



The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

MARCH 2011

SPEAKING FROM THE HART

Setting the Sails ... a Guiding Rudder

At the February Presbytery meeting held at Cedarkirk we had 152 folks enjoy great weather, stimulating conversation, engaging and respectful debate, inspiring and thought-provoking worship, and a chance to give God thanks for a place called Cedarkirk. As part of our meeting the Presbytery voted to approve a new mission/vision statement. It was changed slightly to be in a more typical form (prose format rather than poetic), but the content and intent remained the same.

So... what is the purpose of Peace River? When we look 5 years out into the future, how is it we understand God is calling us?

***We believe Peace River Presbytery is called
to affirm congregations,
to connect disciples in mission,
and to be the body of Christ together.***

One of the questions that was raised is, now what? Will this document end up on a shelf and not be looked at again? After almost 18 months, will we dismiss the hard and good and long work of the Vision Task Force with strong thanks, only to have someone ask in 5 years: now what was it they recommended? How do we live into and out of this mission/vision statement?

Mission statements can help guide us as a rudder on a ship. They are not the wind or engine that drives us, but mission/vision statements help frame our decisions and point us in a direction.

The Presbytery Council at its March meeting will begin the conversation as to next steps. At the November 2010 meeting, the Presbytery, in small discussion groups, came up with a list of almost 1000 things that we could be doing if this new mission/vision statement guided us. I would love to hear your thoughts and ideas as to how you see this new vision guiding us into God's future.

Thanks be to God who is the wind in our sails and helps us steer into the future!

Graham

Graham Hart

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The Presbytery office was without internet service from 7:30 a.m. February 24 until the morning of March 3. If you sent an e-mail to us during that time, please resend to ensure its delivery. Thank you!

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

March 6 Moorings, Naples
March 13 Vanderbilt, Naples
March 20 St. Paul's, North Port
March 27 Palmetto, Palmetto



WORSHIP IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The Main Event
Saturday, March 12, 2011

First Presbyterian Church
Port Charlotte

***Please call the Presbytery office, 941-426-8421,
to see if you can still register!***

CONGRATULATIONS!



First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton, will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary on April 4, 2011. A picnic celebration is being planned for the congregation on Sunday, April 4.

One Great Hour of Sharing

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.



February 24, 2011

Peace River Presbytery Stated Meeting Highlights



Blessed by wonderful weather and a beautiful setting, Peace River Presbytery gathered at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center for their first meeting of 2011. The meeting and worship were held under the pavilion, with lunch eaten in and outside Cedar Lodge. Many thanks to the Cedarkirk staff and the many volunteers from throughout the Presbytery for their great hospitality.



At the beginning of the meeting, **Rev. Dr. Clint Cottrell** was installed as the new Stated Clerk of Peace River Presbytery.

Rev. Chris Adams, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton, **Rev. Tim Reynolds**, Church of the Palms, Sarasota, and **Rev. Tricia Thomas**, Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch, gave the sermon during the worship service.

The **Vision Task Force** presented a new Mission/Vision Statement to be adopted. An amended version was approved:

We believe Peace River Presbytery is called to affirm congregations, to connect disciples in mission, and to be the body of Christ together.

The commissioners voted on the proposed new Form of Government, approved by the 219th General Assembly and recommended to the presbyteries for their vote. After much debate, Peace River Presbytery voted **not to approve** the new Form of Government by a vote of 60 for and 62 against.

Presbytery also approved the following:

- Rev. Dr. Christopher Carlson as Pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota effective April 1, 2011

- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel as Interim Pastor of Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton, effective February 13, 2011

Other information from Committee on Ministry:

- Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton and Rev. Glenn Buzbee effective January 9, 2011
- Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota and Interim Pastor Rev. David Garnett, effective January 30, 2011
- Approved the validated ministry of Rev. Sung Lee as Chaplain at Freedom Village



Attendees were reminded of **The Main Event** to be held on March 12, 2011. *Worship in the 21st Century: A Convergence Worship Seminar* will be led by Dr. Constance Cherry.

The Board of Trustees requests that all churches submit their Unified Giving Pledge for 2011 as soon as possible to assist the Trustees in finalizing an accurate budget for the Presbytery.

The following were elected during the Nominations Report:

- Rev. Sally Bull (HR) as Peace River Presbytery's Moderator in Nomination (see picture)
- Rev. Margaret Towner as Vice Chair of the Committee on Representation
- Rev. Karl Kling as Vice Chair of the Theology and Worship Committee
- Rev. Ruth Schaaff to serve on Committee on Ministry, Class 2012-1
- Rev. Ted Land and Elder Polly Land to serve as Alternate Commissioners to the Synod of South Atlantic Meeting March 3 and 4, 2011.



The next Presbytery meeting will be held at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples on Thursday, May 26, 2011. The Proposed Amendments to the Constitution – Part 3 of 3 (Amendments to the Book of Order) will be voted on at this meeting.