

Myrtle Beach area. Older adults are encouraged to be on the lookout for more publicity on these events.

Representatives from six congregations attended the Vacation Bible School Preview, February 21, 2009. Each attending church received a "door prize" of a previous year's VBS kit! The Christian Educators of New Harmony Get-Together was held on March 17, 2009, and our Campus Christian Life Fund project with Second Sumter and Morris College continues to educate older adults in computer skills.

The **Mission Division** plans for five churches to highlight their mission projects at the October presbytery meeting. Plans are being formulated to send a team of volunteer workers to New Orleans to assist in rebuilding homes. The Mission Division is partnering with the Education and Nurture Division to plan the 2010 Ephesians Event.

The **Presbyterian Men** reported their plans for the Annual Golf & Picnic Outing and for a Fall Conference at the Goodwill Presbyterian Church, Sunday, October 18, 2009, 3:00 p.m. The conference theme is "The Ministry of Music."

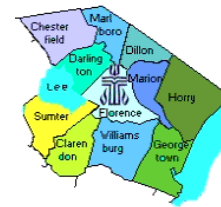
The **Presbyterian Women** held their Annual Gathering for Presbyterian Women, April 25, at the Latta Presbyterian Church. The theme was "Celebrating the Gifts of Women." The main speaker was Peggy Swann, Director of Christian Education, First Presbyterian Church, Sumter. She also installed the new officers. A memorial service, conducted by Julia McIntyre, honored the Presbyterian Women who passed away in 2008. A worship service was conducted, and the offering went to two local charities. The annual business meeting was also conducted.

The Coordinating Team for Presbyterian Women elected three representatives as voting delegates to attend the Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women being held in Louisville, Kentucky, July 11-15, 2009. Please register and attend a week to remember.

The moderator reported attending the Synod Coordinating Team meeting where the mission was to renew and build relationships with women and church partners throughout the world to find ways to further the ministries of Christ's church.

The **Worship & Spiritual Formation Division** hosted "Day of Children's Praise," March 21, 2009, at John Calvin Presbyterian Church in Florence. The day was spent learning songs and making musical instruments, laughing and dancing while doing 'energizers', interpreting music through movement with God rods, worshipping and watching dramatic interpretations of a Bible story and creating original works of art with clay.

For the 80 young participants and their chaperones, it was a day of worshipping and praising God with Hearts - Hands - Feet and Voices.



Presbytery of New Harmony

Nurturing Churches and People

The Five Presbytery Convocation and Sixty-Fifth Stated Meeting

May 29-30, 2009

On May 29, the five presbyteries of South Carolina gathered in Clinton, South Carolina, for an afternoon and evening of learning, fellowship, good food, entertainment, and worship.



Beginning with conversations on the new Form of Government Report, the five presbyteries then proceeded to register their participants. Thornwell Home for Children and Presbyterian College led tours of their respective campuses prior to a delicious picnic and entertaining music on the lawn at Presbyterian College.

The evening continued with inspiring worship led by several members of each presbytery and featured a slide presentation highlighting both shared and individual ministries of the five presbyteries.



Worship included an inspiring sermon by the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly, (pictured above). He then led participants in a moving communion service. (The Rev. Dr. Scott Andrews and Elder Ellaree Hampton, pictured left, serving communion.)

On Saturday morning, May 30, each presbytery held its own meeting at different locations on the Presbyterian College and Thornwell Home for Children campuses.

Ben Bill Wilson and Olin Whitner Retire



The Presbytery of New Harmony held a ceremony honorably retiring the Rev. Ben Bill Wilson (above, left) and the Rev. Olin Whitener (above, right, with his wife, Ruth Ann). We wish them well in their moves to other parts of our country.

In its meeting, the Presbytery of New Harmony

- Heard the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, given by the Rev. Dr. Ella Busby, moderator, and passed recommendations naming the Rev. David Ruth (Williamsburg) and Elder Ruby Boyd (Goodwill) as readers for Ordination Exams, October 5-7, 2009, in Raleigh, NC. The Rev. Gene Lassiter (St. Paul's & Indiantown) and Elder Leroy Thompson (Second, Sumter) were appointed alternates.
- Heard the report of the Committee on Ministry, given by the Rev. Dr. Jeri Parris Perkins, moderator, and acted affirmatively on recommendations concerning salary changes; the retirements of the Rev. Olin D. Whitener and the Rev. Ben Bill Wilson; resending the renewal of Stated Supply Snow Donmoyer at First Presbyterian Church, Olanta; dissolving the relationship of the Rev. Tom Clymer and the Ocean Drive Presbyterian Church; approving an Administrative Commission to work with the Ocean Drive congregation and session; and created a temporary supply relationship with Ocean Drive Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Bo Yates.
- Heard and acted on the report of the Administrative Council, given by moderator, the Rev. Dr. Ella Busby. Approved recommendations included the distribution of the \$200,000 raised in the Capital Campaign for the Presbyterian Communities facility in Conway as follows:
 - ❑ The donors/churches who designated funds for the Conway Campus be contacted and given the opportunity to choose which of the five other projects receive their contributions;
 - ❑ Then, funds would be used to fund the two under-funded projects from the original campaign:
 - ✓ Improvements to/for Camp Pee Dee (\$ 48,731.79 to be funded) for a total of \$ 500,000.00, and

- ✓ Small Church Support/Redevelopment (\$ 53,761.82 to be funded) for a total of \$ 600,000.00; and
- ❑ The remaining funds will be equally divided between Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina (Florence Campus) and PADD, for capital improvement projects. These monies will be held in trust by the Presbytery until plans for capital projects are submitted. (This recommendation comes forth because a decision was made by the PCSC Board not to pursue developing a Conway campus.)

Also approved was up to \$141,000 investment to support an additional interest rebate for Celebration Presbyterian Church's mortgage loan with and through the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program and urging members and churches to invest in PILP on behalf of Celebration Presbyterian Church.

In other actions the New Harmony Self Development of People Committee has been certified through the denomination's Self Development of People office.

The Presbytery of New Harmony's next meeting is October 13, 2009, at Concord Presbyterian Church, Sumter.

Program Divisions at Work

The **Camping Division** reported that water is in the pool, the staff is hired, trails have been upgraded, new doors erected on cabins, new signs put up, and the HIGH ROPES COURSE - a Signature Research Challenge course with 14 elements is ready for participants. Summer staff will be trained and certified to work with people on the course.

Allison Summey, Equestrian Director, is leaving to move with her husband to Lee County, NC. A search is being conducted for her replacement.

Send your campers for a great summer of adventure at New Harmony's "Camp in the Pines."

Highlights from the **Congregational Development Division** include encouragement to those who were unable to attend the Acts 16:5 kickoff event to be on lookout for another event in the future. They are in the process of sending information and applications for 2010 Aid-to-Field.

The **Education and Nurture Division** reported the good time had by the participants in the recent *Senior High Retreat* at Camp Pee Dee and the excellent leadership provided by John Ryan, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, and the Rev. Robert Alexander, First Presbyterian Church, Union, SC.

The *Older Adult Ministry Team* is preparing for upcoming get-togethers for older adults throughout the Presbytery. The first event is August 25, at Camp Pee Dee. Others to follow are October 27, in the Florence area; January 26, in the Sumter area; and March 23, in the