



The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

JANUARY 2010

Please join us in prayer for these churches:

January 3 First, Arcadia
January 10 First, Bonita Springs
January 17 Braden River, Bradenton
January 24 First, Bradenton
January 31 Kirkwood, Bradenton



Healthy Congregations™ Facilitator Training

Peace River Presbytery is excited to host a three-day training for people, both clergy and lay, interested in learning about the workshop materials for Healthy Congregations™. The training will be led by Elaine Barnett, PCUSA Elder, Certified Christian Educator and especially trained to train others in Healthy Congregations™. This material, six workshops which each include five sessions, is based on family systems theory and, in creative ways, applies that theory to the life of a congregation. Healthy Congregations™ facilitator training offers the opportunity for participants to:

- prepare to lead a congregation through Healthy Congregations™ workshops;
- learn Family Systems Theory;
- understand the nature and scope of the workshop materials;
- discover a variety of creative ways to present material to a congregation; and
- gain insight into ways of moving members of a congregation toward a healthy and faithful life together.

The event will be held **January 14-16, 2010 at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda.**

- 10:00 to 5:30 on Thursday, January 14
- 9:00 to 5:30 on Friday, January 15, and
- 9:00 to noon on Saturday, January 16.

The cost of the three days is **\$50 for the workshops, including meals and the training, PLUS \$235 for the materials**, including participant's manual, facilitator's guide, an inductive manual of lesson plans, and the DVDs.

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL THE PRESBYTERY OFFICE, 941-426-8421.
DEADLINE TO REGISTER: January 4, 2010.**

Committee Highlight of the Month

Committee on Ministry

By Jim Beckwith, Chair

The Vision Statement for the Committee on Ministry:

*The nurture, care, and development of positive relationships among:
Ministers - Presbytery -
Congregations – Educators*



The Committee on Ministry, or perhaps better known as COM, is a committee of the Presbytery, elected to serve as pastor and counselor to the ministers and Certified Educators of the Presbytery; to facilitate the relations between congregations, ministers, Certified Christian Educators and the Presbytery; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the Presbytery when possible.

The Peace River COM has an authorized membership of twenty persons and consists of an equal number of ministers and elders. We have also divided the COM into three geographical regions to permit better relationships with our churches and eliminate some travel back and forth. We named these the north, central and south clusters and divided the churches as equitably as possible. This does not mean that members don't travel into other clusters, because they do as the need arises.

The Committee on Ministry serves the Presbytery in many ways. To name a few, they perform Triennial Visits with the pastor(s) and staff of a church, and the session. Three years ago, these visits were conducted by cluster areas. Churches within the cluster, convened with sister churches and pastors, elders and key leadership had the opportunity to discuss common problems and programs—such as outreach in neighborhoods and missions. In the second year of our three year plan, 2008, half of the churches in each cluster had visits with the pastors and the other half had visits with the sessions. In the third year, 2009, the second year process was reversed. In 2010, we will have the churches convene again by cluster to share and discuss opportunities once again. COM members also serve as liaisons to churches in the call process of a pastor or associate pastor and provide training and guidance to pastoral search committees. COM is authorized to approve and present calls for service of ministers, to approve the examination of ministers transferring from other presbyteries, to dissolve the pastoral relationship in cases where congregations

and pastors concur, and to dismiss ministers to other presbyteries.

As you have read, the duties and responsibilities of the Committee on Ministry are numerous and at times, very profound. All of the members of this committee are dedicated individuals and committed to doing the Lord's work and need your prayers to help them with this task.

MAIN EVENT

Saturday, March 13, 2010

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Faith, Cape Coral

KEYNOTE: Dr. Henry Simmons
THEME: *Aging as a Spiritual Journey*

Workshops being considered:

- Key Spiritual Practices for Times of Transition
- Web Resources for Best Congregational Practices
- Retreats for Seniors
- Music for Aging Gracefully
- Elder Abuse
- Pastoral Care - Laypersons
- Deacon and Elder Training
- 21st Century Communications

Please Note: Although the theme is "Aging as a Spiritual Journey", there will also be workshops focusing on the training of officers and leaders of the church.

We hope you are planning to attend.
Watch for registration information!

Your Presbyterian History & Heritage: Alive and Well in Montreat

Planning a retreat and looking for programming ideas? The Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat is dedicated to education about the history of Presbyterian and Reformed heritage and its worldwide mission, as well as the [special history of Montreat](#), and is here to help!



The PHC offers educational opportunities to children, youth, and adults, and is pilot testing materials to teach Presbyterian history to confirmation classes, youth groups, and Sunday school classes.

If you're looking for ways to incorporate the rich heritage of the Presbyterian Church into your retreat programming, contact the [staff](#) at the PHC for more information.

[Learn more about the Presbyterian Heritage Center.](#)

Presbyterian Women Annual Gathering

The 20th Annual Gathering of Peace River Presbyterian Women will be held on **Saturday, February 13, 2010** beginning at 9:00 a.m. and hosted by Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers. The theme is "God will continue to do wonders among us" and the keynote speaker will be Rev. Jessica MacMillan from Western Reserve Presbytery in Ohio. Please contact your church's Presbyterian Women Moderator if you are interested in attending.



CHURCH NEWS

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples, is sponsoring an **Evangelism Workshop** led by Dr. Thomas G. Long on Saturday, February 27. Dr. Thomas G. Long, Professor of Preaching at Emory University, Atlanta, has been named by Time Magazine as one of the ten best preachers in the U.S. today.

"Celebrate the Faith"
***Learning How to Talk about Our Faith:
Lessons from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John***

Breakfast & Workshop: 8:30 a.m. to Noon
Cost: \$6/person
Advance registration requested

Vanderbilt offers this opportunity for your church to send members to participate.

For information, please contact Bob Martin at (239) 992-8228 or the church office at (239) 597-5410. For directions, go to <http://www.vpcnaples.org>.

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

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