



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



WEEKLY PRESBYTERY LETTER – APRIL 9, 2015  
Rev. Graham Hart – General Presbyter

Post-Easter Thoughts:  
Searching for Jesus in Peace River Presbytery  
(with links below)

According to the gospel of Mark ([click here](#)), everything about the first Holy Week was confusing, terrifying, and amazing.

- How could the disciples not help be terrified when, in the place of Jesus's body, there was a "young man dressed in white," and it wasn't Jesus!
- How can they not be confused when, just 2 days prior, everything in their life and world had fallen apart as they watched Jesus die?
- How can they not help but be amazed as this young man at the grave says: "He is not here."

So 2000 years later - **Where is Jesus?** According to the gospel account, the angel said: "...He is Risen... he has gone going ahead of you...to Galilee." And they found him, or more to the point, Jesus found them.

So where is Galilee for us? What are some of the places we might find Jesus, or like for the first disciples, Jesus find us!

On Easter Sunday I was able to visit with 2 congregations in Peace River experiencing the Easter message joyfully proclaimed: "Christ is Risen... He is risen indeed!" Christ is present... here and now... among us and between us and in us.

Because of my role and work, I am privileged to travel among the congregations of Peace River, but because most of us are focused on our own congregations, we don't always get to see or know how Christ is at work - and present - in our sister congregations.



So... as a way for each of you to see, experience, and know how Christ is alive in your sister congregations in Peace River, I created a quick link (see the attachment or chart below) for each of you to visit your sister congregations. I invite you to take 5-10 minutes, and through the internet, get to know the other

congregations. Take a moment to pray for them. You may want to save this chart so you can visit with your sister congregations in the months to come.



In September we are going to have Fall Regional Assemblies (i.e. Gatherings), instead of one large Presbytery meeting. We will gather in 3-5 geographic cluster, so elders – ruling and teaching – from the same communities and area can share with one another learnings, challenges, how God is at work, and how God might be calling and inviting us to new ministries in our local contexts.

So as we begin thinking and planning for those regional gatherings, I encourage you to use the chart below to discover how Christ is alive and how your sister congregations are alive in Christ.

Where is Jesus? Happy Easter! He is not here... he has gone on before you... and is present even here...even now... even today.



I would be curious to know what you discover and learn about your sister congregations, or questions you want to ask them, or how you sense Christ is alive in their midst.

Thanks be to God... Happy Easter.

*Graham*

Graham Hart

General Presbyter

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**CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

**(click on church name to link to its web site)**

<a href="#"><u>Braden River Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Bradenton	<a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Bradenton
<a href="#"><u>Kirkwood Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Bradenton	<a href="#"><u>Palma Sola Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Bradenton
<a href="#"><u>Westminster Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Bradenton	Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto - <a href="mailto:kcooper@ppcfl.org">kcooper@ppcfl.org</a>
<a href="#"><u>Christ Church of Longboat Key</u></a> Longboat Key	<a href="#"><u>Peace Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Lakewood Ranch
<a href="#"><u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Sarasota	<a href="#"><u>Church of the Palms,</u></a> Sarasota
<a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Sarasota	<a href="#"><u>Northminster Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Sarasota
<a href="#"><u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Sarasota	<a href="#"><u>Presbyterian Church of the</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Covenant,</u></a> Sarasota
<a href="#"><u>Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Sarasota	<a href="#"><u>Siesta Key Chapel,</u></a> Sarasota
<a href="#"><u>Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Venice	<a href="#"><u>Venice Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Venice
<a href="#"><u>Community Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Englewood	<a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Arcadia
<a href="#"><u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</u></a> North Port	<a href="#"><u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Punta Gorda
Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte <a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com">devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Port Charlotte
<a href="#"><u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u></a> North Fort Myers	
<a href="#"><u>Faith Presbyterian Church</u></a> Cape Coral	<a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Lehigh Acres
<a href="#"><u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Fort Myers	<a href="#"><u>Covenant Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Fort Myers

<a href="#">Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</a> Fort Myers	<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Fort Myers
<a href="#">Hope United Church (PCUSA),</a> Fort Myers	<a href="#">Chapel by the Sea,</a> Fort Myers Beach
<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Bonita Springs	
<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Naples	<a href="#">Lely Presbyterian Church,</a> Naples
<a href="#">Moorings Presbyterian Church,</a> Naples	<a href="#">Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</a> Naples

***The articles below may be of interest to you ...***

[Rev. Gardner C. Taylor, powerful voice for civil rights, dies at 96](#)

The New York Times: The Rev. Gardner C. Taylor, a grandson of slaves who became an influential voice for civil rights and one of the nation's most eloquent churchmen, died on Sunday in Durham, N.C. He was 96.

[Why we should worry when millennials don't take religion seriously](#)

Religion News Service: A teacher of comparative religion worries that millenials think of religion as a consumer choice, like entrees picked from a menu.

[Has the world 'looked the other way' while Christians are killed?](#)

The Washington Post: Some of the killing "fits the definition of ethnic cleansing," said a genocide expert.

[Peter Singer on the ethics of philanthropy](#)

Wall Street Journal: Philosopher Peter Singer's latest goal: Getting people to give away a third of their income.

[Immigrant churches on the rise in Minnesota](#)

KARE-TV: While some of Minnesota's church congregations deal with declining membership and empty pews, the Twin Cities also is seeing a greater trend of religious diversity, with rapidly growing immigrant congregations taking a stronghold across the metro area.

[Gays, religious traditionalists, and the feeling of being under siege](#)

The Atlantic: The illusion of a shared culture can make empathy harder in the age of social media.

[Churches that rise again](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: No longer able to afford their buildings, some congregations take on new missions, from food pantries to addiction recovery, to renew their purpose.

[World's Muslim population will surpass Christians this century, Pew says](#)

NPR: Islam is growing more rapidly than any other religion in the world, and will nearly equal Christianity by 2050 before eclipsing it around 2070, if current trends continue.

## **MISION PENIEL**

*A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee*

The Mision Peniel Task Force continues to meet and build the support and structure for continuing this vital ministry. If you want to make a donation to support this recovery effort you may send the check (marked Mision Peniel) to Peace River Presbytery | 5600 Peace River Rd. | North Port, FL. 34287.

- Volunteer Position Opening: Publications Coordinator ([click for information](#))
- Meal Serving Schedule ([click for information](#))
- Collection Centers for Mision Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
- Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

## **BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.**

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

[Position Opening: Executive Director](#)

[Winter 2015 Newsletter](#)

[Fall 2014 Newsletter](#)

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The following are position openings in PRP churches.

Click on the title for more information.

[Part-Time Choir Director](#) – Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

[Interim Choir Director](#) – Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice

[Organist / Pianist / Accompanist](#) – Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

## **PRAYER NEEDS:**

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

- Anita Adkison, mother of Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison, Pastor of Chapel By The Sea – recovery from breast cancer surgery and treatment to follow. Lives in Arkansas.
- Rev. Susan Rice, Associate Pastor of Faith, Cape Coral – health
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – kidney failure – is undergoing dialysis and is on a kidney transplant list. Greg is also diabetic and underwent quadruple bypass heart surgery in June 2013.
- Glenn Beisser (father of Rev. Devon Beisser Ducheneau, Stated Supply Pastor for Wintergarden P.C.) – lung cancer and heart issues
- Hmingi Browne's (A.P. of Church of the Palms) sister, Nutei – health

- Grandson of Tim and Martha Halverson - suffering from a rare autoimmune disease.
- 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: APRIL 2015:**

April 5	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Dino Rustin email: <a href="mailto:dino@firstpresbradenton.com">dino@firstpresbradenton.com</a>
April 12	<u>Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hope Lee email: <a href="mailto:hope@kpcb Bradenton.org">hope@kpcb Bradenton.org</a>
April 19	<u>Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. India Dennis Email: <a href="mailto:pastorindy@gmail.com">pastorindy@gmail.com</a>
April 26	<u>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Rob Swinsburg email: <a href="mailto:pastorrobwpc@verizon.net">pastorrobwpc@verizon.net</a>

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: APRIL 2015**

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org)

**April 9**

Nominations / Representation Committee @ St. Paul's Presbyterian, North Port  
Finance Team / Board of Trustees

**April 14**

Committee On Ministry

**April 15**

Committee On Preparation For Ministry

**April 20**

Planning Team – @ St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port

**April 23**

Mision Peniel Task Force @ Covenant Presbyterian, Ft. Myers

**April 26**

Installation Service for Rev. Dino Rustin @ First, Bradenton

**April 29**

Committee On Preparation For Ministry