



The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

MAY 2010

SPEAKING FROM THE HART

The Mockingbird and the Crow

I have been watching an on-going drama every morning for the past week. In our back yard, there is a tree with a mockingbirds' nest. The eggs have not yet hatched, as far as I can tell.

Around 7:00 a.m., the mockingbirds' normal song becomes a frantic and loud cackling as they go into attack mode against a large black crow that swoops toward the nest. The crow sees breakfast. The mockingbirds see the future.

Today, not only were the two watchful parents protecting the nest, but two other mockingbirds came to join in the attack, pecking and flying at that crow as it tried to get to the nest. The crow was driven away, and now all is quiet again except for the calm chorus of the mockingbirds.

So what is the instinctual difference that nature is displaying in that daily drama? Both the crow and the mockingbirds are doing what nature has told them, without even thinking about it. They're doing what they are supposed to do. **The crow sees breakfast. The mockingbirds see the future.**

Sometimes in life we have conflicting internal messages. As God's people, we sometimes tend to look at the immediate, the breakfast. But as leaders we are called to look to the future... insuring that there is a future.

In the next six months there will be several opportunities to look to the future including the development of a "Generosity Team" from each congregation, and other chances to continue to explore what church growth and transformation look like in Southwest Florida.

At the May 27th Presbytery meeting at St. Paul's North Port, Philip Lotspeich, Coordinator of Church Growth Ministries for the General Assembly Mission Council, will be with us. There will be a 2-hour breakout group with Philip that is designed for pastors, educators, and elders who are interested in and wanting to learn more about how we grow our churches, how we transform ourselves from the inside out.

Then at the August 28th Presbytery meeting at Faith, Cape Coral, as well as a follow-up workshop September 23, we will be looking at how to develop a year-round "Culture of Generosity" in our congregations. Kevin Garvey, former College Vice President, Funds Development Officer, elder at one of the fastest growing Presbyterian churches in the country, and now Chief

Development Officer of the Board of Pensions, will lead us as we explore the theme of deepening our faith as we cultivate a culture of generosity in each congregation.

I know, like the crow, we need to take care of the immediate, but I invite you to join with me, like those nurturing protective mockingbirds, and do what we need to do to insure a future.

Inviting you to join with me as we look to the future,

Graham Hart
General Presbyter
graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

PRAYER FOCUS



- May 2 Christ Church, Longboat Key
- May 9 First, Naples
- May 16 Lely, Naples
- May 23 Moorings, Naples
- May 30 New Life Presbyterian Fellowship, Naples

Please also pray for:

The upcoming **219th General Assembly**, to be held July 3-10, 2010 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Our delegates are:

- Rev. Elizabeth Deibert, Peace
- Rev. Karl Kling, Bee Ridge
- Rev. Christopher Romig, Venice
- Elder Christine Larson, Buckingham
- Elder Cindy May, Kirkwood
- Elder James Pratt, Presbyterian Church of the Covenant
- Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) Nicholas Monette, Moorings

219TH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2010)



For more information about GA, please go to <http://www.pcusa.org/ga219/>.

Prayer volunteers

by Duane Sweep
Special to Presbyterian News Service

MINNEAPOLIS — This July several thousand Presbyterians will attend the [219th General Assembly](#) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Minneapolis. But

there are many more who would like to be at the Assembly, but can't attend because of time, distance or other commitments.

There is, however, a way for all to participate.

While many local Presbyterians will serve in ministries of hospitality during the Assembly, showing commissioners and visitors alike the neighborliness that is characteristic of Presbyterians, others can help through prayer.

The Committee on Local Arrangements (COLA) is looking for about 1,000 people who are willing to serve as prayer partners, said Lois Potter, a member of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Long Lake, MN, and coordinator of the committee's Prayer Partner Work Group.

Each prayer partner will be given the name of a commissioner or advisory delegate and asked to pray for them throughout the Assembly.

All are welcome to become a prayer and can volunteer to be one by registering as a volunteer on the [COLA Web site](http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2010/10332.htm) and selecting "prayer partner." Those who are not able to register online can contact Potter at (763) 497-1601 or the COLA office at (612) 871-2617.

<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2010/10332.htm>

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Rev. Homer Spencer, April 18, 2010

UPCOMING STATED MEETING

May 27, 2010

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port
9:00 a.m.



Special guest at this meeting will be the **Rev. Philip Lotspeich, Coordinator of Church Growth Ministries for the General Assembly Mission Council.** He has been active in transformation and new church development work at the congregational, presbytery, and General Assembly levels. In Okmulgee, Oklahoma, he pastored a 150-member transformational congregation and was the pastor of Faithbridge Presbyterian Church, a chartered new church development in Frisco, Texas. He has served on numerous new church development conference planning teams, including chair of the denomination's 2007 National Evangelism Conference, as a member and moderator of Grace Presbytery's new church development committee and as a new church development coach for the PC(USA) since 2003.

Rev. Lotspeich will preach, give a keynote address, plus lead a special breakout workshop. Please get the word out and encourage Evangelism and Outreach Committee members to attend.

He will also participate in the Acts 16:5 Reunion to be held immediately after the Stated Meeting.

Milestone on the journey toward a fair food industry

by [Bethany Furkin](#)

Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — Another company has reached an agreement with a farmworkers' rights group with strong ties to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), taking the next step in the workers' fight for fair wages and working conditions.

On April 1, the [Coalition of Immokalee Workers](#) and [Aramark Corporation](#) released a statement agreeing to establish a supplier code of conduct with input from farmworkers. Aramark will also increase payment to workers by 1.5 cents for every pound of tomatoes picked.

CIW is a community-based worker organization in Florida that advocates for the rights of workers in that state's tomato fields. It partners with the PC(USA)'s [Campaign for Fair Food](#) and has reached agreements with companies such as Yum! Brands, Burger King, Subway, and McDonald's. CIW works with food industry leaders with the goal of using their market power to demand more humane labor standards from their Florida tomato suppliers.

Aramark has agreed to cut off purchases from growers found to be associated with abusive labor practices, including modern-day slavery.

Pentecost Offering: May 23, 2010



Pentecost Sunday is an amazing, life-giving day in the community of faith. At Pentecost, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to transform all of creation. Through participation in the [Pentecost Offering](#) we bring the transforming love of God to children at risk and celebrate God's ministries in the lives of youth and young adults.

The Pentecost Offering supports our efforts to nurture the faith of Presbyterian young people. It helps us call forth a new generation of leadership in mission service through the Young Adult Volunteer program. Using a portion of the receipts, congregations can make a difference in the lives of children at risk in their own communities.

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