



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ May 25, 2017  
Lillian Rea, Steering Committee Co-Moderator

## TENTS

Summertime has arrived and for many children it is time to go to camp. Most of us can fondly, I hope, remember our camp experiences. Although then and now campers are not usually housed in tents, some of us may have actually spent the night in a tent. Still today youngsters want to camp in their backyards in home-made tents.

The theme of tents has been percolating in my mind since we visited the newly opened Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. This is a definite must if you are a history buff.

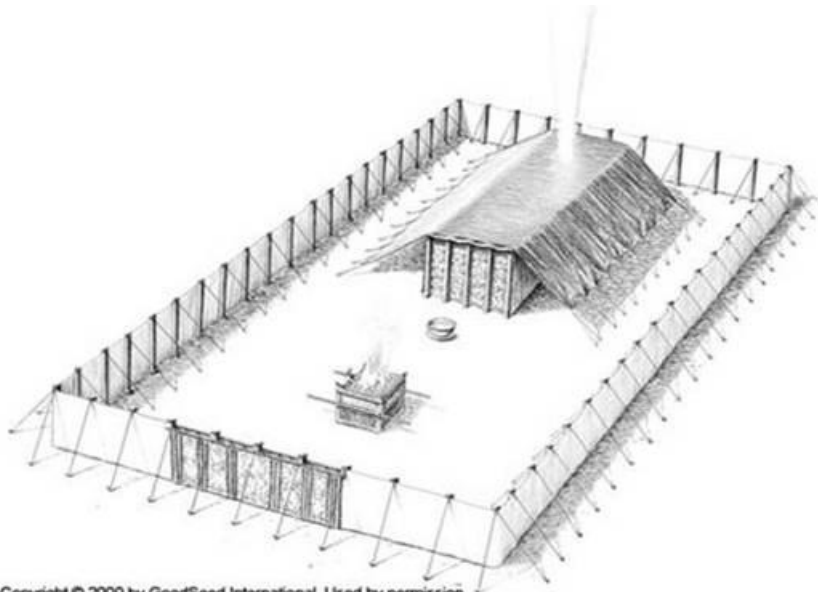


One of the primary exhibits is the original tent used by George Washington during the Revolutionary War. It is said to be the first oval office and housed his working and sleeping headquarters. General Washington was quoted as saying that he would stay with his troops no matter where they set up camp and his presence is considered a factor in the winning of the war.

Have you thought of yourself as a tent? Here's some Biblical background to prompt you...

The image of a tent plays a strong role in the Old Testament saga of the Hebrews' journey from Egypt to the promised land. As God led the people with the pillar of fire by night and pillar of cloud by day, they were able to feel God's presence. There are many references to the "tent of meeting" such as Exodus 33:7-9,

**7** Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the “tent of meeting.” Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. **8** And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he



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entered the tent. **9** As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses.

Providing a place to experience God’s presence first in the tent of meeting, then the Tabernacle, and ultimately the Temple, always signified the importance of God dwelling amongst the people.

In the New Testament, the tent theme continues with Christ announcing the coming of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians, 2 Corinthians 6:16:

*And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

As we journey through life what comfort and guidance we have in recognizing the gift of God’s indwelling spirit. May your tent be Spirit-filled.

Blessings for today and the road ahead,  
Lil Rea, Steering Committee Co-Moderator

## ARTICLES of INTEREST

(selected by Graham Hart)

[Manchester: What kind of person does this?](#)

Religion News Service: Whoever he was, the Manchester terrorist decided that the culminating act of his life should be the murder of children at a rock concert, David Gushee says.

[A religious revolution is taking place in Ireland](#)

The Irish Times: Ireland's growing secularization provides an environment where newer churches can thrive.

[What does repentance look like for the white church?: A conversation with Lisa Sharon Harper](#)

Religion Dispatches: Sojourners' chief church engagement officer discusses how evangelicals of color operate within white spaces and how, or if, evangelicalism can be redeemed.

[Rowan Williams: Britons are peering into the abyss after Brexit vote](#)

The (London) Guardian: Former archbishop of Canterbury warns of dangers of disillusion with political process and of "messianic leadership."

[Pope Francis and Donald Trump meet at the Vatican](#)

The New York Times: Pope Francis welcomed President Trump to the Vatican on Wednesday for the first face-to-face meeting of the two leaders, who symbolize starkly different views of the world.

The Atlantic: [The pontiff versus the mogul](#)

[Trump is evangelicals' 'dream president.' Here's why.](#)

The Washington Post: Even in an era of marriage diversity, it remains the most unlikely match: President Trump and his loyal evangelical base.

[Editorial: The enemy is not the secular world, it is fear](#)

National Catholic Reporter: In New Jersey, Cardinal Joseph Tobin wants us to say no to "heartless" deportation policies. In Kansas, Archbishop Joseph Naumann wants us to say no to the Girl Scouts.

An [Shame, guilt, and fear: what 1,000 Americans avoid most](#)

Christianity Today: Many Americans are more worried about their reputation than their conscience.

[Is the Old Testament dying?](#)

Religion News Service: Old Testament professor's new book argues that many contemporary Christians have lost biblical fluency and can no longer speak the language of more than half their sacred Scripture.

**CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

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

[www.cedarkirk.org](http://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](http://www.cedarkirk.org).

**BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.**

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

[www.beth-el.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.beth-el.org)

[May Newsletter](#)

**MISION PENIEL**

*A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee*

[www.misionpeniel.com](http://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!

**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, E: [migustrada@hotmail.com](mailto:migustrada@hotmail.com)
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: [ruthdeyoe@gmail.com](mailto:ruthdeyoe@gmail.com)
- General Email: [misionpenielpeaceriver@gmail.com](mailto: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:**

- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry – Please continue praying for the Ministry ... for the Beth-El Staff and the Worshipping Community, as well as continued prayer for Walter and his family. ~ *Graham*
- 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
- 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: MAY 2017:**

May 7	Beth-El Farmworker Ministry Executive Director: Rev. Kathy Dain Email: <a href="mailto:kathy@beth-el.org">kathy@beth-el.org</a>
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May 14	<u>Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery</u> at First Presbyterian Church of Arcadia
May 21	<u>Chapel By The Sea, Fort Myers Beach</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison Email: <a href="mailto:skypilot_mdiv@hotmail.com">skypilot_mdiv@hotmail.com</a>
May 28	<u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, North Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Valerie Bell Email: <a href="mailto:pastorvaleriebell@gmail.com">pastorvaleriebell@gmail.com</a>

### **CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS**

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

### **PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MAY 2017**

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

**Friday, May 26**

Presbytery Offices Closed

**Monday, May 29**

Memorial Day – Presbytery Offices Closed

### **CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

Please visit our web site, [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches)

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



