



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – April 20, 2016
Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Presbytery Guest

“Walking Wet” – Baptism and the Christian Life

What difference does it make to be baptized? Most of us think of baptism as a one-time event that we may or may not remember. At its most profound level, however, baptism is a lifelong journey—to be a Christian is to go through life “walking wet.” To be baptized is to be made one with Christ and all those he loves, which means that nothing can ever be the same.

In our time together at the April Presbytery Meeting we will explore the depth of meaning of baptism and how our sacramental practices can change us, our church, and the world. The keynote time will lead directly into the worship time, so we will be doing some of the things we will talk about. Through it all, we will invite the Holy Spirit into our midst, recalling what God has done, and continues to do, through the gift of water, and be renewed for our callings to live the baptized life.



Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long is the Associate Professor of Worship at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. Dr. Long is interested in the formation of ministers for liturgical leadership in the church, with a particular emphasis on the sacramental and eschatological dimensions of worship. In addition to working in the area of liturgical language, she is currently researching the theology and history of marriage. She also serves as the editor and writer for the Preaching on the Word lectionary series. Dr. Long has a wonderful connection to Peace River Presbytery through her mother. Her mother lives in Englewood, FL and worships at Community Presbyterian Church. She is married to Tom Long, the preaching professor at Candler School of Theology with Emory University, and they are enjoying spending time with their children and grandchildren.

STATED MEETING of PRESBYTERY

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

3131 61st Street / Sarasota / 34243

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Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.

\*Finance Forum at 9:00-9:25 a.m., with the Treasurer and Board of Trustees,  
for everyone interested in learning more  
about the Presbytery’s budget and the *Three Streams of Giving*.

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**** Lunch reservations are required by Friday, April 22. ****

Lunch is \$10.00, payable at registration,
and is a sandwich lunch from Jason's Deli.

To make reservations, contact Lori at the Presbytery Office,
lori@peacriverpresbytery.org / 941-426-8421.

*Include your name and your church name.

Group reservations must include the names of all included.

(Please note: reservations are only required for lunch, not for the meeting.)

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The packet for the meeting will be posted on the  
Presbytery's web site on Thursday, April 21.

## **BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.**

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

Summer will be here before you know it! Beth-El has numerous mission opportunities for adults and youth. From leading Vacation Bible School, to work groups helping out in our community, to scholarships for kids to go to camp at Cedarkirk, there are many ways your church can help support this valuable mission. Call Javier today at 813-633-1548 ext. 228, or email him at [Javier@beth-el.org](mailto:Javier@beth-el.org) to learn more.

### Summer Employment Opportunity:

Beth-El is looking for an older teen or adult to lead the summer youth activities.

The position will lead all youth activities; serve as a liaison with Cedarkirk for our scholarship program, and assist the operations manager in coordinating incoming mission teams. A valid driver's license is required. For more information, or to apply, please contact Beth-El at [info@beth-el.org](mailto:info@beth-el.org).

*Kathy*

Kathleen Dain  
Executive Director

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www.beth-el.org
[April Newsletter](#)

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

Summer is coming soon! It is hard to believe, but summer camp preparations are already underway. This summer's theme, FEARLESS FAITH, will help campers focus on how they become part of, gain support from, and build their own Christ-centered communities. By looking at leaders from the Bible who used communities given to them by God, campers will be empowered to draw courage from friends, family, and community, stand up to injustice and help change attitudes, forgive others, and connect to and welcome all people. Please help Cedarkirk by letting the children and youth of your church or community know about the unique opportunities available this summer. We are also looking for volunteer nurses and worship leaders for the week-long sessions.

If you have any questions, please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224 or visit 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](#))

RELIGION IN THE NEWS – ARTICLES THAT HAVE COME ACROSS MY DESK OR BEEN SENT TO ME (Graham):

[Pope Francis takes refugees to Rome after Lesbos visit](#)

The (London) Guardian: Pontiff visits Greek island to highlight refugee crisis, telling crowds: "We hope the world will heed these scenes of tragic need."

[Bernie Sanders embraces Catholic social teaching at Vatican, echoing Francis' cry against indifference](#)

National Catholic Reporter: U.S. Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders embraced decades of Catholic social teaching in a brief visit to the Vatican Friday.

[Approaching God, inch-by-inch](#)

U.S. Catholic: Flannery O'Connor has long been a favorite subject of both religious and secular critics, but has also become a fount for creative works.

[Catholicism's multi-billion dollar brand is struggling despite Pope Francis](#)

The Conversation: The clergy sex abuse scandal has irreparably tarnished the Catholic brand for many. But the more fundamental threat to Catholicism is irrelevance.

[How South Carolina could fail refugees and religion](#)

The Washington Post: South Carolina legislation would force social service agencies and houses of worship to register any refugees they help resettle and hold them liable in civil court for any crimes those refugees might commit.

[Americans are becoming more socially liberal -- except when it comes to divorce](#)

The Washington Post: Contrary to popular belief, marriage is probably more respected and admired than ever before -- just not in a way that encourages millennials to partake in it.

[Church design, sacred spaces, and the loss of symbol](#)

Christian Week: Rather than allow our controlling message of Christ to inform and shape our church designs, we have instead created an empty medium, void of meaning.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following are position openings in PRP churches.

Click on the title for more information.

[Part-Time Employment Positions](#) – Chapel By The Sea, Fort Myers Beach

PRAYER NEEDS:

Please pray for:

· The people of Ecuador following a terrible earthquake. We are thankful that our own Rev. Dr. Ray Quiles (St. Paul's, North Port), who was in Ecuador at the time on a mission trip, was not injured.

Please continue to pray for:

- Rev. Dr. Doug and Jeanne Pratt – Jeanne's sister, Sue, passed away two weeks ago in Ohio.
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – recovering from neck surgery; is now at home.
- Mrs. Liz Countiss & daughter, Terri Countiss – Pray for comfort and peace in the loss of Rev. Craig Countiss.
- Jim & Becky 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
- 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

CHURCH PRAYER GUIDE: APRIL 2016:

April 3	<u>Christ Church of Longboat Key</u> Stated Supply Pastor: Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard Email: revnmp@outlook.com
April 10	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Pastor: Rev. Craig Goodrich Email: PJACgood@verizon.net
April 17	<u>Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk email: jimkirk12122234@gmail.com

April 24

Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Learned
email: jsullivan@mooringschurch.org
Associate Pastor: Rev. Jaci Smith Patman
email: jpatman@mooringschurch.org

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: APRIL 2016

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

April 20

Mision Peniel Task Force @ Covenant P.C., Ft. Myers (9:30 -11:30 a.m.)

April 21

Personnel Team (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

Church & Community Blessings Grants Initiative (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

April 22-23

Cedarkirk Spring Bash

April 28

Stated Meeting of Presbytery at Northminster, Sarasota



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

<u>Christ Church of Longboat Key</u> Longboat Key	<u>Peace Presbyterian Church,</u> Lakewood Ranch
<u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Church of the Palms,</u> Sarasota
<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Northminster Presbyterian Church,</u> 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>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