



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – August 25, 2015

Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter

Regional Presbytery Gatherings

NEXT – August 27

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church

8:30 – breakfast – 9:00 gathering begins – till 12noon

Last week over 60 ruling and teaching elders from 10 churches gathered at Venice Presbyterian Church. This was the first of our three regional gatherings that are taking the place of our Fall Presbytery Meeting.

The next gatherings are:

- **August 27th at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples** (beginning at 8:30 for breakfast and fellowship; the agenda starts at 9:30).
- **September 3rd at Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch** (beginning at 9:00 for fellowship; the agenda starts at 9:30 and concludes with lunch – RSVP to the Church Office, 941-753-7778).

At the time we adopted our new design in 2013, our hope was that we would become a presbytery where:

- ruling elders would pray for and learn from ruling elders from other congregations;
- teaching elders would share resources (i.e., programs, workshops, Bible studies) with other congregations, as may be helpful and beneficial to sister congregations;
- there would be more opportunities for the development of deeper relationships, support and accountability among us;
- there would be a deeper sense of fellowship, partnership and trust;
- there would be an awareness of the missional endeavors of each congregation, as well as opportunities to join with each other in those endeavors as a hallmark of our Presbytery.

These fall regional meetings are an experiment in seeking to accomplish those hopes.

Highlights of our first regional gathering at Venice Presbytery Church included:



A time of prayer for each congregation.

Rich conversations and meaningful sharing between elders from different churches.



Celebrating in Worship together.

Learning about the Well – an experiment in sharing resources and best practices with one another.



It was a good day with: great hospitality, wonderful fellowship, learning about our sister churches and how God is at work in and through them, and discovering how we might be able to work together in areas of common ministry and concern.

With gratitude for the journey we are on as Peace River Presbytery,

Graham

Graham Hart

General Presbyter

graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

FALL REGIONAL GATHERINGS:

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

## **ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

[Seat of the church: Philadelphia prisoners build a chair for the Pope](#)

The (London) Guardian: Pope Francis will have a nice place to sit when he meets with Philadelphia prisoners after inmates built a stately chair hand-carved from walnut.

[Catholics love their celebrity pope and most -- not all -- his priorities](#)

Religion News Service: Americans are gung-ho for Pope Francis' U.S. visit -- if they know he's coming. They really, really like him, too, particularly Catholics.

[Did religion make the American Civil War worse?](#)

The Atlantic: Faith may have inflamed the conflict, but one lasting legacy of the war may be the toll it took upon American faith.

[Does belief in God enhance gratitude? Here's what psychology suggests.](#)

Washington Post: If we believe in God, we have a greater span of things for which to be grateful.

[Millennial ministry: It's time we drop the adjective](#)

Baptist News Global: And stop trying so hard to attract them.

[Where Pope Francis learned humility](#)

The Atlantic: For the pontiff, being humble is less a character trait than a calculated choice.

[Rhode Island church taking unusual step to illuminate its slavery role](#)

The New York Times: Rhode Island's role in the slave trade will soon become more prominent as the Episcopal diocese establishes a museum dedicated to telling that story.

[St. Paul's Episcopal Church discusses Confederate imagery](#)

Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch: At the landmark church sometimes referred to as the Cathedral of the Confederacy, the issue of memorials and imagery is prompting self-examination by congregants and clergy.

[Cathedrals booming thanks to 'late night shopping' tactics](#)

The (London) Telegraph: God and mammon: how some of Britain's oldest churches are filling up -- after learning lessons from the world of retail.

**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 continue to pray for:**

- Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller – healing of broken arm.
- 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.
- 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> |
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| 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-SEPTEMBER 2015**

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

**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)

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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                                              |
| <a href="#">Community Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Englewood                                                                     | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Arcadia                                              |
| <a href="#">St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</a><br>North Port                                                                   | <a href="#">Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Punta Gorda                                    |
| Wintergarden Presbyterian Church,<br>Port Charlotte<br><a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com">devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</a> | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Port Charlotte                                       |

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| <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   |