

Shenandoah Press

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2016

Special points of interest:

- Big Event is coming! Sign up now!
- 222nd General Assembly commissioner highlights
- New Members of Shenandoah Presbytery
- Proposed Amendments to the Constitution
- Highlights of Stated Meeting of August 13

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A Message from our Transitional Presbyter

Welcome to your new presbytery newsletter! We are excited to publish this monthly newsletter online to share with you all the happenings in your presbytery! Here, you will find articles about the work your sisters and brothers in Christ are doing to further the mission and vision of Shenandoah Presbytery, the mission and ministry of our congregations, upcoming events, and other helpful information which we hope you will share with everyone in your congregation.

Just to get things started, you may be interested to know that the Transition Team that worked with me these past three years was dismissed with thanks at the last presbytery meeting. They performed a remarkable service to the presbytery in listening to what people had to say and then translating that into a new structure, staffing model, and budget for the presbytery. All of those elements are now in

place or are being put in place and, as with any plan, we will be constantly evaluating it as we go. Throughout this newsletter, you will read what some of the new committees are doing and, soon, we hope to have our staff complete with the calling of an Associate General Presbyter. A big thank you goes to your presbytery Nominations Committee for their continuing diligent efforts to fill committee vacancies!

And that brings me to my last subject. Too frequently, you hear presbytery talked about as though it were “those people,” as though presbytery was made up of different people from those in our congregations. Allow me to put that view to rest. Virtually ALL the work of presbytery is done by ruling elders, teaching elders, and members of congregations who give freely and graciously of their time and energy in service to this part of God’s Church. Those of us on staff serve them



as advisors but the decision-making is in their hands as they serve on committees and in meetings of the presbytery. If you are not already involved, I encourage you to do so as the work and service of the presbytery to its member congregations and to the world at large can only be as strong and as helpful as we have good people such as yourself to do it. Just contact the presbytery office or Mary Lou Cox, Chair of Nominations, if you would like to be considered for service.

That’s it for now. Let us know how we can make this newsletter even better!

Roy
The Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin, Jr.
Transitional Presbyter

Welcome to the Shenandoah Press!

In this issue of your new Shenandoah Press, you will find some recent news from committees, Big Event workshop leaders, and presbytery-wide information.

If there is something you like, let us know. If there is something you don’t like, definitely let us know. If there is something that you would like for us to include in this monthly

publication, please tell us! We want to hear from you! This is a newsletter FOR you, and FROM you. We would love to have submissions from many members sharing their thoughts, favorite hymns, poems, etc.

Just drop us a note at shenpres@shenpres.org and let us know your thoughts. We want to hear from you!

Presbytery Staff is here for you

Roy Martin, Transitional Presbyter
Email – presbyter@shenpres.org

Kerry Foster, Stated Clerk
Email – statedclerk@shenpres.org

Kim Stroupe, Admin. Assistant
Email – kims@shenpres.org

Heather Carter, Funds Admin.
Email – bookkeeper@shenpres.org

Donna Lanaghan, Communications
Email – shenpres@shenpres.org

Larry Holsinger, Treasurer

Welcome to Shenandoah Presbytery!



At the August 13 meeting of presbytery, we welcomed a number of new members. Please join us in welcoming them!

Rev. Casey Clark
Co-pastor, New Monmouth
revcaseyclark@gmail.com
919-638-1496
2348 W. Midland Trail
Lexington, VA 24450

Rev. James Lunde
Pastor, Warrenton
Church: 91 Main Street
Warrenton, VA 20186
540-347-2213

Rev. Rachel Clark
Co-pastor, New Monmouth
revrachelclark@gmail.com
630-607-9938
2348 W. Midland Trail
Lexington, VA 24450

Rev. Steve Willis
Interim, Collierstown
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540-797-6847
1205 Hampton Road
Bedford, VA 24523

Rev. Karen Greenawalt
Pastor, Gerrardstown
kgreenawalt1@gmail.com
407-619-2821
318 Dominion Road
Gerrardstown, WV 25420

Rev. William Caperton
Honorably Retired
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1296 Glenside Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

222nd General Assembly News from Commissioners



These commissioners were elected to represent Shenandoah Presbytery at the 222nd General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, June 18-25. They share some special thoughts with us here about their experience.

We are thankful for their service in this way!

Betty Dax

General Assembly begins at a local level long before our national meeting. Commissioners prepare for the assembly by following the PC biz website to become familiar with these amendments.

In the “*Race and Reconciliation*.” workbook which is a part of the “*Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding*” series, Clifton Kirkpatrick notes that the Belhar Confession makes three major statements about unity. That unity is both “Gift and Obligation”, that unity must become visible, and that it must be active. As a follow-up to the work of G. A. 222 I recommend this workbook, which compares the confession of 1967 and The Confession of Belhar, for congregational study.

Isaac Haney

To see nearly 2,500 individual Presbyterians come together to work toward something so much bigger than all of us was nothing less than inspiring. People coming together from all parts of this vast country to serve our Lord by volunteering a significant amount of their time.

Serving as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate, most of my time was spent with 140 other likeminded young people. It was an honor to see the lord working in and through the young people of our church. General Assembly was an incredible experience, and I humbly thank this presbytery for selecting me to serve. I greatly enjoyed the opportunity and look forward to continuing to serve God.

Dave Thalman, Ruling Elder
First Presbyterian Church,
Winchester

What I learned:

- There are many, many good and faithful servants in our denomination working in a multitude of diverse ways.
- There is a section on the PC(USA) website for ruling elders at: pcusa.org/rulingelders. Who knew?

I very much appreciated this opportunity to serve the Presbytery and our larger church during the 222nd General Assembly. It was especially rewarding to see our connectional church in action...We are better together.

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Summary of Stated Meeting of August 13

Many items of the meeting are noted throughout this newsletter. Listed here is some additional news.

ADOPTION OF NEW MANUAL The new Manual of Operations as amended, was adopted to replace the current Manual of Operations. Team members walked the Body through each chapter with a time for questions. The Transition Team was dismissed with thanks.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Committee on Congregational Redevelopment (CCR):

Class of 2017: Kelley Connelly, Member, Winchester First Church

Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD):

Class of 2017: Dee Sparger, Ruling Elder, Front Royal Church

Class of 2018: Beverly Riddell, Ruling Elder, Covenant Church

Committee on Pastoral Transition (CPT):

Class of 2017: Joyce Tipton, Ruling Elder, Waynesboro First Church

Class of 2018: John McDonald, Interim, Buena Vista Church

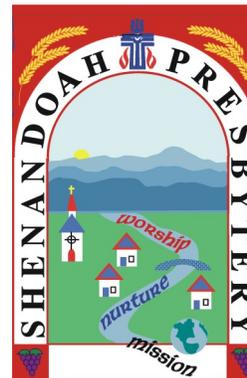
Commissioner to Synod

Class of 2018: Susanne Taylor, Ruling Elder, Warrenton Church

Presbytery Vice-Moderator for 2016, Moderator for 2017, Chair of Coordinating and Planning

Commission 2018: Kate Lewis Brown, RE Falling Waters

Words of thanks for the work of the Nominations Committee in their task of bringing individuals into the work groups of presbytery.



Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved the following proposed amendments to the Book of Order:

Item 05-09	G-3.0106 Child and Youth Protection Policy
Item 06-05	G-3.0109 Parity in Committees
Item 06-08	Ordered Ministry Titles
Item 06-10	Relationship of a Person Who Has Renounced Jurisdiction of the Church
Item 06-15	G-2.1101 Certified Service Requirements
Item 09-11	G-1.0304 The Ministry of Members
Item 14-03	W-2.4011 Access to the Lord's Table
Item 14-04	Replacing the Current Directory for Worship

“If approved... those amendments become effective on June 25, 2017.”

If a simple majority of the presbyteries approve any or all of the proposed amendments, those amendments become effective on June 25, 2017, and will be included in the 2017-2019 *Book of Order* (G-6.04e). Please read at your convenience. There are no printed copies; it is available at

http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/2016_proposed_boa.pdf.

(continued from page 2)

John Haney

We belong to one another. The Presbyterian Church (USA) is a tiny part of Christ's Universal Church by grace, call, and Holy Spirit's cleansing of our spirits and motives. Our membership is qualified, though we may require more confidence to maturity of our faith in Christ. Our new co-Moderators and Stated Clerk are leaders gifted for this particular time in the church. Let us constantly lift our prayers, praise, joy, and celebrations of Christ reigning over all the world. Let us commit ourselves anew to follow obediently the promptings of the Holy Spirit where we live and serve our Lord.



Mary Lou Cox

The most significant item came to us on Tuesday morning when Grady Parsons, current stated clerk of our denomination, introduced a young minister who came to share his story of sexual abuse by a church leader when he was seventeen years old. With great courage, he spoke at length and in detail in a cathartic expression for him and a deeply moving experience for each of us sitting in that room. There was not a dry eye among us.

As I came to find out, I needed to be onstage at each morning plenary to give the day's update on the effect of the previous day's actions on per capita. I had no idea of this when I accepted my role!

I am proud of the way this assembly worked together, of the capable women we elected co-moderators, of the election of J. Herbert Nelson as the new stated clerk, of the way we celebrated God at work among us.

“...we are passionate about creating relationships of trust and community...”

Committee on Pastoral Transition (CPT) Report

The Committee on Pastoral Transition is honored to partner with congregations going through any form of pastoral transition, ordinarily during that time when a congregation does not have called and installed pastoral leadership. We also partner with congregations who need pastoral leadership but who are not able to afford a called and installed pastor. Since our inception in May of 2015, CPT has approved more than 30 pastoral calls or temporary pastoral relationships. Currently we are responsible for about 35 congregations without regular pastoral leadership.

CPT recognizes that times are difficult for many congregations, and that all congregations are deserving of

excellent pastoral leadership. We have been able to work creatively with a number of congregations so that pastoral and financial resources are shared. Just recently, conversation with our neighboring ELCA (Lutheran) bishop and two ELCA pastors took place in Franklin, WV.



There we began a conversation about sharing resources with small Lutheran congregations.

As chair of this remarkable group of dedicated committee members, I ask the presbytery for your prayers of support. The ministry we do is vital to the health and well being of

Shenandoah Presbytery. It is not quick work, and oftentimes it is frustrating work, but we are passionate about creating relationships of trust and community between local congregations and the presbytery.

How can you help?

1) pray. It's as simple and as profound as that. 2) volunteer to serve as a liaison between CPT and a congregation in pastoral transition. A training is being planned for the fall, probably late September. Contact me for information about how you can help CPT partner with our wonderful congregations!

Thank you! Lisa Wilson
PastorLisaVA@aol.com

News from Committee on Congregational Redevelopment (CCD)

The Committee on Congregational Redevelopment (CCD) is charged with providing processes and support for congregations that have an identified need, willingness, and ability to engage in spiritual and programmatic growth which can lead to deeper commitment both within and beyond their current membership. The committee has been discussing a process for our presbytery called the “Road to Transformation” that will begin after initiative by a church, the committee, or another entity of presbytery. We have also engaged in conversation regarding how to help the presbytery assess congregations for spiritual and/or programmatic growth and how to provide resources and tools to develop a strategy to move forward, with

consideration given to leadership, resources, community context/location, and passion/willingness/ability/vision. While our committee's focus is on total congregational transformation and redevelopment, we will refer other questions regarding particular areas of ministry (i.e. stewardship, youth, mission) to the appropriate presbytery committees when this inquiry doesn't concern overall redevelopment. We have also been privileged to collaborate with our partner committees working on relationships, transitions, and development, namely the Committee on Relational Ministry (CRM), the Committee on Pastoral Transitions (CPT), and the Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD). We anticipate that our partnership with

congregations will begin directly this fall as we come alongside some churches to talk about redevelopment.

We are looking forward to sponsoring a special guest speaker, Dr. John Vest, Visiting Professor of Evangelism at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, at the November 1st meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery. John will present how the church of today can be mobilized for outreach, mission, and evangelism and then we will share in follow-up discussion within our church size groups. Circle the date: Tuesday, November 1st at Opequon Church in Winchester. Tell your session you want to be your church's elder-commissioner to this meeting!

David Witt



Report from Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

New chairperson: Tully Hunter who has served as chairperson for the last two years recently resigned from the committee and **Mary Lou McMillin**, has assumed the role of chairperson for the remainder of 2016. Please address any CPM concerns to Mary Lou at maryloumcl@comcast.net

Recent 'updates' from our Inquirers and Candidates include:

Emily Peterson, Inquirer graduated from Columbia Seminary in May and will be serving as the Program Coordinator for Columbia Seminary's Advanced Professional Studies Program beginning this fall.

Molly Morris, Inquirer is beginning her second year at San Francisco Theological Seminary. In July, she spent two weeks in Paris France with the Pacific School of Religion learning about Immigration and the Refugee Crisis in the context of Religion, Globalization, and the Post-Colonial world.

Tom Forbes, Candidate is finishing up his Ordination Exams

Jacob Kave, Candidate has a new son, McCrae Arthur born 5/2/16 and is serving as the Chaplain at Hargrave Academy.

Kristy Ray, Candidate has received a call to ministry in the Presbytery of Central Florida. Her examination for

Ordination is scheduled for August 31 in Shenandoah Presbytery. If the way be clear, Ordination will follow at Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church in mid-October.

Gwen Carr, Candidate has been certified ready to receive a call and has her PIF in circulation

Seth Lovell, Candidate has been approved for Ordination by the Presbytery of the James and will be Ordained to the ordered ministry of Teaching Elder on September 18th at 4:00 PM as the Associate Pastor at Olivet Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, VA. Albert Connette, former member of Shenandoah Presbytery is Head of Staff at Olivet.



Please keep each of our Inquirers/Candidates in your prayers as they continue in ministry, serving Christ and our church in amazing ways.

*Submitted by
Mary Lou McMillin*

Committee on New Church Development (CNCD)

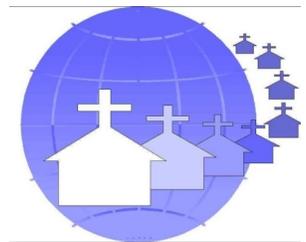
The Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD) began its work in the spring and has been faithfully and diligently researching, planning, and beginning to develop directions for the discernment and implementation of New Congregations and/or New Worshipping Communities within the bounds of our Presbytery. As we began our work, we elected David Dax as treasurer and he has been working to understand what monies we have available and to develop policies for the best stewardship of the resources available for new congregational development. In our work, we have been seeking guidance and information from other presbyteries, as well as the 1001 New Worshipping Communities national coordinator, Vera White, who spent an hour on conference call with us in August and who

(we are delighted to announce!) will be with us for the educational hour at the Presbytery meeting in February. It is our great hope that every one of YOU will be involved in New Congregational Development by:

1. praying with and for us, for our Presbytery, and for the Spirit to raise up workers for the great harvest (see Luke 10:2!)
2. listening for the direction of the Holy Spirit WHERE YOU ARE
3. sharing with us people, places, and ideas which are ripe and ready for new possibilities for worshipping communities
4. attending the November Presbytery meeting when the Committee on Congregational Redevelopment hosts Jon Vest, Visiting Assistant Professor of Evangelism at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. He will help us begin to think about the future of the Church, and how that might look different
5. attending the February Presbytery Meeting when we host Vera White, National New Worshipping Communities Coordinator, continues that conversation from November by speaking about "What are New Worshipping Communities?" "Why New Worshipping Communities?" and other questions we may have regarding the future of the Church in relation new possibilities.
6. And by prayerfully considering and sharing with us what God may be calling YOU to do where you are to reach out to our neighbors, developing community and sharing with them the love and worship of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We look forward to partnering with you in this ministry!

Submitted by Rachel Crumley





**Rebekah Witt of
Opequon Church**

Young Adult Volunteers Begin Service

YAVs (Young Adult Volunteers) from Shenandoah Presbytery Rebekah Witt (Opequon) and Lydia Griffiths (Berkeley Springs) gathered together with all the other YAVs for orientation as they prepare to go to their field assignments. Their year of service has begun and all the congregations of the presbytery are encouraged to pray for them each Sunday in worship. We are also encouraged to remember their families who will likely not see their young adults during this

year. Rebekah is going to Denver, CO, and Lydia to Korea. We can follow their work by reading their blogs which can be accessed via the PCUSA site at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/yav-new/>

OR:

Lydia Griffiths—<https://thecrookedcrow.wordpress.com/korea/>

Rebekah Witt—<http://lilwitt02.wixsite.com/missionarylife/blog>



**Lydia Griffiths of
Berkeley Springs
Church**

**“the Light
outshines the
darkness every
time”**

SPYCE 12th Annual Middle School Rally, "Ignite the Light!"

IGNITE THE LIGHT WITH US ON SEPTEMBER 25!

Bring your middle schoolers (current 6th-8th graders), their friends, and their adult advisors to Massanetta Springs on Sunday, September 25, as the Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council Extraordinaire (SPYCE) presents its 12th Annual Middle School Rally, "Ignite the Light!" An uplifting day of activities just for middle schoolers has been planned by

the high school leaders of SPYCE, including skits, music, outdoor devotions, lawn games like corn hole, and small groups, all based on John 1:5, the light overcoming the darkness. Come experience the joy and welcome of our loving Presbyterian community as well as the blessed assurance that no matter what kind of dark times our middle schoolers face, the Light outshines the darkness every time. Registration is \$15/

person and includes a hearty lunch. We start at 10:30 am and end at 3:30 pm! Please click here for a flyer and registration information: <http://shenpres.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Middler-Rally-Flyer-2016-rev.pdf>.

Questions, concerns, or just need more information? Contact Jenna Smith, (540) 383-4025 or mbcyaya@yahoo.com. See you there!



"Username and password, please."

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12 (NRSV)

Holy Cow Resources Help Congregations

Twenty of our congregations have now used the Congregational Assessment Tool (the CAT) or Conversations to provide “organizational intelligence” to plan their future. (Soon it will be 21!)

Are you curious about these resources? You're invited to attend a morning workshop about them at the September 10 [Big Event](#).

If you'd like to help out as a Holy Cow Consulting trained consultant, helping sessions and congregations use these assessment tools, this is for you: A two-day workshop to get you started. We'll shortly announce dates in November.

Contact Carl Howard, revcarlhoward@comcast.net or 304-754-3814.



Called to Mission

The presbytery's Committee on Mission and Outreach will be presenting a special workshop during this year's Big Event to be held at Massanetta Springs on Saturday, September 10. The workshop will provide congregational Mission and Outreach leaders tools and resources for developing and enriching their own church's mission programs.

This workshop will include a presentation by Rev. Rachel

Yates, Associate for World Mission, PCUSA, who will also be preaching in the morning worship. She will engage us in an interactive presentation which can be used in each congregation after the workshop. Doug Sensabaugh, chair of CMO, will co-lead the workshop and be available for support as congregational mission programs get under way in the coming months.

Be sure to come to the BIG EVENT and sign up for the morning workshop entitled CALLED TO MISSION. See you there.

***presentation by
Rev. Rachel
Yates, Associate
for World
Mission, PCUSA,
who will also be
preaching in the
morning worship.***

All Employer Agreements Due September 30

To enable employees to enroll for 2017 benefits, **employers must complete all modeling and submit an Employer Agreement on Benefits Connect by September 30.** The completed Employer Agreement will enable employees to elect benefits online, using Benefits Connect, during annual enrollment in the fall. Look for information about annual enrollment in the coming weeks.

New [Benefits Connect Website](#)



**PRESBYTERY OF
SHENANDOAH**

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Shenandoah Presbytery

A Community of Christ for Worship, Nurture and Mission

SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY is a covenant body where:

- CONGREGATIONS are empowered to be centers for mission
- PEOPLE OF GOD are equipped to be Disciples of Christ in a challenging world
- CHURCH LEADERS and members are nurtured and strengthened for service
- OPEN COMMUNICATION and information are used constructively and creatively to keep us connected

Dates to Remember!

September 2016

- 6 - CPT 10:00 am
- 8 - CRM 9:30 am
CVMC 12:30 pm at RMH
MVMC 7:00 pm at Second Opequon Church
- 10 - BIG EVENT 8:30 am at Massanetta Springs
- 12 - CCR 12:30 pm at Sherando Church
- 13 - Staff Meeting 9:30 am
CNCD 1:00 pm
- 15 - CER 10 am
- 17 - CMO 9:30 am
- 21 - CPM 9:30 am
- 22 - CPA 1:00 pm
- 25 - Warrenton Installation of James Lunde 4 pm
- 27 - Staff Meeting 9:00 am
CPC 10:00 am
- 30 - Strong Ministers Grant applications due

Future Dates

- Oct. 9 - Loch Willow Church 150 years
- Oct. 13 - Moffett Grant deadline 4:30 pm
- Oct. 14 - Ethiopian Partnership Banquet at Massanutten Church 5:30 pm
- Nov. 1 - Stated Meeting of Presbytery at Opequon Church 9:30 am

* Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at the office of Shenandoah Presbytery, 1111 N. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA.

