



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ December 7, 2017

HOPE

by: Elizabeth Deibert

As we prepare once again for the coming of Christ, we turn our attention to prophecies, prayers, and proclamations in scripture which invite us into the themes of hope, peace, joy, love, and light. These are not just themes for Advent and Christmas, but also a description of the living, vibrant church of Jesus Christ, filled with the Spirit of God.

It is easy when you are a leader in the church to get so busy carrying out the tasks of church life, that you lose your hope, peace, joy, love, and light. Many of us are already weary as we are entering the exhausting time of Christmas to Easter in sunny Florida when our churches and streets fill up with snowbirds, and we engage in all the extra activities that we save until they are here.

How will you be spiritually sustained for your Christian ministry with others? Let me remind you of what is said in the first chapter of Colossians – Christ in you is the hope of glory! Christ in you, growing in you – glorious! Consider the supreme example of Mary, who nurtured the Savior in her womb. At such a young age she had the courage to say, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word.”

My prayer for all of us is this: By the power of the Spirit may we be renewed in all the strength that comes from the glorious power of Christ, prepared to endure everything with patience while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. (Col. 1)

Your Congregational Vitality Team hopes soon to offer a new opportunity to our smaller churches to build on their strengths and be renewed in practices that are life-giving and fruitful. We also hope to initiate a new worshipping community in the Babcock Ranch area, and we are eager to gather some Presbyterians in nearby areas to bring energy and vision to this project.

Hope is on the way as we are patient in waiting and prayerfully preparing for the Prince of Peace. May the joy of knowing Jesus, the love that never lets us go, be the light that shines through us to illumine a longing and languishing world.

Rev. Elizabeth Deibert

Moderator, Congregational Vitality Team

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

www.beth-el.org



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

[November Newsletter](#)

*Beth-El is looking for donations of furniture for its office and dental clinic.
Please contact their office if you have desks, tables, or bookcases.*

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

A place apart to build up the body of Christ in love.

www.cedarkirk.org

2017 Events:

- Challenge to Change - *A unique mission-trip program designed for a variety of groups.* Year-round
- Silent Retreat – *A new retreat designed for folks who are seeking space to listen to God.* TBA
- Christmas Retreat – *A little bit of summer camp at Christmas time!* Dec. 22-23

*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

www.misionpeniel.com

Please be in prayer for the mission, which sustained considerable damage from Hurricane Irma. The mission office has damage from the roof falling in on the office area, and the farmworkers have a lot of damage to their residences, most of which are mobile homes.

Staff Contacts:

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: miguestrada@hotmail.com
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: ruthdeyoe@gmail.com
- General Email: misionpenielpeacriver@gmail.com

Addresses:

- Facility Address: 208 Boston Ave., Immokalee, FL 34142 (not for mailing)
- Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34153
- Mailing Address for Contributions*: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287

***Contributions to Mision Peniel:**

- Mail to: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287
- Checks can be made payable to Peace River Presbytery or to Mision Peniel.
- Please note *Mision Peniel* in the memo section.
- Contributor information is provided to Mision Peniel each month.

Other Information:

- Collection Centers for Mision Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
- Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- The communities and responders affected by the fires in California

- Dave Gowen and Family, in the loss of his wife, Marjorie Ann, on November 19. Dave is a Parish Associate at Faith Presbyterian, Cape Coral.
- The families and communities of Sutherland Springs, TX, Las Vegas, NV & New York City, NY
- All who are still recovering from the hurricanes
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Kathryn Pendergrass (wife of Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass) - lung cancer, under Hospice care
- Robert Berger – Rev. Dr. Jim Berger’s 96-year old father
- Jim & Becky Beckwith – health
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – health
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – going through chemotherapy
- Robert Dennis, son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – on kidney transplant list
- 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

PRESBYTERY PRAYER GUIDE: DECEMBER 2017:

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| December 3 | <u>PRP’s Seminary Students (Candidates & Inquirers)</u> Candidates: Rex Childs, Cynthia Franklin, Jordan Goodwin, Debra Graves, Laurie Haas, Lynne Peter, Susan Wills, Carolyn Wilson / Inquirer: Christian Faux |
| December 10 | <u>Mision Peniel</u> A Ministry of PRP |
| December 17 | <u>Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Chuck Wiggins Email: cjw049@gmail.com |
| December 24 | <u>Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice</u> Pastor: Rev. Chris Romig Email: cromig@venicepresbyterian.org |

December 31

Presbyterian Women
A Covenant Partner of PRP

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2017

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

All meetings are at the Presbytery Center location in North Port, unless otherwise posted.

Thursday, December 7

Mision Peniel Team (10:00 a.m. in Immokalee)
Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (10:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, December 12

Committee on Ministry (9:00 a.m.)

Wednesday, December 13

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 a.m.)

Thursday, December 14

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.)

Friday, December 22

Presbytery Offices Closed

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas
Presbytery Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Presbytery Offices Closed

CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

Please visit our web site, www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches

Click on the city, then the church, to visit their web site.



