

Eastminster First To Welcome Presbyterians From Spain

By Rev. Elmarie Parker

In February, Eastminster Presbytery hosted the first team to come from Levante Presbytery in Spain!

David and Samuel (from Alicante), Enrique and Daniel (from Valencia), Amanda (from Torrevieja), and Silke and Miguel (from Cartagena), coming from the warm weather of Spain found our winter weather fascinating! Cold temperatures did nothing to temper the high energy and eager spirit of this team. Their first Sunday of worship was at Westminster Akron and Barberton Presbyterian Churches.

In Youngstown the team had opportunities to participate in Needle's Eye group, tour of the Mahoning County Jail and learn about the Comfort Blanket Ministry at Pleasant Grove PC. Dr. Enrique Mora, a mathematics professor at Valencia University, spoke to the math departments of Kent and YSU.

A mid-week meal was shared with the First Presbyterian Church in Columbiana and were welcomed with Spanish songs by the children at Wickliffe PC's preschool ministry. The second Sunday of worship was with Westminster Boardman, Poland and Common Ground in the morning, and Vienna, Sebring, and Copeland Oaks that evening.

The Spain Team gave an informative slide show about Levante Presbytery, shared their musical and puppet show gifts, and most importantly, shared their lives with us. The team also had a chance to enjoy some of our area's culture: the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Volant, Pa, the Wendell-August Forge, White While House Farm, Butler Museum, a Strehounds' game and of course, some shopping!

Eastminster will be sending another team to Spain the end of September/beginning of October. We have been asked to bring a team prepared to work with them on building effective youth ministries, developing confident worship leading teams, and strategies for church multiplication. The Presbytery Mission Team asks you to join them in prayerfully listening for who God has in mind to send next.

Levante Presbytery will return in 2008 to share material that can help members understand and practice the spiritual gifts and roles God's Spirit has given to them to use for the good of the Body.

Eastminster Presbytery

EASTMINSTER EVANGEL

Mutual Encouragement in Spain and Ohio

By Rev. Elmarie Parker

Rugged mountains and windswept, arid plains dotted with orange groves, olive trees, and Don Quixote-styled windmills typify the Spanish vista. Ancient castle fortresses atop craggy cliffs now stand surrounded by bustling, urban seaport cities several millennia old. Catholic cathedrals, monasteries, and churches dominate city and village streets, and Spanish life. And everywhere, layers and layers of culture-ancient and contemporary-interact and show themselves in architecture, language, food, religion, and politics. It is in this land of many dimensions that Eastminster Presbytery has been led to forge a new kind of mission partnership—a mission partnership of mutual encouragement to respond to the missional challenges presented to each of our congregations in our own unique settings of Ohio and Spain.

In March and October 2006, Eastminster Presbytery commissioned small teams to visit Levante Presbytery, begin to get to know the four congregations of Levante Presbytery (in Cartagena, Torrevieja, Alicante, and Valencia), and work with Levante Presbytery to begin laying the foundation for our shared partnership. During the first two weeks of February 2007, Eastminster Presbytery had the privilege of hosting the first team to come from Levante Presbytery!...

(Read more on back)



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Spanish Partners Make Splash

By Elder Monte York

Enrique and Daniel Mota visited Westminster on the Sunday that we were having our Annual Meeting. Our meeting was held before worship and they were provided with all the information reviewed at the meeting. They were introduced and warmly greeted by our congregation.

They gave a Minute for Mission at our worship service, and brought us greetings and information from their congregation. They had other opportunities to interact with the congregation at the coffee hour following the worship service.

My only regret in this was that they could not attend a meeting of our Adult Class, which would have allowed a better opportunity for learning for all of us.

EASTMINSTER EVANGEL

“Thanks so much for inviting my congregations to share in your event at Vienna on Sunday night. My people really enjoyed themselves, and ... this is something we really need to do together.”

By Rev. Deborah Doekstader, Pastor of Niles Southside and Grand Presbyterian Church

“What continues to amaze me is the quality of relationships that have been built between our Levante guests and members of Eastminster Presbytery I am delighted at the prospects of future visits during this five-year mission partnership.”

By Rev. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter

By Elder Grace Duncam

Our visitors arrived at First Presbyterian in Barberton in time for an afternoon Siesta, followed by dinner with members of the congregation.

At our Sunday Worship Service, Rev. David Mandanas presented the sermon in Spanish (with a typed English version). Silke and Samuel accompanied the choir and congregation singing a hymn in Spanish. A reception was held with the Akron Area Presbyterian Churches. In the evening we gathered for the “American high holy day” - Super Bowl Sunday, which included barbecue sandwiches and typical snack foods.

Two mission projects were visited on Monday, the Free Clinic and Barberton Area Community Ministry. The Director of the Free Clinic shared the purpose and gave a facility tour. Cathie Finn at the Community Ministry facility gave an overview of the program and food pantry.

In snow and frigid temperatures, we toured Akron University, Canal Park, Air Dock, Quaker Oats building, and shopped at Summit Mall. Monday we shared ideas at our Church Ministries meeting. Tuesday began with the Pastor’s Chat Room followed by lunch with Kiwanis. Then it was off to Boardman.

One event will definitely be remembered: their first Snow Angel made by 6 ft. tall Dave Stobbs!

Presbyterian Churches Feed and Clothe

Sunday, January 28 was “Undie-Sunday” at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Cuyahoga Falls. 157 items of new underwear were collected and given to Access, an Akron Shelter for homeless women and children.

Elder Mona Bishop brought the idea of “Undie-Sunday” from Orangewood Presbyterian Church in Phoenix, Arizona. The staff at Access was thrilled to receive Northminster’s offering, noting that their residents often enter the shelter with only the clothes they are wearing.



Photo by Elly Williams

Lake Milton Presbyterian Church has started a free soup and sandwich luncheon for the community on the 4th. Thursday of every month. In the summer months, instead of hot soup, we plan on doing hot dog cookouts!

Founding Pastor “Returns” After 200 Years

Lisbon Presbyterians are celebrating two hundred years of Presbyterianism in their community. The founding of First Presbyterian Church in 1807, the United Presbyterian (later Trinity) Church in 1839, and the merger in 1998 into today’s New Lisbon Presbyterian Church

Nicolls portraying the founding pastor, Rev. Clement Vallandigham; Sun., July 8; Bicentennial Homecoming; Sun., Oct. 21, Rev. Dr. William Carl, President of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, preaching; Sun. evening, Dec. 9, “Sounds of the Season,” musical presentation.

A color calendar shows the building and their artifacts as well as the events: Sun. Jan. 7, opening of the Bicentennial year with Presbytery Moderator Peggy Richmond bringing greetings and General Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Dan Schomer, preaching; Sun., May 20, Rev. Dr. Thomas

A commissioned Bicentennial anthem will be presented by the choir honoring NLPC’s faithful, past and present. The third century of Lisbon’s Presbyterianism will begin with the continuing leadership of Rev. Mark Wilds, Pastor in 2008.

By Elder Ruth Cole

The Mission Committee celebrates the visit of our Spanish partners from Levante Presbytery. The purpose of the partnership is face-to-face experience in mission to develop lasting relationships with Christ’s Church in other nations and cultures. It’s working! Thanks be to God! — Rev. Paul Johnson, Mission Committee.

“They spoke Spanish—we did not, but it was good to know that God is faithful around the world.” — Dennis Griffen, The Needle’s Eye Staff