



**PEACE RIVER  
PRESBYTERY**



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

In the gospels, Jesus seemed to think that taking “time out and time apart” was a good thing. I am deeply appreciative of the Personnel Committee’s encouragement to take time out and apart for the next few weeks. Several years ago my 3-month sabbatical was interrupted, and I came back to deal with issues that emerged in the life of one of our congregations. So, with the blessing of the Personnel Committee and the Presbytery, during the next 6 weeks I plan to visit and play with my granddaughters, read, write, attend 2 workshops, meet with colleagues, visit with some friends, learn, laugh, maybe kayak with the alligators, and seek the refreshment of God’s spirit so as to be able to serve faithfully and well. I invite your prayers, even as I will be praying for you.

As a part of my spiritual practice during this time, I plan to use the scriptural and devotional readings from the Book of Common Worship, as well as divide the list of churches and clergy so I can pray for each of you during this time apart.

I have asked others in the Presbytery to write the pastoral letter for the next several weeks, so it will still be coming, but maybe not with all the other reading material and links.

If you need assistance during the time I am away, please contact Alesia at the office and she will refer your question or concern to the appropriate person. Clint Cottrell, the Stated Clerk, and COM also stand ready to assist as needed.

I want each of you to know that I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to:

- have a different pace,
- learn some new things,
- spend time praying about things like “faith, hope, and love,” which sometimes get misplaced along the way.
- be open for God’s Spirit to change me where I need some changing, even as I pray that God will continue to do his good work among us and that we learn new ways to be the Body of Christ together,
- spend some time with Linda. She has been a great Mom and now Grandmom, a respected and gifted high school teacher, a woman of faith and hope and love with whom I am grateful to have shared a whole bunch of years. We celebrate our 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary today.

With gratitude,

*Graham*

Graham Hart

[graham@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto: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:



### **Celebrating Mother's Day in Haiti**

[Watch how](#) some young Haitian children honored their mothers with a joyful performance.



### **Engaged and uncontained!**

Learn more about and register for Uncontained, the [2011 National New Church Development conference](#), and our first ever [Engage Evangelism conference](#) in St. Pete Beach, FL., August 8-11.

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*Please add these concerns to your personal prayer list.*

### **Please continue to pray for:**

The family of Rev. Dr. Roger Kunkel, who passed away this morning

Rev. Graham Hart, who begins his sabbatical on July 1<sup>st</sup>

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 19	Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota Jane Jones-Norris, Temporary Supply <a href="mailto:jonesnorris507@tampabay.rr.com">jonesnorris507@tampabay.rr.com</a>
June 26	Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice Chuck Wiggins, Pastor <a href="mailto:pastorcjw49@yahoo.com">pastorcjw49@yahoo.com</a>
July 3	Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice Chris Romig, Pastor <a href="mailto:cromig@venicepresbyterian.org">cromig@venicepresbyterian.org</a> Ruffin Stepp, Associate Pastor <a href="mailto:rstepp@venicepresbyterian.org">rstepp@venicepresbyterian.org</a> Lyn Olson, Associate Pastor <a href="mailto:lolson@venicepresbyterian.org">lolson@venicepresbyterian.org</a>
July 10	First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia Ted Land, Pastor <a href="mailto:pastor@arcadiapresbyterianchurch.com">pastor@arcadiapresbyterianchurch.com</a>

**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.***

[Friendship](#)

Patheos: It might surprise most Mormons to discover that Joseph Smith said, "Friendship is the grand fundamental principle of Mormonism."

[Contemporary music: The cultural medium and the Christian message](#)

Christianity Today: What kind of Christians do contemporary services produce?

[Status update](#)

America: How well is the church reaching out to people in the digital age?

Catholic News Service: [Vatican to launch web portal that streamlines print, TV, online news](#)

[Uptown theaters followed a spiritual path](#)

Wall Street Journal: They watch over the city like benevolent patriarchs, the uptown theaters of Harlem, preserved as houses of worship.

[How faith can help and hinder forgiveness](#)

CNN Belief blog: When you can't forgive yourself, it's easy to lose faith in a higher power. It happened to no less than former first lady Laura Bush.

[How an introverted engineer came out of his shell to lead Mozilla](#)

Fast Company: Former Mozilla CEO John Lilly talks about why a CEO needs to get the story straight and try not to look at his shoes.

[Jesse James DeConto: Dispatches from the Wild Goose Festival](#)

Wild Goose may feature a line-up of renowned musicians and speakers, but it aims to heal systemic division through the stories of non-celebrity voices.

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR** (for more details, go to [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org))

**JUNE, 2011**

30<sup>th</sup> – July 2<sup>nd</sup>

Big Tent – Indianapolis

**JULY, 2011**

4<sup>th</sup>

Independence Day – Presbytery Office Closed

7<sup>th</sup>

Theology and Worship

12<sup>th</sup>

Committee on Ministry

14<sup>th</sup>

Board of Trustees

Nominations

15<sup>th</sup>

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

19<sup>th</sup>

Evangelism and Church Development

26<sup>th</sup>  
Leadership and Congregational Development

28<sup>th</sup>  
Council