



## Reflections on Spring, the Easter Season and this Presbytery

I have been previewing the book that Doug Heidt has written (to be published later this year I believe!), The Love That Will Not Let You Go. In one of the early chapters he recalls going to Sunday School and singing, "Praise him, praise him, all you little children. God is Love, God is Love..." That song also echoes in my childhood experience, living within me still. From my childhood days, the theological lesson learned was, "God is Love."

In this season of Easter, we celebrate God's Love, made known to us through his Son, Jesus Christ. The resurrection, new life and the call to be a witness are all wrapped up in God's love.

As I listen to how God is moving with this presbytery, I am witness to God's love, made known through our congregations and the ministries and mission in which we are engaged. SO let me lift up just a few:

--The Small Church Conference (hoping that you read the newsletter article about that conference recently held at the Fayetteville Presbyterian Church) – such an enthusiastic, joy-filled conference, lifting up stories (such as the South Park story) of how God is moving in our smaller membership congregations...

--1001 Worshipping Communities Task Force – a meeting I look forward to! That Task Force has been praying for the Lord of the harvest to move within this presbytery, coming together with enthusiasm and hope for potential 1001 Worshipping Communities in this presbytery. You will hear more about this at the upcoming June 11 presbytery meeting at Davis & Elkins College!

--Bluestone – As a former camp director, I can testify to the power and potential made alive through church camp. Some of my former campers and counselors (including Barbara Chalfant!) are leaders and pastors in the PC(USA), to which I give God thanks. This is a time to think about signing up for camp! Some of our churches are active in the "Send a kid to camp" movement, raising the funds to send kids from their communities to Bluestone this summer.

--Hunger ministries – So many of our churches either have a food ministry or join in an ecumenical expression in their community to help those with the basics of living, by providing food for individuals and families.

I could go on and on about how we are sharing God's love in this presbytery! "God is Love." Let that resonate within your soul and echo in the cities, towns and hollers of West Virginia!

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