



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – June 1, 2016  
Rev. Miguel Estrada ~ Mision Peniel, Immokalee

## What size is your pot?



*(Misión Peniel's famous pot)*

One of the most interesting experiences of serving at Misión Peniel is that you have different groups of volunteers serving each week. That also brings certain challenges and fascinating situations. One of those situations is often having to answer exactly the same questions again and again. Among those questions, there's one that I enjoy listening and responding to: "How big is your pot?" The question is asked by the volunteers when they realize we serve four hundred, five hundred, six hundred, and sometimes seven hundred or more meals. They have no idea where all that food comes from, and sometimes are concerned if we are going to have enough for everybody around. So, I invite them to walk into the kitchen and see for their selves. They usually come back amazed by the size of our pot.

Why I like to hear that question? Well, because it reminds me of my maternal grandmother. She lived in the countryside, in a small town away from the hustle and worries of the city where I lived. She was a simple woman who lived alone, except when her grandchildren were visiting. Among other things she was the village midwife and the health provider for that community.

But the reason why this question reminds me of my grandmother is because she always had on the fire at the kitchen, a small pot, and every time someone came to visit her, seeking advice, she offered them a plate of food and tortillas. Anyone passing by her house never went hungry.

Like any curious child, that little pot on the fire did not go unnoticed by me, much less the large number of people who visited her daily, and were never dismissed without being feed. So, one day I went over to ask: "Grandma how big is your pot?" With the wisdom that characterized her, she knew that my real question was how could she feed so many people? How was it possible with such a small pot and the limited resources she had?

Well, that day I received a lesson that I have never forgotten. She said to me, "no matter how big the pot is, the important thing is the size of your heart. To the pot you can always add more if needed, but that depends on the size of your generosity."

We at Misión Peniel certainly have a very large pot. This is truly bigger than the pot at my grandmother's kitchen fire, but despite its size, often you have to add more and more to serve everyone. This is a good way to measure the size of our ministry. It is a good way to know if we are generous enough to not send anyone home after a long and arduous workday. After all, this is a small step on the road to justice for those who

collect the food that we enjoy on our tables. "... For I was hungry and you fed me..." (Matthew 25:35) It is your generosity and contributions that allow us to keep it that way.

So, next time you think about farmworkers and the need to be with them in the middle of their struggle, do not ask yourself, " how big is your pot? " Because it can be very small. Remember that the real dilemma is, how big is your heart? The rest, God takes care of.

God calls us to meet with him, in the form of the men and women who struggle every day to survive. Are we prepared to not send Him back hungry?

Rev. Miguel Estrada  
Misión Peniel, Immokalee

## **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

~~~~~  
[www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)

[June 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 Mission Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
- Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

## **Articles that have come across my desk or been sent to me (Graham):**

### [The Guardian view on disappearing Christianity: suppose it's gone forever?](#)

The (London) Guardian: If Christianity can no longer supply a vision of humanity that transcends narrow self-interest, what will?

### [The new God-fearers \(FKA "the Nones"\) and where to find them](#)

Religion Dispatches: The spiritual-but-not-religious subset of Nones haven't given up on God. Their search for the divine has simply broadened beyond traditional churches.

### [Where do you turn when it comes time to make a major life decision?](#)

Deseret News National: U.S. adults are more likely to turn to family, professionals, prayer, and their own research before turning to religious leaders when they need help making a major decision.

### [To win the Civil War, Lincoln had to change his leadership](#)

Harvard Business Review: To succeed in creating the future, we must also excel in letting go of the past: selectively forgetting practices and attitudes that stand in the way of the new future.

[Kenneth Bailey dies](#) - Kenneth E. Bailey, renowned New Testament scholar, seminary professor, author, and Presbyterian career missionary died on Monday, May 23, 2016, at age eighty-five. He married Ethel Jean Milligan, before attending ...

[Turning guns into water pumps](#) - (PNS) - The ancient biblical vision of turning swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks has stirred the modern-day imagination of Columbia Presbyterian Church in Decatur, Georgia. Like the prophet ...

### [Among M.Div. graduates, a new crop of transgender students](#)

[RELIGION NEWS SERVICE](#) May 27, 2016

DURHAM, N.C. (RNS) - Like other graduates of Wake Forest University's School of Divinity, Adam Plant walked onstage earlier this month to accept a diploma and a hug from Dean Gail O'Day. Unlike them, his journey to ...

[Technology expands the congregation for opening worship of GA222](#) (PNS) Several thousand people are expected to gather in Portland, Oregon, on Saturday, June 18, for the opening worship service of the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). But the ...

[PC\(USA\) celebrates 60 years of women's ordination](#) - (PNS) For some, there has never been a time where there were not women ministers. But others remember when there were no women preachers, no women role models in seminaries and divinity schools, and no women ...

### [The world is getting more religious, because the poor go for God](#)

The (London) Guardian: There are only two globalizations, Giles Fraser says: God and mammon. And they will never fully be reconciled.

### [Rob Bell: podcaster, bestselling author, performer and, yes, pastor](#)

The Los Angeles Times: Conjure up an image of a former mega-church pastor and you will almost certainly not envision Rob Bell.

### [Why a rabbi's call for old-fashioned altruism is a rare religious voice](#)

The Economist: Neither the market nor the state would save the Western world unless its citizens rediscovered a sense of the common good rooted in deep cultural memories, says Jonathan Sacks.

### [In a red state, the culture war shifts](#)

Religion News Service: In Oklahoma, voters still care about traditional values, but there is growing anger and willingness to boot incumbents over underfunded schools, crumbling infrastructure and failing health and prison systems.

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

- [Pastoral Intern – Overview](#) – [Position Description](#) – Siesta Key Chapel
- [Finance Secretary \(part time\)](#) – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

### **PRAYER NEEDS:**

**Please continue to pray for:**

- Will & Hmingi Browne – loss of Will’s sister two weeks ago, in Seattle, WA.
- Bill Setchel (former Financial Secretary for PRP) – loss of his mother, Virginia Setchel, on May 18.
- 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: JUNE 2016:**

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 5  | <p><u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda</u><br/>           Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Stewart<br/>           email: <a href="mailto:sunburn1320@mac.com">sunburn1320@mac.com</a><br/>           Associate Pastor: Rev. Cassie Todd<br/>           email: <a href="mailto:pastorcassie@bspconline.org">pastorcassie@bspconline.org</a></p>                        |
| June 12 | <p><u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br/>           Pastor: Rev. Dr. Karl Kling<br/>           email: <a href="mailto:KarlKlingdmin@gmail.com">KarlKlingdmin@gmail.com</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                           |
| June 19 | <p><u>Church of the Palms, Sarasota</u><br/>           Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen McConnell<br/>           email: <a href="mailto:smcconnell@churchofthepalms.org">smcconnell@churchofthepalms.org</a><br/>           Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hmingi Browne<br/>           email: <a href="mailto:hbrowne@churchofthepalms.org">hbrowne@churchofthepalms.org</a></p> |

June 26

First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glen Bell  
email: [GBell@FirstPresSarasota.org](mailto:GBell@FirstPresSarasota.org)  
Interim Associate Pastor: Rev. Margaret Torrence  
Email: [MTorrence@FirstPresSarasota.org](mailto:MTorrence@FirstPresSarasota.org)

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JUNE 2016**

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

**June 6**

Planning Team (1:00-3:00 p.m.)  
Mision Peniel Team (2:00-4:00 p.m. @ Covenant P.C.)

**June 8**

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

**June 9**

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)  
Congregation & Community Blessing Grants Initiative (1:00-3:00 p.m.)  
Church Vitality and Growth Team (3:00-4:45 p.m.)

**June 14**

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

**June 15**

Cuba Partnership Team (time TBD)

**June 18-25**

222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (in Portland, OR)

**June 20**

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

**June 23**

Committee on Ministry Records Review Subcommittee (9:00 a.m.-12:00 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,</a> Sarasota                                  |
| <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                                    |
| Wintergarden Presbyterian Church,<br>Port Charlotte<br><a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com">devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</a> | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Port Charlotte                                       |
| <a href="#">Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a><br>North Fort Myers                                                           |                                                                                                    |
| <a href="#">Faith Presbyterian Church</a><br>Cape Coral                                                                         | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Lehigh Acres                                         |
| <a href="#">Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Fort Myers                                                                   | <a href="#">Covenant Presbyterian Church,</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 |