



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – November 12, 2015

Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter

A New Kind of Connectionism Emerging

We often, as Presbyterians, say we are a connectional church. The question is what does that really mean? Is it just a way to describe organizational linkage, or is it meant to be a description of the ways we organically connect and support one another. I believe it is the later, and there are signs that a new kind of connectionism is emerging.

When Hunter Farrell, Director of World Wide Ministry, PCUSA, meets with congregation mission leaders, pastors, and interested members next Wednesday, November 18th, at our 3 regional gatherings, he will be sharing with us not only stories of the difference PCUSA mission work is making around the world, but new ways the PCUSA is seeking to connect congregations with mission co-workers around the work. ([Click here for brochure on Hunter's visit](#)). Also, note that Hunter will be our Keynote Speaker at Thursday's Presbytery Meeting.

When we adopted our new organizational design, one of our hopes was, even though we did not call it this, that a new kind of connectionism would emerge, and that is happening. Over the next month I will lift up some stories of how that is happening, but for today I want to share a letter that Mary Lee Mann, Moderator of our Steering Committee, received from Clint Cottrell of Cypress Lake, expressing gratitude for a connection with Faith, Cape Coral that is having a tremendous impact on the new Hispanic outreach ministry that Cypress Lake is developing.

Thanks be to God for old and new ways that we connect and support each other in the mission to which we are called.

Graham



Madam Moderator,

I am addressing you as such not in jest but in all seriousness.

Within the Presbytery there are many times when we deal with challenges and problems. Further, in recent years our Presbytery (like others) has struggled with involvement and identity during changing times. Yet, I want to share a joy and an example of the Presbytery at work...albeit in what was not so public a manner.

A little over a year ago we hired Jessica Osegueda as a director of our children, youth and family ministries. She came to us as a Ruling Elder from Faith, Cape Coral, and had recently graduated from college. Initially she was employed part time but when we discovered her talents, the Session took an unfunded leap of faith and Jessica is now full time not only working with the young people but our Spanish ministry as well. With the help of Session, Jessica led the partnering with New Horizons of SW Florida and we now have an after school program, meeting 4 days a week, BUSSING in 40 children from Villa's Elementary and targeting the Hispanic population where parents cannot help their children with homework or study as they themselves lack the education, linguistic skills and time. In short, Jessica is doing a REMARKABLE job. Clearly, a solid foundation had been developed at Faith, Cape Coral!

In the meantime, Jessica has begun classes through Dubuque Seminary to pursue becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder where, if trained, called and approved by the Presbytery, she will work to augment Pastor Miguel Estrada in his fledgling worship at Cypress AND create a vibrant ministry to the Hispanic community and beyond. But here is what is exciting:

Last week, without request or prior knowledge, Jessica received a check from Faith Presbyterian Church for \$500 to help her with expenses associated with seminary. Again, this was neither requested nor expected. It was just an act of love from her "home" congregation, helping her gain the resources to better serve the Lord through this Presbytery at Cypress Lake and beyond.

I want to officially thank and acknowledge what Faith Presbyterian has done, and would hold this up as a paragon of virtue of what a Presbytery can be. Yes, there are the obvious things that happen every day but acts as simple as this have HUGE reverberations throughout the Kingdom and exemplify the very best that we are as Presbyterians.

As I write this to you, dozens of elementary aged children are not only getting help with homework, but are also about to go to "chapel", led by Miss Jessica, to sing worship songs, study the Bible and pray before they go home for the evening. Jessica herself will soon leave here to go home and study her lessons. Concurrently, the simple gift from Faith will bear fruit for the kingdom, helping one servant grow in knowledge and service of the Lord, easing the burden of tuition. Words cannot express my heartfelt appreciation.

Please feel free to share this email as you deem appropriate.

Blessings,
Clint

The Rev. Dr. Clinton C. Cottrell
Pastor, Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church
Chief Chaplain, Lee County Sheriff's Office
8260 Cypress Lake Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33919
[239.481.3233](tel:239.481.3233)
www.clpc.us

CELEBRATING WORLD MISSION

Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of World Mission, PCUSA

Wednesday, November 18 – Regional Gatherings

Thursday, November 19 – Keynote Speaker at the Stated Meeting of Presbytery

For information, [click here](#).

STATED MEETING of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

Thursday, November 19

Hosted by: Community Presbyterian Church

405 S. McCall Road | Englewood, 34223

Key Note Speaker: Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of World Mission for the PCUSA

8:00 a.m. ~ Registration Begins

* 9:00 a.m. ~ Finance Forum* with the Presbytery's Board of Trustees and Treasurer

9:30 a.m. ~ Stated Meeting Begins

**** Lunch Reservations are required NO LATER than Friday, November 13.**

\$10.00 per person, payable at registration, covers lunch and morning refreshments.

Submit reservations to Lori Doyal, lori@peacriverpresbytery.org or 941-426-8421

Include the name for each reservation, church, and a contact phone number or email.

*All are invited to this forum and are welcome to ask questions about the Presbytery's budget and finances.

The Stated Meeting Packet is now on the Presbytery's web site.

Go to www.peacriverpresbytery.org / Events & News / Peace River Presbytery /
Stated Meetings / Highlights, Minutes and Packets.

At this point you will need the "user name" and "password".

These are the same credentials that are used for every meeting.

Call the Presbytery Office if you need assistance.

Articles of Interest:

[Patriarchal villains? It's time to re-think St Paul and St Augustine](#)

New Statesman: Paul and Augustine are blamed for any number of historical outrages. But on questions like slavery and empire, they were more progressive than many credit, says Rowan Williams.

[Why the world still needs nonprofits](#)

The Conversation: Giving cash directly to the needy is a growing trend, but in most cases it's not nearly as effective as funneling donations through a charity with "boots on the ground."

[Who could possibly replace Bach?](#)

The Economist: It is a rather big deal that the St Thomas Church of Leipzig, Johann Sebastian Bach's employer for 27 years, is about to appoint his first 21st-century successor.

[Catholicism can and must change, Francis forcefully tells Italian church gathering](#)

National Catholic Reporter: Pope Francis has strongly outlined anew a comprehensive vision for the future of the Catholic church, forcefully telling a meeting of the Italian church community that our times require a deeply merciful Catholicism that is unafraid of change.

[Taking special vows in theology](#)

First Thing: Richard Mouw has come to rely on two analogies for the benefits that theological diversity yields.

[“Spotlight” portrayal of sex abuse scandal is making the Catholic Church uncomfortable all over again](#)

Washington Post: “Spotlight,” a new film about the Catholic clergy abuse scandal's explosion in 2002, begs the question: How are things different in 2015?

Boston Globe: [Catholic Church offers guidance on ‘Spotlight’ movie](#)

[‘Why hold a child hostage to my doubts?’](#)

Slate: The confusing, complicated desire of parents with no religion to raise their kids with faith.

[Experts predict construction of religious buildings will increase for the first time in 13 years](#)

Deseret News: Long decline in construction of religious buildings appears to have bottomed out, with slight increase predicted for next year.



To all Pastors, Retired Pastors, Teaching Elders, and Treasurers and Business Managers:

Dear colleagues in ministry and service,

Greetings! I hope this message finds each of you doing well and in good spirits.

Board University – the educational program of the Board of Pensions – is pleased to partner with Peace River Presbytery to offer three of our education seminars at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church (Sarasota, FL) in mid-January 2016:

January 12-13: Growing Into Tomorrow...Today (pre-retirement planning for lay and clergy members)

January 14: Render Unto Caesar (terms of call and clergy tax issues for treasurers and administrators, and active clergy)

January 15: Post-Retirement Seminar (retirement living matters for lay and clergy retirees and surviving covered partners)

Registration for the seminars is open on our website. If you have any general questions or concerns about the seminars, please feel free to contact [Board University](#). For registration assistance, individuals may call the Board weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., ET, and speak with the first available service representative at 800-PRESPLAN ([800-773-7752](#)).

Blessings and peace,

Nadine L. Monn | Design Specialist

Organizational Training & Development

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) | 2000 Market St., 4th Floor | Philadelphia, PA 19103-3298

P: [800-773-7752, ext. 7457](#) / [215-587-7457](#) | F: [215-587-7129](#) | [www.pensions.org](#)

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

Beth-El Food Pantry has an immediate need for canned goods, rice and pinto beans. Our regular deliveries have been down and the pantry is practically bare. If you can help, please call the mission at 813-633-1548 ext. 228.

¡Gracias!

Kathy

Kathleen Dain, Executive Director

www.beth-el.org

[November Newsletter](#)

[Adopt A Family 2015 Program](#)

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

Employment Opportunities at Cedarkirk

Cedarkirk is currently seeking to fill a variety of positions (part-time kitchen and housekeeping roles and a full-time Capital Campaign Director). Please visit www.cedarkirk.org/who-we-are/employment/ for more information.

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](#))

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Wednesday, November 18 ~ Three Locations

Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of World Mission for the PCUSA

[Informational Brochure with Times and Locations](#)

Thursday, November 19, 9:30 a.m. ~ Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery

Saturday, January 23 ~ 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

FOR SALE

26 Passenger Bus – [Click for Information](#)

PRAYER NEEDS:

Please pray for:

- Rev. Dr. Robert Cousar - health

Please continue to pray for:

- Jim Beckwith - health
- 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.
- 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: NOVEMBER 2015:

November 1	<u>Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Michael Mansperger email: covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net
November 8	<u>Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kathi Wiggins email: pastork@comcast.net
November 15	<u>Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Jane Jones-Norris email: jjn7416@gmail.com
November 22	<u>Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Chuck Wiggins email: cjw049@gmail.com
November 29	<u>Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice</u> Senior Pastor: Rev. Chris Romig email: cromig@venicepresbyterian.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Lyn Olson Email: lolson@venicepresbyterian.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Todd Reinschmidt Email: treinschmidt@venicepresbyterian.org

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: NOVEMBER 2015

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

November 18

Regional Meetings with Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell

November 19

Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery

November 25-27

Presbytery Office Closed

November 26

Thanksgiving



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 – office@ppcfl.org
Christ Church of Longboat Key Longboat Key	Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch
Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Church of the Palms, Sarasota
First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota
Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota
Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice	Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice
Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood	First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port	Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda
Wintergarden Presbyterian Church,	First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte

Port Charlotte devon.ducheneau@gmail.com	
Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, North Fort Myers	
Faith Presbyterian Church Cape Coral	First Presbyterian Church, Lehigh Acres
Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers	First Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
Hope United Church (PCUSA), Fort Myers	Chapel by the Sea, Fort Myers Beach
First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs	
First Presbyterian Church, Naples	Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples
Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples	Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples