



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – November 24, 2015

Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

In a world in which so many would want us to live in fear, I invite you to look at the PCUSA's Brief Statement of Faith which reminds us: "that in life and death we belong to God" ([click here for link](#)); for that is our hope. Even though at times it seems we live in a Good Friday world, with the powers of darkness sowing seeds of destruction and evil, wanting us to despair, we are an Easter people. With that assurance, I offer to each of you my prayers for a joyous and Happy Thanksgiving!

We thank Community Church, Englewood, for their gracious hospitality last week (see below for summary of meeting); and we offer our congratulations to Moorings Presbyterian Church of Naples on their 50th anniversary ([click here for news article](#)).

Happy Thanksgiving

Graham

Graham Hart – graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

Highlights of the November 19th Presbytery Meeting:

We gathered at Community Presbyterian Church and heard of the work of the church around the world through Hunter Farrell, Director of World Wide Mission-PCUSA ([click here for World Mission home page](#)), and the witness of Dan and Elizabeth Turk, our Presbytery's Mission Co-Workers in Madagascar ([click here to read Dan's most recent letter](#)).



175
YEARS
OF PRESBYTERIAN
WORLD MISSION
1837-2012



We celebrated the work of our Covenant Mission Partners, [Cedarkirk](#), [Beth El](#), and [Mision Peniel](#), and we offered our gratitude to the vision, passion, and way each of our Covenant Partners is making a difference in the lives of men, women, and children here in Southwest Florida.



We celebrated with First Arcadia, First Naples, and Vanderbilt this new chapter in their lives with the calls of new pastors, and we welcomed Bill Teng ([First, Arcadia](#)), Craig Goodrich ([First, Naples](#)), Tammy Letts ([Vanderbilt, Naples](#)), and Terri Jo Crego ([First, Port Charlotte](#)). Note pictures below: left to right – Bill, Craig, Tami, Terri Jo. We also noted the creative and supportive partnership of Pine Shores and First Port Charlotte, and celebrated with Teri Jo Crego standing for her trials of ordination- ([click here for her first sermon](#)).



We conducted our business, including the approval of our 2016 Budget and the election of our 2016 General Assembly Commissioners:

Teacher Elders – Hmingi Browne, India Dennis, Christopher Carlson

Ruling Elders – Claudia George, Lillian (Lil) Rea, Jerry Fox

Youth Advisory Delegate – Rebecca Deibert

We elected the following officers, committee moderators, and team moderators: Lil Rea - 2016 Moderator, Doug Pratt – 2016 Moderator-Elect, Alan Penick - Treasurer, Kathleen Weller - Moderator of the Steering Committee, Fred Chamberlain - Moderator of the Finance Team and President of the Board of Trustees, Tim Halverson and Charmaine Ponkratz - Co-Moderators of the Committee on Ministry, Trudy Cooke-Hall and Melanie Hamill - Co-Moderators of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Wayne Largent and Karl Kling - Co-Moderators of the Planning Team, Kathi Wiggins - Moderator of the Personnel Team, Ginny Canning - Moderator of the Committee on Nominations and Representation. We also elected approximately 25 other leaders to serve on committees and teams as we continue to be a presbytery that: “affirms congregations, connects disciples in mission, and is the Body of Christ together.”

We celebrated with Carolyn Wilson and Laurie Haas, who were approved as Inquirers under the care of Peace River Presbytery, and we celebrated with Debra Graves, who was approved as a Candidate under the care of Peace River Presbytery. We rejoiced with Terry Jo Crego, a Candidate certified ready to receive a call, that she has been extended a call!

In our necrology we offered thanks for the faithful service of ruling and teaching elders, and lifted up as well Devon Ducheneau, Pastor of Wintergarden Presbyterian, on the death of her father the evening before our meeting. Even in our hard conversations and sadness over dismissing the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Myers to the EPC, and voting on a settlement that will be used for New Church Development and re-development, we recognized that this is God's Church. We prayed at the end of our day that even in our parting, God would bind us in His grace, mercy, forgiveness and love.

We gave thanks for the warm and gracious hospitality offered to us by our host church, Community Presbyterian, and host pastor, Dawn Mayes, and we offered our heartfelt appreciation for all who have served in leadership within the Presbytery this past year.

Summary provided by Graham Hart, General Presbyter

Thank You, Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood!

for your gracious hosting of the Stated Meeting of Presbytery

last Thursday, November 19th.

Your staff and volunteers were wonderful and blessed all with lovely smiles, organization, willingness, delicious food, and gracious hospitality!

Articles of Interest:

[Leading young people to theologically minded faith](#)

United Methodist Reporter: Saying there's no magic potion, no way around hard work, Fred Edie offers suggestions for practice and reflection with the Bible as a primary resource.

[Rick Warren: Paris happened because we're at war with God](#)

Big Think: As part of research for a new book, Derek Beres visits Saddleback Church.

[After the Paris attacks we must resist the urge to claim an eye for an eye](#)

The (London) Guardian: René Girard's answer to mimetic violence is that we have to break the cycle by refusing to mirror our enemies, Giles Fraser says.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation: [On \(not\) responding to terror with terror](#)

[Flannery O'Connor: Finding God in human messiness](#)

U.S. Catholic: Flannery O'Connor's gospel gaze would see through all of this folly, finding sin just about everywhere and God's grace not far behind, Ted Rosean says.

[Religion is changing, fellowship too](#)

Harvard Gazette: Millennials are creating their own style of community, say authors of "How We Gather."

Washington Post: [For millennials, first comes love -- then what?](#)

[Amish.biz](#)

Aeon: The Amish are online, onscreen, and multiplying fast. In their battle with modernity, it's tough to say who's winning.

[Francis cries out for welcoming church: 'House of God refuge, not prison'](#)

National Catholic Reporter: Pope Francis has again forcefully repeated his call that the Catholic church globally should open its doors to everyone, saying the church sometimes even keeps Jesus "prisoner" in its own institutions and does not let him out into the world.

[Love will conquer hate](#)

Baptist News Global: The minute we give in to the fear and violence, hatred and death all around us, we become part of the problem, says the Rev. Amy Butler.



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](tel: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](tel:800-773-7752), ext. 7457 / [215-587-7457](tel:215-587-7457) | F: [215-587-7129](tel: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!

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. Devon Ducheneau (Stated Supply Pastor, Wintergarden P.C.) and Family - through the loss of her father, Glenn Beisser, last week.

Please continue to pray for:

- Rev. Dr. Robert Cousar - health
- 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.
- 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 25-27

Presbytery Office Closed

November 26

Thanksgiving

December 3

Mision Peniel Task Force at Covenant Presbyterian, Ft. Myers
Presbyterian Women at PRP Center, North Port

December 8

Committee On Ministry

December 10

Finance Team / Board of Trustees
Steering Committee



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

<u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Presbyterian Church of the</u> <u>Covenant,</u> Sarasota
<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

