



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Yesterday, your presence was felt and acknowledged at the dedication of the new retreat cottage at Cedarkirk.



How so? As part of our covenant with Cedarkirk, every week you and the 39 congregations of Peace River send more than \$1,000 as our foundational commitment to our camp and conference ministry. Last year the Trustees made a promise to the Presbytery that if we ended in the black, we would make up what was underfunded in 2009, as we already had done for Beth-El. So a check for \$19,000 was given to Cedarkirk, which they in turn committed to the cost of the new retreat cottage. And that is why you were there, along with our Presbytery's Camp and Conference Center Board members Ginny Canning and Mike Mansperger who participated in the dedication. Also present were representatives from Tampa Bay Presbytery, 150 campers and staff, and me, representing you all, to dedicate this wonderful new addition to the camp ministry.

Mike Mansperger led us in this prayer of dedication for the new cottage: *God of Creation, we give you thanks for the joy of this moment, for those who have worked toward this ministry, and for the work that will be carried out in Your name from this time forward. Bless this building, that it may serve to build Your kingdom in this beautiful setting, enabling the proclamation of Your good news into the world. Bless each of us, as we witness to the love that you have shared through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who has shown us to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Amen.*

FYI – So far this year, 161 campers who list a Peace River Presbytery church as their home church have registered for summer camp. Church of the Palms, Siesta Key, and Pine Shores are participating in the Challenge to Change program. According to John Reiter, this is not a final number as more are expected

to register as the summer progresses. However, this is already an increase over the total number of Peace River campers from last summer and marks at least an eight-year high in enrollment from PRP.

I was talking to an elder from Covenant, whose granddaughter is going to camp, as she has since she was 8. However, this year she invited four of her friends to go with her. The girls are experiencing something of the love of God, who we see through Jesus because of the scholarship monies that you and others have provided.

Thanks be to God!

On another topic, there have been many questions related to the passing of the new Form of Government. Our Stated Clerk, Clint Cottrell, as well as our Presbytery Council, will be reviewing what we need to do in both the short and long term as a Presbytery and as individual congregations, and will be sending out a letter to all pastors and clerks of session in the next week with some helpful suggestions. I encourage you to take some time over the summer to [read the new Form of Government](#).

Finally, as I shared at the last Presbytery meeting, I am grateful for the Personnel Committee's encouragement to take the last month of my sabbatical that was interrupted several years ago. I am planning to do lots of reading, some writing, attend several workshops, and have time for some deep reflection. During the time I am away (July 1- August 14), if you need help with something, please contact Alesia at the Presbytery office and she will refer you to the appropriate person or committee of Presbytery. I already have a stack of books to read, but if you have one that you recommend, let me know.

With gratitude,

Graham

Graham Hart

graham@peacriverpresbytery.org



... Click logo to go to The Presbytery web site:

... Click on logo below for the PCUSA Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Daily Office scripture reading:



Please add these concerns to your personal prayer list.

Please continue to pray for:

Becky Beckwith (wife of Committee on Ministry Chair Jim Beckwith) as she continues to receive treatment for cancer

Rev. Bob Rea

Pastors and Educators in transition

Those affected by natural disasters in the United States

Nations in crisis

Please also keep in your prayers:

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Misión Peniel

Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center

CONGREGATION OF THE WEEK:

June 5	Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota Mike Mansperger, Pastor covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net
June 12	Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota Kathi Wiggins, Pastor pastork@comcast.net
June 19	Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota Jane Jones-Norris, Temporary Supply jonesnorris507@tampabay.rr.com
June 26	Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice Chuck Wiggins, Pastor pastorcjw49@yahoo.com
July 3	Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice Chris Romig, Pastor cromig@venicepresbyterian.org Ruffin Stepp, Associate Pastor rstepp@venicepresbyterian.org Lyn Olson, Associate Pastor lolson@venicepresbyterian.org

The articles below may interest you. I have found some of them in my reading, and others have been passed on to me. *Just click on the underlined phrases.*

[Brueggemann points to a food fight in Scripture](#)

Associated Baptist Press: People of faith are in a food fight -- a conflict between two narratives about food, says Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann.

[An open letter](#)

A Peculiar Prophet: After passage of "the meanest immigrant legislation bill in the nation," some UMC clergy in Ala. are signing an open letter to the governor and legislators.

[Progressive vs. Emergence Christianity](#)

Patheos: Despite the sharing of conversations, there still are some distinct differences between Progressive Christianity and Emergence Christianity, says Phyllis Tickle.

Patheos: [Brian McLaren: Not conservative, Not liberal: Progressive](#)

[Southern Baptists push to overcome racist past](#)

Religion News Service: Southern Baptists adopt plan to boost minorities in top leadership and elect an African American pastor as first vice president.

[An effort to foster tolerance in religion](#)

The New York Times: For a guy who is only 35 and lives in a walk-up apartment, Eboo Patel has already racked up some impressive accomplishments.

In a perfect world . . .

Nobody's perfect -- but that doesn't stop some of us from trying to be. And that's the curse of perfectionism, the Irish Times reports: putting yourself under enormous pressure to meet impossibly high standards, striving to keep everything in perfect order, beating yourself up for any little error. It's not surprising that so many fall into this thankless trap: after all, we live in a culture where perfectionism is seen as a quality to be celebrated, a [passport to success](#).

[Church buys apartment complex for intentional ministry](#)

Associated Baptist Press: As some churches wonder how to gain access for ministry in neighboring apartment complexes, a Baptist Church in Greenville, N.C., just bought the place.

[Could this be the church to calm our secularist outrage?](#)

The (London) Guardian: Evangelical worship gets many on the left hostile or awkward. So how do we respond to believers that save the destitute?

[Structural renewal needed to reform church](#)

The Irish Times: Catholic Church in Ireland should find a way to meet with all stakeholders (lay faithful, priests, religious, and bishops) to address the way forward.

[Spiritual lessons I learned at Disney World](#)

Patheos: Setting aside the things he could say about what's spiritually wrong with Disney World, Greg Garrett finds some "thin places" to experience the wonder of God in the Magic Kingdom.

**The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Evangelism is hosting the
2011 Engage Evangelism Conference,
August 8-11, 2011, at the [Don Cesar Hotel](#) in St. Pete Beach, Florida.**

The **Engage 2011 Conference** will walk participants through the [new "Engage" evangelism resource](#) and train them how to use it in a congregational setting. As participants engage their own stories of personal transformation as well as God's story of redemption in scripture, churches will learn how to re-connect with their communities.

We are pleased to announce that [Dan Kimball](#) will be our conference keynote speaker. Dan has written several books focusing on culture, church and mission including *They Like Jesus But Not The Church*, *The Emerging Church* and *Emerging Worship*. He is on staff at Vintage Faith Church in Santa Cruz, California which he planted and founded with

a team in 2004. He is adjunct faculty at George Fox Seminary and a columnist for Leadership Journal and Outreach magazine.

At the same time the Engage conference is occurring, the [National New Church Development Conference](#), sponsored by the PCUSA [Office of Church Growth](#), will be taking place just down the road at the TradeWinds Island Grand hotel. We will be joining the National NCD Conference for dinner at 5:30 PM on Monday, August 8, at the TradeWinds. Following dinner, we will also participate in a joint worship service. There will also be other opportunities for fellowship with participants of the New Church Development which will be announced as we get closer to August.

Brochures may be downloaded from the [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\) website](#).

- To register for the Engage conference, [go here](#).
- Questions may be forwarded to Meredith Kemp-Pappan, administrative assistant for Evangelism, at meredith.kemp-pappan@pcusa.org or by calling 1-888-728-7228, ext. 5088

Blessings,

Ray Jones
Coordinator for Evangelism

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR (for more details, go to www.peaceriverpresbytery.org)

JUNE, 2011

16th
Mission and Justice at First, Port Charlotte
Personnel – conference call

21st
Evangelism and Church Development, at Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

23rd
Council – conference call
Sexual Misconduct Prevention Workshop, at Chapel by the Sea, Fort Myers Beach

28th
Mission/Vision Guide Team