

**OUTREACH DIVISION
October 21-22, 2011**

HUNGER COMMITTEE

At its May 7 meeting, the Hunger Committee recommended funding the following spring Nickel-a-Meal Grant recipients, and Coordinating Council approved. The checks were presented by Hunger Committee members during worship services at the sponsoring congregation.

- \$3,000 Homeward Bound's A HOPE Day Center (Sponsored by Grace Covenant)
- \$2,250 Pay-It-Forward Food Pantry (Sponsored by Fairview)
- \$1,000 Interfaith Assistance Ministry Food Pantry (Sponsored by Hendersonville First)
- \$2,250 Carenet Back Pack Program & Soup Kitchen (Sponsored by Franklin First)
- \$3,000 Angel Food Y.U.M.M (Sponsored by Waldensian)
- \$2,250 Waldensian Presbyterian Assistance Ministry (Sponsored by Waldensian)
- \$1,000 IFA/Cleveland County Rescue Mission (Sponsored by Shelby)
- \$2,250 Pack-a-Bag Program/Shuford Elementary School (Sponsored by New Vision)

At its July 19 meeting, the Hunger Committee decided to offer Reclaiming Christmas Cards that support Nkhoma Hospital (Malawi), Ebenezer School (Malawi), Children's Scholarships (Guatemala), Theological Fund (Guatemala), and PWNC Seminary Students. These cards will be on sale at the October Presbytery meeting, posted on the Presbytery website, and order forms will be emailed out. In addition, the committee received approval from Council for the Ten Thousand Villages store "A Unique Gift" to sell fair trade food items on Friday afternoon at the October Presbytery meeting, as a way of raising awareness about alternative Christmas giving.

In August, the committee sponsored a workshop at the Let's Celebrate Event entitled, "Seeds and Roots: The Community Garden", co-taught by David Horne and Buzz Durham. And, on October 9, the committee helped support the Jacob's Join Hunger event at Morganton FPC, featuring Bryan McFarland.

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

This past Spring, the Peace & Justice Committee allocated twelve Peacemaking Offering Grants to churches using funds from the 2010 Peacemaking Offering. The grants were for program/projects that encouraged peacemaking. This worked so well that the committee decided at its June 22 meeting to repeat the process this coming year. So, the Presbytery's portion of the 2011 Peacemaking Offering will be used to fund small grants of at least \$250 to churches that are working in concrete ways toward peacemaking in the community or the world. The grant form is in the attachment of this packet, but paper copies will be available in the display room at the October Presbytery meeting and will also be emailed in November. The deadline for requests is December 31, 2011, and the form simply asks for contact information, a paragraph description of the request, and that recipients provide a picture and update by September 2012.

Also at its June meeting, the committee requested (and then received) approval from Coordinating Council to sell Zatoun Fair Trade Olive Oil from Palestine on the Friday afternoon of the October Presbytery meeting, to raise awareness of alternative Christmas giving. The Committee also approved \$500 to help support the PCUSA National Multi-Cultural Conference taking place in Charlotte April 26-29, 2012. The conference is being sponsored by the presbyteries in NC and the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

In conjunction with the Guatemala Partnership, the committee hosted PCUSA International Peacemakers Karla Koll and Juana Herlinda Yac Salanic (Guatemala) the week of September 23-29. They spoke at the Presbytery's Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering at Waldensian, Waldensian Presbyterian Church, Iglesia Emanuel, Gastonia FPC, Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, and Asheville FPC.

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee budget helped scholarship three people to attend the August 11-14 Malawi Mission Network gathering in Austin, Texas: Dorothy McKenzie (who led a workshop) and Steve and Jane Hansel (Swannanoa FPC). Grace Boyer (staff and steering committee member) also attended. Speakers included Mission Co-workers Frank Dimmock and Jim McGill, PCUSA staff Debbie Braaksma and Gail Bingham, The Deputy Moderator of Blantyre Synod, Rev. Mercy Chilapula, and presenters from University of Livingstonia, Marion Medical Missions, Africa Bags, Medical Benevolence Foundation and other agencies. Classes on a wide variety of topics were offered, such as new medical trends, culture, and Chichewa language. The next gathering will be August 23-26, 2012 in Colorado. You can see pictures from the 2011 gathering, and find out more information about the 2012 gathering at www.malawinetwork.org.

The Presbytery Shower Trailer was requested by the Presbytery of New Hope (NC) for Hurricane Irene relief work and was made ready to send. But after conversation between the Presbytery of New Hope and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, our trailer was requested instead to be sent to Pennsylvania for immediate flood relief work, and PDA will send another trailer from Arkansas to New Hope when that Presbytery's PDA camp is ready to receive it.

The following letters were received by the Mission Committee from Tricia Thompson, Jessi Stitt and Barbara Nagy.

Tricia Thompson, a member of Lincolnton First Presbyterian Church, is a PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer in Kenya 2011-2012. She sent the following thank you note. If your church would like to support Tricia, you can designate your check for "E210302 Tricia Thompson YAV Kenya" and send it through the Presbytery office.

*To the Members of the Mission Committee,
I cannot thank you enough for supporting me while I fundraise for a year of YAV service in Kenya. I know this coming year will be filled with challenges and a new and exciting faith journey, but having the support of the Presbyterian Church family means so much to me. Again, thank you so much for your time, prayers, and support. I am constantly amazed at how blessed I am to be a part of such a wonderful organization.*

*Sincerely,
Tricia Thompson*

Jessi Stitt is a member of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, and is volunteering with Nkhoma Synod to create a youth and young women's ministry. She sent the following thank you note. Funds to support Jessi can be sent to Black Mountain Presbyterian Church.

Mulungu dwa bwino! (God is good!)

Nthawi Zonse! (All the time!)

Zikomo Kwambiri (Thank you very much) for supporting me in Malawi. I am constantly learning new things (as most do in new and different cultures), been attending youth trainings, working on my Chichewa, helping at the Hospital and trying to get rid of some bees that have taken residence in the roof of the cottage (where I'm living). Tsalani Bwino (Stay well)!

Peace,

Jessi Stitt

Dr. Barbara Nagy, Mission Co-worker in Nkhoma, Malawi, sent the following thank you note and then a prayer letter.

Dear Presbytery of Western NC Mission Committee,

Going through a list of supporters, I am reminded of your constant prayer, concern, visiting/encouragement and very meaningful gifts that have time and again enabled us, in tough corners, to continue our work. The new surgical ward and burn center have just opened and were filled to overflowing by the next day. We had nearly 9,000 admissions to the pediatric ward alone last year, and a 2% mortality rate as opposed to the Malawi government target of 7%. Outreach clinics are extending the reach of the health system to many that have struggled to have any services at all, and we are working on a school based healthcare program that we hope will help keep kids well enough to learn in school. Your help has contributed to all of this, and we are deeply grateful.

Blessings and Love,

Barbara Nagy and girls

August 2011

Dear Friends,

Greetings from New Jersey, where we are finishing up a family visit with entertainment from Hurricane Irene, which has delayed our departure back to Malawi. We now depart on Sept 1st and wanted to give you an update about Nkhoma prior to departing.

We continue to be extremely busy at Nkhoma Hospital, having cared for over 17,000 inpatients and 45,000 outpatients at the hospital in the past year, and over 4,000 inpatients and 84,000 outpatients at our health centers during that same period. 8,500 new mothers had access to lifesaving prenatal care, and thanks to better delivery and newborn care techniques, many more babies left the hospital alive and well. Almost 60,000 people had homes sprayed for malaria mosquitos thanks to a grant by PCUSA, resulting in a 75% drop in malaria in communities tested and a 10% increase in hemoglobin among children in those same areas, a vital factor for kids doing well at school. What do these numbers mean in more human terms? A mother who has lost eight previous children has left the hospital with a healthy newborn. Kids that have had strokes and severe brain damage or death have siblings that have escaped severe malaria, and communities are very grateful for the help they have received. Many that have severe malaria have left the hospital well as a result of a critical care program that has provided training and equipment to our wards and stocked a new pediatric emergency room. Many

malnourished children have received food aid, enabling us to better assess their home needs and make diagnoses of hard to prove illnesses, like tuberculosis. An eleven year old boy who had been unconscious on the pediatric ward for over two weeks returns robust and the picture of good health after two months on TB therapy. New ties with the Malawi College of Medicine enable us to offer diagnosis and some treatment for children with severe heart disease. The HIV/AIDS department has continued to improve its capabilities, enabling diagnosis of young children with HIV in time to start life saving anti-HIV medicines, as well as keeping parents alive and well to care for their families.

We face daily challenges, as Malawi enters a time of even more severe financial constraint and many of our patients' admissions supposedly funded by Malawi government, have to be carried by overseas donations. Foreign exchange, needed for buying medicines and purchasing fuel to run ambulances, has become very scarce. With the continued electrical outages we are experiencing, there is risk of patients on oxygen or needing emergency surgery dying as a result of no fuel to run backup generators, and our small generator has proven too limited to run all areas of the expanding hospital. Malawi has become politically troubled as well, with many donor nations withdrawing aid over human rights issues, and mass demonstrations planned. These severe disruptions could lead to despair over the ability of Nkhoma Hospital to remain open and serve patients. We continue to lift our needs up to the Lord, who has sustained us through numerous disasters over the past years, and ask you also pray for us. Donations are particularly needed for patient care needs unable to be supplied by Malawi government, and for a larger generator.

*With gratitude for all who have prayed for and supported us,
Barbara Nagy and family*

**News from
GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP
October 21-22, 2011**

The following persons will be a part of the **November 14 – 22 trip to Guatemala**. Please pray for these people, their families, as well as sisters and brothers they will be visiting in Guatemala.

Delegation –

Kathy Campbell – Leader	Crossnore
Deborah Anne Garrison	Crossnore
Ben Garris	Banner Elk
Will Garris	Banner Elk
Martha Myers	Fairview
Jenny Vial	Asheville, First
Kim Sluder	New Hope, Asheville
Sarah Maveety	New Hope, Asheville
Allen Burdett	Saluda
Betsy Burdett	Saluda
Gladys Ross	Quaker Meadows

Health Committee -

Doug Michael	Newton, First
Buzz Durham	Grace Covenant
Martha Garris	Banner Elk

Executive Committee -

Randall Boggs	Mills River
Judy Nebrig	Brevard Davidson River
Barbara Hosbein	Banner Elk
Hannah Washburn	Banner Elk
Mimi Michael	Newton, First
Ellen Dozier	PWNC

Partner churches in WNC are reminded to **bring correspondence** for their sister churches in Guatemala to the Presbytery meeting.

The youth who were in Guatemala in July – Kayla Easler, Kit Cloninger, Katy Ireland, Mollie Westall and Hannah Washburn - have prepared a presentation about their trip and projects from each of youth groups in our partner presbyteries. They would like to make a presentation about their trip as well as encourage churches through their mission committees, church school classes, etc. to financially support these projects. If you would like a presentation in your church, please contact Hannah Washburn, han_wash@yahoo.com, 828 898 4558 (home) or 828 260 5885 (cell). You will be blessed by being in the presence of these young people!

The young people have created a Face Book group with participants from Western North Carolina, Sur Occidente and Suchitepéquez. Contact any of the young people on the July trip if you would like to be a part of this group.

Money for the **Children’s Scholarship program** needs to be sent to the Presbytery office by November 1, 2011 so that these funds can be taken to Guatemala on the November trip. Other churches in our Presbytery can participate in providing scholarships for children to attend school by purchasing “Reclaiming Christmas” cards, which will be available for sale at the October Presbytery meeting, as well as online.

Please check out our **web page**, http://www.presbyterywnc.org/content/mission_zone/guatemala/ which is a part of the Presbytery web page, www.presbyterywnc.org . On our web page, you can access information about the partnership, delegation trips, children’s scholarship program, current news and much more. Just click on anything [highlighted in blue](#).



OUTREACH DIVISION ATTACHMENT 1

PRESBYTERIAN PEACEMAKING OFFERING GRANT REQUEST FORM

The Peace and Justice Committee of the Presbytery of WNC is making small grants of at least \$250 to churches that are working in concrete ways toward peacemaking in the community or the world. Funds will come from the Presbytery's portion of the Peacemaking offering. Please provide a one or two paragraph description of your project/idea/proposal. **Deadline for requests is December 31, 2011.** The committee will begin making decisions at its January 2012 meeting. If your church is awarded a grant, you will be asked to provide a brief report (a paragraph is sufficient) and a picture by September 15, 2012.

NAME OF CHURCH:

CONTACT PERSON:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST:

Mail or email to:

Grace Boyer
114 Silver Creek Road
Morganton, NC 28655
gboyer@presbyterywnc.org