



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



WEEKLY PRESBYTERY LETTER - JUNE 2, 2015 Rev. Graham P. Hart, General Presbyter

In the News (Peace River and Beyond)

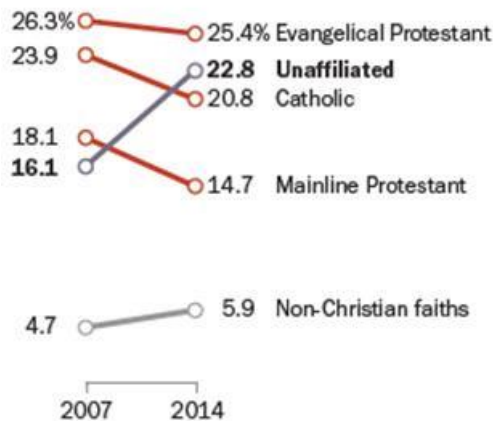
The [Pew Foundation](#) recently released a major study on: [America's Changing Religious Landscape \(click here\)](#). The big news, though not surprising to any of us is:

- the next generation does not find church all that interesting and has some issues with us,
- there are now around 55 million Americans who have declared no religious affiliation, which is up significantly over the last 10 years (in the study this group is called the "none's")
- all denominations are in decline –while other non-Christian faiths are growing

There is an excellent interview with David Campbell ([click here](#)), a political science professor at Notre Dame, about what the new Religious Landscape Study findings mean.

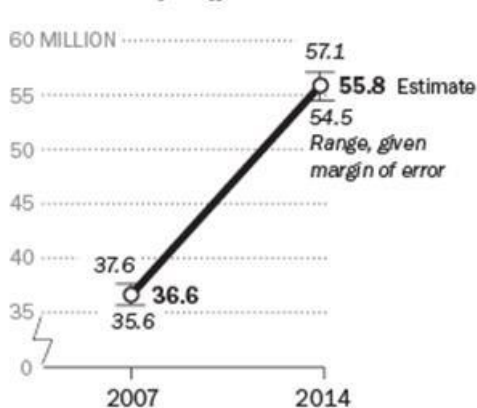
I encourage you to begin a conversation at your church, or in the session, related to this study and what we can learn from it. [Interactive: Explore the U.S. Religious Landscape](#)

% of adults who identify with each group



Rapid Growth of Religiously Unaffiliated

Total number of unaffiliated U.S. adults



DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY MAY 12, 2015

FOR ALL PASTORS – FYI FOR ALL SESSIONS

The **Pastoral Care Team** will be calling on all active pastors. Last year I called a number of retired pastors and asked if they would be alert to any pastoral concerns and special needs of our pastors and provide pastoral care during the time I was away on sabbatical. This initiative was well received, and when I got back we began exploring making this an on-going ministry in Peace River. At the May Presbytery meeting the now 9 members of the Pastoral Care Team were commissioned. Below is a note from Taylor Hill, one of the conveners of the team, letting you know of their work; and attached is a brochure that goes into more detail.

[Pastoral Care for the Pastors](#)

Sisters and brothers, if you were at the last Presbytery meeting you witnessed the commissioning of our Pastoral Care Support Team, a group of nine volunteers, mostly retired pastors themselves, who will be available to support the pastors in our presbytery on an ongoing basis. For a long time we have felt the need to give additional support to our pastors. The volunteers are Grant Lowe and Taylor Hill, Lewis Trotter, Bill Clough, Ron Miller, Ruth Schaaff, Lou Thompson and Jackie Vanden Dorpel. Cynthia Brasher has provided training and other support. One of the support team members will be contacting active pastors serving in churches and other ministries in the days ahead. While two volunteers will be assigned to pastors in the North, Central, and South areas of our Presbytery, you may call on any of them at any time.

If you have any questions you may call Taylor Hill at [941-524-6556](tel:941-524-6556), Grant Lowe at [941-932-0792](tel:941-932-0792), or Graham Hart at the Presbytery office. Peace to you all.

~ PASTORAL CARE TEAM

SOME NEWS ABOUT AN UPCOMING EVENT:



Experience that deep sense of community one would expect at a national gathering of Presbyterians—a great big family reunion! Join us for a wide variety of workshops, all under one Big Tent, a conference that will inspire and equip Presbyterians to live missionally. In past year each of each the Gernal Assembly Ministry areas has hosted their own conference... this year you will be able to move between areas and interests in this 3 day event. Also, note the cost has been greatly reduced. The registration is \$395 per person, which includes accommodations, seven meals, campus parking and outstanding programming. Fees for children and youth are no more than \$150 each.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION THROUGH JUNE 19

Register Online Now!

Gratitude to God who continues to be the Wind in our Sails and the Rudder to Guide us on our way,

Graham

Graham Hart

graham@peacriverpesbytery.org

~ ARTICLES OF INTEREST ~

[4 tips for following Jesus in election season](#)

Sojourners: So how does the Jesus community live in this election season as a signpost of the kingdom rather than a pawn in a political power play?

[Called or not?](#)

Baptist News Global: Molly Marshall on listening for prompts from God about the meaning of our lives.

[Protestants paying attention](#)

National Catholic Reporter: Francis is giving Jesus a good name. That's what matters, says the Rev. Donna Schaper, senior minister of Judson Memorial Church in New York City.

[The rebel of St. Peter's Square: Where is Pope Francis steering the Church?](#)

Spiegel: Where does this enigmatic pope want to steer the Catholic Church?

Los Angeles Times: [Romero beatification signals Pope Francis' plan for Catholic Church](#)

[No politics in church? Not so fast.](#)

Religion & Politics: What does it mean for the church to be political? How should the church make decisions about when to engage or avoid politics? And what visions of politics are communicated by the actual practices of congregations?

[Why more young women than ever before are skipping church](#)

Washington Post: The trend away from church is especially pronounced among girls and young women.

[Should religion be easy?](#)

Religion News Service: It's like exercise. You want to be transformed? It means that you are going to have to break a sweat, says Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin.



CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

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

Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto - kcooper@ppcfl.org
Christ Church of Longboat Key Longboat Key	Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch
Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Church of the Palms, Sarasota

<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Northminster Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota
<u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Presbyterian Church of the</u> <u>Covenant, Sarasota</u>
<u>Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Siesta Key Chapel,</u> Sarasota
<u>Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u> Venice	<u>Venice Presbyterian Church,</u> Venice
<u>Community Presbyterian Church,</u> Englewood	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Arcadia
<u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</u> North Port	<u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</u> Punta Gorda
Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte <u>devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</u>	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Port Charlotte
<u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u> North Fort Myers	
<u>Faith Presbyterian Church</u> Cape Coral	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Lehigh Acres
<u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers	<u>Covenant Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers
<u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers
<u>Hope United Church (PCUSA),</u> Fort Myers	<u>Chapel by the Sea,</u> Fort Myers Beach
<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Bonita Springs	
<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples	<u>Lely Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples
<u>Moorings Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples	<u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples

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](#))

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

[June 2015 Update and Financial Appeal](#)

[Winter 2015 Newsletter](#)

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

[Web Site](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following are position openings in PRP churches.

Click on the title for more information.

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

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

PRAYER NEEDS:

Please pray for:

- Robert Dennis, son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues

Please continue to pray for:

- Sue Angle and Family – following the passing of Ray on May 24.
- Dave & Lil Rea (COM Moderator) – following the passing of Dave's father on May 26.
- Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner – decisions to make about a hip revision.
- Rev. Norman Hutchinson – recovery from quadruple bypass surgery; also has congestive heart failure. If you'd like to send notes or cards, his address is: 822 South Pelham Road | Welland, ON L3C3E1
- 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
- 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: JUNE 2015:

June 7	First Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers Pastor: Rev. Paul de Jong email: paul@fpcfortmyers.org
June 14	Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl email: pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net
June 21	Chapel by the Sea, Fort Myers Beach Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison email: skypilot_mddiv@hotmail.com
June 28	Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, North Fort Myers Pastor: Rev. Dr. Valerie Bell email: pastorvaleriebell@gmail.com

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JUNE 2015

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: www.peacriverpresbytery.org

June 11

Finance Team / Board of Trustees

June 16

Nominations / Representation Committee

June 25

Mision Peniel Task Force at Presbytery Center, North Port