



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Pastoral Letter – March 9, 2011

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Our continued heart-felt prayers and support go out to Valerie Bell and her family following the death of her husband. The service will be at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church on Monday, March 14 at

1:00 pm. When I talked to Val today, she expressed her deep appreciation for the way folks have surrounded the family with love and prayer at a very difficult time.

On this Ash Wednesday, as we begin our Lenten journey and with all the feelings that surround us at this time as a Presbytery and as individuals, I am drawn to a prayer that is 1700 years old written by Augustine of Hippo.

*O loving God,
to turn away from you is to fall,
to turn toward you is to rise,
and to stand before you is to abide forever.
Grant us, dear God,
in all our duties your help;
in all our uncertainties your guidance;
in all our dangers your protection;
and in all our sorrows your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Augustine of Hippo (354–430)

Thanks be to God,

Graham

Graham Hart

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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.**

Jim Berger invites us to check out this story from the [NYTimes Magazine](#) last Sunday. He writes: a similar thing happened to one of my members a few years ago here in SW Florida.

[Financial situation for one-third of Presbyterian churches is at least “good” even with economic crisis](#) - Even though the income of three in five congregations has declined in the wake of the economic crisis that began in late 2007, leaders of more Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations describe their congregation’s current financial situation as “excellent” or “good” (30 percent) than as “in serious difficulty” or “in some difficulty” (24 percent)....

[Eugene Peterson chronicles memories in 'Pastor'](#)

NPR: Eugene Peterson is an author, poet, professor, scholar and pastor, but it's that last role that has defined and shaped his life, and it's the focus of his new book, "The Pastor."

[A reverend rough and ready for anything](#)

The (London) Telegraph: First published in 1897, pastor's memoir vividly depicts ministry and rural poverty in 19th century England.

[Fasting has spiritual, physical benefits but also points to good works](#)

Catholic News Service: That empty stomach rumble, a reminder of fasting during Lent, is beneficial spiritually and physically.

[Flailing after Muslims](#)

The New York Times: America once again needs people who are willing to stand up boldly and courageously against injustice, says Bob Herbert. The New York Times: [Drawing U.S. crowds with anti-Islam message](#)

[Get a little soapy](#)

Last year on Ash Wednesday, Lisa Nichols Hickman learned how to make soap. It reminded her that the journey from soil to soul requires the naming of ashes and the claiming of oil.

Introspective silence befalls Bali, but only for a day [note – *As a young adult I was*

privileged to teach English in Indonesia and was able to visit Bali, so found this article interesting]

The resort island of Bali fell quiet last weekend as authorities shut down its airport and seaports, and

switched off all radio and television transmissions.

Its streets, normally jammed with tourists, were deserted as locals and foreigners alike stayed indoors. It was the Balinese Hindu holiday called

[Nyepi, the annual day of silence.](#)

Please pray for:

Rev. Valerie Bell and her family on the recent loss of Valerie's husband

Please continue to pray for:

Rev. Clint and Amy Cottrell on the recent loss of Amy's mother

Rev. Kathi Wiggins' mother who is very ill

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 Kruzal 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

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

MARCH, 2011

10th

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