



# THE INTERPRETER

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

OCTOBER 2005

## SPEAKING FROM THE HART

### Deepening our Life Together

In Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic book Life Together, he spoke of how true community is formed. Is it when everyone does everything together? Or are present together in worship? Or have fellowship meals in some regular ongoing way? Yes, but community in the deepest form is found when we pray.... when we spend time asking to see people as God sees them... when we seek to connect to people at the deepest level, which in Bonhoeffer's mind was through prayer.

How can we find deeper community together as a Presbytery? Is it in doubling the number of Presbytery meetings? Having more gatherings like LeaderFest? Having cluster meetings? More fun and fellowship?

I suggest a simple way to deepen our connection and sense of community is to pray for one another. As a guide, I offer the following daily prayers:

Sunday – The worship and mission of the church of the week (to find the church of the week, check in the box in the right hand column on this page).

Monday – The pastors, educators, and staff of that church.

Tuesday – The churches of Central Presbytery, our sister Presbytery in Guatemala, and the [PCUSA](#) global mission.

Wednesday – The ongoing recovery of hurricane victims, the work of [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#), and in particular the work of Larry Graham-Johnson (Peace River Presbytery's Hurricane Rebuilding Coordinator) and Ann Graham-Johnson (Executive Director of DeSoto Disaster Recovery).

Thursday – The initial work of our [Joining Hearts and Hands](#) Capital Campaign to support church growth, [Beth-El](#) expansion into Immokalee, adult friendly cottages at [Cedarkirk](#), and new global PCUSA missionaries.

Friday – The staff, committees, and mission of [Peace River Presbytery](#) - that we would continue to fulfill the Presbytery's vision of *Connecting and supporting congregations to advance Christ's mission*.

Saturday – PRP's four New Church Developments that are in their initial stages (Peace – Lakewood Ranch – Rev. Elizabeth Deibert; Crossroads – Immokalee Road, Naples – Rev. Dan Lamey; Hope United - Fort Myers – Rev. Jim Berger; and the Portuguese-speaking Brazilian Fellowship - Naples – currently under the leadership of Silvana Franca).

As one way to deepen our life together, I invite us into a month of prayer.

Praying with you,  
Graham Hart

P.S. If you would like to become a Peace River Prayer Partner, [click here](#) to let me know.

## Last Call for LeaderFest

October 8, 2005

Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Freda Gardner, an elder, former Princeton Seminary professor of Christian Education, and Moderator of the 211<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Her keynote will be about engaging retiring baby boomers in ministry, a timely topic for our area.



The general theme is "Church Improvement" with many classes offered to help.

Class space is limited and by the time you read this some classes may be filled, so don't delay.

**Cost: \$20**

**For more information and to register for these events, call the Presbytery office, (941) 426-8421 or go to our website, [www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org).**



**Please Join Us in Prayer for the Following Churches:**

<a href="#">Chapel by the Sea</a> , Fort Myers Beach	October 2
First, Lehigh Acres	October 9
<a href="#">Wintergarden, Murdock</a>	October 16
<a href="#">First, Naples</a>	October 23
Lely, Naples	October 30

**Compassion Fatigue  
Prevention and Resiliency:  
Fitness for the Frontline**



**Tuesday, October 25, 2005  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia**

For more information, contact your church office or contact Dr. J. Eric Gentry at (941) 720-0143 or [eg@compassionunlimited.com](mailto:eg@compassionunlimited.com)

**Peace River Presbytery Stated Meeting  
Saturday, September 10, 2005**



Dale Cook

Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, graciously hosted the presbytery. With "Youth Ministry in Today's World" as its theme, the presbytery gathered for worship and work. With Dale Cook, Director of High School

Ministries (Church of the Palms, Sarasota) preaching and Mary Brown, Educator (First Presbyterian, Sarasota) delivering the keynote address, the Presbytery explored the vitality of its youth ministry. Whitfield Estates vibrant youth group witnessed to their faith through a powerful drama during the worship service

Using a new format adopted by the Council, the Presbytery divided into three break-out groups for presentations: 1) The Committee on Ministry (The Process During Times of Congregational Transition – "Blest be the Tie that Binds"); 2) 2005 Adult and Youth Mission Trips (Highlights, best practices, and tentative plans for 2006); and 3) Funding the Mission of Peace River Presbytery (Conversations concerning the mission budget, our covenant partnerships, and responsibilities of our mission and ministry together). Trying "something new" went well thanks to careful planning and the excellent hosting of the members of Whitfield Estates.

The Presbytery family grew as it welcomed:

- Clinton C. Cottrell, as pastor of Cypress Lake, Fort Myers
- Thomas Atkins, to be installed pastor of Northminster, Sarasota
- Christopher B. Adams, to be ordained and installed as associate pastor of Westminster, Sarasota on October 16
- Douglas Gebhard, as interim associate pastor, Church of the Palms, Sarasota
- Valerie H. Bell, to be ordained and installed as associate pastor, Burnt Store, Punta Gorda on October 30
- Robert Farrow, HR



Christopher Adams

The Presbytery brought under care as a Candidate, Marilyn Lewis, who has been serving as a United Methodist minister.

A Stewardship Conference is scheduled for Thursday, September 29, sponsored by Joining Hearts and Hands and the Presbytery's Stewardship Development Team, to be held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port. Bruce Porter was named as co-moderator of the Capital Campaign Committee (joining Grover Wrenn and Mary Lee Mann in this important responsibility).

Approval was given to commit an additional \$12,800 to Cedarkirk in 2005 and an Anticipated Budget for 2006 for Peace River Presbytery was distributed.

New Church Development continues to be an exciting and growing part of the life of the Presbytery.

- Land for the Immokalee Road Fellowship has been purchased (with help of a loan from the General Assembly), moving this new church development one step farther down the path of organization.
- Lakewood Ranch Fellowship's name has become Peace Presbyterian NCD. Organizing Pastor Elizabeth Deibert reported that the fellowship has doubled its membership since the last meeting of Presbytery.
- The Brazilian Fellowship has established a pastor nominating committee.
- The Evangelism and New Church Development and Congregational Development Committee is in conversation with an independent church on Longboat Key about becoming a part of Peace River Presbytery.
- September 2, 2005 was designated as Evangelism Sunday.

Among events and mission trips announced were:

- Workshop Rotation Seminar, September 25 at Church of the Palms, Sarasota
- LeaderFest, October 8 at Pine Shores, Sarasota
- Middle School Retreat at Cedarkirk, November 19-20

Commissioners to the 2006 meeting of the General Assembly were elected:

Minister Commissioners:

- Timothy Halverson, Pastor, Faith, Cape Coral
- Kathleen Wiggins, Pastor, Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota

Elder Commissioners:

- Ray Angle, Church of the Palms, Sarasota
- Gail Thornton, First, Punta Gorda

Youth Advisory Delegate:

- Joe Davis, First, Sarasota



Joe Davis, Mary Brown

## Day Care for Adults Available

Catholic Charities, with host [Burnt Store Presbyterian Church](#), is continuing to offer a high quality day care program for adults. The service is offered each Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church. Under the direction of a registered nurse and trained volunteers the participants engage in a variety of activities that provide fellowship and enjoyment.



While loved ones benefit from an opportunity for socialization and individualized attention, the caregiver benefits from peace of mind knowing that care is being provided in a safe and friendly environment providing time to rest, recharge, run errands or visit with others.

For screening, or to register for the service, call Carol Lucas, R.N.M.S. at 941-255-9192. The cost for each weekly session is \$20, based on ability to pay.

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church is a congregation committed to *reaching up and reaching out*. The church is located at 11330 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda, two miles south of the US 41/Burnt Store Road intersection.

## International Thank You!

Several of our churches responded to a plea from Buckingham Presbyterian Church for Bibles and hymnal for new church development in the Philippines. The books have been delivered and thank you letters received from 3 small churches. Each letter has been individually signed by those who felt so lucky to have a Bible and/or hymnal of their own.



Special thanks to: Joan Mock, Valerie Bell, Faith Presbyterian, Chapel by the Sea, Sarasota First, and all the individuals who go unnamed but well blest by this writing.

Marilyn Morrow, [Buckingham Presbyterian Church](#)

## TASK FORCE REPORT

The Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church released their final report the end of August. They have prepared a bulletin insert to further explain their work to church members. It is available in a downloadable format at:

[www.pcusa.org/peaceunitypurity](http://www.pcusa.org/peaceunitypurity)

Sharon K. Youngs  
Communications Coordinator  
Office of the General Assembly

## Sister Church News!

[Venice Presbyterian Church](#) has joined the ranks of sister churches within the bounds of Peace River Presbytery. The ministry will be with Transfiguration Church in Guatemala City. Venice Presbyterian joins: First, Port Charlotte; First, Bonita Springs; First, Naples; Pine Shores, Sarasota; Chapel By The Sea, Fort Myers Beach; Faith, Cape Coral; Covenant, Fort Myers; Moorings, Naples; and Cypress Lake, Fort Myers who have established sister church relationships. If your church is interested in finding out more about this thriving ministry, contact Candy Reid at [candy@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:candy@peacriverpresbytery.org)



## CENTS – ABILITY 2 Cents a Meal - Hunger Offerings



Looking for a dynamic way to include everyone in your church in a solution to the problem of hunger in our world? Contact our Hunger Action Enabler, Candy Reid, at [candy@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:candy@peacriverpresbytery.org) to learn how your church can join the other 21 churches in Peace River Presbytery participating in the 2 Cents a Meal program.

<http://www.pcusa.org/hunger/>

## Looking Ahead

### Peace River Presbytery Middle School Retreat

Theme: "FAITH FACTOR"  
Taking a look at how faith can help us face our fears.

Location: [Cedarkirk](#)

Cost: \$80.00



Registration forms will be available on Peace River Presbytery's later in October.

[www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Registrations MUST be mailed to the Presbytery office due to notarization requirements.

**The deadline for the Winter Issue of P.R.I.M.E. Times is Friday, October 14. If you have any questions, please contact Joan at the Presbytery office.**

## Hope for the Long Haul

We in the various disaster recovery programs in southwest

Florida have been blessed by the multitude of volunteers who have come from far and near to help

rebuild in the recovery effort. More than 1200 people representing seven different church affiliations have worked directly through the Peace River Presbytery Hurricane Task Force to effect repairs on more than 100 homes and properties. Combining this with the effort of our sister agencies and collaborating partners, thousands of volunteers have donated hundreds of thousands of hours, and restored and rebuilt several hundred homes and properties in Charlotte, DeSoto, Lee, and Sarasota Counties. The DeSoto Disaster



Recovery, the Rev. Ann Graham-Johnson Executive Director; the Interfaith Agency Network of Charlotte County (IINCC), Dennis Celorie Executive Director; the Lee County Department



of Human Services, Patricia Howell Director; FEMA; the Red Cross; Project Hope; the Council On Aging; and others are all working very closely to see that the rebuilding is moving forward efficiently and effectively and that no one slips through the cracks, that all have some means for having their needs met.

**The availability of volunteers is currently our biggest challenge.** Until mid August we were blessed with more than enough volunteers. However, now one year after August 13, 2004, **we find ourselves without any registered volunteers through the end of this calendar year.** What do we do?

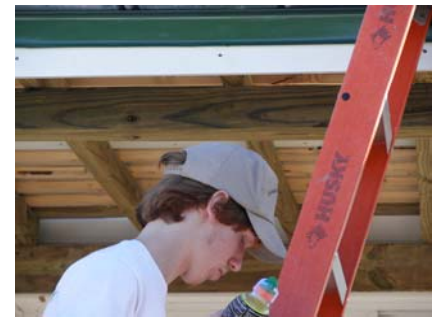
One couple, who received funds for all the material they needed to rebuild their home, is now at a standstill at the point of installing the sheetrock and finishing the interior of the house. Seven roofs were dried-in in DeSoto County on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of August. One was completely shingled, but six remain to be completed. An elderly woman needs a new door to help her feel safe and secure. Another woman needs the remaining sheet rock installed and the interior finished. She says she has waited so long to move out of the tiny trailer behind her house and back into her home. An elderly couple needs corrugated aluminum siding

located and installed on the shed that protects the tools that are important to them. A ceiling needs "popcorn" finish to be complete. A bathroom



floor needs particle board installed. A home needs a new roof, gutted, and all new sheetrock installed and finished. Another home needs to be demolished and rebuilt with a new technology construction. And the list goes on and is overwhelming at times.

**Your hands and the hands of those you know could be the ones to bring healing to a person or family in our area. Your presence and the presence of those you bring with you could bring the hope needed to persevere when all seems lost to ones in need.**



**Call today and let us find a way for you to**

**be part of the recovery of homes and lives from the ravages of the storms of 2004.**

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to [joan@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:joan@peacriverpresbytery.org) If you do not have email, you may mail the article to the Presbytery.

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[Alesia Sharpe](#), Office Manager  
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