

Friends,

I am deeply grateful for the understanding and support of the Presbytery as I continue to rehabilitate from my cycling accident. The many cards, e-mails, and phone calls have warmed my heart and lifted my spirits as I mend and undergo physical therapy.

These weeks away have provided me with a deeper appreciation for the Apostle Paul's words to the saints in Philippi, "I thank my God every time I remember you." Indeed I give God thanks for the very good work that continues to be accomplished by the staff and leadership of the Presbytery.

There have been a number of unexpected benefits of this time of recuperation. The first has been the opportunity to engage in discernment regarding Presbytery's Strategic Plan. The clarity granted by this reflection has allowed me to support our Council and Committees as they develop and refine goals for 2010.

The next has been the chance to work with leaders as we begin to create Handbooks for their Committees to review. These Committee Handbooks are the "next step" in the process following the adoption of a new Manual of Administrative Operations at the November Stated Meeting in Shenandoah.

Another unintended gift has been an ability to remain spiritually aware of God's active presence in the Presbytery as well as in my life. This has been enhanced by delving into the extensive reading list recommended to participants in Presbytery Leader Formation. This program is offered by the Association of Executive Presbyters and the Office of the General Assembly for the formation, development and support of presbytery leadership.

I am patiently eager to be back with my brothers and sisters in Missouri River Valley because it is clear that the Spirit is active and involved in our life together!

Grace and peace,

Kevin

Kevin S. Keaton,
Executive Presbyter