



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ February 9, 2018

Blessing Grants Updates

In 2017 the Presbytery established a goal of a permanent invested corpus of at least \$1,000,000 which from the earnings would support grants to congregations and Presbytery entities who propose to:

Support church development, redevelopment, and/or transformation:

- By initiating, altering or expanding outreach ministries in their local communities or;
- By creating PCUSA new church developments or worshipping communities.



The Presbytery in establishing these grants hopes the following objectives will be accomplished:

- To invite the members and congregations of Peace River to dream new dreams, imagine new ways, and begin new initiatives that lead to the development, redevelopment and renewal of congregational life, ministry and outreach. (Joel 2:28-29)
- To encourage innovative attempts to develop and expand hands-on ministries that serve the people of our local communities in Christ-like ways. (Ephesians 4)
- To encourage members and congregations to become more involved in the wholeness and well-being, (*Shalom*) of their communities. (Jeremiah 29:7)
- To seek to make disciples across all economic, racial and ethnic boundaries. (Galatians 3:20)
- To foster innovation in PCUSA new church developments, worshipping communities and other evangelistic endeavors. (Acts 2:46-49)
- To encourage congregations and Presbytery entities to rethink their ministries for the 21st century. (Romans 12:1-2, Acts 9:31).

In the fall of 2017 the trustees were able to release \$25,000 in the first cycle of the Blessing Grants. **The second cycle proposal are due on April 1, 2018. Please see the application packet on the Presbytery's web-site for details. ([CLICK HERE FOR THE APPLICATION](#))**

Announcement of December 2017 Blessing Grant Awards

On behalf of the Blessing Grant Task Force I want to convey our gratitude and enthusiasm for all the proposals we received. The task in front of us was not easy, but it was a joy to consider proposals designed to stretch us and to creatively address new ways of reaching out into our respective communities.

We were able to recommend three proposals to the Steering Committee for final approval.

The first of these was from [Wintergarden Presbyterian Church](#). They are requesting funds that will enable them to reach out into the community in new and fresh ways. They have already had a Trunk or Treat which was highly

successful. They will have a Beautiful Feet Walk once a month, monthly community dinners, neighborhood block parties, and other outreach efforts. The request is for \$5,050 and they were awarded \$5,000 to help them achieve these goals.

The second award was to [FPC Sarasota](#) and focused on building and operating a music venue designed to connect the church more deeply with the city and re-fashion the image of FPC among their unchurched neighbors. They will build and brand Oak Street Stage and have folk music, jazz, blues, and high-quality popular styles of music. They will also train their members to do relational outreach and encourage them to become agents of spiritual connection. The request was for \$7,000 and the task force recommends awarding \$5,000 for this proposal.

The third award was to [Hope United](#) and the request is for \$25,000 to fund the start-up of a Thrift Store. They want to operate a thrift store in the racially diverse area of San Carlos, located south of Ft. Myers. This will have a “higher-end” appearance and will enable the church to make connections in addition to supplying goods at affordable prices. We had \$15,000 remaining to award and the task force spoke with Hope United about scaling the project to fit the amount of the award.

The task force is appointing liaisons for each of these projects and will report back to the Presbytery on the progress of each.

As Elders, both ruling and teaching, we promise to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. I like to think the Blessing Grant is a way for our churches to serve our communities in these same ways. We look forward to seeing new proposals that enable us to reach out in new and imaginative ways into our communities.

On behalf of the Blessings Grants Task Force,

Wally Johnson,

Moderator, Blessing Grants Task Force
Pastor, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, FL
revwallyjohnson@gmail.com

STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY
Thursday, February 22, 2018
Theme: Organizational Health

First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota
2050 Oak Street | Sarasota, 34237

8:00 a.m. ~ Registration Begins

9:00 a.m. ~ Finance Forum with Presbytery’s Finance Team and Treasurer*

9:30 a.m. ~ Stated Meeting Begins

** The Team and Treasurer are available to answer your questions about the Presbytery’s budget, Three Streams of Giving, Church Commitment/Estimate of Giving Forms and more. They are also available to assist churches if needed.*

~ LUNCH ~

\$10.00 (payable at registration).

Includes a boxed lunch from Corkscrew Deli: Sandwich, Pasta Salad, Beverage, etc.

(If you need a non-meat option, you must note that with your reservation).

Lunch Reservations **ARE REQUIRED no later than 11:00 a.m., Thursday, February 15th.**

Contact Lori Doyal at the Presbytery Office to make reservations:

lori@peacriverpresbytery.org / 941-426-8421, ext. 401 **

Attendees without reservations (by the deadline) ***WILL NOT*** be guaranteed lunch.

(This includes choir and orchestra members.)

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT until the last minute and **DO NOT WAIT** for the Meeting Packet to be posted!

Make your reservation early!

*** Include your name, phone number, email, and church.*

Group reservations must include each attendee's name and the above requested information.

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## **A Special Invitation to a Special Presbytery Meeting ~ February 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ First, Sarasota**

At the February 2013 Presbytery Meeting, Debbie Rundlett (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<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **... FROM the PRESBYTERY OFFICE ...**

1. Clerks of Session and Church Offices, the deadline for lunch reservations for the Stated Meeting of Presbytery is **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please remind your Elder Commissioners, other Elders, and Staff of this reservation deadline, and encourage all to make their reservations prior to that day. See above for lunch details.
2. Clerks of Session or Church Offices, please send your updated list of Ruling Elders to Lori ([lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org)), to be included in the Presbytery's newsletter email distribution list. Include name, email address, and class. *Thank you to those of you who so far who have been able to do this!*

### **MISION PENIEL**

*A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee*

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

**OPEN HOUSE 2018** (click for details)

**Sunday, February 11, 2018**

#### **Staff Contacts:**

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: [miguelstrada@hotmail.com](mailto:miguelstrada@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)

#### **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.

## BETH~EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

[www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: [www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)

### [February 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](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).

## PRAYER NEEDS

### Please continue to pray for:

- Rev. Susan Rice – health and treatment for cancer
- 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, still 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: FEBRUARY 2018:**

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 4  | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dino Rustin<br>Email: <a href="mailto:dino@firstpresbradenton.com">dino@firstpresbradenton.com</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Mary Beth McSwain<br>Email: <a href="mailto:marybeth@firstpresbradenton.com">marybeth@firstpresbradenton.com</a> |
| February 11 | <u>Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hope Lee<br>Email: <a href="mailto:hope@kpcbradenton.org">hope@kpcbradenton.org</a>                                                                                                                                                    |
| February 18 | <u>PRP Stated Meeting at First, Sarasota</u><br>Key Note Speaker: Rev. Dr. Debbie Rundlett                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| February 25 | <u>Oak Pointe Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Jane Jones-Norris<br>Email: <a href="mailto:jjn7416@gmail.com">jjn7416@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                  |

**CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS**

First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte:

[Church Secretary](#)  
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Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda:

[Organist/Primary Accompanist](#)
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Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral:

[Graphic Designer and Marketing Coordinator](#)

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 2018**

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org)

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

**Sunday, February 11**

\*\*Open House – Mision Peniel (2:00-4:30 p.m. in Immokalee)

**Tuesday, February 13**

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

**Wednesday, February 14**

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

**Thursday, February 15**

11:00 a.m. Deadline: Lunch Reservations for Stated Meeting of PRP

**Thursday, February 22**

Stated Meeting of Presbytery at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

## CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

Please visit our web site, [www.peacriverpresbytery.org/churches](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org/churches)

Click on the city, then the church, to visit their web site.

