

February 2013

PRESBYTERY MEETING REFLECTION

By Sheppards & Lapsley Moderator, Neil McCarter

"A Letter from Christ" was the theme of this meeting.

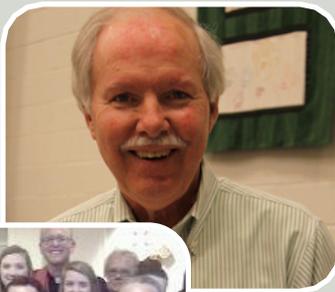
2 Corinthians 3:3 reads "...you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."

Commissioners experienced this letter upon arriving with the greetings expressed by those who were assisting with parking and who gave directions for entering the church where a lavish spread of refreshments awaited everyone.

More letters from Christ were experienced when:

- The Rev. Elizabeth O'Neill welcomed the commissioners to Immanuel and gave information needed by the group.
- Retiring Moderator Eva Carter conducted the installation service for Moderator Neil McCarter, Vice Moderator Coke Clark, and Stated Clerk Elizabeth Goodrich.
- Moderator Neil McCarter expressed appreciation by the Presbytery to Eva Carter for her leadership and service as Moderator by giving gifts.
- Commissioners worshipped together

Frank Covington, "Honorably Retired"



Will Christians ordination, Saturday, February 23, 2013



Eva Carter - Outgoing Moderator
Neil McCarter - Incoming Moderator

and heard Eva's sermon, "The Apostle Paul's Last Letter," which was based on 2 Corinthians 3:1-5. Eva challenged the commissioners to remember and live out the affirmation that we are all "letters from Christ" who witness to the Christ's love in our daily living.

- Jonathan Yarboro reported on the steps the Council has taken to help the Presbytery to move forward when there is no Executive Presbyter in place.
- The Presbytery favorably passed all the amendments to the Book of Order and also approved the revision of the Heidelberg Catechism.
- During the COM report, the Presbytery sustained the examination for ordination of William B. Christians and also approved the Commission for Ordination. The Ordination Service was to occur on February 23, 2013, at Southminster Presbyterian Church.
- The Presbytery conferred upon the Rev. Frank Covington the status of "Honorably Retired" and commended him for his 40 years of service to the Church.
- The Presbytery approved the appointment of an administrative commission for the Westminster Church in Montgomery to enable that Body of Christ to continue its witness

to being "letters from Christ."

- Rick Atkerson, Susan Haskell, and Leeann Scarbrough were commissioned to service as Ordination Examination Readers.
- The Presbytery remembered its ministry of helping to articulate "letters from Christ" in the Nurture Division's youth retreats, summer camps, and the forthcoming retreat for those persons serving small churches.
- The Presbytery celebrated the continuing ministries of the Development and Mission divisions.
- The persons nominated by the Nominating Committee were approved for service on the various divisions and committees of the Presbytery.
- Keener Hudson informed the body that the Board of Living River had decided to proceed with plans for construction of several buildings at Living River.
- The Rev. Lou Ann Sellers offered the closing prayer lifting up to God the concerns and needs which had been expressed during the course of the meeting. Her prayer included petitions for God's support and healing for Leola Smith, Harold Knox and Bette Waters.

Respectfully submitted,
Moderator, Neil McCarter



Proposed Youth Cabin for upcoming construction at Living River