



The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

FEBRUARY 2011

SPEAKING FROM THE HART

One Day in the Life of Peace River Presbytery

This past summer, July 24 was memorialized in "[Life in a Day](#)," a cinematic experiment that attempted to document one day, as seen through the eyes of 6.7 billion people around the world. Through YouTube, 80,000 videos were sent to the creator of this documentary, and "Life in a Day" will soon be released. That got me thinking: what would one day in the life of Peace River Presbytery look like? For starters, let's say January 30, 2011?

Don Cady, the Moderator of the Presbytery, and I had a unique perspective as we traveled the Presbytery beginning in the north early in the morning and ending in the south that evening for worship. January 30 captured something of the breadth and depth of that ministry that we do together, and which touches so many lives.

January 30 began as every Sunday does in Peace River - with congregations in vibrant worship, engaging programs, and lively fellowship and conversation and prayer.

What made our perspective unique is Don and I - on your behalf - were in a big tent at the Church of the Palms **Mission Expo 2011** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. with 38 mission organizations including Beth-El and the Kirkuk, Iraq Presbyterian school that we support. Over 1000 folks came into that big tent to learn, to engage in conversations about what God is up to, and to find out how we can partner together in that.



We were there with our Presbytery's brand new mission/ministry/thank you tabletop display. I thank the staff for the huge amount of time they spent putting the display together so we can tell the story of what we do, namely that the Presbytery is a network of relationships, partnerships, and support hoping to accomplish the mission of God in our world as we understand it.

If we had had a video feed in each of the 39 congregations, we would have glimpsed alternative worship services, prayer services, Sunday school classes, youth group meetings, and new members' classes being held.

But the day did not end there. Don and I saw part of the work of CPM (Committee on the Preparation for Ministry) and COM (Committee on Ministry) and two different pastor nominating committees coming to an end, as the ministry of newly installed pastors Ray Quiles (St. Paul's, North Port) and Dan Oedy (First, Bonita Springs) began. On your behalf, the Moderator conducted those services, the administrative commissions you created ordained Dan and installed Dan and Ray, and many of your colleagues in ministry gave wonderful charges and sermons. Clergy members and ruling elders from other churches joined in worship and celebration as one chapter in our Presbytery's work in the life of a congregation ends and another begins.

But that was still not all that happened, as our YouTube video would show:

- many people in evening prayers were remembering brothers and sisters in need,
- some were praying for our PCUSA mission partners in the Middle East, especially in Egypt,
- members of LCD (Leadership and Congregational Development Committee) and staff were signing off on the final details for the March 12 Main Event (our Leadership Training event this year, focused on worship), and posting the brochure on the [web site](#).

As we look at January 30 as one day in the life of Peace River Presbytery, I believe that day showed us some of what the proposed new vision/mission statement is picturing: our direction and guiding purpose in this chapter of our life can be found by

*Affirming Congregations,
Connecting Disciples in Mission
Living as the Body of Christ, Together*

Thanks be to God!

Graham

Graham Hart

graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

Please pray for the church of the week:
the congregation, mission, pastors, educators, and
support staff.

February 6 First, Lehigh Acres
February 13 Christ Church of Longboat Key
February 20 First, Naples
February 27 Lely, Naples



Remaining Discussions about the Proposed Amendments

Saturday, February 5, 2011
9:30 a.m.
Presbyterian Center, North Port

Theology and Worship Committee is having a series of "Information Workshops on G.A. Amendments" for Presbytery Commissioners with February 5 being the date of the final workshop. This workshop will discuss the remaining proposed amendments to the Constitution, approved by the 219th General Assembly (2010) and recommended to the presbyteries for their vote:

- Part 1 of 3 – Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and Form of Government will be voted on at the February 24, 2011 Stated Meeting.
- Part 3 of 3 – Amendments to the *Book of Order*, will be voted on at the May 26, 2011 Stated Meeting.

Led by a member of the Theology and Worship Committee, the workshop is open to all interested persons, but is particularly designed for those who will be voting as commissioners to the February 2011 and/or May 2011 stated meetings of Presbytery.

Tuesday, February 8, 2011
Presbyterian Center, North Port

Topic: the proposed changes to the
Form of Government

Presenter:

Dr. Paul Hooker, a member of the GA
Form of Government Task Force



1:00 to 1:30 pm – Presentation
1:30 to 2:00 pm – Questions and answers
2:00 to 3:00 – In depth discussion with those present

There will be a webinar from 1:00 to 2:00 pm for those who are unable to be present. Please call the Presbytery office between 9:00 and 2:00 for more information (941-426-8421) or talk to your Clerk of Session. **The deadline to register for this webinar is Noon Thursday.**

February Stated Meeting

The **February 24, 2011** Stated Meeting will be held at **Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center**. This will be a special opportunity to spend time at the camp that we share with the Presbytery of Tampa Bay. **During this meeting, commissioners will vote on the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution – Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and Form of Government.**



For those who would like to arrive the day before, a retreat is being planned by the Presbytery's Vision Task Force. Please contact Cedarkirk, 813-685-4224, to make your reservations for accommodations and meals. The deadline is Wednesday, February 15.

For more information on and directions to Cedarkirk, go to www.cedarkirk.org or call (813) 685-4224.

WORSHIP IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The Main Event Saturday, March 12, 2011

First Presbyterian Church
Port Charlotte
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.



Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Constance Cherry,
Associate Professor of Worship at
Indiana Wesleyan University

Morning Keynote:

Convergence Worship: A Model for the 21st Century

Afternoon Keynote:

Moving from Passive to Participative Worship

Workshops to be offered:

- Creative Worship by Children and Youth
- Five Myths of Worship Style
- Worship Leaders Network
- Convergent Worship Possibilities for PRP Churches
- Worshipping as a *Genuine* Community
- Q&A with Dr. Constance Cherry
- Elder and Deacon 101: The Basics (plus)
- The Elders' Role in Worship

**Contact your church office for a
Registration Brochure or go to
www.peacriverpresbytery.org!**

CONGRATULATIONS!



Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral, is celebrating their 50th anniversary this month!

Cedarkirk is celebrating 40 years of ministry in 2011!

Here are the special anniversary events:

- February 24 – hosting the Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery
- February 26 – hosting the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay
- May 7 – Open House and a concert by Denver and the Mile High Orchestra
- September 2 to 4 – third annual homecoming weekend retreat
- September 3rd – Grand 40th Anniversary Celebration



Congratulations to **Rev. Daniel (Dan) Oedy** who was ordained and installed as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs on January 30.

Congratulations to **Rev. Dr. Rafael (Ray) Quiles** who was installed as Designated Pastor at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port on January 30.



the Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM) in their schools, medical clinics and roofing homes in Cite Soleil, the worst and poorest slum in the Western hemisphere. Their planned return trip in 2010 was canceled by the airline shortly after the devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010. They are now making that return trip.

The team of 16 church members and friends will be working in Cite Soleil with HOM and Pastor Leon who was raised in Haiti, attended seminary in the USA and returned to Haiti to spend his life among his people. His 1988 Bible study of 28 men has grown into four churches, three schools and two medical clinics. Thousands of Haitians worship at HOM churches each week. They grow up in their Christian schools and receive nutritional and medical help. Since the earthquake, despite what the media reports about the rest of Haiti, these efforts have expanded into the surrounding community offering free medical care, food supplies, clean water, hygiene and Clorox training for those without access to clean water and building over 100 replacement homes destroyed by the earthquake.



The BSPC team is prepared to do school physicals, help with the construction of the new medical clinic, which was destroyed in the earthquake and hold an optometry clinic, thanks to donations from our local Lion's Club. They will also work in the primary schools on a creative "butterfly" project and computerize the library book inventory. They plan to visit with the more than 40 children who are sponsored by the BSPC Mission Ministry and church members. It will be a busy and awesome week.

For many years Burnt Store Presbyterian Church has sent funding, medical and school supplies and sponsored children in the HOM schools in Haiti. They would like to thank the extended church family and the Charlotte County community for their support of the HOM work following the earthquake. Every penny donated has been used on the ground in Haiti for recovery, relief, medical care, nutrition and education. It has made a huge difference in the lives of thousands.

Please keep this mission trip in your prayers. Peace River Presbytery would love to receive other mission stories to share in future issues of *The Interpreter*.

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church returns to Haiti

On February 5 the Haiti Mission Team of Burnt Store Presbyterian Church will be leaving for Port au Prince, Haiti. They will be transplanted for a time out of their safe cocoons, to be BSPC's hands in outreach to God's children in need. Another BSPC mission group went to Haiti in 2009 and worked with Pastor Leon Dorleans of

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 – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 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*, *Wee Believe* (for preschoolers and children), *This Present Word*, *Kerygma*, and *Kid Connection*.

There are quite a number of options for small group Bible studies. Two new Bible study series are available from *Faith Alive*. *Infuse* helps one discover where God's Word and daily life intersect. *In the Works* is all about missional living, exploring how Christians can join in God's mission in the world using the gifts they've been given. Consider also *Home Grown: Essentials for Christian Parenting*, by Karen DeBoer. This seven-session study offers parents an opportunity to get together to seek ways to nurture a deeper, fuller faith in their children.

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: *Horizons*, *The Presbyterian Outlook*, *Christian Century*, *Congregations 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 website.

The Rev. Dr. Ann Philbrick named new associate for Church Growth and Transformation
WANTS TO HELP CONGREGATIONS LISTEN TO GOD AND EMBRACE NEW MINISTRY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

General Assembly Mission Council
by Paul Seebeck, *Communications Associate*

LOUISVILLE – Ann M. Philbrick has been named the new associate for Church Growth and Transformation for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly Mission Council.

"Ann's work will encompass the small, rural, and urban church ministry office," says Philip Lotspeich, director of the office of Church Growth. "We are primarily made up of small churches. Most of what we do in transformation will be with them in mind."

Philbrick brings a wealth of experience to her new role. She has worked on both transformation congregational development and new church development, as a consultant and as associate general presbyter at National Capital Presbytery in Washington, D.C. "The future of our churches is developing capacity for our leaders and congregations to listen God," she says, "to hear what needs Gods wants them to meet in their communities."

Philbrick will work at expanding the "new beginnings" program, which provides assessment and consulting to churches that are in the later stages of their life cycle. "Ann will help congregations identify what changes need to be made," says Lotspeich, "as they embrace God's call into new ministry, of not just surviving, but thriving."

Philbrick will also develop coaching systems and clusters of coaches to work together for mutual support as they take on the difficult task of transformation. "In a world of constant change, many people want the church to be the one place that stays the same," says Lotspeich. "But the mission and ministry of Jesus compel us to give what we want in order to help others connect with the God who has transformed our lives with the good news."



Philbrick, who has a doctor of ministry degree in Revitalization of Church and Community from McCormick Theological Seminary, adds, "Helping congregations let go, as they embrace the changes that need to be made to live into a new day of ministry in their communities and neighborhoods, is what I like doing best in service to the church."

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY
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[Clint Cottrell](#), Stated Clerk
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