

Moderator's Report  
January 22, 2012  
Jean Volkers

Thank you for allowing me the great honor and privilege of being your moderator this past year. I realize that you have given me a trust and I hope that I lived up to your trust. I have stretched myself in putting myself out in front of the presbytery's meetings and, by doing so, have learned so much about the Presbyterian Church. I am living proof that anyone can do this job. A special highlight was the privilege to install the Rev. Peggy Hegeman as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Cleghorn on January 15. That makes 8 installations and ordinations that I was honored to participate in this year.

I especially loved learning about the great people that we have in this presbytery. I have learned to appreciate you and the leadership in this presbytery, especially the moderator's team. Each of you have a special gift and I am thankful that you are using your gift's for the good of the church. I know there are many more people in our presbytery that also have a variety of gifts that they could be utilizing if even given a chance, like you gave me. Let's encourage everyone to use their gifts and provide opportunity to use them.

Are your shoes polished? I ask that question because I have heard that a congregation that wanted another pastor than the one they had, and they used the unpolished shoes as one reason to force him out. What standards does your church set for their pastor? Some churches use standards that are not even mentioned in God's Word, arbitrarily, while completely ignoring the standards that God does set for us. I urge all of us to put God and His standards first and concentrate less on superficial things. I know I have a long way to go to meet all the Biblical standards, much less be concerned about arbitrary standards of numerous different people in our churches. Just imagine how the message of Christ is thwarted by nit-picking among His followers over inconsequential temporary issues instead of focusing on obeying the Biblical standards. James 1:22 tells us, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. ***Do what it says.***" Notice that it says the word, not Robert's Rules or Emily Post's etiquette. Let's major in the majors and not in the minors. Let's keep the main thing the main thing.