



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ July 18, 2018

Growing Into Our Cuban Partnership Between Matanzas and Peace River Presbyteries

In 1890, the first formal Presbyterian missionary organized the first Presbyterian church in Cuba. That spark began in Havana and spread quickly to include seven Presbyterian churches in Havana by 1904. Those churches were organized into a presbytery within the Synod of New Jersey. The Presbyterian church continued to expand and grow in many areas with backing from Presbyterian churches and denominational mission support in the United States. The Presbyterian churches in Cuba were known for their schools and medical clinics, both serving the local communities.

In 1961, shortly after Castro came to power, a triple whammy hit the Presbyterian churches on the island. The embargo severely curtailed support from the United States. Second, a “brain drain” occurred when many clergy and lay leaders escaped to the United States, leaving many churches without ordained ministers and leaders. The ability to educate up and coming clergy was also stunted. And third, the communist government seized the schools and medical clinics. Even though Castro did not close the churches, many had to close for the above-mentioned reasons. Up to 1990, the churches in the official atheist country held on with great difficulty. Church members could not be a member of the Communist party and participate in government. Also in this period, women stepped up and kept many of the churches afloat while men had to take government sanctioned jobs.

In the mid-1980s, PCUSA mission efforts were able to crack open some doors. The communist government began to allow partnerships between presbyteries of the two nations. By 1990, Castro told the nation that churches should go from being tolerated to being “respected”. Castro recognized that churches could be a help in the communities where they were located, taking some of the burden off the government.

Fast forward to February, 2018 ... Today we celebrate the journey that has led us to establish a formal partnership between the Matanzas and Peace River Presbyteries, and prepare for our first partnership trip to Cuba this fall!

From September 27-October 2, twenty-eight people, representing eight Peace River churches, will meet with church leaders and congregation members from the Matanzas Presbytery to continue to build relationships and explore mutual ministry opportunities. Peace River participants will visit local congregations to learn about their ministries and explore further partnership opportunities. Churches that will be represented include:

Covenant (Ft. Myers), Cypress Lake (Ft. Myers), Faith (Cape Coral), First (Naples), First (Sarasota), Hope United (Estero), Northminster (Sarasota) and Vanderbilt (Naples).

We are also exploring partnering with the Matanzas Evangelical Theological Seminary, in supporting seminary students studying for the ministry, in Matanzas Presbytery. One of our churches working in this area is First (Bonita).

As per our Presbytery’s partnership agreement, we hope to bring formal recommendations for church to church partnerships for presbytery approval at the November presbytery meeting. We are excited for the ways in which God is leading us forward! Your support through prayers and other resources for our mutual journey into partnership is greatly appreciated!

In Christ’s Partnership,
Kevin Morris and Ruth DeYoe, Co-Moderators of the Cuba Partnership Task Force

First Presbyterian Church of Naples
invites you to attend the
ORDINATION and INSTALLATION of
Rex Roby Childs

Sunday, July 29th at 4:00 p.m.
Reception following in Spencer Hall.

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First Presbyterian Church of Naples  
250 Sixth Street South | Naples, FL 34102

**CALLED MEETING of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

**Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.**  
*(note time change from last announcement)*  
Venice Presbyterian Church  
More information to follow.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of ARCADIA**

**120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 a.m. worship with a potluck luncheon to follow.  
RSVP to [office@firstpc.church](mailto:office@firstpc.church) by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**SEPTEMBER REGIONAL GATHERINGS**

*(Please note dates and locations; more information will follow.)*

**Southern Region:** Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> | 1:00-4:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church, Naples

**Northern Region:** Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Oak Pointe Church, Bradenton

**Central Region:** Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> | 1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

**Records Review Workshops** will be held in conjunction with each of the Gatherings. See schedule below.

**RECORDS REVIEW WORKSHOPS**

**Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> | 4:00 p.m.**  
First Presbyterian Church, Naples

**Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> | 11:45 a.m.**  
Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

**Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> | 12:15 p.m.**

Oak Pointe Church, Bradenton

**Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> | 9:00 a.m.\***

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers

\*9:00 a.m. – Training by Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Randy Moody

10:00 a.m. – Records Review

**Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> | 9:00 a.m.**

Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

***A letter was previously sent out to Clerks of Session for the workshops. Please refer to that letter for additional, important information. Advance Registration is required through the contact person listed in the letter.***

## **CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

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

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

[July 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](http://www.misionpeniel.com)

### **Staff Contacts:**

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: [miguestrada@hotmail.com](mailto:miguestrada@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 (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.

**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: JULY 2018**

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|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 1  | <u>PDA/FLAPDAN – Covenant Partner of PRP</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| July 8  | <u>Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples</u><br>Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Ted Land<br>Email: <a href="mailto:tedland46@gmail.com">tedland46@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                              |
| July 15 | <u>Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Learned<br>Email: <a href="mailto:pastor@mooringschurch.org">pastor@mooringschurch.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Jaci Smith Patman<br>Email: <a href="mailto:jpatman@mooringschurch.org">jpatman@mooringschurch.org</a> |
| July 22 | <u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples</u><br>Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Will Brown<br>Email: <a href="mailto:willbrowne@yahoo.com">willbrowne@yahoo.com</a>                                                                                                                                    |

July 29

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Ray Quiles  
Email: [chaprafi@gmail.com](mailto:chaprafi@gmail.com)

### **CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS**

Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

[Part Time Accompanist](#)  
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Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

[Part Time Administrative Assistant](#)
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St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port

[Music Director for the Traditional Service](#)

### **PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JULY 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.*

#### **Thursday, July 19**

Steering Committee

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

#### **Sunday, July 29**

Ordination and Installation Service for Rex Childs (4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Naples)

### **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.**



