



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – January 19, 2017
Rev. Dr. Randy Moody, Stated Clerk

Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever!

Worship is central in the life of the Church. Programs and initiatives come and go but one key element of the Church that has been and always will be present is worship. It is our weekly expression of the answer to the first question of the Shorter Catechism:

Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Our current Directory for Worship states in W-1.1000 "Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God. In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God's claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God's service in the world." The Directory for Worship is an important part of our Book of Order.

The 222nd General Assembly approved an amendment to the Book of Order for vote by the presbyteries to determine whether we replace our current Directory for Worship with a new one. Our own Lil Rea served on the GA Committee that parsed the proposal which will be before us as an item of business at the February meeting of Peace River Presbytery. This is a significant proposal for the life and ministry of our congregations. Teaching Elders and Clerks of Session recently received via email a pdf copy of all the proposed amendments to the Book of Order including the proposed Directory for Worship to read and study. They can also be accessed at <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/ga222-proposed-amendments-constitution/>

"The Dynamics of Christian Worship" in the current Directory for Worship will be replaced with "The Theology of Christian Worship" as Chapter 1 if it is approved. The proposed W-1.10101 states "Christian worship gives all glory and honor, praise and thanksgiving to the holy, triune God. We are gathered in worship to glorify the God who is present and active among us—particularly through the gifts of Word and Sacrament. We are sent out in service to glorify the same God who is present and active in the world." As people of Word and Sacrament, we need to prayerfully consider this proposed change to our Book of Order as we glorify God and enjoy God forever.

Randy Moody, Stated Clerk

Update on Walter Chuquimia, Pastor of Beth-El Farmworker Ministry:

Walter fell ill on his return trip from a visit with his family in Bolivia last Thursday. He was flying into Miami, then had a connecting flight back to Tampa. His wife, Lorraine, went to the Tampa airport to pick him up and was obviously deeply distressed when only his luggage arrived, and not Walter. At first, she had trouble getting any information on Walter. Due to complications related to his diabetes, immediately on landing, the paramedics rushed Walter to the ICU at the University of Miami hospital. Unfortunately, it took a while for the medical staff to make contact with Lorraine. On getting the call, she was able to immediately go and be with him. After getting him stabilized, he was released from the hospital on Sunday and is now at home resting and recovering.

Some Great News on Nathan Hart:

After his last in hospital chemo-therapy cycle (#6) which was the week after Christmas, Nathan came home on New Year's Eve. However, he ended up right back in the hospital with pneumonia and some serious complications due in part to the cumulative effect of the aggressive chemotherapy regimen. His blood counts had been hit hard and he was running a high temperature. He was hemorrhaging in his nose and eye (retina), and his medical team was concerned that might be hemorrhaging in other places, too; so, they did a CAT scan of his brain. To say the least, we were deeply concerned.

He was treated with blood transfusions, fluids, and lots of antibiotics, and released last Thursday night, after being at Rush Medical Center for a week.

The great news came yesterday when he met with his medical team to evaluate his overall progress. On his most recent PET scan, the tumor does not show up. They told him that his case was reviewed and discussed at a Lymphoma - Leukemia conference. The words they used to describe his response to the chemo were "remarkable" and "unbelievable." He will be getting a full CAT scan in two weeks, and will be continually monitored at this point. But, Eileen said they used the word remission as they talked about his progress.

Linda and I are so... so thankful for all your support and prayer! We are so grateful and profoundly moved by this report from Nathan's medical team.

All I can say is a deep, and loud: Thanks, be to God!!!

Graham

graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

EXCITING TIMES!

Congratulations to Oak Pointe Church (formerly Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church) on their move into their new location in Bradenton. Pastor Jane Jones-Norris and the entire congregation are very excited and have been working hard to remodel the church and move in.

Please join them in celebrating this joyous new beginning at their ...

Dedication Service on Sunday, February 5th at 10:30 a.m.

Address of Oak Pointe Church: 1215 Bayshore Gardens Parkway, Bradenton.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

(selected by Graham Hart)

["Integrated into a burning house?": a pre-inauguration conversation with Rev. Cecil Murray](#)

Religion Dispatches: An interview with the retired pastor of First AME Church of Los Angeles about how the black church's past might inform its future in this new era.

[Can theology move the needle on environmental issues? One funder thinks so](#)

Inside Philanthropy: The Henry Luce Foundation just gave \$425,000 to the Methodist Theological School in Ohio for a seminary environmental leadership initiative, as more seminaries embrace environmental issues as a moral imperative.

[Paula White preaches for Donald Trump, but not at Apopka church](#)

The Orlando Sentinel: Tomorrow, Paula White is scheduled to become just the second woman to lead a prayer at a presidential inauguration. But on a recent Sunday, she was in a less-visible and more familiar place -- the pulpit of her church outside of Apopka.

[Cardinal Dolan goes to Washington](#)

Commonweal: Can he avoid being a prop for power?

[Pope Francis' popularity among Americans goes from high to higher](#)

Religion News Service: Politicians and celebrities can only envy Pope Francis' popularity ratings.

[The symbolism of Trump's two inaugural Bible choices, from Lincoln to his mother](#)

The Washington Post: Trump's choices seem to make a nod to themes that deeply defined his campaign -- religion and race, and his complicated relationship with both.

[Church of England archbishops call on Christians to repent for Reformation split](#)

The (London) Guardian: Five hundred years after the Reformation, the leaders of the Church of England have called on Christians to repent for the divisions, persecution and death.

[Donald Trump and militant evangelical masculinity](#)

Religion & Politics: White evangelical support for Trump can be seen as the culmination of a decades-long embrace of militant masculinity, says Calvin College history chair.

[Trump has me searching for a new religion](#)

The Washington Post: Garrison Keillor has been shopping around for a new religion to see him through the next four years.

[What pastors, professional athletes and other leaders can do to heal divides](#)

Deseret News: To win the trust of people they serve and start making a difference, pastors, lawmakers and other leaders will need to embrace opportunities to get out of their comfort zone.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

To honor the policy that all ministers and ministerial inquirers and candidates shall be required to attend a seminar offered by the Presbytery **biennially** on the issues of sexual misconduct, a *Faith Place Safety Workshop* will be offered on **Tuesday, May 2nd** at First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte (2230 Harriet Street, Port Charlotte.)

Schedule:

- Registration – 8:30 a.m.
- Workshop – 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (lunch included)
- Cost - \$10.00 payable at Registration

Who should attend?

All Pastors, Staff, and Elders with roles in Christian Education and Personnel, Inquirers, and Candidates.

Reservations are necessary. Email: alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org, call the Presbytery Office: 941-426-8421, fax the Presbytery Office: 941-423-9412. Include the names and titles of those who will be attending.

If unable to participate in the Presbytery-offered training, the minister shall work with Presbytery to find a suitable alternative. Failure to comply may result in investigation and discipline.

We are fortunate that Patti Jung, Visiting Professor of Christian Ethics, St. Paul School of Theology, and author of "Professional Sexual Ethics", has agreed to facilitate the workshop. This year's offering will discuss: Child Protection to include such topics as mandatory reporting, confidentiality, two-deep adult leadership rule, screening of volunteers; background checks, and specific Florida law considerations.

Note: A notice and flyer for this important event were sent to all Churches, Members of Presbytery, Candidates, and Inquirers last week.

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
[January 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 NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- Nathan Hart (Graham's son) and his family – please see update earlier in this letter
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – continued recovery
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – continued recovery
- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel - health
- Jim 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

PRESBYTERY PRAYER GUIDE: JANUARY 2017:

January 1	<u>Peace River Presbytery</u> 37 Congregations / 131 Ministers Moderator: Rev. Dr. Doug Pratt Vice Moderator: Ms. Charmaine Ponkratz
January 8	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia</u> Pastor: Rev. William (Bill) Teng email: pastor@FirstPC.church
January 15	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs</u> Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Douglas (Doug) Pratt email: dpratt@fpcbonita.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Steven Grant Email: sgrant@fpcbonita.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Bradley Rogers Email: brogers@fpcbonita.org
January 22	<u>Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Glenn Buzbee, Jr. email: revglennb@gmail.com
January 29	<u>Mision Peniel – Ministry of Peace River Presbytery</u> Pastor: Rev. Miguel Estrada email: miguestrada@hotmail.com

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JANUARY 2017

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

Thursday, January 19

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

Overtures Committee (1:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, January 24

Finance Team / Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.) – *Change of date from 2nd Thursday*

Wednesday, January 25

Pastoral Care Team (2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port)

Thursday, January 26

Congregational Vitality & Growth Task Force (12:30 p.m.) – *change of time*

Personnel Team (2:30 p.m.) – *Change of date from 3rd Thursday*



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
Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 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

