



SPEAKING FROM THE HART

SPECIAL APPEAL: COVENANT PARTNERS

Go to Misión Peniel any Friday night, and this is what you will see: approximately 350 farmworkers (including families), Pastor Miguel Estrada, and a group of members from one of the 15 congregations in Peace River that go to Immokalee every Friday to serve a meal. This ministry will be suspended by action of the Board of Beth-El unless the 3 Presbyteries that support Beth-El can restore the funds cut earlier this year, and raise new funds from individuals and congregations for next year.



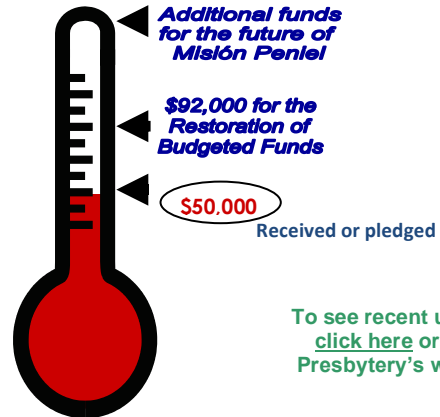
Photo by Patricia Downey of Photos Under the Sun

At the August 22 Presbytery meeting, a plan was announced to restore the \$92,000 to Cedarkirk and Beth-El that was cut earlier in the year, so they will not have to make any additional cuts in their vital ministries. Additionally, in order to keep Misión Peniel open in 2010, the Board of Directors of Beth-El needs to receive an additional \$60,000 to \$100,000. The cost to run Misión Peniel for a year is \$130,000. The Beth-El Farmworker Ministry currently operates at the home mission/campus in Wimauma, in Arcadia on Sundays (out of the van Espiritu), and in Immokalee as Misión Peniel.

To date almost \$50,000 has been received or pledged. Thank you for your generosity and concern. Bulletin inserts have been distributed and are available for churches to use in collecting an offering for this special appeal beginning September 20. Thank you!!! 100% of monies collected in this Special Appeal will go to our Covenant Partners. If you want to make an individual contribution, please send the checks to Peace River Presbytery, Special Appeal, 5600 Peace River Rd, North Port, FL 34287.

Graham

Graham Hart - General Presbyter



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

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

Minute for Mission: OUR SPECIAL APPEAL for Beth-El Farmworker Ministry and Cedarkirk

Kathleen Weller related a wonderful story to the August 22 Presbytery meeting. The story touches on the special ministries of our Covenant Partners, and would make an excellent Minute for Mission. If you want to get a copy of [Shana's story](#) about how God is at work in an amazing way in the lives of 7 young people, go to the front page of our web site or click on "For the rest of the story" (see below). This story involves a youth leader, Cedarkirk, Beth-El, and you. The story begins as follows:

About a year ago, a teenager was totally and utterly lost. She was getting in trouble in school, angry all the time, and experiencing an inner turmoil that was eating her up from the inside. This little girl was in trouble. But then somebody did something crazy. Somebody invited her to church....

[For the rest of the story](#)

Please join us in prayer:

- September 6 – Palmetto, Palmetto
- September 13 – First, Port Charlotte
- September 20 – Wintergarden, Port Charlotte
- September 27 – Burnt Store, Punta Gorda



Highlight of the Month

Peace River Presbyterian Nominations Committee

By Steve Mock, Chair

The Nominations Committee of the Presbytery is given the responsibility to seek out and nominate qualified persons for the leadership of the Presbytery and its mission. That means extending God's call to people to serve on the committees and boards of the Presbytery. We also have the responsibility and privilege of finding and nominating clergy and elder commissioners and a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) to General Assembly plus commissioners to Synod.



We are always looking for people who would like to serve the Presbytery, so feel free to contact any of the committee members listed below and/or fill out a [Volunteer Information Form](#) (VIF) that is on the Presbytery's web site under Committees/Nominations. Update your VIF as well so we know what committees you may want to serve.

The nine members of the committee are nominated by the Council of the Presbytery and can serve only one three year term in one of three classes. The current membership is: Rev. Steve Mock (chair), Dick Fernstrum (vice-chair), Mary Lee Mann, Rev. Russ Hickman, Rev. Ruth Schaaff, Dottie Kattell, Barbara Church, Bob LeSage and Reid Richmond.



The PCUSA 2009 Peacemaking Offering will be taken on Sunday, October 4, World Communion Sunday.

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly.

Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the offering it receives to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50 percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the [Presbyterian Peacemaking Program](#).

At the recommendation of the Mission and Justice Committee, Peace River Presbytery's 2009 portion will go to Cedarkirk for their outreach programs.

Acts 16:5

Gathering 3
Tuesday, September 29, 2009
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
9:00 am to 4:00 pm



Registrations and payment are due on Tuesday, September 15!

Mission Challenge '09

As in 2007, Peace River Presbytery will be one of more than 150 presbyteries who will be hosting a mission co-worker in October. Mission Challenge '09 is again aimed at reconnecting Presbyterian congregations with Presbyterian missionaries. The "challenge" is for every congregation to connect with at least one mission co-worker in prayer, correspondence, and financial support.

We are please to have a PCUSA missionary to **Turkey** visiting our Presbytery from October 2 until October 9. **(Because this individual is serving an area of the world where there are security risks and concerns, no information about her is to be put on web sites or in printed material.)**



Current speaking schedule:

October 3 – Holy Trinity
October 4 – First, Port Charlotte
October 5 – DAY OFF
October 6 – Presbyterian Church of the Covenant
Northminster
Faith
October 7 – Church of the Palms
October 8 – First, Bonita Springs***

Phyllis Maisel, member of the Mission and Justice Committee, is coordinating the speaker's schedule. As of this writing, there are still some timeslots available. This is a great opportunity for women's groups or mission committees to hear first-hand the work of a PCUSA missionary. If your church is interesting in hosting, please contact Phyllis as 941-377-9379 as soon as possible.

***Open Invitation to Peace River Presbytery on Thursday, October 8

Mission Dinner and Program

6:30-7:30 pm –

Dinner catered by Olympia Café of Bonita Springs:
Mediterranean Cuisine, \$10.00 per person

7:30-8:30 pm - Mission Program with PCUSA Missionary to Turkey

RSVP by Monday, October 5 to Nancy Oedy at First Presbyterian, Bonita Springs, 239-992-3233

World Mission Celebration

Hundreds of Presbyterians will gather in Cincinnati, Ohio, **October 22-24, 2009** for World Mission Celebration '09: Branches of the Same Vine.



This mission conference and gathering is for *anyone* passionate about world mission, from those who want to network with others and learn how to get involved in mission, to those seasoned in mission work.

Register online at www.pcusa.org/missioncelebration or call (888) 728-7228 x5729 to receive registration materials through the mail.

A.P.C.E. Annual Event

(The Association of Presbyterian Church Educators)

"Awake My Soul"
January 27-30, 2010
Nashville, Tennessee



For more information:

www.apcenet.org
apcenet@aol.com
966-338-7737

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 on line (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.

In addition to the many books that are available for you to check out, we also carry curriculum for all age groups. The following are available for check out:
We Believe, This Present Word, Kerygma, Kid Connection.

There are quite a number of options for small group Bible studies. Consider *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* by Philip Yancey. This is a DVD series of six sessions on our relationship with God. The *Nooma* DVD series is quite popular for youth and young adults. There are other studies that are geared toward women, men, parenting, marriage, and other topics.

If you are concerned about your senior adult members or family, you will want to check out *Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century* and *Dimensions of Older Adult Ministry*, two of our newer resources.

Several periodicals are also available for you to peruse. They cannot be checked out but you may read them in the Resource Center. These include: *ideas!* magazine, *Horizons* magazine, and *Presbyterians Today*.

This is only a sampling of what is available to assist you 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 web site.

Volunteer Age Requirement Lowered for Presbyterian Volunteer Villages

Over the past few years, many people have asked if the age limit for volunteers to stay in the Presbyterian Volunteer Villages could be lowered. **As of Monday, July 20, 2009 the age has been lowered to 16.**

When first established the Presbyterian Volunteer Villages, the minimum age was 18 partly due to safety and liability issues, trauma, and environmental health. The intensity of the recovery efforts has changed and while some of these issues are ongoing, the levels of concern and the impact on youth have decreased.

Hopefully, the new age limit will encourage renewed interest and participation in volunteer mission work teams. Texas - especially the Port Neches area - is in desperate need of volunteers to help with recovery efforts from last year's Hurricane Ike. The PDA Call Center is currently scheduling work teams based on the new age limit. Please prayerfully consider Texas as your next mission destination.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

(www.pcusa.org/pda)

A One Great Hour of Sharing Ministry

This newsletter is available for viewing anytime at
www.peaceriverpresbytery.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.peaceriverpresbytery.org

[Graham Hart](#), General Presbyter
[Craig Countiss](#), Stated Clerk
[Jim Barnett](#), Treasurer
[Alesia Sharpe](#), Office Manager
[Bill Setchel](#), Financial Secretary
[Joan Mock](#), Part-Time Administrative Assistant
[Lori Doyal](#), Part-Time Administrative Assistant

August 22, 2009
Peace River Presbytery
Stated Meeting
Highlights



Many thanks go to Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers, for their warm hospitality and great job in hosting the August 2009 meeting.

Four young people who went on the West Virginia High School Mission Trip this summer helped lead the commissioners and guests in worship.

Miguel Estrada, pastor for Misión Peniel (Beth-El Farmworker Ministry's outreach in Immokalee) was inspirational as he shared his passion for ministry during the keynote address.



As part of the Council report, two new task forces were introduced. The Mission and Finance Task Force, appointed for one year, will look at both short-term and long-term solutions as they seek new ways to communicate our mission and raise support for the work and mission of Peace River Presbytery. The Covenant Partners Emergency Funding Task Force is promoting a special appeal to support the work of Cedarkirk and Beth-El. The chairs of each of these task forces, along with Miguel Estrada, led one of the two breakout groups.

The first **Good News Break** was given by Deje Kondor from Presbyterian Homes & Housing Foundation, telling its history and purpose. She also led the other breakout group.

For the second **Good News Break**, attendees enjoyed a quartet from First Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers as they sang "When We Sing around the Throne Eternal". Mary Lee Mann, Moderator of Presbytery and a member of the quartet, shared that the offerings at the church's annual *Hymn Sings* go to feed the hungry.

Kathi Wiggins, chair of the Personnel Committee, shared that the Presbytery staff, beginning September 1, will consist of the following:
Full-time - General Presbyter, Office Manager and Financial Secretary
Part-time - 2 Administrative Assistants, Stated Clerk and volunteer Treasurer

Clint Cottrell, Chair of the Evangelism and Church Development Committee, celebrated that Peace Presbyterian, who was chartered as our 39th church on May 28, 2009 and will be organized on October 18, received a \$50,000 Walton Grant.

The newly revised 2009 operating budget and the preliminary operating budget for 2010 were both approved. **Pastors were asked to bring to the**

November Stated Meeting an estimate of what their congregations plan to give next year.

Nominations Committee submitted the following names for election, and Presbytery approved:

Committee on Ministry

- Rev. David Dietzel (HR, N. Fort Myers) Class of 2010-1
- Max Furbringer (First, Fort Myers) Class of 2009-1

Mission and Justice

- Rev. Bill Hull (HR, Bradenton) Class of 2009-1

The Records and Overtures Committee made a motion to approve "An Overture to Achieve Voting Parity among the Presbyteries Based on Church Membership". The motion was defeated.

The Presbytery approved the following pastoral calls:

- Rev. Edward Bellis IV as Associate Pastor at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples (and received into membership of Peace River Presbytery)
- Rev. C. David Garnett as Interim Pastor at Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota (with permission to labor within the bounds of Peace River Presbytery as member of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay)
- Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller as part-time interim at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

The Presbytery also approved the commission to install Rev. Elizabeth Deibert as the Pastor/Head of Staff of Peace Presbyterian Church, pending the action of the congregational meeting on August 30, 2009. The service of installation will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 18, 2009 at State College of Florida of Lakewood Ranch and will include the ordination and installation of duly elected elders.

Some of the actions by C.O.M. under authority granted:

- Transferred Rev. India Dennis to Foothills Presbytery, SC, effective June 1, 2009
- Transferred Rev. Susan Rice to Philadelphia Presbytery, effective June 1, 2009
- Transferred Rev. Dr. Derek Richman to Sacramento Presbytery, effective July 7, 2009
- Approved Rev. Paul McQueen to labor outside the bounds of Peace River Presbytery in Alaska Presbytery
- Approved Mr. John Scott as Pastoral Intern (Temporary Supply) at Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte with Rev. Myles MacDonald as supervisor and serving as Moderator of Session
- Approved Rev. Fred Marsh and Rev. Phil Bliss as Parish Associates at Church of the Palms for 12 months beginning May 1, 2009.

The next Presbytery meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice.