

**General Secretary of Presbyterian Churches in Iraq Visits National Capital
Presbytery and The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church**

General Secretary of the Evangelical Presbyterian Churches in Iraq and Chairman of the Church Council of the Presbyterian Church in Baghdad, Elder Yousif al-Saka, visited Washington, D.C., November 8-12, 2008, at the request of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Elder Al-Saka gave a slide presentation to The New York Avenue Presbyterian



Church Adult Christian Education on the situation of the Presbyterian Church in Iraq and the Presbyterian Church in Baghdad in particular. This was followed by a reception supported by the Presbytery's Peacemaking Team. During the week, Elder Al-Saka gave a luncheon presentation at the PC(USA) Washington Office before 20 people from the faith community, and the following day gave a presentation to those attending the Tuesday legislative briefing of the Washington Office.. He also

met with officers at the U.S. Department of State and at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Veteran's Day activities in Washington provided an opportunity for Elder Al-Saka to visit Arlington Cemetery; the World War II, Korean, and Viet Nam war memorials; the Capitol and other Washington, D.C. sites. His brief time with us provided insights and first-hand accounts of the situation in Iraq and the challenges faced by churches there.



Elder Al-Saka with NYA members and NCP Peacemaking Team member Linda McCaw