



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



WEEKLY PRESBYTERY LETTER - JUNE 30, 2015

Rev. Dr. John Reiter, Executive Director of Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center

WHY?

A few years ago, the Cedarkirk Board of Directors watched a TED talk by Simon Sinek that changed the way we look at our programs, facilities, and ministry in general. This particular talk (also the basis for "Start with the Why") presents the idea that if we start by answering the question "Why?" before we address "What?" and "How?", we can be more focused, genuine, and authentic to who we are and what we are hoping to accomplish in God's name. The talk certainly requires some translating from the business world into the church setting, but its general principles have been very helpful in guiding us to evaluate what we do and how we do it by first holding up the question "why?"

We started with the most basic and overarching "why." Why do we exist? Why is Cedarkirk here? This led us to examine our mission statement: to be a place apart to build up the body of Christ in love. For us, the why is about being a unique place where Christian community can be formed and nurtured in ways that might not be able to happen in our daily lives. From the why, we answered the "how?" and "what?" questions which led to providing programs, spaces, and experiences where people connect with one another and with God in transforming ways. The "how" allowed us to focus on the content that actually shapes our time together at camp. The "what" includes programs like summer camp and over a dozen different opportunities throughout the year for God's children of all ages, as well as a ministry of hospitality that welcomes all for church retreats and special events. For the Cedarkirk Staff and Board, the "why?" continues to serve as a great reminder of



why we do what we do. It allows us to remember that God should be at the heart of all our efforts, from our biggest program, summer camp, to even the smallest game to fill some time before a meal. With this lens of looking at the mission of Cedarkirk, the wondrous ways that God is working in this ministry become even more apparent.

I was recently asked which season of ministry at Cedarkirk I preferred: the year-round retreats or summer camp. This is a tough question. On the one hand, you have over 14,000 guests who come out on retreat with their church families and have an opportunity to grow closer to one another and God. On the other hand, you have the busy pace of the

summer with nearly 1,000 children and youth who come together and live in Christian community providing daily reminders of God's work in our world and lives. While very different in many ways, both seasons share the same answer to our question of "why": God's transforming ways are at work. Lives are changed at camp whether they are here for a day or a week. Both during the summer and in our year-round retreats, God works through community building fun, challenges, quiet moments, joyous laughter, and new and old friends. We regularly hear of experiences in this special place apart where someone shares, "this is where I am reminded that God loves me no matter what"; "God is calling our church to do something new and wonderful"; "God is at work in my life and is calling me to do something more"; and "this is where I can truly be myself." Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we witness lives changed and hearts opened to the love and grace of God.



Cedarkirk truly makes an impact in the lives of God's children of all ages. Your partnership, prayers, and support are critical and make a difference in the ministry of this special place. We are grateful for the connections and relationship with the churches of Peace River Presbytery that strengthen Cedarkirk to respond to the question "Why?" and ultimately to build up the body of Christ in love. To learn more and keep up with all that is happening at your camp and conference center, please follow us on Facebook or subscribe to our e-newsletter.

Link to Simon Sinek TED Talk: http://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action

Join the Cedarkirk community in prayer for a safe and meaningful summer: <http://cedarkirk.org/support/prayer/>

Link to Cedarkirk web page: <http://www.cedarkirk.org>

The next Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery is scheduled for:

Thursday, November 19, 2015

at Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

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

**FALL REGIONAL GATHERINGS:**

Thursday, August 20 @ Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice

Thursday, August 27 @ Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

Thursday, September 3 @ Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch

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The tentative start time for each gathering will be 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be served.

Attendance and Lunch Reservations are to be made with the host churches,

not the Presbytery Office. Contact information will be provided soon.

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.

More details to follow.

JULY EVENT: SANCTUARY HOUSE OF SARASOTA PRESENTS:

"A Mid Summer Silence"

[Invitation and Brochure](#)



July 30 – August 1, 2015
University of Tennessee Campus
Knoxville, TN

Be inspired . . . Become equipped . . . Get connected!

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 the General 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!](#)



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

<u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Church of the Palms,</u> 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

[Moorings Presbyterian Church,](#)

Naples

[Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,](#)

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

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!

[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.

[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

PRAYER NEEDS:

Please pray for:

- Rev. Graham Hart – surgery on July 1, and recovery for several weeks.

Please continue to pray for:

- Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner – hip revision surgery, scheduled for July 16 (*note date change*) at Sarasota Memorial Hospital.
- Robert Dennis, Son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues.

- 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 – 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: JULY 2015:

July 5	Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Deibert email: edeibert@mindspring.com
July 12	First Presbyterian Church, Lehigh Acres Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Winston Lawson email: lehighacrespresbyterians@embarqmail.com
July 19	Christ Church of Longboat Key Stated Supply Pastor: Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard email: revnmp@comcast.net
July 26	First Presbyterian Church, Naples Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Will Browne email: willbrowne@yahoo.com

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JULY 2015

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

July 3

Presbytery Office Closed

July 4

Independence Day – Happy Birthday United States of America!

July 9

Finance Team / Board of Trustees

July 21

Committee On Ministry

July 27

Mision Peniel Task Force at Covenant Presbyterian, Fort Myers