

Gap Minutes

August 15, 2016 @ 7:00pm

Long Creek Presbyterian Church

701 Long Creek Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Vision: Gaston Area Presbyterian Congregations working together to serve God

Mission: The mission is to support and facilitate the efforts of congregations in Gaston County in their work to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our hope in doing so is that we transform churches so that their members may find new life and new energy to respond to God's call and others will be attracted to them and their work.

| ATTENDANCE: | |
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| Sue Johnson | Belmont |
| Marsha Farrell | Cherryville |
| Hub Hickson | Gastonia |
| Ken Unnasch | Long Creek |
| Charles Davenport | Long Creek & Presbytery |
| Nancy England | Long Creek |
| Joseph Tabor | Lowell |
| Bob Randall | Mt. Holly |
| Marguerite Randall | Mt. Holly |
| Katherine Williamson | Mt. Holly |

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| Libby Sigmon | Olney |
| Jean Faires | Robinson |
| John Pea | Robinson |
| Bill Glover | Southminster |
| Gayla Woody | Southminster |
| Jackson Mott | Southminster |
| Jeraline Truesdale | Third Street |
| Jan McAbee | Union |
| Sue Lewis | Union |
| Guy Wallace | West Ave |
| Paula Wallace | West Ave |

I. Welcome and Introductions: Charles Davenport welcomed everyone on behalf of Long Creek Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm. Charles and Ken Unnasch shared a brief history of the Long Creek Sanctuary which will celebrate its 140th anniversary on Sunday, August 21.

- May 16, 2016 minutes were approved (Motion by Libby Sigmon and second by Joseph Tabor)
- Attendance was circulated

II. Presbytery News

- **General Assembly meeting update – John Pea**

John reported that General Assembly had met in Portland Oregon with few controversial issues. General Assembly approved the Belhar Confession to the Book of Confessions and Allan Boesak, a co-author of Belhar was in attendance. John was on the "Way Forward" committee and they were charged with identifying solutions to existing system issues. They were to set up 2020 committee which will lay out a plan on how to continue and grow the Presbyterian Church in the Twenty-first Century. To John GA was essentially controversy free but the only blip was an opening day Remembrance Ceremony for the Charleston victims. One of the speakers was an Islamic man which was an issue for a few people. The investment question about fossil fuel companies was handled by a committee who worked diligently to find a middle ground. There will be a vote taken by the Presbyterians regarding changing the name of ministers from Teaching Elder to Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Directory of Worship section of the Book of Church Order. The BOC has been streamlined. The next General Assembly will be in St. Louis in two years. James Holman attended as a guest and had a wonderful time. This was the first time in history that there were co-moderators.

- **Presbytery meeting – Charles Davenport.**

Charles reported that Presbytery was held July 26 in Banner Elk. The next Presbytery will be the last Tuesday in October in Brevard. There will be interviews tomorrow for the vacant Associate Presbyter position. Charles asked GAP to talk to their congregations about the HOPE campaign. The goal is 2.2 million and they are currently at 1.5 million. Some of the funds have already been distributed to Camp Grier and Malawi. The Worship Service at Presbytery was organized and led by the HOPE Campaign Team.

III. Other reports and items

- **Habitat Update – Bill Glover & Sue Johnson.**

Bill reported that Groundbreaking is scheduled for August 28 at 3:00 pm at 405 Pryor Street and that the volunteer slots for the service are all filled. There was discussion of the proposed scheduled. First Gastonia volunteered to host on September 17; the Southminster Young Adults will assist with the Southminster date of November 5; Olney will host on December 3; and Third Street and Robinson will handle food for the Proposed Dedication date on December 11.

An additional date was added to the Habitat schedule for pre-framing. It will be held on September 3 at 9:00 am at the home of Gwen Hilton. The home owners for this year's Habitat Build are Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hunter and they have two small children. Bill explained that the average cost of a home is \$70,000 and from March through August GAP has raised \$47,000 (which does not include the "Run for the Money"). Bill also reminded everyone that 10% of the funds raised are sent to Honduras for their Habitat Build.

Habitat had the Design room fundraiser last week. The Habitat Dedication of the Joanne Newcomb Center will be August 16 at 5:30.

- **Report on Malawi trip – Jackson Mott**

Mobile Health unit purchase for Malawi, funded by a combination of Building Hope grant and funds (about \$7000) previously provided by three GAP congregations, has been ordered and is scheduled to be delivered. The unit is a Mercedes with four wheel drive and the total cost is about \$45,000. Jackson reported it was a successful trip and approximately 1300 photos were accumulated. Jackson hopes to have edited the pictures and have a slide presentation for the next meeting. Bobbi White was there for about one week with the primary responsibility of assuring everyone that Presbytery was committed to their continued support. The school now has 400 students and hopes to expand to 600 over the next couple of years. While there, the team upgraded housing for nurses at one of the clinics about an hour from Nakoma Hospital. Charles commented that there are more Presbyterians in Malawi than all of the United States.

- **Guatemala – Beth Bolin.** No report. Everyone was reminded to keep the Maria Pelacios Connelly family in their prayers.

- **Family Promise –** would GAP churches be interested in supporting a building for families to stay? Danyelle has left the director position. Everyone was reminded that more host churches were needed. The question will be delayed until the next meeting for further clarification from Joanne.

- **Christtrek at Belmont & West Ave**

Paula Wallace reported that ChristTrek is a mission for youth with the goal of "Walking with Christ – Walking with Others". Robin Russell from Belmont is the director. A trial will be on October 15 – 16 with just the Belmont youth. The youth will go to West Avenue and all the mission sites will be in Gastonia. Saturday morning will begin with devotions and planning for the day. They will work with one organization in the morning, pack their lunch, and work with a second organization in the afternoon. They will return to West Avenue to prepared meals for Open Arms at Bethany Baptist. They will spend the night at West Avenue and participate in worship the following morning. The next

event will occur November 19-20 with youth from Dallas, Union, Lowell, West Avenue and Belmont. James Holman is still waiting to hear from a few churches.

IV. Announcements

- Saturday, August 20 from 11:00 -2:00 at Third Street is a forum for support of predominantly black congregations in Presbytery
- Fred and Marsha Brown will be leaving Cherryville to live with their daughter in DC
- Union has committed to a project to support Lingerfeldt School. They will work on “sprucing up” inside and out. Sunday, August 21 the congregation will meet at Lingerfeldt for worship and then spend the day with projects around the school. They have also collected school supplies. Anyone interested is invited to join them since they will be working on this project for the next two years.
- The next SC mission trip is planned for October 16-22. Ken Unnasch reported that the first trip was excellent. The Lake Murray Church was the host church. They have 1200 members with average attendance 900 and the average age of membership is 36. The team worked on four houses and one house was for a 74 year old woman and they were able to move everything back into the home for her. The St. Barnard Parish was excellent to work with and they were well trained and had everything ready for you to work. An application is on the Presbytery website.
- Joseph Tabor made the motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm and it was seconded by Paula Wallace.

Next Meeting – Tentatively the next meeting will be at Love’s Chapel. Charles will confirm and notify everyone. – **7pm - Monday, Sept 19, 2016**

Minutes recorded by Gayla Woody

To: Church Administrative Assistants

RE: GAP Information for Church Bulletin or Newsletter



In an effort to keep churches aware of how they can become involved in a service project, please include the following information in your church communication at the appropriate time and as you have room to include. In order for GAP announcements to be easily recognized, please include the GAP logo beside each announcement. Suggested times to include the information are noted in **red**. Thanks!

If you have not published in your newsletter about the next Mission Trip, please include at the next opportunity.

- The Presbytery is hosting a Mission Trip to Columbia SC on Oct 16-21. Participants will be working with the Saint Bernard Project along with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program on houses that were flooded downstream of Lake Murray. The work will be based on the skills of the folks who are going. Participants must be 18 years old. Initially the number of participants is limited to 5 per church to allow more churches to participate. However, 6 weeks prior to the trip, that limitation will be removed if space is still available on the trip. Due to space, the total number of participants is limited to 20. For more information and registration forms, see attachment – Mission Trip – Registration Form.

Habitat Announcements – please post the attached Habitat schedule on your church bulletin boards. Also attached is email from Sue Johnson on 8/16/16 with more information about the groundbreaking this Sunday. There is an opportunity this year to sign up online to volunteer. Go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094baca922a2f58-habitat>. Please help us get the word out.