



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ June 21, 2017

Rev. Dr. Randy Moody, Stated Clerk

Affirming Congregations!

“We believe Peace River Presbytery is called to affirm congregations, to connect disciples in mission, and to be the body of Christ together.” This is our mission statement and the first role of Peace River Presbytery is to affirm congregations. It comes straight from the Book of Order!

Presbytery, being composed of the teaching elders and commissioners elected by the session of congregations within its district, has a particular responsibility to coordinate, guide, encourage, support, and resource the work of its congregations for the most effective witness to the broader community. (G-3.0303)

Our congregations are the source of mission!

The congregation is the church engaged in the mission of God in its particular context. (G-1.0101)

Peace River Presbytery is blessed with active congregations engaged in mission. I want to affirm our congregations by lifting up just a few areas of mission and disciple-making activities of which I am aware:

Kirkwood, Bradenton—participating in Surf & Serve, a Middle School outreach that engages students serving in mission work for a week in the mornings with the afternoons filled with kayaking, beach activities, and educational activities at MOTE Marine Aquarium.

Peace, Lakewood Ranch—commits tithes and offerings of a minimum of 10% of their operating budget to denominational and local mission groups; also participated in the spring diaper drive for local moms in need.

Trinity, Venice—Boomers & More Bible Study Discussion Series

Community, Englewood—hosts a Food Pantry connected with Meals on Wheels.

First, Port Charlotte—ministers to South Port Square Retirement Home.

Burnt Store, Punta Gorda—volunteers in Immokalee at Mision Peniel the second Friday of each month; also delivers backpacks of food to schools for families in need.

Holy Trinity, North Fort Myers—The Evangelism Committee engages members as “Evangelists for a Day” reaching out to visitors.

Covenant, Fort Myers—provides multiple scholarships for students.

First, Naples—supports St. Matthews House that feeds and reaches out to the homeless.

This list is a very small sampling of the ministries of the 37 congregations of Peace River Presbytery. You, the members of our congregations, reflect who we are, the body of Christ together. Thank you for your faithfulness. You are Peace River Presbytery.

Randy Moody

UPCOMING EVENT:

2017 Presbytery Fall Gatherings

The topic for this year's event is **RADICAL GENEROSITY**. The presenter will be Robert Hay, Southeast Region Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation. Robert is well know by many within our Presbytery.

Instead of having regional gatherings, groupings will be according to church size (further information will be coming out soon).

Tuesday, September 12 will be the gathering for the smaller congregations. It will be held at **Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte**. Lunch will be at 12:00 noon and the gathering will be from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

On **Wednesday, September 13**, there will be two half-day sessions held at **First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte**. The session for medium sized congregations will be held from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. The session for large congregations will be from 1:00-4:00 p.m. There will be lunch available between the two sessions which will allow for fellowship among both groups.

More information will be coming to you from the Planning Team, so watch for details.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

We think we can!

That was the motto of **Buckingham Presbyterian Church** in Fort Myers, going into our April fish fry, which we dedicated to sending children from Mision Peniel to summer camp at Cedarkirk. With the help of forty volunteers and some special donations and working with Cedarkirk we were able to raise enough money to send 11 children.

When Mision Peniel was unable to provide campers we went to Tice Elementary School, a title one school in Fort Myers, through which we annually minister to families who live below the poverty level reflecting the same demographic Mision Peniel serves. The staff quickly secured eleven children for us helping us arrange with the parents for the necessary camp documents. We took them to Cedarkirk on Sunday, June 4th. When we picked them up from camp on Friday, June 9th, all we heard was what a great time they had. Many of these third and fourth graders even commented on how good the food was. They all had large smiles as each came to us to thank us for this opportunity.

As we delivered the children to their homes the parents came out, some of the mothers with tears running down their cheeks, and said what a blessing it was to have their children be able to do something they would never be able to offer them. One boy, Orlando, came home to a large welcoming party as his aunts, uncles and cousins had all gathered at his home. He excitedly named each of the vehicles and who they belonged to as we pulled up in front of his home.

Once again showing how God, with a few fish and some bread (in our case it was hush puppies), can do great things.

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

2017 Events:

- Summer Camp - *Our traditional week-long residential camps for 1st-12th graders.* June 4-July 28
- Challenge to Change - *A unique mission-trip program designed for a variety of groups.* Year-round
- Family Retreat - *Our annual family retreat and reunion event! Come and reconnect!* Sept. 1-3
- Silent Retreat – *A new retreat designed for folks who are seeking space to listen to God.* TBA
- Falltastic - *A special fall event designed for our elementary friends.* Sept. 29-30
- Senior Adults Retreat - *A day-event designed just for our senior friends.* Oct. 11
- Fusion - *A Cedarkirk event for middle and high school youth!* Nov. 10-12 & 17-19
- 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](tel:8136854224) or visit www.cedarkirk.org.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

www.beth-el.org

The worshipping community of Beth-El would like to add Christian banners to its worship space. If your church or congregation has a banner, vestments or other worship supplies that you would like to donate, please contact Kathy@beth-el.org. Gracias!

POSITION OPENING:

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is a non-profit mission supporting farmworkers and our neighbors in need through hunger relief, education, health initiatives and spiritual care. The mission is currently seeking a director of children and youth ministries for the mission's worship communities, 20 to 35 hours per week. Candidate will be responsible for coordination of all children and youth activities including summer VBS, Christian Education curriculum, teen youth group and Sunday school. Ideal candidate must be fluent in both Spanish and English with background in education (Christian education preferred). Valid driver's license, background check and drug screening are required. Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is an equal opportunity employer.



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: [813-633-1548 ext. 223](tel:8136331548)

Web: www.beth-el.org

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

www.misionpeniel.com

Please be sure to contact us to schedule your next visit and reserve a date to volunteer at Misi3n Peniel! Thank you for your ongoing partnership with this mission!

UPDATE:

We are planning an Open House at the new location very soon. In the meantime, please make note of the following updated contact and address information:

Staff Contacts:

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: [239-633-2181](tel:239-633-2181), E: migustrada@hotmail.com
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: [386-793-6151](tel:386-793-6151), E: ruthdeyoe@gmail.com
- General Email: misionpenielpeaceriver@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:

- Rev. Dr. Glen Bell & Family – loss of his mother in May
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Pete Rodino – recovery from detached retina surgery

- Rev. Silvana Ferreira – recovery from eye surgery
- Linda Hart (Graham’s wife) – recovering from double knee surgery
- Kathryn Pendergrass (wife of Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass) - diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer
- Robert Berger – Rev. Dr. Jim Berger’s 96-year old father. Hospitalized in PA from an apparent stroke
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – continued recovery
- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel - 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
- 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: JUNE 2017:

June 4	<u>Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch</u> Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Deibert Email: edeibert@mindspring.com
June 11	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Lehigh Acres</u> Supply Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jim Berger Email: dowberger@comcast.net
June 18	<u>Christ Church of Longboat Key</u> Stated Supply Pastor: Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard Email: revnmp@comcast.net
June 25	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Pastor: Rev. Craig Goodrich Email: craigc@fpcnaples.org

CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS

[PT Director of Congregational Care & PT Music Director](#)
[\(2 Positions\) – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood](#)

[Director of Christian Education – Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers](#)

[Administrative Secretary \(Part Time\) – Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers](#)

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JUNE 2017

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

Thursday, June 22

Congregational Vitality Team (12:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, June 27

COM Records Review Team (10:30 a.m.)

CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

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

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

