



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ November 8, 2018

GENERAL PRESBYTER'S REPORT

Dear Members of Peace River ...

(note - this is adapted from my report to the November 15, 2018 Presbytery meeting)

Gratitude and Hope are the feelings and the message that fills my heart, as I get ready to retire and you prepare to welcome a new General Presbyter. The following is just a small sampling of what is in my gratitude journal:

- the people I have worked, prayed, dreamed and cried with these past 17 years, especially the staff who have supported you and me in a steady way;
- the volunteers, both teaching and ruling elders, who are committed to a larger vision of the church (beyond the local level) which has enabled this presbytery to do its work;
- the new initiatives we have launched such as the Blessing Grants, Cuba Partnership, the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance through Mision Peniel, as well as the continuing and amazing work of Beth-El and Cedarkirk, and the overseas mission co-workers we support;
- each of the congregations which are at the heart of our work as a presbytery;
- some good friends who have walked this road with me;
- and a family and Linda who have been supportive of my work throughout the years.

Hope is one of those words that draws us forward. At the heart of our Christian hope is our conviction that God is not finished with us nor the world God so loves. The Strategic Planning Team has done some very good work, and I believe the path they are suggesting can help us better fulfill your work and mission as a presbytery. My hope is tempered with some sadness that for me this part of my journey will be coming to an end; but I am convinced it is the right time for new leadership to come and help you dream new dreams and continue to be the great presbytery you are.

So, in this final few months as your General Presbyter, as we use an adaptive model for this transition, as I have shared before, a helpful metaphor at least for me to understand this model, is to think of Peace River as a plane. My role, as one of the crew, is to keep flying the plane. At the same time, I am doing my part to land the plane, anticipating a quick turnaround, so that you (i.e. the Presbytery) can continue on your way with a new leader. Additionally, during this time I am also preparing to get out of this plane and step into another one. Someone suggested that a glider - that will soar with the winds of the Spirit - would be an appropriate metaphor for me to use as I personally look toward the future.



So, in these days I find myself excited, sad, hopeful, and grateful all at the same time.
To read my full report to the presbytery click [here](#).

With Gratitude and Hope,
Graham
graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

STATED MEETING of PRESBYTERY
Thursday, November 15, 2018
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
2439 McGregor Blvd. | Fort Myers, 33901

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8:00 a.m. – Registration Begins  
\* 8:30-8:55 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@peacriverpresbytery.org / 941-426-8421, ext. 401
Lunch is \$10.00 payable at Registration (no credit cards).

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

**EVENTS AROUND the PRESBYTERY:**  
[Annual Community Interfaith Service at First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota](#)  
Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>

**HURRICANE MICHAEL RESPONSE**

The following information is from the  
Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN):

**HURRICANE MICHAEL: HOW YOU CAN HELP ...**

**DONATIONS:**

To donate, please go to <http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/hurricane-michael/>

Donate Responsibly! Watch this short video to see how powerful a cash donation can be.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12cNBNKIXv8>

**VOLUNTEERS:**

If you would like to volunteer during the response phase, please register at [www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org)  
Once needs are determined by the Red Cross and the Salvation Army, Volunteer Florida will help organize and connect volunteers where the help is most needed.

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Kathy Broyard  
Executive Director / Emergency Management Specialist  
**Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN)**  
Phone: 941-483-0675  
Email: [fla.pdan@pcusa.org](mailto:fla.pdan@pcusa.org)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 491279, Leesburg, FL 34749-1279

In partnership with  
**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**  
PC(USA) <http://pda.pcusa.org/>

## ARTICLES of INTEREST

(selected by Graham Hart)

### [How religious groups voted in the midterm elections](#)

Pew Research: A preliminary analysis of the 2018 midterm elections finds considerable continuity in the voting patterns of several key religious groups.

Religion News Service: [The end of America's Protestant political majority gives Republicans cause to worry](#) -- Vox: [The GOP can't rely on white evangelicals forever](#)

### [The embodied church in a digital age](#)

Christianity Today: Should we cheer or moan when online churches perform virtual baptisms?

### [After the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting](#)

Inside Higher Ed: Interfaith activities always grow after racist and anti-Semitic attacks. The trick is to focus the energy on building something hopeful, not just fighting something ugly, says Eboo Patel.

### [One-on-one with Tim Keller about reaching skeptics with the gospel](#)

Christianity Today: "If you can answer people's questions and also learn how to question people's answers, that's how you can approach having these conversations."

### [Is it dangerous to be Jewish in America?](#)

Religion News Service: Is this a time of persecution? Is it time to remove our kippot, keep our hanukiyot on the kitchen table, and stop talking about Seinfeld in public?

### [Ego is the enemy of good leadership](#)

Harvard Business Review: The job is supposed to be about selflessness, reflection, and courage.

### [The caravan is an exodus](#)

Christian Century: The migrants have bigger concerns than U.S. policy. They know the terrors they are fleeing.

### [What happened to liberation theology?](#)

The Economist: Its tenets have become accepted by the Catholic Church at the same time as Catholic influence is waning.

### [How Christian missionary media shaped the world](#)

The Conversation: For much of the 19th century, Christian missionaries served as informal foreign correspondents for a broadly Christian public in the eastern United States and Western Europe.

## 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)

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

Facebook: "Misión Peniel"

### **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: [misionpenielpeacriver@gmail.com](mailto:misionpenielpeacriver@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 pray for:**

- Cori (daughter of Rev. Dr. Russ and Bobbie Hickman) – surgery for thyroid cancer
- Ruth DeYoe (Mission Coordinator for Misión Peniel) – recovery from knee replacement surgery

### **Please continue to pray for:**

- Community of Thousand Oaks, CA
- Worshipping Community and Families affected by the Tree of Life Synagogue tragedy in Pittsburgh, PA
- Communities affected by Hurricane Michael
- Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass – health
- 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: NOVEMBER 2018**

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November<br>4  | <u>Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota</u><br>Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Thomas (Tom) Cook<br>Email: <a href="mailto:tcook1127@gmail.com">tcook1127@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                     |
| November<br>11 | <u>PRP Stated Meeting on November 15</u><br>Location: Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| November<br>18 | <u>Drs. Les and Cynthia Morgan</u> – Covenant Partners of PRP<br>and PCUSA Mission Co-Workers<br>Web: <a href="http://www.pcusa.org/les-and-cindy-morgan">www.pcusa.org/les-and-cindy-morgan</a>                                                                                            |
| November<br>25 | <u>Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice</u><br>Senior Pastor: Rev. Christopher (Chris) Romig<br>Email: <a href="mailto:cromig@venicepres.org">cromig@venicepres.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Carolyn Wilson<br>Email: <a href="mailto:cwilson@venicepres.org">cwilson@venicepres.org</a> |

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sunday, March 3, 2019**

Peace Presbyterian Church - Dedication Service

### **CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS**

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: NOVEMBER 2018

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

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peacriverpresbytery.org

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

Thursday, November 8

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

Stated Meeting Packet Posted Online

Tuesday, November 13

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

Thursday, November 15

Stated Meeting of Presbytery at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers

Wednesday, November 21

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

Presbytery Offices Close at 12:00 noon

Thursday, November 22

Happy Thanksgiving!

Presbytery Offices Closed

Friday, November 23

Presbytery Offices Closed

Thursday, November 29

Steering Committee (9:00 a.m.)

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.

