



## SPEAKING FROM THE HART

### A Call to Go Deep or \$2.00 Gasoline

I don't know about you, but I am tired of sound-bite politics and simple solutions that play to a party line but do not to help solve our problems.

For instance, in the current political scramble with candidates jockeying to become their party's nominee for the 2012 Presidential elections, I hear someone promising that, if they are elected, gasoline prices will return to less than \$2.00 a gallon, and I get both amused and angry. I am not dumb, nor are you. When leaders posture and propose to solve deep complex problems by having Jerry Springer-type conversations or debates, we are in trouble.

As I listen to the talk and proposals on all the sides of all the issues coming from those in leadership, we very well might be in trouble. But I think the problem may not just be in the candidates who are really telling us what we want to hear, but may be in us.

Why? As citizens, we may not really want to hear the truth or a real solution. Solutions can be hard, and they may be costly, so that is why we keep hoping and listening to folks who promise us \$2.00 gasoline. (*Note: I am not weighing in either for or against the candidate who said that, only using that as an illustration of the problem we as citizens and politicians have created.*)

Several years ago I was profoundly affected by a book called Deep Change by a management guru named Robert Quinn. Deep change, according to Quinn *"differs from incremental change in that it requires new ways of thinking and behaving. It is change that is major in scope, discontinuous with the past and generally irreversible. Deep change means surrendering control."*

According to Quinn, the alternative to deep change is slow death. He writes: *"Slow death begins when someone, confronting the dilemma of having to make deep organizational change or accepting the status quo, rejects the option for the deep change."*

*The decision results in the gradual (and sometimes not so gradual) disintegration of an organization, business or industry....*

*Deep change requires discipline, courage, and motivation. We would rather experience the pain of slow death than the threat of changing ourselves."* (pg. 24)

Debbie Rundlett, a close friend and General Presbyter in Muskingum Valley, said it like this:

*Deep change is not a linear movement from point A to point B, but a cyclical process that moves us in the direction of spiritual maturity and transformation.*

So what does that look like for us? In our lives and culture, there is the tendency and desire in us all to find the equivalent of \$2.00 gas, whether that be related to some issue in our personal lives, marriages, or even in the life of the church.

We look for and hope to find the sure and easy formula to get back to how it was in the 50's and 60's. At that time, at least for Presbyterians, if you built it, people just came. We literally started hundreds of churches a year in that time period. So let's just find the formula, our version of \$2.00 a gallon gasoline, and maybe we will return to our promised land and promised time.

But in life, as in organizations and businesses, it doesn't work that way. If you start making a list of what has changed since the 50's, the list is very long. Some say we are closer to the culture of New Testament Christianity, meaning the 1<sup>st</sup> century, than we are to 1950.

So are we in need of deep change, the alternative being slow death?

I am encouraged and fascinated by a project that was funded by the Lilly Foundation looking at how to support pastoral leadership at this particular time. The answer was not in the ecclesiastical equivalent of \$2.00 a gallon gasoline. It was to go deep... it was to help pastors see what spiritual maturity looks like in their lives and what personal transformation looks like for them. It was about deep change.

It was called the Re-Forming Ministries Project. One of their learnings resulted in a proposal for us as teaching (pastors) and ruling elders to adopt a spiritual rule and to become part of something like the Company of Pastors, which was one of the forgotten parts of Calvin's Geneva experiment 500 years ago. You will find information about [the Company of Pastors here](#). In the Weekly Pastoral Letter and future *Interpreters*, I will include information about the spiritual rule that was suggested.

As always, I invite your comments as we learn together how to walk in and through this time knowing that we walk not alone, but with one another, and with our Risen Lord, who is Lord of this church, creation and our lives.

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

Peace,

*Graham*

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

#### Please pray for the church of the week:

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



#### MAIN EVENT NEWS

The Leadership and Congregational Development Committee has had to cancel a couple of meetings in the last six months and recently has lost several key members. Therefore, at this late date, after prayer and discernment, we have decided not to offer a MAIN EVENT in 2012. Don't worry. It will be back in full strength in 2013! In its place we will be developing some "regional" learning opportunities during the next year. Look for more details in the following months!

## CELEBRATING MISSIONS: A PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY SURVEY

"We are excited about the great diversity of missions supported in our Presbytery and consider this a real blessing. We feel this is a sign that the fruits of our labors are coming from the vine of the local church.

Peace River Presbytery connects 39 churches within 18 cities and 5 counties in 3 clusters (north, central, south), supporting over 300 missions of which over 200 are unduplicated anywhere in the Presbytery. Our support provides food, housing, development, education, medical, spiritual, emergency response and helps at risk youth, prisoners, farmworkers, abused individuals, individuals with disabilities and the homeless.

Some ministries are supported by several churches because they are in the same part of the Presbytery. Other shared missions may be Presbytery-wide or related to the PCUSA.

Please note that this survey will be continually updated as we receive new information from churches."

*The Mission and Justice Committee  
Peace River Presbytery*

The survey is on Peace River Presbytery's web site under Events and News or [click here](#).

**Correction in the September issue of *The Interpreter* under Stated Meeting Highlights:** Nancy Shimandle is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton.

## BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC



### OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, October 16, 2011  
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
18240 Hwy 301S, Wimauma, FL  
[www.beth-el.info](http://www.beth-el.info)**

## ALL YOUTH RETREAT AT CEDARKIRK



It's time to register for the upcoming All Youth Retreat sponsored by the Presbyterian Youth Connection (PYC) of Peace River Presbytery! There will be activities and programming for both Middle School and Senior High Youth.

The retreat begins at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 19 and ending after lunch on Sunday, November 20. There is a Friday night lodging option.

For the packet that contains information and registration material, please go to [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org) – Events and News, Peace River Presbytery, Youth Retreat or [click here](#).

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## Faith in 3D

### Imagine...create...animate

Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend  
January 13-16, 2012

Faith in 3D invites young people of different faith groups to explore our common faith in Jesus Christ through worship, education, and community building. On January 13-16, 2012 youth from a wide variety of communions, including the **Presbyterian Church (USA)**, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Cumberland Presbyterian Church will meet at Walt Disney World in Orlando for Faith in 3D.



For more information and registration details, go to [www.faihin3d.org](http://www.faihin3d.org).

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## WORLD MISSION NEWS

Sixty-six young people are beginning a year of Christian service and learning as Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) in eight U.S. cities and six countries around the world. Through the [Young Adult Volunteer program](#) the PC(USA) provides opportunities for young adults (ages 19 to 30) to engage in the church's mission in communities of need, to develop leadership within communities of faith, and to explore their relationship and future ministry to the church. The 2011-2012 YAVs come from churches and presbyteries across the country, from Wyoming to North Carolina and one from Ireland. Ten are non-Presbyterians.



### Clean-up buckets are needed

Many parts of the United States have experienced a large amount of flooding this year due to rapid melting of an above-average snowpack in the Upper Midwest, above-normal precipitation during the spring, and after-effects from Hurricanes Irene and Lee.

One of the ways that PDA helps in response to flooding is through Gift of the Heart kit clean-up buckets.

These buckets are extremely helpful as a first step in the recovery process. Unfortunately, the large number of disasters has pretty much exhausted the Church World Service supply of clean-up buckets. A shipment of 250 clean-up buckets was recently sent to a Presbyterian church near Binghamton, New York, to help that community begin the recovery process, but more are needed for other locations.

Please prayerfully consider participating in this important mission. [Instructions for putting together the buckets can be found on the PDA website.](#)

### Call for volunteers

The large number of natural disasters this year means that many people need help in cleaning up or rebuilding their homes. There are several U.S. locations currently hosting volunteer work teams and several others that are almost ready to do so. Your presence is needed to help families put the disasters behind them, repair their homes and restore their lives.

The PDA Call Center can help you plan your next disaster response mission trip. Please give them a call at (866) 732-6121 to schedule your team or [register your interest online](#).

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## Cedarkirk Christmas Retreat 2011!

Summer camp is over, which means it's time to start looking ahead to the Christmas Retreat to be held December 16-18 for anyone currently in grades 2-12! You don't have to wait for next summer to see your counselors and friends and join in all the activities and worships you've been missing... the Christmas Retreat is right around the corner!

For more information, go to [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org)

If you have any questions, please contact the camp office at [camps@cedarkirk.org](mailto:camps@cedarkirk.org) or (813) 685-4224 ext.1.

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## A journey for justice

### Coalition of Immokalee Workers, cyclists call on Publix to adopt fair food principles

September 20, 2011  
ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla.

“Biking 200 miles seemed a small price to pay for such a just cause as this,” said Bob Forbes, an elder at First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Fla.



*Cyclists ride into a park in Lakeland, Fla., where they hoped to speak with Publix about fair food principles. — Photo by Parrish Jones*

Seven bicyclists took such a pilgrimage to the headquarters of [Publix](#) in Lakeland, Fla., to urge the grocery store chain to adopt fair food principles and pay tomato pickers one cent more per pound of tomatoes.

The [Coalition of Immokalee Workers](#), a partner of the Presbyterian Hunger Program’s [Campaign for Fair Food](#), has long been asking Publix for a hearing to discuss these issues, but has not been granted one.

Publix is one of Florida’s largest corporations and one of the largest sellers of tomatoes in the United States.

Located just 200 miles south of Lakeland, the CIW is a community-based worker organization in Florida that works for fair wages, an end to indentured servitude in the fields, better working and living conditions and stronger laws against those who violate workers’ rights.

While seven bicyclists rode the whole 200 miles, many others joined them for part of the journey. Along the way, cyclists stopped at churches to speak and enlist the support of faith communities. On Sept. 6, the final day of the pilgrimage, they rode triumphantly into a local park despite the pouring rain.

Joined by about 80 people of faith from all over Florida, the cyclists celebrated with a brunch and then journeyed on to the headquarters of Publix, where they had hoped to meet with CEO Ed Crenshaw. They wanted to remind Crenshaw of the words of Publix founder George Jenkins: “Never let making a profit stand in the way of doing the right thing.”

The group gathered and prayed on the muddy bank of a pond located on the boundary of the Publix grounds.

Representatives of Florida several organizations made offerings:

- Nancy Razvoza and Ted Zawistowski of Port Charlotte, representing a coalition of congregations, presented a bag of receipts collected by their members and a letter stating, “We will continue to shop at Publix if they do the right thing.”
- An interfaith organization of 31 Gainesville clergy sent a letter quoting their scripture and calling on Publix to support the CIW.
- Several clergy prayed for those who rode the 200 miles; for Ed Crenshaw that he may open his heart as God softens it; and for the success of the delegation.
- Thanksgiving was given for the corporations, farmers, workers and churches that have heard God’s call for justice and the work they do so that farm workers may receive fair wages, safe housing and safe working conditions.
- Vickie Mena and her daughters showed a banner signed by many CIW supporters from Gainesville’s Interfaith Alliance.
- Participants were then called on to spread pine needles on the water of the pond as a sign of piety. In Mayan culture, the needles are a sign of peace, happiness and dignity.

“As we spread the needles, pray that Mr. Crenshaw will receive the delegation,” instructed Darinel Sales, a CIW leader.

In the end, only a very brief and unproductive conversation with a Publix representative took place before a security guard ordered the group to leave.

Oscar Otzoy, a leader of CIW, expressed his disappointment that the CEO refused to meet with the CIW representatives. Having been turned away, Brian McClaren, a noted evangelical theologian, led a call and response while the participants held hands to lament the failure of Publix to listen to the cry for justice.

Before, during and after the rally, participants spoke of the importance of doing something so simple for justice as the penny a pound initiative, now accepted by a host of corporations, which has helped increase the daily incomes of pickers.

“Until I got involved with the CIW, I had never participated in a protest of any kind,” Forbes said. “The treatment of migrant workers is such a clear example of injustice you have to do something.”

*Parrish W. Jones, Ph.D., lives in St. Augustine, Fla., and is a minister at large in the Presbytery of St. Augustine. He has been a mission volunteer for Frontera de Cristo and in Colombia. He speaks and writes on mission, immigration, border ministry and Colombia.*