



THE INTERPRETER

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

NOVEMBER 2005

SPEAKING FROM THE HART

Earthquakes, Hurricanes, and the Reformation

These are the last days... I know we are in the end times, said a person of faith as she talked about the recent spate of natural disasters. I started to answer when another person said, *Don't you think people felt that way in World War II, or at the time of the Black Plague in the middle ages, or the influenza pandemic 90 years ago?*

At some point in each generation, there comes a time when it seems like the whole world is coming to an end. Dispensationalism, a popularized brand of theology, postulates that there are predictable signs announcing when and how the end will come.

As Presbyterians, we believe that Jesus is Lord... God is Sovereign... and the Holy Spirit is ever at work, and someday God will bring to completion that which he started in Jesus Christ. However, we tend to side with Jesus in response to the disciples who asked him: *Is now the time? Is this the end?* To which he said: *It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you... and you shall be my witnesses...* (Acts 1:6)

So what does eschatology (study of end times) have to do with hurricanes, earthquakes, and the Reformation? Some think natural disasters and rumors of wars are predictive of the end. Jesus in Matthew 24:6 said, *When these things happen the end is not yet.* So in this kind of time, what are we to do?

One of the core principles of the Reformation is the Priesthood of all believers. Each of us has access to God, and is gifted with a ministry to do. If you feel overwhelmed in the face of the hurricanes and the quaking of our times, get involved... figure out how and where you can use your gift. Jesus said in times like that we are to be witnesses.

One suggestion is to call [Larry Graham-Johnson](#) and volunteer 1 or 2 days a month in our ongoing hurricane recovery work. Over the summer we hosted 1200 volunteers from around the country who each came for a week to help the uninsured or under insured get back into their homes after Charley. To date we have assisted over 100 families. BUT some of the work teams who were going to come in the fall and winter have cancelled because of Katrina and Rita. The need is great in Mississippi and Louisiana, but the need still remains here. You can make a difference!

You have a gift... you can do something... power has come upon us.

Thanks be to God,
[Graham Hart](#)

Save These Dates!
PLAN TO ATTEND BOTH!!!

OFFICERS' INSTITUTE 2006

Saturday, February 11, 2006

at

[Church of the Palms](#), Sarasota



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

[Dr. Leonard Sweet](#), nationally and internationally known theologian and one of the foremost futurist thinkers of our time.

Upcoming Evangelism Event: "From the Crusade to the Coffee Shop"

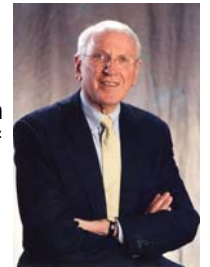
Saturday, March 4, 2006

at

[Church of the Palms](#), Sarasota

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

[Dr. Leighton Ford](#), ordained as an evangelist by the Presbyterian Church (USA), will speak on "Fresh Images of Evangelism from a Lifelong Evangelist".



Please Join Us in Prayer for the
Following Churches:

[Moorings, Naples](#)
[Vanderbilt, Naples](#)

Holy Trinity, North Fort Myers
St. Paul's, North Port

November 6
November 13
November 20
November 27

PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR ALL THOSE
AFFECTED BY HURRICANE WILMA.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

Thursday, November 17, 2005

[Burnt Store Presbyterian Church](#)
11330 Burnt Store Rd.
Punta Gorda

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

November 19 & 20, 2005

[Cedarkirk](#)



THEME: FAITH FACTOR

We've all heard or seen the hit reality TV show FEAR FACTOR. In this retreat we will take a look at our FEARS and learn how FAITH can help us deal with these FEARS.

Cost:

If received by November 7th –
\$80.00 per person.

Registrations received after November 7th
- **\$90.00 per person**

Includes 4 meals, overnight accommodations, t-shirt, and activities

Registration forms are available online at www.peacriverpresbytery.org – click on the youth button on the left hand side. Forms and information have also been mailed to each church. ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE MAILED TO THE PRESBYTERY OFFICE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! UPCOMING EVENTS:

Senior High Retreat –
February 25-26, 2006 at
Cedarkirk



Middle School Urban Mission
Experience

June 11-16, 2006 at Cedarkirk plus mission work at Metropolitan Ministries in Tampa and Beth-El in Wimauma

Senior High 15th Annual Mission Trip to West Virginia
June 17-25, 2006 with hands-on carpentry and building work



KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Dr. Peter Steinke

“Healthy People, Healthy Congregations,
Healthy Presbyteries”

LeaderFest

Thanks to all who helped to make **LeaderFest 2005** a great event for all. Special thanks to the LeaderFest Committee; Valerie Bell and Karin Stewart, Co-Chairs, the wonderful staff at Pine Shores, Sarasota; Dr. Freda Gardner who gave us some provocative ideas and challenges to working with older adults; Valerie's husband Bill who drew up the plans for our wooden church and donated the materials and postage to help us advertise the event; and to all who made the effort to bring your piece of wood and be included in the effort to 'build a church' We had 30 of our 37 Churches in the Peace River faith family represented at this event. Congratulations to NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN in Sarasota who won the grand prize (a handy-man wall clock) for having the best representation relative to church size. Good work Rev. Tom Atkins and members!

LeaderFest 2006

[Burnt Store Presbyterian Church](#) in Punta Gorda on
Saturday, October 21, 2006

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: [Rodger Nishioka](#), associate professor of Christian education at Columbia Theological Seminary, and recipient of an award for his work with youth and children in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Rodger was scheduled to come to our Presbytery the weekend that “Charley” hit our area and it has taken this long to find a ‘spot’ on his calendar to come back.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY
for yourself OR members of your church.

**YOU ARE INVITED
TO THE 10th ANNUAL
ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET**

Saturday, December 3, 2005
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

at [Kirkwood Presbyterian Church](#)
6101 Cortez Road, Bradenton

The Market will feature over 20 local and national charities including: Agape Flights, Habitat for Humanity, Women's Resource Center, Hospice of Southwest Florida, and many other non-profit organizations. Representatives of these agencies will be available to share with you how they make a difference in Manatee County and the world. You can choose special gifts or make contributions to the charities of your choice in honor of your loved ones, and you will receive announcement cards for your recipients.



This year's Market is being held in honor of and thanksgiving for the life of our founder and leader, Rosemary Werner.

This Market is a ministry of
[Westminster Presbyterian Church](#) and
Kirkwood Presbyterian Church.

Thank You!

From First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte:

Please accept our sincere gratitude for the generous check for our hurricane damaged church.

Years past we had no idea that our contributions to "One Great Hour of Sharing" would be returned to us to help pay for damages incurred in the 2004 hurricanes.

Thanks and God bless you.

Resources Available

Remember to check out our website at www.peacriverpresbytery.org under the Resource Center button for suggestions for great Advent/Christmas resources.



**HOPE UNITED REACHES OUT TO
DESOTO COUNTY**



On Saturday, October 1, 2005, a group of volunteers from [Hope United Church \(PCUSA\)](#) in Estero, under the leadership of John Weinzettle, spent the day in DeSoto County helping with disaster repairs. The house they worked on is one of over 125 to be repaired with 60 needing to be completely rebuilt.

We thank General Weinzettle (U.S. Army Retired), Reed Samples, Jake Samples, Joy Williams, Carol Jameson, Jamie Jameson, and Gary Williams for giving of their time and talents to help others.

We know that there is an even greater need for volunteers and everyone is being stretched thin, but if you have a group that would like to spend a day or more helping others, call DeSoto Disaster Recovery (863-494-1000) and we would be very grateful!

You Can Be A Part of *The Interpreter*!

We would love to receive mission stories from your church for future issues of *The Interpreter*. The article may be 150 words and it would be great if you would include a picture. Please submit by the 15th of the month to joan@peacriverpresbytery.org. If you do not have e-mail, you may mail the article to the Presbytery.

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY
5600 Peace River Road
North Port, FL 34287

941-426-8421 or 800-736-4488
www.peacriverpresbytery.org

[Graham Hart](#), General Presbyter
[Bob Rea](#), Designated Associate Presbyter
[Candy Reid](#), Program Coordinator
Craig Countiss, Stated Clerk
Jim Barnett, Treasurer
[Alesia Sharpe](#), Office Manager
[Bill Setchel](#), Financial Secretary
[Joan Mock](#), Administrative Assistant
[Larry Graham-Johnson](#), Rebuilding Coordinator
[Karin Stewart](#), Assistant to Rebuilding Coordinator