



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ November 15, 2017

Greetings, Friends ...

I look forward to our time together at the presbytery meeting this Thursday, November 16th at Kirkwood, Bradenton. I am honored to be invited to have a conversation with you.

The presbytery planning team has chosen to focus this meeting on: Welcoming Relationships and Nurturing Discipleship. My shorthand theme for this is: Belonging and Believing. Time and again, research on growing congregations has identified the welcome that visitors receive as key to those persons choosing to join a congregation. Yet we know that relationship building takes time and energy. The same is true for discipleship. The invitation to be a follower of Jesus Christ is lifelong and for all ages. God's call to all of us is to be growing in our walk as disciples so our faith deepens. I hope to illustrate ways that we can help all ages know they belong to God and how we can all grow as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

In order to prepare for our time together, the following are some questions to consider:

When venturing into a new situation, when did you feel particularly welcomed?

When did you not feel welcomed?

What does it mean to you to be a "welcoming congregation?"

How have you grown in your faith in the past few years?

What would you say are the key characteristics of a "mature Christian?"

I look forward to being with you!

Rodger Y. Nishioka, Ph.D.
Senior Associate and Director of Adult Educational Ministries
Village Presbyterian Church
Prairie Village, KS
913-671-2323



STATED MEETING of PRESBYTERY

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
6101 Cortez Road West | Bradenton, 34210

8:00 a.m. ~ Registration Begins
9:00 a.m. ~ Q & A Forum with the Presbytery's Finance Team and Treasurer
9:30 a.m. ~ Meeting Begins

**** Lunch Reservations were required by noon last Friday. ****

If you did not make a reservation, you may add your name to a standby list
the morning of the meeting.

The [Meeting Packet and Letter to Sessions](#) are downloadable from the Presbytery's web site.

PRE-PRESBYTERY FINANCE FORUM

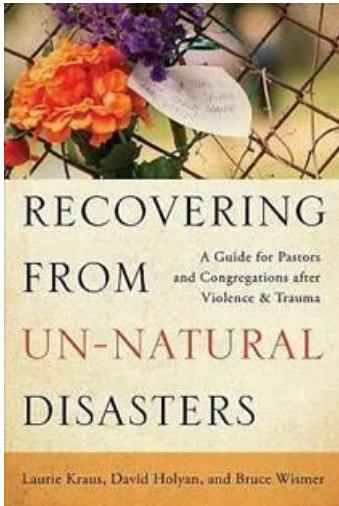
The Presbytery's Finance Team / Board of Trustees and Treasurer
will be available the morning of the Stated Meeting, 9:00-9:25 a.m.
to answer questions about the Presbytery's Budget, Three Streams of Giving, and more.
Come to Room 115 in the Fellowship Hall.

Un-Natural Disasters Workshop

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

9:30-11:30 a.m.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port, FL



"As news stories about gun violence, suicides and sexual abuse seem far too common, it's important for pastors and faith leaders to learn how to handle un-natural disasters that could or perhaps already have occurred within their communities."
(from the back cover of the Recovering from Un-Natural Disaster)

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017 from 9:30 – 11:30 we are pleased that the leadership of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be with us to lead a conversation on this tragic, timely, and now all too familiar topic. The workshop will be at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in North Port.

Given the tragic events of the past month, the book RECOVERING FROM UN-NATURAL DISASTERS: A Guide for Pastors and Congregations after Violence and Trauma, will be a helpful resource for us all.

The book was authored by Laurie Kraus, Director of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Bruce Wismer, Co-pastor of Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, and David Holyan. The authors have leaders in the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, and often been our denominations first responders to some of the worst un-natural tragedies that have occurred in our country over the past decade. They are also certified compassion fatigue professionals through the International Association of Trauma Professionals.

Please join Laurie Kraus, Director in PDA, Jim Kirk, the Associate Director of PDA for National Disasters, and Bruce Wismer on Wednesday, December 6th from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in North Port, for a conversation on this timely book and subject, given recent events.

Please email your reservations to alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org by **November 23rd** so we can order a copy of the book for you.

CONFERENCE: "CONFRONTING OUR RACISM"

[Click here](#) for a flier about Eckerd College's upcoming conference, "Confronting Our Racism" with Paul Roberts, President of Johnson C. Smith Seminary on Monday, November 20th. Whether you are just thinking about this issue for the first time or have been doing this work all of your life, you are invited to join us for a day long conversation about opposing racism. This will be an opportunity for us to listen, learn, ask questions, and talk about next steps in dealing with racism in our own local communities. *The conference is made possible by funding from the John and Phyllis Ogden Fund of the Synod of the South Atlantic, so there is no cost to you (except for lunch and travel).*

[WALK with the BIBLE TOUR of ISRAEL and JORDAN](#)

(click above for information on this 2018 trip)

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

www.beth-el.org



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

[November Newsletter](#)

*Beth-El is looking for donations of furniture for its office and dental clinic.
Please contact their office if you have desks, tables, or bookcases.*

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

2017 Events:

- Challenge to Change - *A unique mission-trip program designed for a variety of groups.* Year-round
- Silent Retreat – *A new retreat designed for folks who are seeking space to listen to God.* TBA
- Fusion - *A Cedarkirk event for middle and high school youth!* Nov. 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.

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

www.misionpeniel.com

Please be in prayer for the mission, which sustained considerable damage from Hurricane Irma. The mission office has damage from the roof falling in on the office area, and the farmworkers have a lot of damage to their residences, most of which are mobile homes.

Staff Contacts:

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: migustrada@hotmail.com
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 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](#))

CHOIR ROBES

We have 60 robes in a wide range of sizes, including four that have closed sleeves suitable for a director or organist. Some need repair of zippers or hems. The robes were made by Collegiate(now Murphy) Robes. They are a pale grey/blue with front pleats and a sapphire blue yoke. The PCUSA cross is embroidered in the center of the yoke.

If anyone is interested, please call Rachel Martin at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, 941-955-8119.

Any reasonable offer will be accepted.



PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- The families, church, and community of Sutherland Springs, Texas
- The families and community of Las Vegas, NV & New York City, NY
- The communities and responders affected by the fires in California
- All who are still recovering from the hurricanes
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Marge Gowen (wife of Dave Gowen, Parish Associate at Faith, Cape Coral) - under Hospice care
- Kathryn Pendergrass (wife of Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass) - lung cancer, under Hospice care
- Robert Berger – Rev. Dr. Jim Berger’s 96-year old father
- Jim & Becky Beckwith – health

- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – health
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – going through chemotherapy
- Robert Dennis, son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – on kidney transplant list
- 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: NOVEMBER 2017:

November 5	<u>Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Michael Mansperger Email: covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net
November 12	<u>Stated Meeting of Presbytery on Thursday, November 16</u> at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
November 19	<u>Drs. Les and Cynthia Morgan</u> Covenant Partners of Peace River Presbytery
November 26	<u>Siesta Key Chapel</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kathi Wiggins Email: pastork@comcast.net

CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS

[Administrative Assistant \(PT\) – First Presbyterian Church of Lehigh Acres](#)

[Financial Secretary \(PT\) – First Presbyterian Church of Lehigh Acres](#)

[Church Sexton – First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota](#)

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

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

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2017

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

All meetings are at the Presbytery Center location in North Port, unless otherwise posted.

Thursday, November 16

Stated Meeting of Presbytery at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Presbytery Offices Closed

Friday, November 17

Presbytery Offices Closed

Thursday, November 23

THANKSGIVING

Wednesday, November 22 – Friday, November 24

Presbytery Offices Closed

Thursday, November 30

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.

