

1. **Staunton Choral Society request.** The Staunton Choral Society wishes to use our sanctuary for their annual Christmas Concerts. This will involve a rehearsal on Monday, November 23 or 30 (7:00 p.m.) and concerts on Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6 (either 4:00 p.m. or 7:00/7:30 p.m.)
2. **2009 Stewardship Campaign.** Stewardship and Finance is working on the 2009 Stewardship Campaign. Committees should give attention to the following items:
 - a. **Minutes for Mission.** The schedule for Minutes for Mission during worship is as follows:
 - ▶ October 11. . . . Stewardship and Finance
 - ▶ October 18. . . . Mission (World Food Day luncheon)
 - ▶ October 26. . . . Christian Education
 - ▶ November 1. . . . Membership and Outreach
 - ▶ November 8. . . . Worship and Music
 - ▶ November 15. . . Property
 - b. **2009 Budget Requests.** Please have all budget request worksheets turned into the Church Office by Sunday, October 18. These are being distributed at the meeting. *[These forms are also available on the Church web site, on the Session page.]*
3. **Bible Study.** Bible Study will return on Tuesday, September 8, with a study on Revelation. This study will run through December 8, and will be offered at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, and 7:00 p.m. in the Lucille Sanger Classroom. There will be no study the week of October 6, and the November 10 morning study will be moved to Wednesday, November 11, due to a meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery.
4. **Rehoboth Retreat.** The final gathering of the Rehoboth group to which I belong will be next week. Rehoboth is a small group program of Shenandoah Presbytery for its members, funded by a grant from the Lilly Foundation. I will be away from Sunday, August 30 through Saturday, September 5, in Duck, N.C.
5. **Form of Government Task Force.** The FOG Task Force held its second face-to-face meeting August 12-14 in Arlington, Texas. We finalized the version of the proposed new Form of Government which will now go to the 219th General Assembly next July in Minneapolis. This draft will be available around September 1 on the Task Force's web site, www.pcusa.org/formofgovernment/. Our task now shifts from writing to interpretation.
6. **Session size/structure issue.** Previously, I have raised the issue of the Session's size. We have maintained a session of 18 elders, with the design that one elder from each class year would serve on one of the six program committees of the session. This sometimes presents a challenge for the nominating committee, to secure the six elders we need each year. Do we need to consider reducing the size of the session?

If we choose to go this route, the action to do so would have to be approved by the congregation, as determining matters related to the election of officers is one of its powers. For the sake of illustration, let's assume the congregation approves a recommendation to reduce the session to twelve members. This would be phased in over the next three elections, where the session would be 16 members, then 14, and finally, 12. Taking this action would suggest a restructuring of our program committees. (We are probably overdue for taking a look at this aspect of our work, as it is.) Here is one possible way of structuring the session's work, using four teams or committees, each with three elders on them:

- Worship and Nurture: responsible for worship, music, and Christian Education programs
- Stewardship and Property: responsible for what these two committees now handle
- Mission
- Membership, Fellowship, and Outreach

I am not suggesting that we take action on this tonight. If it were decided to make a recommendation to the congregation on reducing the size of the session, it would probably be something for the January annual meeting, at the earliest.

7. **Kay Mader.** While Kay Mader is recovering from her recent surgeries, I will probably need to assume whatever responsibilities of hers that the Christian Education Committee cannot handle.