

PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS

January 10, 2012

❖ First Presbyterian Church in Rockaway

Theme:

- ❖ Abraham's Table Interfaith Dialogue. Spiritual leaders from the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian faith communities spoke on the topic of "Neighborliness and Being a Good Neighbor." Members of the three faith communities got to know each other as neighbors through discussions around the dinner tables. Benedictions by representatives of the Muslim, Jewish, and Presbytery communities closed the evening.

Highlights:

- ❖ The Presbytery voted to concur with Overture 08 from the Presbytery of Santa Fe requesting that the 220th General Assembly (meeting this summer in Pittsburgh) approve an amendment to change the language in the Book of Order back to Minister of Word and Sacrament and Elder. The request to concur was presented by the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Blairstown.
- ❖ Commissioners to the General Assembly were elected. They are:
 - Teaching Elders: Judy Kolwicz (Presbytery Leader) and David Widmer (Berkshire Valley); Mitch Trigger, (Rockaway) is the alternate
 - Ruling Elders: Craig Barth (Morristown) and Wendy Doidge (Andover)
 - Young Adult Advisory Delegate: Sean Curtis (Old Greenwich); Emily McCachren (Morristown) is the alternate
- ❖ The new Presbytery Sexual Misconduct Policy was approved (it is available on the Presbytery website).

Important Note!:

- ❖ **HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS WORKSHOP** - March 2 and 3. Details on the Presbytery website.

News and Notes:

- ❖ The Presbytery Coordinating Team (formerly Council) approved a new Personnel Policy for the Presbytery.
- ❖ Presbyterian Disaster Assistance again visited the Presbytery in November. As a result of their visit, the Succasunna and Rockaway churches each received a \$10,000 grant to assist them in making repairing damage from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.
- ❖ Rev. Amy Lincoln (Highlands) and Sally Strusz (Long Valley) were elected to the Nominating Committee. Rev. Chris Scrivens (Chester) and Judy Trigg (Blairstown) were elected to the Nairobi Partnership Committee.

Committee on Ministry (COM) Notes:

- ❖ Commissioned Ruling Elder Guillermo Lopez-Acosta will be serving at Wharton United Community Church to develop an Hispanic outreach.
- ❖ The Rev. Kathryn Mustaro has accepted a call to serve as the Associate Pastor of the Flemington Presbyterian Church in Flemington, NJ.
- ❖ The Rev. Irv Angstadt has retired as pastor of the Musconetcong Valley Presbyterian Church.
- ❖ The Rev. David Myers has transferred to Lake Huron Presbytery.

Thank you to the Session and congregation of the Rockaway church for hosting the meeting and for making our guests feel welcome!