

PRESBYTERY OF WEST JERSEY

HIGHLIGHTS

March 16, 2010

Haddon Heights Bethany

PEOPLE

Ordination Anniversaries: Edmund Jones – 45 years; Bruce McClendon -25 years

Ordination: Debra Ganci; February 7, First Presbyterian Church of Vineland.

Candidate: Erin Mera of the Woodstown Church moved from being an inquirer to being a candidate for the Office of Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Elected:

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class 2014

Rev. Lynne Manilla

Committee on Ministry

Class 2011

Rev. Bryan Bass-Riley

Class 2012

Ruth Stotsenburg

Camp Johnsonburg Board of Trustees

Patricia Meilands

Nominating Committee:

Class of 2013

Quintin Lerch

Transformation & Church Growth

Class 2012

Rev. Jen Fox

Resignations:

Rev. William Gaskill – Committee on Ministry

Betty Agee – Transformation & Church Growth

Lorrie Heuser - Mission

Douglas Pauls – Finance & Stewardship

Church Anniversary: Presbyterian Church of **Willingboro** celebrating its landmark anniversary of 50 years.

EVENTS:

GRANT WRITING SEMINAR: April 13 - Presented by Alban Institute at Palmer Seminary

PASTORING THE CHALLENGING PARISHIONER: April 29 - Haddonfield Presbyterian Church.

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BOOK SALE: May 5-7. Donations accepted till April 20.

REVIVE JUSTICE: June 11, - 13 in Trenton. Speakers include Cornel West, Bart Campolo, Brenda Salter-McNeil and Shane Claiborne. An ecumenical event with a diversity of worships focusing on immigration and incarceration.

PASTORS RETREAT – OCEAN CITY TABERNACLE: September 22-23. For pastors and church leaders, *Worship and the Future*. The guest speaker is Leonard Sweet.

CUBA TRIP: 11/8 – 11/18. This is open to people ages 14 and up. Deadline to apply is August 9.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER’S REPORT: Debby Brincivalli reported: four members of our Presbytery are currently attending *Kaleidoscope* in Indianapolis. She reminded those present of the requirement for churches to submit their Annual Report to the Presbytery office as soon as possible. The Committee on Ministry is dealing with support of pastors and congregations. The committee is working on visioning for congregations. Elders under the age of 40 are needed! We need to develop the talents and gifts of our people and encourage them to become active in Presbytery. A Council retreat was held on January 30. Grant opportunities for congregations with less than 150 members will be advertised in upcoming E-News.

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH GROWTH TASK FORCE: Presbytery **VOTED** to amend the report to require specific information be reported to Council and Council would designate an oversight group. Presbytery **VOTED** approval of the Final Report from the African American Church Redevelopment Task Force which included funding the project by using \$65,000 from the proceeds of the sale of the Westminster Church, Camden.

SHOW AND TELL: Activities in the Churches of Presbytery.

Collingswood: Rev. Kate Killebrew reported that her church became aware of 70 people living in tents under a bridge in Camden. Efforts have been made to collect tents, sleeping bags, etc. and disbursing them to the homeless. The severe winter weather forced many of these people to seek more permanent shelters. There is no Interfaith Hospitality Network for families in Camden County and the Collingswood Church is working on having one started.

Haddon Heights Bethany: Haddon Heights Bethany has started a leadership program that will be held for eight weeks to develop a new vision for the church. The group has developed five focuses and this past Sunday they were presented to the Boards and the Boards have been restructured. It is hoped that this will give new energy to the church.

Marlton: Christ Presbyterian has a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Over 200 of the prayer shawls have been distributed. They also make Duduza Dolls and over 250 have been sent to orphanages in third world countries. Helmet Liners for armed forces are also being made.

Riverton: Rev. Debbie Cerra reported that Calvary has partnered with Delanco for an Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) and has initiated a ministerium for its support. Congregations were encouraged to get involved. The process was easier than originally thought.

Somerdale: During Lent items are collected for different missions. This year they are collecting items for the troops in Afghanistan. They are also making scarves for the troops.

Woodbury Heights: The Youth Group at Woodbury Heights collects stuffed Easter Bunnies and they are distributed at local hospitals before Easter for those in need of cheering up at Easter.

Woodland Avenue: Woodland Presbyterian is hosting a Clean Communities Campaign, Saturday, March 20, 10:00 am. Rev. Floyd White invited everyone to come out and join them. The church is working with HP Wilson Elementary School on an organic garden.

Woodstown: Woodstown Church is conducting an Alpha Course and is also beginning a Stephen Ministry. In addition, a Prayer Room has been set up where people go to pray for an hour at a time. The church has had 48 hours of unbroken prayer. This will be ongoing through all of Holy Week.

MISSION COMMITTEE: There are ways to fund new things through the Mission Committee: (1) through the 2011 Mission Budget; (2) 2 Cents a Meal; (3) Peacemaking funds; (4) matching funds of \$1,000 for someone who wants to promote a mission program. The application will be on the Web site shortly; (5) Contact Mission if you have a program for the homeless – funding may be available; (6) Ways of thinking of immigrant and minorities with different groups of people to develop a program of outreach. Legislation in Washington needs articulation on our position in terms of Christian Faith.

TRANSFORMATION & CHURCH GROWTH: Christian Practices: The Lily Foundation has found that congregations all over the country have grown by embracing Christian Practices. This committee will be reporting on Christian Practices in specific congregations and how they are doing it. Here are two examples:

Hammonton: Observing Lent by using a Lenten Wreath. All candles are lit at the beginning of Lent and each week a candle is extinguished. On Ash Wednesday everyone was given a stone at the beginning of the service and people were asked to prayerfully consider a “stone” that was impeding them in their relationship with God. People placed stones around the candles and they were asked to pray for the things keeping them from their relationship with God. At Easter the stones will be rolled away.

Blackwood: On Good Friday the Stations of the Cross will be visited. There are 14 stations set up throughout the Sanctuary. People are encouraged to spend time at each station.

LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT (LEAD): Judy Grantham reported on the **30 Hour Famine**, February 26 – 27, First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown. Over 45 students participated from 5 churches: Moorestown, Haddonfield, Woodbury, Trinity and Blackwood. The participants worked at service projects in 5 locations: Voorhees Pediatric Facility, Bancroft School, Flicker Center Residence, ReStore Thrift Shop and Haddonfield Home. The youth raised \$6,104.23 amounting to over \$60,000 in matching grants. They also collected a large amount of food for the Moorestown Ministerium Food Bank.