



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ November 23, 2016
Happy Thanksgiving

From the Staff of Peace River Presbytery ...



There will not be a newsletter the week of November 27.

ARTICLES of INTEREST

[Pope Francis: A poor and welcoming church spreads the gospel](#)

Religion News Service: Pope Francis closed a special Holy Year of Mercy by calling the Catholic Church back to its roots, saying using "power and success" to evangelize betrays the Gospel message.

[How technology helped Martin Luther change Christianity](#)

NPR: Minneapolis art exhibit makes clear that Luther's spectacular success was in large part a propaganda phenomenon made possible by the introduction of a new technology: the printing press.

[How Gypsies have moved from fortune-telling to fervent Christianity](#)

BBC News: At a time when many people are drifting away from formal religion, huge numbers of Gypsies and travellers in England now say they've joined a new movement called Light and Life.

[Pope Francis grants all priests the ability to forgive abortions](#)

NPR: Pope Francis has declared that abortion, which remains a "grave sin" in the eyes of the Catholic Church, can be forgiven by ordinary priests for the foreseeable future -- instead of requiring the intervention of a bishop.

[In biblical lands of Iraq, Christianity in peril after ISIS](#)

CNN: No one knows how many Iraqi Christians survived ISIS or how many will return home to restart their lives. Many of them, understandably, have lost hope.

[Post-election whiplash: ten observations](#)

Religion News Service: David Gushee offers 10 observations on the post-election whiplash that has occurred since the election of Donald Trump to become our nation's next president

[Embracing varieties of religious experience](#)

Harvard Gazette: Reflections from Dean David Hempton to mark Divinity School's bicentennial.

[Hate crimes rose in 2015, with religious bias a growing motivation, FBI data shows](#)

NPR: Hate crimes in 2015 were more than 6 percent more frequent than they were in 2014, with a two-thirds increase in religiously motivated attacks against Muslims.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

Thank you for your response!

Please [click](#) to read the update, *"Offering Our Thanks"*.

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

*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!

Last week, 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

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> 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-DECEMBER 2016

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

November 24

Thanksgiving – PRP Offices Closed

November 25

PRP Offices Closed

December 5

Nominations/Representation Committee
Planning Team

December 8
Finance Team

December 13
Committee on Ministry

December 15
Steering Committee

December 22-26, 30
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

