



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



## Weekly Presbytery Letter – October 24, 2016 Thank You! From Your Board of Trustees

Dear Pastors, Congregations, Ruling Elders, Committee/Team Members, and Friends:

Warm greetings from the Presbytery’s Board of Trustees. We want to share a **BIG THANK YOU!** The generosity and support of the congregations of Peace River Presbytery, as well as many of you who individually support the Presbytery or one or our covenant partners (i.e. Mision Peniel, Beth El, Cedarkirk, Daniell and Elizabeth Turk [Mission Co-Workers in Madagascar], and Drs. Les and Cynthia Morgan [Mission Co-Workers in Bangladesh]) has enabled us to do some important and significant work.



### Through the generosity of the congregations of Peace River, the following are a few of the things your Presbytery was able to do in 2016:

The 18 members of the Committee on Ministry, assisted by our General Presbyter, Stated Clerk and Office Manager, assisted 16 congregations during their times of pastoral transition, and visited and provided counsel to the sessions of 12 other congregations;

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Supported 7 candidates for ordained ministry from 7 congregations;

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Formed a new team called Congregational Vitality and Growth Task Force, and planned a Presbytery-wide 2-year emphases on congregational vitality and growth;

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Began a process to develop a fund which will provide ongoing grants for projects that encourage congregational vitality;

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Created “Stakeholders” teams through which we have been able to come alongside 2 congregations that were facing major challenges, and help them get on firmer ground;

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Worked with Whitfield Estates in both the sale of its existing property and relocation to a new site and a new name – Oak Pointe Church;

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Assisted the Braden River church in the sale of excess land;

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Offered workshops, such as “Funding your Church’s Ministry”, and “Ending Well and Finishing Strong” that were well received;

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Provided counsel and support to pastors through the Pastoral Care Team, as well as the work of our General Presbyter;

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Held presbytery meetings that have been engaging, with speakers that have encouraged and challenged us;

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Began exploring a partnership relationship with Matanzas Presbytery of the La Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada en Cuba (IPRC);

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Supported Presbytery missions, which includes Cedarkirk, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, and the Rev. Miguel Estrada (i.e. Presbytery Evangelist and Mission Pastor in Immokalee), as well as supported the work of Mision Peniel as a Ministry Team of Peace River Presbytery; supported the work of Mission Co-Workers, Dan and Elizabeth Turk, Agriculture specialists in Madagascar, and Mission Co-Workers, Drs. Les and Cynthia Morgan, medical doctors working with the poorest of poor in Bangladesh.

As Trustees of Peace River Presbytery, we have a fiduciary responsibility to you to ensure that we are doing the work of the Presbytery in the most efficient manner, as well as supporting the mission of the Presbytery and larger church in the most generous way possible.

Over the past 5 years, the Steering Committee, Finance Team/Board of Trustees and Personnel Committee of the Presbytery have worked hard to be creative and have streamlined some of our Presbytery processes, as well as reduced both staff and the cost of Presbytery Ministry Operations in half. We have created a budgeting process called the “Three Streams” approach (see attached) that is meant to be transparent and clear, so you know exactly where your monies are going and what they are supporting.

Each of the Three Streams (Presbytery Ministry Operations, Presbytery Missions, and the Synod and General Assembly Per Capita) need your continued support. The Presbytery is not an office nor just a quarterly meeting. It is us – working together to advance Christ’s mission near and far.

This week we have sent to the Clerks of Session, Treasurers, and Pastors of each congregation the 2017 annual *Estimate of Giving Form*. We are asking each session to complete and return it to the Presbytery Office so we can best plan for 2017. If you, as a member of, volunteer in, or friend of Peace River Presbytery, also desire to support the work of the Presbytery or one of our covenant partners, as many of you do, we welcome your support. Thank you again for your prayers, and the ongoing support that each of you enables to happen through your support of your church, and each session’s support of the mission and ministry of Peace River Presbytery.

Serving in the Mission of Christ with you,

The Board of Trustees of Peace River Presbytery:

Mr. Fred Chamberlain (Church of the Palms), Mrs. Claudia George (Pine Shores, Sarasota), Mr. Jamie Jameson (Buckingham, Ft. Myers), Mr. Robert Kimbrough (First, Sarasota), Mr. Dave Marchant (Faith, Cape Coral), Rev. Dr. Rafael Quiles (St. Paul’s, North Port), Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard (Christ Church of Longboat Key), Mrs. Joyce Tucker (Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota)

p.s.: The *Three Streams* brochure is attached.

## **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!

This celebration will follow the  
**Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery,**  
**9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (including lunch)**

8:00 a.m. ~ Registration for the Stated Meeting Begins  
9:00 -9:30 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.*)

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.

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

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

Letters have already been sent to Pastors, Clerks of Session, and Church Offices with details. Please check with them and continue checking future Presbytery Newsletters and Special Notices for additional information regarding this special day in the life of your Peace River Presbytery.

## ARTICLES of INTEREST:

### [Is there a 'Trump effect' on public morality?](#)

Religion News Service: U.S. voters -- especially evangelicals -- appear to have vanquished their inner Puritan and are now far more accepting of sinning politicians.

### [Politics in a fallen world: lying, fact-checkers, and the future of civilization](#)

Religion Dispatches: A conversation with Dallas Denery II, the author of "The Devil Wins: A History of Lying from the Garden of Eden to the Enlightenment."

### [State of the art: A Q&A with the Smithsonian's new religion curator](#)

Religion News Service: An interview with Peter Manseau about his new position, and about the past, present, and future of religion in museums.

### [Losing your religion while 'Black-ish'](#)

Christianity Today: Declining faith can feel like a threat to cultural identity for African Americans.

### [Big cities need great small churches, too](#)

Christianity Today: Alongside big churches, we need an explosion of smaller, niche churches to infiltrate neighborhoods and challenge us to think differently.

**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)  
[October 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 NEEDS**

**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: OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2016:**

October 30	<u>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe email: <a href="mailto:jdeyoe@covpcfm.com">jdeyoe@covpcfm.com</a>
November 6	<u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Clinton Cottrell email: <a href="mailto:clint@clpc.us">clint@clpc.us</a>
November 13	<u>Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Kevin Morris email: <a href="mailto:pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net">pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net</a>
November 20	<u>Chapel By The Sea, Fort Myers Beach</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison email: <a href="mailto:skypilot_mddiv@hotmail.com">skypilot_mddiv@hotmail.com</a>
November 27	<u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Valerie Bell email: <a href="mailto:pastorvaleriebell@gmail.com">pastorvaleriebell@gmail.com</a>

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: OCTOBER 2016**

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

**October 24**

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

**October 27**

Church 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> Bradenton	<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton
<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton	<a href="#">Palma Sola Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton
<a href="#">Westminster Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton	Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto – <a href="mailto:office@ppcfl.org">office@ppcfl.org</a>
<a href="#">Christ Church of Longboat Key</a> Longboat Key	<a href="#">Peace Presbyterian Church,</a> Lakewood Ranch
<a href="#">Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</a> Sarasota	<a href="#">Church of the Palms,</a> Sarasota
<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Sarasota	<a href="#">Northminster Presbyterian Church,</a> Sarasota
<a href="#">Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</a> Sarasota	<a href="#">Presbyterian Church of the Covenant,</a> Sarasota
<a href="#">Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</a> Sarasota	<a href="#">Siesta Key Chapel,</a> Sarasota

<a href="#"><u>Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Venice	<a href="#"><u>Venice Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Venice
<a href="#"><u>Community Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Englewood	<a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Arcadia
<a href="#"><u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</u></a> North Port	<a href="#"><u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Punta Gorda
Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte <a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com"><u>devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Port Charlotte
<a href="#"><u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u></a> North Fort Myers	
<a href="#"><u>Faith Presbyterian Church</u></a> Cape Coral	<a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Lehigh Acres
<a href="#"><u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Fort Myers	<a href="#"><u>Covenant Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Fort Myers
<a href="#"><u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Fort Myers	
<a href="#"><u>Hope United Church (PCUSA),</u></a> Fort Myers	<a href="#"><u>Chapel by the Sea,</u></a> Fort Myers Beach
<a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Bonita Springs	
<a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Naples	<a href="#"><u>Lely Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Naples
<a href="#"><u>Moorings Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Naples	<a href="#"><u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</u></a> Naples

