

## Presbytery of West Jersey Highlights

January 19, 2010

Cape May

**WORSHIP:** Worship centered around the plight of the Haitians as a result of the recent devastating earthquake and the offering for the evening will be forwarded to Presbyterian Disaster Relief to aid Haiti. \$15,000+ was received from the offering and other gifts from churches and individuals. Debby Brincivalli thanked the churches for their compassion and heartfelt response to the plight of the people in Haiti

### PEOPLE:

**Necrology Report for the Church Triumphant** for 2009: Rev. Fred Bischoff and elders from the churches

**Ordination Anniversaries:** Israel Suppogu – 35 years; John Nurnberger -30 years; Janet Doyle – 20 years; Kathleen Chiovitt – 5 years

### **ELECTED**

#### **Finance & Stewardship**

##### **Class of 2010**

Rev. Jonathan Miller

#### **Transformation & Church Growth**

##### **Class of 2012**

Elder Charles Vogelei

#### **Council**

##### **Class of 2010**

Elder Dana Green

##### **Class of 2011**

Elder Barbara Clarke

**219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Commissioners.** Rev. David Cobb, Elder Wendy Frisby, Rev. MaryLouise Hawken and Elder Michael Petri as commissioners and Rev. Michele Allen as alternate. Sarah Beggs as YAD to GA .

### **PEOPLE**

Debra Ganci was examined and approved for ordination. She has received a call from Holy Redeemer Home Care and Hospice, Runnemede as Clinical Chaplain/Pastoral Counselor. She will be ordained Sunday, February 7, 2:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Vineland

Rev. Russell Duncan leaving Cold Spring to accept a call as Pastor of the Wysox Presbyterian Church of Wysox, PA.

Rev. Dr. Richard Herman, Associate Pastor First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, will be on sabbatical leave May 3, 2010 through September 6.

Rev. Wanda Sevey was dismissed to the Philadelphia Association of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

**Resignations:** Rev. Russell Duncan: Nominating, Jack Harkins: Council, Janet Koehler: Nominating, Joanne Martindale: Transformation & CPM, Joseph Frank: Finance & Stewardship

**EVENTS:** , “*The Care and Feeding of Church Officers*”, Wednesday, February 10, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights. Registration of \$10 can be sent to the Presbytery.

*Stewardship Kaleidoscope*”, March 15 – 17 in Indianapolis. This conference offers help in the areas of Finance and Stewardship. People with a love for technology and design were encouraged to contact Executive Presbyter Brincivalli to discuss ways in which information is shared as a presbytery.

### **NEWS FROM THE PEWS:**

1. **Pleasantville** recently purchased 10 lap top computers and set up computer lab for its technology-based Christian Education curriculum for children from kindergarten – 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Those of all ages who have little computer knowledge are being taught how to use e-mail, etc
2. **Gloucester City** recently completed renovations
3. **Cold Spring** will be celebrating its 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the near future and request was made that churches that have recently celebrated milestone anniversaries contact the church.

**PER CAPITA:** Council will send a letter to the eleven churches that owe a total of \$27,536 in per capita funds asking them to pay promptly or submit a payment plan for fulfilling their 2009 obligation in 2010.

Presbytery **VOTED** that the unpaid 2009 per capita to Synod and General Assembly of \$12,913.81 be paid with funds from Presbytery Equity; and that the portion due to Synod and General Assembly from any monies received from churches with outstanding per capita for 2009 be used to reimburse Presbytery Equity.

The shortfall of \$37,094.89 in the 2009 Administrative Budget was almost directly a result of churches not having paid their 2009 Per Capita.

**PRESBYTERY OFFERINGS:** Presbytery **VOTED** to designate the offerings at Presbytery Meetings for the Administrative Budget in accordance with Standing Rule 214; and that portion of Standing Rule 214 that designates the offering of the May Presbytery meeting for the West Jersey Academy Fund be suspended indefinitely and the offering of that meeting be also designated for the Administrative Budget.

Note: Presbytery **VOTED** earlier in the evening to have the offering at tonight's meeting go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Haiti relief.

Report on Offerings Received by Presbytery

a. Additional Offering from September Meeting	\$260.00
b. November Meeting	\$573.52

Presbytery **VOTED:**

1. To approve the updated Investment Policy.
2. To approve the Shared Facilities Covenant of the Presbyterian Church of Willingboro and the Agape Church.

**MISSION:** Peacemaking Funds are available from Mission as well as matching funds for mission projects.. 2 Cents a Meal money is also distributed and Hunger Action Enabler is a position that Mission intends to fill with an intern from Princeton Seminary.

**NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT: Rev.** Cliff Jones reported that it is a new day for churches in West Jersey Presbytery (WJP). At the November Presbytery Meeting it was reported that the relationship was ended with the church planter at Orchard Hill Community Church. The process for planting a new church was explained and the determining factor, to date, has been demographics. That process has been changed as the method required a lot of money and was developed from the top down and new church has to be done a different way other than by demographics. The committee will look for a church planter rather than a site. Only 10% of pastors have the skill to be a new planter. After a person is found the assets will be used to train the church planter. Ways to attract people have to change. It has been assumed that people want to go to church. That is no longer true. Most of our efforts to connect people to Christ was attraction. Today people are not interested in just coming to church. Churches must develop a plan for starting a "new church" from within our own churches.

**PROPOSED OVERTURE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** Presented by John Sheldon and Tom Martinson of the Ocean City Church presented the proposed Overture "*On Baptism and God's Adoption of Us*". The overture was defeated.

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY:** The Committee on Ministry has decided not to request action on "*Ethics for Departing Pastors*". The current provisions of the Form of Government provide adequate guidance for former pastors for their relationship to churches that they have served.

**PARITY AT PRESBYTERY:** The following churches to elect one additional elder commissioner to all meetings of the Presbytery of West Jersey between February 1, 2010 and January 31, 2011 to correct imbalance of clergy and elders at Presbytery: Cinnaminson, Clayton, Cold Spring, Collingswood, Daretown, Deerfield, Delanco, Elmer, Gibbstown, Glassboro, Gloucester City, Greenwich, Grenloch, Haddon Heights First, Haddon Heights Bethany, Hammonton, Janvier, Laurel Springs, Marlton, Mays Landing, Medford, Merchantville, Millville, Mt. Laurel and Ocean City.