



**Highlights of the
99th Stated Meeting of the
Presbytery of Charlotte
Hosted by Albemarle First Presbyterian Church
On Tuesday, December 2, 2008**



It was with great joy and thanksgiving to God that we gathered for our meeting at **First Presbyterian Church** in Albemarle, NC. Many thanks go to the Reverend Elizabeth Ayscue and all of the volunteers and members of the Albemarle First Church congregation for their warm and gracious welcome, their hospitality, the delicious refreshments and luncheon, and their care of our needs throughout the day.

The Presbytery entered into a time of worship based on "*Easter Sunday*". Worship leaders were the Rev. Elizabeth Ayscue and Candidate for Ministry, Veronica Rogers (Union PSCE – Charlotte). **The Rev. Steve Eason**, Pastor of Myers Park Church, preached on the topic "*And the Word Was Made Flesh*" based on John 1: 18. Music was provided by the choirs from Albemarle First Church, Locust Church, and Norwood First Church and trumpeter Gordon Hann, under the direction of Kenneth Brown, Minister of Music/Organist for First Albemarle. A special "Least Coin Offering and non perishable food items were collected for the Stanly County Community Ministry.

Carla Tweddale, Bob Shivadecker and Fred Wally, of the Community Disaster Response Team gave an update on the work of the CDRT and how they recently have re-organized to meet needs in several different arenas. They have delivered truck loads of food and other provisions to the Gulf region, Iowa, and have partnered with other denominations, agencies and colleges to provide aid.

Dot Camp made a plea for the Presbytery to continue to give to the Hearts for Hunger program to support hunger relief ministries led by our churches in other areas outside of the Presbytery and other countries.

Jessica Patchett Anderson addressed the Presbytery concerning the importance of partnerships with the various school systems within our Presbytery and also the Communities in Schools programs. She highlighted the partnership between Charlotte First Church and Westerly Hills Elementary School and encouraged other churches to help with schools that have high percentages of 'at-risk' students. Jessica also reminded us that many children and their families are suffering due to the current economical crisis. Many students that receive free breakfast and lunch at school during the week may not have adequate nutrition on weekends and during vacation breaks. The faith community is asked to remember those families and work with the schools in providing assistance through canned food drives, financial donations, "Back Pack Meals" programs, etc.

The Rev. Rick Hoffarth, Pastor of Derita Presbyterian Church, addressed the Presbytery about some of the new initiatives and partnerships that are taking place at Derita. Candidate for Ministry, **Domiko Faulkner** is currently working as an intern at Derita and helping with mission projects, youth activities, Bible study and outreach within the surrounding community. It has been challenging to the Session and church members but has led them to begin to go through the process of mission study and seeking ways to redefine their church outreach and ministry.

The Presbytery welcomed new member, the Rev. Matt Samson, Professor of Anthropology at Davidson College. **The Rev. Anne Hilborn** has accepted the call as Associate Pastor at Carmel Presbyterian Church and the **Rev. Jonathan Meythaler** has accepted the call as Pastor at Amity Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery is asked to continue to support and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ as they move forward in new areas of ministry.



First Albemarle Musicians, Gordon Hann, Trumpeter and Kenneth Brown, Director of Music/Organist

Ross Loeser, Moderator of the One in Christ Sub-Committee addressed the body on *"Race From the Pulpit"*. Sunday, January 18, 2009 has been designated as *"Race Relations Sunday"* on our PCUSA calendar. The One in Christ Committee is challenging each of our church pastors to preach a sermon on the subject of race on that Sunday. **César Carhuachín, Timm High and Warren Lesane** participated in a light-hearted skit to bring attention to the importance of observing this special day with the significance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and the inauguration of its first African-American President.

The **Rev. Timm High**, Interim Associate Presbyter for Pastoral Care and Professional Development thanked the Presbytery for its continuing support of the Presbytery staff. He led the body in prayer for our clergy and lay leaders and for the work and ministry that they do. In his "High & Lifted Up!" segment, Rev. High introduced the **Rev. Priscilla Durkin**, who addressed the Presbytery about her work as Chaplain at the Southern Correctional Facility in Troy, NC. She talked about the challenges of this type of ministry and encouraged other members of the Presbytery to consider volunteering in some area of prison ministry. **The Rev. Touré Marshall** informed the body about his work as a community organizer with the *H.E.L.P. Organization*. He talked about having found inspiration in his father's work in the Southside of Chicago doing similar work with voter registration efforts. The Presbytery is asked to continue its support and prayers for the work of those who are serving in other validated ministries or non-traditional positions.



"High & Lifted Up!"
Above: The Rev. Priscilla Durkin
Below: The Rev. Touré Marshall



The **Rev. Warren Lesane**, Associate Presbyter for Church Development spoke to the Presbytery about how the recent election and economic crisis have added to the feelings of anxiety among military families and to others in our communities and churches. He challenged us to lift up the spirit of unity and remember that we are all one in Christ. Warren then introduced the **Rev. James Thomas**, who addressed the Presbytery with his reflections on the significance of this moment in our country's history and how we can use this opportunity for teaching and healing with our churches and our communities.

Katherine Miller (Myers Park Church) was examined and approved for enrollment as a Candidate for as Ministry.



**2009 Presbytery Moderator
Rev. Robert Austell accepts the "Gavel"
from Rev. Sam Roberson, Stated Clerk**

The Presbytery presented 2008 Presbytery Moderator **John Baber** (Charlotte Covenant) with a certificate of appreciation and thanked him for a 'job well done'. The Presbytery's Gavel was then passed to the 2009 Moderator, the **Rev. Robert Austell**, Pastor of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church. Rev. Austell has most recently served as the moderator of Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee and as a Commissioner to the 218th General Assembly.

Attendance Committee Report: 105 Ministers; 124 Elders; 41 Visitors; 4 Christian Educators; 5 Council Members; 3 Corresponding Minister Members; 3 Commissioned Lay Pastors; Total in Attendance: 281; Churches represented: 82

The Presbytery of Charlotte was adjourned at 2:30 PM with a closing prayer by the **2009 Moderator, the Rev. Robert Austell**, to meet again on Saturday, February 14, 2009 at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC at 9:00 AM.