

**OUTREACH DIVISION
2010 YEAR END REPORT
January 29, 2011**

CAMPUS MISSION COMMITTEE

- Provided time on the presbytery docket for Montreat College to present in April and Western Carolina University (Cullowhee Presbyterian Church) to present in July.
- Created a bulletin insert for College Student Awareness month with suggestions for ministering to college students, a congregational prayer that could be used in worship, and a list of characteristics about new college freshmen (those born in 1992).
- Asked for names of students starting college in order to help connect them with Presbyterian campus ministries.
- Supported a resolution (voted on at the April presbytery meeting) to concur with an overture from the Presbytery of North Central Iowa on reestablishing an office of Collegiate Ministries at the General Assembly level.
- Rev. Kathy Campbell, Rev. Joseph Washburn, Rev. George Gunn served on the NCPHEM (North Carolina Presbyterian Higher Education Ministries) board in 2010.

HUNGER COMMITTEE

Souper Bowl of Caring: Forty-four churches participated raising \$15,766 in dollars and cans for their local food pantries, and the Presbytery's Hunger Committee supersized these offerings with \$7,883 from Nickel-a-Meal funds.

One Great Hour of Sharing: A total of \$60,245 for the OGHS offering was collected by congregations within the presbytery. This offering funds the work of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, and the Self Development of People Program.

Nickel-a-Meal Offering: \$112,969 was the total received in 2010. Of this amount 55% is designated to International Grants, 40% to Regional Grants, and 5% to Education/Administration (which reverts to International Grants if unused). In addition to this were added carryover Education/Administration, Regional, and International funds from previous years totaling \$26,959 in order to clean out those accounts. After receiving Nickel-a-Meal applications, making site visits, interviewing representatives, and receiving Council approval, checks were presented during the worship service at the Presbyterian Congregation that sponsored the Regional Nickel-a-Meal application.

February International Funds: The Hunger Committee used the remaining 2009 Nickel-a-meal funds designated for International hunger relief to fund two grants (this amount is not included in the \$26,959 carryover figure mentioned above):

- \$7,500 to Rotary District 7670's "Stop Hunger Now Event", food for Haiti (sponsored by FPC Asheville);
- \$10,235 Seeds for Haitian Farmers (Presbyterian Hunger Program).

Spring Regional Grant Recipients in 2010:

- \$6,000 Cherokee County Sharing Center (sponsored by Hayesville Presbyterian Church)
- \$4,500 Dulatown Presbyterian Church Food Pantry (sponsored by Dulatown Presbyterian Church)
- \$1,000 North Buncombe Samaritan Ministries Food Pantry (sponsored by Reems Creek-Beech Presbyterian Church)
- \$5,000 Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church Food Pantry (sponsored by Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church)
- \$2,500 Swannanoa Welcome Table (sponsored by FPC Swannanoa)
- \$1,000 Yokefellow Service Center (sponsored by FPC Forest City)

Spring International Funds in 2010: (all are Presbyterian Hunger Program projects)

- \$6,000 Seeds for Haitian Farmers for August planting
- \$6,000 Joining Hands Against Hunger in Cameroon
- \$6,000 West Africa Initiative (Sierra Leone and Liberia)
- \$6,000 Joining Hands Against Hunger in South India (Chethana Network)

Fall Regional Grant Recipients in 2010:

- \$6,000 Canton Community Kitchen (sponsored by Canton Presbyterian Church)
- \$3,200 HeartLife Ministries @ Pleasant View (sponsored by FPC Morganton)
- \$5,000 His Hands Food Pantry (sponsored by Rutherfordton Presbyterian Church)
- \$4,500 LINC Home Meals (sponsored by FPC Lincolnton)
- \$3,000 Loving Food Resources (sponsored by Kenilworth Presbyterian Church)
- \$3,000 Saturday Morning Ridgeview Breakfast (sponsored by FPC Hickory)

Supplemental Fall Regional Grant Recipients in 2010: (we could not fully fund their requests in the spring, so added to them in the fall):

- \$2,000 Cherokee County Sharing Center (sponsored by Hayesville Presbyterian Church)
- \$500 Swannanoa Welcome Table (sponsored by FPC Swannanoa)
- \$500 Dulatown Presbyterian Church Food Pantry (sponsored by Dulatown Presbyterian Church)

Fall International Funds in 2010: (all but Malawi and Guatemala are Presbyterian Hunger Program projects)

- \$3,000 that had been set aside in 2009 to help restart the Guatemala Partnership's Nutrition program was reallocated for food relief after the floods/tropical storms in Guatemala.
- \$30,000 (Malawi) Nkhoma Orphan Care Project
- \$10,252 Joining Hands Against Hunger in Cameroon
- \$10,252 West Africa Initiative (Sierra Leone and Liberia)
- \$10,252 Joining Hands Against Hunger in South India (Chethana Network).

Education/Administration Funds:

- \$515 of Education/Administration funds were used to support the self-produced music cd "Until All are Fed" by Salem Presbytery's Hunger Action Enabler Bryan McFarland.
- \$769 for food supplies for the hands-on workshop at Let's Celebrate entitled, "Feed a Hungry Child, Fill a Backpack", which filled 80 backpacks for New Vision Presbyterian Church's Backpack program, as well as bags for Thermal Belt Outreach's "Feed a Kid" Backpack program.
- \$4,364 was allocated to help Super-Size the Souper Bowl of Caring in 2011.

Hunger Committee members: Updated the Nickel-a-Meal Regional Grant Application form (new deadlines in 2011 are April 1 and October 1). Welcomed the Presbyterian Hunger Program's "Agrarian Road Trip" when they traveled through the Asheville area June 16. Offered a workshop at Let's Celebrate entitled "Feed a Hungry Child, Fill a Backpack" in which participants heard from both a church based program (New Vision) and an agency based program (Thermal Blt) and then assembled backpacks with food for each. Selected the materials for the Reclaiming Christmas Alternative Giving cards and projects for the presbytery: Guatemala Scholarship program, Nkhoma Hospital general fund, Nkhoma Hospital food porridge, Ebenezer School in Nkhoma, Jakarta Seminary, PWNC seminary students.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

- Commissioned the Malawi Mission Team at the April Presbytery meeting. Nine people went to Malawi May 16-June 1, carrying with them supplies for the Ebenezer school and Nkhoma Hospital. The group represented 5 churches: Fletcher, Franklin FPC, Morganton FPC, Southminster, and Walnut Grove. A written report by Gail Lehman, a spoken report by Tom Kilgore and Gail Lehman, and a video created by Teresa Locke were presented at the July Presbytery meeting. The next trip is schedule for May 23-June 8, 2011.
- Facilitated the last half of Dr. Barbara Nagy Interpretation year (PCUSA Mission Co-worker in Nkhoma, Malawi) and then her family's return to Africa. During the 2009-2010 school year she visited 39 churches in our presbytery, as well as the Gaston Area Presbyterians, Mayland Fellowship, an Acts 16:5 event, the Montreat Heritage Center, and presbytery meetings:

Asheville FPC	Hickory FPC	Shelby
Black Mountain	Kings Mountain	Sherrill's Ford
Brevard-Davidson River	Lenoir FPC	Siloam
Bridgewater	Long Creek	Southminster
Brittains Cove	Lowell	Swannanoa FPC
Bryson City	Marshall	Sylva
Burnsville	Mills River	Trinity
Cherryville FPC	Montreat	Tryon
Columbus	Morganton FPC	Waldensian
Etowah	Morrison	Waynesville FPC
Fairview	New Hope (Asheville)	Westminster
Franklin FPC	New Vision	(Snowed out at Dorland,
Gastonia FPC	Newton FPC	Walnut, & Banner Elk)
Green Street	Rutherfordton	
- Welcomed Amanda Craft (PCUSA Mission Co-worker in Guatemala) August 18-22. She spoke at several of her supporting churches: Trinity, Waynesville FPC, and a combined event at Belmont FPC with Southminster and Mt Holly. She also visited with the leadership of the presbytery's Presbyterian Women and spoke at Let's Celebrate.
- Welcomed Rev. Dr. Becca Young (PCUSA Mission Co-worker in Indonesia). At the October presbytery meeting she shared about her work with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Theological Seminary in Jakarta at the October Presbytery Meeting. She also visited with the GAP (Gaston Area Presbyterians), Shelby, Reems Creek-Beech, Swannanoa FPC, Burnsville FPC, Rutherfordton (Union Mills invited), Tryon, Arbor Dale, Banner Elk, and Fletcher, Gastonia FPC, and Hickory FPC. She met with the presbytery Mission Committee about the possibility of a "consultant" trip in 2012 to Jakarta to help with a specific need at the seminary.

- Disaster/rebuilding work: Provided \$1,000 for building supplies for the Camp Grier Work day on April 24 (the workday in 2011 will be May 14). Billy Wilson (Union) retrieved the PWNC Shower Trailer from the Disaster Assistance Village in Texas. Carol McCroskey (FPC Burnsville) and Billy Wilson (Union) each led a trip to West Virginia for flood relief work. Jim Cockerham shared a report and pictures at the postponed January presbytery meeting.
- Updated and publicized the “Our Commitment to our Mission Co-worker Form.” At the October Presbytery meeting encouraged every church in the presbytery to consider supporting at least one PCUSA Mission Co-worker in 2011 through prayer, education, or finances.
- Supported financially Young Adult Volunteers: \$250 Moses Dimmock (Northern Ireland) and \$500 to Jacob Owens (Tucson, AZ).
- Sent Christmas gifts to several mission workers from this presbytery: Barbara Nagy (Malawi), Becca Young (Indonesia), Amanda Craft (Guatemala), Frank & Nancy Dimmock (Lesotho), Don & Charlene Woods (China/Mongolia), Jacob Owens (Tucson/AZ) and Moses Dimmock (Northern Ireland).

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

- Presented a resolution at the April presbytery meeting supporting the NC Senate Bill 309 “Capital Procedure/Severe Mental Disability” which was approved by presbytery. Letters to that affect were sent to Governor Perdue and to the State Senators and members of the State House representing the counties included in the presbytery.
- Helped host two events with J. Herbert Nelson, director of the PCUSA office of Public Witness in Washington, DC. There was a regional gathering at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church (June 14) and at West Avenue Presbyterian Church (June 16).
- Offered two Let’s Celebrate workshops: “Comfort My People: Serious Mental Illness” and “Peace in the Holy Land.”
- Enabled Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church and Hickory FPC to host International Peacemaker Luis Alanoca from Bolivia September 28-October 3. The churches also scheduled events at Warren Wilson College and Lenoir Rhyne University.
- Recommended Jane Laping (FPC Asheville) as a volunteer Stewardship of Creation Enabler for the presbytery, which was approved at the October presbytery meeting.
- Decided to designate the presbytery’s portion of the 2010 **Peacemaking Offering** to fund small grants (of at least \$250) to churches doing peacemaking work in the presbytery. Nine grant requests were received by the December 31, 2010 deadline, and will be voted on and distributed in January 2011. When congregations collect the Peacemaking Offering, they are able to retain 25% for use with peacemaking projects they support. In 2010, churches forwarded on a total of \$14,441 from their Peacemaking Offering. Of this, \$3,177 is designated for our Presbytery’s peacemaking projects, \$1,588 is sent on to Synod and \$9,676 to General Assembly.

- Forwarded on the \$7,338 that congregations sent in for the **Pentecost Offering**, which benefits PCUSA programs for child advocacy, youth ministry, and Young Adult Volunteer opportunities. When congregations collect the Pentecost Offering they first retain 40% for ministries they support which benefit children at risk, and then they forward the remaining funds.
- Supported financially the work of NC Council of Churches \$500, Women at Risk program of the Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice in Asheville \$1,500, the Swannanoa Correctional Center Chaplaincy program \$1,000, and Camp Grier multicultural camp scholarships \$500. Designated a total of \$750 for Montreat Presbyterian Church's Earth Ministry Team \$750, and \$500 to help Jane Laping (Stewardship of Creation Enabler) attend General Assembly on behalf of Earth Care Congregations.

SELF DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

The committee met June 5 with community representatives it was hoped could help identify SDOP projects in our presbytery. The guidelines were reviewed and a September 1 deadline for grants was set (the deadline will also be September 1 in 2011). The committee reviewed three grants that were received by the deadline, made site visits and awarded grants to two of them: \$5,000 to Opportunity Threads (Morganton) and \$5,000 to Home Health Cleaning Professionals (Asheville). Grants are funded through SDOP's portion of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. A percentage of funds are set aside for each presbytery, and each presbytery SDOP Committee can request them with appropriate paperwork from the National SDOP office.

GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP

The partnership hosted and facilitated the visa paperwork for a visit by Fredy Rivera July 17-28. Fredy is a young adult from Horeb church in Sur Occidente Presbytery who serves as the secretary for Sur Occidente's Partnership Committee and is also on the leadership for that presbytery's youth council. He is a member of Brevard Davidson-River's partner church. Fredy attended Youth Triennium with Alejandra Solano (Guatemala visitor to Grace Covenant) and the youth of our presbytery. Lynne Meacham (Grace Covenant) served as their translators. Fredy spoke at the July Presbytery meeting and made a presentation of a banner. He also spoke to a small gathering that was held at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church.

August 2-5 there was a three presbytery partnership meeting in Guatemala to address the fall-out from the embezzlement of Health Program funds in early 2009 by a former member of Suchitepequez presbytery. The meeting was helpful in rebuilding trust between Suchitepequez and Sur Occidente Presbyteries, setting protocols, and deepening commitment between the three presbyteries.

August 21 Ellen Dozier led a workshop at Let's Celebrate "Dancing with Elephants: A Deeper Look into Partnerships". Amanda Craft (Mission Co-worker in Guatemala) was also present for that workshop and at a lunch gathering.

November 8-16 was the Church Delegation trip, the Annual three presbytery Partnership Meeting, and a Pastors' Conference in Guatemala. Seven congregations from the Presbytery of Western NC were represented in the eighteen member delegation: Banner Elk, Brevard Davidson-River, Fairview, Hickory FPC, Long Creek, Mills River, and Newton FPC. The trip report, written by Charles Dixon follows this annual report. The next church delegation trip is scheduled for June 1-7, 2011. At the partnership meeting itself, the three presbyteries focused on the future of the Health and Nutrition program, with guests from each presbytery serving as an Interim Health Commission. An additional

church partnership was added (Monte Horeb/Mills River) making a total of 31 sister church partners, and two additional sister churches began school scholarship programs together. There are still two Guatemalan churches that are seeking to have a partner congregation in our presbytery. A scheduled December 5 gathering to report on the trip was cancelled due to snow.

GUATEMALA CHURCH DELEGATION REPORT

November 8-16, 2010

By Charles D. Dixon

(A member of Hickory FPC)

Our Presbytery again sponsored its annual Partnership Delegation trip to Guatemala, which was made from November 8 to November 16, 2010. Eighteen persons made this trip which involved a Pastor's Conference at the Presbyterian Seminary in San Felipe, Guatemala, and a visit to 7 of our 31 sister churches.

The delegation was led by Rev. Deborah McEachran of the First Presbyterian Church in Hickory. Those making the trip were: Randall Boggs, Grace Boyer, Charles Dixon, Ellen Dozier, Barbara and Bill Hosbein, Deborah McEachran, Doug Michael, Judy Nebrig, Luke Ponder, Cathy and James Rubel, Ken Unnasch, Angela Washburn, Hannah Washburn, Jacob Washburn, Joseph Washburn and Vernon Yount.

I was asked to write my thoughts and impressions about this trip.

We arrived in Guatemala City, the capital, after about six hours of flight time. Part of our group had a flight that stopped in Houston; the other part had a plane that stopped in Atlanta.

Guatemala City has a population of over 4 million; it is located at an elevation of about 4,000 feet and had very pleasant, cool weather.

From Guatemala City, we were taken by a mini-bus for about 35 miles to Antigua, the old capital. Antigua is now a city of about 50,000 people and is designated as a UNESCO site. Antigua was founded in 1543; the capital was moved to Guatemala City in 1776 due to the extensive damage to Antigua from flooding that occurred when a nearby volcano collapsed.

Guatemala is a beautiful country, but is subject to many natural disasters. In 2010 it had a very severe drought which resulted in a 95% crop loss and affected about 400,000 families. Later, very severe rainfall caused extensive mud slides which damaged and blocked many roads and did extensive property damage. The Guatemalans are still busy reopening and repairing their roads. Guatemala's mountains were formed by volcanoes and are easily eroded.

We had a good tour of Antigua, the local jade factory, an old convent which is being restored by private capital, and an interesting slideshow by Elizabeth Bell giving a lot of the history of Antigua. We also had lectures from Karla Koll, a mission worker, and from Marcia Towers, another mission worker whose agency deals with disaster relief.

We learned that the two main sources of current income to Guatemala are from remittances by Guatemalans working in the United States and revenues from tourism. Some of the main problems faced by Guatemalans are lack of education, high unemployment, poverty, problems with illegal drugs, and corruption in the police and the government. Those we talked to seemed pessimistic about their country's future.

After leaving Antigua, we drove to the seminary; we passed over mountains which reach an elevation of over 12,000 feet and at places are above the tree line. We went through the City of Xela (also known as

Quezaltenango), a very pretty and seemingly prosperous city. The distance from Antigua to San Felipe is about 150 miles.

The Pastor's Conference was led by Rev. Grace Boyer and Rev. Deborah McEachran. The dedication and convictions of the Guatemalan pastors were clear from their discussions. The Conference studied and discussed A Brief Statement of Faith adopted by our Church in 1990, The Theological Declaration of Barmen, and The Heidelberg Catechism. The Conference discussed the possibility of making next year's conference a time to write a confession of faith that attempts to state their beliefs and convictions as they apply to their current life in Guatemala. To me this would be a very positive thing; it would encourage them to make their faith more real and more relevant. Also, I hope it would make the Guatemalan Church more tolerant and less likely to split into factions. The Pastor's Conference was held in a building given to the Seminary by Sam Walton.

After the conference we scattered to visit our individual sister churches. The churches visited in Suchitepequez Presbytery were Jesus El Buen Pastor (Long Creek), Monte Hebron (Hickory FPC), and Monte Horeb (Mills River). The churches visited in Sur Occidente Presbytery were Genezereth (Fairview), Horeb (Brevard-Davidson River), El Arca de Noe (Banner Elk), and El Redentor (Newton FPC).

Being from First Presbyterian Church in Hickory, I was part of a group of four that visited our sister church Monte Hebron, located in Santo Domingo, Guatemala, and its "congregation" Arca de Salvacion, located in La Selva. Our Church gives about 27 scholarships to children from the churches in Santo Domingo and in La Selva.

By luck, we arrived in Santo Domingo just in time to attend the local High School graduation. Two of our scholarship students graduated this year. They were Domingo Socop Tagual and Ruth Aracely Calderon Regil. It was fun to share the excitement and pride of the graduates and their families. After the ceremonies we had lunch with the extended family of Domingo. He was the first person from his family who has finished High School. We were welcomed to the lunch as though we were members of his family. It is satisfying to feel the appreciation that they have for our presence in Guatemala and our small financial help. A relatively small amount of money can make a great difference to people in a poor country like Guatemala.

The next day we visited the La Selva Church and two families that live nearby but in a very remote area. We had to walk a long distance through fields and pastures to find the persons we visited. One of the persons we visited had had polio and was the mother of two of our scholarship students. The other person had many children, one of whom is in a wheelchair due to cerebral palsy.

We asked several Guatemalans if they are more optimistic about the future of their country after their civil war ended in 1996. Generally they said there is such corruption in their police and government and such influence of drug trafficking that they are not optimistic.

Our relationship with our two churches seems strong and worthwhile. Guatemala has a lot of problems. However, they have a rich and interesting heritage. In my opinion their progress is largely dependent on themselves. Our partnership with Guatemala was wisely structured as an equal partnership in which each partner has an equal voice. Our partnership is designed to encourage independence.

I am thankful for having been able to be a member of the delegation. The trip was very refreshing to me and strengthened my commitment to the Mission Work of our Church.

Charles D. Dixon