

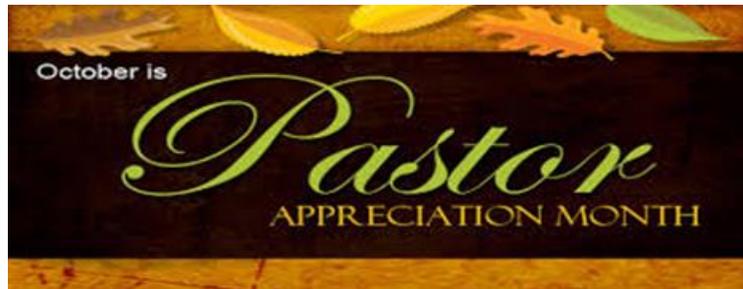


PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – October 21, 2015

Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter



A Shout Out to Our Pastors in Peace River Presbytery

As a people in the reformed tradition, we value the “priesthood of all believers.” As Paul wrote to the church at Corinth: Every member of every congregation has a role, a place, a gift:

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.” (1 Cor: 12:4-6).

Yet as Paul also wrote: *“Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13a). So, October has been designated Pastor Appreciation Month.

At one point in our recent past, a pastor’s role and responsibility was very specific and very limited: preacher, teacher, and pastor. Today, a pastor in the 21st century culture and context is expected to do many more things, even though those three are at the top of the list. The following [“Wordle”](#) captures the many roles and responsibilities of a pastor today.



If you want to read a good summary of the changing demands, growing expectations, new competencies and complexities of being a pastor today, The Alban Institute, several years ago, posted “The 12 Characteristics of Effective 21st Century Ministry” ([click here to read](#)). Also, the Washington Post had a timely article on “How a Consumer Culture Threatens to Destroy Pastors,” which is a must read for pastors and sessions ([click here to read](#)).

I am well aware that every profession has seen its role and work become more complex, but on behalf of us all, I offer my thanks and strong word of appreciation and affirmation to the 135 Teaching Elder Members of Peace River Presbytery who are pastors, associate pastors, parish associates, interims, chaplains, teachers or honorably retired.

In addition to their particular congregational responsibility, given our connectional form of governance, in which the Presbytery - as a whole - functions as our corporate bishop, teaching and ruling elders are called upon to serve in the councils and governance of the larger church, which includes the presbytery. For that special role and work, I offer my heart-felt appreciation for the wisdom, council, and service each teaching elder gives to Peace River Presbytery.

About 70 of our members are retired, never-the-less they give of time and effort and service to the congregations where they worship, as well as continuing to serve in leadership roles in the Presbytery, and to each of them I offer a word of appreciation for years of faithful ministry and continued service.

With appreciation and thanks!

Graham Hart
General Presbyter
graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

MISION PENIEL CELEBRATION

Thursday, October 22, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Location: Covenant Presbyterian Church
2439 McGregor Blvd. / Fort Myers, 33901-3385

All are invited to join in on the Celebration of the Ministry of Mision Peniel.



Articles of Interest:

[Christians on wane in Middle East and Africa, report says](#)

The Irish Times: Christianity could be on course to disappear from the principal countries of the “ancient biblical heartland” of the faith, according to a report issued by Aid to the Church in Need, a Catholic charity.

[Four questions fundraisers must be prepared to answer](#)

Working Knowledge: Howard H. Stevenson, a Harvard Business School expert on entrepreneurialism and himself a philanthropist, explains why people give and how fundraisers can reach them.

[Open doors and lingering pain at Charleston church where 9 were killed](#)

New York Times: Four months after one of the worst racially motivated massacres in recent American history, the members of this historic African-American church are laboring to return to the everyday rhythms of worship. But they also know that things will never be the same.

[Sunday think pieces: Is it time for Catholics to split into three different flocks?](#)

Get Religion: Blogger Terry Mattingly analyzes news coverage of the 2015 Synod of Bishops, from the Chicago Tribune to Crux.

[What do you believe?](#)

NPR: On Sunday, a seven-part documentary series “Belief” began airing on the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN). In an interview, creative director David Shadrack Smith says that being “immersed in some of inner sanctums of the world — from Mecca to the Hasidic community in New York to events that have rarely been filmed among Native Americans and Aborigine communities — was a privilege and a responsibility.”

[Oldest King James Bible draft discovered: Did translators work alone?](#)

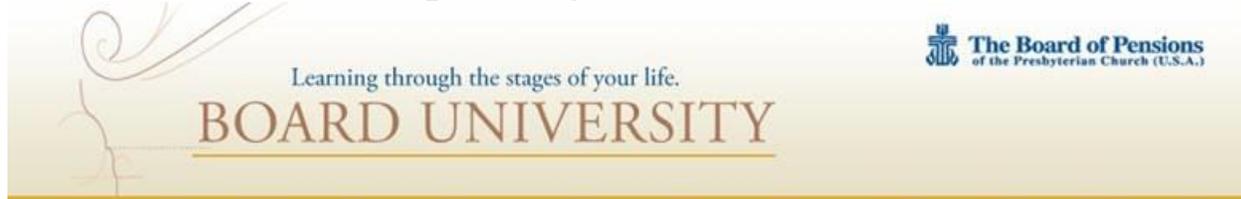
Christian Science Monitor: An American scholar has found the earliest known draft of the King James Bible, hidden in a 400-year-old notebook in a British library. It is the only draft ever found in a hand that can be definitively identified as belonging to one of the King James translators themselves.

Times Literary Supplement: [Fruit of good labours](#)

[Palestinian rioters torch Jewish holy site Joseph's Tomb](#)

BBC: Rioters set fire to a tomb revered as that of the biblical figure Joseph. This was the latest in an upsurge in violence that began last month when tensions at a flashpoint holy site in Jerusalem boiled over amid rumors Israel planned to relax long-standing rules to increase Jewish rights at the complex.

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.

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

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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

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Lunch Reservations will be required. More information next week.

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

## **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

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www.beth-el.org

[October Newsletter](#)

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

Cedarkirk Youth Retreat

Calling all youth groups! On November 13th-15th, Cedarkirk is offering a new youth event called Fusion designed for both middle school and high school groups. Rev. Loli Reiter will be our keynote speaker and preacher as we explore how we can live boldly for God. You can find out more and even register your group at

www.cedarkirk.org/programs/youthretreat/.

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, 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. ~ Community 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

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following are position openings in PRP churches.  
Click on the title for more information.

[Communications Coordinator](#) – Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

### PRAYER NEEDS:

#### Please pray for:

- Alesia Sharpe – at home with chicken pox.

#### Please continue to pray for:

- Jim Beckwith - health
- 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 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                                      |
| <a href="#">Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota   | <a href="#">Presbyterian Church of the<br/>Covenant,</a> Sarasota                                  |

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