



## SPEAKING FROM THE HART

### Presbytery Meetings – No time to get bored

**Growing the Church Deep and Wide** has been the Presbytery's meeting theme for 2010. At the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting at First, Port Charlotte we will look at that theme, paying attention to how we go deeper in our understandings of discipleship. We will especially pay attention to the 'ones in our own back yard' that Jesus may have been referring to when he said 'as you did it to the least of these you did it to me.'

We will have several opportunities to address this theme during the day. We are pleased that Douglas Molloy, Chief US Attorney for Southwest Florida, will be with us to give a keynote address on the anniversary of the first human trafficking convictions, which he prosecuted. Doug is also Presbyterian. Also, Noelle Damico, friend of Peace River and director of the PCUSA's [Fair Food Campaign](#) will preach and lead a breakout group. There is an excellent article on Noelle in the publication [inSpire](#).

The PCUSA has been instrumental in helping the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) reach groundbreaking agreements with Yum! Brands (Taco Bell, KFC, Pizza Hut and others), McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, Whole Foods Market, Bon Appétit, Compass Group and Aramark Food Service to:

1. pay a penny per pound increase to farmworkers harvesting for suppliers of these companies.
2. work with the CIW to develop a human-rights-based code of conduct to address abuses in the fields, which includes a zero tolerance policy for modern-day slavery.
3. ensure a voice for farmworkers in monitoring improvements and reporting abuses.

We rejoice that in the last two weeks two of Florida's largest tomato growers have made direct agreements with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in the fight for fair food. ([Read more](#))

Although this was not originally in the Council's thinking when we planned the 2010 meetings, the

Presbytery's consideration of the Belhar Confession fits well with our overall theme for the day. After several years of study by the church, the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly approved sending on to the 173 Presbyteries, for their consideration and vote, a proposal to adopt the Belhar Confession and include it in our Book of Confessions. I encourage you to go to the links below for your own study and reflection. A breakout group will be held at the Presbytery meeting on November 18, and Bruce Hedgepeth of the Church of the Palms will be conducting a 3-week Wednesday night study of this Confession at Church of the Palms beginning at 6:12 pm on November 3.

Follow the links to these resources.

- [The Text of the Belhar Confession](#)
- [An interactive study of the Confession](#)
- [A study guide on Belhar](#)

So pray with me as we as a Presbytery explore what it means to grow in our understandings of discipleship and following Jesus.

On the journey with you as we, with the Holy Spirit's help, seek to grow the church deep and wide,

Graham Hart

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## “Worship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

### A Convergence Worship Seminar

At the Main Event 2011

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

Dr. Cherry says: *“Convergence worship is the combining of the historical and the contemporary at every level of worship to create maximum opportunities for engaging worshipers with the presence of God.”*

Plan on attending this important, worship enhancing experience on Saturday, March 12, 2011!

## CHURCHES TO PRAY FOR

November 7 Kirkwood, Bradenton  
November 14 Palma Sola, Bradenton  
November 21 Westminster, Bradenton  
November 28 Faith, Cape Coral



## Next Stated Meeting

Thursday, November 18, 2010  
First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte



## CONGRATULATIONS!

**First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte**, is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the weekend of November 12-14, 2010.

## An Exciting Free Interfaith Weekend Event is About to Take Place!

Written by: Barbara Miles  
Peace River Mission and Justice Committee

On November 12-14, 2010 an informative, interesting and interactive weekend of events will be taking place at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church in Naples, sponsored by an interfaith group in the South Florida region.

***Harvesting Hope: Cultivating Justice in the Fields and Beyond*** is the title of the event. Throughout the weekend, we will examine the origins of poverty in Immokalee and other Florida farming communities and explore how faith-based efforts for justice can help to transform the lives of thousands of farm worker families, by addressing the roots of the problem.

This is a serious topic, about migrant farm workers who have been in South Florida for many decades. They work long hours, often in intense heat or cold, with little or no pay for their efforts. Their living conditions are below average, as they suffer with their wives and children, trying to earn a living merely to survive in order to improve their situations, both in the USA and their countries of origin.

Brochures will be available in churches throughout the Peace River Presbytery, outlining the weekend program schedule. Please collect yours, select the events you wish to attend, and join us as we celebrate the good things that are taking place, as well as the problems faced, while seeking justice for migrant farm workers.

Some outstanding features will be the Modern Day Slavery Museum that will be on display, a panel discussion with keynote members of the community, a peaceful public witness by Immokalee workers, and display tables from local organizations.

Ending the activities will be an interpretive concert entitled "Let My People Go" on Sunday afternoon. You will need a ticket to attend the concert, please check [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/129625](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/129625) to make ticket reservations.

We look forward to seeing you at the Harvesting Hope Weekend event, where our faith based community will make a difference with your support!

## Thanksgiving Offering

Peace River Presbytery has designated the Sunday before Thanksgiving as a time to take a special offering for Thornwell Home for Children, located in Clinton, South Carolina. For more information about the school, go to [www.thornwell.org](http://www.thornwell.org).

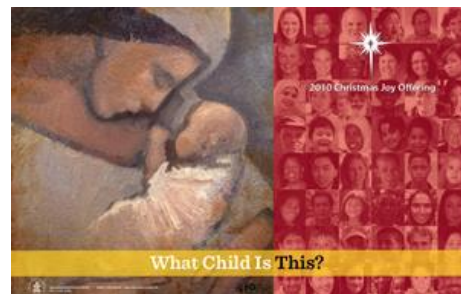


**The Presbytery Office will be closed on November 25 and 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

## What Is the Christmas Joy Offering?

A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

50 percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the General Assembly Council.



The Christmas Joy Offering is usually received the Sunday before Christmas.