Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Many of us can remember our first summer camping adventure. For some it was church camp, for others it may have been Boy or Girl Scout camp. Last year almost 1000 children and youth found their way to Cedarkirk, and I would encourage you to encourage the kids from your church to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity that Cedarkirk offers. This summer, the Cedarkirk staff has added Extreme Camp, which is open to campers who have completed 8th-12th grades who want to try new adventures by climbing, canoeing, kayaking, camping, and figuring out how faith fits into their lives. Register online or get more information about all the summer camps at [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org).

But summer get-togethers aren’t just for kids. A part of our American church culture for the past 100 years has been the hundreds of adult conferences held during the summer. The Methodists had their camp meetings, and Presbyterians had summer missions and youth conferences ([click here to read the history of Montreat Conference Center](http://www.montreat.org/history)).

The picture on the left is of a tent conference held in 1907 by Methodists and Presbyterians at Montreat; and the picture on the right is of the original *dining tent and cooking area* (1897). That tradition continues at Montreat and in many other places as well - [Click here for a brochure of 2013 conferences at Montreat](http://www.montreat.org/2013).

Also, the PCUSA for the past 75 years has held separate national conferences on mission, evangelism, church growth, racial ethnic, etc. When the General Assembly went to bi-annual meetings, the Big Tent was created so all the summer conferences could be held at the same time in the same venue every other year. I would highly encourage you to look over the brochures, and make the Big Tent (this year to be held in Louisville) part of your summer plans and renewal experiences. There are 10 conferences, over 90 workshops to choose...
from, great fellowship, and common worship times for all.

If your summer plans or study leave plans are not finalized, the Big Tent might be for you. The goal of the Big Tent is to inspire you and make you proud to be a Presbyterian. The event will be celebratory, diverse, and participatory, with intergenerational activities. Under one roof, the 2013 Big Tent will combine 10 national Presbyterian conferences and a single theme: “Placing God’s First Things First” (Matt. 6:33–34). It will take place August 1–3 at the Kentucky International Convention Center and nearby hotels in downtown Louisville.

For registration information go to: Register now; and listed below are quick links to 5 of the conferences:

- **Evangelism and Church Growth Conference** - See 1001: Get in the Game at Big Tent flyer.
- **National Elders Conference** - Visit the National Elders Conference site for more information.
- **National Multicultural Church Conference** - Singing Harmony: Models of Multicultural Worship and Music Please visit www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/multicultural for more information.
- **Theology, Worship, and Education Conference** - Thinking, Praying, and Living the Faith - Please visit the Theology, Worship and Education Conference site for more information.
- **World Mission Conference** - The Power of “We”: The Call to Collective Impact in God’s Global Mission - Please visit the World Mission Conference site for more information.

Well, if your summer camping experience was like mine, I started with a pup-tent in our back yard when I was 6; but this year I hope you will join me at the Big Tent with hundreds of other Presbyterians from across the country.

*Thanks be to God who continues to be the wind in our sails and helps us steer into the future in each of our journeys!*

**Graham**
Graham Hart
General Presbyter
graham@peaceriverpresbytery.org
The Power of “We”:
The Call to Collective Impact

The World Mission Partner Conference at Big Tent 2013

• **Meet** mission leaders, global partners and mission workers.

• **Learn** how you and your church can engage in global mission.

• **Discover** tools to address poverty, engage in evangelism, and work for reconciliation.

• **Create** strategies to empower and partner with sisters and brothers throughout the denomination and around the world.

• **Listen** to Dr. Robert Upton, author of *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse It)* at the World Mission Pre-Conference.

Download the World Mission Partner Conference schedule

Register: pcusa.org/bigtent
800-728-7228, x2417
Please continue to pray for:

Rev. Steve Nagy – in Physicians Regional Hospital on Pine Ridge Road

Valerie Bell, Pastor of Holy Trinity – facing surgery related to recurrence of cancer. Pray for her as she consults specialists and prepares for surgery on May 14.

Bob Rea – health

Alesia Sharpe’s mother, Judy Parrish – health

Rev. Craig Countiss, Stated Supply at First, Lehigh Acres - health

Rev. Steve Nagy – health

Rev. Rosemary Gremban

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Misión Peniel

Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center

Dan and Elizabeth Turk, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Madagascar

Les and Cindy Morgan, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Bangladesh

Pastors and Educators in transition

Nations in crisis
### CHURCH PRAYER GUIDE - MAY 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>First Presbyterian Church, Lehigh Acres</td>
<td>Rev. Craig Countiss</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ccountiss@aol.com">ccountiss@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stated Supply Pastor:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Christ Church of Longboat Key (PCUSA)</td>
<td>Rev. Dr. Bruce Porter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ginbru@hotmail.com">ginbru@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stated Supply Pastor:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>First Presbyterian Church, Naples</td>
<td>Rev. Dr. David Horne</td>
<td><a href="mailto:davidh@fpcnaples.org">davidh@fpcnaples.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interim Pastor:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples</td>
<td>Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jimkirk12122234@gmail.com">jimkirk12122234@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Temporary Supply Pastor:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.*

**Viewpoint: In the war over Christianity, orthodoxy is winning**

*Time:* Though religious traditionalism may be losing today's political and legal battles, it remains poised to win the wider war over what Christianity will look like tomorrow, says Mary Eberstadt.

**When religious beliefs become evil: 4 signs**

*CNN Belief blog:* How can you tell that someone’s religious beliefs have crossed the line?

**How old is too old to join the clergy?**

*United Methodist News Service:* The Texas Annual Conference has proposed changing its minimum standards for clergy to discourage people over 45 from becoming candidates for ordained ministry.

**Faith at the finish line in Boston**

*Wall Street Journal:* Barred from the chaotic scene of the bombing, priests nonetheless found ways to provide solace.

**Robert Alter is truly a translator of Biblical proportions**

*Jewish Daily Forward:* Literary scholar Robert Alter has spent the past three decades shedding new light on one of Western civilization's oldest and best-known texts.

**Catholics try their hand at old-fashioned evangelism**

*Religion News Service:* Catholics are no less engaged by the Great Commission than evangelicals.
PRESBYTERY CALENDAR - MAY (for more details, go to www.peaceriverpresbytery.org)

8  Nominations / Representation Committee Conference Call
9  Finance Team
14 Committee On Ministry
16 Steering Committee
23 Presbytery Stated Meeting at Siesta Key Chapel
27 Memorial Day – Presbytery Office Closed

*Other dates will be added as scheduled.*