



# Agape Herald

The Newsletter of the Presbytery of Huntingdon  
Mission: Loved by Jesus Christ, called to love others.  
[www.huntingdon.org](http://www.huntingdon.org)

## August 2004

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## **You're Invited!**

**To Krislund Camp  
Fall Work Day  
Saturday, 10/02  
9am to 4 pm**

**Don't miss the fun.**

### ***WHAT DOES SUPPORT REALLY MEAN?*** Submitted by Joy Kaufmann

On page four of this newsletter, you will find an interesting "think piece" by the Rev. Bill Moore. He has served long and well on the board of the Presbyterian Homes, and points out that our relationship with the Homes seems to be shifting, he fears not in a good direction. While I don't necessarily share his fears - I just don't have the longevity or deep history to know in my bones how really good the relationship used to be - I have had a growing concern that we are drifting into a "let's just give mission money to it" way of thinking.



So here are a few facts and then an invitation for you. First, Bill uses our shift in the 2004 and 2005 budgets from a pledge of \$40,000 to a special opportunity giving item in the same amount to raise the concern about our moving away from genuine support. The fact is, I am delighted to tell you, that you are still contributing to the needs of the saints through the Homes with great stewardship gusto. According to Joann Kimmel, our mission treasurer, between our mission pledge of \$10,000, an SOG gift of between \$38,000 and \$39,000, the spring offering (\$25,000+ including more than \$8,000 given through the presbytery mission treasury) and the fall offering, our congregations and individuals have given more than \$82,000 to the Homes in 2003. And that does not include the money given directly for which we have no record. Thank you! There *is* a shortfall in benevolent care at the Homes, but our gifts have made and continue to make a real, positive difference.

But here are some other facts, which taken together may show us a pattern of drifting away from each other more than we intended when the two organizations legally separated. I am told the Rev. Mr. John Martin and, later, the Rev. Barry Vance and the Rev. Jim Hanly used to make pastoral reports about the Homes at every presbytery meeting, or so I am told. However, in recent years we started to invite someone from the Homes system to speak less and less often. Our current pattern is a once-a-year report that is very informative and interesting, given by the Homes Executive Director, Carol Berster. In spite of the report's excellence, has this less frequent sharing contributed to a lessening of our feeling of connection?

The auxiliary used to meet as one large group, evidently with considerable camaraderie and critical momentum. The auxiliaries for the five Homes facilities now meet separately. Have any of the participants in these crucial supportive groups experienced a feeling of less connection, less energy or lessening effectiveness because of fewer numbers? I don't know, but wouldn't be surprised were we told this.

*Continued on page two*

## About Support *from page 1*

The Pastor-Leaders of the Homes used to speak at Sunday School classes, offer Minutes for Mission and show up at congregational suppers to thank church members for gifts of time and talent as well as tithe. When this pastoral presence ended, did we also lose a kind of connection at the emotional level that we never expected to lose? This is just speculation, but again, it wouldn't be surprising to be told such a thing.

So here we are, at the beginning of the 21st century in the midst of radically changing health care funding, service provision and senior community living situations. We know things cannot always remain the same, in fact shouldn't. But have we entered into the changes in our relationship with the Homes deliberately.... or as a result of the law of unintended consequences? Surely staying connected, being supportive, really truly supportive, is more than a financial pledge, no matter how important.

Here is my invitation to you. Would you like to take part in the first of what we can call "Conversations That Matter"? Can we talk? What do you think is happening in our relationship with the Homes, would you like to make that relationship stronger again, and if so, what might it look like? I invite you to a conversation about all of this on Tuesday, September 21, 2004 at 7:00 pm at the Tyrone Church. We'll talk if there are two of us or twenty two or two hundred two.

Thank you Bill Moore for raising an issue that matters!

And as Uncle Wiggly and Nurse Jane Fuzzy-Wuzzy used to say, next month, if the teapot doesn't turn into the cornerstone, we'll talk about Camp Krislund.

*Rev. Kaufmann may be reached at  
gnrlpres@atlanticbbn.net or 814-742-2200*

## Krislund Korner Half-Way-Through-Camp' Edition

Spaces remain for 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders in all of August's three camps : (8/1-7, 8/8-14, & 8/15-21). Applications found at [www.krislund.org](http://www.krislund.org) or call the office to register over the phone (814-422-8878). Scholarship assistance is also available. Family Camp, 8/22-25, also has openings.

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### R.V. Sites Available

Krislund has two hookups (water and electric) for recreational vehicles. These spaces are available, no charge, for summer and work group volunteers, or for a nominal fee for those desiring a personal getaway. Write [krislndsec@juno.com](mailto:krislndsec@juno.com) for more information.

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### Special Invitation to School Groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, & Community Organizations

Did you know Krislund hosts more than 80 groups each year for day and overnight activities? More than 90 winterized beds in a variety of lodges and cabins are available. Economical non-heated cabins and Adirondack shelters, and almost unlimited tenting opportunities (160 Scouts held their Camporee here last spring) are available throughout the property. Day-only meetings space and banquet facilities for 150 are provided in the fully remodeled and handicap accessible Retreat Center. A progression of challenging adventure activities (teamwork courses, climbing walls, & more than 20 high rope elements) are available year round for school, business, and community organizations and groups with ten to two hundred participants. Krislund is much more than just a unique summer camp, it is ready to serve you each month of the year. Registrations are being taken for fall and 2005 winter and spring dates. For facility descriptions, activities, and rates call 814-422-8878.

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### Donate an Acre Exceeds 302 Subscriptions

Have you donated your acre this year? Please contact the Krislund Office (814-422-8878) or ([krislnd@juno.com](mailto:krislnd@juno.com)) to help this ongoing ministry.

### The Babe's Summer School Project Receives \$2,761.95

*Submitted by Kay Lewis*

This Spring due to the heavy rains in Haiti, Rodney Babe wrote to us to tell the congregations of Sinking Valley and Lower Spruce Presbyterian Churches his concerns about how to provide nutritious breakfasts and lunches and a daily vitamin to the Summer School program which would involve 33 teachers and 163 children. Our congregations, the children of our Daily Vacation Bible School, and members of other churches in Huntingdon Presbytery, responded in an outpouring of love, prayers, and gifts. The grand total of gifts including some sent directly to The Haiti Fund amounted to \$2,761.95. This happening reminds me of the miracle of Jesus taking 5 loaves and two fish and feeding 5000 people! On behalf of the Babes, the teachers, and the children, our S.V. Mission team want to thank everyone who participated in this miracle.

*Dr.*

## CLERGY PROFILES

Lee McCardle

By

### "Five Ways to Tell Right from Wrong" by John Dean

Rev. John Clarence Dean was born on the family farm in Beaver County, PA to parents Nelson Dean, a farmer and Marie Dean, a farmer's wife and homemaker. John is second oldest among 5 sons. John and Donna solemnized their marriage vows in 1958. Their children are Karen, Connie, Kevin and Craig. When John was a boy, he regularly attended church with his family.



He graduated from Geneva College with his BS degree in Industrial Engineering. He worked for the Crucible Steel Company for 2 years. During that time, John says, "I attended our Synod School at Wilson College, wrestling with the matter of a call to the ministry." He also attended a weekend event at Western Theological Seminary, "not even knowing what the word 'Theology' meant." He received his MDiv degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1962.

During his 40 years of pastoral ministry, John served 5 years as pastor of the Ardara church in Redstone Presbytery. He served 35 years as pastor of our Alexandria church. He retired on April 30, 2002.

John now serves on our Committee On Ministry. He does supply preaching, and he serves as Moderator for the Juniata and Third churches in Altoona as well as Lower Spruce Creek and Sinking Valley.. John says, "My advice to new ministers is to not overreact to situations and opponents. I've seen pastors get too high about temporary successes, and then, get too low about things that go badly. Just hang in there! But don't get too far ahead of the parishioners." John recently finished reading "I've Seen The Day" by Dr. George Docherty.

*Rev. McCardle can be reached at leem-*

We live with a lot of confusing values and opinions. It is hard to know what is right sometimes. Just as we need signposts along the highway when we travel, so we need some guideposts as we travel through life. I would like to suggest five such guideposts.

The first I simply call COMMON SENSE.

If we are unclear about the right thing to do, we may begin with submitting the decision to the test of "common sense". What will this course of action do to me? Is it good for my physical health? Is it good for my future? How will it effect my life? If someone challenges you to a duel with pistols, what would you say? Surely common sense helps you to say - "No! Don't be silly."

But common sense can let us down. Have you ever been asked - Why in the world did you ever do that? What were you thinking? And, perhaps you said - "Well, it seemed like a good idea at the time!" But it wasn't such a good idea.

What else can we go by. What might be a second test?

I suggest - try the UNIVERSAL test. Suppose everyone did it. What then? If you are troubled by a question of what's right, submit it to the 'universal' test. The essence of sportsmanship is that we do not expect special rules for just ourselves. Rules need to be equal for all the players, not just favoring one. If everyone acted on this same principle, would it be good?

Actually this is nothing more than the "Golden Rule" you probably learned in Sunday School - "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Matthew 7: 12)

Thirdly, I submit the test of FORESIGHT.

If you are truly perplexed about what you should do - what is right and what is wrong - then, submit this problem to the test of 'foresight'. What will this course of action mean in the long run? Where will it get me? What might it keep me from down the road?

My 99 year old father still likes to play checkers, and still plays a commendable game. In checkers, once we make the first move, the subsequent moves are somewhat predetermined. In life the test of foresight is very useful - a girl is tempted to yield to a demanding boy friend - a worker is tempted to become involved with someone who is not a spouse - a graduate is tempted to take a job that offers big money but requires doing dishonorable tasks - a student is tempted to get a good grade by cheating. The test of foresight helps in making the right choice. Where will this choice lead me? But even these three tests are not enough. Let me submit test number four - PUBLICITY.

Is this right or is it wrong? Well, suppose everyone - your family, your friends, your neighbors, the local newspaper - knew about it. There would be no secrecy. It would be talked about publicly. Even our children and grandchildren in years to come would know of the decision. How does this possible action look in the light of publicity?

*Continued on page 7*

## Reflections on the Presbyterian Homes

*Submitted by Bill Moore  
Retired Member of Huntingdon Presbytery  
Member of the Homes Board*

I slipped up! Last year Huntingdon Presbytery voted to make support for the Presbyterian Homes in Huntingdon Presbytery a Special Opportunity designation in the Presbytery Mission Budget. I wasn't there to protest. The Resident Care item of the Presbytery Mission Budget is the one of two mission/program items of big bucks (Presbytery Office Support for \$35,00 in 2004 and—as Special Opportunity designation – Homes Resident Care for \$40,000) in our budget totally supported by this presbytery alone. I hate to see the Homes Resident Care shoved into near obscurity in the Special Opportunity portion of the budget.

Here's why I am concerned. The Homes' is hundreds of thousands of dollars in the hole due mostly to the Benevolent Care program. For example, Moshannon Heights Personal Care Home (Philipsburg) has its lowest census in years and 95 percent of those residents are Benevolent Care. Moshannon Heights alone needs \$500,000. The Homes needs a total of \$800,000 for Benevolent Care this year. Most of the Homes facilities have experienced reduced income and are operating in the red. Medicaid, the state funded nursing home care support for low income residents, has cut back its funding to the point where benevolence funds are needed to help cover costs of its Medicaid residents. It didn't use to be that way. Nursing care at one time paid its own way and even helped underwrite benevolent care. With maybe one exception, this is no longer true. Investment returns and other offerings have fallen off too.

The churches and individuals within the presbytery can help reverse the Presbyterian Homes in the Presbytery of Huntingdon financial situation. Along with meeting their regular Presbytery Mission Fund pledge (or making and meeting one), the sessions can set and receive a second mile offering **now**, designating the Presbyterian Homes Benevolent Care as recipients. Individuals can give to Homes Resident Care through their churches or send a donation directly to the Homes at P.O. Box 595, Hollidaysburg, PA, 16648.

Pray about what you can do to help. Pray for the mission of the Presbyterian Homes, the staff and administration, and the residents.

*Rev. Moore may be  
reached at*

## MISSION FESTIVAL

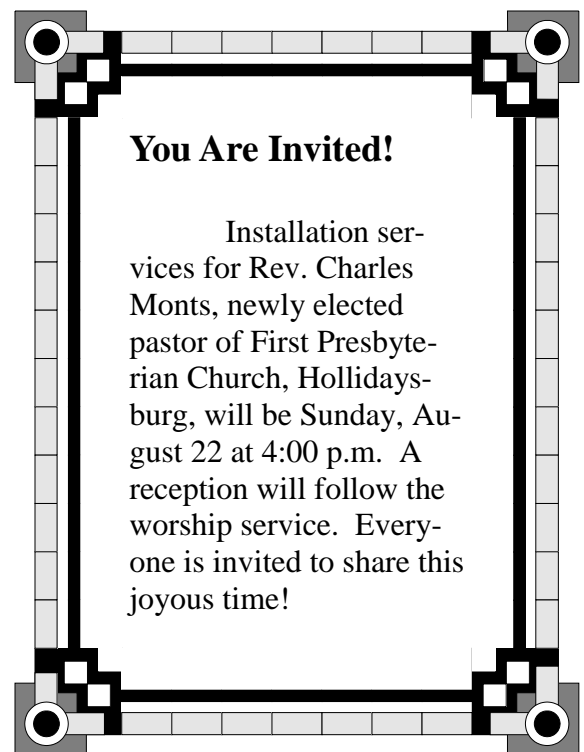
*Submitted by  
Alice Meloy*

Circle the date, September 28th! Presbytery will meet at 6:00 at the McVeytown Presbyterian Church following a light meal. Prior to the Presbytery meeting, we will gather together to celebrate the mission of each and every church. As a Presbytery, we have supported Pakh 5 Nan, but individual churches have been supporting missions in other parts of the world. Several churches have been at work in Haiti. Our people have traveled in various parts of the world.

The mission field is all around us, and many churches are actively involved in both their own communities and are serving inner-city or Appalachian projects. This is an opportunity to share these experiences and to rejoice and give thanks that God is using us in many places and in many ways.

Now is the time to recruit a presenter from your church, plan visuals and displays. The McVeytown Church has space to spare and lends itself well to a number of exhibits. You may want to share music, ethnic foods, clothing, etc.

There will be representatives assigned to each cluster in our Presbytery. They will be in touch. Bulletin inserts and further information will be mailed August 8th. If you have questions, con-



## Celebrating History

Submitted by

Jim Davis

Sunday, August 29, 10 am at the Historical Manor Hill Presbyterian Church, we will be having our worship service. Many community residents, as well as, neighboring Presbyterian churches join in this annual tradition to praise God for establishing this Presbyterian Church early in our colonization of Wm Penn's woods. It seats comfortably 400 people enabling all to admire the simplicity of that early journey in the church's history.

It all began in a meeting house, probably of log, which was built at Manor Hill by the Shavers Creek Presbyterian Congregation. This body of Presbyterians was formed out of the Hartslog Congregation at Alexandria. This congregation increased in number sufficiently that in thirty years they needed to consider a building project. In 1823, they built the present stone structure which remains at Manor Hill.

This thriving group eventually produced two other Presbyterian congregations-Bethel at Shavers Creek Bridge and the White Church at McAlevy's Fort. Consequently, the church at Manor Hill began to dwindle in membership and vitality. In 1969, the property was offered by Huntingdon Presbytery to the Huntingdon County Historical Society as an historical site, being the oldest church building in the county and having survived in original condition. The loose change from the offerings of worship services, weddings, etc., are turned over to the Huntingdon County Historical Society to help maintain the church and the cemetery.

The best part of this story is the changing of populations as they search for food, jobs, and shelter. Churches move with the population to newer sites enabling God's people to continue singing praises wherever their search may lead them. This paradigm of past history could well illustrate a model for us to emulate as we envision a future for Huntingdon Presbytery.

To bring this wonderful day to an end, Petersburg Bethel Church will hold a corn boil and hot dogs starting at 6pm that evening

Elder



## Bible School Successes

Whether it was Son Games, Lava Lava Island, or some other "cool" place to be, many of our churches transformed their classrooms, yards and/or sanctuaries into energetic activity for summer Vacation Bible School programs. With attendance anywhere from the twenties to a hundred, our Presbyterian Churches have reached many children this summer who would not otherwise hear the Gospel message. In addition, financial gifts were given to Haiti, families in need, Heifer Project International and other ministries.

And that is good!

## First Presbyterian Church Hears Christ's Call

Submitted by

Nancy Kraybill

"...Whenever you did one of these things (clothed those without) to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me."  
*Matthew 25:40 The Message*

One of the missions of First Presbyterian Church, Altoona is a Kid's Klostet and Women's Wardrobe. Many members have sorted, cleaned, ironed and hung clothing for the community. During the past nine months, the Klostet has been visited by 78 women representing themselves and/or the 156 children who have received clothing. Eleven counselors from various agencies have come with many of the clients. What a great ministry to the community!

Elder Kraybill

may be reached at

**You Are Invited!**

On August 8th , the Rev. Mr. Gary Califf will be installed as Pastor of the DuBois Church, 3 pm at the DuBois Presbyterian Church! You are welcome to come share in this celebration and reception following.

## Presbytery Calendar

August 2	*Leadership Umbrella Team, 10 am at the Huntingdon Church
August 4	*Subcommittee on Ministry with Congregations, 1 pm at the presbytery office
August 5	*Committee on Preparation for Ministry, 10 am at the presbytery office
August 7	*Commissioned Lay Pastor training led by Deannine Shipman, 9:30 am at the State College Church
August 8	*22nd Anniversary of the Belleville and Allensville Churches, 10 am at the Belleville Church to be followed by a potluck picnic *Installation of The Rev. Mr. Gary Califf as Pastor of the DuBois Church, 3 pm at the Du-Bois Church
August 10	*Administrative Umbrella Team, 1:30 pm at the presbytery office *Joint Camp and Conference Committee, 5 pm at Camp Krislund
August 11	*Staff meeting, 9:30 am at the presbytery office *Discipleship Umbrella Team, 4 pm at the Pine Grove Mills Church
August 12	*Committee on Ministry, 1 pm at the presbytery office
August 22	*Installation of The Rev. Mr. Charles Monts as Pastor of the Hollidaysburg Church, 4 pm at the Hollidaysburg Church
August 24	*Personnel Committee, 9 am at the presbytery office
August 31	*Presbytery Council, 1 pm at the presbytery office
Sept. 6	*Labor Day holiday, presbytery office closed



### Agape Herald

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## Presbytery Prayer Calendar

1	<b>Petersburg-Bethel Congregation</b> Rev. David L. Benfer, Pastor
8	<b>Philipsburg Congregation</b> Rev. Tracie A. Bullis, Pastor <b>Pine Grove Mills Congregation</b> Rev. Carl D. Campbell, Pastor <b>Port Matilda Bald Eagle Congregation</b> Rev. Paula Curtis Burn, Moderator
15	<b>Reedsville East Kish. Congregation</b> Rev. Charles W. McGaha, Pastor <b>Shade Gape Congregation</b> Rev. Merry Hope Meloy, Interim Pastor
22	<b>Sinking Valley Congregation</b> Rev. John Dean, Moderator <b>Snow Shoe Congregation</b> Rev. Linda K. Hendrian, Pastor
29	<b>Spruce Creek Lower Spruce Congregation</b> Rev. John Dean, Moderator <b>State College Congregation</b> Rev. Charles S. Carey, Pastor

## Have You Paid Your “Church Dues?”

Submitted

by Jim Kimmel

I have always said that there are two primary ways to become a Presbyterian. One is to be born one; the other is to marry one. Well, I married a Presbyterian and thus became a Presbyterian.

One of the first things I heard was that everyone was expected to pay their “church dues.” Upon hearing this, I wondered just what kind of a club had I joined? Would they kick me out if I failed to pay my dues? Of course, I quickly learned that church dues were not dues but it was actually a term for what we all know as per capita.

So, what is per capita? It is a fixed amount based on the denomination’s budgets, with every Presbyterian sharing equally regardless of congregation size, location, and/or personal interests. The per capita funds are distributed to General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery according to a fixed distribution rate. The funds thus received are used to carry out the programs of GA, Synod, and Presbytery. The per capita for the current year was distributed \$13.35 to Presbytery, \$2.20 to Synod, and \$5.51 to General Assembly.

Due in no small way to the dissatisfaction that some Presbyterians have expressed as a result of recent and/or current actions taken by higher echelons of our denomination; some members and/or congregations have decided to protest by withholding their per capita funds. Now, no one can be forced to pay their “church dues.” Sessions cannot invoke any kind of punishment for the withholding of the individual’s per capita. However, sessions must make up the difference if some members choose not to pay. If sessions do not submit their full amount, the programs of the denomination suffer accordingly.

So withholding per capita funds is not the answer. The work of our denomination at all levels must move forward and these funds are what makes that possible. Without these funds there are those who will remain hungry, those who will remain homeless, those who will remain uneducated, and those who will not learn of Jesus Christ. Thus, it behooves every Presbyterian and every congregation to support the programs of our denomination. Even through we may not be 100% in agreement with the actions of a few, we cannot punish the majority who depend on our per capita funds. So, it is the responsibility, even duty, of every session to encourage every one of its members to pay their “church dues.”

Elder Kimmel may be reached at 814-447-3191

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Submission deadline is the 3rd Monday each month for the following month’s publication.

## Right from Wrong

*Continued*

*from page 3*

And, test Number Five.

There's a story of a basketball star whose blind father attended every game, just to hear the crowd, and hopefully gain some indication of approval for his son's accomplishments on the basketball court. The blind father died, and the day after his burial, the son played the finest game of his career. "Coach, how did I do tonight?" "Son, why do you ask? It was the best game you ever played!"

The player was pleased, and responded - "I wanted it to be good. You see, it's the first game my father was able to see." He had played his heart out, believing fully that his Dad could see him with the ball, and could watch every move. Cheer every shot - every assist.

Whom do you respect most in life? I'm hoping that it might be Christ. In seeking to make the right decision, look to Christ - his teaching and his example. Carry your behavior into the presence of the Son of God and have Him see what you are preparing to do. This 5th test then, is the test of your **MOST RESPECTED PERSON**. Would that person approve? If you do it, would that person be pleased with what they see?

I hope you will remember these five tests - Common Sense, Universal, Foresight, Publicity, and Most Respected Person. I believe they will help you make good decisions. God bless you as you move through the rest of your life.

The Apostle Paul writes - "*None of us lives to himself alone, If we live, it is for the Lord that we live. And if we die, it is for the Lord that we die. Whether we live or die, then, we belong to the Lord.*" [Romans

## GA HAPPENINGS

*Joy Kaufmann*

*Submitted by Rev.*

Don't you just love the General Assemblies that pass without much public fanfare? It has come to mean that we did not tear each other apart about matters of human sexuality. For those of us in the church, it also means that the work of the church was carried out, often effectively and faithfully. Here are some of the highlights from this year's GA in Richmond, VA. Lots of good things happened, and our presbytery had a total of 14 persons present during the week.

Those of who went from The Huntingdon Presbytery were: Elder Commissioner Don Mitchell from the Clearfield Church, Minister Commissioner Dan Ledford from the Curwensville Church, Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) Norm Hesser from the McVeytown Church, PNC members Ann Gill and Leanne and Bob Peters from Mountain Top Parish, Resource Center Interim Coordinator Marie Carlson and her husband Joe, seminarian Matt Black, COM chair Sam Strohm, pastors Glen Eason and Doug Pride, Stated Clerk Ginny Rainey and General Presbyter Joy Kaufmann. You can ask them for their perspectives or even invite them to make a presentation at your church.

There were lots of highlights, maybe a few lowlights, and always lots of Presbyterians taking part and seeking to be faithful to Jesus Christ and his church. Below are just a few of the happenings and legislative decisions.

\* More than 8,000 people filled the Richmond Colliseum for worship and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday.

\* Five women from El Salvador organized two entire villages to craft colorful carry-bags called "mantas", given to each person registered for the GA by the host presbytery, The Presbytery of the James.

\* Following nomination speeches and a hearty question and answer time, Elder Rick Ufford-Chase of The Presbytery of De Christo was elected moderator. The other two candidates for moderator, The Rev. K.C. Ptomey of The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and The Rev. David McKechnie of The Presbytery of New Covenant, made a strong showing in the first round of commissioner and advisory delegate voting, but Mr. Ufford-Chase won on the second ballot. He goes by "Rick", brought a sense of humility and humor to the office of moderator and said during the Q & A period, "If I am elected and you are a youth or young adult, please call the administrative assistant in the Office of the Moderator tomorrow and invite me to come to your events." He also said, "When we try to follow Jesus Christ, we experience fear and joy. But God can use us to change the world. My personal relationship with Jesus Christ changed everything for me." "I will challenge us to get in the boat with Jesus!"

\* Rick Ufford-Chase chose The Rev. Jean Marie Peacock as Vice Moderator.

\* Those gathered heard from many ecumenical delegates, including The Rev. Younan Shiba, pastor of two Presbyterian churches in Baghdad. examination, repentance and a covenant to live together in faith.

\* Each day began or ended with worship, all participated in fellowship with others from around the denomination (where else could someone from our presbytery eat breakfast with a Border Ministry volunteer who brings water to Mexicans in danger of dying in the desert and have lunch with a Native