



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ February 15, 2019

First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

Last week First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota welcomed six gifted new pastors for a five-day residency. The pastors are all in their first several years of ministry, and are serving churches in Texas, Pennsylvania, Georgia and the Carolinas.



They gather twice in one year here in Southwest Florida, once in October and then again in February to

learn from a gifted seminar leader, this year Rev. Sally Campbell-Evans,

rub elbows with a noted leader in the PC(USA), on this occasion Rev. Hunter Farrell,

share a case study about an opportunity or challenge in their setting,

preach and receive affirmation and constructive feedback,

create a clergy peer group of friends with their other colleagues, and

enjoy the warm hospitality of this congregation.

These Pastoral Development Seminars have welcomed a variety of speakers since 2013, including Brian Blount, Cindy Rigby, Jill Duffield, Leanne Van Dyk and Paul Roberts.

The seminars are an expression of the care of this congregation. The members host the young pastors in their homes, prepare meals for them, and surround them with prayer and encouragement. They also make over-and-above financial gifts to support this ministry. There is no cost to the participants beyond their travel to and from Sarasota.

Our best hope is that each of these pastors will grow in grace and faith – and serve the Presbyterian Church (USA) with energy and creativity for many years to come.

Please join us this year in praying for this group of new pastors – Alex, Allysen, Ashley, British, Kelly and Patrick.

Rev. Dr. Glen Bell

www.firstpressarasota.org

*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 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

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

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

**UPDATE FROM YOUR GPNC**

Last week the GPNC informed the moderators of the Steering Committee and Personnel Committee that the search process continues. Personal Information Forms have been coming in from sea to shining sea; 21 different states. There has been racial, gender and age diversity. Education and work experiences vary widely. The GPNC remains diligent and deliberate in the work you have set before us. We are grounded in the prayer to seek God's will and continue to appreciate your prayers for the candidates and the call process.

Members of the GPNC are: Carson Brown, Terri Jo Crego, Jeff DeYoe, Kelly Fitzgerald, Gene George, Linda Getzen, Sung Lee, and Doug Pratt.

Submitted by scribe, Charmaine Ponkratz.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND the PRESBYTERY:**

**Saturday, February 23, 2019**

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

Church of the Palms, Sarasota

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Sunday, February 24, 2019

[The Kirkin' O' The Tartans](#)

Christ Church of Longboat Key

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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 22nd

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**Tuesday, April 30, 2019**

[Faith Place Safety Seminar](#)

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda

\*Registration Deadline: Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

## 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)

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

Facebook: "Misión Peniel"

### Staff Contacts:

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: [migustrada@hotmail.com](mailto:migustrada@hotmail.com)
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: [ruthdeyoe@gmail.com](mailto:ruthdeyoe@gmail.com)
- General Email: [misionpenielpeaceriver@gmail.com](mailto: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](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. Dr. Valerie Bell - health
- 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

## PRESBYTERY PRAYER GUIDE: FEBRUARY 2019

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

## PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 2019

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

Please email corrections or additions to [lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org)

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

### **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](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches)

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

