

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION REPORT TO PRESBYTERY October 25, 2016

The Third Forum by the African American Advisory Team was held August 20 at Third Street Presbyterian Church in Gastonia. Entitled “Rediscovering Joy in Leadership,” it was led by Eddie Deas, Hal Bennett, and Olanda Carr, and attended by representatives from six of our eight African American congregations.

The Evangelism Committee enthusiastically received the report from Michael McKee who recently attended the “Be the Light” Evangelism Conference in St. Petersburg, FL. They look forward to implementing some of the ideas that Michael picked up there. The Committee was also very much pleased to hear from Jim Taylor and Bobby Justus, Co-Lay Pastors to Grassy Creek/Newdale, and to learn about their ministry there. They are joyous in working among the people both in the communities and in the churches. Jim does the preaching at both settings, and Bobby stays busy visiting and ministering out in the area. Both churches have been blessed by the presence of these two men, and they are thriving.

The Smaller Membership Church Committee presented a Stewardship Forum in September at First Morganton. Olanda Carr from the Presbyterian Foundation was the featured speaker, and spoke on “Growing a Generous Congregation” and “Composing a Legacy.” Kitty Rankin spoke on “The more we love our Lord, the more we want to give,” and Don Widmayer and Bob Forsythe presented an original skit on “The Long and Short of Stewardship.” In attendance were members from 18 different congregations in PWNC, and one from another presbytery in NC. The Forum was intended for large congregations, not just small ones, and thus the committee was happy to discover that churches represented were equally divided between smaller membership congregations and larger ones.

Small Church continues to support WATER-TO-WINE ministries in small churches by giving them small grants. Money for these grants is still available for 2016. Any small church with an idea for an out-of-the-box ministry is eligible to apply for one. Applications and guidelines are found on the PWNC website. For questions, you can ask Tonya in the Presbytery office, and she will direct you to someone who can help you. Churches have used them for kid’s programs in the community, as well as non-food pantry set-up, and feminine hygiene products to be distributed to needy women. They are to be used to benefit a need in the community, and not for paying church bills or purchasing some item for your own needs in the church. Use it to reach out to your neighbors and develop some positive relationships and maybe even introduce someone to Jesus. “Be the Light.”