

CONNECTING PRESBYTERIANS

AN UPDATE FROM BLACKHAWK PRESBYTERY

Officers Elected, Installed at November Presbytery Meeting



Bill Pittenger, Chrystal Abbott,
Mike Wey

At the November 9 presbytery meeting, outgoing Moderator Bill Pittenger installed Rev. Mike Wey (First Presbyterian Church, Savanna) as Moderator of Blackhawk Presbytery. Chrystal Abbott (CLP, First Presbyterian Church, Manteno) was elected and installed as Vice-Moderator. Rev. John Huff (United Presbyterian Church, Romeoville) was elected for a three year term as Stated Clerk and a one year term as Treasurer.

Board and committee moderators and new members were also installed at the meeting:

Board of Trustees: John Gerlach, Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, Geneva

Mission Strategies & Resources Board: Teresa Hagenbuch, Westminster Presbyterian Church, DeKalb

Business Affairs Committee: Bill Pittenger (Immediate Past Moderator), Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

Committee on Ministry: Suzanne Finefield, Park Presbyterian Church, Streator

Committee on Preparation for Ministry: Rev. Teri Peterson, Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

Nominating Committee: Dottie Morizzo, Schapville Zion Presbyterian Church

Personnel Committee: Rev. Bart Roush, Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, Geneva.

Voting on Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the PC (USA)

Blackhawk Presbytery will vote on the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) at its February and May 2011 meetings. Four groups have been established to prepare discussion materials and to lead information sharing/discussion sessions prior to debate and voting. Leaders are Blackhawk Presbytery commissioners to the 219th General Assembly:

Elder Alan Manchester—New Form of Government

Rev. Kathie Luke—Belhar Confession

Elder Bill Schaeffle—Book of Order Form of Government amendments

Rev. Jim Camp—Book of Order Directory for Worship & Rules of Discipline amendments

Groups will meet and prepare discussion materials for the February and May presbytery meetings.

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Our Vision

Grounded in the biblical image for human community,

As disciples of Jesus,

Following His witness & command for His church,

Guided by the principles of trust, open communication, & genuine relationships,

We will challenge & support our congregations to be thriving faith communities by

Providing competent pastoral leadership,

Resourcing to energize ministry, &

Developing networks & partnerships of Presbyterians

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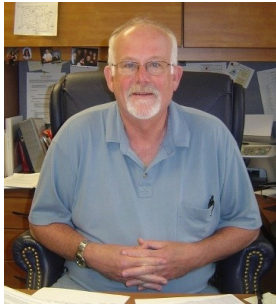
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John's Space



Whoa, what happened? I looked down for a moment and suddenly the end of the year is quickly approaching. So, I guess it is time to do all those end of the year things. Maybe not, or maybe not just yet. There seems to be something—not to do so much—but to experience before I get to the end of the year. Before I get too busy or distracted again. Before I look down again.

For unto us a child has been born, to us a son. . .

And his name will be called

“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. . .

Who will establish and uphold his kingdom

With justice and righteousness. . .”

Who is Christ the Lord.

I think I'll take some to experience this marvelous thing that God has done and let the end of the year take care of itself.

May you too take that time that the blessings of this season may be fully with you and yours.

Peace be with you. . . John

Voting on Proposed Amendments-cont'd from p. 1

February 8, 2011 Presbytery Meeting—First Presbyterian Church of DuPage, Bolingbrook

Elder Alan Manchester will lead an information/discussion session on the proposed new form of government (Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and Form of Government). The presbytery as a whole will debate and vote on the proposed New Form of Government.

Elder Bill Schaeffle will lead an information/discussion session on the proposed amendments to the current Form of Government (Amendments to the *Book of Order*—Form of Government Section). The presbytery as a whole will debate and vote on proposed changes to the Form of Government Section of the *Book of Order*. This will be presented as an omnibus motion. Minister members and elder commissioners will have the opportunity to remove specific amendments for separate discussion and vote. What remains in the omnibus motion will be voted on, followed, in numerical order, by discussion and voting on amendments that have been separated. That process will continue until meeting time is expended. Any amendments that have not been discussed and voted on will be tabled until the May meeting.

May 10, 2011 Presbytery Meeting—Oswego Presbyterian Church, Oswego

Rev. Kathie Luke will lead an information/discussion session on the Belhar Confession. (Confession of Belhar). The presbytery as a whole will debate and vote on the Belhar Confession.

Rev. Jim Camp will lead an information/discussion session on proposed amendments to the current Directory for Worship and Rules of Discipline (Amendments to the *Book of Order*—Directory for Worship and Rules of Discipline sections). The presbytery as a whole will debate and vote on proposed changes to the Directory for Worship Section of the *Book of Order*. This will be presented as an omnibus motion. Minister members and elder commissioners will have the opportunity to remove specific amendments for separate discussion and vote. What remains in the omnibus motion will be voted on, followed, in numerical order, by discussion and voting on amendments that have been separated. The same process will be followed for debate and voting on the Rules of Discipline Section.

The presbytery as a whole will debate and vote on any specific amendments to the Form of Government tabled from the February meeting.

Questions about the process may be directed to general presbyter John Rickard. Check the Blackhawk Presbytery website for links to the proposed amendments and interpretation resources.

Congregations Rose to the Kits Challenge!



Children using School Kits

A light is shining in the lives of hundreds of families because of the tremendous effort put forth by 45 congregations within Blackhawk Presbytery! These families' children are receiving Church World Service School Kits because of the generous outpouring of CWS Kits collected at the November 9 presbytery meeting.

Congregations rose to the Kits Challenge, issued by Presbyterian Women of Blackhawk Presbytery. The Challenge was for each congregation to make at least 15 School Kits, and many congregations far surpassed that! In total, there were 1,693 Kits collected at presbytery meeting, of which 1,333 were School Kits and 28 were Emergency Clean-up Buckets. In addition, 310 Hygiene Kits were brought, and 22 Baby Kits. What a tremendous difference these Kits will make in the lives of recipients.

It should be remembered that congregations throughout Blackhawk also made over 3,000 Hygiene Kits earlier this year in response to the Haiti earthquake. What a remarkable achievement this year!

A highlight to the dedication of the Kits at presbytery were the stories shared by Bev Scharlau of Waltham Presbyterian Church. She recently traveled with Church World Service to the warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland, where the Kits are received and then prepared to be sent to destinations in the U.S. or abroad. As she volunteered there, doing "quality control" on School Kits, she shared some of the funny things that were included in the Kits, such as flip-flop sandals or large pencil cases. The bags must be of uniform weight when they're sent, so these extras had to be removed and were given to local schools or shelters. Bev also shared a short 10-slide PowerPoint presentation showing the warehouse operations and the volunteers' work. It is available on the Blackhawk Presbytery website.

Additional information about the CWS Kits program can be found at www.churchworldservice.org/kits or by contacting Julia Jones at (630) 200-4572 or jjones@churchworldservice.org. Both Julia and Bev are available to do programs about the CWS Kits program. Additionally, another bus trip to New Windsor, Maryland, may be offered in October 2011; contact Julia if you may be interested in participating.

Thank you to the following congregations for making Kits: Braidwood, New Lenox Central, Fairbury, Woodstock, Apple River, Pontiac, Harvard, Rochelle, St. Anne, Elgin, Galena, Gibson City, Mendota, Morrison, Marengo, Oregon, Ottawa, Peotone, Savanna, Sterling, Wilmington, Geneva Fox Valley, Franklin Grove, Manteno, Fulton, Garden Plain, Gardner Church of Hope, Hanover, Henry, Joliet Westminster, Winnebago Middle Creek, Coal City New Hope, Oswego, Streator Park, Shannon Prairie Dell, Princeton, Rockford First, Sandwich Federated, Schapville Zion, Rockford Third, Waltham, DeKalb Westminster, Galena Westminster, Caledonia Willow Creek, Rockford Westminster, and Westminster Stateline, a developing faith community of Rockford Westminster.

Julia Jones, Associate Director, Illinois Office, Church World Service



Kits arriving at the warehouse



Bev Sharlau doing quality control



Kits ready to ship

Welcome New Clergy!

Munn Edward Hinds Jr., Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Rochelle



Munn & Patricia

- What kind of a name is Munn??? It is his grandmother's maiden name and Edward is his grandfather's given name.

Where's he from? Born and raised in California with a brief segway in New Jersey.

Education? - BA from Cal Berkeley, MA/MDiv from SFTS, DMin from Iliff Seminary in Denver.

What's he been up to? - 4 years in Marine Corps, left as Captain. Then went to seminary. Served a church in Colorado for 16 1/2 years, a church in New Orleans for 18 years. After Katrina, began an Interim Pastoral ministry by spending 2 years in Branson MO before coming to Rochelle.

What about his family? - Married to Patricia, has three daughters, three sons-in-law, 5 granddaughters and 2 grandsons.

He looks forward to working with everyone in Rochelle and in Black Hawk Presbytery and wants to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those here who have given of themselves and their resources in helping the people and churches of New Orleans recover from Katrina!

John Dillon, Pastor, Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church, Crystal Lake



John & Louise

John Dillon. Home town: Glasgow, Scotland. After 10 years in junior management with I.C.I.Ltd, a multinational chemical company, I was accepted by the Church of Scotland as a candidate and went to Trinity College, University of Glasgow.

Served congregations in Hamilton, Clydebank and Glasgow. Then in 192 I transferred to the PC (USA) and became a missionary to the Hoopa Nation, CA, then served in Marin Co, CA, Tallahassee, FL and Cumberland MD.

I am a member of the Iona Community and President of Iona Community New World Foundation, their US publicity and fundraising organization.

I am married to Louise, also from Scotland, and we have four children Colum (15), Oran (13), Neil (10) and Iona (7).

Welcome New Staff!

Maia Gruenberg, reservations coordinator/staff assistant



Maia & the kids at Oregon's Candlelight Walk

I am honored to be working here at Blackhawk Presbytery!

I have been married to my husband for over 6 years and we have two young children. We are both originally from Southern WI and spent the last 7 years in Bloomington/Normal. 7 years and 2 kids later, it was time to move closer to our families in WI. We were looking for a small town, beautiful scenery, sincere people and to be close to WI. Lucky us, we discovered Oregon, IL and moved here in July 2010. We were very active members in First Presbyterian Church of Normal, IL and are anxious to find a church family here. I have a degree in Elementary Education from a private college in Madison and worked in the computer industry for over 10 years. After taking 5 years off to be a stay at home mom, I am blessed to have ended up here! I look forward to getting to know each of you and work with you in the future!

Stronghold Stories

*Relax
Reflect
Renew*

Relax, Reflect and Renew is the theme of Stronghold's Women's Retreat to be held from February 11th to 13th, 2011. Plan to join us for two relaxing nights at Heritage Lodge with time to share with others as well as time for personal reflection



amidst the quiet beauty of Stronghold in the wintertime. Christina Berry of the First Presbyterian Church of Sterling will be our guest speaker.

Those who are interested in attending should contact Maia at (815) 732-6111 x600 or at reservations@strongholdcenter.org for more information and to register. The registration form can also be found on the Stronghold website: www.strongholdcenter.org. Please act quickly - the registration deadline is 2/4/11.

Christina Berry, pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian, Sterling, is a native of Dodge City, Kansas, where she learned to appreciate beauty in places where others may not see it. She began her ministry in the Presbyterian church as an educator, and continues to enjoy teaching and inviting others into full participation in the Gospel story. She is also a strong believer in the importance of Sabbath rest, and looks forward to sharing together in the renewing experience of this retreat.



Stronghold Mission

To provide opportunities for people to experience the biblical vision for human community through a retreat and camping environment.

Stronghold Values

- Intentionally and unashamedly Christian
- Engaging life's realities
- Respect for creation and creatures
- Hospitable
- A safe place
- Hope-full
- A place of second chances and grace

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Resourcing to Energize Ministry

Presbytery Meetings 2011

- Feb 8 First Presbyterian Church of DuPage, Bolingbrook
- May 10 Oswego Presbyterian Church
- Sept 13 Westminster Presbyterian Church, DeKalb
- Nov 7-8 Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center, Oregon

Transitions

Arrivals

John Dillon, pastor, Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

Munn Hinds, Jr. interim pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Rochelle

Beth Wagner, interim pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Rockford

Departures

Rev. Deborah Slack-Harris from First Presbyterian Church, Kankakee

Rev. Karen Stunkel, from Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, Caledonia (January 9)

Rev. David Smazik, from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rockford

Deaths

Rev. Richard Harmison, honorably retired

Rev. Edgar Perkins, honorably retired

Rev. Donald Pierson, honorably retired

We want to share news of what our congregations are doing in mission and ministry! Tell us about it—with photos, if possible.

Submit your news to Pat Wakeley, patw@blackhawkpresbytery.org or call 815.732.3258 x 610.

Deadline for the next issue is

February 4, 2011



2011 Presbytery-Wide Mission Trip

May 16-20, 2011

(traveling weekend before & after)

Help Rebuild the Cedar Rapids Area

**Volunteer Coordination, Housing, and Support:
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
& Presbytery of East Iowa**

www.peia.org

**Trip Coordinator & Registrar: Art Drummond
andinil@att.net**

Contact Art for details!

**Sponsored by the Mission Strategies & Resources Board
Blackhawk Presbytery**

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