

WE'RE YOUR PRESBYTERY STAFF!

The **Presbytery of Eastern Virginia staff** is always busy attending to the needs of 64 churches in the southeast corner of Virginia. This multi-talented group energetically supports the priorities and missions of the entire presbytery. Some teach, some type, some research, some lead workshops and meetings, some pay bills, some counsel, some build community and some foster better communications. A spirit of collegiality often will cause members of the staff to go outside their basic duties to support each other for large projects and programs.



General Presbyter Richard Short makes himself available to all Clergy and Educators within our presbytery, as well as all 64 churches for consultation, encouragement, preaching and teaching. Meetings and services frequently take him out of the office and into our churches, to Synod of the Mid-Atlantic events and even around the world to the Democratic Republic of Congo. In addition, Richard is also primary staff support for Council, Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, and the Stewardship Ministry Team. Dr. Short works primarily with our churches with more than 100 average worship attendance, and has particular expertise in church growth, stewardship, visioning, healthy congregations, conflict management, elder-deacon training, and the intentional interim pastor process.

Associate General Presbyter – Position Vacant as of Feb. 29, 2008.



Stated Clerk Don Bickhart oversees four stated meetings of PEVA per year. He develops and/or updates the Clerk of Session Workbook, the Guidelines for Compensation for Ministers and Certified Christian Educators, a Leader's Guide and the PEVA Manual. He conducts training sessions for ministry team and committee moderators as well as clerks of session. He oversees the proper recording of new members received, dissolutions of relationship, deaths, retirements and reception of Inquirers and Candidates for ministry. He processes statistical reports from all 64 churches for General Assembly and PEVA information. He attends General Assembly, Stated Clerks meetings, Board of Pensions Consultations and serves on the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Review Committee of Presbytery Minutes.

The firm of **Francess Taylor, CPA, PC** processes over 1000 disbursements to various individuals and organizations for payment of PEVA operating expenses, committee expenses, retreats and workshops. This office also establishes financial procedures and executes numerous transactions for new PEVA challenges, projects and opportunities such as: the *Roots and Wings* campaign, Hurricane Isabel relief funding and many other special projects. All of this is done while executing a budget of over one million dollars as well as being available to assist other churches in setting up their financial accounting systems.



Kristie Matheson, Resource Director, is available to provide access to a large spectrum of Christian resources for local church programming. Over 7,000 resources - books, videos & DVD's, puppets, curriculum, equipment, a portable labyrinth and more - are available for use by all members of all PEVA churches on a loan basis. Visit the catalog on the Presbytery web site, www.pcusa-peva.org. The Resource Center provides Christian education ideas to help churches with existing programs or to develop new ones, informs churches in the Presbytery about new resources available, and serves as a link between the churches in networking resources. Kristie can also provide a display of resources upon request for selected meetings and lead workshops or gatherings sponsored by congregations within PEVA.

Administrator Linda Smith and Administrative Assistant Jessica Fitzgerald greet participants in 20-30 meetings per month at the office. These meetings are often over lunch or dinner for the convenience of volunteer committee members, and require secretarial support. They process all kinds of information *from* the churches, and from various PEVA ministries *to* the churches. In addition to mailing almost 20,000 pieces of mail per year (not to mention thousands of email transmissions!), they maintain an exemplary website that is one of the most attractive and easy-to-use in the nation! It lists a full calendar, church listing with website links and directions, job announcements, *Church Lady* newsletter, prayer concerns and much more! You'll see Linda and/or Jessica at most off-site Presbytery workshops and meetings, too.



Etienne Bote-Tshiek, PEVA Congo Mission Facilitator, has been especially busy with the translation, planning, implementation and transfer of funds from PEVA churches, through International Cooperating Ministries for church building projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo. ICM is currently building 14 new churches in Congo. He also assists in translation and communications between 29 PEVA churches in a Sister Pairing relationship with 33 churches in Congo. He's involved with making sure that funds from PEVA PW are transferred properly to the Feeding Program for young children in Kinshasa as well as assisting the political aspirations of the new Congo Advocacy Subcommittee.

The Rev. "Mike" Burcher (Director), and Karen Broughman (Office Manager) make sure **Makemie Woods Camp and Conference Center** runs like a top! Over the course of a year, they provide inspirational experiences and welcoming facilities for hundreds of campers representing most of PEVA's churches. A summer staff of 28 from 8 states and 3 foreign countries supervise them. These campers experience a total of 2711 camper days (according to the American Camping Association measuring) in 39 different 'camps' offered. In addition, Makemie Woods accommodates over 2500 retreat guests for a total of almost 5000 camper days! Over the last 10 years: 4671 campers, representing 54 of our 64 churches enjoyed Makemie Woods. *Wow! 255 campers who claimed no church affiliation may have met Jesus for the very first time here! Eleven staff members and volunteers eventually enrolled in Seminary!* Mike Burcher assists PEVA congregations with preaching, workshops on spirituality and child protection, as well as recreation leadership. She also conducts workshops for Presbytery-wide events.



The Rev. Linda K. Rainey, Old Dominion Campus Minister is on the campus of Old Dominion University at the **University Presbyterian Ministry Westminster Student Faith Center**. Her role is to provide opportunities for study, fellowship, mission and service for the students on campus that will help them grow in their faith and walk with Christ. She is also active with the University Chaplain's Association at Old Dominion University. The association of campus ministers provides two Baccalaureate programs per year, host the President's Prayer Breakfast each fall, and provides other services when requested. She is available to visit your church to speak about the campus ministry program offered at Old Dominion.

Hunger Action Enabler Alice Taylor is a member of Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, and was Director of St. Columba Ministries for many years. Recently, she traveled with the PEVA delegation that visited our Sister Churches in Kinshasa, Congo. Alice will be contacting churches, making herself available as a speaker and to be a resource for ministry ideas. There will be loads of information coming to our churches about programs that help obliterate poverty and hunger, and that empower peoples of the world to thrive in their own environment.

