



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – September 1, 2015

Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter

The last of the Regional Presbytery Gatherings will be on Thursday, September 3rd at Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch. Fellowship will begin at 9:00 a.m.; the agenda starts at 9:30 and concludes with lunch. Please R.S.V.P. to the Church Office, 941-753-7778.

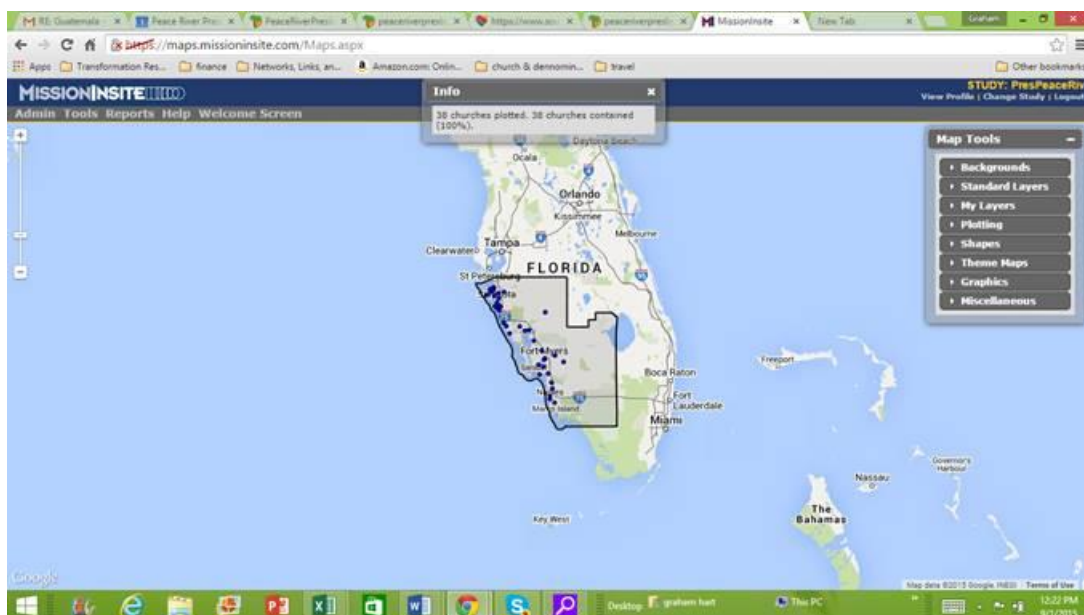
Last week, at the Southern Regional Gathering, we had 70 ruling and teaching elders from 11 churches gathered at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church. As with the Central Regional Gathering there was great conversation, much learning, and a desire that we do more of this as a presbytery.

At each of the gathering we have had conversation related to how some of our congregations in Peace River are beginning to explore:

Ministry to Baby-Boomers,

Asking what it means to be missional in our contact (i.e. What is God up to in our neighborhood? What are the needs we see in our area? How is God inviting, calling, and sending us to respond?)

Using the ministry/demographic tool called **MissionInsite**... which we learned about at our September 2014 Presbytery Meeting. At that meeting, Chuck Salter, President of MissionInsite gave a presentation on why knowing our neighbor is an essential part of the mission of every church and what resources MissionInsite can provide.



Since not everyone was able to be at last September's meeting, there have been questions at each of the regional gathering related to accessing MissionInsite. MissionInsite is dedicated to supporting the mission of congregations by

providing them with a personalized system that includes high quality demographic research, real-time analysis, and easy to use web-based discovery tools. This is a fantastic resource that can benefit every congregation. The Presbytery is a member of the MissionInsite network, so this demographic tool is available to every PRP congregation for free.

On the bottom of front page of the [Presbytery's web site](#), there is a link to MissionInsight, with instructions on how to use it. ([Click here to for the link](#)).

You are able to get a customized report on the neighborhood, and even define (i.e. using a polygon you draw) the exact neighborhood from which your members come and the community that you serve. In case you are curious, I have attached the macro look of the whole of Peace River Presbytery, and what they call the QuickInsite Report. You can get a much more detailed report of the community that surrounds your church, which can be a help to you as you plan, pray, discern, and determine your congregation's mission and ministry.

With gratitude for the journey we are on as Peace River Presbytery,

Graham

Graham Hart

General Presbyter

graham@peaceriverpresbytery.org

FALL REGIONAL GATHERINGS:

The final of the three gatherings is:

Thursday, September 3 @ Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch

9:30 a.m. (with lunch)

Contact the Church Office, 941-753-7778, to make lunch reservations.

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This is not a Stated Meeting, 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.

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The next **STATED MEETING of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY** is scheduled for:

Thursday, November 19, 2015

at Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

[Distant churches and the isolated poor: lessons from Katrina, ten years later](#)

Religion Dispatches: The social storms that have ravaged vulnerable urban contexts have also impacted church life.

[Mission impossible? Meet the new chaplains](#)

The (London) Guardian: A growing number of religious figures in the UK have stepped outside their places of worship to work as chaplains in the unlikely of places.

[Marble Collegiate Church says Donald Trump is not an active member](#)

Christian Post: The historic Marble Collegiate Church in Manhattan said Friday that the billionaire real estate mogul is not an active member.

[Guns make American elites understand maddening frustration](#)

America: Gun control is one of the rare issues that make many "elite" voters -- well-educated, financially secure inhabitants of the Northeast Corridor and the West Coast -- feel utterly impotent.

[A look at Catholic back-to-school ... um, 'fashion'](#)

Crux: Death, taxes, and Catholic school uniforms: Some things in life are certain.

[Happy Feast of St. Augustine](#)

National Catholic Reporter: Today is the Feast of St. Augustine. Apart from the writers of the books of Scripture, no single person has had a greater impact on the development of doctrine in the Latin Church than Augustine.

[Pope Francis embraces the mystical side of the Catholic Church](#)

Washington Post: A pope who has become the darling of intellectuals, even atheists, is also fully embracing some of the most fervent forms of worship within the Catholic Church.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

www.beth-el.org

[August Newsletter](#)

[June 2015 Update and Financial Appeal](#)

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

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](#))

SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, September 13, 2015, 4:00 p.m.

Installation Service for The Reverend Tamara Letts

Associate Pastor, Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

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Saturday, October 24, 2015, 9:30 a.m. ~ First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

Guest Speaker: Rev. John Buchanan, Editor of *The Christian Century*

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Saturday, January 23, 2016 ~ 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.

[Organist](#) – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

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

[Director of Christian Education](#) – Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

PRAYER NEEDS:

Please continue to pray for:

- 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: SEPTEMBER 2015:

September 6	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte</u> Pastor: Pulpit Supply email: pastor@fpcpc.com office@fpcpc.com
September 13	<u>Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte</u> Pastor: Rev. Devon Ducheneau email: devon.ducheneau@gmail.com

September 20	<u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Stewart email: sunburn1320@mac.com Associate Pastor: Rev. Cassie Todd email: pastorcassie@embarqmail.com
September 27	<u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Karl Kling email: KarlKlingdmin@gmail.com

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 2015

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

September 3

Regional Gathering at Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch
 Records Review Workshop at Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch (1:00 p.m.)
 Presbyterian Women at PRP Center, North Port (10:00 a.m.)

September 7

Labor Day – Peace River Presbytery Office Closed

September 8

Committee On Ministry

September 10

Finance Team / Board of Trustees

September 13

Installation Service for Rev. Tamara Letts @ Vanderbilt, Naples

September 14

Nominations Committee
 Planning Team

September 17

Steering Committee (1:30 p.m.)

September 21

Mision Peniel Task Force @ Covenant, Fort Myers



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, Port Charlotte devon.ducheneau@gmail.com	First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte
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

<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