



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ October 16, 2018

From the Steering Committee

Looking at the agenda for our Steering Committee meeting this week, I am amazed at all that happens in and through the Presbytery, day in and day out, from month to month and year to year. It is a busy time for us and for our congregations as well! "The Season" is arriving. Traffic is picking up as folks are returning or maybe coming to Southwest Florida for the first time. Amid the growing concerns about the "Red Tide" and "Green Algae" there are those in our area who are still recovering from Hurricane Irma a year ago even as Hurricanes Florence and Michael have wreaked devastation. There is much to be anxious about, isn't there?

And yet we will worship again this Sunday and time moves on.

John Claypool was an Episcopal priest and a wonderful preacher. He authored a number of books which have influenced and encouraged me. One of the best is *The Hopeful Heart* in which he describes hope as the "oxygen of the soul" and says this about the past and the future: "The way we choose to relate to what has already happened to us exerts a powerful influence on how we handle the not-yet-experienced." (Page 65). From Claypool's writings I have come up with an equation. See what you think.

It is this: If (1) we can look back on the past with gratitude, not regret and if (2) we can look forward to the future with hope and not anxiety, then (3) we have a good chance of living fully in this present moment.

But where do gratitude and hope come from? Are they self-generated feelings? Yes, to some extent we can choose gratitude and hope. But on a deeper level, these gifts come from God's faithfulness and our responding trust in God's grace. As the old hymns proclaim: "O God our help in Ages Past, Our hope for years to come" and "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

As a Presbytery in this busy season of transition we are looking back with gratitude to God for the gift of ministry and leadership of our General Presbyter Graham Hart over the last eighteen years. And we are looking forward with hope as we embrace new Strategic Directions.

Thanks be to God for all that has been, for all that will be and for this day which the Lord has made!

Craig Goodrich
Co-Moderator, Steering Committee

STATED MEETING of PRESBYTERY Thursday, November 15, 2018 Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers

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8:00 a.m. – Registration Begins

\* 8:30 a.m. – Finance Forum with the PRP Board of Trustees \*

9:00 a.m. – Stated Meeting Begins  
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Lunch reservations due no later than 10:00 a.m. Friday, November 9th.

Contact Lori Doyal at the Presbytery Office
lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org / 941-426-8421, ext. 401

** The Finance Forum is a perfect opportunity to ask questions about the Presbytery budget, as well as the mission and ministry of the Presbytery.*

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

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Thank you for supporting Cedarkirk and holding this ministry in your prayers for the last 45 years.

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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

[October Newsletter](#)

MISIÓN PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworker Community in Immokalee

208 Boston Ave., PO Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34143

www.misionpeniel.com

Facebook: "Misión Peniel"

Staff Contacts:

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: miguelstrada@hotmail.com
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: ruthdeyoe@gmail.com
- General Email: misionpenielpeaceriver@gmail.com

Contributions to Misión 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 Misión Peniel.
- Please note *Misión Peniel* in the memo section.
- Click on the "Donate" button on the Misión Peniel web site.
- Contributor information is provided to Misión Peniel each month.

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- Communities affected by Hurricane Michael
- Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass – recovery from a badly broken leg

- 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: OCTOBER 2018

October 7	<u>PRP Elected Staff:</u> Graham Hart (General Presbyter), Randy Moody (Stated Clerk), Alan Penick (Treasurer)
October 14	<u>PRP Support Staff:</u> Alesia Sharpe (Office Manager) and Lori Doyal (Financial Secretary and Administrative Assistant)
October 21	<u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Co- Pastors: Rev. Dr. Bruce Wismer and Rev. Karen Wismer Email: bruce@pineshorespres.org / karen@pineshorespres.org
October 28	<u>Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Michael Mansperger Email: covenant.presbyteian@comcast.net

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, March 3, 2019
Peace Presbyterian Church Dedication Service

AROUND the PRESBYTERY EVENTS:

[Faith Focus Weekend Presentation – First Presbyterian, Sarasota](#)
Saturday, October 20, 2018

CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS

Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers/Estero
[Church Administrative Assistant / Office Administrator](#)

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

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St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: OCTOBER 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, October 18

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

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

Thursday, October 25

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

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.



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**Blessings,
Lori**

Lori Doyal
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Peace River Presbytery
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Phone: 941-426-8421