

March 2007

## Passion Fruit

*To all the saints,*

Grace to you and peace.

In one week I heard two speakers in places far apart express the same need for the church: **passion**.

William Willimon, Methodist Bishop and well-known writer, spoke at Moravian College, helpfully rooting this presbytery's engagement with missional theology: *missio* is to be sent, it is *to be mission*. He noted that Matthew ends—and so for us begins—“Go on, get out of here! Get on with it!” lifting up Methodist founder John Wesley's call for “passion, conviction, and fruit.”

Later, at the “Transformational Stewardship” conference in Denver, keynoter Rick Ufford-Chase, past PCUSA moderator, spent hours on passion. He encouraged us to tap into what the Quakers describe as “the deepest part of you fully satisfied,” that passion to which we have been called.

As he charged us, may the passions we feel called to, through Scripture and prayer, be used for the building up the body and not tearing it down; may we have the courage to risk for what we believe; and may that same courage allow us to become the kind of safe space where passion can be explored and expressed, a place where Christ truly becomes incarnate.

Peace,

*Steve*

Steve Shussett

