



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ November 21, 2018

MODERATOR'S REFLECTIONS

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

As I write this newsletter many folks are on the preparation side of the November Presbytery meeting, but as you read it the meeting will be in our rear-view mirror. That is the same with my journey as your moderator. Thank-you to all who have been the GPS, the refueling stations and the guides along my journey. It was an honor to be entrusted with the gavel.

Throughout the year, and in the prior years as Committee on Ministry co-moderator, it was my goal to visit all 37 churches in our Presbytery. I've fallen short of my goal, but the year is not over and I only have a handful to visit!

Truth be told, I took an intentional detour that took me away from visiting existing Peace River Presbytery churches to explore where *new* ministries, *new* worshipping communities, *new* churches could be planted. The projected growth in southwest Florida buoys my spirits as we talk about the opportunity for our existing churches as well as for new places to plant the seeds.

Our 37 churches are located in 18 different communities and ALL of them logged population growth from 2010 to 2017! And the future is bright for both permanent and seasonal population growth. God is surely calling us to live the Great Commission in our neighborhoods. Let's all join in this adventure to chart a roadmap of *being* the hands and feet of Christ in new, expanded and different ways.

Along the way I did learn about *Trinity Presbyterian* who took Pastor Chuck Wiggins' request for a "faddish coffee café" to a carefully architected plan that addresses HOW people see and enter the church. That took me back to my notes from our May Presbytery meeting at which Rev. Henry Brinton addressed *compassionate and inclusive outreach*. He offered an abundance of practical advice, but one that resonated with me was the 'three-minute rule.' He challenged us to spend the first three minutes after worship talking to someone we don't know before reaching out to our friends. The need to re-define hospitality beyond just being friendly has been reiterated by Chuck Salter, Mission Insite consultant, who has been challenging our thinking as the roadmap for new ministry is discussed.

It is exciting to see what Trinity Presbyterian is doing to re-think first impressions, to re-think hospitality, to re-think welcome. You may enjoy the before and after pictures of the physical impression; but the real difference will be in how the people of Trinity use this as the start of a hospitality, a connection, a relationship ministry that will go well beyond the bricks and mortar.

Pastor Chuck compared the BEFORE to an image of the Paris Sewer Museum; rather dark and uninviting. Okay, it might not have been that bad, but it needed to be freshened. AFTER thoughtful planning and a brighter view of a warm welcoming entrance you can see the difference; soft colors, engaging conversation pods, encouragement to linger.

BEFORE

AFTER



They will be dedicating the space on Sunday November 18 between worship services with a (non-alcoholic) champagne toast.

While this part of my journey is coming to an end, I look forward to seeing you on the highways and biways of our faith journey. It has been an honor to travel with you as we did God's work together. Where will the next journey take us?

I'll be seeing you back on the road.

Charmaine Ponkratz, your fellow servant and humble moderator



Peace River Presbytery and
First Presbyterian Church
invite you to

The Service of Installation
for
The Reverend Terri Jo Crego

December 2, 2018
4:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
2230 Mariet Street
Port Charlotte, Florida 33952
(941) 625-5045

Reception to Follow

**Clergy are invited to process in robe and red stole.
Meet in the Narthex at 3:45 p.m.**

THANK YOU!

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers,
for hosting the Stated Meeting of Presbytery last Thursday!
Your staff and volunteers were so welcoming and gracious,
and contributed to a wonderful meeting for all of the attendees!

THANK YOU!

On behalf of Peace River Presbytery, we wish to thank all those who made contributions to the *Pastor Assistance Fund*. Total contributions of \$29,378 were received from within PRP and \$5,000 from a matching grant request to the Presbyterian Board of Pensions, bringing the total to \$34,378. From these funds, a check for \$30,000 was provided to Pastor Bill Teng, who experienced a disastrous backup of sewage into his home earlier this year, to help with costs to restore a livable home. With repairs nearly complete, Pastor Bill and Karen have now been able to return to their home. For the generosity of the people of Peace River Presbytery for helping to meet this emergency need, we give thanks.

Any additional contributions will be deposited in the *Pastor Assistance Fund*. Guidelines for use of the funds in the future are being established by the Committee on Ministry, who will administer the Fund.

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

[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

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.

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.

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- Rev. Joyce Lieberman (Synod Executive and Stated Clerk) and Family in the loss of her younger brother
- The brave firefighters in California and the communities of California dealing with the devastation of the fires
- Cori (daughter of Rev. Dr. Russ and Bobbie Hickman) – recovery from surgery for thyroid cancer
- Ruth DeYoe (Mission Coordinator for Misión Peniel) – recovery from knee replacement surgery
- 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 4	<u>Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota</u> Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Thomas (Tom) Cook Email: tcook1127@gmail.com
November 11	<u>PRP Stated Meeting on November 15</u> Location: Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
November 18	<u>Drs. Les and Cynthia Morgan</u> – Covenant Partners of PRP and PCUSA Mission Co-Workers Web: www.pcusa.org/les-and-cindy-morgan
November 25	<u>Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice</u> Senior Pastor: Rev. Christopher (Chris) Romig Email: cromig@venicepres.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Carolyn Wilson Email: cwilson@venicepres.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, February 28, 2019
Stated Meeting of Presbytery

*(including the honoring of The Reverend Graham Hart,
General Presbyter, on the occasion of his retirement.)*

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota
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**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.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.

Wednesday, November 21

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

Presbytery Offices Close at 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.

