

Transylvania Presbytery Moderator's Report

Shepard Memorial Presbyterian Church in Stopover hosted our June 9, 2007, Presbytery meeting, and what a wonderful job the Stopover and Phelps people did! They witnessed once again to the warm hospitality in the mountains. We shared communion in worship, learned of the Stopover church's rich history, concluded business by noon, and had a lovely lunch with warm fellowship. A very special "thank you" to our brothers and sisters in far eastern Pike County.

Out of the June meeting and Rev. Ellen Peach's sermon that day has come an exciting opportunity, which we will discuss in September. Ellen reminded us that Transylvania Presbytery has within its bounds 26 of the 200 poorest counties in the United States. Hazard Presbyterian Church and many of our churches in eastern Kentucky live with that reality daily. Those of us outside that region will now have an opportunity to discern God's call to us in confronting that reality.

During these months the Presbytery Coordinating Council, in addition to its usual duties, has continued to discuss the Gleneagles property and Burnamwood. This is a time of limited resources at the Presbytery and other church governing body levels. But it is a time for us to better define our focus and our mission. It is a time to look realistically at what we can do together to pass the faith to the next generation in this corner of God's kingdom. Coordinating Council comes in September with a recommendation to sell the Gleneagles property. We have owned the property for almost 10 years; the debt is currently \$387,513 (originally \$420,000 in total debt, which was equal to the purchase price); we have spent \$184,696 in interest and principal payments, and we are currently incurring \$44,598 of expenses per year related to the property. Plans for the site have not progressed. Selling this piece of property does not mean that we will abandon new church development; it does mean we will do that in a different way at a different place. I ask that you prayerfully consider this decision before our September meeting.

Summer for my family was a very busy and wonderful time. I hope your summer offered times of recreation and rest. Fall is fast approaching, and our greatest need is for rain. Our meeting at the Versailles Presbyterian Church falls on September 11, 2007, the 6th anniversary of a day of national pain and loss. Especially fitting is our focus on "Hope" for this meeting. May God renew again in us the hope lived by Jesus Christ.

Marilyn S. Daniel, Moderator