



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – July 28, 2016  
Rev. Graham P. Hart, General Presbyter

## The Future of the Church

Sometimes we wonder about the future of the church. The youth of the PCUSA give us reason to hope. This past week, 5000 Presbyterian youth, including some from Peace River, participated in the Youth Triennium at Purdue University. Please read the following links to articles about their week:

### [2016 Youth Triennium opening worship calls youth to 'go and see'](#)

*Scott O'Neill | Presbyterian News Service*

Young 'shepherds' encouraged to be attentive to God

### [Recreation activities at Triennium keep youth 'GO'-ing](#)

*Gregg Brekke | Presbyterian News Service*

More than fun and games, events animate a theology of connection

### [Pause Prayer Center a reflective oasis for Triennium participants](#)

*Scott O'Neill | Presbyterian News Service*

Youth find space to re-energize body and soul amid hectic schedule

### [Triennium Wednesday worship explores parable of the Good Samaritan](#)

*Gregg Brekke | Presbyterian News Service*

Brockman challenges attendees to 'GO and do likewise'

With gratitude and hope!

Graham Hart

General Presbyter

[graham@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:graham@peacriverpresbytery.org)

## ARTICLES of INTEREST:

### [Mike Pence's Journey: Catholic Democrat to evangelical Republican](#)

New York Times: Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, who accepted the Republican nomination for vice president Wednesday night, turned to evangelical Christianity as a young man. It caused him to break with two institutions that had been central to his family: the Roman Catholic Church and the Democratic Party.

IndyStar: [Strong faith shapes Mike Pence's politics](#)

### [God might not want a woman to be president, some religious conservatives say](#)

Washington Post: Hillary Clinton is poised to be nominated for president by the Democratic Party next week. And so religious hard-liners of all faiths are debating: Does the Bible prohibit a female president?

[The non-religious are now the country's largest religious voting bloc](#)

Washington Post: More American voters than ever say they are not religious, making the religiously unaffiliated the nation's biggest voting bloc by faith for the first time in a presidential election year. This marks a dramatic shift from just eight years ago, when the non-religious were roundly outnumbered by Catholics, white mainline Protestants and white evangelical Protestants.

[Being Christian needn't make a leader hostile in her view of Islam](#)

The Economist: Two of the politicians who will decide Europe's future grew up in clerical households. Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister Theresa May may be remembered as Christian politicians who were adamantly open to the possibility of Islam being integrated into European liberal democracy.

[Nun and sister of original 'Ghostbusters' star says acting is preaching](#)

Crux: Dominican Sister Nancy Murray, whose brother Bill Murray starred in the original 'Ghostbusters,' is an accomplished actress herself, staging performances of the lives of strong Church women such as St. Catherine of Siena and Sister Dorothy Stang.

### **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:

- 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. Ruth Schaaff's Family – loss of her son-in-law, and of Chip's sister.

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

- Rev. David King – recovery from an aortic valve replacement.
- 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. 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
- 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> |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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| 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> |
| 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: AUGUST 2016

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

**August 8**

Planning Team (1:00-3:00 p.m.)

**August 9**

Committee on Ministry (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)

Personnel Team (1:00-3:15 p.m.)

**August 11**

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

Mision Peniel Team @ Covenant Presbyterian, Fort Myers (9:30-11:30 a.m.)

**August 15**

Nominations and Representation Committee (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

**August 17**

Board of Trustees Sub-Committee (9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

**August 18**

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

Personnel Team (1:00-3:00 p.m.)

**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                                       |
| <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, Sarasota</a>                                  |
| <a href="#">Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota | <a href="#">Siesta Key Chapel,</a><br>Sarasota                                                     |
| <a href="#">Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Venice             | <a href="#">Venice Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Venice                                              |
| <a href="#">Community Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Englewood        | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Arcadia                                              |
| <a href="#">St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</a><br>North Port      | <a href="#">Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Punta Gorda                                    |

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| <p>Wintergarden Presbyterian Church,<br/> Port Charlotte<br/> <a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com">devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</a></p> | <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Port Charlotte</p> |
| <p><a href="#">Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> North Fort Myers</p>                                                             |                                                                       |
| <p><a href="#">Faith Presbyterian Church</a><br/> Cape Coral</p>                                                                           | <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Lehigh Acres</p>   |
| <p><a href="#">Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>                                                                     | <p><a href="#">Covenant Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>  |
| <p><a href="#">Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>                                                                   |                                                                       |
| <p><a href="#">Hope United Church (PCUSA),</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>                                                                         | <p><a href="#">Chapel by the Sea,</a><br/> Fort Myers Beach</p>       |
| <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Bonita Springs</p>                                                                      |                                                                       |
| <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>                                                                              | <p><a href="#">Lely Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>          |
| <p><a href="#">Moorings Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>                                                                           | <p><a href="#">Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>    |