



The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

SEPTEMBER 2010

SPEAKING FROM THE HART Gratitude -- 90 years later How will you be remembered? Is that important?

I was sitting in a plane, the aisle seat, flying back from Philadelphia after having a wonderful family vacation and a week in a rented house in Lahaska, PA (Bucks County). Our adult children decided they wanted to spend a week back in Doylestown where I grew up, where they have many fond and early memories of visiting both sets of grandparents. My parents died in the 1990's, and this was our first extended trip back to Doylestown since 1996, our first trip back with a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, and two granddaughters.

For our time together, I brought some old family documents including a handwritten history by my great-grandmother Jennie Magill Patterson that tells something of our family history including arriving in Pennsylvania in the 1600's. It is that document, written around 1900 that I was reading on the plane. The person across the aisle saw me reading and asked if I was doing some genealogical work. I asked him how he knew. *"You don't see handwritten script like that today."* He went on to say: *"Isn't it amazing and sad that several generations from now, all that any of us will be is a single line on some family tree with our birth and death, and that's about it?"*

Well, to say the least, we had an interesting conversation about life, faith, and cultures (he is from Denmark). I went on to tell him one of the interesting things about my week was that, while reading the family history, I discovered a distant relative, Joseph Magill, whom I never met. Now 93, Joe is in a nursing home but I was able to meet him for the first time while I was there. He had been a miller, postal worker, and farmer all his life. Because my grandparents and great-grandparents died long before I was born, I never met anyone except my Dad who knew them. I didn't know a lot about them, but Joe Magill knew them. When I first introduced myself, I explained who I was. He paused, thought, and said, *"You're Joe Hart's son."* I then said Benjamin Patterson was my great grandfather and Granville Hart my grandfather. With his eyes getting bright and sparkly, he said, *"Uncle Ben?"* I had never heard anyone ever call him Uncle Ben. *"Well, he had a mill and then a farm on Easton Road."* Yes, I said. *"Granville Hart."* With a big smile he added, *"He was a fine... good man. I always liked him. He built some farm buildings for my Dad when we had the farm in Solebury. I was pretty young then, but Granville was a good, good man."*

So how are we remembered? That conversation, making a connection with someone who brought to life a person

who shaped my father who shaped me, was a gift. He was a fine, good, good man.

As a Presbytery, we give thanks for the gift and effort of the Trustees, for having a workshop on September 22 about *Creating a Culture of Generosity* in our congregations.

Now what's that have to do with a half-hour conversation on a plane and meeting a distant relative? I have a grandfather who has, up until now, been one line on the family tree. But now I have an image



and sense of who he was, what was important, what he brought to those around him. Not only was he a good builder who died too early when my Dad was 10, but he was a good, good man.

Generosity, I believe, is about how we understand life and give life away. It can be a description of how one lives or of a congregation's culture. In that conversation with Joe Magill, I did not learn my grandfather was a scrooge or spendthrift or alcoholic, which I discovered is back in our family tree as well. He was a good, kind, and probably graceful and generous man. As we read God's intent for humanity, as we follow the example of Jesus, as we seek to have Christ live in us even as we seek Christ-filled graces to fill our lives, generosity is one of the central themes that characterize both the nature of God, and, as we read scriptures, what God hopes and intends for humankind and from humankind as well.

So I am glad for a summer family reunion and one of those surprising and short conversations on a plane that got me thinking about life. That life is a gift, that we are to live life as a gift to others, and, at the end of the day, all of us can be and are much more than one line on a family tree.

Thanks be to God!

Graham

Graham Hart

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P.S. Hope to see you all on September 22 where we will learn something more about generosity. For more information on the workshop, [click here](#) or go to www.peacriverpresbytery.org.

CHURCHES TO PRAY FOR

September 5 Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota
September 12 Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota
September 19 Whitfield Estates, Sarasota
September 26 Trinity, Venice



STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP: CREATING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Registration: 9:30 a.m.

Presenter: Mr. Kevin Garvey, Chief Development Officer of The Board of Pensions PCUSA

Location: St. Paul's, North Port

Cost: \$6.00 for lunch

The *Creating a Culture of Generosity* workshop will move from presentation to implementation. Building on the introduction from the Presbytery meeting, this one-day, interactive seminar will occur in small group breakouts so that you can develop a generosity program for your church. As a church leader, you will walk away with materials and ideas on how to foster and increase the spiritual life of your church and members, as it relates to stewardship. Working in your small group and later sharing ideas with the entire assembly, you will develop a generosity/stewardship annual calendar and discuss the implementation steps for your church.

Come prepared to learn how to create a culture of generosity, share your ideas, write a generosity plan and calendar of activities, explore the Biblical texts of generosity and stewardship, and celebrate the success of your efforts.

WHO SHOULD COME?

Who makes up a congregation's **generosity team**? It could include any or all of the following.

- ◆ Pastors
- ◆ Educators
- ◆ Treasurers
- ◆ Stewardship Chairs
- ◆ Finance Chairs
- ◆ Mission Chairs

For this workshop it will be most helpful to your congregation if at least 3 to 5 members of the team are able to be present. At the end of the workshop, each team will have been given the tools, as well as time, to design an 18-month comprehensive generosity plan of which the annual stewardship drive is just one part.

The registration brochure is on our web site at: www.peaceriverpresbytery.org. You may also call the Presbytery office for assistance. **Please register by September 15!**

Ministers who entered the Church Triumphant

Rev. Thomas Makin – July 27

Rev. John Parrett – August 17

TRIENNIAL CLUSTER GATHERINGS

The Triennial Cluster Gatherings, sponsored by the Committee on Ministry, are part of a 3-year cycle of visits from members of COM.

Pastor(s), Certified Educators and 4 Elders from each church are asked to attend the Fall 2010 Triennial Cluster Gatherings. Please include elders with knowledge in the areas of worship, mission, church education, finances, and evangelism. The goal is for every church to be represented.

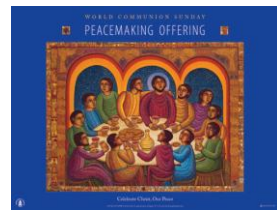
The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Sept. 23, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., Vanderbilt, Naples
Thursday, Sept. 30, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., First, Port Charlotte
Thursday, Oct. 7, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., Kirkwood, Bradenton
Thursday, Oct. 14, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., Bee Ridge, Sarasota
Thursday, Oct. 28, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m., Cypress Lake, FM

For more information, please go to the front page of the Presbytery's web site, www.peaceriverpresbytery.org or call the Presbytery office at 941-426-8421.

2010 Peacemaking Offering

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.



The theme for the 2010 Offering is "Celebrate Christ, Our Peace." The art is *The Last Supper*, a serigraph by [John August Swanson](#).

Most churches receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, which this year is October 3. 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](#).

MAIN EVENT

Please plan to attend the next Main Event, **Saturday, March 12, 2011**, sponsored by the Leadership and Congregational Development Committee. The theme is "Worship in the 21st Century."

The keynote speaker will be **Dr. Constance Cherry**, an experienced professor, worship leader, musician, and pastor, who has served in local church ministry and academic teaching positions for more than thirty years. She is Associate Professor of Worship and Christian Ministries at [Indiana Wesleyan University](http://www.indiana-wesleyan.edu), Marion, Indiana. Dr. Cherry speaks and teaches internationally in the areas of worship and church music. Her publications include musical compositions, hymn texts and tunes, and articles. Her first book was published by Baker Academic in 2010, [*The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*](#).

Watch for more details!

Record Breaking Summer Camp Season for Cedarkirk

This summer, 962 campers attended 48 different Cedarkirk summer camp programs and mission trip opportunities. This was 100 more campers than 2009 and marks a six-year high in camper attendance. One particular high was the growth of the Challenge to Change program, which tripled in attendance with 140 participants this summer.

This summer's theme was "Be a Hero." The entire camp community explored stories of Biblical and contemporary heroes and discussed how each of us can be heroes for God in our daily lives. Twenty-eight exceptional college-age staff from across the southeast spent the summer acting as counselors, serving the children and youth that came to camp.

We would like to extend our most sincere gratitude to all the volunteers who gave their time this summer as camp nurses and worship leaders. Cedarkirk also wishes to thank the many congregations and individuals who support our ministry through prayer, financial means, and by sending campers from their church families. It was a pleasure to serve your children this summer and our fervent hope is that they were as enriched by the experience as we were by their presence.

Concert Benefits Mission

The Kiev Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, established in 1993 by American conductor and Presbyterian church musician Roger McMurrin, appears Saturday, October 9, 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of **Moorings Presbyterian Church** in Naples, opening its Hyacinth Series. Roger, with his wife Diane, established **Music Mission Kiev** which represents a church in the Ukraine with Christian ministry to orphanages and food assistance to widows (www.musicmissionkiev.org). This concert is open to the public with offerings accepted for **Music Mission Kiev**.



The concert features an array of classical music favorites as well as patriotic and sacred selections. First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs, is working with Moorings to host the ensemble of ninety people for one night. For more information, contact music minister Richard Crofts at 239.213.5246 or rcrofts@moorings-presby.org.

World Mission leader says church is opening a new chapter in its mission history

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is writing the third chapter of a mission "love story" that began in 1837, a denominational mission leader said Sunday (July 4) at the World Mission Luncheon. Hunter Farrell, director of Presbyterian World Mission, said the newest chapter in the saga is the formation of "communities of mission practice." Participants in these communities include World Mission staff and mission personnel, global partners, and grassroots Presbyterians directly involved in international mission.

The purpose of the communities is "to discern the mind of Christ as we participate in God's mission," Farrell explained.

The earliest PC(USA) mission efforts were focused exclusively on sending mission personnel, he said. Beginning in the middle of the 20th century, Presbyterians in the United States moved into the second chapter of its history, emphasizing working in partnership with churches overseas that were formed through the efforts of early missionaries. "Partnership was limited to the leaders of our church and the leaders of partner churches," Farrell said. Today, however, numerous congregations and presbyteries have established partnerships with international counterparts.

This has led to World Mission's focus on facilitating communities of mission practice, which will help coordinate efforts, Farrell said. He noted that more and more mission personnel are serving as "global connectors," helping link congregations and presbyteries with international partners. (Article by Pat Cole, PCUSA)

Union Presbyterian Seminary unveiled its new logo and assumed new name in July

In July, Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Union-PSCE), one of the theological seminaries of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., officially changed its name to **Union Presbyterian Seminary**.

The name reflects a new vision for the future and signifies a new creation that God is forming out of the historic seminary. The transformation that the new name embodies has been in the works since 2007 and was officially approved by the Board of Trustees in February 2009 when they unanimously accepted a new strategic plan. For more information, go to <http://www.upsem.edu>.

Peace River Presbytery
Stated Meeting
HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, August 28, 2010
Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral



The hospitality of Faith Presbyterian Church members and staff was greatly appreciated as they hosted the August Stated Meeting.

During the worship service, Rev. Dr. Thomas Harp, pastor of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church in Naples, preached on "Harmonizing Dissonance" which included the singing participation of the congregation. The offering went to "Nickels for Nails" to be given to faith-based work camps that provide an experience in mission for the youth of Peace River Presbytery.

Keynote speaker at this meeting was **Mr. Kevin Garvey, Chief Development Officer of The Board of Pensions (PCUSA)**. He also led a breakout group introducing a year round, spiritually-based culture of generosity program. On September 22, Mr. Garvey will return to Peace River Presbytery to lead a workshop on the same topic at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Generosity Teams from every church are encouraged to attend.

Also leading breakout groups were the General Assembly Commissioners from our Presbytery with a question and answer format, and Rev. Clay Thomas who spoke on *Peacemaking: Israel and Palestine*.

Rev. Bruce Chapman, a Presbyterian university minister, talked about the PCUSA's mission and ministry at Florida State University at a Good News Break.

During lunch, Mike Bicknese and Nancy Exline from Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral, spoke of the importance of youth ministry during Peace River Presbytery's 20 years of existence. Presbyterian Youth Connection (PYC) has been very active. They also showed pictures taken during this summer's High School mission trip to West Virginia.

Samantha Keller, Chair of Leadership and Congregational Development, reminded everyone of the upcoming Main Event to be held on Saturday, March 12, 2011, and announced that the keynote speaker will be Dr. Constance Cherry.

Our General Assembly Commissioners (Rev. Elizabeth Deibert, Rev. Karl Kling, Rev. Graham Hart, Elder Christine Larson, Elder Cindy May, Elder James Pratt) and Young Adult Advisory Delegate Nicholas Monette shared their experiences at the 219th General Assembly. At the conclusion of their presentation, a video of the week was shown.

Mission and Justice Chair Wayne Kindt talked about a Mission Survey that will be sent to every church in the near future.

The following actions were taken:

The Presbytery approved the new Stated Clerk job description. Applications of those interested should be sent to the Presbytery office by October 14, 2010 for the Nominations Committee to consider.

Presbytery also approved our covenants with Central Presbytery of the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala and with Duvall Home.

Inquirer Susan Wills of First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, was granted Candidate status.

DeAnne Sawyer, Covenant, Fort Myers, was elected as Vice Chair of the Mission and Justice Committee.

Under the Committee on Ministry report, the Presbytery approved:

- Rev. Bruce Hedgepeth as Executive Associate Pastor of Church of the Palms, Sarasota, effective August 31
- Rev. Richard Hill as Interim Pastor of Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples, as of August 11.
- Guidelines for Compensation effective January 1, 2011

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

- Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between New Life Presbyterian Fellowship (NCD) and Rev. Edward Gray, effective August 15 for Rev. Gray to accept a new call in the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas, and transferred him to that Presbytery.
- Approved the transfer of Rev. Joanne Hinds to the Presbytery of Great River.
- Approved Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller as Temporary Supply for First, Naples from June 15, 2010 through January 15, 2011.

The commissioners were reminded of the upcoming Triennial Cluster Gatherings to be held in September and October. The schedule is in the packet and on the Presbytery's web site.

The Board of Trustees shared a DVD with testimonies by several people whose lives have been touched by Peace River Presbytery and its mission. Churches were also reminded to bring their Unified Giving commitment forms to the November 18, 2010 Stated Meeting to be formally received.

The next Presbytery meeting will be held on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte.