



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ January 12, 2018

An Invitation to Leaders

Behold I am doing a new thing! Can you not see it? Do you not yet perceive it? **Isaiah 43:19**

Building the new is a distinctly different task than fixing the old. **David Cooperrider**

For such a time as this, we have been called to join God in doing a new thing for the flourishing of our communities. But how?

One key step is to nurture emotional and social intelligence in ourselves and in others. As Daniel Goleman reminds us, "Great leaders move us. They ignite our passion and inspire the best in us. When we try to explain why they are so effective, we speak of strategy, vision or powerful ideas. But the reality is much more primal: Great leadership works through emotions."*

Have you ever been:

- ✓ Surprised by someone's reaction to you?
- ✓ Bemused by the intensity of your own reaction?
- ✓ Stuck or overwhelmed?
- ✓ Challenged by the dynamics of a team you lead or are part of?

Then this workshop is for you!

Pastor and coach Debbie Rundlett will be back to explore how developing our emotional and social intelligence allows us to develop the best in ourselves and others, thereby opening the way to building the new.

* Opening paragraph of *Primal Leadership*.

More Details ...

A Special Invitation to a Special Presbytery Meeting - February 22nd - First, Sarasota

At the February 2013 Presbytery Meeting, Debbie Randlett (pastor, author, seminary professor, coach, presbytery leader) was our key note speaker as we formally launched our presbytery's new organizational design. Many still remember her skit which related to what/who was driving our congregation's organizational bus ... who/what was in the driver's seat (i.e Vision, Relationships, Structure, or Goals/plans). Also at the meeting, Debbie shared with us material that many sessions used over the next year called: The Journey (note - that eventually became a book many congregations and church leaders have used).

Five years later, as we continue in our Presbytery's focus on "things that make for vital, alive, and growing congregations", we have invited Debbie back to be with us at the February 22 Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota. We are encouraging every session to have at least 2-4 current ruling elders

who are on the session, in addition to the regular elder commissioners, to come and be part of the workshop Debbie will be doing as a part of our meeting. Also, for worship, we will have a mass choir as well as the group *First Brass* in worship leadership. More details to follow.

ARTICLES of INTEREST

(selected by Graham Hart)

[American exceptionalism and America First](#)

Religion & Politics: "America First" may seem like American exceptionalism, but it actually offers a radically different vision of the nation's place and purpose in the world.

[Baby Jesus was a Dreamer in Egypt](#)

Religion News Service: The Bible is filled with admonitions about treating strangers and aliens justly.

[How California's megachurches changed Christian culture](#)

The Conversation: California megachurches played a significant role in how millions of people -- Christian or not -- understand Christianity.

[A year of pushback to save social innovation](#)

The New York Times: The idea vacuum in Washington means that states, cities and even neighborhoods are stepping in -- not only to come up with ways to solve problems but also to spread those ideas.

[Low-income communities are struggling to support churches](#)

The Atlantic: The institutions need money to serve people. But in many cases, they get that money from those they serve.

[Evangelicals and Mormons are political allies, but theological rivals](#)

NPR: Mormons and evangelicals have long identified with the GOP and aligned on many culture war issues but those shared political views do not translate to a theological alliance.

[Goodbye, 2017. Won't miss you much.](#)

Baptist News Global: Thanks a lot, 2017. No, really, the Rev. Amy Butler says. Thank you. We now see more clearly the critical work ahead, and each of us has a decision to make about what will happen in 2018.

[What is the meaning of Epiphany? 10 facts about Twelfth Night and Three Kings' Day](#)

The (London) Telegraph: These days, Brits tend to associate Twelfth Night with removing Christmas decorations, but up until the 19th century, the Epiphany was more important than Christmas Day.

[A prayer for Park Slope](#)

CityLab: A prayer request box on the streets outside Brooklyn's Grace United Methodist Church is an effort by a shrinking congregation to serve its changing neighborhood.

Apply for a National Clergy Renewal Program grant

The Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program at Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Eligible congregations will be able to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 each.

[> Learn more](#)

... FROM the PRESBYTERY OFFICE ...

1. Church Treasurers, Finance Chairs, or Clerks of Session, please return your completed "Estimate of Giving" Form for 2018 by January 16th to Lori Doyal, Financial Secretary and Administrative Assistant. The form can be mailed or emailed (lori@peacriverpresbytery.org). These forms were mailed, as part of a packet of information, to each church office (to the attention of the Treasurer or Finance Chair) in November. If you need the form re-sent via email, please let Lori know by email or phone (941-426-8421, ext. 401).
2. Clerks of Session or Church Offices, please send your updated list of Ruling Elders to Lori (lori@peacriverpresbytery.org), to be included in the Presbytery's newsletter email distribution list. Include name, email address, and class.
3. The *Presbytery Directory* (formerly *Handbook*) is being updated for 2018. As soon as it is completed, Lori will send notification to you with the link to the Directory on the web site.
4. The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery will be held on Thursday, February 22, at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota. A mass, combined choir will be featured! Watch for an invitation to your choir and details from Rev. Bill Teng, PRP Planning Team Moderator.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

www.beth-el.org



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

[January Newsletter](#)

Beth-El is looking for donations of furniture for its office and dental clinic.

Please contact their office if you have desks, tables, or bookcases.

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.

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

www.misionpeniel.com

[OPEN HOUSE 2018](#) (click for details)

February 22, 2018

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:**

- 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.
- Contributor information is provided to Mision Peniel each month.

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- Rev. Dr. Jim Berger and Family, in the loss of his 97-year old father, Robert Berger, on New Year's Day. Pray for Jim as he is up north now making arrangements.
- The communities affected by Winter Storm, Grayson.
- Rev. Dr. Bruce Porter and Family, in the loss of his sister.
- Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass and Family, in the loss of his wife, Kathy.
- Jim and Becky Beckwith, and their son, Greg – health
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – health
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – health
- Robert Dennis (son of Rev. India Dennis) – mental health issues
- The communities, across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, recovering from the hurricanes and fires
- 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: JANUARY 2018:

January 7	<u>Peace River Presbytery</u> 37 Congregations and 131 Ministers
January 14	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia</u> Pastor: Rev. Bill Teng Email: pastor@FirstPC.church
January 21	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Pratt Email: dpratt@fpcbonita.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Steven Grant Email: sgrant@fpcbonita.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Bradley Rogers Email: brogers@fpcbonita.org
January 28	<u>Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Glenn Buzbee, Jr. Email: revglennb@gmail.com

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JANUARY 2018

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

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

Monday, January 15

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day
Presbytery Offices Closed

Thursday, January 18

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

Thursday, January 25

Congregational Vitality Team (12:30 p.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.

