



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – August 18, 2015

Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter

## The Experiment Continues:

Regional Gatherings Begin: Thursdays - August 20 & 27, & September 3

When we adopted our new organizational design, we committed to try, over the next several years, some experiments in being a different kind of Presbytery. This week another of those experiments will happen when we have the first of our regional gatherings. **If you want to attend multiple gatherings, you are invited to do so, just call the host church (see below) to make meal reservations. We are hoping that many folks from each congregation come to share with, and learn from, and pray for our sister churches at each gathering.**



Key in designing these experiments are our guiding values of being “*missional, relational, and a learning community.*” Also, we said that whatever we do is to be guided by our Mission/Vision Statement that invites us as a presbytery to: *affirm congregations, connect disciples in mission, and be the Body of Christ together.* The regional gatherings will give us an opportunity to do just that.

**At these gatherings we will have the opportunity to sit at the table with ruling and teaching elders from sister churches in our region.** In addition to worship and hearing from the host churches, each table will have some questions for guided conversations including:

- *As you look at our common ministry areas, what are the greatest needs that you see?*
- *Which of these needs is your congregation addressing or hoping to address? What actions are being taken? What ideas are being considered?*
- *What next steps could we, as churches in the same region, work together on to address these needs?*
- *Has your congregation done additional work and reflection over the keynote topics of our last three presbytery meetings (i.e. - Over the last year each of the Presbytery Meetings has focused on a different theme: using the demographic research tool called *Mission Insite*, *Developing New Ministries to and with Baby-Boomers*; and *Finding a Missional Ministry Focus as a Congregation*)?*

The Steering Committee (formerly the Council) of the Presbytery, at its annual retreat in May and under the leadership of our Presbytery Moderator, Kathleen Weller, looked at passages from I Peter. As a part of our exercise, we were asked to paraphrase several assigned passages and write them as a word to the churches of Peace River. Here is one of the paraphrases shared, which is an appropriate word for us as we gather for these regional meetings:

**To the Churches of Peace River Presbytery (Adapting I Peter 3:8-22):**

*We invite you to join us in our vision of following Jesus – crucified, dead, buried, and raised. Our center is Christ; so we invite you to join with us as we focus on and celebrate:*

*What we have in common, not on how and where we are different.*

*How we stand together, instead of how we stand apart.*

*Like Peter said to the early church (I Peter 3:8-9): All of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, and love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called--that you might inherit a blessing. Amen.*

Grateful to be on this journey with you!

*Graham*

Graham Hart  
General Presbyter  
[graham@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:graham@peacriverpresbytery.org)

**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

**THE YOUTH OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**



*(Background: The Anderson Auditorium)*

During the 4<sup>th</sup> 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*

[www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)

[August Newsletter](#)

[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](http://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!**

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

### **Installation Service for The Reverend Tamara Letts**

Associate Pastor, Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

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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.

[Organist](#) – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

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

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

### **PRAYER NEEDS:**

#### **Please pray for:**

- Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller – healing of broken arm.

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

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

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2015**

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

**August 20**

Regional Gathering at Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice  
Records Review Workshop at Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice (1:00 p.m.)

**August 27**

Regional Gathering at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

Records Review Workshop at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples (1:00 p.m.)

**September 3**

Regional Gathering at Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch

Records Review Workshop at Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch (1:00 p.m.)

Presbyterian Women at PRP Center, North Port (10:00 a.m.)

**September 7**

Labor Day – Peace River Presbytery Office Closed

**September 8**

Committee On Ministry

**September 10**

Finance Team / Board of Trustees

**September 13**

Installation Service for Rev. Tamara Letts @ Vanderbilt, Naples

**September 14**

Nominations Committee

Planning Team

**September 21**

Mision Peniel Task Force @ Covenant, Fort Myers



**CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

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

<a href="#">Braden River Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton	<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton
<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton	<a href="#">Palma Sola Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton
<a href="#">Westminster Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton	Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto – <a href="mailto:office@ppcfl.org">office@ppcfl.org</a>
<a href="#">Christ Church of Longboat Key</a> Longboat Key	<a href="#">Peace Presbyterian Church,</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"><u>devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</u></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="#"><u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Fort Myers	<a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Fort Myers
<a href="#"><u>Hope United Church (PCUSA),</u></a> Fort Myers	<a href="#"><u>Chapel by the Sea,</u></a> Fort Myers Beach
<a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Bonita Springs	
<a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Naples	<a href="#"><u>Lely Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Naples

[Moorings Presbyterian Church,](#)

Naples

[Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,](#)

Naples