



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ February 7, 2019

Braden River Presbyterian Church



Tucked away just off State Road 70 in East Bradenton is a wonderfully faithful little congregation, called Braden River Presbyterian Church. I like to think of it as one of Peace River Presbytery's best kept secrets, Braden River Presbyterian is composed of a mix of retirees, many of whom are year-round residents of Bradenton, and more of whom are seasonal participants in the life of this church. The seasonal participants, or "Snow Birds" as they are fondly known here, start arriving in October and November. By Christmas, the bulk of all our non-residents are here and actively participating in the worship and mission of BRPC. They stay around through Lent and Easter, but then begin their annual migration back to the more northerly climes from which they first came. And by May 30, Braden River Church again becomes a smaller, quieter place. But the local resident members and friends are no less devoted to the worship and mission of their congregation. This cycle should be very familiar to many of the churches of Peace River Presbytery.

Braden River boasts a small but very dedicated choir during the Fall and through Easter months. They are led by the very talented and enthusiastic church musician, Jeanette Hocking. Jeanette not only leads the choir with great passion, but is our church organist every single week. Her playing and musical selection are two of the reasons I believe BRPC is definitely a "Singing Congregation" during hymn time each Sunday. Many larger churches than ours would be impressed by our smaller numbers making such a joyful noise together every week. Worship here is taken seriously, but is also a delightfully pleasurable time for this congregation.

Likewise, mission is one of those vibrant characteristics of Braden River Church that far surpasses our numbers. Our mission team, currently led by elder Pam Tuohey, is creative and vital in presenting to the congregation each month a mission focus to support with service and giving. Sometimes these are local projects, sometimes denominational appeals, sometimes a mix of both. Our congregation almost always responds with glad generosity, which is a source of great joy for us all. One on-going and monthly focus is the food barrel, which supports the local food pantry in Bradenton. One of the greatest pleasures our congregation enjoys is the fact that the barrel is filled to overflowing every single month. We know that for a congregation of less than 100 members, this is a pretty good record.

One very unique thing about us is that we are leasing the use of our building to a local Jewish faith community, Temple Beth El, a Reformed Jewish congregation. This provides all sorts of possibilities for interfaith activities between our new friends and our members.

In the months ahead, our congregation will face some changes as we enter into a period of transition. Our minister, Rev. Glenn Buzbee, will be retiring as of February 28, 2019. He will lead us in worship and

Communion one final time on March 3. Rev. Buzbee has led our congregation since November, 2011. With his pending departure, we have elected a transition team which is already meeting regularly with our COM liason team, making plans and setting a course for what the future may hold.

We invite our friends in the Presbytery to keep us in their thoughts and prayers in the months ahead and to also come worship with us on Sundays. We have two services from January – May, at 9:00 am and 10:30 am. Starting in summer, we have one service at 10:00 am.

Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

www.bradenriverpc.com

*Each week, the newsletter will feature a congregation, covenant partner,
or ministry of Peace River Presbytery.
To learn even more, please visit the church or ministry web sites.*

COMING UP ...

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Stated Meeting of Presbytery

and

**A Celebration for Reverend Graham Hart, General Presbyter,
on the occasion of his retirement.**

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Location: First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

Registration Begins - 8:00 a.m.

Financial Forum – 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Begins – 9:00 a.m.

The Boxed Lunch is \$10.00 and is payable at Registration.

**\*\* Lunch reservations are required by Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.**

Contact the Presbytery Office by [email](#) or phone (941-426-8421).

Include your name and church. Group reservations must include the individual names.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND the PRESBYTERY:

**Friday, February 8, 2019**

[Christ at Work through His Church in the Middle East](#)

Rev. Elmarie Parker

Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

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Saturday, February 9, 2019

[Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director, World Mission Initiative](#)

(Pittsburgh Theological Seminary)

Guest Speaker at the Faith Focus Weekend

First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

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**Saturday, February 23, 2019**

[The Life and Friendships of C.S. Lewis](#)

Church of the Palms, Sarasota

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Sunday, March 3, 2019

[Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch - Dedication Service](#)

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**March 15-17, 2019**

[Association of Smaller Congregations](#)

[Reclaiming Vitality: "7 Biblical Marks of Vital Small Churches"](#)

Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simon's Island, GA

\*Registration Deadline: Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

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Tuesday, April 30, 2019

[Faith Place Safety Seminar](#)

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda

*Registration Deadline: Monday, April 22nd

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

[February 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"

Critical needs for December and January include blankets of any size and men's and women's jackets. The mornings are very cold for the farmworkers and many of the trailers and camps they live in do not have sufficient heat. Contact us if you'd like these items to be picked up. Thank you for any donations you are able to make at this time.

Staff Contacts:

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: migustrada@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:

- Jim and Becky Beckwith - health
- 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 2019

February 3	<u>Mision Peniel Farmworker Ministry</u> Pastor: Rev. Miguel Estrada Email: migustrada@hotmail.com
February 10	<u>Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Glenn Buzbee, Jr. Email: revglennb@gmail.com
February 17	<u>First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glen Bell Email: gbell@FirstPresSarasota.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Kelly Fitzgerald Email: kfitzgerald@FirstPresSarasota.org
February 24	<u>Stated Meeting of Presbytery</u>

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 2019

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, February 7

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

Monday, February 11

Personnel Team (by Zoom Conference; time TBD)

Tuesday, February 12

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

Wednesday, February 13

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

Thursday, February 14

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

Congregational Vitality Team (by Video Conference; time TBD)

Thursday, February 21

Steering Committee (9:00 a.m.)

Restructure Task Force (12:00 p.m.)

Thursday, February 28

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota)

(including the Celebration of the Retirement of Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter)

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.

