



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – October 8, 2015

Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter

Celebrations and Seminars in Peace River

Mision Peniel 2 Year Celebration - October 22, 2015

Greetings!

Can you believe it's been two years since the Peace River Presbytery assumed the financial and operational responsibility for Mision Peniel in Immokalee? Mision Peniel exists to address the isolation and injustice among the migrant farm workers and others in need in Immokalee, by providing them with support through spiritual and material care.



With your donations and the support and guidance of Pastor Miguel Estrada, the Mision Peniel Task Force, and hundreds of volunteers from area churches, there have been thousands of hot meals, bags of dry food, clothing, diapers, school backpacks, financial assistance, spiritual counseling, prayer and support provided since our Presbytery took over. And the ministry is growing and thriving into the future! Praise the Lord! Come celebrate this two-year milestone as we reflect on our success and provide our vision for the future in an "open house" celebration! Some of our regular recipients at Peniel will also be present to meet with you and share their testimonials. Refreshments will be provided.

Date: Thursday, October 22, 2015

Time: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Place: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2439 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers

Please RSVP no later than October 15 to DeAnne Sawyer, dsa1546@aol.com, 239-728-6550; or Pete Rodino, pvrodino@aol.com, 201-841-9977. Please give the names of those attending.

We look forward to seeing you there! We are so blessed to be servants in this wonderful ministry together.

In His Name,
The Mision Peniel Task Force

Board of Pensions Workshops Coming to Peace River – Save the Dates



The Board of Pensions will offer their highly acclaimed seminars here in Peace River in January. All events will be held at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. Registration will open soon, and each seminar is limited to 30. Please look for the invitation coming from the Board of Pensions, or [click here](#) to go to the registration site. Registration is not yet open.

These seminars are being offered here at the request of the Committee On Ministry and are designed for Peace River Presbytery members and congregations. Since it will be offered here in January, others are apt to come, which is why we suggest that you register early. The “Render Unto Caesar” Seminar is designed for personnel committees, treasurers, and business managers. The new, comprehensive, one day, post-retirement seminar will be offered here for the first time.

January 12-13, 2016: Growing Into Tomorrow ... Today: Be informed, educated, and inspired for a journey toward wholeness in retirement living with our two-day seminar for members and guests within 15 years of retirement. (Pre-retirement planning).

January 14, 2016: Render Unto Caesar: Addressing how to structure terms of call to be more cost-effective and to clarify clergy tax issues, this seminar is for treasurers, administrators, and active clergy (teaching or commissioned ruling elders).

January 15, 2016: Post-Retirement: An informative update on the state of the Pension Plan and other resources, this seminar on post-employment retirement planning is designed for plan retirees, surviving covered partners, and their guests.

Visit the **Board University** ([click here](#)). Note – The Board of Pensions programs and resources are organized into three audiences so you can find what best fits your needs: members, treasurers/administrators, and mid councils.

Also from the Board of Pensions - Check Your Benefits Coverage

Annual enrollment, **now through November 13**, is the chance for employees to review, choose, and change benefits coverage. During this time, employees may:

- change their level of medical coverage;
- enroll in or make changes to dental coverage; and
- apply for or change supplemental death benefits coverage.

Annual enrollment is the only time employees can enroll for, or make changes to, these benefits for 2016, unless they experience a qualifying life event during the year (such as marriage or the birth of a child). It's also a good time for employees to review their savings and investments in the Retirement Savings Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (RSP) in preparation for a secure retirement.

Look for the annual enrollment postcard in your mail soon, and visit pensions.org/annualenrollment for additional information.

ARTICLES and IN THE NEWS:

[Pope tells Synod to be open-minded, cardinal says no to divorced and remarried](#)

National Catholic Reporter: Pope Francis has called on the prelates gathered for his second worldwide meeting of Catholic bishops on family issues to remain open to the call of the Holy Spirit, repeating his frequent assertion that God is a God of surprises.

CruX: [Pope Francis faces an uphill climb to get the synod he wants](#)

[Here we go again](#)

Commonweal: Here we go again, with another horrific campus shooting, the predictable postmortem game of blame, grief, evasion and inaction.

[Why the religion beat poses unique challenges for some reporters](#)

Columbia Journalism Review: A unique challenge facing many religion reporters involves the need to be in one place as a person of faith, and another as a reporter.

[Opposing gay bishops for the sake of church unity is stupid](#)

The (London) Guardian: The Church of England should not worry about gay bishops driving away worshippers -- the current orthodox bench has done that already, says Andrew Brown.

[Investigators of Oregon shooting seek answers as victims are mourned](#)

The New York Times: As people mourned the victims and comforted the survivors, investigators tried to piece together why a gunman went on a shooting rampage at a community college in rural southern Oregon.

[Vatican distances Pope Francis from Kentucky clerk Kim Davis](#)

CruX: Facing mounting controversy over a meeting between Pope Francis and Kim Davis last week, the Vatican said the pontiff did not intend the encounter as a form of support for her case "in all its particular and complex aspects."

[California governor faces final call on right-to-die bill](#)

Religion News Service: California Gov. Jerry Brown has until midnight Oct. 7 to sign or veto a controversial bill that would legalize physician-assisted dying in the nation's most populous state.

[Women in the world of the pope](#)

Baptist News Global: Surely the marginalization of women in the church requires sustained attention, says Molly T. Marshall.

[Francis and Trump: opposites competing for the American soul](#)

Australian Broadcasting Corporation: Donald Trump and Pope Francis are incarnations of the kind of power to which they appeal. To choose between them is to make a basic human decision about the shape of a worthy life.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is looking for transportation help. On October 16th we have the opportunity to transport up to 30 women from Beth-El to Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa for free mammograms. Then on November 23rd we need assistance bringing up to 60 kids to Beth-El for a special Advent workshop. Our existing bus can only fit 14 passengers at a time so we really need help! If a church has a bus we could use for those dates, or volunteers willing to help transport people, please call the mission and speak to Javier at 813-633-1548 ext. 228. ¡Gracias!

Kathy

Kathleen Dain, Executive Director

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[www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)

[October Newsletter](#)

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## **CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

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

[www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org)

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## **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](#))

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS!**

Thursday, October 22, 2:00-4:00 p.m. ~ Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ft. Myers  
Mision Peniel Celebration

Please join us for the 2 year celebration of our Covenant Partner  
under Peace River Presbytery. We are excited!

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Saturday, October 24, 9:30 a.m. ~ Faith Focus Weekend at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Buchanan, Editor of *The Christian Century*

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Wednesday, November 18 ~ Three Locations  
Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of World Mission for the PCUSA

[Informational Brochure with Times and Locations](#)

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Thursday, November 19, 9:30 a.m. ~ Covenant Presbyterian Church, Englewood
Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery

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Saturday, January 23 ~ Church of the Palms  
[The Soul of Caregivers: Nurturing and Reorienting Our Lives](#)  
with Rev. Marjorie Thompson

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## **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

**Prayers for the World – this prayer was from last Sunday... but is worth praying again and again --- World Communion Sunday 2015**



God,

We come to you today with prayers for the world on our hearts. Today we pray for all your creation, for the ways we continue to hurt it for our own convenience, we are sorry, and ask that you help us to do better.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

We pray for Syria, for the war that continues to rage without a lot of us fully understanding, we pray. We pray for the people who are caught in the crossfire of politics and anger. We pray for new leadership, of peace and understanding.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

We pray for Turkey and Hungary, who have taken in most of the world's refugees. God, we ask you to be strongly in those places, that there are enough resources and people are nice. Raise up your caregivers, and work through them, Lord.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

We pray for all the world's refugees. God, we can't begin to imagine what it would be like to be forced away from our homes, uprooted and thrown about, at the mercy of governments who are not inclined to care for us. Help us to understand, and help us to have compassion. That though we don't know, we can still feel.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

We pray continually for Israel and Palestine. We pray for all the people caught up in a conflict so old. Grant care and understanding and patience where there is none. And be strongly on the peacemakers you have raised up in the region.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

God we pray for West and Central Africa, for those who remain afraid of terror and leave their homes out of fear. God, strike down those who seek to hurt the innocent.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

We pray for those in Central and South America who continue to move and migrate in search of life. For those who struggle, even as we gather today, in the shadows of our world, trying to reach a place of safety and welcome. God, soften our hearts that we can begin to understand what would lead someone to risk it all in search of what we already have. May mercy and compassion be our strongholds.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

God we pray today for Guatemala, and all those who just suffered in a mudslide. Be present with those who hurt, those who aid, and those who wait.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

God we pray for those in Oregon this week, and those around our country who continue to be destroyed by gun violence. We lament that this story finds its way into our news again. And we know that lament is no longer enough. Help us to be the generation to solve the problem of gun violence in our country, that our children will not fear the same

things we do.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

God we pray for our neighbors in the Atlantic, for all those affected by this most recent hurricane. God, be there. Be with those who fear, with those who come to aid, and with those who wait here in anxious pain to hear from family. God, be there.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

God, for all these places torn by conflict and disaster, we pray most earnestly for the children. We pray for those like us and younger, who don't even know what security is because they've never felt it. We pray for those who will carry long time scars because of what they've seen and felt. God, help these young ones, and ourselves, to be a generation of mercy, who doesn't repeat the mistakes of those who have gone before us.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

God, we pray for our own country. We pray that you don't let politics and conflict get into our hearts any more than they have. Let us speak truth in love to one another, and let our ears ignore those who speak hate and divide. Help us all to be aware, and to participate, in this country we call ours.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

God, for all these parts of the world we've lifted up, and all those we forget but you don't, we pray. And all of God's children say, **Amen.**

### **PRAISE REPORT:**

**Congratulations** to Rev. Cassie (Associate Pastor, Burnt Store Presbyterian) & Matt Todd, on the birth of their baby girl, Kinsley, last week!

### **PRAYER NEEDS:**

#### **Please pray for:**

- Jim Beckwith - health

#### **Please continue to pray for:**

- Rev. Dr. George and Merle Chorba – loss of his mother, Hilda.
- 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: OCTOBER 2015:**

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| October 4  | <p><u>Church of the Palms, Sarasota</u><br/>         Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen McConnell<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:smcconnell@churchofthepalms.org">smcconnell@churchofthepalms.org</a><br/>         Congregational Care Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hmingi Browne<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:hbrowne@churchofthepalms.org">hbrowne@churchofthepalms.org</a><br/>         Discipleship &amp; Outreach Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bruce Hedgepeth<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:bhedgepeth@churchofthepalms.org">bhedgepeth@churchofthepalms.org</a></p> |
| October 11 | <p><u>First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br/>         Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glen Bell<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:GBell@FirstPresSarasota.org">GBell@FirstPresSarasota.org</a><br/>         Associate Pastor: Rev. Melanie Hamill<br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:MHamill@FirstPresSarasota.org">MHamill@FirstPresSarasota.org</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| October 18 | <p><u>Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br/>         Pastor: Rev. Dr. Christopher Carlson<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:pastorchr@npcsarasota.org">pastorchr@npcsarasota.org</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| October 25 | <p><u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br/>         Co-Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bruce Wismer<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:pastors@pineshorespres.org">pastors@pineshorespres.org</a><br/>         Co-Pastor: Rev. Karen Wismer<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:karen@pineshorespres.org">karen@pineshorespres.org</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: OCTOBER 2015**

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

**October 8**

Nominations / Representation Committee (9:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian)



Board of Trustees / Finance Team (9:30 a.m.)

**October 10**

Records Review Workshop (9:30 a.m. @ Covenant Presbyterian)

**October 14**

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (9:00 a.m.)

**October 22**

Mision Peniel Task Force (11:00 a.m. at Covenant Presbyterian)

Celebration of the Ministry of Mision Peniel (2:00 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian)

**October 24**

Guest Speaker at First Presbyterian, Sarasota (9:30 a.m.)

**October 29**

Nominations / Representation Committee (9:00 a.m.)

Steering Committee (1:30 p.m.)



**CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

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

|                                                                |                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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                                      |



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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                                                    | <a href="#"><u>Presbyterian Church of the</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Covenant,</u></a> Sarasota |
| <a href="#"><u>Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                                              | <a href="#"><u>Siesta Key Chapel,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                          |
| <a href="#"><u>Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Venice                                                                          | <a href="#"><u>Venice Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Venice                                   |
| <a href="#"><u>Community Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Englewood                                                                     | <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Arcadia                                   |
| <a href="#"><u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>North Port                                                                   | <a href="#"><u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Punta Gorda                         |
| Wintergarden Presbyterian Church,<br>Port Charlotte<br><a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com"><u>devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Port Charlotte                            |
| <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                               |

