



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Pastoral Letter – March 4, 2011

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

At the February Presbytery meeting held at Cedarkirk last Thursday, we enjoyed great weather, stimulating conversation, engaging and respectful debate, inspiring and thought-provoking worship, and a chance to give God thanks for a place called Cedarkirk. For the almost 60 folks who were able to come for the pre-Presbytery retreat, we had wonderful conversation around Being the Body of Christ. In the afternoon we looked at what that biblical image looks like from the perspective of the early church, the 15th century reformers, and from a 21st century missional perspective. In the evening, as members of this body called Peace River, we were able to reflect on the spiritual disciplines that might guide us in our life together as a Presbytery.

Many of you have suggested that “... *we have a meeting at Cedarkirk again – Let’s not wait another 20 years.*” The Records and Overtures Committee, whose job it is to find hosts for our Presbytery meetings, has heard your comments and will be discussing that idea.

FYI – The Presbytery office lost its internet and e-mail connection from February 24th to March 3rd. Our internet provider had technical problems with our line and took a week to find the solution, so please try again.

Thanks be to God who is the wind in our sails, helps us steer into the future, and whose connection with us never fails!

Graham

Graham Hart

graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

THE MAIN EVENT

Worship in the 21st Century: A Convergence Worship Seminar

Saturday, March 12, 2011 at First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte

Please call the Presbytery office, 941-426-8421, to see if you can still register.

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.

[Seeking lynching stories as accounts of faith](#)

The New York Times: Minister/theologian travels the country, gathering elders' memories of lynchings in effort to develop a "theology of resilience."

[Shanghai's Red Church rises once again](#)

The Los Angeles Times: A \$3-million conservation plan is returning the Holy Trinity church, built in the 1860s, to its former glory and signals yet another transformation in Chinese history.

[Jane Williams: Christians should stand up for their beliefs](#)

The (London) Telegraph: British society regards Christians with scorn and is too ready to dismiss believers as bigots who do not have a brain, says Archbishop of Canterbury's wife.

Please pray for:

Clint and Amy Cottrell on the loss of Amy's mother this week

Kathi Wiggins' mother who is very ill

Tim Halverson who is having a health issue

Please continue to pray for:

Margarette Bliss, wife of Rev. Phil Bliss, who is recovering from total hip replacement surgery

Rev. Jerry Voye's wife, Carolyn

Rev. Ron and Denise Kruzel on the loss of their son, Jonathan

Rev. Don Sherman's wife, Joan, who is struggling with neurological issues

Rev. Bob Rea

Dianne Sizemore

Pastors and Educators in transition

Nations in crisis

Please also keep in your prayers:

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Misión Peniel

Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center

CONGREGATION OF THE WEEK:

March 6	Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples Richard Hill, Interim Pastor, rhill@moorings-presby.org Jim Kirk, Associate Pastor jkirk@moorings-presby.org
March 13	Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples Tom Harp, Pastor tpharp@comcast.net Ed Bellis, Associate Pastor eddiebhappy@comcast.net
March 20	St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port Ray Quiles, Designated Pastor chaprafi@gmail.com

March 27	Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto John Foulkrod, Pastor, jfoulkrod@gmail.com
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PRESBYTERY CALENDAR (for more details, go to www.peaceriverpresbytery.org)

MARCH, 2011

5th

Annual Disaster Preparedness Training (in Manatee County)

8th

Committee on Ministry

10th

Personnel

Nominations (via conference call)

12th

MAIN EVENT at First, Port Charlotte

13th

TURN CLOCKS AHEAD

15th

Evangelism and Church Development at Cypress Lake P.C., Ft. Myers

17th

Theology and Worship

24th

Council