



The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY SEPTEMBER 2007

Speaking from the Hart – What is Missional?

Vision statements are about the future and what we want to become. In 2006, Peace River adopted a new vision statement that envisions Peace River becoming evermore faithful as a **Missional, Connectional, and Generous** Presbytery. Sounds good, but what does it mean?

“Missional” is a real word. The Oxford English Dictionary says the word has been around for almost 100 years. Missional is an adjective that describes the way in which we do all of our activities, rather than identifying with any one activity. Within the last few years, it has come into more common use. To be missional is to align all of the programs, function and activities of the church around the mission of God in the world...A church with a mission program usually sees mission as one activity alongside many activities of the church – Christian education, worship, acts of service, hospitality and other programs. A missional church, by contrast, focuses all of its activities around its participation in God’s mission to the world. That means, it trains people for discipleship and witness; it worships and practices mutual support before the watching world.

From the website of The Center of Parish Development

The Acts 16:5 program, that as of today has 31 churches participating, is about being **Missional**. Our Presbytery’s commitment to four New Church Developments, the calling of the Rev. Miguel Estrada to work in Immokalee, is all rooted in being Missional.

We have also said we want to be **Generous**. We are grateful for the three churches that give a tithe of their operating budget to Presbytery’s mission, and all the churches committed to giving ½ tithe! Thank you!

We are grateful to all those that have given to help Peace River New Church Development purchase their land, so they can be a **Missional** vibrant presence of “faith, hope and love” in the Lakewood Ranch area. We still need \$500,000. If you can in some way strengthen our **Connectional** ties with each other by praying for our New Church Developments, and giving financially to our campaign to purchase land for them, including Beth-El in Immokalee, please let me know.

I am grateful for our vision of being an evermore **Missional, Generous, and Connectional** Presbytery.

Graham Hart - graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

It’s not too late to register!!!!

Fall Stewardship Event “ASK, THANK, TELL”

Thursday, September 20, 2007
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 pm.
(Registration at 9:00)

[First Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda](#)

\$5 per person

Special speakers:

Rev. Bob Sheldon, PCUSA

(Please note, Fred Milligan is unable to come.)

Rev. Dr. Robert Bohl

Mr. Mark Shoemaker

For registration information and a bio on Bob Sheldon, go to our website at www.peacriverpresbytery.org on the Bulletin Board page, or call the Presbytery office (941-426-8421). **Deadline to register is September 14.**

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ACTS 16:5 INITIATIVE



Stan Ott

Has your church registered for the Acts 16:5 Introductory Seminar?

This two-day seminar will be held on October 29 & 30 at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice. Each church may send the pastor and 6 other leaders as participants.

Information and registration forms have been given to the pastor of each of our churches and new church developments.

Brochures can also be found at www.peacriverpresbytery.org, on the Bulletin Board.

Please Join Us in Prayer for:



- September 2 Peace Presbyterian NCD,
Lakewood Ranch;
Crossroads Presbyterian
Fellowship, Naples; Presbyterian
Brazilian Fellowship, Naples; Myakka
River Fellowship, Venice
- September 9 First, Arcadia
- September 16 First, Bonita Springs
- September 23 Braden River, Bradenton
- September 30 First, Bradenton

MISSIONARIES IN OUR PRESBYTERY

The Rev. David Wiseman, PCUSA minister and missionary in Guatemala since 2006, will be in our Presbytery the week of October 5-11.



Rev. Wiseman became a PCUSA missionary in 2006 after resigning as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Cary, North Carolina, to spend some time in prayer and discernment seeking to find God's call for the next phase of his life. He is with us as a part of the PCUSA efforts to connect missionaries with local congregations.

If you are interested in having him speak at your church, please call Candy at the Presbytery office (941-426-8421).

Rev. Katie Griffin, missionary to Argentina, and her family are spending their furlough time (August – December) within the bounds of Peace River Presbytery. Rev. Griffin is available to visit local churches to relate some of her exciting experiences while serving in Argentina. Please call 941-223-5710 or 941-460-8795.



PEACEMAKING

On Sunday, October 7 Christians around the world will gather to observe World Communion Sunday. Presbyterians traditionally receive an offering which is used for peacemaking efforts in the local congregation in the Presbytery, and worldwide. Each congregation has been mailed a packet of information in the summer.

If you did not receive a packet, please contact Candy at the Presbytery office (941-426-8421).

DON'T FORGET OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MISSION IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

If you would like to participate in this ecumenical effort by God's children of all ages, go to the [Samaritan's Purse website](#) for more information.

Excerpts from a letter by Hunter Farrell, the new director of the PCUSA's World Mission program

August 10, 2007

Last week marked a new chapter for me as I began work as director of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s World Mission program. My family and I just returned to the States from Peru, where we served as Presbyterian Church missionaries for nine years. I am excited about this new opportunity to work with dedicated mission personnel, a gifted World Mission staff, and faithful international partners.

We are heirs of a magnificent Presbyterian mission tradition that opens doors for ministry around the world. God's Spirit is clearly at work in the unprecedented surge of Presbyterians stepping out in faith to support world mission through prayer, giving, and/or hands-on involvement. Our World Mission office is retooling to help equip and channel this remarkable mission energy so that it can be both faithful and effective. With God's help, I am confident that we can build on our mission legacy and together find new and creative ways to accomplish God's mission in a complex and changing world.

With you, in Christ,
Hunter Farrell

You can read more about Hunter's background at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2007/07174.htm>.

WELCOME TO THE PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY FAMILY

Our ranks of those who serve in Youth Ministry and Christian Education have grown this summer. We welcome:

- Elizabeth Brooksbank, Children and Family Ministry Director (part-time) at Siesta Key
- Terri Jo Crego, Director of Christian Education at Pine Shores
- Karla Thompson, Interim Director of Christian Education at Cypress Lake
- Derek Thompson, Director of Youth Ministries at Church of the Palms

HIGHLIGHTS

August 25, 2007 Stated Meeting



The August Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery, held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Bradenton, was led by Elder Bill Oehler, former Moderator from 2005. Host Pastor, Dan Hagmaier, not only

graciously welcomed everyone but also introduced his new bride Jay J. Congratulations to Dan and Jay J. on their recent wedding!

Graham Hart, General Presbyter, thanked the members of Peace River Presbytery for his recent two-month sabbatical.

The focus of this meeting was our Youth in Peace River Presbytery. Worship was led by youth leaders Jay Mumper, Mary Brown, and Sue Gooding with several of the youth giving reflections on their summer experiences. Alex Martin (First, Arcadia) and Catherine Deibert (Peace Presbyterian NCD) had attended Triennium and experienced "Hope is in Our Midst". Chinle participants Kayley Adams (Westminster) and Maria Panico (Kirkwood) spoke about this intergenerational mission that is not just about fun - it was about "seeing God everywhere". Becky Russell (First, Port Charlotte) attended the Middle School Urban Mission trip that combined work projects at Beth-El Ministries and fun at Cedarkirk Camp. Kathy Messick (First, Sarasota) and Morgan Courter (First, Sarasota) went to the Cabell-Lincoln Work Camp in West Virginia where they had first-hand experience helping people in their homes and witnessing an agnostic young man find his faith in God. The offering for "Nickels for Nails" (money that is used in funding future mission projects for the youth of Peace River) was over \$780.

The keynote speaker was Rev. Chris Adams, Westminster, and he inspired many with his message on *Conviction, Collaboration and Communication*. While children and the lessons they need to learn do not change from generation to generation, the presentation of the message needs to come in new and different ways.

The Leadership and Congregational Development Committee announced that the Main Event will be February 9, 2008 at First, Port Charlotte.

Larry Yerger, Chair of Theology & Worship, announced upcoming cluster groups to discuss the Trinity Paper in the north, central and south regions of the Presbytery in November.

Jim Kirk from Disaster Preparedness and Response commented on the three-year anniversary of Hurricane

Charley on August 13, 2004. Kathy Broyard was introduced as the newly appointed state-wide Coordinator for Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN) whose main focus is to prepare the six Florida presbyteries to respond quickly in times of disaster.

Evangelism, New Church Development and Church Transformation will now be known as Evangelism and Church Development. New church developments and immigrant fellowships will now be allowed to select an observer with voice but no vote to attend Presbytery meetings. Presbytery will maintain records of membership, baptisms and marriages for NCD's, immigrant fellowships, and military chaplains. When a new church is chartered the records will be transferred to the rolls of that church.

Rev. Miguel Estrada was commissioned to his new ministry with the farm workers in Immokalee, and his wife Marifrans and son Andres were introduced.

The commissioners voted not to accept the Overture from the Session of Palma Sola concerning standard language on the matters related to ordination and installation of officers.

Tom Atkins, member of the Board of Trustees and the Stewardship Development Team, introduced the *Mission and Ministry in Peace River Presbytery* booklet. There is also a Fall Stewardship Event, Thursday, September 20, 2007, at First, Punta Gorda. (Please register with the Presbytery office.) On behalf of Joining Hearts and Hands, Elizabeth Deibert passionately implored everyone to support mission and new church development.

Ray Angle, Vice Chair of Nominations, reminded us that elections will take place at the November Stated Meeting. The positions of Moderator, Moderator-In-Nomination, Chair of Council, Stated Clerk, Commissioners to the 218th General Assembly (Clergy, Elder & Youth) and the regular committee vacancies will be on the November agenda.

Peace River Presbytery welcomed two new colleagues into membership. The Rev. Roy Shaff, has joined the staff at Faith, Cape Coral as Associate Pastor, and the Rev. Randy Moody will be the Pastor of Buckingham, Fort Myers.

During the Good News Break, Rev. Larry Yerger, Wintergarden, spoke on the value of connectionalism and how churches working together can support and sustain the ministries of smaller churches in the Presbytery who do not have the resources. He shared how First, Punta Gorda, First, Port Charlotte, and Burnt Store all came alongside Wintergarden to meet different needs.

CHURCH NEWS

Festival of Hope

All are welcome to attend the Festival of Hope, a celebration of the Seventh Anniversary of Dial Hope Ministry on Sunday, September 9 at [First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota](#). The DIAL HOPE 24-hour telephone



outreach ministry was launched on September 10, 2000. Realizing that many people face illness, grief, sadness, financial stresses, and many other of life's situations, Dr. Roger Kunkel began to develop this ministry of outreach, providing hope, support, care and inspiration. Dial Hope receives over 3,000 calls per month, from every state, and twelve countries.

Additionally, the Pentagon has established a special line for military personnel to call, particularly those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. (Pentagon Toll free: 809-463-3376)

Dr. Roger Kunkel will preach at three services on September 9: 8:25, 8:45, and 10:55, and have a special class at 9:45. Come for inspiration, fellowship, fun, and refreshments as the church give thanks for this ministry.

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Ministry Fair

Kay Sanchez, the Parish Nurse at [Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church](#) in Sarasota, recently hosted a "Ministry Fair" for the purpose of pointing out vacancies in certain areas of volunteer service at the church.

The areas highlighted were transportation ministry, shut-in and hospital visitation, volunteer receptionist in the office, fellowship planning, Sunday school helpers and worship flower distribution.



Posters were on display and "job descriptions" were provided by key people in each of these volunteer areas.

This mini "job fair" was successful in recruiting some new volunteers for opportunities of service as the folks strive to be "Joyful Followers of Jesus" at Bee Ridge.

LCD HIGHLIGHTS (Leadership and Congregational Development)

Your LCD Committee is hard at work planning for our annual **Main Event** to be held at First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte (we will get to enjoy their new facilities!) on Saturday, February 9, 2008. There will be extra activities on Friday and Sunday.

Our speaker will be The Rev. Rich Melheim, founder of [Faith Inkubators](#) whose primary mission is to incubate faith every night in every home. Their vision is to spearhead a Christian education reform that restores parents and grandparents as the primary faith teachers, mentors and role models, with the church serving in a supportive reinforcement role.



In an effort to be good stewards of your time (we know Saturdays are precious!) and of our resources, we have combined our former LeaderFest (held in the fall) and our Officers' Institute (held on Martin Luther King weekend in January) into one MAIN EVENT. There will be a track for leaders in education, a track for basic officer training – Deacon 101 and Elder 101, help for the Clerk of Session, Treasurer, Committee Chairpersons – and a personal growth and spiritual development track.

It is going to be an exciting weekend so reserve this spot on your calendar – we promise you will be glad you did.

This newsletter is available for viewing anytime at www.peaceriverpresbytery.org
(Follow link to "Presbytery Publications")

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

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[Jim Barnett](#), Treasurer
[Alesia Sharpe](#), Office Manager
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