



The Interpreter

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

JANUARY 2012

SPEAKING FROM THE HART

The status of the Mission, Vision, Standing Rules Guide Team

Any time you go on a trip, having a map and some directions is essential. As we begin 2012, the Mission, Vision, Standing Rules Guide Team is helping the Presbytery figure out how to read the map and is suggesting some directions for the journey.

Last July, after the new Form of Government was passed by a majority of Presbyteries, our Presbytery Council expanded both the task and the membership of the Guide Team. Their three-fold task includes:

- Planning Presbytery meetings for 2012, with the Council, based on the theme of ***Being the Body of Christ Together for the 21st Century.***
- Continuing to look at how we can experiment with letting the Mission/Vision Statement guide us.
- Revising our Presbytery's Standing Rules in light of the new Form of Government.

The Guide Team has begun each meeting with time set aside for significant Bible study together. At the December meeting, they did an exercise about how they would do their work and how they would work together, knowing that there are varied and different expectations and thinking about our life together. The exercise was translated into a litany that the team has used.

As a Guide Team,

- *Our work will be grounded, centered and shaped by Bible study and prayer;*
- *In all we do - and how we do it - we will lift up the importance of relationships;*
- *We affirm and appreciate one another's gifts;*
- *We will approach our task as Mary's (sitting at Jesus' feet), and not be so task driven (like Martha) that we rush to premature solutions;*
- *The Presbytery-approved Mission/Vision Statement will guide all we do, attempt and*

dream. (i.e., The Guide Team will not reinvent work done to date, but build on it.)

- *We will dream what can be, not just re-arrange the status quo.*

Please keep the Guide Team in your prayers as they continue to think about what God is calling us to be and do at this time in our life as a Presbytery. Members who currently serve include the following:

- Mary Lee Mann, Moderator – First, Fort Myers
- Sally Bull – Faith, Cape Coral
- Doug Pratt – First, Bonita Springs
- Elizabeth Deibert – Peace, Lakewood Ranch
- John Reiter - Cedarkirk
- Kathleen Weller – Covenant, Fort Myers
- Jim Beckwith – Westminster, Bradenton
- Clint Cottrell – Cypress Lake, Fort Myers
- Wayne Largent – Community, Englewood
- Steve McConnell – Church of the Palms, Sarasota
- Don Cady – Chapel by the Sea, Fort Myers Beach
- Chris Romig – Venice, Venice
- Clint Cottrell and Graham Hart – staff resources

The Guide Team is very grateful to Rev. Chris Adams who served as moderator until moving to Nashville to accept a new call and to Karen Wismer who was on the Guide Team until recently.

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

Graham

Graham Hart
General Presbyter

graham@peaceriverpresbytery.org



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

January 1	First, Port Charlotte
January 8	Wintergarden, Port Charlotte
January 15	Burnt Store, Punta Gorda
January 22	First, Punta Gorda
January 29	Bee Ridge, Sarasota

2012 Peace River Presbytery Council

Chair of Council – Mary Lee Mann
Moderator – Sally Bull
Moderator-in-Nomination - Jim Beckwith
Board of Trustees President – Alan Penick
Committee on Ministry Chair – Kathleen Weller
Evangelism and Church Development Chair – Jerry Wise
Leadership and Congregational Development Chair – Lyn Olson
Mission and Justice Chair – DeAnne Sawyer
Nominations Chair – Ted Land
Personnel Chair – Jim Beckwith
Preparation for Ministry Chair – Elaine Barnett
Records and Overtures Chair – Wayne Largent
Representation Chair – Margaret Towner
Theology and Worship Chair – Karl Kling
Moderator of Presbyterian Women – Alberta Adams
General Presbyter – Graham Hart
Stated Clerk – Clint Cottrell
Treasurer – Adam Martin
Beth-El Representatives – Dave Moore, Jim Berger
Cedarkirk Representatives – John Reiter, Ginny Canning
Presbyterian Homes & Housing Representative – Jim Wilson
Mission, Vision, Standing Rules Guide Team Moderator – Mary Lee Mann

Annual Gathering for Presbyterian Women



The Annual Gathering of Peace River Presbyterian Women will be held on **Saturday, February 4, 2012**, hosted by Church of the Palms, Sarasota. Rev. Sally Bull, member of Peace River Presbytery, plus the Moderator Elect of the Synod Presbyterian Women, will be sharing with us.

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

CHURCH NEWS

The Moorings Presbyterian Church in Naples had a successful *Meals of Hope Food Drive* on Sunday, December 4. Thank you to the many participants (both physical and financial) who supported the *Meals of Hope* food packaging event in Baker Center on December 4. Over 120 people of all ages enjoyed a soup lunch and fellowship, then **packaged more than 45,700 meals in 2 hours!** These meals will be given to the Harry Chapin Food Bank which distributes the meals to approximately 170 agencies in SW Florida



and through mobile food pantries. Meals are also distributed to the Collier County School System where they are given away as a "back pack program" for families that do not have enough to eat during the weekends. We exceeded our expectations... with the number of meals packaged and the fun experienced by all! Next year, our goal will be 50,000+ meals. In this season of giving, thanks again to all *The Meals of Hope* givers.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers, is celebrating its 50th anniversary during 2012!



Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte, is celebrating its 20th anniversary during 2012!

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). Lori is available Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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