



CALVIN CHATTER

Serving Christ & Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester since 1800

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Virginia

Vol. 42, No. 7

July/August 2011

www.firstchurch-winchester.org

Thank You for Drinking Coffee!



Editors' note: As Dan McCoig recently announced from the pulpit, First Church-Winchester drinks, or at least buys, more Equal Exchange coffee (and other products) than any other Presbyterian congregation in the country. We recently received this letter and a certificate of

appreciation in recognition of our support of this project. Thanks to all the volunteers who help sell the products on Sunday morning during our coffee time, and especially thanks to those who have made Equal Exchange coffee, tea and snacks part of their daily routine, this is one way we are able to serve Christ and neighbor beyond Winchester.

June 27, 2011

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Congratulations! Your church is one of 25 Presbyterian congregations out of nearly 1,400 across the country that purchased the highest volume of Equal Exchange fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate, and snacks through the Presbyterian Coffee Project in 2010. Enclosed please accept a small token of our gratitude, a Certificate of Appreciation which recognizes your congregation's commitment to Fair Trade. The awarding of such certificates is one way we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Presbyterian Coffee Project this year. By means of carbon copy on this email we are also notifying your presbytery as a way of celebrating

more widely the church's accomplishments in Fair Trade.

The total of all Equal Exchange fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate, and snacks purchased by Presbyterians in 2010 was 145,187 lbs (or 73 tons). Over the past decade, Presbyterian congregations purchased 1,154,275 lbs. (or 577 tons) of fairly traded products. This is a tremendous accomplishment for which we are deeply thankful. By supporting Fair Trade your congregation has helped small farmers to stay on their land, plan for the future, and care for the environment. Your continuing participation demonstrates that together Presbyterians can make a significant difference in alleviating hunger, eliminating its causes and creating a greener and more just food system. Your actions strengthen the Fair Trade movement for small farmers around the world and provide a model of alternative trade for faith based groups.

On behalf of the farmer co-operatives, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Equal Exchange, we thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to help reduce hunger and poverty for small farmers. By working together we make each other stronger.

Yours in faith,

Melanie Hardison
Presbyterian Hunger
Program
Susan Sklar
Equal Exchange



A church wide letter concerning the new Form of Government

June 7, 2011

Louisville

To congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

While it is not official until the Office of the General Assembly receives notification from presbyteries that have voted, it appears that, as of June 7, 2011, the proposed new Form of Government (FOG) has been approved by a majority of our 173 presbyteries.

The new FOG will replace the current version within the *Book of Order* of the church's *Constitution* on July 10, 2011, one year after the adjournment of the 219th General Assembly (2010). The print edition of the new *Book of Order* will be available by late July.

The new Form of Government at its core

A new section, Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, which contains the vast majority of the first four chapters of the current FOG, will also be added to the beginning of the *Book of Order*. Within it are these words:

In the power of the Spirit, Jesus Christ draws worshiping communities and individual believers into the sovereign activity of the triune God at all times and places. As the Church seeks reform and fresh direction, it looks to Jesus Christ who goes ahead of us and calls us to follow him. (F-1.0401)

The foundational message of the saving love of God through Jesus Christ is timeless. The writer of Hebrews reminds us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (13:8). And yet, when the Spirit has moved the church to respond to "the sovereign activity of the triune God," the church has, in turn, worked to reshape itself to do so effectively.

While the new Form of Government will help the PC (USA) to be a faithful and responsive church in the 21st century, it also has a dimension of bringing us back to a truly constitutional document that contains broad governing and theological principles and emphasizes function over structure.

What will change?

Many Presbyterians will see nothing suddenly or dramatically different with a new Form of Government. Worship services will go on as usual, and congregations will continue to teach the faith, serve their communities, reach out to those in need, and work to further God's realm on earth. However, what will be different is that congregations, presbyteries, and synods will have the opportunity to tailor mission and ministry to fit their own particular contexts and challenges.

The new FOG will also usher in changes in terminology. For example, ministers of the Word and Sacrament will be known as *teaching elders*, partnering in ministry with *ruling elders* who serve on the congregation's *council* (session).

It is a season of much change in the church, and change is often accompanied by anxiety. Making the transition from the current Form of Government to the new one will take time, patience, and grace. We will all be living gradually into these new dimensions of the church's governance. We commend to you the resources and guides at <http://oga.pcusa.org/formofgovernment> for assistance. Further resources will be made available over the course of the summer to help with this transition.

The best resources through this transition, however, will be each other. A new Form of Government puts all of us on the same page, as it were. Through conversation, cooperation, and collaboration, we will discover the most effective ways to move forward into this new and exciting chapter of the life of the church.

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In the end, as affirmed in the Confession of 1967, “The church ... orders its life as an institution with a constitution, government, officers, finances, and administrative rules. These are instruments of mission, not ends in themselves” (9.40). The mission remains the same: to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed, and to work for the reconciliation of the world. With God’s help, may this new Form of Government enable us to be ever more faithful to that mission.

In Christ,

Cindy Bolbach

Moderator of the 219th General Assembly (2010)

Gradye Parsons

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Linda Valentine

Executive Director, General Assembly Mission Council

Landon Whitsitt

Vice Moderator of the 219th General Assembly (2010)



All but one PC (USA) constitutional amendment headed for approval

Belhar Confession falls short of required two-thirds majority of presbyteries

June 23, 2011

Office of the General Assembly: **Sharon Youngs**, Communications Coordinator, Louisville

As the season of voting on constitutional amendments nears an end, it appears that all but one of the 17 amendments under consideration

have been approved by a majority of presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The only amendment that cannot garner enough votes for approval by the cutoff date of July 10 – one year after the adjournment of the 219th General Assembly (2010) – is the addition of the Belhar Confession to *The Book of Confessions* of the PC (USA).

In its report to the General Assembly last year, the Special Committee on the Belhar Confession, created by the 218th General Assembly (2008), recommended the addition of the confession to *The Book of Confessions*. Last year’s assembly approved the recommendation by a more than three-to-one margin.

While amendments to the *Book of Order* need approval by 87 of the 173 presbyteries of the PC(USA) to become part of the church’s Constitution, confessional documents require a two-thirds majority vote, or 116 presbyteries, as well as approval by the next General Assembly.

The Belhar Confession, drafted in 1982 by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church of South Africa with a theme of reconciliation, has received approval by more than half, but not the required two-thirds, of presbyteries.

In reflecting on the failure of the confession to receive enough votes for adoption, General Assembly Stated Clerk **Gradye Parsons** said, “The Belhar Confession is rooted in the issue of racism, which we still struggle with nearly thirty years after it was written. I think our engagement with this confession will continue to bear fruit as the church seeks to witness to God’s call for justice and reconciliation.”

The Reverend **John Wilkinson**, pastor of Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, N.Y., and the moderator of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, noted that Belhar might not have received sufficient attention in a year when presbyteries were engaged in several substantive discussions around constitutional amendments. But he thinks presbyters still took the matter seriously.

Wilkinson said, “I read account after account of discussions that highlighted several consistent themes, including our nature as a confessional

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church and the need to explore that identity more deeply, and the connection between a creed from another Reformed body in another era and our contemporary moment.”

The Reverend **Carroll Jenkins**, interim pastor of Cedar Park Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, expressed concern that the confession did not pass. A former chairperson of the General Assembly Advocacy Committee on Racial Ethnic Concerns, Jenkins said, “The vote is an indication to me of how much more education is needed and how far we have yet to go in understanding and dealing with the international impact of racism and racial differences.”

Jenkins continued, “The world today in which the PC(USA) finds itself has much different dynamics—politically, socially, economically and more—from our last 300 years of Presbyterian history. The church needs to help people look at not only how the world is wrestling with this issue, but at who we are and our role in the world. Hope-fully, the Belhar Confession will still be an important educational and developmental tool for us.”

“Belhar points to the unity of the church in the midst of true injustice, a message that we in the PC(USA) need to hear,” remarked the Reverend **Charles Wiley**, coordinator of the Office of Theology and Worship of the General Assembly Mission Council. “Even though Belhar will not become part of *The Book of Confessions*, we can and should continue to engage with its central affirmations as a confirmation of and challenge to our faith.”

Wiley pointed to a new resource that will help congregations continue their engagement of the confession. *The Belhar Confession*, a small-group study written by **Cynthia Holder Rich**, is the latest in the Being Reformed series published by Congregational Ministries Publishing.

Parsons concluded, “There are times when our faith is deepened and the church’s witness is

strengthened by our discussions and debates, regardless of the outcome of the voting. This is one of those times.”

HVAC Renovations

By Brent Miller

The HVAC Committee (**Brent Miller, Wayne Patteson, and Joe Kalbach**) and the Facilities Council would like to update everyone on the status of the HVAC renovations. Remember, this is the heating and air conditioning systems in the old part of the building (Sanctuary, Loudoun Hall, offices, Library, Chapel, and Weekday School etc.). To date, we have received the mechanical design of the system (from **Alan Johnston** of FHC Engineering), assembled a bid package, and solicited bids from five mechanical contractors and two electrical contractors. Based on the bids received, specifically the time required to perform the work, we will be unable to do it this year. We will have to keep using our present systems until they can be replaced next summer. By going through the bid process this year, we have been able to gain a better understanding of the total project cost. The cost should be between \$650,000 and \$900,000. Why such a range in cost? It depends on how much of the system we replace. The more we replace now, the less we will have to replace in the near future. Our plans for going forward are to obtain the necessary funding for this project, have the contractors re-price the project early next year, and commence work in May of 2012.

Recently, we have had to replace a pump motor in the boiler room; cost: \$650. In anticipation of this project moving forward, we have not repaired the leaks in the basement hallway ceiling; cost: \$7,500. If we repair these leaks now, the repairs would later be removed when the new systems are installed, resulting in a waste of resources.

That is but a brief overview of where we stand on this project. For further information contact any of the members of the HVAC Committee or Facilities Council, or Brent Miller: (540) 888-4200, brmiller@visuallink.com.



Interest Campaign Successful

By Kathy Wetsel & Diane Sinclair

We are excited to celebrate with you the success of the **INTEREST** campaign. God called us to speak to the congregation in March to ask your help in paying off the **INTEREST** on the building loans for this year. We needed \$49,000 to cover the cost of the 2011 **INTEREST** payments.

God spoke to others in our congregation as well. In less than two weeks through the generosity of members of this congregation we had gift promises that met our goal and went beyond! To date, we have gift promises totaling \$55,000; \$44,000 of which is already paid in full.

The goal was to secure the funds to pay off the **INTEREST** for one year so that for the year 2011, all other monies contributed to the Building Fund will go directly to reduce or better yet, eliminate the principal.

Simply stated, **we want to reduce or eliminate the outstanding debt owed on the building loans.** That remaining balance is about \$1.4 million.

Whether you had initial reservations about the building project or not, the kitchen and fellowship hall addition is here and it is being used regularly for various types of church and community outreach programs.

Just like any family, our congregational family must pay our bills and get rid of our debts. This includes the debt on the building loans.

Now is the time to act. Through the outpouring and response of members of our congregation the interest owed on these loans is paid for the year 2011. **Beginning immediately**, any money given to the building fund for the remainder of 2011 will go directly to pay off the principal of the loan and eliminate the debt. As the principal of the loan is reduced or better yet, PAID OFF, our

church and all of its programs will reap the benefits.

Any donation will **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**. \$1 will help. \$1 million would help more! If you were thinking of waiting until next year to contribute to the building fund, **don't wait**. With the interest paid for this year, your donation will directly lower the principal of the debt loan.

Throughout the remainder of the year give as much as you can to the building fund. We would love to announce at the end of December that the debt has been paid in full! Wouldn't that be a nice Christmas present to the church?

We praise God for his call to us and to others in the congregation. We thank our committee of Kris and Dave Goff, Mary Bruce and Phil Glaize, Anita Jenkins, Gar Sydnor and Chris and John Scully for their efforts.

We thank those who were moved to contribute. They have made a difference! So many members of our congregation have worked tirelessly to raise money for the building fund through various activities. Whether it's ham sandwiches, craft fairs, piano recitals, Godspell or other projects we are trying to pay off our debt. Won't you join us all in this exciting movement?



Summer Worship Schedule

July 3 through September 4

- ✝ 7:30 a.m. Boyd Chapel
- ✝ 8:30 a.m. New Stone Gathering in Fellowship Hall
- ✝ No Sunday School
- ✝ 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary

The regular worship schedule and Sunday School will resume on September 11



Old Stone Task Force Report

By Jenny Bousquet

At its May meeting, Session adopted the recommendations of the Old Stone Task Force report. The executive summary of the report, including four primary recommendations, is attached; the full report is available in the church office. In accordance with the report recommendations, a standing team has been formed to manage the use and maintenance of the Old Stone Church building. Chris Oldham will chair the team that also includes **Beverley Simpson, Brent Miller, Jenny Bousquet,** and **Rich Reifsnnyder** as staff liaison. The team seeks additional members who are interested in developing mission-related uses of the Old Stone Church building. The team plans to meet on an as-needed basis and do much of its work by email. If you have an interest in the Old Stone Church or would consider serving on the team, please contact Chris at ctoldham97@comcast.net or talk to any team member.

Executive Summary

The Old Stone Task Force was commissioned by First Presbyterian Church Session to study and make recommendations about how best to use the Old Stone Church property to further the Church's mission. Members of the task force consist of volunteers from among attendees at an informational/brainstorming meeting that was held in December 2011. Members include **Jenny Bousquet, Bob Lizer, Brent Miller, Chris Oldham, Tom Scully, Beverley Simpson,** and **Dave Thalman.**

The Task Force met biweekly from early January to early April 2011. Activities of the Task Force included the following:

- Collected information about the property's history, physical condition, current uses, and maintenance costs

- Gathered suggestions and recommendations from members of the congregation about potential uses for the property
- Developed guiding principles for the future of the property
- Evaluated suggestions and developed recommendations

Old Stone is currently being used by a group known as "Worshiping Without Walls." The Task Force finds this ministry, currently limited to Sunday mornings, to be vibrant and important for the small number of people participating in it. However, the ministry does not appear to have the potential to grow or to provide income to offset costs of maintaining the Old Stone facility. Costs to operate and maintain the building are running from \$4,300 to \$5,100 annually, not counting the cost of major repairs. In 2011, FPC replaced the roof at a cost of \$13,374. The building lacks air conditioning, and its heating system is aging and inefficient. To replace the furnace, install air conditioning, and make other repairs and upgrades that are needed to make the building comfortable and practical to use, the task force estimates that FPC would need to spend more than \$50,000.

The interior of the Old Stone Church was restored during the 1940s to appear much like it would have when it was first built. The interior layout is appropriate for traditional worship or meetings, but does not lend itself to many other potential uses. Nevertheless, it is the consensus of the Task Force that we should minimize any changes to the interior. Much of the appeal of the structure for the congregation and the community is tied to the style and beauty of the reconstructed interior. Largely out of sentimental attachment and an appreciation for the Old Stone Church as a historic treasure, Task Force members believe strongly that FPC should maintain ownership of Old Stone, provided we can find a way for the property to bring in income to cover the cost of maintenance.

The Task Force identified the following objectives which we believe should be considered with regard to Old Stone as long as FPC retains ownership of the property:

- It should be used to further the mission of FPC: Serving Christ and neighbor in the heart of Winchester and beyond.

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***CCAP Sunday
3rd Sunday
of each month***

August 21

"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. "

James 3:18

Four Cents-A-Meal Hunger Offering

***4th Sunday
of each month***

August 28



- Its use should generate sufficient financial support to cover or justify the costs of utilities and maintenance.
- The historical value as a religion-centered building should be preserved as long as Old Stone remains in FPC's hands.

After considering the viability of many potential uses for the facility, the Task Force presents the following recommendations for consideration by Session:

Recommendation 1: Session should create a standing “Old Stone Team” to manage Old Stone use and maintenance. This team should initially report to the Facilities Council, and include representatives from at least the Facilities, Ministry and Worship Councils, and have an assigned pastor liaison.

Recommendation 2: Session, via the Old Stone Team, should continue to pursue short-term rental uses for Old Stone, including religious and civil wedding ceremonies, until other longer-term uses are identified.

Recommendation 3: Session, via the Old Stone Team, should continue to investigate a long-term lease for the use of Old Stone that provides a useful service to our community (vis-à-vis the mission of FPC), and covers the cost of annual and long-term maintenance, including modifications.

Recommendation 4: The Task Force recommends that if no sustaining use for Old Stone is identified and realized after three years, Session should consider disposing of the building and adjacent properties.

We believe that either a combination of short-term rentals or a long-term lease of the facility has the potential to produce income to offset expenses of maintaining the Old Stone Church. The Task Force recommends actively seeking a partner or lessee and allowing up to three years for the use arrangement to demonstrate that it can be cost-effective. If justified by the level of use and apparent sustainability of a use for the building, we urge consideration of proceeding to make upgrades and repairs as outlined in the report. If neither of the recommended uses (or another that may be discovered) demonstrates viability within this time, we would regrettably recommend disposing of the property through sale.

Without making a recommendation, the Task Force has taken note of the possibility that there may be current or former church members who would be interested in supporting a fund to be used to maintain the Old Stone Church to help assure that FPC keeps the property.



Birth

May 31 Jillian Scott, daughter of Paige & Brian Lineweaver, granddaughter of Rita & Dickie Blackwell

Weddings

June 4 Matthew Snyder & Katharine Thompson

June 11 Matthew Crandell & Victoria Kamauff

June 12 Steven Plum & Katherine Schultz

July 23 Wesley Hillyard & Michele Ritner

In Memoriam, with Christian sympathy to the families

- May 29 Bob Pumphrey
May 30 father of Brad Hoover
June 10 Kathleen Smith, mother of Patsy Cress
June 24 Fred Anderson, Sr., father of Fred Anderson, Jr.
June 28 Lewis Pugh, father of Ellen Mason
June 28 mother of Diane Maza
July 13 Greyson Merrill, father of David Merrill

DEADLINE FOR THE September CALVIN CHATTER is August 12.

Send submissions to calvin.chatter@verizon.net.

CALVIN CHATTER

Winner of the annual Award for Publication Excellence (APEX) since 1998

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Produced and published monthly (except July). Circulation 750.

Publisher: First Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Loudoun St., Winchester, VA 22601, Tel. 540-662-3824

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World Wide Web Home Page: <http://www.firstchurch-winchester.org>

Founded July 16, 1788; Organized September 7, 1800

Sunday Worship Services 7:30 a.m. (Boyd Chapel), 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

New Stone Gathering (Fellowship Hall), 8:30 a.m.

Coffee and Cookies 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Richard W. Reifsnyder

Associate Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Dan M. McCoig, Jr.

Associate Pastor: The Reverend Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Parish Associate: The Reverend Elizabeth Lewis

Children's Ministry Administrator: Stacey Iden

Minister of Music: Roger Callis

Director of Adult Handbell Choirs: Lynn Reifsnyder

Organist: Pat Byers

Music Leader for New Stone Gathering: David Merrill