



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – March 2, 2017
Rev. Elizabeth Deibert, Moderator, Congregational Vitality Team

VITAL SIGNS

Many of you were able to attend the Presbytery meeting at Faith Church in Cape Coral. It was our privilege to share the day with Rev. Ray Jones, Associate Director of Evangelism for the PC(USA). In a very personal way, Ray shared with us how he first came to appreciate the breadth and depth of God's grace as a young man in the Presbyterian Church, after growing up in a fundamentalist Christian family.

As he described the process by which the Presbyterian Mission Agency arrived at the following Vital Signs, it was clear that they in the denominational offices in Louisville are just like us. They are praying hard and seeking diligently to do God's will and to assist all of us in developing healthy churches. This is a challenging season, as we struggle together to figure out how to bear fruit, reaching out in our communities to build authentic friendships, do justice, love kindness, and make disciples.

We heard in Ray's sermon at the end of the day, the call to see our feet as beautiful because they are the means by which we go out to share good news. (Romans 10) One of our elder commissioners made a list of neighborhoods in the vicinity of Peace Church and asked me, "How are we going to reach out to these neighbors?"

Ray left these questions for us to take back to our Session meetings.

Post Presbytery Questions:

- What are the next steps we need to take to put into practice what we learned in the presbytery meeting?
- Out of the following Vital Signs, where do you have strengths and where are you weak:
 - lifelong Christian formation
 - healthy systems
 - intentional evangelism
 - outward incarnational focus
 - empowering servant leadership
 - inspiring worship
 - caring relationships
- What steps do we need to take to address our weaknesses?
- How can we share with and best help other churches through our strengths?
- Was there one thing we heard at the presbytery meeting that we believe we must share at the next session meeting?

The Congregational Vitality Team will soon contact pastors about meeting for lunch in small groups to think about these vital signs for your region, county, or group of cities.

May God help you this week to enter into a holy Lent, with renewed devotion and a willingness to sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel.

With grace and peace,
Elizabeth M. Deibert, Pastor for Peace Church and Moderator of Congregational Vitality Team

Thank You!

to
Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral
for hosting the
Stated Meeting of Presbytery
on February 23rd.
Your staff and volunteers were very gracious and welcoming!

Peace River Presbytery & Faith Presbyterian Church

cordially invites you to attend

the installation of

Rev. Elizabeth B. Kuehl

as

Associate Pastor

Sunday March 12, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Faith Presbyterian Church

4544 Coronado Parkway | Cape Coral, Florida 33904

Reception immediately following the service
Clergy are invited to robe and participate in the processional.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

(chosen by Graham Hart)

[Pope Francis says give to the homeless, don't worry about how they spend it, as Lent begins](#)

America: Pope Francis said that Catholics should offer housing or financial assistance to families settling in a new country, and, as Lent begins, he called on Catholics not to make excuses when it comes to giving to those asking for change.

[Ash Wednesday doesn't need to sparkle](#)

Religion News Service: However well-intentioned, Glitter Ash Wednesday is a distraction at best and a sideshow at worst, Jacob Lupfer says.

[At Betsy DeVos's alma mater, a history of fierce debate](#)

The Atlantic: Calvin College is no fundamentalist Christian school.

[Carmel Cemetery: Stones toppled, stones righted](#)

Religion News Service: Rabbi Adam Zeff saw evidence of the darkness of hatred that can enfold us, and the sparks of light and love that shine even more brightly when darkness is thickest.

[Targeting a sanctuary](#)

The Intercept: After ICE stakes out a church homeless shelter, charities worry immigrants will fear getting help.

[Why attacks on Jewish cemeteries provoke particular fear](#)

The Atlantic: Each new incident assumes added significance for Muslims and Jews who see them as part of a broader pattern.

[In religious freedom debate, 2 American values clash](#)

NPR: The collision of two core American values -- freedom of religion and freedom from discrimination -- is prompting a showdown in legislatures and courts across the country.

FAITH PLACE SAFETY WORKSHOP

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, or 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 two weeks ago.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

www.beth-el.org

[March Newsletter](#)

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

*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.

EXCITING NEWS FROM MISION PENIEL!

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

Misión Peniel has moved! The new location of the mission facility is 208 Boston Avenue, Immokalee.
They are excited to have more space and more visibility to the farmworker community!

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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:**

- Jim Beckwith – health
- Rev. Dr. Clint Cottrell (Pastor of Cypress Lake P.C.) - recovery and health
- Nathan Hart (Graham's son) and his family – health
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – continued recovery
- 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
- 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: MARCH 2017:

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 5  | <u>Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. India Dennis<br>Email: <a href="mailto:pspcpastor@verizon.net">pspcpastor@verizon.net</a>                                                                                                               |
| March 12 | <u>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Pulpit Supply<br>Office Email: <a href="mailto:wpresbyterian@verizon.net">wpresbyterian@verizon.net</a>                                                                                                     |
| March 19 | <u>Faith Presbyterian Church Church, Cape Coral</u><br>Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Halverson<br>Email: <a href="mailto:tim@fpcfl.org">tim@fpcfl.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl<br>Email: <a href="mailto:elizabeth@fpcfl.org">elizabeth@fpcfl.org</a> |
| March 26 | <u>Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dawn Mayes<br>Email: <a href="mailto:revdawnmayes@gmail.com">revdawnmayes@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                  |

## PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MARCH 2017

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

### Thursday, March 2

Mision Peniel Team @ Mission Center, Boston Avenue (10:00 a.m.)  
Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (10:00 a.m.)

### Monday, March 6

Planning Team (12:45 p.m.)

### Wednesday, March 8

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

### Thursday, March 9

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

### Sunday, March 12

Installation Service for The Reverend Elizabeth Kuehl (4:00 p.m. at Faith, Cape Coral)

### Tuesday, March 14

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

### Thursday, March 23

Personnel Team (8:30 a.m.)  
Congregational Vitality and Growth Task Force (12:30 p.m.)



## CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

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

|                                                                    |                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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> |
| <a href="#">Christ Church of Longboat Key</a><br>Longboat Key      | <a href="#">Peace Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Lakewood Ranch                                       |
| <a href="#">Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota         | <a href="#">Church of the Palms,</a><br>Sarasota                                                   |
| <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota             | <a href="#">Northminster Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota                                      |
| <a href="#">Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota       | <a href="#">Presbyterian Church of the<br/>Covenant, Sarasota</a>                                  |
| <a href="#">Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota | <a href="#">Siesta Key Chapel,</a><br>Sarasota                                                     |
| <a href="#">Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Venice             | <a href="#">Venice Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Venice                                              |
| <a href="#">Community Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Englewood        | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Arcadia                                              |
| <a href="#">St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</a><br>North Port      | <a href="#">Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Punta Gorda                                    |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Wintergarden Presbyterian Church,<br/> Port Charlotte<br/> <a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com">devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</a></p> | <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Port Charlotte</p> |
| <p><a href="#">Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> North Fort Myers</p>                                                             |                                                                       |
| <p><a href="#">Faith Presbyterian Church</a><br/> Cape Coral</p>                                                                           | <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Lehigh Acres</p>   |
| <p><a href="#">Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>                                                                     | <p><a href="#">Covenant Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>  |
| <p><a href="#">Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>                                                                   |                                                                       |
| <p><a href="#">Hope United Church (PCUSA),</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>                                                                         | <p><a href="#">Chapel by the Sea,</a><br/> Fort Myers Beach</p>       |
| <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Bonita Springs</p>                                                                      |                                                                       |
| <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>                                                                              | <p><a href="#">Lely Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>          |
| <p><a href="#">Moorings Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>                                                                           | <p><a href="#">Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>    |