



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



WEEKLY PRESBYTERY LETTER – AUGUST 5, 2015

Dear Peace River Presbytery:

In lieu of the August/September Stated Meeting, Peace River Presbytery will hold Regional Gatherings:

Central Region -- Thursday, August 20 at Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice

9:30 a.m. (with lunch, please RSVP to the church, 941 488-2258)

Southern Region - Thursday, August 27 at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

8:30 a.m. (with continental breakfast)

Northern Region - Thursday, September 3 at Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch

9:30 a.m. (with lunch, please RSVP to the church, 941 753-7778)

When the Presbytery adopted its new organizational design, one of the hopes was to do more of our work regionally, as well as experiment with how we could build relationships between ruling elders, connect churches missionally, and give opportunity for churches to know and share with one another.

At the coming Regional Gatherings we are asking that:

- 1.) each church send as many members and ruling elders as it would like, but the hope is each congregation will send 4 or 5 ruling elders who are currently serving on the session;
- 2.) all active members of Presbytery (teaching elders) attend;
- 3.) each congregation come prepared to share a joy and prayer concerns for its church;
- 4.) all in attendance be willing to enter into a conversation regarding the greatest needs we perceive in our ministry area, and how God might be calling us to work together to respond;
- 5.) related to the areas that have been lifted up at the last three Presbytery meetings if (1) your church has done significant work related to using the demographic information from **MissionInSite** as a resource for your congregation's ministry, or (2) developed new outreach aimed at baby-boomers retiring to our area, or (3) found new ways to "Missionally" engage your community - have a person from your congregation *briefly* share an update.

It has been asked if you can attend more than one regional gathering, and the answer is yes. Please pray with us that the Spirit would work in new ways in each of our congregations and in our Presbytery. You will be receiving a letter from the host congregation in your region with further instructions.

Praying that through these gatherings...

each congregation, every ruling and teaching elder, and we as Peace River Presbytery would grow in our faith, hope, love and witness to the Glory of God!

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, Moderator and Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter

FALL REGIONAL GATHERINGS:

Thursday, August 20 @ Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice

9:30 a.m. (with lunch)

Contact the Church Office, 941-488-2258, to make lunch reservations.

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**Thursday, August 27 @ Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples**

8:30 a.m. (with continental breakfast)

Contact the Church Office, 239-597-5410, to make breakfast reservations.

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Thursday, September 3 @ Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch

9:30 a.m. (with lunch)

Contact the Church Office, 941-753-7778, to make lunch reservations.

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Attendance and Lunch Reservations are to be made with the host churches,  
not the Presbytery Office.

These are not Stated Meetings, and Presbytery business will not be conducted.  
The purpose is to build relationships between churches, connect churches missionally,  
and to give opportunity for churches to share with one another.

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The next **STATED MEETING of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY** is scheduled for:

Thursday, November 19, 2015

at Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, September 13, 2015, 4:00 p.m.

Installation Service for The Reverend Tamara Letts

Associate Pastor, Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

THE YOUTH OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



(Background: The Anderson Auditorium)

During the 4th session of the 2015 Montreat Youth Conference in Montreat, North Carolina, Clarisse Durnell, Director of Christian Education for First Presbyterian Church Sarasota, gathered the youth from the Florida churches for a group picture. During the six sessions of the conference, the fourth session had the highest attendance of youth from Florida churches. Four churches and over 40 youth and adult advisors represented Peace River Presbytery. The churches represented were Church of the Palms, First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Peace Presbyterian Church, and Pine Shores Presbyterian Church.

The conference theme was “This Is Our Story”. “We learned how our stories are authored by God ... unique, intertwined, sometimes messy, are still being written and that, no matter what, we are to have the courage to share our stories. Taking a group picture told our story of how we are connected living in Florida. Some youth from Sarasota attend the same high school together. Most importantly, we all attend Presbyterian churches where we learn and grow in our faith stories.”

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

Back To School Appeal

Every summer Beth-El Farmworker Ministry reaches out to its mission partners in the collection of back to school supplies. From pencils and paper to backpacks and new shoes, every year Beth-El helps over 500 returning students with much needed school supplies. To learn how your congregation can help or to receive a complete list of needed supplies, please contact Beth-El Farmworker Ministry at [813-633-1548](tel:813-633-1548) or email: info@beth-el.info. Gracias!

www.beth-el.org

[August Newsletter](#)

[Back To School Supplies List](#)

[June 2015 Update and Financial Appeal](#)

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

A place apart to build up the body of Christ in love.

www.cedarkirk.org

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

- Collection Centers for Mision Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
 - Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday, October 24, 2015, 9:30 a.m. ~ First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

Guest Speaker: Rev. John Buchanan, Editor of *The Christian Century*

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Saturday, January 23, 2016 ~ Church of the Palms

[The Soul of Caregivers: Nurturing and Reorienting Our Lives](#)

with Rev. Marjorie Thompson

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The following are position openings in PRP churches.

Click on the title for more information.

[Communications Coordinator](#) – Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

[Director of Christian Education](#) – Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

[Organist / Accompanist](#) – Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda

## **PRAYER NEEDS:**

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

- Alex Herrera (Lil Rea's Son-In-Law) – Recovering from mugging.
- Rev. Graham Hart – recovery from prostate surgery and back pain.
- Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner – recovery from hip revision surgery.
- Robert Dennis, Son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues.
- Anita Adkison, mother of Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison, Pastor of Chapel By The Sea – undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Lives in Arkansas.
- Rev. Susan Rice, Associate Pastor of Faith, Cape Coral – health
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – on 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

- 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: AUGUST 2015:**

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 2  | <u>Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk<br>email: <a href="mailto:jimkirk1212234@gmail.com">jimkirk1212234@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                       |
| August 9  | <u>Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Learned<br>email: <a href="mailto:mink@moorings-presby.org">mink@moorings-presby.org</a>                                                                                                               |
| August 16 | <u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jack Haberer<br>email: <a href="mailto:jhaberer@vpcnaples.org">jhaberer@vpcnaples.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Tamara Letts<br>email: <a href="mailto:tletts@vpcnaples.org">tletts@vpcnaples.org</a> |
| August 23 | <u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Ray Quiles<br>email: <a href="mailto:stpaulspres1@comcast.net">stpaulspres1@comcast.net</a>                                                                                                           |
| August 30 | <u>Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto</u><br>Pastor: Rev. John Foulkrod<br>email: <a href="mailto:jfoulkrod@ppcfl.org">jfoulkrod@ppcfl.org</a>                                                                                                                          |

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: AUGUST 2015**

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

**August 13**

Finance Team / Board of Trustees  
Steering Committee

**August 20**

Regional Gathering at Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice

**August 27**

Regional Gathering at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

**September 3**

Regional Gathering at Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch  
Presbyterian Women



**CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

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

|                                                                    |                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Braden River Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton     | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton                                            |
| <a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton         | <a href="#">Palma Sola Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton                                       |
| <a href="#">Westminster Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton      | Palmetto Presbyterian Church,<br>Palmetto – <a href="mailto:office@ppcfl.org">office@ppcfl.org</a> |
| <a href="#">Christ Church of Longboat Key</a><br>Longboat Key      | <a href="#">Peace Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Lakewood Ranch                                       |
| <a href="#">Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota         | <a href="#">Church of the Palms,</a><br>Sarasota                                                   |
| <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota             | <a href="#">Northminster Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota                                      |
| <a href="#">Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota       | <a href="#">Presbyterian Church of the<br/>Covenant,</a> Sarasota                                  |
| <a href="#">Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota | <a href="#">Siesta Key Chapel,</a><br>Sarasota                                                     |
| <a href="#">Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Venice             | <a href="#">Venice Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Venice                                              |

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| <a href="#"><u>Community Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Englewood                                                                     | <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Arcadia           |
| <a href="#"><u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>North Port                                                                   | <a href="#"><u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Punta Gorda |
| Wintergarden Presbyterian Church,<br>Port Charlotte<br><a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com"><u>devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Port Charlotte    |
| <a href="#"><u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>North Fort Myers                                                           |                                                                        |
| <a href="#"><u>Faith Presbyterian Church</u></a><br>Cape Coral                                                                         | <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Lehigh Acres      |
| <a href="#"><u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Fort Myers                                                                   | <a href="#"><u>Covenant Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Fort Myers     |
| <a href="#"><u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Fort Myers                                                                 | <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Fort Myers        |
| <a href="#"><u>Hope United Church (PCUSA),</u></a><br>Fort Myers                                                                       | <a href="#"><u>Chapel by the Sea,</u></a><br>Fort Myers Beach          |
| <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Bonita Springs                                                                    |                                                                        |
| <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples                                                                            | <a href="#"><u>Lely Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples             |
| <a href="#"><u>Moorings Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples                                                                         | <a href="#"><u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples       |

