



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ October 26, 2017

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

Are you related to Madonna, or perhaps Peyton Manning? If you are an ancestry buff, you may be looking for George Washington or Queen Victoria in your family tree. According to Wikipedia the theory of 6 degrees of separation was originally set out by Frigyes Karinthy in 1929 and popularized in an eponymous 1960 play written by John Guare. Karinthy posited that despite great physical distances between the globe's individuals, the growing density of human networks made the actual social distance far smaller. Out of this theory came the challenge that after selecting one person it would take no more than 5 individuals to establish a relational connection.

I would suggest that in Peace River Presbytery it is fewer than 6 degrees of separation, maybe only one or two.

Certainly, Hurricane Irma has caused tremendous damage and hardship throughout Florida, but it has made me aware and grateful for the connectional relationship of our churches, mission partners and PCUSA. On the Thursday following Irma's onslaught four members of PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) arrived in our area. These trained volunteers from PA, NJ, AZ and NC spent the next 3 days visiting our most damaged churches and Mission Peniel. At Hope United where the steeple was lying in a nearby ditch the team provided not only physical assessment and suggestions but counseling and encouragement. At that same meeting Mike from Chapel by the Sea, a member of FLAPDAN, came by to offer his assistance in clearing some of the debris. This in depth caring by PCUSA was heartening.

Within our own presbytery, churches joined together to conduct worship services on the Sunday following Irma. Some congregations lent unneeded portable generators to those in need. Chapel by the Sea delivered an extra piano to FPC Lehigh Acres to replace the ones damaged by the storm. Our covenant partners, although having sustained damage themselves, stepped in to help others by providing shelter at Cedarkirk camp and sending a work team from Beth-El to Immokalee.

Irma's hardships will be with us for months to come but the sharing of our churches and partners is a heartwarming gift. So, who are you connected to?? I know I am blessed to be related to my sisters and brothers in Christ in Peace River Presbytery where the degrees of separation are far less important than our degrees of closeness.

Blessings,
Lil Rea, Co-Moderator of Steering Committee

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 details will be posted soon.

Reservations are required for lunch no later than NOON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10.

Contact Lori Doyal at the Presbytery Office:

lori@peacriverpresbytery.org / 941-426-8421, ext. 401

Group reservations must still include the individual names.

Reminder: Members of Presbytery who will not be attending the Stated Meeting are required to request an excusal from the Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Randy Moody,

statedclerk@peacriverpresbytery.org

POST HURRICANE IRMA DEBRIEFING & GATHERING

Thursday, November 2nd, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

at

Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers

7470 Hickory Road SE | Fort Myers, FL 33967

Several of our pastors suggested that it would be helpful if we gathered as pastors and congregational leaders for conversation, mutual support, sharing our experience, learnings and prayers. **On November 2, 2017 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. at Hope United Church in Fort Myers** we will gather with a facilitator provided by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). [Click here for details.](#)

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

**** [Open House: November 12, 2017](#) ****

Beth-El
Farmworker Ministry, Inc.

PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

October 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. 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.

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](#))

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- The communities and responders affected by the fires in California
- The families and community of Las Vegas, NV
- All who are affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Kathryn Pendergrass (wife of Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass) - 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. 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: OCTOBER 2017:

October 1	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glen Bell Email: gbell@firstpressarasota.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Kelly Fitzgerald Email: kfitzgerald@firstpressarasota.org
October 8	<u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Stewart Email: sunburn1320@mac.com
October 15	<u>PRP Elected Staff</u> General Presbyter: Rev. Graham Hart Email: graham@peacriverpresbytery.org Stated Clerk: Rev. Dr. Randy Moody Email: statedclerk@peacriverpresbytery.org Treasurer: Elder Alan Penick

	Email: adpenick@comcast.net
October 22	<p>PRP Support Staff Office Manager: Alesia Sharpe Email: alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org Financial Secretary, Administrative Assistant, Web Site Mgr. Email: lori@peacriverpresbytery.org</p>
October 29	<p><u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Co-Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bruce Wismer Email: bruce@pineshorespres.org Co-Pastor: Rev. Karen Wismer Email: karen@pineshorespres.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Cori Rigney Email: cori@pineshorespres.org</p>

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.peacriverpresbytery.org

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

Thursday, October 26

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

Monday, October 30

Nominations and Representation Committee Conference Call Meeting (10:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, October 31

Finance Team Conference Call Meeting (11:00 a.m.)

Thursday, November 2

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

Post Hurricane Irma Debriefing and Gathering at Hope United Church, Fort Myers (1:30-3:30 p.m.)

Friday, November 3

Deadline for Reports from Committees, Teams, Task Forces, Boards for Stated Meeting

Monday, November 6

Planning Team (1:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, November 8

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

Thursday, November 9

Finance Team / Board of Trustees (10:00 a.m.)

Saturday, November 11

VETERANS' DAY

Tuesday, November 14

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

Thursday, November 16

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

Thursday, November 23

THANKSGIVING

Thursday, November 23 – 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.



