

Derry Interim Time A Congregation in Upsetting Times

After 15 years as a pastor, two years in the computer industry and parish associate at Westminster Presbyterian Church. I returned to interim pastorates. In my third interim I served as 25% part-time interim pastor at Derry Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania while working full-time as a computer sales associate. In 2004-2005 I was blessed with a congregation where the following happened:

- **Restarted an attended nursery** during worship with state cleared members caring for children.
- Encourage the **elders in visitation**, creating a worship service for use in visits.
- Led the **settlement of a nearly \$100,000 lawsuit** with another church which resulted in reconciliation with the other denomination and community.
- Rejoined the larger church in partnership by **paying their per capita**
- Made and paid a **pledge to Presbyterian General Mission**
- Brought up elders average **attendance at session** meetings to nearly 100%.
- Helped session **deal with vandalism** by children who also attended Sunday School and youth events
- **Stopped a monthly \$1,000 deficit..**

- Encouraged serious consideration of the **future of maintaining their manse.**
- **Offered classes** on the book *Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt* and the spiritual significance of the movie, "Groundhog Day".
- **Redesigned the newsletter**, which brought the comment "You tell us what is going on!".
- Projected **increase in giving of 7%** based on estimate of giving responses at the first Stewardship Drive in decades where **75% increased** their estimate of giving.
- Provided **dynamic preaching** in worship services
- Installed **a new computer and networking**
- Worked with choir director to reestablish the bell and vocal **choirs for Easter Service.**