

# PRESBYTERY MEETING

October 20, 2012

# POSTLUDE

## Day filled with Celebrations of Ministry

Several individuals and some of our partners in ministry throughout the world were highlighted and recognized during the meeting. Their service is inspiring and humbling, marked with an inherent call to “run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

**The Rev. Doug Harper** is celebrating 60 years of ordained service of which 55 years have been in this presbytery. Congratulations, Doug!

**RE Janice Schessler**, Recording Clerk and Officer Manager, is retiring from the presbytery staff at the end of the year after 21 years of service to the presbytery. Janice is a member of ChristChurch, Bellaire. A new position, approved by the presbytery, will combine the work of the Stated Clerk and the Recording Clerk. The Rev. Lynn Hargrove was elected to fill this new position. Godspeed, Janice!

### Solar Under the Sun

Rev. Ashley Broadhurst, Administrative Director for Solar Under the Sun, greeted the presbytery, having just returned from a trip to Haiti. The



Ashley Broadhurst

purpose of her trip was to evaluate 25 of the solar systems there which have been designed to power water systems installed by Living Waters of the World. By

the end of this year, there will be 30 solar systems installed in Haiti. Such systems are also being installed in other parts of the world - Kenya, Ukraine, and Honduras.

This ecumenical ministry of the

## ‘Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down, Here I am to say that you're my God’

The morning sun lit the brilliant colors of the magnificent window at Webster Presbyterian Church as hundreds of commissioners gathered for a day of worship, business, and fellowship. PYCC youth (Presbyterian Youth Connection Council) led communion worship with the perfect mix of leadership, exuberance, and inspirational personal testimony.



Combining the joy, peace, and power of our faith, the seven members of the Joyful Noyz (Webster’s praise band) offered multi-layered sounds and rhythms to familiar hymns and praise songs that enhanced the time of worship. Thus began the day of business.



Synod of the Sun PC(USA) provides solar power to nonprofit groups in communities with great needs to help them alleviate hardship while also becoming better stewards of God’s earth. Courses at the Ferncliff School in Little Rock, AK, prepare teams to establish partnerships with mission communities and learn how to assemble and install the solar power systems.

Solar Under the Sun was the recipient of the morning offering (\$2,420).

### Mo Ranch near Hunt, TX

Rev. Dick Powell, President and “ranch foreman” of Mo-Ranch, spoke to the presbytery about the mission of Mo-Ranch and its future plans. One new endeavor will provide pastors the opportunity to study and reflect as they

enjoy the well-known beauty of Mo Ranch. A Pastor’s Library has been created with the promise to secure any book(s) a pastor wants on-hand for a week’s study retreat. Costs are underwritten with help from faithful donors so that such a time is affordable.



Dick Powell

Another goal is to make possible that every child in every institution in the Synod of the Sun attend a conference or summer camp at Mo-Ranch, every year. Rev. Powell asked the presbytery to keep Mo Ranch in its prayers.

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## Celebrations...continued from page 1

### Presbyterian Pan American School Kingsville, TX

The Rev. Doug Dalglish, president of Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, brought greetings to New Covenant from the school. This



Doug Dalglish

historic campus celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

A mission of the Synod of the Sun, PPAS is a Christian, residential college preparatory school that educates and empowers young adults from around the world for

Christian leadership in the global community. This international school currently has 162 students in the senior class - just five from the U.S.

Doug asked for prayers, especially for the children and families from Monterrey because of the trauma of not feeling, and not being, safe. "It is difficult time for families in northern Mexico," he said.

### Justo Mwale Theological University College

Dr. Wynand Ratief

Ratief spoke on behalf of the Justo Mwale Theological University College in Zambia where students come from poor communities and rely on scholarships for their continuing studies. A Book Basket Project

was begun in 2007 as means of giving theological books to the students. Thanks to generous donations, students in the Bachelor of Theology program have their own mini libraries (16 theological books which cover the main theological disciplines). This is a life-changing gift that equips those in need who are pursuing theological study. Partners in ministry are needed to connect with the church in Zambia.

Dr. Ratief thanked the Woodlands Community congregation for its faithfulness in providing scholarships for many years.



Wynand Ratief

## Three congregations dismissed

The presbytery said good-bye to three congregations who have completed the process outlined in the Presbytery of New Covenant's Reconciliation and Discernment Procedures.

The congregation of Memorial PC, San Augustine, was dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and will be received as a member congregation of Central South Presbytery, pending completion of the transfer to that body.

Advent PC, Spring, has completed the same process and was dismissed to another Reformed body, the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO). ECO Presbytery of the West will assume ecclesiastical authority over the church, pending completion of the transfer to that body.

And, the congregation of First PC, Lake Jackson, has completed the process as outlined and was dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and will be received as a member congregation of Central South Central South Presbytery, pending completion of the transfer to that body.

The presbytery prayed with and for these congregations as they enter a new phase of their ministry in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## Candidate completes examination process

After preaching a sermon to the presbytery (required as part of the ordination exams),

**Barbara Retzloff** answered questions from the Committee on Examinations and the floor. A motion to sustain her exam in full was made and approved. Barbara was welcomed into the presbytery and enrolled as Minister of Word and Sacrament.



Barbara Retzloff

Barbara received a MA degree from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education and her MDiv from Fuller Theological Seminary. She has served as DCE at St. Thomas and Pines churches, Houston. Barbara has been called to serve as Associate Pastor at Pines PC, Houston.

## Congregations can learn how to "Get In the Game!"

TE Chris French (Grace PC, Houston) spoke about the upcoming Presbytery event **Sat., Nov. 17, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** at Grace PC, Houston, relating to the 1001 New Worshipping Communities initiative. This will be a great time for focused conversations on how churches can "get in the game" as they develop new communities of faith. The event will feature national staff from the PC(USA) Office of Church Growth. Register at <http://gitg.eventbrite.com>.



"We are excited about what the Spirit will do among us as we rediscover the depth of community in Christ." Chris said.

## Finance Report



RE Jim Taylor gave a report on the presbytery's budget in bit unusual, yet familiar way—by using the medical pain chart to indicate the status of the presbytery's finance (pain or no pain). The red arrow points to the presbytery's current financial situation.

Quipped Moderator Mary Lee Going, "Best-ever budget report!"

# Welcome to New Covenant!

New faces and old friends become part of New Covenant Presbytery

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Drew Tomberlin

**Rev. Dr. Drew Tomberlin** is serving as Pastor of Covenant PC, College Station, transferring from Detroit Presbytery. Drew received his MDiv from Columbia Theological Seminary and DMin from Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Drew served as a Navy Chaplain in Desert Shield/Desert Storm and as Chaplain with the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Drew's years of parish ministry include pastorates in Georgia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Ohio, Iowa, and Michigan.



Jim Gill

**Rev. Dr. Jim Gill** is serving as Interim Pastor at Faith, Baytown, transferring from Tres Rios Presbytery. He received both his MDiv and DMin from Austin Presbyterian Seminary. Jim has

served as a Campus Minister, an Associate Pastor, a Pastor, a Church Planter, a Designated Pastor and an Interim Pastor. Even though he has chosen to devote himself full time to serving as a pastor he still loves playing his tunes for folks around town whether solo or with his band.



Judy Northrop

**Rev. Judy Northrop** is serving as Interim Associate Pastor at St. Philip PC, Houston. She received her MDiv from Lancaster Theological Seminary and was ordained by the United Church of

Christ. Judy is grateful to be a voice for children in the church, to let them know that they are important to the life of the church. Judy enjoys gardening, running, drawing, practicing yoga, painting, playing the piano, refinishing furniture,

writing, browsing antique stores, knitting and cooking!

**The Rev. Nina Bryant-Sanyika**, received as Member-at-Large, is transferring from Presbytery of South Louisiana. She received her MDiv from San Francisco Theological Seminary. When



Nina Bryant-Sanyika

Hurricane Katrina passed through New Orleans, Nina was serving as pastor of Berean PC. For a year, she commuted back to New Orleans every Sunday to preach. Nina has served as Director of Pastoral Care and CPE at a health center in California and as a CPE Supervisor at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston. Nina is currently working on a book of poetry and short stories that have been healing for her and hopefully will bring healing for others also. Her husband, Elder Mtangulizi Sanyika, teaches at Texas Southern University.



Dave McKechnie

**The Rev. David McKechnie**, HR is serving as Parish Associate at First PC, Houston, transferring from Southern Kansas Presbytery where he served as Interim Pastor at Eastminster PC, Wichita. He served as pastor of Grace PC, Houston, for 25 years, and as parish associate at First PC, Houston, for three years. David received his MDiv from New York Theological Seminary and a ThM degree from Princeton Seminary. He is President of the Texas Theological Foundation and Chair of the Board of Houston Christian High School. He was instrumental in bringing the campus of Fuller Seminary to Houston. He has authored two books and numerous published articles. He is married to Linda who is a well-known pianist.

**The Rev. Dr. John Wurster** has been called and installed as pastor at St. Philip PC, Houston. He transferred from Mission Presbytery where he was chair of the Committee on Ministry while he was



John Wurster

serving as pastor at First PC, Kerrville. John received his MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary and DMin from Austin Theological Seminary. He has authored two books, *What If What They Say Is True?* and *Ordinary Words, Extraordinary Deeds*. John is Chair of the Board of Trustees of Pan American School. John is active in the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM), serving as preacher/presider at this year's PAM Conference.



Linda Herron

**The Rev. Linda Herron** is serving as Parish Associate at St. John's PC, Houston. Linda received a DMin from Austin Theological Seminary, a J.D. degree from the

University of Houston Law Center, and MA from Rice University. She and her husband were members of St. John's PC in the 70s and are happy to be back in Houston.

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## Received but not present

COM approved the calls for the following pastors who were not present at the meeting:

- Rev. Honorio Neto, pastor/evangelist of the Presbyteriana Brazilian NDC
- TE Michael Homan, Associate Pastor at First PC, Houston
- TE Victor Dindot, HR
- TE Margaret "Peg" Ferguson, HR
- TE Troy Jarvis, HR

## Honorably Retired!

**The Rev. Belinda Windham** was granted Honorably Retired status by the presbytery. Ordained in 1992 in Mission Presbytery, Belinda has served congregations in Taylor, Livingston, and Houston. She has served as adjunct faculty for Houston Graduate School of Theology and a member of the Advisory Board of the Institute for Pastoral Studies. Serving the larger church, Belinda has been a member of the national body that writes and administers the ordination exams. She served on the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of the Sun, and was a member of the Board of United Campus Ministries of Greater Houston.



Belinda Windham

Belinda retires from her pastorate at New Hope Presbyterian, effective December 31, 2012. Five days later, she will be starting a new phase in her life when she and her fiancé, Jan Koenig, will be married.

## Service of Candidacy



Candidate Kay Atchison (center)

**Kay Atchison**, Memorial Drive PC, Houston, was enrolled as a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Kay told the presbytery how grateful she is to have been adopted by her family and by God into the family of God. In his charge to Kay as she continues in this process, Rev. Barrett Ingram congratulated Kay for her constancy and stick-to-itiveness in reaching this status. "Keep on keeping on," said Barrett. Many who have traveled with Kay during her consideration of her call surrounded her as RE Agnes Adair led the presbytery in prayer.

## Moderator for 2013 installed

Rev. Dr. Winfield "Casey" Jones (First PC, Pearland) was installed as Moderator of the Presbytery of New Covenant for 2013 by outgoing Moderator Mary Lee Going. He has served as chair of the Presbytery Nominating Committee and the Committee on Ministry, a member of the Examinations Committee and the Committee on Representation, and as a member of the presbytery's Form of Government Task Force.

# CODA

*Elder and minister commissioners received the following announcements and conducted the following additional business:*

- Adopted New Covenant's Parity Plan which was modified to reflect feedback received from the plan presented at the June 2012 Stated Meeting. This plan is necessary to ensure adequate representation at presbytery meetings between Teaching Elders/Ruling Elders and large/small churches. The process of determining representation at presbytery meetings will be reviewed annually.
- Approved the Minimum Terms of Call 2013.
- Elected 84 individuals to serve on presbytery committees, plus TE Debbie Cenko (COM Chair), TE Stuart Coffman (Committee on Representation), TE Bryan Wiggins (Committee on Preparation for Ministry), and RE Christ Friedersdorf (Outreach) whose names were not on the committee's written report.
- Elected to serve on the Nominating Committee: TE Tom Sharon, RE Elizabeth Duerr, and TE Belinda Windham.
- Recognized and thanked for their special service to the church were Cindy Houlihan (Pines Presbyterian, Houston), who received certification, Level 1, in the Administrative Personnel Association during its National Conference in September and TE Carrie Walker (New Covenant Presbytery) who completed an additional 50 hours in APA certification study.
- The Committee on Preparation for Ministry enrolled RE Lee Attema (First Presbyterian, Freeport), RE Sharon Templeman (Westminster Presbyterian, Nacogdoches), and RE Anna Marion (St. Luke's Presbyterian, Cleveland) in the Commissioned Ruling Elder process.
- The following have been elected to serve on GA committees: CRE Debbie Battiste-Kleinman (Advocacy Comm. for Racial Ethnic Concerns), RE Julie MacLemore (Advisory Comm. on the Constitution), RE Mary Marcotte (Educator Certification Council).
- TE Bill Poe, HR, has transferred to Mission Presbytery.
- TE James Currie has been called as Installed Pastor, (from Designated Pastor) to First Presbyterian, Pasadena.
- TE Patricia Clark, HR, was granted Pastor Emerita Status at St. Stephen's Presbyterian, Houston.
- Steven Spidell is now Staff Chaplain at The Methodist West Houston Hospital, in Katy.
- Lynne Hall Buckridge is serving as Designated Pastor at Heights PC, Houston.

*Postlude is published after each Stated Meeting.*

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