

Associate General Presbyter
September 2006

The summer has found me in and out of town much more than I would have preferred, but all occasions were “worthwhile” in their own right.

- **General Assembly**-sharing in the struggles of the wider Church, as people seek to work on the PUP report and what it means; connecting with mission folks and others in that area, as well as networking with other presbytery folks
- **PW Gathering**-what a tremendous event this is! The plenary sessions, workshops, and resources made available were all so well done, and the women surely do know how to do “celebration!” The international flavor given, especially with the Brazilians, made it all the richer. (I staff the presbytery’s Coordinating team, and they were gracious enough to pay my registration cost.) Sadly, I had to leave early due to Joe Tarry’s death.
- **New Wilmington Missionary Conference**- a regularly scheduled time every summer for over 30 years. There comes a time for change, and this is one of those times. The Conference is moving further away from interpreting and sharing of PC (USA) mission work, giving way to several non-denominational individuals and work. While there are still things to be learned, I find I can no longer support the lack of focus on our denominational mission effort.
- **Pittsburgh Seminary**-taking another course toward my Certification in “Spiritual Formation.” The course entitled, “Spiritual Leadership for the Blessed Church” was the second course reflecting on the leader’s book, *Becoming the Blessed Church*.

Though somewhat weary, I feel energized by two or three key elements of these months. First, there are still many people who love the PC (USA), and are willing to hang in to sort things through, thus avoiding a split. Second, the readings and classes on the topic of “leadership” were great, and I hope to be able to share some thoughts with others in the presbytery. Thirdly, the “Let Your Light Shine” event recently held in Richmond was another sign of energy and desire for learning in our own presbytery. As we begin the return to fall schedules in churches, I will be looking for opportunities to share some of what I experienced and learned this summer.