



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ May 14, 2018

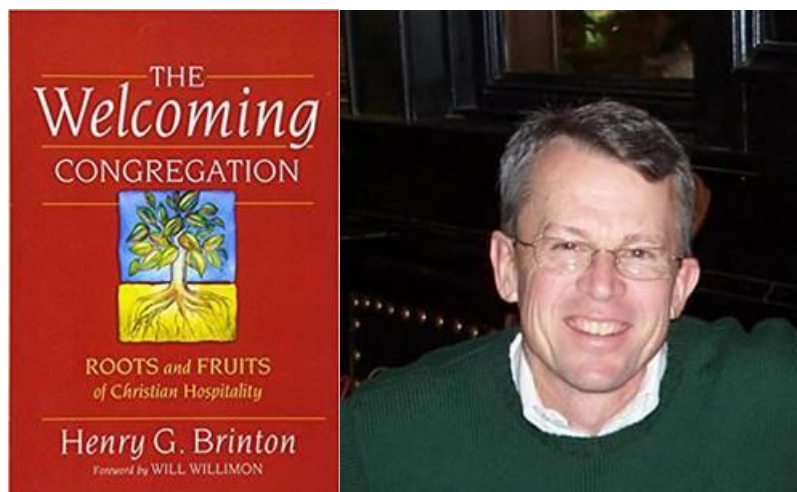
Special Invitation:
May 17th Stated Meeting of Presbytery - St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Compassionate and Inclusive Outreach

Compassionate and inclusive outreach is found throughout the Bible, from Abraham welcoming strangers to Jesus sharing meals with tax collectors and sinners. But how can we reach, welcome, and include people in the life of the church today?

Henry Brinton, pastor of Fairfax Presbyterian Church in Virginia, has found that compassionate and inclusive outreach requires the development of places and practices that can help strangers to feel at home in a community of faith. Hospitable places can include church-based coffee shops and welcome centers, while welcoming practices include crafting guest-sensitive worship services, gathering people around tables, and forming small groups where strangers can become friends.

At our May presbytery meeting, Henry will present the roots of Christian hospitality and then explore how these roots can produce the fruits of compassionate outreach and new perceptions of God's inclusive love. His research has been done at churches across the theological spectrum, from the progressive Iona Community in Scotland to evangelical Saddleback Church in California, and he will bring insights into how to reach winter residents in Florida.

Henry's discoveries will be of interest to both commissioners and church members working on evangelism and outreach, and the day will include lunch-table conversations, and a special time in the afternoon for those who are *not* commissioners to have further conversation with Henry.



The Presbytery Planning Team is extending a special invitation to ALL evangelism and outreach team/committee members from our congregations to attend this meeting (specifically from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch in between). The regular presbytery meeting for all teaching and ruling elders (commissioners) is from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Lunch reservations were due by Friday, May 11. To find out if there are extra lunch tickets available, please email or call Lori Doyal at the Presbytery Office: lori@peacriverpresbytery.org / 941.426.8421, ext. 401.

If you have any specific questions for Henry in the area of evangelism and outreach, please feel free to send them to me at pastor@FirstPC.church as soon as possible, and he will address them.

Below is a brief bio of Henry (his book, *The Welcoming Congregation: Roots and Fruits of Christian Hospitality*, will be available at the meeting):

Henry G. Brinton, a graduate of Duke University and Yale Divinity School, is the senior pastor of Fairfax Presbyterian Church in Fairfax, Virginia. He has written about religion and culture for *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today* and *Huffington Post*, and contributes to the preaching journals *Homiletics* and *Proclaim*. He is the author or co-author of five books including *The Welcoming Congregation: Roots and Fruits of Christian Hospitality* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012). His wife Nancy Freeborne Brinton is a health consultant, and they have two grown children, Sadie and Sam. An endurance athlete, Henry has completed a marathon, triathlon, or century bike ride a year since the year 2000.

Resurrection blessings,

Rev. Bill Teng
for the Planning Team
Peace River Presbytery

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Stated Meeting of Presbytery

The Welcoming Congregation: Roots and Fruits of Christian Hospitality

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port

8:00 a.m. – Registration Begins / **9:00 a.m.** – Stated Meeting Begins

8:30 a.m. – Financial Forum for anyone interested in learning more about the Presbytery's budget and finances, or with questions for your own church.

At our regular stated meeting, we will continue in our series on: Things that make for Vital Congregations focusing on Compassionate and Inclusive Outreach. We are pleased that the Rev. Henry Brinton, author of the new book, *The Welcoming Congregation: Roots and Fruits of Christian Hospitality*, will be our keynote speaker. Henry is Senior Pastor of Fairfax Presbyterian Church in Fairfax, Virginia. He is a regular contributor to USA Today and the Washington Post, as well as the author of several books, including *Balancing Acts: Obligation, Liberation, and Contemporary Christian Conflicts*. This will be a great meeting to bring several members from your mission, fellowship, and outreach committees of your congregation.



**** Lunch Reservations were REQUIRED BEFORE noon, Friday, May 11th. ****
Email or call Lori Doyal at the Presbytery Office to find out if there are any openings:
lori@peacriverpresbytery.org / 941.426.8421, ext. 401

Include the names of each person in the reservation, the church name, and your contact information.
The boxed lunch is \$10.00, payable at registration (no credit cards).

June 16-23, 2018
General Assembly of the PC(USA)
Location: St. Louis, Missouri



Our 2018 General Assembly Commissioners:

- Wayne Largent, Ruling Elder – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood
- Charmaine Ponkratz, Ruling Elder - Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda
- Jeff DeYoe, Teaching Elder – Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
- Bill Teng, Teaching Elder – First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia, and
- Mariah Martin, Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) – First Presbyterian, Sarasota,

will join with other commissioners and advisory delegates from all 170 PC(USA) presbyteries, and other delegates and observers from around the world. All will converge on the America's Convention Center in downtown St. Louis for celebrations, deliberations, and inspirations in support of the denomination's biennial gathering.

[Click here to link to the 223rd home page.](#)

The Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy will serve as host to the 223rd General Assembly, united under the theme, **“Renewing the Vision: Kindom Building for the 21st Century,”** from Matthew 6:25-33. The meetings will include rich worship services, the election of the Moderator and Vice Moderator or Co-Moderators, action on a plethora of overtures, and much more. View the [proposed docket](#).

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

*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



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

[May Newsletter](#)

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry has the following employment opportunities:

- Part-time Worship Music Leader - Must be bi-lingual with good teaching and musical skills to lead newly formed music group for Sunday Worship.

- Summer Programming Assistant - Part time position working Beth-El staff in coordinating summer youth programming.

For more information, or to apply, [email info@beth-el.org](mailto:info@beth-el.org)

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

www.misionpeniel.com

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 (checks or online):**

- 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.
- Click on the "Donate" button on the Mision Peniel web site.
- Contributor information is provided to Mision Peniel each month.

SAVE THE DATE:

September 26 - October 3

PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY IS RETURNING TO CUBA

To Engage in the Next Steps of our Peace River - Matanzas Partnership

Who: Up to 24 Members with/without Clergy from churches interested in establishing partnerships with area churches or the seminary in the Matanzas Presbytery. Each church is limited to four reservations.

What: Establishing Partnerships within the Matanzas Presbytery, including the seminary and local churches. Visiting local churches, engaging in ministry practices with that church and beginning the process of partnerships.

When: Wednesday, September 26 - Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Where: Varadero, Cuba

Expenses: Will include airfare (from either Tampa or Miami), visa, seminary lodging (dormitory style), meals, transportation during the week, and home stays at local church communities.

How:

1. *Return* registration form* indicating a firm commitment with \$100 deposit per person by **May 15th** (to begin the Visa process which requires at least 90 days) to Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Presbytery, North Port, FL 34287, *Attention:* Lori Doyal.

3. *Direct* questions to Cuba Partnership Task Force Co-Moderators:

Kevin Morris: 813-713-5117 | pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net or Ruth DeYoe: 386-793-6151 | ruthdeyoe@gmail.com

WALK with the BIBLE

Pastor Bill Teng of First Presbyterian Church in Arcadia, FL is organizing and leading a group in a *Walk with the Bible* tour of Israel and Jordan on October 5-18, this fall. The total cost is only \$4,945 from Tampa. More detail is available here: <http://bit.ly/2Fc2RiA>. If interested, please contact him at TengPresby@aol.com or 703.899.0725.

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- The family of the Rev. Robert "Bob" Cousar, who passed away on April 25, 2018
- The family of the Rev. Susan Rice-Waller, who passed away on April 21, 2018
- The Rev. Daniel Herlein - health
- Jim and Becky Beckwith, in the passing of their son, Greg
- Robert Dennis (son of Rev. India Dennis) – mental health issues
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry (in Wimauma)
- Misión Peniel Farmworker Ministry (in Immokalee)
- 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 2018:

May 6	<u>Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Kevin Morris Email: pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net
May 13	<u>PRP Stated Meeting at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church</u> May 17, 2018
May 20	<u>Chapel By The Sea, Fort Myers Beach</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison Email: skypilot_mddiv@hotmail.com
May 27	<u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers</u> Interim Pastor: Rev. R.C. Smith Email: revrc5@aol.com

CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS

First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia:
[Part-Time Children and Youth Director](#)

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MAY 2018

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, May 17

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port)

Thursday, May 24

Records Review Planning Meeting (10:00 a.m.-12:00 n.)

Congregational Vitality Team (12:30 p.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.

