

Highlights of the February 10, 2018 Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery

- The meeting was held at **Westminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia** with 135 people in attendance. **Candidate for Ministry, Ms. Rebekah Carpenter** brought a wonderful message entitled ***Traveling Towards*** during worship. An offering was collected during worship, with proceeds to be divided between two food banks in the presbytery. The Lord's Supper was celebrated with the **Reverend Dr. Chris Denny**, Pastor of Westminster (Columbia), officiating, and Ruling Elders from the Westminster Church assisting. The presbytery necrology, noting deaths in Trinity Presbytery, was read. Trinity Presbytery lost **50 Ruling Elders** and **4 Teaching Elders** during 2017.
- The **Reverend Dr. Brad Smith** presented a slate from the Nominating Committee as we continue to build and populate the Teams and Committees under the new structure of Trinity Presbytery.
- The outgoing Moderator of Presbytery, the **Reverend Alice Odell**, was recognized and thanked for her service. The new Moderator of Presbytery, **Ruling Elder Suzie Sherard**, was installed as well as the Vice Moderator of Presbytery, **the Reverend Doug Craven**. The outgoing Moderator of Trinity Presbytery Coordinating Team, **Ruling Elder Lovic Brooks**, was recognized and thanked for his leadership for the past year.
- The Annual Statistical Reporting Awards were presented to the first three churches to submit their information online. Those churches were **Westminster** (Columbia), **Bethany** (Clinton), and **Lake Murray** (Chapin). All the churches who had completed the task were thanked for their efforts and listed on the [2017 Statistical Report Roll of Honor](#).
- The **Reverend Dr. Danny Murphy, General Presbyter**, gave his annual report. Dr. Murphy thanked the members of Presbytery for their service and support through a pivotal year in the life of the Presbytery. He explained that the actions taken by Trinity Presbytery early in 2017 resulted in the Presbytery facing three huge undertakings, simultaneously: (1) Engaging in an intensive, long overdue audit of our financial records, (2) Transitioning our Church Camp from Fellowship Camp and Conference Center to a 501(c)3 entity, Camping Ministries of the Carolinas, and (3) completely revamping the organizational structure of the Presbytery. Dr. Murphy reported that amid all the change and challenges of 2017, Trinity Presbytery, together, was able to accomplish many great things. Dr. Murphy's full report may be found [here](#).
- The **Reverend Dr. Chris Denny** shared with Presbytery an exciting opportunity which Dr. Murphy alluded to in his annual report. Trinity Presbytery has been invited to participate in a two-year pilot program, *Revitalization Initiative*, created by the Office of Vital Congregations of OGA. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill, Associate for Vital Congregations, Theology, Formation & Evangelism, is working with five presbyteries participating in the program. So far, 15 of our congregations have signed up to participate. Dr. Denny and Dr. Phyllis Sanders, Ruling Elder from our Northminster congregation, have received training as facilitators. Dr. Denny asked Presbytery not to focus on the word *revitalization*, but to focus on the word *vital*. He asked Presbytery to consider how we might discern where God is at work in Trinity Presbytery and how we might be strengthened to become a vital, Acts, Chapter 2, kind of Church.
- The **Reverend Dr. David Torrey, Stated Clerk**, informed Presbytery of some events and workshops being offered in the near future. Please contact the Presbytery office for additional information.

Active Shooter Preparation Workshop (led by S.L.E.D. personnel)

Thursday, March 8th, 6:30 –8:30 p.m. Westminster Church, Columbia

Thursday, March 22nd, 6:30-8:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood

Session Training (led by Dr. Torrey and Ruling Elder Jim Rowell)

Saturday, February 17, 8:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m., Calvary Church, Winnsboro

Cluster Gathering/Training for Clerks of Sessions

Plans are in the works for cluster gatherings of Clerks of Session. These gatherings would be opportunities for Clerks to get acquainted with other Clerks in their regions and share information, and possibly review session records. Date(s) to be determined .

- **Ruling Elder Diane Hamrick, Moderator of Presbyterian Women (PW)**, reported the new Trinity PW website is up and running: www.pwtrinity.com. The 2018 Trinity PW Annual Gathering will be held March 10, 2018, at First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood. The Reverend Dr. Jeri Paris Perkins will lead the worship service and the Bible Study workshop. The Church-wide Gathering of PW will be August 2-5, 2018, in Louisville, Kentucky. Ruling Elder Hamrick is ending her term as Moderator. She introduced Ruling Elder Mozella White from our Northminster Church, who will be installed as PW Moderator at the gathering in March.
- The **Reverend Dr. Ben Sloan** presented an [Overture from Shenango Presbytery](#), which concerns our Trinity South Sudan Ministry; it was adopted. Dr. Sloan reported that a group of volunteers, including two nurses, a specialist, and a farmer, will be leaving the United States on February 14th to travel to a Sudanese refugee camp in Kenya.

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- **Under business of the Commission on Ministry, the following actions were taken:**

Terms of Call and Installation Commissions were approved for

The Reverend Jana L. Creighton, Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church,

The Reverend Rob Cely, Jr., Cherokee Presbyterian Church, and

The +Reverend Rebekah Carpenter, Sion Presbyterian Church

+pending ordination in Greater Atlanta Presbytery later this month.

- **Mr. Croskeys Royall**, Moderator of the Disciple Networking Team, announced that Mrs. Andrea Paschal, Certified Christian Educator at our Forest Lake Church, has received training at the annual educator's training event, APCE, and is Trinity Presbytery's POINT person for resources.
- **Ruling Elder Gloria Graham Boyd**, Moderator of the Synod of the South Atlantic, encouraged congregations to visit the Synod's website for grants and scholarships available. Elder Graham reported that the 2018 Synod meeting will be at Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church in Columbia on April 19th and 20th. The registration page will be open on the Synod's website on March 1st. All are invited to attend.
- The **Reverend Dr. Franklin Fant** from Presbyterian Communities of SC (PCSC) updated Presbytery on several exciting things happening at PCSC. This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the opening of the first Presbyterian community in Summerville and PCSC is working on an initiative to prepare for the future: The 2nd Sixty Initiative for Planned Giving. PCSC recently acquired the Laurel Crest Retirement Community in West Columbia, which was built by First Presbyterian Church in Columbia after they departed from the denomination in the early 1980's. Dr. Fant, on behalf of PCSC, expressed gratitude to all of our churches for sending volunteers to serve at the communities, for including PCSC in their mission budget, and for collecting the Mother's Day offering. Dr. Fant reminded Presbytery that PCSC is "ours," and it is local.

The next Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018, at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greenwood, convening at 9:30 a.m.