



# The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

MAY 2008

## Speaking from the Hart

Katie, our youngest daughter, graduated from The University of Florida this past Friday, and Linda and I are very proud of her. As a senior, her predominant question has been, so now what do I do? She has received a good education, but what's next? What does she want to be when she grows up?

We often say, so what do you want to be when you grow up? In a recent sermon at a church in a time of transition, I asked, "What does God want us to be and do as we mature in faith, as we seek to be faithful to Christ's calling, as we, in the words of the Apostle Paul, grow up in every way into Christ?"

That has been a question that those in the Missional Church movement have suggested we might answer in a new way. Darrell Guder, in the book [Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America](#), invites us to think hard about the way we have defined ourselves. Guder writes, "It is not hard to see that at many times in the church's history this central affirmation of good news (the kingdom of God is at hand) has suffered a pattern of omission or 'eclipse'. Two tendencies in the long history of Christendom help to explain this troublesome pattern. First, the church has tended to separate the news of the reign of God from God's provision for humanity's salvation. This separation has made salvation a private event by dividing 'my personal salvation' from the advent of God's healing reign over the entire world. Second, the church has also tended to envision itself in a variety of ways unconnected to what must be fundamental for it -- its relation to the reign of God."

"If it was Jesus' announcement of the reign of God that first gathered the fledgling church into a community, and if that church grew and matured around the way that reign found meaning and hope in His death and resurrection, then the church must always seek its definition with the reign of God in Jesus as its crucial reference point."

I would invite comments about what it means for us to define our life as a church around the announcement that the kingdom of God is at hand. I believe that is our vocation, and asking that question may help us find some new answers to that old question of what you want to be when you grow up.

Still attempting to grow up alongside each of you,

Graham

P.S. Katie, after much debating and interviewing and praying, has accepted a position with the McKesson Corporation in the Atlanta area.

## Please join us in prayer for:



May 4  
May 11  
May 18  
May 25

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

## 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

- This meeting is to be held June 21 through June 28, 2008 in San Jose, California. If you want to check out what's happening in preparation for this meeting, go to [www.pcusa.org/ga218](http://www.pcusa.org/ga218).
- General Assembly Commissioners from Peace River Presbytery: Rev. Valerie Bell, Rev. Clint Cottrell, Rev. Russ Hickman, Elder Sally Kirby, Elder Lee Martin, Elder Julia Williams, Youth Advisory Delegate Hannah Neeley
- Commissioners and advisory delegates will elect a Moderator the first day of the Assembly. The candidates are:
  - The Rev. Bill Teng, endorsed by National Capital Presbytery
  - The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, endorsed by San Francisco Presbytery
  - The Rev. Carl Mazza, endorsed by New Castle Presbytery
  - Elder Roger Shoemaker, endorsed by Homestead Presbytery
- The Stated Clerk Nomination Committee has selected The Rev. Gradye Parsons as its nominee.



## NEXT STATED MEETING

Thursday, May 22, 2008

at

**Kirkwood Presbyterian Church  
Bradenton**



## MISSION AND JUSTICE HIGHLIGHTS

### A New Web Page!

A new Web page related to Presbyterian World Mission has been launched. Go to [www.pcusa.org/worldmission](http://www.pcusa.org/worldmission)

### Scholarships for Students Attending PCUSA Colleges

Peace River Presbytery offers small scholarships to a limited number of young adults who are members of a Peace River Presbytery church and are attending PCUSA related colleges. For an application form, please go to [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org) under YOUTH, or contact Joan Mock at [joan@peaceriverprebytery.org](mailto:joan@peaceriverprebytery.org). Deadline to complete application forms is May 30, 2008.

### Don't Miss This!

At the May 22 meeting of Presbytery, to be held at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton, the Mission and Justice Committee will host the Rev. Noelle Damico, PCUSA/Fair Food Coordinator. Also present will be representatives from CIW, for a breakout group. We hope to enlist your help in the efforts to bring Burger King to the table. Plan to join us.



### Mission Visits Continue

Members of the Mission and Justice Committee are visiting each Mission Committee Chairperson or Mission Committee during April and May. We are handing out an information packet about the various ministries that we support together in the name of Peace River Presbytery. But perhaps more importantly, we want to hear about the great things God is doing through your church family and begin to build some relationships with each church in the areas of mission and justice. Please welcome the Mission and Justice Committee members when they call to make an appointment for a visit.

### Opportunity to Help



Seven of our PRP churches will be traveling to Chinle, Arizona, to work with a Native American Presbyterian Church, rehabbing the manse, holding Vacation Bible School, and working with the youth of the community.

Listed below are a variety of items needed to complete the work. If you would like to donate towards the purchase of these items, please contact Rev. Chris Adams, 941-447-5711, or [revchris@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:revchris@tampabay.rr.com).

### Manse Material Needs

|                                           |        |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|
| Carpet Cleaning and Stretching            | \$1200 |
| Hot Point Refrigerator                    | \$450  |
| Maytag Range/Oven                         | \$500  |
| Kohler Kitchen Sink                       | \$185  |
| Delta Lifetime Faucet                     | \$105  |
| 5 Gallon Behr Weatherproofing Fence Paint | \$90   |
| 5 Gallon Glidden Evermore Exterior Paint  | \$99   |
| Paint Supplies                            | \$60   |
| Curtains and Installation Hardware        | \$200  |
| Combination Shower/Tub Stall              | \$300  |
| Faucet Fixtures for Master Bath           | \$130  |
| Kohler Shower Installation Kit            | \$30   |
| Door Lock Hardware/Interior Rooms         | \$50   |

### Vacation Bible School

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Books and Materials       | \$500  |
| Craft Supplies            | \$1500 |
| Snacks and Closing Dinner | \$1000 |

### Youth Ministry

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Recreation Equipment | \$500 |
| Bibles and Materials | \$500 |

## LEADERSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Help Is Now Available In Your Own Home!

- Want to learn more about being an effective teacher?
- Have you been asked to lead a Bible study or teach a class and felt like you were not equipped?

That's right...there is a new on-line training resource called OPENING DOORS TO DISCIPLESHIP. It is engaging, interactive, educational, and congregationally based for community learning. The three courses may be used in any time frame, setting or sequence. The courses are:

- Basic Training Skills
- Basic Bible Background (available Spring of 2008)
- Basic Beliefs of the Reformed/Presbyterian Tradition (available Fall 2008)

Check it out at: [www.openingdoorstodiscipleship.com](http://www.openingdoorstodiscipleship.com).

*Teacher training made simple!*

Older Adult Ministry



There is a new ministry team in Peace River Presbytery - the Older Adult Ministry Team - which is part of Leadership and Congregational Development Committee (LCD).

The ministry team consists of: Rev. Lou Thompson: Chairman, Rev. Don Warth, Debbie Carney: Parish Nurse, Elder Bob Lynch, and Candy Reid: staff liaison.

Watch for upcoming events including a retreat for Older Adults in 2009. Send us your ideas or suggestions on how we can help you in the local church. Contact Rev. Lou Thompson at [lsthomps@aol.com](mailto:lsthomps@aol.com) or Candy Reid at [candy@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:candy@peacriverpresbytery.org)

NEW IN YOUR RESOURCE CENTER

DVD Curriculum



**The 24/7 Experience:** Book your students for the ride of their lives. They'll become part of the trip as they watch seven of their peers travel across the country to meet with some radical Jesus-followers. There are seven episodes and discussion questions, plus bonus material.

**TEX-MIX:** Stories of Earthly Mysticism with Tex Sample. Twenty tales tailored for your teaching, preaching and devotional use with well-known storyteller Tex Sample. The DVD also includes an introduction to storytelling and a downloadable guide with points to ponder, related Scripture texts and discussion questions downloadable from the internet.

**JOSHUA: Be Strong and Courageous**  
A 4 session small group study from the folks at Bluefish TV, this resource also includes a study guide.

AND THE BEST NEW RESOURCE:

**General Assembly Council Overview: Offering the World a Visible Witness of Jesus Christ**

Real people, real stories about some of the ministries in which we are engaged as part of God's family in the PCUSA Church. Stories of how the General Assembly Council focuses its work around its mission statement.



It's a new day for Presbyterians with a renewed emphasis on offering the world a visible witness of Jesus Christ.

Great for officer training!

It's that time of year again when local churches are completing plans for their annual VBS experience. Many of our churches use the same curriculum. As in past years, we hope to recycle all the wonderful decorations, supplies, etc., that are a part of VBS in 2008 so that we can be good stewards.

If you would like to share your resources OR would be interested in using VBS supplies from another church, please e-mail Candy, [candy@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:candy@peacriverpresbytery.org), with the following information and we will try to make the connection.

Name of Church and City:

Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

VBS curriculum being used in 2008:

Date of VBS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

941-426-8421 or 800-736-4488  
[www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org)

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