



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ August 29, 2018

Life in Peace River

Part I - The Getting Ready Season: A Time of Transition.

This week the General Presbyter Search Committee begins its work. They will be meeting on August 30th with Joyce Lieberman, Executive for the Synod of the South Atlantic, to organize and start in their important task. Please pray for them as they organize, finalize the MIF (note - the draft document was presented at the Special August Presbytery Meeting), and prepare to receive PIFs and interview prospective candidates in the coming months.

The GPNC will do its work, give updates to the Presbytery and, when finished, report back to the Presbytery. As is the case with all search processes, that committee is responsible to the electing body, which in this case is the Presbytery. As has been shared before, I will not be involved in their process, but I will continue to help this Presbytery do its work and get ready. **So how do I/we do that?**

In the “Adaptive Model” the ‘transition team’ (or the body identified to do that work) and the pastor who is retiring, pays attention to the same kind of issues and dynamics that an interim pastor typically addresses. It is different because, unlike with an interim, the person leaving (retiring) is still part of the emotional field and leadership of that congregation, or in our case, the Presbytery. Never-the-less, the five development tasks and focus points of a transition time are to be addressed.

So, in this season of “getting ready”, I have and will continue to work with the Steering Committee, paying attention to this transitional work.

Images and metaphors are often helpful ways to capture life. At the last Steering Committee meeting I shared with them my image of this getting ready season, and in September they will be sharing their images.

My image is that of landing a plane. The plane is Peace River Presbytery, there will be a crew change; but the Flight “Peace River” is a continuation flight. The Presbytery continues in its work before the crew change, as does a plane as it approaches a landing. An hour or more before arriving at an airport, the crew takes time to prepare for the landing, as I suggest we will be doing in this transition time. The crew change is not the destination; for the plane continues in its itinerary, as will Peace River with its 37 congregations, pastors, leadership, vision and strategic directions after the crew change.



If you have ideas and metaphors, I would love to hear from you and share them with the Steering Committee, as we are in this “getting ready” season.

Part 2 of Life in Peace River. This past week we have had much to celebrate:

- The 120th Anniversary Celebration of First Presbyterian Church of Arcadia;
- The Grand Opening of Peace Presbyterian Church in their new worship space;
- The calling of a new pastor at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church;
- The 40th Anniversary of the Ordination of Glen Bell, which First Presbyterian Church recognized;
- The planting of the Community Garden at Mission Peniel;
- Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers, voted to seek Presbytery’s approval to sell their property and relocate.

We are getting ready, but as shown by all of the pics below, we are still doing ministry together and flying the plane called “Peace River”.

Thanks be to God!

Graham

Graham Hart
General Presbyter
graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

Life in Peace River:

The 120th Anniversary Celebration of First Presbyterian Church of Arcadia:





The Grand Opening of Peace Presbyterian Church's (Lakewood Ranch) new Worship Space:



The calling of a new pastor, Rev. Rob Marrow, at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples:



The Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Glen Bell's Ordination, recognized at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota:



The Planting of the Community Garden at Mision Peniel:



ORDINATION & INSTALLATION SERVICE

for

CAROLYN WILSON

Sunday, September 2, 4:00 p.m.

Venice Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER REGIONAL GATHERINGS

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

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

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

Central Region: Thursday, September 6th | 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 5th | 4:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, Naples

Thursday, September 6th | 11:45 a.m.
Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

Thursday, September 6th | 12:15 p.m.
Oak Pointe Church, Bradenton

Saturday, September 22nd | 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 6th | 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.

NEWS from WESTMINSTER COMMUNITIES of FLORIDA

Westminster Communities Leaders Win Awards

We congratulate Westminster Suncoast resident John Lefebvre and Westminster Communities of Florida board member James Bogner on receiving distinguished honors at LeadingAge Florida's 55th Annual Convention and Exposition in Orlando, Fla.

Lefebvre received the Volunteer of the Year award for serving countless hours at Westminster Suncoast and in the community of St. Petersburg. Lefebvre's involvement includes serving the homeless through an innovative recycling program to provide staples like body wash, detergent and Q-tips. In partnership with

Daystar Life Center of St. Petersburg, he has provided thousands of bottles and offered much-needed dignity to the homeless.

<http://www.westminstercommunitiesfl.org/news-details?newsID=4951#news4951>

For information about Westminster Communities of Florida, please contact:

Rev. Walk C. Jones, D.Min.

Director of Church Relations

Westminster Communities of Florida

Office: 407-839-5050

www.westminsterretirement.com

**PCUSA MISSION CO-WORKERS &
COVENANT PARTNERS OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY:**

Daniell & Elizabeth Turk

Serving the people of Madagascar

Read their latest [newsletter](#).

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

Beth-El
Farmworker Ministry, Inc.

PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

[August 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: miguestrada@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.

ARTICLES of INTEREST

(selected by Graham Hart)

[Millennial evangelicals diverge from their parents' beliefs](#)

The New Yorker: The separation of families at the border, climate change, and other progressive causes have galvanized young Christians.

[E.J. Dionne: Catholics left wondering, how can we stay?](#)

The Washington Post: Catholics are now regularly asked: "How can you be a Catholic?" And, even more pointedly, "How can you stay?" This summer, these questions became much harder to answer.

[Clergy not prepared to meet congregations' mental health needs](#)

The (Nashville) Tennessean: Religious people tend to turn to clergy for help and support in times of trouble, but when it involves a mental health issue, their pastor or rabbi is usually ill-equipped to respond effectively.

[How can a theology of wisdom serve our faith communities?](#) Baptist News Global: As models of church and ministry continue to change, wisdom is more important than ever, says Molly T. Marshall. Where do we turn for this?

[Catholics are desperate for tangible reforms on clergy sex abuse](#)

The Atlantic: Pope Francis says he supports a "zero-tolerance" policy, but some insist those words are not enough. - National Catholic Reporter: [We can only move forward when we name the evil of clericalism](#)

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- Jim and Becky Beckwith - health
- Rev. Miguel Estrada's Father-In-Law, Mr. Castillo Fernandez - health
- 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: SEPTEMBER 2018

September 2	<u>PRP Seminary Students (Candidates and Inquirers)</u>
September 9	<u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Stewart Email: sunburn1320@mac.com
September 16	<u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Transitional Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller Email: thecelticmonk@att.net
September 23	<u>Mision Peniel – A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery</u> Presbytery Evangelist: Rev. Miguel Estrada Email: migustrada@hotmail.com
September 30	<u>Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Wally Johnson Email: revwallyjohnson@gmail.com

CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS

Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

[Part Time Accompanist](#)

~~~~~

Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

[Part Time Administrative Assistant](#)

~~~~~

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port

[Music Director for the Traditional Service](#)

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 2018

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

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org

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

Thursday, August 30

General Presbyter Nominating Committee (9:30 a.m.)

Sunday, September 2

Ordination and Installation Service for Carolyn Wilson (4:00 p.m. at Venice Presbyterian Church)

Monday, September 3

Labor Day Holiday – PRP Offices Closed

Wednesday, September 5

Regional Gathering – Southern Region (1:00-4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Naples)

Records Review Workshop (4:00-5:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Naples)

Thursday, September 6

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

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (10:00 a.m.)

Regional Gathering – Northern Region (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Oak Pointe Church, Bradenton)

Records Review Workshop (12:15-1:15 p.m. at Oak Point Church, Bradenton)

Records Review Workshop (11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood)

Regional Gathering – Central Region (1:00-4:00 p.m. at Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood)

Monday, September 10

Nominations and Representation Committee (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, September 11

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

Wednesday, September 12

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

Thursday, September 13

Finance Team / Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.)

Monday, September 17

Planning Team (12:30-2:30 p.m.)

Thursday, September 20

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

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

Saturday, September 22

Clerk of Session Training (9:00-10:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers)

Records Review Workshop (10:00-11:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers)

Wednesday, September 26-Wednesday, October 3

Cuba Partnership Trip

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.

