



Presbytery of  
Greater  
Atlanta

*Together, we are Christ's Body*

# NEWS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

JUNE 25, 2005

## FALL LEADERSHIP EVENT AND SPECIAL YOUNG ADULT "PRE-EVENT"

—Forrest Palmer, Executive Associate Presbyter



Moderator Rick Ufford-Chase will be the keynote speaker for the 2005 three presbytery (Cherokee, Greater Atlanta and Northeast Georgia) Fall Leadership

Event, to be held Saturday, August 20 at Peachtree Presbyterian Church. This year's event will offer a choice of 24 morning workshops and 24 afternoon workshops, providing something for everyone! The target audience for this event is congregational leaders - teachers, officers, pastors, educators, Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Men and more.

Publicity materials are now out in print at the presbytery office, but we encourage you to go to our website and download the materials from

[http://presbyteryofgreateratl.org/events/fall\\_leadership.htm](http://presbyteryofgreateratl.org/events/fall_leadership.htm)

## SUMMER PRESBYTERY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

—Ed Albright, Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk

The summer meeting of Presbytery, held on Tuesday, June the 14<sup>th</sup> was hosted by the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church. This was the annual meeting that begins mid-afternoon and is completed in the early evening. The pastors, the session, and so many volunteers from the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian

Church did a wonderful job welcoming us as we arrived, providing their beautiful sanctuary in which to meet, and a delicious dinner. For the first time in at least 8 years the Presbytery completed all of its business and adjourned right at the mealtime. This was appreciated by all! The following items are highlights of this meeting:

### ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS!

A special "pre-event" will be held just for you to be with the Moderator! Moderator Rick Ufford-Chase loves being with young adults and college students, and a special barbeque cookout/party has been planned for you to be with the Moderator, Friday evening, August 19, from 7-11 p.m. at the home of Bert and Kaye Carmichael in Lithia Springs, GA. Registration and directions for this pre-event will be coming in July -- so get the word out! Come party with the Moderator!

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### ...MARK YOUR CALENDARS... UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETING DATES

SEP 17, 2005

9:30 a.m.

McDonough

Handbook deadline

Aug 18

Info-Pak deadline

Sep 6

PGA News deadline

Sep 19

DEC 6, 2005

St. Luke's, Dunwoody

MAR 4, 2006

North Avenue

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*(Meeting Highlights continued from page 1)*

- Southwest Atlanta Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission announced that the property has been sold for \$446,272 and after all of the expenses and repayment of loans the net proceeds consist of \$364,547. The Presbytery approved a recommendation that will give ½ of the funds to the New Church Development Commission to develop either an African American Presbyterian Church or a Multi-Cultural Presbyterian Church in the southwest quarter of the metro area outside I-285. The other ½ of the funds is given to the Congregation Ministry Team for Urban churches to apply for a one-time challenge-matching grant for capital repair and improvement of existing buildings.
- The Presbytery took a final action regarding an overture from the First Presbyterian Church of Griffin, which first came to the January 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 meeting of the Presbytery. The essence of the overture was requesting that the Presbytery dismiss the Committee on Inclusion. After many hearings and much discussion with mutual agreement by First Church Griffin & First Church Douglasville (which joined in the original overture) the following two actions were approved: A.) Reorganization by the Committee on Inclusion, to clarify their mission regarding the inclusion of people who are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or transgender in the membership of the church. B.) The Committee on Inclusion will invite people from multiple perspectives to participate in their work for the purpose of expanding a dialogue concerning the congregations' efforts to be inclusive of those people who are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or transgender in the membership of the church.
- Presbytery approved a recommendation that the Executive Presbyter be given the authority to appoint an Executive Associate Presbyter from among the called Associates. Once this recommendation was approved by the Presbytery, Ed Albright, the Executive Presbyter, appointed Forrest Palmer as Executive Associate Presbyter in recognition of his long and faithful service to the Presbytery and in recognition that he is the acting Executive Presbyter when Ed is unavailable.
- The Presbytery welcomed and heard greetings from the Rev. Dr. Maqsood Kamil, the Executive Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan and professor at Gujranwala Theological Seminary. The Presbytery is just beginning to explore the possibility of creating a mission partnership with this denomination.
- The Presbytery received 4 new candidates and 9 new clergy into membership of the Presbytery. In another article in the newsletter there is a profile of all.
- Presbytery had a special order at 5:30 in the afternoon to commission the Small Church Youth Mission Trip which will be traveling to Washington, DC. Following the commissioning prayer the Presbytery received a surprise phone call, which was played throughout the sanctuary. It was from the Moderator of the General Assembly, expressing his special thanks to this group for this mission trip.
- Presbytery heard an announcement that the Hamilton Mill Presbyterian Church, which is our newest, has just received a Walton Grant from the PCUSA in the amount of \$50,000. This is a wonderful tribute to the church, Tom Bagley its pastor, and to the session.
- The Presbytery worshiped at the very beginning of this meeting, which was also the conclusion of an Evangelism Conference which had begun the previous evening. We were fortunate to hear the Rev. Dr. Tom Long, professor of homiletics at the Candler School of Theology, preach a sermon on the subject "Beautiful Feet" using Romans 10:14-17 as his text.
- The Presbytery heard presentations by John Marshall, the President of the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School and Elizabeth Coleman, area representative for Bread for the World.

## LOOK IT UP!

### PRESBYTERY WEB SITE—USEFUL RESOURCE FOR EVERYONE

Have you used the presbytery's Web site to read reports and stated meeting info? Find a church? Find an answer to a question? Learn how to get more involved?

Simply go to <http://presbyteryofgreateratl.org> and explore...you'll find many new features including: a searchable presbytery directory, networking forum, bulletin board, up-to-date supply list, and much more.