



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ June 19, 2018

Around the Presbytery

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

This is being written before leaving for the 223rd General Assembly with appreciation for the confidence you've placed in the team that will be participating from Peace River Presbytery. As I mentioned at the recent Presbytery meeting, for some providential reason I will be lodging at the same hotel as the Young Adult Advisory Delegates! In previous moderator letters I have been on the road around the Presbytery, so in preparation of spending the week with the next generation this message is devoted to sharing things happening in the lives of our churches who are nurturing young families.

We start at Kirkwood Presbyterian where Pastor Hope joyfully informed us that their very first **Young Adult Volunteer** (YAV) with the PC (USA) is spending the next year in Chinook, Montana. Brooke is a college student who has been interning at the church and is now taking this step which is sure to add dimension to her spiritual journey.

The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people, ages 19-30, in [22 sites](#) around the world and in the United States. YAVs accompany local agencies working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation while exploring the meaning and motivation of their faith in community with peers and mentors.

The Chinook (Hi-Line) YAV program is a partnership among five churches: Presbyterian, Methodist, Alliance, Assembly of God and Lutheran. YAVs participate in ecumenical programs sponsored by the churches, including youth groups (high school/junior high and grade school groups) and summer lunch programs, senior citizen programs, nursing homes and community outreach. YAVs work closely with the local pastors as well as church groups. YAVs also have opportunities to help in the local preschool, grade school and high school/junior high.

Is there a young adult in your church family that might be a candidate for the YAV program?

Our next stop is at Northminster Presbyterian where members gathered in the fellowship hall after worship to pack **5,000 Meals for Kids Against Hunger**. This effort was in partnership with the Manatee Sunrise Kiwanis Foundation, for the Kiwanis Against Hunger program. A member of the church said, "It has been decades since this church has seen so many women (and men) in hats and gloves!" In their stylish "lunch lady" garb, Northminsterites staffed three assembly lines; measuring ingredients into bags, weighing and sealing packaged meals. In little more than an hour, twenty-five cartons of *Latin Rice* were ready to be donated to All Faiths Food Bank for distribution to the hungry in the community.

The Latin Rice mix is a highly nutritious, vitamin-fortified, soy-rice based blend. It is formulated to be combined with water to make a six-serving casserole. Pastor Wally has cooked and eaten a sample and reports that it's quite tasty! The ingredients for each meal costs 25 cents – that's \$1,250 for 5,000 meals. One of the most wonderful surprises during this event was a check from one donor for the entire \$1,250! That means the church is on their way toward a second Meal Packing Event this fall.

Could your church feed 5000?

Back on the road to Faith Presbyterian Cape Coral as they prepare to chart the course for a pastoral transition and for ministry in the next chapter of their blessed history. As part of their readiness their Session commissioned a Vision Team to conduct a comprehensive mission study. They peeled back the onion on their current ministry and their community needs. They conducted a church wide survey, interviewed community leaders and other thriving church leaders. And they used a tool that is available to every church in the Presbytery; Mission Insite.

This is a church that could grow and maintain a healthy ministry if they just continued doing what they've been doing. Many of their ministries respond to and attract the retired market, and that segment of the population is projected to grow in the Faith neighborhood for at least the next decade. But looking deeper at the demographic information they came to understand that they are under-serving the young families that live, work and play in their church's neighborhood. In their report, the Future Faith, the Vision Team makes the proclamation that 'we are called to do more' and 'need to adopt an aggressive, intentional approach to attract young families.'

What might you learn by peeling back the onion on the needs of your community?

I'll be seeing you back on the road.

Charmaine Ponkratz, your fellow servant and humble moderator

STEERING COMMITTEE:
General Presbyter Transition Report
(endorsed by Peace River Presbytery on May 17, 2018)

At May 3, 2018 meeting of the Steering Committee the following motions were approved:

1. The Personnel Committee recommends the use of the Adaptive Transition model for the succession process of the current General Presbyter.

Rationale:

- a. Review of the state of Peace River Presbytery indicates that it is healthy and stable.
- b. The Presbytery will be better served by a process of continuity.

2. Jointly the Personnel Committee and the Strategic Task Force recommend that the Strategic Task Force continue its work to include a draft of the Ministry Information Form (MIF).

3. Jointly the Personnel Committee and the Strategic Task Force recommend that the Personnel Committee update the General Presbyter's job description and competencies in accordance with the MIF.

4. Jointly the Steering Committee and the Nominating and Representation Committee will provide a slate of candidates to be elected by the Presbytery to the Search Committee (at a called meeting of Presbytery in August).

During the transition period the General Presbyter will not be involved in the process except as a resource when specifically asked. Input from outside resources may be requested.

Next Steps:

1. Strategic Task Force completes Ministry Information Form (MIF) in conjunction with Personnel's work on Job Description.
2. Steering Committee and Nominations Committee present a Search Committee slate (probably 5 to 7 people, with balanced representation between teaching and ruling elders. No more than one member from a church. (Nominations accepted from Presbytery by June 15).

3. August 9, 2018, a called meeting of Presbytery, that includes election of the Search Committee and review of MIF with opportunity for input.
4. Final MIF is approved by the Steering Committee and the search begins. (mid-September)
5. Plans are made for celebration activities.
6. February 2019, Presbytery meeting will be Graham's last Presbytery meeting with plans to retire at the end of March 2019.

Contact the following moderators/co-moderators to provide your valuable input to the process:

For Recommendations to Search Committee (Deadline is passed and was June 15th):

- Craig Goodrich, co-moderator Steering Committee - CraigG@fpcnaples.org
- Lil Rea, co-moderator Steering Committee - lrea@me.com
- Donald Cady, co-moderator Nominations and Representation Committee - donaldfcady@gmail.com
- Lou Thompson, co-moderator Nominations and Representation Committee - 1st58@comcast.net

For Input to Ministry Information Form and Job Description:

- Will Browne, moderator Personnel Committee - willbrowne@yahoo.com
- Lil Rea, moderator Strategic Task Force - lrea@me.com

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

[June 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.

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 Rev. Daniel Herlein - health
- 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: JUNE 2018:

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| June 3 | <u>Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch</u> Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Deibert Email: edeibert@mindspring.com |
| June 10 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Lehigh Acres</u> Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jim Berger Email: drjimberger@gmail.com |
| June 17 | <u>Christ Church of Longboat Key</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard Email: revnmp@comcast.net |
| June 24 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Pastor: Rev. Craig Goodrich Email: craigg@fpcnaples.org |

CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port
[Music Director for the Traditional Service](#)

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

### PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JUNE 2018

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

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

#### **Saturday, June 16-Saturday, June 23**

223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in St. Louis, MO

#### **Tuesday, June 26**

Committee on Ministry (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)  
Information Gathering Meeting (2:30 p.m. at Hope United, Fort Myers)

#### **Wednesday, June 27**

Information Gathering Meeting (9:30 a.m. at Church of the Palms, Sarasota)  
Information Gathering Meeting (2:30 p.m. at Burnt Store, Punta Gorda)

### **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.

