



The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

JANUARY 2011

SPEAKING FROM THE HART

A quick look at 2011...

As a third or fourth grader, I was always quick to volunteer when the teacher asked for someone to erase the blackboard at the end of the day. In spite of the chalk dust, there was something about that volunteer duty that was rewarding. Maybe it was just my excuse not to have to do something else like start my homework, but for me, both then and now, there is something refreshing about having a clean slate. Metaphorically, January gives us that time to begin anew and afresh. Janu, from Roman mythology, is the god of gates and doorways, having two faces looking in opposite directions. So January is the time to look ahead, mindful of where we have just been. With a clean blackboard for the coming year, what are some of the preliminary things coming, being planned, needing our attention?

Presbytery Retreat and Meeting at Cedarkirk

In the first decade of our life as a Presbytery, we had yearly Presbytery-wide retreats. Some were at Eckerd College and some at Cedarkirk. As part of the 40th anniversary of Cedarkirk, we have been invited to an overnight retreat on February 23 followed by the quarterly Presbytery meeting on February 24. We will have two presentations followed by small group conversation and worship opportunities on Wednesday, the 23rd, regarding what it means for us as a Presbytery *to be and function as the Body of Christ together*. We are blessed that several generous members of the Presbytery are covering the cost of the retreat. Thank you! We will conduct our regular meeting on the 24th. Note: the invitation for the overnight retreat goes to all elders, educators, and clergy in the Presbytery as well as all members of Presbytery committees. Please look for details about the schedule and accommodations in the Stated Meeting and Retreat Brochure found on the front page of our web site, www.peacriverpresbytery.org.

Welcome to Our New Stated Clerk and New Treasurer

At the November Presbytery meeting, Rev. Dr. Clint Cottrell was elected Stated Clerk, and Mr. Adam Martin was elected Treasurer. Brief biographies of these gentlemen are included elsewhere in this issue of *The Interpreter*.

Consideration and Adoption of New Mission Statement

Over the next two months, in various venues, the Vision Task Force will be inviting us to focus on a new mission statement to help guide us in the next chapter of our life together as Peace River Presbytery. It is meant to build on what we have done, as well as shape our focus for the

future. If you have comments or questions, please e-mail [Kathleen Weller](mailto:Kathleen.Weller@peacriverpresbytery.org).

The proposed Mission Statement is as follows:

*Peace River Presbytery:
Affirming Congregations,
Connecting Disciples,
Living as the Body of Christ, Together*

This statement is grounded in the following guiding values and the core beliefs which the task force gathered out of the surveys and many conversations with Presbytery committees, clergy and elders. The task force summarized and framed the guiding values as the ABC's that can shape our life together as a Presbytery:

Affirming Congregations - Working as healthy, spirit-filled leaders, we are committed to the missional formation of all who serve together.

Body of Christ - As vital congregations and ministries rooted in a reformed understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as a presbytery we will support and celebrate congregations and ministries of all shapes and sizes.

Connecting - Commissioned as "one people," we join together as pastors with other pastors, congregations with other congregations, and ministries with other ministries to further the Kingdom of God by what we can do together.

Disciples - We are inviting, calling, celebrating and sending disciples into the world, within the bounds of southwest Florida and to the ends of the earth.

Voting on the 219th General Assembly Amendments (See next page for more information.)

2011 Main Event

WORSHIP IN THE 21ST CENTURY will be the theme of the Presbytery's annual Main Event (the Presbytery's annual Leadership Training Event) to be held Saturday, March 12, 2011 at the First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte. Worship is at the center of all we do and who we are. The Leadership and Congregational Development Committee of the Presbytery, with the assistance of the Theology and Worship Committee, has given a huge amount of time planning this event which is designed for all clergy, elders, deacons, educators, music staff and especially worship committees and teams of each congregation. Dr. Constance Cherry, author of "The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services", will be the keynote speaker.

The Presbytery Council has set the Theme for 2011

Presbytery Meetings: "Living Reformed"

As Presbyterians on the Gulf Coast of Florida, we are part of the Body of Christ, but we are a distinctive part of that Body. It will be our intention in 2011 to emphasize and celebrate that uniqueness under the broader theme of "Living Reformed". Each meeting will lift up one aspect of our Reformed heritage and the council will invite our keynote speakers to reflect with us on the following themes:

February – "Starting (or Focusing) Spiritually – This theme picks up on the work of the Vision Task Force and enables the Presbytery to discuss, shape, and, we hope, claim a common vision.

May – "Thinking Critically" – We will be reminded of the responsibility to "do theology" and to do it seriously and well.

August – "Serving Generously" – We will lift up the Reformed understanding of the central concepts of vocation and stewardship.

November – "Loving Passionately" – Our life and ministry must be extended and shared with others, our near neighbors and the world around us. They really will "...know we are Christians by our love."

So with a new blackboard called 2011 to write on, as we stand in this January doorway looking back as well as ahead, I am grateful for all God has done and what God can do in us and through us in all the challenges and opportunities we are given.

Thanks be to God!

Graham

Graham Hart

graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Theology and Worship Committee will be having a series of "Information Workshops on G.A. Amendments" for Presbytery Commissioners. These workshops 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.

The workshop schedule is as follows:

Thursday, January 27, 2011

7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs

Monday, January 31, 2011

7:00 pm.

Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

Saturday, February 5, 2011

9:30 a.m.

Presbyterian Center, North Port

These workshops are open to all interested persons, but are particularly designed for those who will be voting as commissioners to the February 2011 and/or May 2011 stated meetings of Presbytery.

In addition, we will be offering the following presentation specifically on the proposed changes to the Form of Government.

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Presbyterian Center, North Port

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 also be an option of participating even if you are not able to attend in person. Information will be on our web site.

Please note: we are considering a similar opportunity for discussion prior to the Amendments to the *Book of Order* being considered at the May Stated Meeting.



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

January 2	First, Fort Myers
January 9	Hope United, Fort Myers
January 16	Chapel by the Sea, Fort Myers Beach
January 23	Holy Trinity, North Fort Myers
January 30	Peace, Lakewood Ranch

Please continue to pray for **St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port**, as they deal with the aftermath of a fire which destroyed a storage area and made their fellowship hall and kitchen unusable.

2011 Peace River Presbytery Council

Chair of Council – Mary Lee Mann
Moderator – Don Cady
Moderator-in-Nomination (to be elected in February)
Board of Trustees President – Tom Harp
Committee on Ministry Chair – Valerie Bell
Evangelism and Church Development Chair (vacant)
Leadership and Congregational Development Chair – Samantha Keller
Mission and Justice Chair – DeAnne Sawyer
Nominations Chair – Ted Land
Personnel Chair – Edward Thompson
Preparation for Ministry Chair – George Chorba
Records and Overtures Chair – Wayne Largent
Representation Chair – Bill Oehler
Theology and Worship Chair – Randy Moody
Moderator of Presbyterian Women – Norma Cunningham
General Presbyter – Graham Hart
Stated Clerk – Clint Cottrell
Treasurer – Adam Martin
Beth-El Representatives – Dave Moore, Jim Berger
Cedarkirk Representatives – John Reiter, Ginny Canning

Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. Clinton Cottrell



The Reverend Dr. Clinton C. Cottrell, "Clint", is the pastor at Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church in Fort Myers, FL. He hails from Pittsburgh, PA where he grew up cheering for the

Pittsburgh Steelers and the Pirates. Clint worked for several years as a Paramedic for the City of Pittsburgh while attending college, subsequently being hired by the Federal Aviation Administration where he worked for 22 years as an air traffic controller, control tower supervisor and manager, and on the Executive Staff in Washington, DC where he handled personnel and pay policy issues for the nation's 25,000 air traffic controllers.

He attended seminary part time and was ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament at Whitehall Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA in 2000, coming to Fort Myers in 2005. Previously he had been ordained as a Deacon and Elder, having served on numerous Presbytery committees and represented Peace River Presbytery as a commissioner to the 218th General Assembly.

Clint's education includes an Associate in Applied Science from Thomas Edison State College, a Bachelor of Science from the University of the State of New York, a Master of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from Trinity School for Ministry (Ambridge, PA).

Clint has also completed graduate work in education from Duquesne University, the Dale Carnegie Course and courses in parliamentary procedure from the University of Wisconsin.

Clint is happily married to his childhood sweetheart (whom he met in second grade) and during his 33+ years of marriage has had 4 children, two being adopted. His oldest is the minister at Clinton Presbyterian Church in Western Pennsylvania, one is an air traffic controller in Houston TX, one is married (expecting a baby in the Spring of 2011) and living in West Virginia, and one remains at home as a 9th grader at Edison Collegiate High School. Clint is a licensed pilot and amateur radio operator, also loving to read, camp with his family, fish and, of course, watch the Steelers!

You may contact Clint by calling his church number, 239-481-3233, or his home phone, 239-561-1654. You may also send him an e-mail at clint@clpc.us.

Treasurer Adam W. Martin



Adam was born and raised in New Jersey and graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a degree in Industrial Management and Engineering in 1963. Prior to graduation, he married his wife Patricia. They have two

daughters: Laurie who lives outside of Milwaukee, WI and Christine who lives in Indianapolis, IN. They have five grandchildren, 3 boys and 2 girls.

Adam began his career as an industrial engineering trainee at United States Steel in Pittsburgh, PA. He was promoted to Industrial Engineer prior to leaving in 1966. He then joined Quaker Oats as an Industrial Engineer and performed a number of management positions before becoming Assistant Plant Manager. In 1979, Adam joined Miller Brewing Company as Department Manager and retired in 1996 as Plant Manager of the Albany, GA Brewery with over 1,000 employees.

Adam and his wife moved to Sarasota in 1999 and lived here part time until 2005, when they sold their place in Milwaukee to make Florida their primary residence. They joined First Presbyterian Church in 2001 and Adam became an Elder in 2007. He has served at Church on the Personnel, Stewardship and Long-Range Planning Committees and was moderator of the Finance Committee. He has also served as vice-president and president of his condo association for the last six (6) years.

Update Your Smart Phones and Calendars

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.

Workshops to be offered:

- Convergent Children's Worship
- Five Myths of Worship Style
- Worship Leader Network
- Convergent Worship Possibilities for PRP Churches
- Authentic Communities Yield Authentic Worship
- Elder Training – *the Basics*
- Elder Training – *Responsibilities for Worship in the 21st Century*
- Q&A with Dr. Constance Cherry

Watch for upcoming information to register!

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. Also, 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.

For more information on and directions to Cedarkirk, go to www.cedarkirk.org.

The Annual Gathering of Peace River Presbyterian Women will be held on **Saturday, February 5, 2011**, hosted by Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, member of Peace River Presbytery.



For more information, please contact the Presbyterian Women Moderator in your church.

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.

Many 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 e-mail Lori Doyal, your contact person for the Resource Center, and she will be glad to pull materials and ship them to you. Lori is available Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY
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[Clint Cottrell](#), Stated Clerk
[Adam Martin](#), Treasurer
[Alesia Sharpe](#), Office Manager
[Bill Setchel](#), Financial Secretary
[Joan Mock](#), Part-Time Administrative Assistant
[Lori Doyal](#), Part-Time Administrative Assistant