

**WITNESS DIVISION
APRIL 24, 2012**

HUNGER COMMITTEE

Thanks to the following churches (at the time of this report) who participated in this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. With the super-size bonus from the 5cents/meal fund \$36,700 was contributed to hunger relief within our Presbytery (\$24, 467 from churches and \$12,233 super-size bonus from 5cents/meal funds).

Belmont First	Lenoir First	Reems Creek-Beech
Brittain	Lincolnton First	Rutherfordton
Brittains Cove	Long Creek	Sherrill's Ford
Canton	Lowell	Siloam
Cherryville First	Marshall	Southminster
Columbus	Mills River	Swannanoa First
Conley Memorial	Montreat	Sweetwater
Dallas First	Morganton First	Third Street
Etowah	Morrison	Trinity
Fletcher	Mt Holly First	Tryon
Forest City First	New Hope Asheville	Union Mills
Franklin First	New Hope Gastonia	United
Hayesville	New Vision	Waldensian
Hickory First	Northminster	Warren Wilson
Hendersonville First	Old Fort	West Asheville
Ironton	Olney	West Avenue
Kenilworth	Pineola	

Thank you as well to all of you who regularly support the cause of hunger relief through your faithful giving to the 5cents/meal program. NOTE: Deadline for submitting Nickel-a-Meal Hunger grant applications is October 1, 2012.

MISSION COMMITTEE

There will be ten participants on the May 21-June 6 Malawi Mission Trip. Please keep them in your prayers (a prayer flyer will be emailed to the churches). They will be taking requested curriculum to Ebenezer School and supplies to Nkhoma Hospital. Their projects will include helping at the school and either renovating a two story building on hospital grounds to serve as nursing housing or renovating a building at a village clinic.

- Richard Greathouse, Northminster
- Barbara Heilman, Waldensian
- Rebecca Heilman, Waldensian
- Agnes Horsley, Belmont First United Methodist
- Tom Kilgore, Morganton First (co-leader)
- Teresa Locke, Southminster (co-leader)
- Dorothy McKenzie, Gastonia First
- Brent Ramsey, Walnut Grove
- David Robbins, Fletcher
- Alice Salthouse, Ruple Memorial in Boone

At its March 28 meeting, the Mission committee allocated \$400 from its budget to support the Gobi Outreach Easter mission trip led by Rev. Dr. Donaldson Woods, a member of this Presbytery. The committee also made tentative plans for a mission trip to Ferncliff Disaster Assistance Center in Little Rock, Arkansas September 23-27. The details are still being worked out, but it would involve interested churches collecting Gift of Heart Kits this summer, <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pda/making-gift-heart-kits>. In addition, the committee discussed the upcoming Camp Grier Workday April 28, for more information see www.campgrier.org.

The committee also discussed, “Hands and Feet of Asheville”, a new organization in Western North Carolina that is engaging young adults in transformative mission to inspire a lifetime of caring. Young Adults from NC and from across the country will spend a year in service, community living, and theological reflection. Hands and Feet has partnered with social service agencies such as Manna Food Bank (ending hunger), Homeward Bound of Asheville (ending homelessness), and the Irene Wortham Center (caring for the mentally and physically disabled) to provide volunteers as essential support staff, helping to spread the mission of each agency. Volunteers will live in a communal house and have weekly reflections to explore their faith, participate in spiritual practices, and engage in vocational discernment. Hands and Feet provides housing, a monthly stipend, and programmed retreats and field trips throughout the year for volunteers. Volunteer applications are due by May 1, 2012. The year of service begins August 2012 and ends August 2013. For more information go to www.HandsandFeetAVL.org or call director Sarah Robinson 803-528-6747. Sarah is a former PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer in Mission both in Guatemala and in Tucson, AZ who now lives in Asheville.

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

At its January 25 meeting, the committee awarded six Peacemaking Offering Grants from the seven requests that had been received by the December 31, 2011 deadline. These are small grants to churches that are working in concrete ways toward peacemaking in the community or the world. The funds for these come from the Presbytery’s portion of the 2011 Peacemaking Offering, which was \$3,221.82. As is done yearly, \$250 of this was invested in OikoCredit microfinance (www.oikocredit.org). The remaining \$2,971.82 plus \$28.18 from a committee budget line item were allocated as follows:

- \$1,000 Camp Grier, Global Village demonstration site and Guatemalan garden
- \$500 Franklin First, KIDS Place, Advocacy for child abuse victims and families
- \$500 Grace Covenant, Immigration Forum & Community wide Dinner
- \$250 Marion First, Good Samaritan Clinic to move into church basement
- \$500 Morganton First, Cyber-Bullying Prevention event for youth and leaders in region
- \$250 Swannanoa First, Mental Health forums

Also at its January meeting, the committee received a referral from the Administrative Board. The Montreat Presbyterian Church Session had asked the Administrative Board to explore the upcoming May 8 NC Marriage Amendment vote. The Administrative Board forwarded this to the Peace & Justice committee to consider. After studying it at both its January 25 and March 20 meetings, the committee created an informational flyer that lists the current law, the proposed amendment, possible consequences, and resources for people to learn more. This flyer is in the attachments. The committee also requested permission to have a display table on this at the April 24 Presbytery meeting.



GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP REPORT April 24, 2012

We welcome to our Presbytery and to this meeting three women from our partner presbyteries in Guatemala - Floridalma Giron de Sopon from *Sur Occidente* Presbytery serves as a Deacon in her church and as Moderator of the *Sur Occidente Presbiterial* (PW).

Silvia Bac de Tobar from *Suchitepéquez* Presbytery serves as a secretary of the women's group, a deacon and clerk of the Session, a health promoter and a youth advisor in her local church. She also serves as treasurer of the *Presbiterial* of Suchitepéquez, and is studying theology at CETECA

Amanda Gody de Santos from *Suchitepéquez* Presbytery serves as Vice Moderator of the women's group, a deacon, and a youth advisor in her local church, and is a member of the Theological Scholarship Committee of the Unión Sinódica.

Floridalma, Silvia and Amanda are being hosted by Presbyterian Women and our Guatemala Partnership during their April 17 – 25 visit.

We are very grateful for their hosts here in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and the many people who have worked to make this visit a reality. Our prayer and hope is that this visit will strengthen the relationships among women of the three presbyteries and help us find creative and satisfying to be in ministry together.

June 5 – 12 are the dates for the June delegation trip to Guatemala. Participants in this trip are -
Grace Stitt from Black Mountain Presbyterian
Barry Clinton and Nick Potts from First Presbyterian, Franklin
Valerie Holcombe and Edward Holcombe from Mills River Presbyterian
Randall Boggs and Ellen Dozier, co-leaders

The group will spend a day and a half in Antigua learning more about Guatemala, then travel to the Presbyterian Seminary which is located near our partner presbyteries and from there everyone will go to spend the weekend with brothers and sisters of their partner churches.

Please remember in your prayers both those who travel, their families and those whom they will be visiting in Guatemala.

If you have correspondence for your partner church in Guatemala which you did not bring to this meeting, you may contact one of the people going to this trip and make arrangements to get correspondence to them.

Next **Gatherings for representatives from partner churches in Guatemala will be -**
Friday, June 15 at 6 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Marion
Friday, September 21, 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Morganton