



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ September 11, 2018

MODERATOR'S JOURNEY through the PRESBYTERY

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

My official journey as your moderator has turned the corner on the halfway mark, but there is still so much more to see, so much more to celebrate as I travel to the congregations north and south, east and west across this Presbytery.

Buckingham Presbyterian Church decided to partner with Tice Elementary School to bring the love of Jesus into the lives of children who do not benefit from all the good and great things that others enjoy. The congregation has made quilts for the pre-K children, they read with students, they put celebration into holidays with food provisions and they sponsor children to attend Cedarkirk Summer Camp. Here's an excerpt from an administrator that affirms the impact of their work:

"Hello and thank you for sponsoring our school!"

Preliminary calculations of state testing scores predict that Tice Elementary may well come out of our precarious "D" school grade from 2016-17 and for 2017-18 we will surpass the "C" and rise to a school grade of "B!" We believe your partnership with our community has been a major factor in our students' success. The funds, the volunteering in the classroom and in many other ways --along with your love and prayers--have helped our students with exposure to experiences that would not have been possible without your help.

You may wonder how your help has influenced the school performance of the children at Tice. Well, here's how: New experiences generate thought. Thoughts generate language, ideas, hypotheses, analyses and synthesis of information. This growth of the mind then translates into better understandings of the surrounding world, which in turn boosts academic performance.

Once again THANK YOU from the Tice Elementary School community!"

Last month **First Presbyterian Church, Naples** provided the setting for the perfect demonstration of what it means to be a denomination built upon a connectional foundation. At the recent ordination and installation service for Rex Childs I was overwhelmed with support that was shown from across the Presbytery. There had to be 100 brothers and sisters in Christ from **Vanderbilt Presbyterian, Naples** that joined in the celebration of the day. Additionally, there were pastors from the far north and east reaches of our Presbytery in attendance.

Within 48 hours of that joyous worship service the following email exchange came across my computer screen. It was from Pastor Chuck Wiggins, **Trinity Presbyterian, Venice**, talking about a delegation of their members that will be going to First Presbyterian Arcadia to celebrate the 120th anniversary. Pastor Chuck writes: *All of this takes me back to May 5, 1996, when I became only the second pastor of Trinity Church in its 49-year history. That day, there was a fine group of folks that drove all the way from Arcadia to Venice to witness that Service of Installation. And it made it extra special.*

Pastor Chuck has always advocated for the celebratory nature of the Services of Ordination and/or Installation. If you haven't been to one lately, watch for future Presbytery news; there are more in the pipeline, and each one glorifies God in the best way we know how!

As with any journey, who you travel with can be more important than your destination.

I'll be seeing you back on the road.

Charmaine Ponkratz, your fellow servant and humble moderator

The General Presbyter Nominating Committee is Organized:

The General Presbyter Nominating Committee held their organizational meeting last week and were provided guidance by the South Atlantic Synod Executive Joyce Lieberman. By unanimous consent Pastor Sung Lee and Linda Getzen agreed to serve as co-moderators of the team. The first tasks will be to finalize the Ministry Information Form for recommendation to the Steering Committee for their action and to submit a budget request for search-related expenses.

Other members serving on the team are Carson Brown, Gene George, Charmaine Ponkratz, Terri Jo Crego, Jeff DeYoe, Kelly Fitzgerald and Doug Pratt.

The team is planted firmly on a foundation of prayer and will covet your prayers for the work ahead. Respectfully submitted, Charmaine Ponkratz, scribe.

RECORDS REVIEW WORKSHOPS

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.

2018 FLORIDA CLERGY CONVENING

Hosted by the Florida Council of Churches

Sunday, September 30-Monday, October 1, 2018

Topic - Clergy Impacting Equal Justice in Florida:

What should just legislative reform look like?

[Information Flyer](#)

**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

[September Newsletter](#)

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry has the following employment opportunity:

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

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

- 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.

Tuesday, September 11

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

GPNC (1:00 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.



