



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ November 16, 2016 Lil Rea, 2016 Presbytery Moderator

Preface from Graham Hart ...

Our deepest thanks to all who made Peace River's 25th Anniversary Celebration, as well as the 60th Anniversary of the Ordination of Margaret Towner, the first woman to be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament, a joy-filled day!



In particular, to the members of the 120 voice choir, all musicians, and Bill Teng, Director, Jan Edmiston, the Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly, John Reiter of Cedarkirk, who produced a 25th Anniversary video, the Planning Team and Steering Committee of PRP, Kathleen Weller and Lil Rea, who coordinated the 60th Anniversary Celebration of Marg Towner's Ordination, Kathi Wiggins, for the video she put together for the 60th, the staff and leadership of PRP who coordinated all details and put together the 25th anniversary brochure, Margaret Torrance, who wrote the 25th Anniversary litany, First Bonita - our host church, and Lil Rea, the 2016 Moderator of Peace River - a heart-felt word of gratitude and appreciation!

*Graham Hart
General Presbyter*

Moderator's Year In Review

WOW!!! WOW is not exactly a theological term but then I am not exactly a theologian. It is, however, an accurate statement of my year as Moderator of Peace River Presbytery.

Let me explain. Being elected Moderator is an honor, privilege and frightening experience that more often than not moved me out of my comfort zone and into the world of installations, ordinations and presbytery meetings. The Moderator's Training provided by GA last October in Portland brought together many of the presbyteries' incoming moderators for orientation and sharing which, although helpful, was somewhat overwhelming.

Back home in PRP it was a joy to preside over several installations as churches celebrated the beginning of a new pastor/congregation relationship. Installation preparation for me included meeting with the newly called pastor to review the worship service while sitting in the silent sanctuary and sharing his or her excitement. This quiet time of sharing is truly a gift that I will treasure and I am looking forward to being part of an ordination later this month.

Presbytery meetings require planning, organization and accurate record keeping and are never expected to run overtime. The mechanics of our gatherings would be impossible to accomplish without the careful attention to detail of our Planning Committee, Stated Clerk, Randy Moody, and Executive Secretary, Alesia Sharpe. They are always ready to answer questions, explain procedures and make smooth the path to correct any of my mistakes.

I would be remiss not to include the privilege of attending GA as a Commissioner. It was an opportunity to experience the breadth and depth of our denomination through work, study, prayer, worship and decision making. It was also a time to get to know and enjoy the fellowship of all the PRP commissioners. At our Presbytery Meeting, we had the opportunity to meet and hear from Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston, one of the Co-Moderators elected at GA.

As this year's moderator, WOW includes all of the above but also has a deeper meaning. It was and is a time to share in the Witness of the Word, Christ alive and active in the churches of PRP. I did not visit all of the congregations in PRP, but those that I had the joy of interacting with demonstrated their love of God through welcoming hospitality, meaningful worship and generous support and caring of each other, their communities and the greater world.

The churches of PRP are like a colorful bouquet of flowers, each beautiful in its own way but with many differing hues. When I look at those gathered especially at our fall cluster meetings, I see a spectrum of individuals each bringing specific talents that they are willing to share for the work of God's kingdom. As we explored the many ways congregations encourage the development of spiritual discipleship, you could feel the energy and excitement growing. Our lists of possibilities are ongoing. How amazing is our Creator that we are all different and necessary in God's plan.

WOW, thank you for giving me this time to reflect on seeing the body of Christ in Peace River Presbytery and to share my joy in looking forward to the opportunities, challenges and changes that are ahead.

Blessings,
Lil Rea, 2016 PRP Moderator

ARTICLES of INTEREST

[Pope Francis reminds Donald Trump not to forget the poor](#)

Religion News Service: Pope Francis has urged Donald Trump not to forget the poor and marginalized in his first comments on the President-elect to be published after the brash Republican's stunning election win.

[The evangelical reckoning over Donald Trump](#)

The Atlantic: White, conservative Christians voted for the Republican candidate by a huge margin, but this election revealed deep fractures among leaders and churches -- especially along racial lines.

[Christian conviction in the age of Trump](#)

The Christian Century: Century publisher Peter W. Marty assembles some Christian convictions to share with friends appalled by, or thrilled with, Trump's victory.

[After election, faith leaders seek spaces for healing](#)

The Christian Science Monitor: This week, both liberal and conservative churches have tried to embrace their role as places for reconciliation.

[Farewell to a good shepherd](#)

The (Raleigh) News & Observer: A priest's retirement reminds John Drescher of how important faith leaders are to our religious communities; to our civic life; and to individuals and families trying to make our way through challenging times.

[Trump's election: What it means for the USCCB and the Church](#)

National Catholic Reporter: As Catholic bishops gather for their annual meeting, Michael Sean Winters suggests a frame for their deliberations: Pope Francis or President Trump? You choose.

[Many in Washington region turn to church for answers, hope with Trump administration](#)

The Washington Post: Leaders of many Washington-area churches used services Sunday for reflection, healing and to calm the fears of members concerned about what a Trump administration could mean for their futures.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

URGENT NEED ...

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry has an urgent need for canned and dry goods. With the exception of rice and beans, our food pantry is completely empty. This week (11/15) the food pantry ran out of food to distribute before noon. Between 400 to 600 families look to Beth-El each week to help supplement their family's needs. Please help if you can. Many families were hoping that we might have some type of meat to offer for the Thanksgiving holiday, but that too is nearly impossible to find. If you can help, please call us at: **813-633-1548**. Gracias!

Kathy

Rev. Kathleen Dain
Executive Director

Beth-El Celebrated its 40th Anniversary on November 5th!

*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.



PO Box 860
Wimauma, FL 33598
Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223
Web: www.beth-el.org

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

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.

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

Thank you for your continued prayers! I have told Nathan that every congregation I go to to visit or preach, members come up to me and say: we are praying for your son; and he is deeply moved and appreciative!

This past Monday, before he began his 4th week-long chemo-therapy cycle, he got some really good news. He had to have a chest scan to make sure he did not have a blood clot or pneumonia before they installed a port for him to receive his chemo-therapy. All was well, and he got the port. In addition, when they reviewed the scan, they determined that the main tumor has gone from the size of a large grapefruit to a little larger than a quarter. Wow! Thanks be to God!

The challenging news was his blood counts after the last cycle went down to very critical levels, but the good news in that is the cancer is being reduced. Thanks for your continued prayers.

Graham and Linda Hart
graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

Graham
Graham Hart
General Presbyter
Peace River Presbytery
(941) 426-8421

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

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> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Clinton Cottrell email: clint@clpc.us
November 13	<u>Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Kevin Morris email: pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net
November 20	<u>Chapel By The Sea, Fort Myers Beach</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison email: skypilot_mdiv@hotmail.com
November 27	<u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Valerie Bell email: pastorvaleriebell@gmail.com

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: NOVEMBER 2016

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: www.peacriverpresbytery.org

November 17

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

Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto – office@ppcfl.org
Christ Church of Longboat Key Longboat Key	Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch
Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Church of the Palms, Sarasota
First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

<u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Presbyterian Church of the</u> <u>Covenant,</u> Sarasota
<u>Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Siesta Key Chapel,</u> Sarasota
<u>Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u> Venice	<u>Venice Presbyterian Church,</u> Venice
<u>Community Presbyterian Church,</u> Englewood	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Arcadia
<u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</u> North Port	<u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</u> Punta Gorda
Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte <u>devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</u>	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Port Charlotte
<u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u> North Fort Myers	
<u>Faith Presbyterian Church</u> Cape Coral	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Lehigh Acres
<u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers	<u>Covenant Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers
<u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers	
<u>Hope United Church (PCUSA),</u> Fort Myers	<u>Chapel by the Sea,</u> Fort Myers Beach
<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Bonita Springs	
<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples	<u>Lely Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples
<u>Moorings Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples	<u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples

