

Moderator's Report

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Moderator of Transylvania Presbytery this year. I have learned a great deal about the church – locally, regionally and nationally – during this time. Though I am a lifelong Presbyterian and have been a part of Transylvania Presbytery for more than 40 years, I have found new and challenging aspects of our denominational life together. And “together” is the key word. The Presbyterian Church has always been a denomination of “connected” believers at the congregational, presbytery, synod and General Assembly levels. Or, at least, that is what we say. Making that real for our 10,000+ members in Transylvania Presbytery is an on-going challenge.

One of the greatest blessings of the year was visiting different congregations – for Presbytery meetings, installations, conferences and worship. We come in all shapes and sizes. We worship in all kinds of places. We have a variety of understandings of God and of the most meaningful ways to worship God. It is hard to describe the bond that I felt, even in a church where I knew no one. That bond was particularly strong at those times when we celebrated the Lord's Supper. We are a small band of believers, when compared with many other Christian churches today, but all over this part of Kentucky, we are walking in the way of our servant Lord. Thanks be to God!

In this time and in this place we are called to re-examine how we are “church.” The Hazard Vision Task Force will be doing that in the months ahead. The Rev. Ellen Peach has agreed to Chairperson that task force, and the Rev. Jim Stewart has agreed to be the Vice Chairperson. Other members include Chris Doll, the Rev. Woody Berry, the Rev. J. T. Silence, Stan Brunn, Jody Lambert, the Rev. Kathy Riley, Bill Reed, Merle Caudill, Herb E. Smith and Liz Barret. Talk with these folks about how Transylvania Presbytery and its member churches can follow God's call into the poorest parts of our region.

For this December meeting of the Presbytery we have extended invitations to representatives from four of the presbyteries which border ours: Mid-Kentucky, East Tennessee, Cincinnati and West Virginia. We hope we will meet Presbyterians just across our borders with whom we may share mission and ministry in the future.

As we move into the Advent season, may that reality – of God's presence in our midst in a very real and personal way – fill your life for this season and beyond.

Marilyn S. Daniel