



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



## Weekly Presbytery Letter – July 19, 2016 Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

### PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

On Wednesday June the 8<sup>th</sup> I was invited to join with a group at the First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte to talk about the mission of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. While driving to the church, from Naples, I had time to reflect.

I remembered the group that I joined, bringing church members from Naples, to help First Presbyterian begin the job of clean up after hurricane Charley in August of 2004. That trip was two days after the storm. I remembered the signs of hurricane Charley along I-75 which included many blue tarps, downed utility poles and bended trees. And I realized that this would be the first presentation that I would make since accepting the position of the USA Associate for National Disaster for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. That call will begin on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Before and after the presentation I talked with many members of the congregation who clearly remembered hurricane Charley and the aftereffects. The members recalled the intensity of the storm, the need to evacuate and the long process of recovery.

Yet, what was more significant, they remembered the outpouring of support from Peace River Presbytery, as work teams responded from sister churches to repair the physical damage and support the emotional and spiritual healing. They also remembered the outpouring of support from Presbyterians throughout the country through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

I have a 20 year history with PDA as a volunteer. Time and time again I have rejoiced as I saw the connectional nature of the church in action. Time and time again the mission of PDA was evident, *“PDA enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events.”*

Presbyterians have traditionally been very good at organization and through PDA Presbyterians have had the opportunity to witness to the healing love of Christ. I am proud yet humbled to lend my efforts to continue this good work.

I wrote this article on Sunday after worship, during the service we prayed for those impacted by the events in France and Turkey. In the midst of writing this article I became aware of yet another act of violence that took place in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

During the past 20 years PDA has responded to many human caused disaster events. Once again the connectional nature of our church remains strong. We will be standing with those communities. Presbyterians will continue to faithfully respond to communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events.

At a time when life seems overwhelming, I think back to these grounding words, *"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."* May we all do something today and tomorrow and the day after to witness to the healing love of Christ wherever we may be.

Peace,  
Jim Kirk

## ARTICLES of INTEREST:

### [The numbness of Nice](#)

Pacific-Standard: The writer recalls a trip to Nice, where he and a stranger shared a connection over terror attacks in Paris and San Bernardino. And now Nice is the latest landscape of terror.

### [What black Christians need from white Christians now](#)

Christianity Today: In this installment of CT's Quick to Listen podcast, Joshua DuBois, the former head of the White House's Office of Faith-Based Partnerships, discusses how majority-culture Christians can avoid shutting down conversations with those of color and why anger should not be a deterrent to engagement.

### [AME Church: Climate change disproportionately hurts blacks](#)

Religion News Service: African Methodist Episcopal Church members have joined the call of other religious leaders for action on climate change, citing its disproportionate effect on the health of black people.

### [In Vt., a Jewish community rises like the mountains](#)

The Boston Globe: At a time when Jewish leaders across America are fretting over declining membership in many synagogues, the 21-year-old Jewish Community of Greater Stowe, the first organized Jewish community in this renowned resort town's 223-year history, is growing rapidly.

### [Wired Founder Kevin Kelly on the technologies that will dominate our future](#)

Smithsonian Magazine: The optimistic futurist says we'll share more, own less and spend far more time on our devices.

### [United Methodist Church elects first openly gay bishop, in defiance of church rules](#)

NPR: Representatives of the United Methodist Church have elected their first openly gay bishop, in defiance of church prohibitions on homosexuality.

### [Dear non-racist white people: stop saying we're not racist](#)

Baptist News Global: Kyndall Rae Rothaus wonders if we are creating a system in which it is more important to win than to be human, more compelling to be right than to be empathetic, more pleasing to cast yourself as victim than to own your mistakes and improve.

### [Framing the bottom line on opposition to Pope Francis](#)

Crux: There's nothing new about opposition to popes. What's likely new today is the pope's own style, the media universe, and the accelerating polarization of the culture, which makes everything seem louder and nastier.

### [The agony and ecstasy of Saint Theresa, the vicar's daughter](#)

The (London) Guardian: This was the formative world of Great Britain's new prime minister -- unflashy service, community, warts and all, and personal sacrifice.

['God break racism!' Evangelicals on D.C. Mall pray for hope and reconciliation](#)

The Washington Post: Thousands of evangelicals gathered around the Washington Monument to recommit to prayer and hope at a time of intense racial and political polarization and growing secularism.

**Registration Deadline approaching – This is a great conference in our backyard!**



<https://pma.pcusa.org/ministries/evangelism-church-growth/go-disciple-live-be-light/>

The Go Disciple Live "Be the Light" Conference, formerly known as the Evangelism and Church Growth Conference, is a vibrant gathering of Presbyterians committed to disciple-making, which leads to authentic evangelism, effective church transformation, justice, and church planting through 1001 new worshipping communities. It will be held at the [Trade Winds Island Resorts](#) in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

The plenary speakers will engage us in some compelling talks and conversations: Casey Fitzgerald, biblical storytelling; Mike Breen, disciple making; and Ralph Watkins, authentic evangelism. We hope you will join us for a week of inspiration, nurture, and equipping. As we explore our theme of "Be the Light" (Matthew 5:14–16) through plenary speakers, workshops, affinity groups, and shared community, we pray we will experience the Holy Spirit strengthening us to follow Jesus into our neighborhoods and communities.

On-site check in will be open Monday, August 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Welcome and orientation will begin at 5:30 p.m. The conference concludes with worship on Thursday, August 11, at 7:00 p.m.

[REGISTRATION](#)

[CONFERENCE HOTELS/TRAVEL](#)

[EXHIBITORS/SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

[PLENARY SPEAKERS](#)

[TUESDAY & THURSDAY WORKSHOPS](#)

[WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS](#)

## REGISTRATION ([CLICK HERE](#))

Persons staying at a conference hotel (includes three lunches and two dinners):

(last day to register - July 15): **\$350**

Persons not staying at a conference hotel:

Florida resident commuter with meals: **\$275**

Commuter without meals: **\$225**

**Registration deadline: July 15, 2016**

Register online at: [pcusa.org/Bethe light](http://pcusa.org/Bethe%20light)

## Education Advocates Needed for Faith Place Safety

The Committee on Ministry is creating an initiative for promoting safe worship places and spaces, healthy relationship boundaries, healing, hope and welcome through education awareness, prevention and resources.

Two members of COM are providing leadership to the effort but need to add specific skills to the work team. Those skills are:

- \*someone who is involved with children or youth and has an interest in evaluating the educational/training resources available in this field
- \*someone who is media savvy and could assist with videography, DVD production, or web site links

The time commitment will be limited to 90 days and primarily consisting of teleconference meetings, working/evaluating/planning in the convenience of your 'home' office.

If you feel called to serve, please contact Cynthia Brasher at [cynthia.brasher@leememorial.org](mailto:cynthia.brasher@leememorial.org)

## 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.

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

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

\*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.

\*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)  
[July Newsletter](#)

**CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

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

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

**Summer is here!** 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](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](#))

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- [Pastoral Intern – Overview](#) – [Position Description](#) – Siesta Key Chapel

### PRAYER NEEDS

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

- Rev. David King – scheduled for aortic valve replacement surgery today.

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

- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – seriously injured when struck by a car while riding his bicycle. Phil has had surgery on both hips and more, and is recovering.
- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel - health
- Amy Dunn (daughter of Joyce Dunn, Administrator of St. Paul's Presbyterian) – 38 years old; in Hospice care in Port Charlotte with stage 4 cancer; 3 children. Please pray for Joyce and the family also.
- 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: JULY 2016:**

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 3  | <u>Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Christopher Carlson<br>email: <a href="mailto:pastorchrist@npcsarasota.org">pastorchrist@npcsarasota.org</a>                                                                                                     |
| July 10 | <u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br>Co-Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bruce Wismer<br>email: <a href="mailto:bruce@pineshorespres.org">bruce@pineshorespres.org</a><br>Co-Pastor: Rev. Karen Wismer<br>email: <a href="mailto:karen@pineshorespres.org">karen@pineshorespres.org</a> |

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|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 17 | <u>Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Michael Mansperger<br>email: <a href="mailto:covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net">covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net</a> |
| July 24 | <u>Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kathleen (Kathi) Wiggins<br>email: <a href="mailto:pastork@comcast.net">pastork@comcast.net</a>                                     |
| July 31 | <u>Oak Pointe Church (formerly Whitfield Estates), Bradenton</u><br>Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Jane Jones-Norris<br>email: <a href="mailto:jjn7416@gmail.com">jjn7416@gmail.com</a>     |

### PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JULY 2016

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

#### July 20

Committee on Ministry Subcommittee (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.)

Mision Peniel Team – Covenant Presbyterian, Ft. Myers (9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

#### July 21

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

Personnel Team (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> |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>Christ Church of Longboat Key</u></a><br>Longboat Key                                                                   | <a href="#"><u>Peace Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Lakewood Ranch                            |
| <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       |
| <a href="#"><u>Moorings Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples | <a href="#"><u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples |