



# The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY OCTOBER 2006

## SPEAKING FROM THE HART Sunday Road Trips

On October 1, World Communion Sunday, a new church in a new location joined that worldwide communion of saints. Crossroads Presbyterian Fellowship, Naples, gathered for their first worship service in newly rented worship space at the Laurel Oaks Elementary School in East Naples. Like an eagle with her young, Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church nurtured that new congregation, and with the support of the whole Presbytery (you) through our mission giving, on October 1 Crossroads was gently nudged out of its nest at Vanderbilt and is now flying (worshipping) on its own.

What was encouraging were the pioneers from Vanderbilt going with this new congregation, and the number of folks from the surrounding Naples and Fort Myers Churches who showed up to be of support. Why is that important? If you have ever gone to a restaurant for the first time, and there are no cars in the parking lot, it may cause you to pause and wonder: why am I the only one here? Is the food OK? For congregations, as restaurants, there is a critical mass necessary that makes it easier for new folks to show up and feel that they are part of something exciting and good.

I encourage as many of you as possible, as often as possible, to take a Sunday road trip to visit, support, and worship with our new church development (NCD) congregations. For ease of travel, I have included the address, worship time, and an e-mail contact for our NCDs. Also, I am including what we call "NCD probes" and the times that they are meeting. NCD probes can best be described as mission action teams from parent congregations who are in the early stages of the NCD birthing process. They, like Vanderbilt, have a vision to share the gospel and plant a church in nearby growing communities that are without a Presbyterian Church. These NCD probes sponsored by Trinity, Venice, and Palmetto are offering either Bible Study or worship opportunities in areas of growth. God is at work in us and among us. I encourage you to go on a Sunday road trip; support and encourage these pioneers as they share the good news.

*Graham Hart*

**Brazilian Fellowship**, Naples, [sil.pcusa@hotmail.com](mailto:sil.pcusa@hotmail.com)  
**Crossroads**, Laurel Oaks Elementary, 7800 Immokalee Rd, Naples, 10:00 a.m. [ergray60@comcast.net](mailto:ergray60@comcast.net)  
**Parrish**, [swwilson3@hotmail.com](mailto:swwilson3@hotmail.com)  
**Peace**, Manatee Community College, 7131 Professional Parkway, Lakewood Ranch, 9:30 a.m., [edeibert@mindspring.com](mailto:edeibert@mindspring.com)  
**Thomas Ranch**, Manatee Community College (South Campus) Professional Development Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 6:00 p.m., [ron@trinitypc.org](mailto:ron@trinitypc.org)

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



<a href="#">Church of the Palms</a> , Sarasota	October 1
<a href="#">First</a> , Sarasota	October 8
Northminster, Sarasota	October 15
<a href="#">Pine Shores</a> , Sarasota	October 22
Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota	October 29

## PLEASE COME FOR LUNCH, PRESENTATION, and CONVERSATION WITH PIERRE MPIA MOPENDO International Peacemaker from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

**October 19, 2006**

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Peace River Presbyterian Center  
5600 Peace River Road  
North Port, FL

Pierre was born in the Bandundu Region of western Democratic Republic of the Congo. He has a Master of Theology degree from the Protestant University of the Congo and a law degree from the University of Kinshasa. He is an ordained minister and has four children. He currently teaches at Booth Theological Seminary and is involved with various training programs such as HIV/AIDS awareness and conflict resolution.



Please call the Presbytery Office (800-736-4488) by noon on October 18 to make lunch reservations.  
The cost of the lunch will be \$3.00.

## Reminder: Upcoming Basic Officer Training

**Sunday, October 8, 2006** from 2:30 to 4:30 pm  
[First, Bradenton](#), taught by Graham Hart  
**Sunday, October 15, 2006** from 2:30 to 4:30 pm  
[First, Punta Gorda](#), taught by Bob Rea  
**Sunday, November 5, 2006** from 2:30 to 4:30 pm  
[Vanderbilt, Naples](#), taught by Graham Hart

The event is FREE, but registration is requested not later than the Monday prior to the event so adequate space and materials for everyone will be available. **Each participant is asked to bring a copy of the Book of Order.** You may register online at [www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org), Leader Development, or call Joan Mock, 941-426-8421.



## MUSIC – THE ARTS – CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP GATHERING

**Who:** Initial gathering of folks who lead music, contemporary worship music (Praise Teams) or work in the area of the Arts and Worship

**Purpose:** Networking, support and fellowship, sharing resources, open to the leading of the Spirit.

**When:** **Thursday, October 12 from 10 to Noon** at the Peace River Presbyterian Center, North Port

**Facilitator:** Jeff Jordan, Director of Music and the Arts at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda

*Sponsored by Peace River Presbytery through the work of the Leadership and Congregational Development Committee*

### The Espiritu comes to Immokalee..... how would you like to volunteer?

In a different and creative ministry, [Beth-El Farmworker Ministry](#) is beginning their presence in Immokalee with a motor home, named "Espiritu". Actually the manufacturer named the model "Spirit", and this seemed rather appropriate for our expansion.



Espiritu will be located in Immokalee across from the Coalition Office two mornings per week to provide coffee and tortillas for the farmworkers before they leave for work. We will also provide a small, hot meal on Fridays for the workers as they return from the fields.

At any of these setups, scriptures will be heard under the awning on a pleasant, low volume sound system and opportunities will be given to talk about knowing the Word of God. Spanish Bibles will be available for those in need.

As Jesus helped the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized..... so will the Espiritu! As we establish our presence in Immokalee, please keep this new ministry in your prayers.

**So how can you help?** Come join the meal preparation at 2:30 p.m. on Fridays and stay until around 7:30 p.m. You can also schedule an abbreviated time of service. You will be cooking, distributing the food, cleaning up and talking to the friendly workers- all in the name of our Lord. And you don't even need to know Spanish!

Call Dave Moore, Director of Beth-El, at 813-633-1548 for additional information and to schedule your "time to serve".

## NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

### 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.

[Haiti Outreach Ministries](#) is a Christian ministry to the people of the Port au Prince area in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and specifically to Cite Soleil - the largest slum in the Western Hemisphere. The people principally served by HOM live in an area where unemployment exceeds 50%, where there is no public education or public health system, and where little or no infrastructure exists (electricity, clean water, sewage system, or roads). HOM seeks to take up the challenge of Jesus to help those in need through evangelism, church planting, medical treatment, education and nutrition. They have done....are doing....and will continue to do...the Lord's work under extraordinarily difficult circumstances among the poorest of the poor.

Pastor Leon Dorleans, a Haitian who was theologically educated in the United States, is spending his life among his people, to introduce them to the Lord, and to make a difference in their lives. **Please join BSPC** to meet and greet this dedicated and inspiring man, and hear more about the Lord's work in Haiti through HOM.

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

### Presbyterian Women Visit Agape Hangar

On Friday September 8, women (and men) from Northminster Presbyterian Church were invited to the Agape Flight's hangar for a picnic and presentation of services provided to missionary families in Santiago, Santo Domingo, Haiti, and the Dominion Republic. This was their last opportunity before Agape moves in November from Sarasota/Bradenton Airport to their new hangar in Venice.



From October 2004 through September 2005 Agape ministered to 363 missionary families in Haiti and the Dominion Republic through regular weekly flights delivering mail, critical supplies, manpower resources and equipment. Over 90 tons of mail and packages were delivered by way of 72 flights. 160 local volunteers

contributed over 6,498 hours of volunteer time at the hangar. Volunteer pilots who assisted Agape's missionary pilots provided over 800 hours of flying time.

The missionaries served are also volunteers, contributing over 5,000 hours of time to meet the plane, process packages through customs and immigration, deal with airport officials and staff the distribution centers.

1,745 supporters from 47 states and several foreign countries contributed over \$1,000,000 in support of Agape's ministry in Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005. A very special "The Wings of Hope" luncheon will be held November 9 as a year-end fundraiser. For more information, contact John Haynes, church/pastor relations staff with Agape, at 941-355-5099.

<http://www.agapeflights.com>

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**Reminder: Ben Mathes, President and Founder of Rivers of the World (ROW) is coming to St. Paul's on Wednesday, October 4 at 7 pm.**

Rivers of The World is a not-for-profit Christian ministry that targets remote river basins. Their goal is to serve with people who live in river basins and those that are served determine the projects. ROW asks what makes up their greatest challenges and covenant with them to meet and overcome those challenges together. ROW projects run the gamut of human, physical and spiritual needs. Academics, research, education and medical/dental concerns go hand in hand with church planting, construction, evangelism and Bible distribution.

*"Our goal is to serve; realizing that it is their country, their people, their village, but our problem. We will never do for others what they can do for themselves, but will work in a partnership based upon mutual love, grace, and respect."* Ben Mathes, President, ROW



The Missions Committee of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church extends an open invitation to all who are interested to attend and meet Ben. If you would like more information, call 426-2552. Check out ROW's website at [www.row.org](http://www.row.org).

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**"LINKS" OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE**  
**Short-term volunteers linked with partner mission organization**

The "LINKS" program offers opportunities for those interested in short-term international volunteer service

(2 weeks to 11 months) by being LINKED with mission partners. The PCUSA's current LINKS partners are the Medical Benevolence Foundation, the Amity Foundation, and the Presbyterian Border Ministry.

LINKS partners identify service opportunities around the world, provide position descriptions for these placements, and post them on the PCUSA's "One Door... Many Opportunities" website [http://onedoor.pcusa.org/\(2ut1dhqowwccsjweljdbiwuva\)/user/pages/index.aspx](http://onedoor.pcusa.org/(2ut1dhqowwccsjweljdbiwuva)/user/pages/index.aspx).



LINKS partners interview candidates and discern placement matches. Once placed, the international volunteer is commissioned through his /her local church and is trained, supervised, and debriefed by the LINKS partner. LINKS partners also

provide pastoral care to the international volunteer during his/her term of service.

LINKS volunteers have served in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, China and Mexico.

To learn more about LINKS visit:

<http://www.pcusa.org/partnerships/getinvolved.htm> (scroll to the bottom of the page). To ask about current international short-term volunteer service opportunities, contact Shannon Langley at [SLangley@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:SLangley@ctr.pcusa.org).

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**SEND US YOUR MISSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Recently a letter was sent to all Mission Committee Chairpersons in Peace River Presbytery inviting them to write a **one or two page summary** of what God has done in the area of Mission and Evangelism in your local church. We hope to publish a book: "Together We Can – Stories of Mission Work in Peace River Presbytery, November 2005 through November 2006."

We are asking you to send a ready-to-print article to Peace River Presbytery NO LATER than October 27, attention: Candy Reid, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287.

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**PEACEMAKING OFFERING 2006**

Just a quick reminder that the Mission and Justice Committee has designated the Peace River Presbytery portion of the 2006 Peacemaking Offering to go to the ministry of Dr. Les Morgan, PCUSA missionary to Bangladesh who visited many churches in our presbytery this past May.



## Cluster Work in Youth Ministry in PRP



The Leadership and Congregational Development Committee is working to develop some cluster meetings for those who work with youth in our Presbytery. Westminster Presbyterian, Kirkwood, and First Bradenton are already working together on a number of projects and meet regularly for fellowship, worship, and mission work.

Folks from Chapel by the Sea, Cypress Lake, Hope United, and First Bonita Springs will meet on Tuesday, October 2 at First Bonita Springs from 10 to 12 to begin exploring avenues for youth ministry work together.

The Naples area cluster, Moorings, Vanderbilt, Brazilian Fellowship, and Crossroads NCD, will meet sometime in October.

**If your church would be interested in joining together with one of the above groups, call Candy Reid, Program Coordinator at Peace River Presbytery, or e-mail her at [candy@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:candy@peacriverpresbytery.org).**

## Youth Ministry Update

The Youth Ministry Information Packet with retreat information, sign up sheets, revised policies for all youth events, information about PYC – Presbytery Youth Council - promised for mid-September has been delayed until after Council meets on September 28. We are sorry for the delay BUT we want to have everything correct and approved by Presbytery Council.

## Mark your calendar:



### MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESBYTERY RETREAT

**When:**  
November 18-19

**Where:**  
CEDARKIRK

**Cost:**  
\$80.00

**Theme:**  
What If???????

*Watch for more information!*

## Peace River Presbyterian Women



The PW Coordinating Team met on September 7 at the Presbyterian Center in North Port. All PW Moderators in the Presbytery were invited to attend a roundtable discussion concerning the Louisville Triennium. Thirty-one women attended. Thanks to Joan and Alesia for all the preparations.

Presbyterian Women's Help Shop will be at Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Sarasota on Saturday, October 28.

The Advent Spiritual Retreat, "The Greatest Gift to Give" will be held at Cedarkirk from November 30 through December 2. Some of the Presbyterian Women from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay will also attend. Our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Valerie Bell, Associate Pastor of Burnt Store Presbyterian Church.

## From Your Resource Center

### JUST NEIGHBORS

Shoes or food? Poverty forces families to choose. Why are working families living in poverty? *JUST NEIGHBORS* helps you understand what it feels like to be poor in the midst of plenty.

This dynamic interactive curriculum allows you to walk in the shoes of the poor, experience their frustration and learn how to help. Great resource for SS classes, youth classes, youth fellowship, and intergenerational classes.

This newsletter is available for viewing anytime at [www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org) (follow link to "Presbytery Publications")

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941-426-8421 or 800-736-4488  
[www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://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  
[Gary Miller](#), Capital Campaign Director  
[Andrea Yerger](#), Administrative Assistant to CC Director