering at Camp Monroe.
Registration begins Aug. 1, 2015
- **NOV 20-22, 2015—**
Senior High Retreat at Camp Kirkwood. Registration opens Sept. 16
- **JAN 2016—**Tentative Youth Leadership Event
- **MAR 4-6, 2016—**Middle School Retreat at Camp Kirkwood
- For more information presbycc.org/2015/montreat-youth-conference-2015/ or contact Amy Hodges presbyccyouth@gmail.com or 910-520-7934.

**Presbytery of Coastal Carolina's
E3 Learning Fair**

**Generosity : What's Age Got To Do With It?
SEPTEMBER 19, 2015**



KEYNOTER: Rev. Karl Travis—Senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth, Texas, conference speaker & preacher on Christian stewardship & generations theory.

Location—Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church,
800 W. Broad St. Elizabethtown 28337

The flyer/registration form will be posted online at
www.presbycc.org.

Online registration begins June 22—
\$25 per person (includes lunch).
Prepay by check or credit card—
after Sept. 14, cost is \$35 per person.

Please send payment with registration.

Small Church scholarships available.
Contact - 910-862-8300

NEW this year...

**PCC Congregational Mission
Projects displays.**

**Bring a display of your church's mission project.
Reserve a display space by contacting the
Presbytery office.**

**PILOT CERTIFICATE IN MISSIONAL TRANSFORMATION
COACHING**

Nine pastors in the presbytery have begun a year-plus long training process to become certified as Missional Transformation Coaches. They will take six courses and a coaching practicum, read a number of books, gather in day-long sessions, work in small teams on simulated coaching projects, and complete homework assignments via the internet.

The purpose of this pilot project is to provide the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina with long-term, home-grown human resources for supporting congregational vitality in ministry and mission. These pastors will help expand the Presbytery's capacity for helping congregations who commit themselves to discerning fresh vision from God and following it with faithful outcomes. The Committee for Church Revitalization and Transformation is sponsoring this project, which is being led by our Missional Transformation Coaches Beverly and George Thompson.



**Mark your calendar
for... the gathering of
Presbyterians**
Let's carpool and go to the 4th
PCUSA Big Tent Event
TOGETHER!

Experience a wide variety of
workshops at the national
gathering of Presbyterians.

Contact Sue Lowery (919-
346-0933) or Laura Lupton (910-818-9938) if you're interested.



The Presbyterian Women
of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
invite you to the

**ANNUAL PW FALL GATHERING
Saturday, AUGUST 15, 2015**

at Galatia Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, NC

Generosity Begets Generosity
from PCC Committee for Stewardship Development

James 1:17 tells us that "every good and perfect gift is from above." It only makes sense then that we should thank the Lord for each and every one of those good and perfect gifts.

Clif Christopher in his book, *Not Your Parent's Offering Plate*, encourages pastors to write 10 thank you notes a week to members of their congregations. Hearing Clif's message at a seminar, a pastor I know, took his advice and began writing notes. She thanked members for teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, serving food at a breakfast event, serving as liturgist, their stewardship pledge. These notes were simple but personal. The next fall during the stewardship campaign, this pastor noticed a significant increase in the pledges and participation.

While she can't prove a direct correlation between the notes and the increase in generosity, it's obvious that generosity begets generosity. Saying thank you is an important part of ministry. Gratitude opens our lives for God's will to be done in us and through us. -- from Stephen Keizer of The Presbyterian Foundation Ministry Relations Officer for the Upper Mid-West Region

Presbytery Recognizes FAITHFUL SAINTS— On May 2nd, two Faithful Saint luncheons were held to honor outstanding older adults nominated by church sessions. The West luncheon hosted 148 people and the East hosted 183.

Those honored at First Presbyterian Church, Lumberton were:

- Bobby Byrd**—Grove PC, Dunn
- Faye Cameron**—Salem PC
- Mexie Fields**—Haymount PC
- Keiko Fore**—Laurel Hill PC
- Magdalene Graham**—Panthersford PC
- Curtis Hales**—Trinity PC, Laurinburg
- Frank Hayes**—West End PC
- Katie Hayward**—Peace PC
- Dare Johnson**—Red Springs PC
- Diane Knight**—Raven Rock PC
- Jackie Lankford**—Trinity PC, Laurinburg
- Jonathan & Rosezinnie McCants**—College Heights PC
- T.J. & Betty McCormick**—Rowland PC
- Ann McNeill**—Bethesda PC
- Sue Miller**—First, Sanford
- Dottie Strawcutter**—First, Lumberton
- Ronnie Wicker**—White Hill PC
- Ethel Singletary**—Bethel PC, Lumberton
- Joyce Shepard**—Jackson Springs PC
- Shirley Williams**—Mars Hill PC

Faithful Saints honored at St. Andrews-Covenant Church were:

- Sylvia Davis**—Carolina Beach PC
- Rebecca Pitchford**—Burgaw PC
- Jean King**—Cape Carteret PC
- George McRae**—Chestnut Street PC
- Florence Cox**—Clarkton PC
- Herb Hanna**—Elizabethtown PC
- Reba Stamp**—First, Morehead City PC
- Amelia Surratt**—Graves Mem. PC
- Katheryn Wilson**—McClure Mem. PC
- Flora Fisher**—Pineland PC
- Gail Thomas**—Shallotte PC
- Martha Ward**—Sneads Ferry PC
- Paul Nicholassen**—St. Andrews-Covenant PC
- Mavis Pigford**—Warsaw PC
- Jean Hall**—Windermere PC
- Jane Cherry**—Winter Park PC

Thank you to Elizabeth Forester, Peggy McLean, Jennifer Vanderbilt, and Leslie Kerr for coordinating these luncheons.

