



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ August 23, 2016
Rev. Graham P. Hart, General Presbyter

FUNDING YOUR MINISTRY:

**Three Workshops – Two Dates – At a Location Near You
September 27 and September 28, 2016**

Are you living in a state of scarcity and longing for abundance? Do you long for your church's members to enjoy the spiritual rewards of a generous life? These interactive workshops will help you communicate with different generations of donors, integrate all aspects of your church into the giving culture, and teach the spirituality of generosity. Expect to leave these workshops with a new excitement and energy about your church's generous future. The workshops will be offered at 2 locations on September 27th and 28th, and are designed for finance and stewardship committees, treasurers, business managers, pastors and all ruling elders. We hope each congregation is able to send a team to these workshops so as to be able to best implement the strategies that you will learn.

- Pine Shores Presbyterian Church- Sarasota - September 27 (Tues.), 9:00a.m.-3:30p.m.
- First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs - September 28 (Wed.), 9:00a.m.-3:30p.m.

WORKSHOP DETAILS

Culture of Generosity

9:00-11:30 AM

Led by Robert Hay, Jr.

Description: Is your congregation's approach to stewardship stuck in a rut? Are you living in a state of scarcity and longing for abundance? This workshop will outline a program that has moved churches from a four-week stewardship campaign to a year-round culture of generosity. Learn how to form your Generosity Team, how to create an activities calendar for your church's funds ministry, how to prepare a narrative budget, and how to integrate all aspects of your church into the life of generosity.

Planned Giving, Legacy Funds, and Endowments

12:15-1:30 PM

Led by Robert Hay, Jr.

Description: Does your church provide an opportunity for church members to leave their faith legacy to the church. Come learn the basics about how to set up an effective planned giving and wills emphasis program. Learn the policies you need in order to have endowments and legacy funds. Walk away with ideas for the simple ways you can begin to invite people to leave their faith legacy to the church.

Capital Campaigns

1:45-3:00 PM

Led by John Elder Wray

Description: This workshop will help churches determine their readiness to launch a capital campaign. It will look at those elements that need to be in place for a campaign to reach its full potential. The workshop will also present an overview of the components of an active campaign from campaign launch to Dedication Sunday and throughout the pledging period.

Robert Hay Jr. serves as the Presbyterian Foundation's Ministry Relations Officer for the Southeast. He works with congregations to create a culture of generosity, offers seminars and workshops, develops gifts and fundraising plans for ministries, and provides coaching to finance, stewardship, and endowment committees. Robert holds bachelor's degree in business administration from Auburn University and a Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in nonprofit management from Georgia State University. He is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Peachtree City where his wife, Rev. Morgan Hay, serves as the pastor. They live in Peachtree City, a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia, with their children, Stockton and Anderson.

John Elder Wray is an independent Funds Development Consultant for the Presbyterian Foundation, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and Church Campaign Services. As a consultant for the Presbyterian Foundation, John works with small membership churches and churches with smaller dollar capital needs. Previously, John was the Coordinator for Church Financial Campaign Service (CFCS) of the PC(USA). John has provided direct campaign counsel to many churches and has been involved with church and presbytery feasibility studies, stewardship programs and capital campaigns as a part of CFCS, CCS and the Presbyterian Foundation since 1999.

If you have questions, please contact either Alan Penick, Treasurer of Peace River Presbytery, or myself. I am grateful to the Finance Team/Board of Trustees of Peace River Presbytery for planning this timely subject, for the Presbyterian Foundation for providing the leadership for these workshops, and the hospitality of Pine Shores and First, Bonita.

Grateful for God's Abundance!

Graham

Graham Hart
General Presbyter
graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

[The spiritual life of American teenagers](#)

U.S. Catholic: Catholic teens are looking for quiet spaces to develop personal relationships with Jesus through prayer and contemplation.

[On LGBT equality, middle ground is disappearing](#)

Religion News Service: Middle ground is disappearing on the question of LGBT equality -- and on the related question of whether religious institutions should be allowed to continue discriminating due to their doctrinal beliefs.

[Churches can change Zimbabwe, says #ThisFlag pastor Evan Mawarire](#)

Christian Today: Churches are the "game-changing voice" in the future of Zimbabwe, according to the pastor forced to leave the country after criticising the regime of President Robert Mugabe.

[Teen's online church draws young people from around the world](#) - Founded and pastored by a Tacoma teenager, The Robloxian Christians is a real -- albeit virtual -- church where young people gather to worship, pray and connect. And it has important lessons for those who lead traditional churches and church-related institutions. [> Read more](#)

[Now streaming on Facebook Live: Christianity](#)

OZY: Facebook Live has become a digital pulpit for a growing number of pastors, priests and other religious leaders.

[What clergy are hearing from Francis: 'Presence, mercy and service'](#)

Crux: The basic takeaways that Catholic clergy seem to be drawing from Pope Francis can be expressed in three words: Presence, mercy and service.

[What to do when you've made a bad decision](#)

Harvard Business Review: Here's what to do when you're starting to realize you've made a bad decision.

[Memory is key for more hopeful future](#)

National Catholic Reporter: Young people's chances of making the world a more secure, more loving, more nurturing place improve dramatically when they know what came before them.

SEPTEMBER REGIONAL GATHERINGS

THEME: DISCIPLESHIP

All are invited to attend any of the following gatherings. These are not Presbytery Stated Meetings, but rather a chance to gather with other PRP churches in your region and share, encourage, and be encouraged.

The Fall Regional Gatherings held last year (2015) were well received and the attendees were excited and encouraged to have had the opportunity to gather with others from their area.

Thursday, September 1: South Region

Location: Hope United Presbyterian Church
7470 Hickory Rd SE, Fort Myers, 33912
Time: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Reservation: Yes ... by Thursday, August 25. Contact church office at 239-267-3331.
Meal: Breakfast - \$5.00 per person

Wednesday, September 7: Central Region

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
5550 Sumter Blvd., North Port, 34287
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Reservation: Yes ... by Wednesday, August 31. Contact church office at 941-426-2552.
Meal: Breakfast - \$5.00 per person

Thursday, September 8: North Region

Location: Oak Pointe Church (*formerly Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church*)
7045 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, 34243 (the address of Whitfield Estates)
Time: 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Reservation: Yes ... by Thursday, September 1. Contact church office at 941-355-0440.
Meals: Light morning refreshments & light lunch - \$10.00 per person

Mark your calendars and save the dates! Remember to call the church office with your reservation by the deadline listed for that location.

Special Called Meeting of Peace River Presbytery

Thursday, September 8, 2016

1:00 p.m.

Oak Pointe Church, Sarasota (same location as Regional Gathering)

Purpose:

Examining Candidates for Ordination
Approving Pastoral Relationships/Validated Ministries

[View announcement of meeting.](#)

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

Job Opportunity: Mission Outreach Resource Coordinator ([click for job description](#)).

*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 to learn more.

*Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is planning its 40th anniversary celebration for the week of November 5th-6th. In preparation, we are seeking individuals willing to donate their air miles to help support national speakers who will be traveling to Beth-El to speak at the event. For more information, or to donate, please contact Kathy Dain at 813-633-1548.

Kathy

Kathleen Dain
Executive Director

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

## CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

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

*The dust from summer camp has settled and the singing and laughter of exuberant campers and summer staff have been replaced by the twitter of crickets and cicadas. We are entering our fall ministry of hospitality and look forward to welcoming all of the guests and retreat groups who call this place a home away from home.*

*We invite you to join us as we celebrate 45 years of camp and conference ministry during our annual Homecoming Weekend, September 2-4, 2016. Whether you can spend the weekend or visit us on Saturday only, we'd love to welcome you back to this special place as we fellowship and worship together.*

*Thank you for supporting Cedarkirk and holding this ministry in your prayers for the last 45 years.  
We look forward to witnessing God's handiwork here in the years to come!*

For additional information, please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224 or visit [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org).

## MISION PENIEL

*A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee*

The Mision Peniel Team 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](#))

## PRAYER NEEDS

**Please continue to pray for:**

- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – upcoming neck surgery on August 26 in Naples.
- Alesia Sharpe and Family – loss of 23-year old cousin, Kaleb, on August 15.
- Rev. Ruth Schaaff’s Family – loss of her son-in-law, and of Chip’s sister.
- Rev. David King – recovery from an aortic valve replacement.
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – recovering from injuries sustained (and subsequent surgeries) when he was hit while bicycle riding. Also, pray for Phil and Elizabeth’s niece and husband, Priscilla and Ron Kosedner, through the loss of their 2 ½ year old son, Elias.
- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel - health
- Joyce Dunn (Administrator of St. Paul’s Presbyterian) and family – loss of 38 year old daughter, Aimee, on August 7.
- Jim & Becky Beckwith - health
- 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: AUGUST 2016:**

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| August 7  | <u>Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Chuck Wiggins<br>email: <a href="mailto:cjw049@gmail.com">cjw049@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| August 14 | <u>Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice</u><br>Senior Pastor: Rev. Chris Romig<br>email: <a href="mailto:cromig@venicepres.org">cromig@venicepres.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Lyn Olson<br>email: <a href="mailto:lolson@venicepres.org">lolson@venicepres.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Todd Reinschmidt<br>email: <a href="mailto:treinschmidt@venicepres.org">treinschmidt@venicepres.org</a> |

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| August 21 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Bill Teng<br>email: <a href="mailto:pastor@FirstPC.church">pastor@FirstPC.church</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| August 28 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs</u><br>Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Pratt<br>email: <a href="mailto:dpratt@fpcbbonita.org">dpratt@fpcbbonita.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Steven Grant<br>email: <a href="mailto:sgrant@fpcbbonita.org">sgrant@fpcbbonita.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Bradley Rogers<br>email: <a href="mailto:brogers@fpcbbonita.org">brogers@fpcbbonita.org</a> |

## PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: AUGUST 2016

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

### August 25

Congregational Vitality and Growth Task Force (1:00-3:00 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                                       |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                                                      | <a href="#"><u>Church of the Palms,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                        |
| <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                                                          | <a href="#"><u>Northminster Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                           |
| <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>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                                     |

[Moorings Presbyterian Church,](#)

Naples

[Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,](#)

Naples