



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – November 4, 2016  
Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner

## INVITATION – CELEBRATION – MAKE YOUR RESERVATION – NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>

We are thrilled that next Thursday, as a Presbytery, we can join in celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Margaret Towner's ordination. We asked Margaret to share, in this week's Presbytery Newsletter, some reflections, and we invite you to join with us in honoring Margaret and celebrating the gifts of women in ministry that have been unleashed since that historic day in 1956.

Also, we encourage as many as possible to join us at Mision Peniel on Wednesday, November 9 at 5:30 p.m., for a meal as well as hear an update on that ministry. Then on November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Co-Moderator of General Assembly will join us for the celebration of Margaret's ordination, as well as the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Peace River Presbytery. Please send us an email ([click here](#)) or call 941-426-8421 by today to confirm your reservations for dinner (November 9<sup>th</sup>) at Mision Peniel, and/or for lunch at our Stated Meeting of Presbytery meeting at First, Bonita Springs, (November 10<sup>th</sup>).

Graham Hart



## **REFLECTIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION**

Graham asked me to write the article for the weekly Presbytery Newsletter for this, the anniversary week of my ordination. Some of my thoughts are in a message written for the National Association of Presbyterian Clergywomen's publication, *BREAD AND Breath*, explaining the origin of calling all clergywomen as my Spiritual Daughters.

60 years ago, October 24, 1956, on the occasion of my ordination, Lillian Hert Alexander sent me a letter asking *if God Daughters were allowed in the Presbyterian Church!* If so, she was claiming me as her God Daughter and suggested all women being ordained thereafter should be my Spiritual Daughters. Lillian H. Alexander was the Elder who convinced the Session of 3<sup>rd</sup> Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY in 1954 to overture the General Assembly to ordain women as Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

I am so proud of all 5,815 plus who have been ordained and all their accomplishments - Pastors, Chaplains, Theologians, Professors, College and Seminary Presidents, Moderators of Congregations, Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assemblies, serving on and beyond the Governing Bodies of the Church.

I have been honored to serve in all Governing Bodies (in 1956 they were Courts). As a member of the Advisory Council on Discipleship and Worship, I helped influence greater understanding of worship and inclusive language, as I did serving as Co-Chair of the General Assembly Study Committee, *Language About God*, and later as Chair of the Study Committee on *The Power of Language Among the People of God*. I also participated on several other GA committees and was honored to be a Moderator Candidate in 1981. I became Vice Moderator representing the UPCUSA in Korea at the two major GA's that were voting on ordination of women. It did not happen at those assemblies but has since done so.

My Spiritual Daughters have all gone on to greater leadership in the Presbyterian church. In 1956, there were folks who thought not many women would go very far in ministry. But we have and the Church has been blessed by outstanding leadership. We will be blessed by the presence of one of our current General Assembly Moderators.

We have not fully arrived yet. There are still challenges facing women seeking calls as equal partners in ministry.

It is my hope and prayer for the healing of the Church and the World that we may rise above the cacophony of negatives, half-truths, and distrust so we live together, united as one people regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, gay, straight, political identity or faith persuasions. I also hope we will not need to identify pastors as either clergymen or clergywomen but as pastors.

Let us remember that we serve Christ when we feed the hungry, provide water for the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the prisoner, welcome the stranger, seek to understand one another's ideas, and let love overcome hate.

I pray we may rise above scriptural and theological literalism which divide us so we may truly be God's caring people.

Dr. Margaret E. Towner, HR, Peace River Presbytery

[Biographical Information](#)

## **Peace River Presbytery 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: A Festival of Worship and Thanksgiving**

**Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs**

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Join us for a wonderful celebration, including a Mass Choir, Brass Band,  
Processional of Banners, Displays from Our Churches, and much more!

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This celebration will follow the  
**Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery,**

**9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (including lunch)**

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8:00 a.m. ~ **Registration** for the Stated Meeting Begins

9:00 -9:25 a.m. ~ **Financial Forum** with the Presbytery's Board of Trustees and Treasurer  
(*This is a great opportunity to ask questions of the Presbytery's proposed 2017 budget, Three Streams of Funding, and more.*)

9:00-9:25 a.m. ~ **Committee On Ministry** Forum

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Lunch is \$12.00 and payable at registration. The cost includes morning refreshments.

**\*\* Lunch Reservations are required no later than noon, Friday, November 4. \*\***

Contact Lori Doyal at the Presbytery Office: [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) / 941-426-8421

Include the names of everyone in the reservation and the church name.

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**We will also be celebrating the:**

\*60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of the first woman into the denomination,  
our Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner

\*40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry

\*10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mision Peniel

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Special Guest: Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston, Co-Moderator of the General Assembly

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Letters were sent several weeks ago to Pastors, Clerks of Session, and Church Offices with details. Emails and newsletter bulletins have also been sent for several weeks.

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

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: Saturday, November 5th** ([flyer and reservation form](#))

\*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.

\*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.

*Kathy*

Kathleen Dain  
Executive Director

[www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)  
[November 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 Update – Nathan Hart**

Again, I want to thank all of you for your on-going prayers for Nathan, and the support the Presbytery. The good news is that, based on a PET scan, the 5 different chemotherapy drugs he is receiving - in his week-long hospital stay - are reducing the size and density of his tumors. The challenge, as you can imagine, is the toll the massive doses that he is getting is having on his body. He says it feels like a bad case of the flu. But his spirits are good. At this point, the doctors have told him he is to go thorough 6 cycles of this chemotherapy regimen, and then they will evaluate and decide if other treatments are necessary.

~ Graham

## **PRAYER NEEDS**

### **Special Appeal:**

Could YOU save a life? Kirkwood has been asked to help in the search for a living kidney donor for the husband of one of our members. Yes, we are in search of a healthy kidney. The family is working through Tampa General Hospital's Living Kidney Donor program. If you'd be willing to be tested to see if you might be a match, please call us at the church 941-794-6229 for details on the next steps. Also, please share this post as we need as many folks as possible to see it. Join us in prayer for this family and the family of God's chosen donor! Together we can save a life! Thanks, Hope Lee

[www.tgh.org/living-kidney-donor-program/](http://www.tgh.org/living-kidney-donor-program/)

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

- Nathan Hart (Graham's son) and his family – Nathan is undergoing chemotherapy for a rare and aggressive form of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – recovery from neck surgery.
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – continued recovery
- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel - health

- 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: NOVEMBER 2016:**

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 6  | <u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Clinton Cottrell<br>email: <a href="mailto:clint@clpc.us">clint@clpc.us</a>                            |
| November 13 | <u>Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Kevin Morris<br>email: <a href="mailto:pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net">pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net</a>         |
| November 20 | <u>Chapel By The Sea, Fort Myers Beach</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison<br>email: <a href="mailto:skypilot_mddiv@hotmail.com">skypilot_mddiv@hotmail.com</a>            |
| November 27 | <u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Valerie Bell<br>email: <a href="mailto:pastorvaleriebell@gmail.com">pastorvaleriebell@gmail.com</a> |

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: NOVEMBER 2016**

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

**November 7**

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

**November 8**

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

**November 10**

Stated Meeting of Presbytery and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**November 11**

Veterans' Day

**November 17**

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

Mision Peniel Team @ Covenant Presbyterian, Fort Myers (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

**November 10**

Nominations and Representation Committee (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

**November 24**

Thanksgiving – PRP Offices Closed

**November 25**

PRP Offices Closed



**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                                      |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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                               |

