



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ September 21, 2016
Rev. Graham P. Hart, General Presbyter

FROM GRATITUDE INTO HOPE:

25TH ANNIVERSARY of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

On November 10, 2016, at the First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs, Peace River will celebrate the Presbytery's 25th Anniversary, as well as the 60th Anniversary of the first woman to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church, our very own Margaret Towner ([click here for biographical info](#)). Additionally, we will be acknowledging the 40th Anniversary of Beth El and the 10th Anniversary of the beginnings of Mision Peniel. Our theme for this special Presbytery meeting will be: "From Gratitude into Hope".



More details will follow, but a head's up on a few:

A choir with members representing each congregation - The choir directors of all the congregations in Peace River will receive an invitation this week to have members, or their whole choir, join us for a mass choir. We are hoping for a 100-150 voice choir! In addition, what would a Presbyterian celebration be without a traditional bagpiper? First Brass, Southwest Florida's premier brass choir, will be with us as well.

A Table Display for every congregation - Every session will be receiving an invitation to put together a table display that represents aspects of the life and ministry of your congregation, and that in some way builds on our theme (i.e. From Gratitude into Hope), as lived out in your congregation. A table will be reserved for every church. The Planning Team of the Presbytery is suggesting that each congregation put together a tri-fold poster board size display that on one side shows aspects of the churches history, significant milestones, mission efforts, etc.; the center poster would capture aspects of the congregation's current mission, ministry, program, and life, and the third side would portray something of the congregation's hopes and vision.

A 25th Anniversary Video is being prepared.

Celebration Commissioners - Every congregation, in addition to the regular Presbytery Commissioners, is invited to bring a bus, or several cars, of Celebration Commissioners. The hope is that every church will have 10-35 members of the congregation attending. We are going to provide a longer period of lunch so everyone

will have ample time to see the table displays representing what your sister churches in the Presbytery are doing in response to God's call on them as we together move into God's future.

The Rev. Jan Edmiston, the Co-Moderator of 222nd (2016) General Assembly will be with us for this festive time.

A special program and meal at Mision Peniel, Immokalee is being arranged for the evening before the presbytery meeting.

Motels rooms have been reserved at the Comfort Inn, across the street from the church, for \$59.00 for any who want to come the evening before, especially for those out of the area who want to go to Mision Peniel. Rooms will be held at the special rate till October 9th. Details will be provided within a few days.

Please mark your calendars, and look for additional information to come. If you have suggestions, questions, or comments, please let [Wayne Largent](#), [Kathleen Weller](#), or [me](#) know.

With appreciation for all that has been and is yet to come – From Gratitude into Hope!

Graham

Graham Hart

graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

Update on Nathan Hart: Graham Hart's son ([click here](#) to Part I which was in the newsletter on 9/8)

On behalf of Nathan, I want to thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Many of you have asked for his address which is: Nathan and Eileen Hart – 657 Vista, Lombard, IL. 60187

Nathan was released for Rush Medical Center at 11:00pm last Friday night after completing 4 days of continuous infusion of 4 chemo-therapy drugs. In the hospital they were able to manage the side-effects well. He went home grateful and hopeful. Also, they told him that even though this is an aggressive variety of non-Hoskins lymphoma, they have changed the staging to Stage 2, not Stage 4, which they initially told him. This is huge and we are so thankful.

On Monday he was to go back for an infusion of a new chemotherapy drug that has been found to be successful with his type lymphoma, but because of issues with insurance, he has to use the in-network out-patient local facility between hospital stays. So... what was supposed to have been a 4-hour infusion procedure at Rush, turned into 2 days. He got very sick from the treatment, and they were not able to finish it on Monday, so he had to return yesterday to complete it.

He went back to work for the first time today, and hopes to work till mid-afternoon; so prayers for his stamina. He is to begin the next 4 day in-hospital cycle October 4; so we pray all will go well, his blood levels stay within the acceptable ranges, and with God's help the cancer is defeated.

With gratitude and thanks for your prayers,

Graham and Linda Hart

graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[6 habits of trustworthy leaders](#)

Fast Company: The people in your office may not trust you as much as you think they do. Here's how to win them over.

[I lost my faith in God. Then I found it. Now it's complicated.](#)

The Washington Post: Belief is rarely black and white, whether you're a scientist or a theologian, says Mike McHargue.

[Why successful churches aren't turning the world upside-down -- but the outcasts might](#)

Christianity Today: Where are the Christian innovators who will put a dangerous passion for Jesus ahead of personal ministry success?

[Even the government's smartest lawyers can't figure out religious liberty](#)

Atlantic: The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights' report shows that legal scholars have no idea how to resolve the government's conflicting obligations to allow free religious exercise and protect minority groups from discrimination. Ultimately, legal language is not sufficient to resolve ultimate conflicts over belief and identity.

[Fall in love with the problem, not the solution](#)

99U: Chances are, you work at (or with) a large organization that should instill more design thinking. In this interview, Suzanne Pellican, a vice president at Intuit, explains how a 12-person team changed the culture of Intuit and its \$4 billion in revenue.

[Americans more divided by religion than race](#)

Religion News Service: A new study comparing Americans' perceptions of minority faith and racial groups indicates not so much hostility to others as a growing sense that the country is divided into mutually distinct subcultures, writes Mark Silk.

[How the clergy handle the stress of leading their flock](#)

Press of Atlantic City: Clergy members are expected to be there for their congregations 24/7, spiritually and emotionally. But the job can be stressful. To deal with it all, some turn to weightlifting or farming. Some sing and play guitar. Others bond with colleagues who can relate to their experiences.

[World's oldest man to celebrate bar mitzvah at 113](#)

Jerusalem Post: Yisrael Kristal, a Holocaust survivor living in Israel, will celebrate his bar mitzvah 100 years late. He missed his bar mitzvah due to World War I. His father was in the Russian army and his mother had died three years earlier, his daughter said.

'Be the bee': The beehive as a metaphor for life in Christian community When liturgical candle maker Martin Marklin became curious about the creatures making the wax he used in his business, he found his life and work transformed. In this 5-minute video, Marklin explains what bees can teach us about living as Christians.

[> Watch video](#)

TONIGHT IS THE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS!!

“FUNDING YOUR MINISTRY”

~ Sponsored by the Presbytery's Finance Team/Board of Trustees ~

Tuesday, September 27, 2016 ~ Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

or

Wednesday, September 28, 2016 ~ First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

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**Workshop Presenters:** Robert Hay, Jr. and John Elder Wray of the Presbyterian Foundation

**Workshop Titles:** (1) Culture of Generosity, (2) Planned Giving, Legacy Funds, and Endowments, (3) Capital Campaigns

**Who should attend?** ... Church Treasurers, Finance Secretaries, Finance Committee Chairs and Members, Clerks of Session, Elders, Pastors, and anyone interested in the financial and stewardship aspects of the church ministry. All are welcome!

**Cost?** ... No cost for the workshops / \$10.00 cost for lunch.

**Reservations are required** for the workshops AND lunch by Wednesday, September 21.

Contact Lori Doyal, PRP Financial Secretary: [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) / 941-426-8421

Download [informational brochure](#) for additional information.

## 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)  
[September 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:**

- Barbara Church, Committee on Ministry member – loss of her husband last week.
- Nathan Hart (Graham’s son) and his family – (See Graham’s update in this newsletter). Nathan was just diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. He has begun chemotherapy.
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – recovery from neck surgery.
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) - 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: SEPTEMBER 2016:**

|              |                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 4  | <u>Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Glenn Buzbee, Jr.<br>email: <a href="mailto:revglennb@gmail.com">revglennb@gmail.com</a>    |
| September 11 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dino Rustin<br>email: <a href="mailto:dino@firstpresbradenton.com">dino@firstpresbradenton.com</a> |

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|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 18 | <u>Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Hope Lee<br>email: <a href="mailto:hope@kpcbradenton.org">hope@kpcbradenton.org</a>         |
| September 25 | <u>Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. India Dennis<br>email: <a href="mailto:pspcpastor@verizon.net">pspcpastor@verizon.net</a> |

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 2016**

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

**September 22**

Church Vitality and Growth Task Force (1:00-3:00 p.m.)

**September 27**

“Funding Your Ministry” Workshops @ Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.)

**September 28**

“Funding Your Ministry” Workshops @ First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.)

**September 29**

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)



**CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

**(click on church name to link to its web site)**

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|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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> |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>Christ Church of Longboat Key</u></a><br>Longboat Key                                                                   | <a href="#"><u>Peace Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Lakewood Ranch                            |
| <a href="#"><u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                                                      | <a href="#"><u>Church of the Palms,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                        |
| <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                                                          | <a href="#"><u>Northminster Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                           |
| <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                                                                    |                                                                                                |

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