



After Two Decades at Presbytery, Carson Rhyne to Retire

Rev. H. Carson Rhyne Jr.'s last day as general presbyter and stated clerk of Presbytery of the James (POJ), a position he has held for more than 21 years, is November 30. He will become honorably retired on February 28, 2019.

The presbytery celebrated Rhyne at its 100th stated meeting on October 20, with peers sharing memories of Rhyne's ministry. They commended the love Rhyne demonstrates for God, the Presbyterian Church, church members, and the community.

Another quality mentioned, his ability to laugh at himself, was evident as speaker after speaker praised his frugal care of presbytery resources.

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

I Corinthians 3:6-7

Rhyne joined the presbytery staff in 1997, succeeding two interim executives. The organization, only eight years old at the time, flourished under his leadership.

He has served as a visionary for the presbytery by establishing a mentorship program for new ministers, stewardship and evangelism ministries, and a mission co-worker in Haiti.

As pastor of pastors, Rhyne "always



maintained concern for the POJ family" observed Rev. Diane Prevary, vice moderator.

Bill Millsaps, a ruling elder at Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church, echoed this thought.

"Carson stepped into a breach when we were between pastors," Millsaps recalled. "His calm confidence helped smooth the waters."

Carson has let his light shine, not only in the Presbytery of the James, but also in meetings of the General Assembly. He is recognized in the Office of the General Assembly for his knowledge of the Book of Order and Robert's Rules, and for his ability to apply that knowledge with grace and humor.

In recent assemblies he has been selected to serve as parliamentarian for assembly committees, particularly for committees whose work was expected to become the most contentious.

Growing up in North Carolina, Rhyne wanted to be a minister from a young age.

He first earned a Bachelor of Arts in religion and Christian education from Presbyterian College in South Carolina, then a Master of

see RHYNE RETIRES on page 8



Rev. Bobby Hulme-Lippert (Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church) presented Rhyne with a resolution of appreciation adopted by the Presbytery of the James.

100th Stated Meeting

October 20, 2018

REVIEW

The 100th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the James was held on Saturday, October 20, 2018, at Lord Jesus Korean Church in Richmond. It was a wonderful meeting; the host congregation was very gracious; the facilities were superb; we had a full day. Our worship service was inspiring with music led by the Lord Jesus choir, preaching by Rev. Joshua Andrzejewski, and the reading of the necrology.

At the meeting, we welcomed three new ministers:

1. Rev. Rev. Mark Jernigan from Presbytery of Eastern Virginia to be pastor at Overbrook Church
2. Rev. McCoy Franklin, Honorably Retired, from Western North Carolina Presbytery
3. Rev. Christian Shearer from the Reformed Church in America to be interim pastor at Culpeper Church

Candidate Sarah Dennis (POJ) was examined for ordination and approved to become covenant pastor, Tuckahoe Church.

Gary Hatter (Olivet Church) was examined for candidacy and approved as part of his preparation for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

On a personal note, I was deeply appreciative of the recognition of my ministry as General Presbyter and Stated Clerk since 1997. It was very touching and meaningful to me for this kind of send-off. Thanks to everyone for this kind gesture. Thanks also for granting me Honorable Retirement, February 28, 2019.

Other actions which were taken included:

1. Approval of minutes from the Stated Meeting of June 12, 2018 and the Called Meeting of August 7, 2018.
2. Approval of the balancing of commissioners for 2019 for presbytery meetings.
3. Expansion of powers of the Greenwood Administrative Commission to include possible recommendation of closure of the Greenwood Church.
4. Recognition of the 175th anniversary of Hebron Church in Goochland County.
5. Heard the report from the Permanent Judicial Commission which imposed on Rev. David Forney the Censure of Formal Rebuke with supervised rehabilitation for breach of proper pastoral boundaries with a staff member of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Virginia.
6. Heard a statement from the Session of First Church Charlottesville read by Ruling Elder Downing Miller (Charlottesville First) expressing appreciation for the work of the Presbytery in the Judicial Process and indicating support of their pastor, Rev. David Forney. Without objection, permission was given for the statement to be included in the minutes of the meeting.
7. Granted the Woodville Session an exception for three years for rotation of elders on the Church Session.
8. Elected various people to committees and teams in the presbytery.
9. Amended the Presbytery Manual of Administrative Operations to allow for former POJ Moderators to be seated as Corresponding Members in meetings.
10. Approved the following ministers to become Members at Large: Rev. Allen Pickett, February 14, 2018 Rev. Peter Smith, April 2, 2018 Rev. Molly Spangler, July 1, 2018 Rev. Sally Ann Sisk, July 9, 2018 Rev. Beverly Bullock, September 1, 2018
11. Removed Rev. David Barry's voice and vote at meetings in accord with G-2.0508
12. Validated two positions for Ministers of Word and Sacrament: Director of the Global Mission Center for Christian Education, Union Presbyterian Seminary; and Chaplain, Hospice of the Piedmont.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Carson Rhyne, Jr.

H. Carson Rhyne, Jr.
Stated Clerk



Rev. Fred Holbrook

Holbrook Elected Interim General Presbyter/Stated Clerk

At the October 20 stated meeting, Presbytery of the James voted to approve Rev. Fred Holbrook as the interim general presbyter/stated clerk to succeed Rev. Carson Rhyne who is retiring. Holbrook will begin a 12-month renewable call on December 1.

Holbrook has been a minister of Word and Sacrament for 35 years. During this time, he has served as pastor, head of staff, interim pastor, and associate pastor to churches in Virginia, North Carolina, and Kansas.

Learn about Holbrook and the process of selecting an interim general presbyter/stated clerk at presbyteryofthejames.com/holbrook.

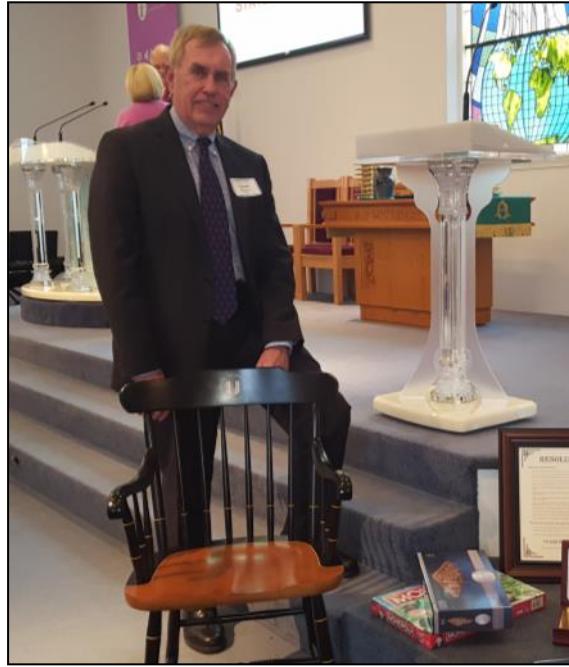
Rhyne Gives Thanks for Twenty Years of Service

Dear Folks in Presbytery of the James:

I'm not sure that I have adequate words to express my appreciation to you for 21 ½ years of ministry and service. Or for the nice send-off at the presbytery meeting on October 20. Or for the Rhyne Polity-Education Fund at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Or for the countless relationships I have been privileged to develop through these years.

It has been a gift to be the general presbyter and stated clerk for the Presbytery. It has been a time when we had to make some hard decisions. It has been a time of glorious celebrations in congregations. It has been times of developing wonderful pastoral relationships in congregations. It has been a time to discern God's will for individuals and for congregations. It has been a wonderful time.

I have been the beneficiary of seeing how God's hand can work through numerous situations. I have been gifted by the ways God's Spirit has broken through in so many ways. I have benefited from working with very talented persons who make up this presbytery. It truly has been a gift beyond description.



Rhyne was presented a chair embossed with his name and the logo of Union Presbyterian Seminary.

As I move into retirement, my prayers continue with the presbytery. The future is very bright and with talented leadership here; we have seen nothing compared to what will be developing. I will watch with eagerness of what God will be doing.

For a period of several years, I will be absent from presbytery meetings and from participating in congregational life around

the presbytery. I am eager for the new interim general presbyter-stated clerk, Rev. Fred Holbrook, to come onboard and begin his work assisting us in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan that will guide the work of the presbytery. Then, I look forward to the called and installed general presbyter and/or stated clerk who will be my successor(s). I look forward to developing good working relationships with all of these folks.

Again, thank you is all I can think of to say for a great 'ride' and a great privilege to be a leader in this presbytery. As for my future, I have a contract through June 2020 to teach at Union Presbyterian Seminary. I will work on my houses that I have purchased and manage. I will be volunteering at Michaela's bakery on Brookland Park Boulevard, home of the Thalhimer six-layer cake. I have no clue how to bake, so probably will be sweeping the floors. But it will be a new experience as I enter a new time in my life.

May God continue to bless and keep each one of you. I am most grateful,

H. Carson Rhyne, Jr.

PS: I look forward to reading the numerous cards and letters which I received. THANK YOU!

Presbyterians in Discussion



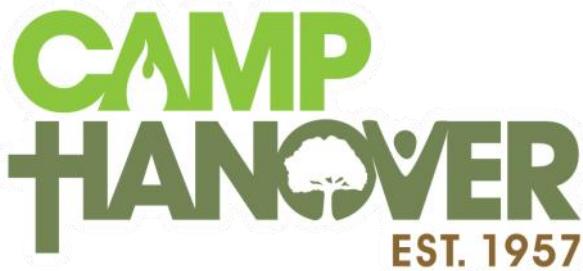
Once a month, members of the three Presbyterian Church (USA) churches in Brunswick County- Concord, Ogden, and Lawrenceville-gather for discussion on topics relevant to faith. Through their meetings, they nurture the bonds of love with fellowship. Rev. Chad Rhodes serves all three churches. "Through gracious (and sometimes spirited) discussion, laughter, and tears," he shared, "we are growing together as one body in Jesus Christ."

Espigh Joins POJ Staff

Barbara Espigh joined the staff of the Presbytery of the James as administrative assistant/office manager on July 16. She is a life-long Presbyterian, and has been a member of Salisbury Presbyterian Church for 10 years, serving on the Christian Education and Discipleship Ministry, on Session, and on the recent pastor nominating committee. Barbara has previously worked in administrative roles for a non-profit and doctor's office, and has a degree in psychology from George Mason University. She resides in Midlothian with her husband and two college-aged children. Reach Barbara by telephone at the Presbytery office (804-262-2074) or by email (barbara@presbyteryofthejames.org).



Barbara Espigh



reach forward in faith
a place apart... accessible for all

**UPDATE: Over \$440,000 in
Gifts and Pledges Received**

Final Stretch: Let's Reach the Goal!

For the past two and a half years, the Camp Hanover Ministries Board has reached out to congregations, inviting you to participate in the "Reach Forward in Faith: A Place Apart, Accessible for All" Campaign. As the campaign enters the final stretch, the \$750,000 goal is within reach!

Many generous congregations and kind individuals throughout the Presbytery have already contributed over \$440,000 to date for much needed renovations and updates to the Camp Hanover waterfront, cabins, lodge, and kitchen.

The objective now is to secure pledge commitments and gifts by the end of the year to conclude the campaign and begin construction. Now is the time to make your pledge and help reach the goal!

To Reach Forward in Faith with your gift or pledge before the campaign concludes December 31, to learn about naming opportunities, or to discover how you or your congregation can help make Camp Hanover a place apart, accessible for all, contact Doug Walters, executive director, at (804) 779-2811.



Reaching Forward in Faith: Making Camp Hanover a Place Apart... Accessible for All

The plan adopted by the Camp Hanover Ministries Board includes renovating four cabins, updating Koinonia lodge, replacing kitchen equipment, and revitalizing the waterfront. Pictured above, a new Celtic Cross dock, an emergency access drive, and a wheelchair accessible walkway connecting the waterfront with Wise Lodge makes it possible for more people of all ages and abilities to enjoy this sacred space.

Upcoming Events at Camp Hanover



More than "just another live nativity," you'll experience interactive and dramatic re-enactments while leisurely strolling a candlelit wooded path. After your journey, relax in front of the fireplace while you fellowship with others. Enjoy tasty homemade holiday treats and performances by local musicians and choral groups. Traveling from afar? You're invited to stay overnight and enjoy a Holiday Brunch the following morning. This free event is suitable for all ages and physical abilities.



Winter Camp is an opportunity to explore the beauty of Camp Hanover during a different season. It's a time of fun, faith and fellowship. Current 5th - 12th graders are invited to join us for this winter getaway. Like summer camp, this event involves primarily outside activities, including cookouts, hayrides, worship, campfires and games.

Visit camphanover.org/winter-camp to learn more.

How Do We Keep Camp Ministry Viable, Sustainable, and Effective?

In the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, and across the PC(U.S.A.), other presbyteries have transitioned their camps to incorporated structures. The Camp Hanover Ministries Board believes moving to a structure that incorporates the ministry of Camp Hanover is the key to keeping your camp healthy, strong, relevant, and organized in a way to best meet the challenges of operating in today's complex world.

Taking this step offers advantages to both Presbytery of the James and Camp Hanover. One of the most important benefits of incorporation is how this structure secures the future of the camp and helps insulate

both the presbytery and the camp from liability risks.

The Camp Hanover Ministries Board plans to bring a recommendation to incorporate to the February meeting of Presbytery for a First Reading.

As the board prepares its recommendation and finalizes drafts of the Covenant Agreement and other documents that will establish the new structure and define the relationship between Camp Hanover and the Presbytery, your participation in the discussion is critical.

You can learn more about what incorporation means for the Presbytery and Camp Hanover, view the current drafts of the Covenant Agreement, Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and see a timeline of the incorporation process by visiting camphanover.org/incorporation.

We welcome your comments and questions. Please contact Tim Beane, moderator of the Camp Hanover Ministries Board, at timothybeane@gmail.com or Doug Walters, Camp Hanover's executive director, at doug@camphanover.org and let us know what you think.

Mission Volunteer House Renovations Continue, Thanks to Team from Overbrook Presbyterian Church

In September, a group of skilled volunteers from Overbrook Presbyterian Church busted out their hammers and circular saws, spending a week at Camp Hanover to continue the renovation work on Kirkwood III.

What used to be an old, dark, dank, screened shelter is looking more and more like a welcoming, comfortable living space with two bedrooms, a common area, and a small kitchen. When complete, the Mission Volunteer House will give long-term mission volunteers a place to cook meals, get some rest, and recharge their batteries while they serve at Camp.

How You Can Help

The next steps in the renovation include updating the bathroom, painting the interior and exterior, installing kitchen cabinets, and constructing a small deck. Individuals or groups of volunteers who are skilled with hammers, power tools, or paint brushes can lend a hand.

Call the Camp Hanover office at (804) 779-2811 to get connected and schedule a time to do some work.



Overbrook member Jim Marston nails in trim on the Mission Volunteer House.



A mural painted by campers during summer camp worship adorns a nearly complete bedroom.

POJ Teams Help with Hurricane Recovery in North Carolina

A group of sixteen volunteers from Presbytery of the James (POJ) visited New Bern, North Carolina, in October to help with recovery efforts from Hurricane Florence.

Led by Brown Pearson, moderator of POJ's Disaster Relief Ministries, the team was one of the first to arrive and organize clean up. Three pastors—Jim Moseley, Brint Pratt-Keyes, and Dick Mahlmann—were among the volunteers from POJ churches.

"In the evenings," Moseley reported, "we [would] eat and share experiences of the day and pray, reflect, and wonder how these families will get their lives back together."

Nearly forty percent of the homes in New Bern were damaged in some way, causing hundreds of families to seek temporary shelter. Volunteer groups like the one from POJ are helping restore homes by repairing roofs and removing ruined drywall, insulation, flooring, appliances, and cabinetry.

A number of organizations support the work of our team and other volunteers. The West New Bern Presbyterian Church provided nightly shelter. Volunteers showered at the YMCA. The Church World Service sent clean up kits. The Baptist Recovery Mission, which had a significant force from North Carolina, Louisiana, and Maryland, provided lunch and a hot supper each day.

Another disaster relief team will head to the city November 11 through 17.



(Above) Debris from damaged homes lines the streets of New Bern. (Below) POJ volunteer Justin Cullum stands next to pieces of a massive tree the crew cut up and rolled to the street for collection by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



Small Church Forums Bring Churches Together

Presbytery of the James has partnered with the Presbyterian Foundation to provide four quarterly "small church forums" where experts in small church finance and financial planning meet with church leaders to:

- Provide a clearer look at congregational finances
- Offer some examples of best practices
- Enable networking with other congregations

The second forum was held on Saturday, October 6 at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. Seventeen churches in the Presbytery of the James are participating in these events. They are Bethlehem, Colonial Heights, First United, Forest Hill, Genito, Hartwood, Hebron, King's Chapel, Lakeside, Laurel, New Hanover, Providence Powhatan, Tabor, Tappahannock, Thyne Memorial, Trinity, and Woodville. These are all congregations with a membership of less than 100.

These events are designed for pastors, clerks of session, and treasurers. If your church has not been involved, it's not too late.

For more information, please contact Deborah Rexrode, associate for stewardship, at 434-996-6032 or deborah@presbyteryofthejames.org.



Forest Hill Presbyterian hosted the second small church forum. The first, in June, was at Laurel Presbyterian Church in Glen Allen.

Following God's Call to Haiti

Nearly three-quarters of Haitians live on less than two dollars a day. Hunger and poverty are daily challenges, as are political turmoil and violence.

Yet God is at work in Haiti.

God called Cindy Corell to serve in the desperately poor country of Haiti. As a Presbyterian mission co-worker, Cindy works with farmers to bring change in the name of Christ for those who are the most vulnerable.

God is at work through Cindy and our Haitian partners.

God is also at work through us. Together, we can support Haitian farmers and empower leaders so they can grow food for their families, send their children to school, and address injustice.

Presbytery of the James's Haiti Ministries educates, engages, and unites congregations in God's mission in Haiti.

Individuals and congregations can contribute funds specifically to support Cindy. Take a special offering for Cindy, designate a line item in your church budget, or make a personal contribution.

Send checks made out to Presbytery of the James with "Cindy Corell" in the check's memo line. Presbytery staff will forward the funds to Cindy.

Mission Trip Planned for February 2019

Haiti Ministries organizes trips to Haiti each year. Participants on these trips learn about Cindy's work and deepen the relationship



Cindy Corell (right) works with farmers like Gladys in rural Haiti.

between the presbytery, Cindy, and the people of Haiti. They then serve as resources for other churches.

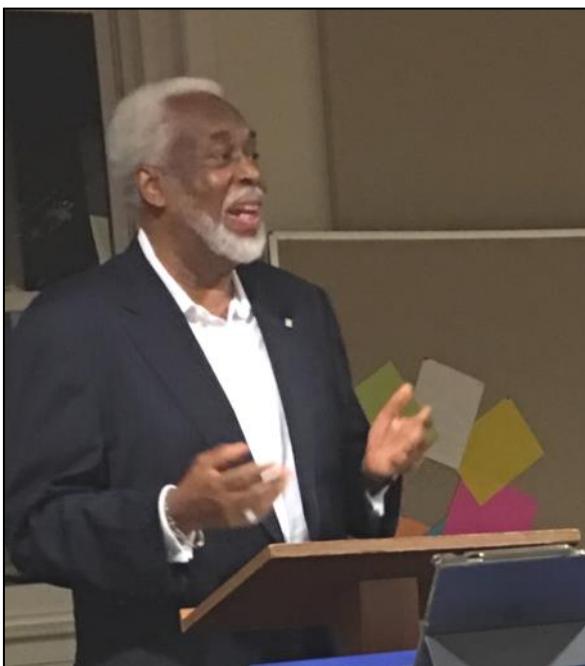
See how God is at work in Haiti, especially through Cindy and our mission partners, by applying to participate in the next trip February 20-27, 2019.

This is an incredible opportunity that includes travel to different parts of Haiti, engaging directly with local farmers, sharing in worship, and discerning how we can go deeper in our relationship and shared ministry.

Find the application at presbyteryofthejames.com/haiti.

Learn about Cindy's work and how to get involved at presbyteryofthejames.com/haiti.

New Ministry Group Forms to Oppose Racism



Dr. Leonard Edloe speaks at a Dismantling Racism Ministries event about building community in the face of deep wounds to common humanity and connection to God's creation.

In August 2017 in Charlottesville, groups advocating for and against the removal of Confederate statues clashed. Nationwide reaction to the events varied. For some, it was another shocking moment which reinforced the persistence of racism in our communities and nation. For others, it was a wakeup call to the reality of continued racism some considered long since overcome.

Many pastors in Presbytery of the James (POJ) mobilized to stand with the people of Charlottesville against hate. They drafted an overture calling for focused attention on this issue in POJ churches and communities.

Some felt called to take further action. They formed Dismantling Racism:

Building Beloved Community Ministries to investigate and propose steps that the Presbytery of the James may take to spread the love of God for all people and oppose acts of hate and discrimination.

This advent, they invite interested people to a study of the book *Reconstructing the Gospel: Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove.

The group welcomes anyone interested in helping POJ work toward racial justice.

Find information about Dismantling Racism Ministries and its events at presbyteryofthejames.com/dismantling-racism.

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UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

February 16, 2019 Three Chopt Church, Richmond
June 18, 2019 INVITATION NEEDED
October 19, 2019..... INVITATION NEEDED

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Former GA Moderator Headlines Fall Retreat

Approximately 70 people attended the Older Adult Ministries fall retreat on September 27 at Camp Hanover. Rev. Denise Anderson, co-moderator of the 222nd General Assembly, spoke on the power of using stories to connect people across economic, ethnic, and generational divides. As Jesus did with parables, storytelling helps personalize people of different backgrounds, leading to identity of mutual interests. To illustrate this, she asked the diverse members of the audience to share their first memories of injustice. The enlightening event also included worship led by Rev. Keith and Sally Johnston and folk dancing with Rev. Carson Rhyne. Read more about the retreat and view pictures at presbyteryofthejames.com/older-adult-ministry.



Rev. Denise Anderson

Continued from page 1

Rhyne Retires

Divinity from Union Theological Seminary (now Union Presbyterian Seminary). He was ordained in 1975.

Rhyne served two churches and a presbytery in southwest Georgia before moving to Virginia in 1980 to be an associate pastor for new church development at the Presbyterian Church in Fredericksburg. There, he helped establish Summit Presbyterian Church in Stafford and Spotsylvania Presbyterian Church.

To express appreciation for his service to the Presbyterian Church (USA), colleagues established a fund at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Rhyne’s name. The fund will benefit future students in their preparation for ministry particularly in the areas of polity and Christian education. Rhyne has served on the adjunct faculty of the seminary, teaching polity and practical theology since 2005.

Rhyne will take a break from presbytery business for the next two years to give his successor breathing room. However, he is open to the possibility of serving as pastor at a small church after that.

“One of the joys of small church ministry is the opportunity to be with people on a personal level,” he shared.



“Carson is good for pushing people to higher ground,” explained Emerson Hughes, a ruling elder at Tappahannock Presbyterian Church. He shared this photo of Rhyne in 2013 at the start of construction of that congregation’s new building.