



The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

NOVEMBER 2009

SPEAKING FROM THE HART

You have made the difference! We made our goal! The congregations of Peace River Presbytery have loudly and clearly expressed their support for Cedarkirk, Beth-El, and Beth-El/Immokalee. As of November 1, we have received \$132,926.48 in response to the Special Appeal for restoration of budget cuts in 2009 and support for Misión Peniel in 2010. In addition, we have pledges and reports of church offerings totaling \$18,530.00 for an **anticipated grand total of \$151,456.48.**

The funds to restore the original 2009 budgeted amounts have all been distributed, and the remaining gifts will be used to support Beth-El and Misión Peniel in 2010.

And the best news of all...the Board of Directors of Beth-El decided at their last meeting to reverse the suspension of operations at Misión Peniel and to retain Rev. Miguel Estrada at least through 2010.

Thank you to all the churches and individuals who saw the need and stepped forward.

Thanks be to God!!!

This thanksgiving season, I am deeply grateful for the generous response of 26 congregations and hundreds of members who have given.

With a deep joy and thanksgiving,

Graham

Graham Hart - General Presbyter

Please join us in prayer:

November 1 – Northminster, Sarasota
November 8 – Pine Shores, Sarasota
November 15 – Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota
November 22 – Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota
November 29 – Whitfield Estates, Sarasota



Congratulations to [Peace Presbyterian Church](#) in Lakewood Ranch upon becoming our 39th church!!!

Stated Meeting

Thursday, November 19, 2009
Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice

Keynote Speaker:



Rick Ufford-Chase was the Moderator of the 216th General Assembly. He and his wife Kitty are currently co-directors of Stony Point Center, a conference center of the PC(USA) in Stony Point, NY (see *article below*), and Rick is also the Executive Director of Presbyterian Peace Fellowship.

The meeting begins at 9:00 a.m.

Church as a way of life

Luke 6 Project to be Christian partner in interfaith community at Stony Point

by [Bethany Furkin](#)
Presbyterian News Service

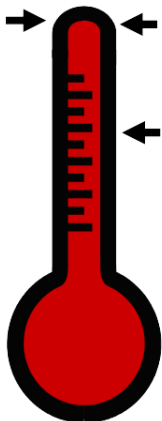
STONY POINT, N.Y. - For Christians who will be a part of a new intentional interfaith community at [Stony Point Center](#), the sense of a collective vision was evident from the start. Stony Point co-directors Rick and Kitty Ufford-Chase had been talking about such a community with friends and colleagues, and in February they invited those people to come to the conference center for a [stakeholders meeting](#). "It was everyone who'd ever talked about creating this thing," said Kitty Ufford-Chase.

Received or Pledged
As of 11/01/09
Goal Surpassed!
Thank You!!

\$151,456

\$150,000

Ultimate Goal



Additional funds for
the future of
Misión Peniel

\$92,000 for the
Restoration of
Budgeted Funds

To see recent updates,
[click here](#) or go to
Presbytery's web site

Special Appeal for
Covenant Partners
Cedarkirk &
Beth-El/Misión Peniel

At the end of the meeting, the idea had turned from a "Rick and Kitty" thing to a "we" thing. By the time the group met again in August the members had more ideas for the community, including vows to live by and a name - the Luke 6 Project. Members are calling themselves a "project" because they're focused on the building of community, said Kitty Ufford-Chase. "We wanted it to be humble," she said. "The road is made by walking."

The sixth chapter of Luke is "jam-packed with all the good stuff," said Kitty Ufford-Chase, adding that it contains the Beatitudes, which provide much to study and reflect on. "The heart of it is love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." That idea is appropriate for the Luke 6 Project, which will be the Christian partner in the [Community of Living Traditions](#) at Stony Point. The Community of Living Traditions is made up of Christian, Muslim and Jewish partners dedicated to nonviolence and peacemaking. Members of the three groups will live at Stony Point in an interfaith community, learning, working and worshipping together

For its part, the Luke 6 Project is "meant to be some way for Christians who want church to be a way of life and not a Sunday morning once a week," said Kitty Ufford-Chase, adding that the community was inspired by a monastic order, in which others are "supporting you and holding you accountable with what you intend to do."

Members of Luke 6 will live by five vows:

- Spiritual practice and discipline
- Radical hospitality
- Vocational peacemaking
- Making holy the things that sustain
- Commitment to interfaith partnership

The project aims to bring together spirituality and action. Often, people look at the contemplative and the activist as two different personalities, but this is a false dichotomy, said Kitty Ufford-Chase. "You can't have one without the other," she said. "It's a recognition that if you want to do more risk-taking, you have to be grounded spiritually ... If you can have branches out there that can sway and reach out and not break, you need strong roots."

Although Stony Point will be the base for Luke 6 and will host retreats, not all members will live on site. Periodic meetings might take place in smaller geographic groups or via conference call. Those who do live on site will be more closely working with the Jewish and Muslim partners within the Community of Living Traditions. Together, they'll explore intercultural and interfaith relationships.

"How do you help people have fruitful relationships with other cultures?" Kitty Ufford-Chase asked. The community will first focus on those who care about such relationships but don't know where to start. "You build a community of common experience and that will radiate," she said. "Because we're here, we can be that warm embrace."

The Luke 6 Project and the Community of Living Traditions will offer workshops, camps and other programs at Stony Point, but Kitty Ufford-Chase said she hopes people will also come to simply be, whether they take part in any activities or communities. "We hope we will attract people just to come," she said. "Just come and live with us for a week."

<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2009/09935.htm>

Stony Point Center

17 Crickettown Road
Stony Point, NY 10980
(845) 786-5674 FAX (845) 786-5919

Stony Point Center is nestled in the Lower Hudson River Valley, between New York City and West Point. It began as a summer get-away cottage for a New York family and has grown into a 32 acre place of renewal that welcomes ALL who seek its hospitality. Thousands of people from all over the world, representing all walks of life, have come and been touched by the experience, the presence and challenge of God.

Has YOUR church registered yet?

Middle School Retreat

Begins: 10:00 am Saturday, November 21
Ends: after lunch on Sunday, November 22

Location: Cedarkirk

Cost: \$80 per person

Please note: Each participating church MUST bring at least two adults. If both male and female youth are coming, there should be an adult of each gender.

DEADLINE:

Please mail your registrations and payment to the Presbytery office by Friday, November 6!



All information and forms are on the web site:

www.peacriverpresbytery.org on the Youth page

Thanksgiving Offering



Peace River Presbytery has designated the Sunday before Thanksgiving as a time to take a special offering for Thornwell Home for Children, located in Clinton, South Carolina. For more information about the school, go to www.thornwell.org.



Please Note

The Presbytery Office will be closed on November 26 and 27, 2009 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Military Chaplains

Honor the ministry of Presbyterian military chaplains on Veterans Day, November 11. This annual observance celebrating our veterans' service to our country is also a fitting time to honor and support our PC(USA) military chaplains, who provide a vital ministry to and with those who currently serve in the military. [Please encourage generous giving](#) to the [Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel](#) (PCCMP), which offers assistance and critical support to military chaplains, personnel and their families.



Alternative Giving opportunities

As many congregations prepare for the upcoming gift giving seasons of Advent and Christmas, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) asks that you [consider a gift to help families recovering from disasters](#). For the past ten years, PDA has offered alternative giving and other special giving opportunities to individuals and congregations.



This year's alternative giving brochure features opportunities to support PDA's response to international or national disasters, and an opportunity to offer your gift to be used where it is most needed.

Call PDS at call (800) 524-2612 to order the brochure (#25412-09-005) or [download it from on the PDA Web site](#). Giving cards are also available to [download and print](#).

"Huge victory" for Florida farm workers means increased wages and better working conditions

In a move characterized as "a huge victory," by U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, and "the greatest victory for farm workers since Cesar Chavez in the 1970s," by *Fast Food Nation* author Eric Schlosser, the [Coalition of Immokalee Workers](#) (CIW) and [Compass Group North America](#), a leader in food service management, recently

signed an agreement to provide better wages and living conditions to farm workers. Rev. Gradye Parsons, stated clerk of the General Assembly, [applauded](#) the agreement.

Florida farm workers must pick two tons of tomatoes to earn \$50. Under the [new agreement](#), Compass will pay workers an additional penny per pound for tomatoes, with the ultimate goal of a guaranteed fair minimum wage.



CIW is affiliated with the [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\) Campaign for Fair Food](#) and represents about 4,000 farm workers in Florida.

Churches Sharing Ideas

AN INVITATION

The Spiritual Formation Ministry of the First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota invites the members of the Peace River Presbytery to come and walk the Labyrinth during the holy days of Advent. What is a Labyrinth? It is a path of prayer that becomes a metaphor for our spiritual journey. As we live these next weeks in anticipation of Jesus' coming, we can use this spiritual tool to nurture our growth in this holy season. At the entrance of the Labyrinth is a box containing information that may add depth to your experience. Our church is located at 2050 Oak Street, Sarasota, FL. 34237 (941-955-8119).



Submitted by Jo Keep

Is there a mission idea that your church would like to share? Please send your article to [Joan Mock](#) by the 15th of the month.



Plan to Attend!

MAIN EVENT

DATE: Saturday, March 13, 2010

LOCATION: Faith, Cape Coral

KEYNOTE: Dr. Henry Simmons

THEME: The Spirituality of Aging

More details to follow!

FROM YOUR RESOURCE CENTER

The Resource Center of Peace River Presbytery exists to support the mission and ministry of the Presbytery and its member churches by offering theologically sound and faith-centered resources primarily from our Presbyterian and Reformed tradition.



A variety of resources are available for you to check out, including items for all age groups and topics. You may come to the Presbytery Office in North Port and browse through the Resource Center, or you may look online (click on the link to “Resource Center” on the Presbytery’s web site). Feel free to call or e-mail Lori Doyal, your contact person for the Resource Center, and she will be glad to pull materials for you and ship them to you. Lori is available Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

With *Thanksgiving* around the corner, consider *Thanksgiving Fun*, by Beth Murray. Make Thanksgiving a feast of fun with this book of crafts, games, recipes, and other activities. Step by step instructions and colorful illustrations.

Advent is a glorious season, and a great opportunity to focus on the REASON for the SEASON. The following are just a few resources to help you enjoy the meaning. *Destination Christmas!* helps youth find true meaning in the Christmas season. Through exciting programs and meaningful practices, youth will meet Jesus in a personal way. In *Worship Innovations: Hanging the Greens for Christmas – Volume 1*, the author offers nine creative, easy to produce programs in which all ages of the church family can participate in the process of decorating worship areas. *FACES AT THE MANGER* provides an opportunity to see, through poetry and prose, the faces that gathered around the manger, and all the faces that have been there in the centuries since.

There are so many more resources available to you, not only for this season, but for every day in your ministry or in your personal growth and walk with the Lord. We hope you will take an opportunity to stop by or visit the website.



- **Montreat Hub Highlights News, Posts, Tweets, Videos, Photos and More**

Looking for the latest and greatest social networking information about Montreat Conference Center? Visit the Montreat Hub at <http://www.montreat.org/hub/>. The Hub, which is an extension of www.montreat.org, features videos, Twitter feeds, photos, and information about Montreat’s Facebook presence. It’s updated in real time, so there is always something new to see! Another great and easy way to stay connected.

- **2010 Montreat Youth Conference Registration**
Youth Conference registration is now open, and details are available online at <http://www.montreat.org/young/>. Scroll down to ‘online resources’ and click on ‘2010 Youth Conference Registration Packet’. There are incentives for registering early, so be sure to check out why you want to reserve your spot now!
- **Newly Developed Montreat Wilderness School**
Montreat Wilderness School is a wonderful opportunity for students to experience some of the natural sciences outside of the classroom, and also to strengthen their foundations of communication and teamwork. Our hands-on approach to learning allows students to have fun, be more active, and learn about our world—all at the same time. **This program is designed for a multitude of applications – school groups, adult groups, Sunday school classes, confirmation classes, and more. Let us know what you’re looking for!** Get details at <http://www.montreat.org/programs/wilderness-school>.
- **College Conference, January 2-5, 2010**
Registration for this event is happening now, and you don’t want to miss out on one of the highlights of the conference season. Key leadership includes **Eboo Patel, Cynthia Rigby, Anna Carter-Florence, Troy Bronsink, and Bruce Reyes-Chow**. <http://www.montreat.org/current/2010-college-conference>.
- **Montreat Needs Your Input!**
Help us help you... As you budget and plan for time away at Montreat Conference Center, we want to help by providing the information you need...when you need it! The more we know about you and your needs, the better we’ll be able to serve you. Please take a moment to fill out our brief survey by going to the following: <http://www.montreat.org/general/survey>.

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

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