



The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

MARCH 2010

SPEAKING FROM THE HART

At the heart of who we are as Presbyterians is our organic, covenantal, and biblical partnership or network between us. In a research project I did several years ago, I discovered that the minutes of the first Presbyterian meetings (1706) reflect the testimony of the early Presbyterian pioneers who believed that congregations could be stronger (congregational care), pastors more effective and faithful (leadership development), and mission more strategic (missional engagement) in a Presbyterian (connectional) rather than congregational (local autonomy) form of government.

We do our best work when we pull together, as did the early church. We don't always agree, nor did folks in the early church, but like the early church those three core purposes need to continue to shape what we do.

So how are we doing?

Missional engagement – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), working in collaboration with partners in Haiti, continues to provide basic humanitarian aid for those most impacted by the January earthquake and to assess ongoing recovery needs. More than \$564,000 has been sent to help with relief. [Read situation reports and find printable and video resources.](#) PDA is asking you to stand in the GAP for disaster survivors as you [Give](#), [Act](#), and [Pray](#). As of this date, the Presbytery has received and sent on \$18, 983 from 8 churches. Additionally, many churches have given directly to PDA and other charitable groups. Our Disaster Preparedness and Response Team is currently surveying each congregation. To date, we have reports from 10 churches that those contributions amount to \$51,029.

PDA will also respond to the earthquake in Chile, working through our mission co-workers and covenant partners. Money for PDA comes from One Great Hour of Sharing as well as designated contributions. I encourage you to share the story of PDA and One Great Hour of Sharing with your congregations.

Two weeks ago, at the request of our Disaster Preparedness and Response Task Force and on your behalf, I submitted a grant request to PDA to help with the food needs at Misión Peniel. Due to the winter freeze and damage to the crops, the Friday night meal program now is serving over 800 people a week. That \$9500 grant will help in the purchase of food for the farm workers, **and that is possible because of your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.** Thank you!

How are we doing with congregational care and leadership development?

I encourage everyone to send a team to the Main Event, March 13 (see below). Our focus will be on **Aging as a Spiritual Journey**. The planning team's hope is that as a follow up we can begin a conversation related to how, as a Presbytery (meaning 39 congregations), do we develop programs and processes, in a missionally focused way, that address the spiritual needs of the retired and retiring folks in our area. It seems to me this topic and need may be a significant part of what God is challenging us to address as well as what God may be up to in our area.

Graham

Graham Hart - graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

P.S. – I will write more in the future on that research project as it relates to our Council's Vision Force which is dealing with our mission, vision, structure, future and funding as a Presbytery.

Please join us in prayer for these churches:

March 7	Buckingham, Fort Myers
March 14	Covenant, Fort Myers
March 21	Cypress Lake, Fort Myers
March 28	First, Fort Myers



REGISTER FOR THE MAIN EVENT **NOW!**

Saturday, March 13, 2010
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Faith, Cape Coral

\$15 a person

THEME: *Aging as a Spiritual Journey*



Dr. Henry Simmons will present 2 keynote addresses (Mapping Aging and Getting There from Here) and lead 2 workshops (Spiritual Practice for Times of Transition and Online Resources).

Other workshops include:

- Transitions: A Grief and Loss Program for Your Church
- Equipping Lay People to Care
- End of Life Issues
- Faith and Fitness
- Camp is Not Just for Kids! Retreat Ministry for Senior Adults
- Elder Abuse
- Understanding and Responding to the Special Needs of Individuals with Alzheimer's
- Never Too Late: A.A. for the Older Alcoholic
- Facebook: Social Networking for Seniors
- Second Half Opportunities
- Spirituality Center
- Dry? Boring? No Way! Being a Deacon or Elder Changes Lives!
- Elders and Deacons 201: The Next Level
- Polity for the Local Church: How to Speak Presbyterian

REGISTRATION MATERIAL HAS BEEN E-MAILED TO CHURCH OFFICES AND CLERKS OF SESSION. IT IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR [WEB SITE](#).

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!!!

THE SHEPHERD'S SABBATH

April 5-7, 2010

Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center

Looking for a moment to rest and recharge after Holy Week and Easter?



Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center has the event for you: The Shepherd's Sabbath. **All church professionals and their families serving in Peace River or Tampa Bay Presbyteries** are invited to enjoy a Sabbath in the beauty of God's creation.

This **FREE** event is designed with a flexible schedule and offers a variety of activities as well as plenty of time for rest and relaxation.

Whether you can stay for just a day or can enjoy all 3 days, you won't want to miss this opportunity. Please visit www.cedarkirk.org for all the details. You can also register at their website or by calling Karin Dale at 813-685-4224.

SENIOR HIGH RETREAT

Peace River Presbytery will sponsor a Senior High Retreat at Cedarkirk on **April 10-11, 2010**. For more information, go to www.peaceriverpresbytery.org, the Youth page.

ACTS 16:5 REUNION

The churches who participated in the Acts 16:5 Initiative with Stan Ott have another opportunity to get together!

On Saturday, April 17, 2010, Acts 16:5 teams are invited to First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia for a time to share:

- Best practices
- Learnings
- New directions
- Successes

Please watch for more information, and plan to attend!

From Our Churches

Bee Ridge, Sarasota For Our Troops

Several years ago we heard that soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan who had been used to reading the Sunday funnies missed them, and requested them. A group connected with the Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution which was in charge of mailing needed items to the troops began sending the comics. Bee Ridge members have been very diligent in collecting comics for this project. This past year Beanie Babies were added. The soldiers receive a supply of Beanie Babies and give these small stuffed animals to children "who never had a toy." The response at Bee Ridge has been stupendous. Many Bee Ridge Beanie Babies came out of retirement and are on their way for the children. These small donations leave the Bee Ridge members with a sense of satisfaction that they are making a contribution, however small.

Submitted by Julia Keys Williams

One Great Hour of Sharing: sharing resources, changing lives



Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

Where does the money go?

The [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#) receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the [Self-Development of People](#) and [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) each receive 32 percent.

When is the offering received?

Most congregations receive the offering on Easter Sunday, Palm Sunday or both, while many receive it throughout Lent.



Volunteers Needed for Special Rebuilding Weeks in Iowa

Nearly two years after flooding devastated much of eastern Iowa, rebuilding continues in cities and towns around the area. Your help is needed.

This spring, PDA will participate with Church World Service (CWS) in hosting a six-week ecumenical work project in Cedar Rapids, working with local organizations to help at least 10 families return home. Project dates are weekly from April 11 through May 22. Let's show the world how people of faith, working side-by-side, can make great things happen for our neighbors in need.

Join the effort! For questions, call Sarah Dyck at (319) 321-4165 or [contact by e-mail](#).

To register your volunteer team, contact the PDA Call Center at (866) 732-6121, or [register your interest online](#).

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.

Some of the excellent books in the Resource Center include:

- *The Jesus Creed: Loving God, Loving Others* by Scot McNight (includes the book and a 7-lesson DVD);
- *40 Days Living the Jesus Creed*, by Scot McNight;
- *Helping Children Grieve*, a DVD by Khris Ford and Paula D'Arcy;
- *Confronting Death: A Christian Approach to the End of Life*, a DVD by Walter Wangerin, Jr.;
- *Suffering and the Courage of God: Exploring How Grace and Suffering Meet*, by Robert Corin Morris;
- and three books by the Alban Institute, and edited by Larry A. Goleman: *Finding Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change*, *Teaching Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Pastoral Formation*, and *Living Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Culture*.

These and many other resources are available for you to check out. The only cost to you will be return shipping (back to the Resource Center) if we ship the materials to you. You may come to the Presbytery office 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 email 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 – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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
inbox@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

**Peace River Presbytery
Stated Meeting**

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Sarasota was a wonderful host as we began the 20th Anniversary celebration of Peace River Presbytery.



A processional of banners, representing many of our churches, was held at the beginning of the worship service. In addition, a special cake made by Elder Dick Moore and decorated by Elder Barbara

Borderieux, both members of First, Bradenton, was served during lunch. Rev. Ted Land of First, Arcadia led a time of memory sharing and introductions.

Rev. Dr. Stephen Hayner, President of Columbia Theological Seminary, was our guest preacher and keynote speaker for the day.

Breakout sessions were presented by Dr. Hayner, Cedarkirk, and the Theology and Worship Committee (God and Greed).

During the **Good News Break**, Carol Haeussner from Church of the Palms shared news about the Kirkuk Kindergarten and Primary School Development in Iraq, which is one of the recipients of the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering this year.

Leadership and Congregational Development Chair Chris Adams shared information about the upcoming **Main Event** to be held on March 13 at Faith, Cape Coral. The theme is "Aging as a Spiritual Journey". All were encouraged to register and attend this helpful event.

John Reiter, Executive Director of Cedarkirk, talked about the upcoming **Shepherd's Sabbath**, a free event for all church professionals and their families.

It was announced that **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has approved a \$9,500 grant to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry** for much needed food distribution at Misión Peniel. Jim Berger, Chairman of Beth-El Board and Pastor of Hope United in Fort Myers, announced two upcoming open houses: 1) March 14 in Wimauma and 2) April 11 at Misión Peniel.

Mission and Justice Chair Wayne Kindt made two motions, both of which the Presbytery approved: 1) the 2010-2011 recipients of Presbytery's portion of 3 Cents a Meal (St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Breakfast Program and Misión Peniel) and 2) the recipients of the offerings

for the 2010 Stated Meetings. Also, churches were asked to call the Presbytery office to confirm their Guatemala Sister Church involvement.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry Chair George Chorba moved, and the Presbytery approved, that Peace River enroll John Scott as an Inquirer.

The Nominations Committee Chair Steve Mock presented the following for election: Judith Oehler, Vanderbilt, Naples, as an alternate elder commissioner to the 219th General Assembly to be held July 3-19, 2010 in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Karen Wismer as Vice Chair of Personnel; and nine individuals to serve on Presbytery Committees.

Committee on Ministry moved and the Presbytery approved:

- Rev. Dr. Hope Italiano Lee as Pastor of Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
- Rev. Paul deJong as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
- Rev. Dr. Lewis Trotter, HR, as member of Peace River Presbytery
- Rev. Sung Lee as member-at-large
- Associate Pastor position for Youth and College for First, Bonita Springs

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

- Approved the transfer of Rev. Paul McQueen to the Presbytery of Alaska
- Approved the transfer of Rev. J. Scott Moncrieff to the Presbytery of Tampa Bay
- Approved a one year extension for permission for Rev. Julio Travieso to labor within the bounds of Peace River Presbytery
- Approved the CIF for Palmetto Presbyterian Church in preparation for calling a Pastor/Tentmaker (part-time)
- Approved the CIF for St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in preparation for calling a Designated Pastor

The next Presbytery meeting will be held on Thursday, May 27, 2010 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port.

