



## The Rhythm of the Synod

Faith Notes from the Summer Conference Meeting of the Synod of the Trinity  
Gathering at the Penn Stater Conference Center  
State College, Pennsylvania June 20-22, 2010

"Simple Gifts – Simple Acts" was the theme of this year's conference. The keynote speaker, Diana Butler Bass, author and scholar, talked with about 165 participants in an engaging and inspiring way about the practices of the church, as well as her observations of Christians in community in the past, present and future.

Three outstanding worship experiences featured different styles of worship and music. Sunday evening worship was held at the State College Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Dr. Ron Peters preaching, a choir composed of members from churches throughout the Presbytery of Huntingdon, and music direction by Ned Wetherald (who also wrote some of the lyrics and music used throughout the conference). Communion was celebrated and led by the Rev. Dr. Bill Knudsen. A simple meal was provided by the only "green" caterer in Pennsylvania. Worship on Monday morning featured preaching by Synod Associate Executive the Rev. Susan Faye Wonderland and energetic music sung by the Penn State *Essence of Joy Alumni Choir*. Closing worship was led by Synod Executive the Rev. Dr. Bruce G. Stevens who preached a motivating sermon titled, "Get Out of the Boat!" Music was provided by the duo *Simple Gifts* who, using a variety of instruments, played American folk songs.

Offerings taken during the worship services will be divided between the Scholarship Fund for Campers at Camp Krislund and Presbyterian Disaster Relief for Nashville, Tennessee which is still suffering from recent floods and tornadoes.

Conference workshops were well attended and greatly appreciated. The Rev. Dr. Ron Peters, the Rev. Lisa Dormire, the Rev. Larry Stout, the Rev. Dr. Donald Kraybill, and Mr. Tom Pappalardo talked about various aspects of "Simple Gifts – Simple Acts". Books were available through Hearts and Minds Bookstore owned by Byron and Beth Borger. Book signing sessions were held with authors Diana Butler Bass, Donald Kraybill, and Charles Gross.

At the Synod stated business meeting, Commissioners raised Synod per capita to \$2.20. They also approved Mission Program Grants for House of Manna Faith Community (Pittsburgh Presbytery), Peter's Creek New Church Development (Washington Presbytery), and Young Adult Missional Community (Carlisle Presbytery). Synod Presbyterian Women Moderator Mary McElroy reported that Synod PW had a great event just prior to this conference and plan, next year, to hold four regional events. Standing Rules changes were made to provide for web conference meetings for committees. It is hoped that, one day, a Synod meeting will be held via web conferencing.

The 2010 Conference Co-Chairs, Bill Knudsen, Executive Presbyter (Clergy, Northumberland) and Charlotte Lyons (Elder, Lackawanna) faithfully and gladly led the planning team that developed this event. Team Members were: 2010 Synod Moderator Neal Galley (Clergy, Redstone) and Ned Wetherald (Director of Music, State College Presbyterian Church) along with Synod staff Lesley Shoup and Catherine Gray.

The next stated business meeting in this 293<sup>rd</sup> year of the Synod of the Trinity will be held Monday – Tuesday, October 11-12, 2010 at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, Pennsylvania.

Submitted Joyfully in the Name of Christ,  
The Rev. Lesley Imler Shoup, Stated Clerk