From the Senior Pastor’s Desk

By Freddy Fritz

The 43rd General Assembly Meets This Month

Last year at this time I wrote an article about the General Assembly that was about to take place in Houston, TX. I thought I would let you know again about this year’s General Assembly.

The 43rd General Assembly of our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America, meets June 9-12 in Chattanooga, TN. Pastor James and I plan to attend this assembly. For those of you new to our church, I thought I might give a brief description of our General Assembly.

Various “courts,” in regular gradation, govern our Church. These courts are church Sessions, Presbyteries, and the General Assembly. A Session governs a local church, a Presbytery governs a number of churches in a geographical region, and the General Assembly governs the entire denomination.

The term “General Assembly” may be understood in two ways. First, it may be understood as the highest court of our denomination, and is the visible expression of all the churches that are members of the Presbyterian Church in America. And second, it may be understood as the annual meeting of representative elders and churches of our denomination. This year’s meeting is being held in Chattanooga, TN.

All Teaching Elders (TE) (who are members in good standing with their Presbyteries) and Ruling Elders (RE) (who are elected by their Sessions) may attend the General Assembly. Voting privileges are granted to the TE and RE representatives who pay the commissioner registration fee, which is set annually by the General Assembly. In addition to Teaching and Ruling Elder commissioners, there are a number of visitors to each General Assembly, such as family members.
Special Events:
- June 6 - Missions Fund Car Wash
- June 21 - Father’s Day

and friends of commissioners, vendors, and representatives of various church and para-church ministries. There is a program of events for women as well as for children.

The schedule for the General Assembly varies from year to year depending upon the business of the Assembly. Although there are a number of principles that guide the organization of the General Assembly, the first (and I would say the most important) principle is that “the Church is responsible for carrying out the Great Commission” (BCO 14-1). In a very real sense, everything that the General Assembly does relates to the Great Commission. It does not appear that this year’s docket is very full, but there are often important matters that are discussed at the General Assembly. I shall report on those upon my return.

More information about the 43rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America may be found at: http://www.pcaac.org/general-assembly/. Live broadcasts of the various sessions are often available at the above website too.

Please pray for this year’s General Assembly that the Lord will glorify himself and continue to build the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thoughts from the Associate Pastor
By Rev. James Nichols
You’re Welcome

We as a church have often been called a friendly church. This is a wonderful thing for people to say and is indicative of a great attitude that we have towards new visitors. However, it is important that we do not rest on our past compliments and that we continue to seek after excellence in being welcoming. Some of you may have noticed that the title of this article is not the typical formula of the phrase to emphasize that our goal is to welcome others. You may not realize this, but the ministries of greeters, welcome table, ushers and welcoming are some of the most important that happen for visitors. Studies show that people make a decision about a church within the first 7 minutes of arriving. That means that usually before the first song, and for sure before the sermon, people have decided whether or not they like a church. Therefore the ways that we treat visitors are important for not only helping them to feel comfortable and welcome, but also as a way to show the love of Christ.

To this end, we want to look for ways to be even better at welcoming and getting to know people who are visiting. Every week after worship, I seek out people who are visiting with the goal of asking questions and welcoming them, but I can only reach so many people each week and many times I only get to talk to one or two families or individuals. Therefore, I would like to ask for your help in welcoming people. It is not as hard as it sounds, and I will even help you with some questions later in this article, but I want to make sure that all of us are looking for opportunities to show Christ’s love to all who walk through
our doors. I have asked the elders to talk to their shepherding groups about welcoming regularly, but you don’t have to do it just once, you can do it anytime that you see a visitor.

One of the scariest things of greeting new people is the fear of saying something wrong or not saying enough. Thom Rainer, an author who often talks about helping churches understand visitors, has two sets of lists: one of things to say and one of things not to say. I will pull from these lists for the rest of the article. These are not rules or laws, but should be thought about when pondering how to approach visitors. First, let's look at some of the things that we should say.

When people visit us, one of the best things we can say is “Thank you for being here.” We are thankful that they have come and pray that the Spirit will move in their lives. By saying “thank you” we are showing appreciation and love. Another thing, which might be difficult for some, is “Here, have my seat.” This is a wonderful way to show love and to say that they are more important than we are. This saying reminds me of Christ’s teaching that we should seek the humblest seat. Think about whether you would be willing to move so that a new visitor might be able to sit. Finally, if you can, invite people to lunch after church. This doesn’t have to be a weekly thing, but if you connect with a visitor or visiting family, saying “would you join me/us for lunch?” is a wonderful way to show love and a great opportunity to show and speak more of the gospel message with them. We should seek to do this, if the opportunity arrives, at least a few times a year.

Now for some of the things that we should avoid saying. These are sayings that can drive people away from a church because they feel offended or unloved. As an opposite to giving up our seat, we should never say to someone “that’s my seat.” Rainer says that one time when he was a guest preacher, a woman told him that he was in her seat and told him to move. How embarrassing to say that to anyone, but especially to find out that you have kicked the guest preacher out of his seat. Let’s seek to be sacrificial in our seating. Another question that send the wrong impression is if we ask “is your husband/wife here?” This can be a genuine question with the intention of showing love towards family, but instead can convey that we do not like single people or that families are more valuable to us. Along these same lines is the question “are those your children?” This can be offensive, particularly if there are families with adopted children. Let the visitors introduce their families.

Finally, the last one is both something said as well as done. People will make visitors climb over people to get to empty seats. Please, please, please try to move to the middle of the row when you get to worship so that no one has to climb over anyone. It is awkward for everyone involved and shows a sense of selfishness in that you are so attached to your seat that you are unwilling to move. Remember, you can be uncomfortable for a week or two in order to show Christ’s love and to allow people to worship the true and living God. It is important that we do everything within our power to not only welcome people
By His Grace/For His Glory – Phase II of our Expansion

By Earl Myers

As we enter into the second phase of our Capital Stewardship Campaign, I feel compelled to comment on the approach we are taking to pay down the debt that we have incurred by means of a bank loan. While not dissimilar to the pledge drive of our initial FHG/BHG campaign, its receptiveness may be somewhat less dramatic.

Now that the actual expansion nears completion, some may feel less inclined to participate, having fulfilled their pledge obligation in May of this year. However, it became apparent that even though our pledged giving was substantially exceeded, it was far short of the amount needed to complete the project, hence the necessity of a loan to bridge the difference. We can debate the whys and wherefores of underestimating the total cost of the West Wing expansion, but the fact remains that we have assumed a financial obligation.

We find in II Corinthians, chapters 8 and 9, unquestionably the most extensive and detailed passage in the New Testament on giving, that Paul admonishes the Corinthians, using the churches in Macedonia as an example, to fulfill their pledge to assist the poor in Jerusalem. He addresses key questions concerning their giving, namely, who should give? In what spirit should they give? How much they should give? Why giving is so important?

These are questions that each of us should be asking ourselves. The answers are essential to our church’s spiritual and financial wellbeing. As the old bromide states, “We can’t take it with us, but we can send it on ahead." Thankfully, God does not put us under the law as he did in the Old Testament. After all, the total tithes well exceeded 20%, and most do not even approach that standard. However, God does want our giving to be a grace, a passion, and a desire to share of our abundance. It should be a joyful and rewarding Christian experience, honoring to God and to those who will be the recipients of our monetary sacrifice.

who come through our doors, but to make sure that nothing hinders their worship of the Lord either.

These phrases are just a few suggestions to help you think about the ways that we can serve those who visit us. Please consider looking for visitors both before and after worship and figuring out ways that you can serve them well. This ranges from talking to them, to offering your seat, and inviting them to lunch. By doing these things, we will truly be the hands and feet of the Lord as we seek his glory in welcome and worship. God bless!
Missionaries Supported by TBPC

*Mission to the World*
Peter & Lauren Dishman
Essie & Natacha Etienne
Ken & Tammie Matlack
Carla Stevens

*Reformed University Fellowship*
Jeff & Jenny Lee

*New Harvest Missions International*
Nathaniel & Cherita Adawonu

*Serving In Missions*
Rene & Lili Palacio

*Wycliffe Bible Translators*
Don & Judy Vander Ploeg
Kevin & Gertrude Nicholas

*Ven Con Nosotros Church*
Dr. Oscar & Elizabeth Alvarez

*PRCC*
Chaplain Ted Hamm
Chaplain James Cochell

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**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

2- Mr. & Mrs. John McNulty, Jr.
10- Mr. & Mrs. Eric Isaac
14- Mr. & Mrs. Bert Barber
15- Mr. & Mrs. Garry Gawrych
16- Mr. & Mrs. James Barber 23- Mr. & Mrs. Weir
19- Mr. & Mrs. Ed Jordan 26- Mr. & Mrs. Bob Moore

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

1- Rick Donaldson 19- Rachel Bailey
1- Drew Jeffries 19- Debi Hensley
1- Grace Lever 19- Ed Jordan
1- Noah Winkler 19- Bill Neal
4- Peyton Egbert 20- Ted Jeffries
5- Aidan Winkler 24- Pierce Atkinson
6- Joseph Andel 25- Jenni Turpen
7- Jeanne Higby 27- Javier Lugo
7- Kevin Nobles 28- Ricky Phillips
9- Joshua Andel 29- Martine Extermann
11- Sandy Neal 29- Eric Isaac
13- Kim Semeniuk 29- Art Vanderburg
16- Patty Lugo 30- Landon Smith
Thank you

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Assure 14:6 Connection Pregnancy Care collection. The clothing, diapers, baby equipment, and money will bring knowledge of the Gospel to struggling moms as well as assisting them in caring for their babies. Please keep these moms in your prayers.

Thank you to Joan Kosanovich who has agreed to be a prayer coordinator. WM has not had a designated a prayer coordinator in the past, so this is a wonderful addition to our ministry. Joan will pray regularly for our two military chaplains, Ted Hamm and James Cochell, as well as WM needs.

June Event

WM will be gathering at the Tilted Teacup tea room in Brooksville on Saturday, June 13th at 10:30 for a luncheon. The menu information and a sign up sheet are posted on the WM bulletin board. If you are interested, please sign up. We will decide on car pooling arrangements as the date draws near.

WM Need

Ginny Bremer has announced that she wishes to step down from the position of WM coordinator. She plans to continue in her position until a new coordinator can be found and mentored until she is comfortable in taking over, or until June of 2016. In addition, we continue to seek a shower coordinator and a coordinator for the 2015 Christmas Brunch. Please prayerfully consider taking on the Lord’s work in one of these positions. If you have any questions about the actual duties of any of the positions you can contact Ginny directly. Keep in mind that several ladies can co-chair a coordinator position.

Looking Ahead

There will be no planned events in July. Take this opportunity to get involved in the VBS week. Or, you may take some of your leisure summer time to get together with your prayer partner for Christian love and prayer.

Our next Sister to Sister will be on August 8th at the home of Jeanne Higby. More information will be available on the WM bulletin board and in the July Trumpet.

Our next WM 15 will be on June 14th. Please join us to share ideas and help plan future events.
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<td>6 7:45a Men's Bible Study; 9a Summer Missions Fund Car Wash</td>
<td>7 8:45 Adult CEF, Youth &amp; Children's Sunday School, CE&amp;F; 10:30a Worship Service; 5p PHOS Youth Meeting</td>
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<td>9 9a NTCA Board Meeting</td>
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The Sunday Schedule

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<td>8:45 AM</td>
<td>Classroom Wing</td>
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<td>Christian Education &amp; Fellowship for Adults</td>
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