

## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

**John A. Battle**

This is a banner year for American Presbyterians. Three hundred years ago, in 1706, a small group of Presbyterian ministers and elders met in Philadelphia to organize the first presbytery in the American colonies. The leader of that group was Francis Makemie, a Scotsman who had come to these shores from Ireland. Within a few decades the Presbyterian churches became a force in the New World. Among other things, Presbyterians were in the forefront of the American Revolution of 1776. Thereafter Presbyterians have had a great impact on our nation, far beyond what their numbers may have indicated.

This issue of the *WRS Journal* traces the history and significance of Presbyterianism in its development in America for the last three hundred years. John Dyck, Chris Lensch, and I each concentrate on one of the centuries of this history. G. W. Fisher explains the great impact Presbyterians had on our nation's institutions, especially their leadership in obtaining our civil and religious liberty. Dennis Jowers offers his assessment of the condition of Presbyterianism in America in our own day. Unfortunately, we are now only a very small percentage of the population, and are not doctrinally united. The call is clear. It's time for us to reestablish our base and reach out with the wonderful gospel and teachings so many of our forebears fought and died for.

We trust this issue will be a blessing and an encouragement to you. Let us know what you think!