

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**Evangelism Committee****Rev. James Holeman, Chair****April 26, 2022**

Greetings from the Evangelism committee! Please mark your calendars for one year from today's Presbytery meeting (give or take) for our almost-annual Evangelism Retreat. You may recall the last time we did this a number of years back, before the pandemic kept us from making it an annual occurrence. Those who participated came a day early to the April Presbytery Meeting at Montreat. We hosted guest speaker Ray Jones, the Director of Theology, Formation & Evangelism of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Many in attendance stayed overnight at William Black Lodge, had a hearty breakfast the next morning and a leisurely stroll down the hill to the Presbytery meeting in Anderson auditorium.

Prayerful consideration was put into determining the date and time for this retreat. Having it the day before Presbytery (rather than right after the meeting), allowed people to be fresh when they heard the information at the retreat and fresh for the Presbytery meeting the next day. Furthermore, hosting it when the Presbytery meeting was at Montreat added an incentive for people to come early and enjoy the setting a little longer - a much needed rest and respite.

The Evangelism Committee is scheduling a similar Evangelism Retreat for April 24, 2023, the day before next year's April Presbytery meeting (2023).

However, we believe this would be an ideal time and place to talk about more things than just evangelism. Therefore, we are inviting other committees of the Presbytery to provide their own seminars, training, or information on this same date and setting. We reminisced a little about the "Let's Celebrate" event that our Presbytery used to have. With a greater variety of ways people could fellowship, encourage ministries, and hear information about our shared work and mission, we imagine such a retreat would have a much greater attendance. Perhaps, some people who usually avoid anything with the "Evangelism" label attached, might even find themselves in a seminar about it! We invite other committees to consider joining our efforts or piggy-backing with their own; if interested please contact Billy Robinson for more information.

Please earmark the Monday before next April's presbytery meeting and be on the look-out for more information.

In the meantime, the Evangelism Committee is gathering articles, books, and resources about outreach/evangelism and will make them available shortly.

We also want to hear about your congregation's evangelism/outreach success stories. Please don't be surprised if you're contacted by a member of the Evangelism Committee seeking information about a success that your church has had regarding outreach/evangelism. Help us celebrate and share the good things Christ is doing through your congregation.

**REMEMBER
MARK YOUR CALENDAR
APRIL 24, 2023
EVANGELISM RETREAT**