

***Recognition of
HONORABLE RETIREMENT
From
The Ministry of Word and Sacrament
For
The Reverend Thomas Boggs McPhail***

March 18, 2010

(The retiring minister stand at the front of the place of meeting and the moderator leads the Presbytery:)

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

Ps. 90:1-2

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

See Ps. 103:1-5

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits,**

who forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;

**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

who satisfies you with good things,

and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

Personal Reflections on the Ministry of
The Rev. Tom McPhail

Rev. James Gable

(The moderator addresses Rev. McPhail)

Tom, you have completed your active service as a minister of the Word and Sacrament. Your sisters and brothers in Providence Presbytery rejoice with you in the evidence of the Holy Spirit in your work. We thank God for your dedicated ministry in the church of Jesus Christ, and we praise God for the grace that has allowed your ministry to touch many lives.

Now we come to mark with you the fulfillment of your calling, as Providence Presbytery confers upon you the status, Honorably Retired. While we know this begins a time of rest and the enjoyment of other callings, we value the experience you have gained and the skills you have acquired throughout your years of ministry. Therefore, we welcome your continued participation in the life of the church, using your gifts in meaningful ways. You remain a colleague in ministry, and we will continue to seek your wisdom and your fellowship.

Together with the whole church, you will find new opportunities to fulfill your baptismal calling, as one marked by the Holy Spirit, a disciple of Jesus Christ. May God continue to bring joy and peace to your life, just as you have blessed the Presbyterian Church with your ministry and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, through all the years of our lives your love protects and guides us. By your Spirit you call us to varied ministries in the service of Jesus Christ. We praise you for your gifts to your servant, Art, for his faithful proclamation of your Word, his administration of the holy sacraments of Jesus Christ, and his pastoral care and leadership in the church.

Grant to Tom time for refreshment and rest, reflection and rejoicing, and the fullness of your peace. Through your Holy Spirit bless each of us that we may remember the love of Jesus Christ which unites us in the service of our Lord. In the name of Christ we pray.

AMEN.