

Witness Division Report April 28, 2015

The **Peace and Justice Committee**, newly chaired by Rev. Steve Elderbrock of Burnsville, has decided to continue its focus in 2015 on the Care of Creation. Feeling the urgency of the environmental impact of global warming, Peace and Justice decided in January to continue the emphasis and will be receiving related grant applications for Peacemaking funds throughout 2015. If your church would like to try a project related to recycling, energy efficiency, or care of creation, grant applications are available on the PWNC website under “Mission Zone”.

Though the **Mission Committee** has not yet met as a body in 2015, our Presbytery remains active in missions and in supporting mission co-workers. Once again, a team will travel to **Nkhoma, Malawi** May 18 – June 3, 2015 to work alongside our brothers and sisters in East Africa. Participants include: Tom Kilgore, Morganton; Teresa Locke, Southminster, Gastonia; Hal Bennett, Dulatown, Lenoir; Jackson Mott, Southminster, Gastonia; David Robbins, Fletcher; Andrea McFee, Walnut Grove; and Jacob Yelton, Walnut Grove.

In addition, the next delegation to **Guatemala**, a church-to-church partnership delegation, will be June 2-10, 2015. Interested persons are invited to travel together to Guatemala and to visit with their church’s sister church. After 20 years of partnership and before renewing the covenant, the 3 partnered presbyteries (Sur Occidente, Suchitepequez, and Presbytery of Western NC) are allowing 2015 to be a year of prayer and discernment, trying to discover God’s will for the future of the Guatemala Partnership. We anticipate that mission co-workers in Guatemala, **Brian and Sandi Thompson Royer** will also attend the April 28th PWNC meeting, having shared with several churches in our presbytery during the third week of April. They can be reached at Brian.Thompson-Royer@pcusa.org or Sandi.Thompson-Royer@pcusa.org.

Did you know that our presbytery also has a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) spending a year of her life in service in Zambia? Between her graduation from Presbyterian College in Christian Education in May 2014 and her entrance into seminary at Union Presbyterian Seminary, **Rebecca Heilman**, a member of Waldensian Presbyterian in Valdese is volunteering in Zambia. Becca has been twice with the teams to Malawi (extending her stay to a month in 2013) and has exemplified committed Christian service to many. We’re proud of you, Becca, and remember you in our prayers.

Hunger Committee is currently reviewing grant requests for Spring for support from the Nickel-a-Meal offerings. Please see the attached Hunger Committee report. The next opportunity for Nickel-a-Meal funding will be grant applications submitted before Oct. 1, 2015.

One of the most exciting things for missions in the Presbytery of Western NC is the emerging **BUILDING H.O.P.E. (Health care, Outdoor Adventures, Partnered Growth, & Education) Ministry Campaign**. In the quiet phase of the campaign in 2015, we will be building energy toward a public phase of the campaign in 2016. By the end of 2016, we anticipate that every Presbyterian in Western NC will have had the opportunity to participate in this expanding ministry. We want to raise over \$2 million dollars to benefit the needs of our ministries in Malawi (health care and education), Guatemala (higher education), Camp Grier (adventure-based camping improvements) and encouraging Vital Churches through new outreach to people in communities. At every Presbytery meeting, you should hear about our progress. You won’t want to miss any of these exciting plans to energize ourselves and our churches, through the activity of the Holy Spirit, toward spreading the Gospel of Jesus’ love to every corner of the globe – beginning with the corners of our own communities.