

TO: Pastors, CLPs, and Clerks of Session

FROM: Jay Bender, Moderator of Presbytery

DATE: December 31, 2011



Colleagues and Friends,

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me by electing me to serve as Moderator of Presbytery for 2012. I am excited about the work, and I look forward to serving with you all as we work together to face the challenges and opportunities in our individual congregations, our Presbytery, and the PCUSA.

In an effort to fulfill my role as your Moderator, I would like to be more “visible” in our Presbytery. The phrase that I have used frequently is “non-anxious presence.” Obviously, time, geography, and the presence of 188 congregations will make this a challenging task. I bring no agenda or predetermined message. I do feel, however, that it is important to recognize the community and connectional nature of our Presbytery, and to try to foster that as much as possible. Therefore, I would welcome the opportunity to interact with you and your congregation as time and availability permits. Options for this interaction may include, but may not be limited to: filling a vacant pulpit, attending worship and bringing a “Minute for Mission”, attending/participating in a service or ordination/installation, leading/participating/moderating a church or regional “listening session”, participating in family night events, and probably other possibilities that you may know.

If you and your congregation would be receptive to such service, please call me at 252-636-9131 or contact me by email at [jaybender@ec.rr.com](mailto:jaybender@ec.rr.com). I’ll do everything possible to accommodate your requests and schedule as many visits as I can. I will be available after January 8, 2012. I look forward to the opportunity to visit with you and your church families.

Peace and Blessings on you all in this New Year.

*Jay*

Jay Bender, Moderator  
Presbytery of Coastal Carolina  
(Pollocksville Presbyterian Church)