



The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY NOVEMBER 2006

SPEAKING FROM THE HART

As the 2006 political season enters its last intense week, I cannot help but think of my Dad, who died 10 years ago this month. He was the longest serving elected official in the state, having served at the local level for over 40 continuous years. In his mind, the point of public office is to serve for the public good. He was of the generation and persuasion of statesman, rather than politician.

In a media age where sound bites are more important than truth telling, image is more important than finding working solutions, being against something wins more votes than being for something, and negative campaign ads are the norm, we have elevated the role of the politician and lost the culture of the statesman. From my Dad I learned that statesmen look at the big picture, are reflective rather than reactive, use the political process to unite rather than divide, and understand something of the complexity of issues while giving leadership through those issues.

As I have watched the many negative ads of this political season, I am saddened that we have lost the role of the statesman, and I hope that we can find it again. However, I am thankful for the way the leadership of this Presbytery has given thoughtful and careful responses to denominational issues that the media unfortunately has communicated only in sound bites.

I have a deep love for Christ and this unique expression of the Body of Christ called PCUSA, even as I know there are significant issues we must face. In September I was asked to write a paper and design a process for a gathering of the General Assembly Council and all Presbytery executives. I was surprised because I intentionally have not had an active role in the life of GA, but I was grateful to be asked. The paper has grown out of my work with you as a Presbytery, as I have thought about the role and function of the Presbytery and the national church. The presentation is called Beyond the Maze and into the Labyrinth. (If you want to read it, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/mgbconnect/pubs/out-of-the-maze-into-the-labyrinth.pdf>.)

In the paper I lifted up 10 areas that I believe we need to address in thoughtful ways, two of which are: *finding a common vision as a denomination (The Search for a Common Vision)*; and *building a new future by dealing with The Congregational Dilemma of moving from a membership focus to a missional focus*.

I am thankful that we as a Presbytery are finding ways to be reflective and thoughtful as we face the significant challenges of being a church faithful to Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God,
Graham

Please Join Us in Prayer for the Following Churches:



[Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota](#)
[Whitfield Estates, Sarasota](#)
[Trinity, Venice](#)
[Venice, Venice](#)

November 5
November 12
November 19
November 26

RICK UFFORD-CHASE COMES TO ECKERD



On Wednesday, November 15, Rick Ufford-Chase, Founder of [BorderLinks](#), Executive Director of the [Presbyterian Peace Fellowship](#) and former Moderator of the General Assembly, will speak on "Passion, Peace and Activism" at Eckerd College, 7:30 p.m. in Fox Hall. For more information, please contact the Center for Spiritual Life at 727-864-7522 or csl@eckerd.edu.

Reminder: One More Basic Officer Training

Sunday, November 5, 2006 from 2:30 to 4:30 pm
[Vanderbilt, Naples](#), taught by Graham Hart

The event is FREE and **each participant is asked to bring a copy of the Book of Order**. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mock, 941-426-8421 or joan@peacriverpresbytery.org.

Presbyterian Foundation Presentation

[The Presbyterian Foundation](#) will be holding a meeting to learn about and discuss their family of mutual funds, the NEW COVENANT FUNDS.

The meeting will be held at the Presbytery office in North Port on Monday November 6, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. The New Covenant Funds provide a vehicle to invest long-term resources of congregations (and individuals).

All Pastors, Treasurers, Chairs of Finance, Endowment and Stewardship, etc. are invited to attend. If you plan to attend, please contact our Regional Office Coordinator, Callie Currington, cgc@fdn.pcusa.org or 866-258-1779. For more information, call Mark Shoemaker at 866-387-0432.

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

- The [Coalition of Immokalee Workers](#), with which our Presbytery works closely, was recently instrumental in helping to expose abuse in North Florida and North Carolina Labor Camps. These camps kept workers in servitude by selling crack cocaine and beer at jacked-up prices to homeless adults for a slice of their paychecks. When they could not pay, the men were forced to work in Labor Camps at below minimum wages. They kept them in the Labor Camps with debts and more crack. Through the work of the Coalition, the owners of the Labor Camps have been brought to justice, and this group of workers has been given a second chance.
- Our work in Immokalee has begun! Praise God! Each Friday Dave Moore and Pastor Ramiro from Beth-El minister to the farmworkers in Immokalee with hot meals, lively praise music, and the gospel. We hope to have our Spanish-speaking pastor in place after the first of the year if all the permits and visas can be obtained.



YOU CAN HELP: Dave and his crew would love to have small groups come to Immokalee on Friday afternoons to help with food preparation, serving, clean up, and sharing the love of God. This is a great opportunity for Sunday School classes, retirees, and youth groups who may be out of school on a Friday. For more information, contact Dave Moore at Beth-El (dave@beth-el.info or 813-633-1548) or Candy Reid at the Presbytery office.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

Reminder: Pastor Leon Dorleans to visit BSPC from Haiti, November 11-12!



[Burnt Store Presbyterian Church](#), in Punta Gorda, will have the opportunity to hear a short message from Pastor Leon, the Senior Pastor and Head of Staff of Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM), at each of three worship services on the weekend of November 11-12.

For further information and times, contact BSPC (941) 639-0001 or Kathy Tardy (for the Mission Ministry) at (941) 637-0499, tardyfamily@comcast.net.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

At Cedarkirk

Join us for the best weekend of the Fall!
November 18 & 19

Theme: What If???? Can God answer our questions?
Cost: \$80.00 per person by November 3
(after November 3, \$100.00 per person)

*Starts 10:30 a.m. Saturday and
ends with lunch at Noon on Sunday*

PLUS: All the fun activities of Cedarkirk including campfire and s'mores, as well as worship in the woods with communion.



Registration packets have been mailed to each church. Information and forms are also on our website, www.peacriverpresbytery.org/Youth.htm. If you have any questions, please call Candy at the Presbytery office, 941-426-8421.



Rev. Dr. John Magill entered the Church Triumphant on September 25, 2006.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, February 10, 2007 – The Main Event
Saturday, March 3, 2007 – Evangelism Event

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
[Andrea Yerger](#), Capital Campaign Administrative Assistant

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