



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ June 29, 2017

Rev. Graham P. Hart, General Presbyter

2017 Presbytery Gatherings September 12 & 13, 2017

In 2014, the Presbytery decided to have the late summer Presbytery meeting as a regional gathering where ruling elders could be in a more informal/relaxed setting and could better share learnings and questions with each other. Each of these meetings has been well received, and a common response has been a request to do more such gatherings.

Instead of having regional gatherings, this year we are setting up the gatherings according to church size and budget (i.e. small, medium, medium/large congregations). The theme at each of the gatherings will be **Radical Stewardship**, which is one of the factors that the Steering Committee has identified that contributes to vital and growing congregations. Each presentation will be different based on the needs and opportunities that different sized congregations present.



You are encouraged to bring 6-12 of your key leaders in finance, stewardship and endowment committees, plus current ruling elders who believe this topic is a critical area for your congregation. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn and share.

We are fortunate to have Robert Hay as the presenter. Robert is the Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation, a popular workshop leader, and is well known by many within our Presbytery ([click here to link to his biographic info](#)).

Mark your calendars, and talk to your pastors and sessions about bringing a contingent from your church to one of these gatherings.

On **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12** at **Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte**,

- will be the gathering for the smaller congregations. It will be in the afternoon from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

On **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13** at **First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte**, there will be two half-day sessions:

- one for medium sized churches from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- and one for larger churches from 1:00-4:00pm.

Our suggested gathering for each congregation will be sent to pastors and Clerks of Session. You are welcome to attend more than one workshop, or based on the different focuses of each workshop, you may feel your congregation would be better served by attending another.

The specific topic and focus of each workshop will be sent to you later, but we wanted you to get these important dates on your planning calendar. Be assured that your church is welcome to attend any of these sessions.

With gratitude for God's abundance,

The PRP Planning Team:

Wayne Largent - Moderator

Bill Teng – Vice Moderator

Devon Andrews

Winston Lawson

Bill Clough

Kevin Morris

Graham Hart, staff

Dear Members of the Peace River Family,

We wanted members of Peace River Presbytery and Presbyterian Women to have the information which Covenant Presbyterian Church shared about the death of one of their long-standing members, Jo Ann Leasure. Jo Ann was deeply involved with her church, the Presbytery and Presbyterian Women. We grieve with her extended family, and with the members of Covenant.

The authorities have determined that Jo Ann's death was a homicide, and an active investigation is on-going. We know this information is troubling, and leaves us all in grief. Please keep all in your thoughts and prayers, even as we are grateful for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

Grateful for the love, mercy, and hope we have in Christ that sustains us all in times like this.

Services are planned for 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 14, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2439 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL.

Grace and Peace,

Graham Hart

General Presbyter

Graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

OFFICE NOTES

Phones: To better facilitate workload management, the phones of the Presbytery Office will be placed on automatic routing from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. each day. If you would like a return phone call, please leave a voicemail message, including your name and phone number. The staff will answer the incoming phone calls beginning at 1:00 p.m. The staff will also check voicemail messages at 1:00 p.m. and do their best to return calls as soon as possible.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday -Thursday and 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Friday

Holiday Closure: The Presbytery Offices will be closed Monday, July 3 and Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

ARTICLES of INTEREST

(selected by Graham Hart)

[How one pastor is bridging the partisan divide](#)

The Atlantic: Adam Hamilton takes on controversial social issues from the pulpit, challenging his politically divided congregation to find common ground.

[It's time to worry about leftist fundamentalism, too](#)

Religion News Service: There is plenty wrong on the right. But there is plenty wrong on the left, too. Each side needs to get its act together, David Gushee says.

[Methodist Church may get bishops for the first time in UK in mutual recognition pact with Anglicans](#)

Christian Today: Methodists and Anglicans in the UK are beginning talks towards historic proposals that could recognize the ministers, priests and bishops of both churches for the first time since they split in the late 18th century.

[A major church-state ruling that shouldn't have happened](#)

The Atlantic: In *Trinity v. Comer*, there was no remaining dispute between the actual parties --and both the majority opinion and the leading dissent got the issue wrong.

What happened to America's public intellectuals?

For a time, it seems, Americans mixed with public intellectuals in their everyday lives. They were our preachers and teachers, discovering their voice in times of crisis. But today, Smithsonian magazine reports, the consensus seems to be: [The egghead is dead.](#)

Continuing a long tradition of service and good works, St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Dubois, Wyoming, is an essential part of the town's religious life -- and its community life as well. [> Read more](#)

Tim Shapiro: To do new things well, congregations must learn - An effective learning process almost always begins with comprehensively yet succinctly naming the challenge at hand, the president of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations says in this interview about his new book.

[> Read Q & A with Tim Shapiro](#)

[> Read excerpt of "How Your Congregation Learns"](#)

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 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

Web: www.beth-el.org

[June Newsletter](#)

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 Misión Peniel! Thank you for your ongoing partnership with this mission!

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 Family, Friends, Church Family (Covenant Presbyterian, Ft. Myers) and Presbytery Friends of Jo Ann Leasure in the wake of her passing. Her Memorial Service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 14 at Covenant Presbyterian, Fort Myers.
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- 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
- Jim & Becky Beckwith – health
- Rev. Dr. Clint Cottrell (Pastor of Cypress Lake P.C.) - health
- Nathan Hart (Graham’s son) and his family – health
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – continued recovery from extensive neck surgery
- 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: JULY 2017:

July 2	<u>PDA/FLAPDAN – Covenant Partner of Peace River</u>
July 9	<u>Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Supply Pastor: Rev. Dr. Harry Schill III Email: h_schill3@verizon.net
July 16	<u>Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Learned Email: jsullivan@mooringschurch.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Jaci Smith Patman

	Email: jpatman@mooringschurch.org
July 23	<u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Interim Pastor: Rev. Bob Sheldon Email: rsheldon@vpcnaples.org
July 30	<u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rafael (Ray) Quiles Email: chaprafi@gmail.com

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: JULY 2017

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

Monday, July 3

Presbytery Offices Closed

Tuesday, July 4

Independence Day – Happy Birthday U.S.A!
Presbytery Offices Closed

Thursday, July 6

Mision Peniel Team – Immokalee (10:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, July 11

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

Thursday, July 13

Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.)

Friday, July 14

Memorial Service for Jo Ann Leasure – Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ft. Myers (11:00 a.m.)

Wednesday, July 19

Personnel Team (10:00 a.m.)

Thursday, July 20

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

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.

