



The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

JANUARY 2009

Please join us in prayer:

January 4 Bee Ridge, Sarasota
 January 11 Church of the Palms, Sarasota
 January 18 First, Sarasota
 January 25 Northminster, Sarasota



Still available!

The Presbytery Office still has a few copies of the 2009 *Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* for sale at \$5.50 each. There are also 2008-2009 Presbyterian Planning Calendars available for \$7.00 each. Please contact Bill Setchel at 941-426-8421.

Amendment Meetings



At the November Stated Meeting, the Presbytery voted to ask the Theology and Worship Committee to design a process whereby the Presbytery could enter a time of discernment related to the Book of Order amendments proposed by the 218th General Assembly prior to our voting on them at the February 26 meeting. This process will include a series of informal informational meetings that are open to anyone but are particularly designed for the elder commissioners who have been selected for the February 26, 2009 Stated Meeting, as well as for other interested Session members.

The Theology and Worship Committee asks that sessions choose their elder commissioners early, so they can take advantage of one of these gatherings and gain some clarity on an important, but often confusing, part of our work as a presbytery. The meetings will be held:

Thursday, January 22, 2009

7:00 to 8:30 pm at First, Port Charlotte
 Led by Rev. John Cairns

Thursday, January 29, 2009

6:30 to 8:00 pm at Moorings, Naples
 Led by Rev. Sally Bull

Thursday, January 29, 2009

7:00 to 8:30 pm at First, Bradenton
 Led by Rev. John Cairns

Saturday, January 31, 2009

9:30 to 11:00 am at Covenant, Fort Myers
 Led by Rev. Sally Bull or Rev. John Cairns

Monday, February 2, 2009

7:00 to 8:30 pm at Pine Shores, Sarasota
 Led by Rev. John Cairns

Additionally, the Council has set aside significant time for prayer, discernment, and discussion of these amendments at our February meeting to be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice.

The amendments are available on our web site www.peacriverpresbytery.org, on the Presbytery meeting page.

Subway Signs!



Subway, the third largest fast-food chain in the world and the biggest fast-food buyer of Florida tomatoes, reached an agreement on December 2 with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) to help improve wages and working conditions for the workers who pick their tomatoes! To read more about it, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/fairfood/>

Souper Bowl '09

Souper Bowl '09 will be Sunday, February 1. In 2008, PC(USA) youth groups around the country raised \$864,337 to feed hungry people. They collected 209,633 pounds of food for food banks. 18,239 Presbyterian youth participated from 2,269 registered groups.

Souper Bowl is a wonderful mission project with 100% of what is raised going to help feed hungry people.

Go to www.souperbowl.org to get more information and to register.



2009 Stated Meetings

February 26 at Trinity, Venice

May 28 at Pine Shores, Sarasota

August 22 at Cypress Lake, Fort Myers

November 19 at Venice, Venice



Have you saved the date?

WHAT: The Main Event
WHEN: Saturday, March 7, 2009
WHERE: Covenant, Fort Myers
TIME: 8:30 Registration
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Watch for a complete list of all workshops, along with registration form.

“A Year with the *Institutes*”

Princeton Theological Seminary is inviting the church, the academy, and individual Christians around the world to celebrate the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth by participating in “A Year with the *Institutes*,” a daily reading of Calvin's major work, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, during 2009. Calvin, the most important founding theologian of the Reformed theological tradition, was born July 10, 1509. His *Institutes* represent a systematized approach to Reformed theology, written with a pastor's heart in service to the church of Calvin's day.



Princeton Seminary, through its Center of Continuing Education, will provide a daily reading schedule and text of a three-to-six-page section of the 1559 version of the *Institutes* for each day of 2009, except Sundays and Christmas Day, online on its [web site](#). The readings, using the McNeill/Battles translation of the *Institutes*, thanks to permission from Westminster John Knox Press, will also be provided in audio format, as a podcast, with sections read by oral performers from around the country. Michael Brothers, an assistant professor of speech communication in ministry at Princeton Seminary, will direct this part of the project.

Each week an invited scholar or pastor will provide a reflection paper on that week's readings on the [web site](#), and participants will be able to comment on both the readings and the reflection papers.

Princeton Seminary hopes pastors, lay people, and scholars will take this opportunity to read and interact with the work of a theological giant in the Reformed tradition, with a community of Christians across the church and the world.

For information about how to participate in “A Year with the *Institutes*,” and for answers to questions, visit www.ptsem.edu/calvin2009 or email calvin2009@ptsem.edu.

This newsletter is available for viewing anytime at www.peacriverpresbytery.org.
(Follow link to “Presbytery Publications”)



New Presbyterian Event

The [Big Tent](#), a gathering of Presbyterians for ten national conferences and convocations under one roof, will take place in Atlanta, Georgia, from June 11-13, 2009.

[Ten Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\) ministries and groups will hold their conferences in conjunction with the Big Tent event:](#) the Healthy Ministry Conference, the Presbyterian Communicators' Network Conference, the National Multicultural Church Conference, the Stewardship and Investment Conference, the Evangelism and Church Growth Conference, the National Elders Conference, the Peacemaking Conference, the PHEWA Social Justice Biennial Conference, the Racial Ethnic Convocation and the New Immigrants Ministries Convocation.

There will be some common meals and worship services, a shared exhibit hall, some common workshop sessions and a Saturday evening celebration event.

Registration for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s [Big Tent](#) will open in January of 2009. <http://www.pcusa.org/bigtent/>

New Location for National Pastors Sabbath

The National Pastors Sabbath scheduled for April 17-20, 2009 has a new location, the Sawgrass Marriott Resort and Spa located in Ponte Vedra Beach near Jacksonville, FL. Registration fees are the same and lodging is \$119 per night. The speakers will be Walter Brueggemann, J. Herbert Nelson, Taylor Gench, and Mark Killmer. For more information or to register, go to www.pcusa.org/pastorsabbath or contact GA Meeting Service at 888-728-7228, ext 2417.

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

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