



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



## Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ March 7, 2019

### ~ Christ Church of Longboat Key ~

As with other churches in the Presbytery, life at Christ Church of Longboat Key notches up a gear or two during the season when we enjoy the involvement of members and visitors from across America and, on several Sundays, other countries.

Three special services stand out this season. On February 24, we held our annual Kirkin' O' the Tartans service with over 550 worshippers in attendance over two services. The pipes and drums from the Jacobites of Sarasota added a stirring dimension to the music before, during and after the services.

Then on March 22-24, building on the success of last year's spiritual enrichment weekend with Dr. Andrew Purves of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, we will welcome Dr. Doug Pratt from Bonita Springs as our keynote speaker. The weekend will include a Friday evening dinner, a Saturday morning breakfast and workshop, and Dr. Pratt will preach at both services on Sunday. The theme for the weekend is "How to Live the Rest of our Lives." Reservations are required for the Friday dinner and the Saturday workshop and friends from the Presbytery will be very welcome. Please check with the church office.



On April 7, as Lent moves towards its climax, the church choir will present *The Seven Last Words of Christ* by Theodore Dubois at both worship services—a memorable prelude to our observance of Holy Week and Easter. Services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will set the scene for the glories of Easter.

Spiritual enrichment features large at Christ Church. After worship each week, this season's Sunday School theme has been "A Bible Top Ten List," offering an overview of ten key books in the Bible and a more detailed study of a key passage from each one. One of our members, Dr. Fred Finks, former President of Ashland University in Ohio, shares the teaching with our pastor. The series features Genesis, Exodus, the Psalms, Isaiah and Daniel from the Hebrew scriptures and Luke, John, the Acts, Romans and 1 and 2 Peter in the New Testament. It's a fascinating series.

During the week, the Men's Bible study will shortly begin a series on "Heaven: Finding Our True Home," and the Woman's Bible Study will look at "Gideon: Your Weakness. God's Strength." In addition, 5 house groups meet weekly



covering topics as varied as Don McKim's *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*, Philip Yancey's *Prayer Does it Make a Difference*, *Philippians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians* and the Holy Land.

Christ Church has many members eager to offer service and involve themselves in mission and service. A recent Wednesday Night Dinner brought representatives from two of the agencies that we support and have members involved with, to tell us about their work.

Bethany Matzke from Hope Seeds told us of the ministry in sponsoring sustainable development and gospel outreach in countries all over the world. The attendees were thrilled to hear that the estimated value of the produce grown from the seeds that

volunteers at Christ Church had packed amounted to over \$750,000 dollars. Next, we heard from Rev Kathy Dain from Beth El, and she brought a video she had just completed which tells the story of Beth El's ministry to Mind, Spirit and Body of farmworkers in Florida. The new dental service, staffed entirely by volunteers, and deeply appreciated, was highlighted.

Our winter series of Sunday afternoon musical recitals continues to draw wide support, with more than half of those in attendance coming from outwith our membership. On February 17, Elizabeth Gerberding presented a varied program of harp music to a most appreciative audience. The next program in this series, on March 17, will bring the Florida Gulf Coast Brass Quintet to Christ Church. The quintet offers quality brass music for church, school and community programs.



~ Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard, Stated Supply Pastor  
[www.christchurchbk.org](http://www.christchurchbk.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.*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND the PRESBYTERY:**

**Sunday, March 10, 2019, 3:00 p.m.**

**Ordination Commission Service**

for Lynne Peter

Oak Pointe Church, Bradenton

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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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**Monday, April 1-Tuesday, April 2, 2019**

[PRP Presbyterian Women's Retreat](#)

Day Spring Conference Center, Ellenton  
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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)

[March 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: [miguestrada@hotmail.com](mailto:miguestrada@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)

**SUMMER EMPLOYMENT**

Do you enjoy working with children and youth? Do you love playing and worshiping in the beauty of nature? Are you seeking to hear what God is calling you to do this summer – and beyond? Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center invites young adults at least one year beyond their high school graduation to consider serving as part of our 2019

Summer Staff. Visit [www.cedarkirk.org/summer/employment](http://www.cedarkirk.org/summer/employment) to learn more about our life-changing summer community and how you might serve.



**SUMMER CAMP CHANGES LIVES!**

Are you looking for a summer program for your child that will provide him or her with opportunities for spiritual, physical, and social growth? Cedarkirk offers small-group, residential camp programs that allow children and youth to explore, learn, and just be themselves. Besides being fun, summer camps help kids: improve confidence and self-esteem; learn a new skill; improve critical thinking and decision-making abilities; experience the wonder of the natural world; learn to live and work as part of a community; and connect with God in a place where earnest discussions and honest dialogue allow them to make their faith their own. Send your camper to Cedarkirk this summer to discover how a single summer can last a lifetime! Visit [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org) for program dates, details, and registration.

*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
- Les and Cindy Morgan, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Bangladesh

**PRESBYTERY PRAYER GUIDE: MARCH 2019**

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| March 3  | <u>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey DeYoe<br>Email: <a href="mailto:jdeyoe@covpcfm.com">jdeyoe@covpcfm.com</a>       |
| March 10 | <u>Christ Church of Longboat Key</u><br>Stated Supply Pastor: Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard<br>Email: <a href="mailto:revnmp@comcast.net">revnmp@comcast.net</a> |
| March 17 | <u>Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Halverson<br>Email: <a href="mailto:tim@fpcf.org">tim@fpcf.org</a>                      |

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| March 24 | <u>Beth-El Farmworker Ministry</u><br>Executive Director: Rev. Kathy Dain<br>Email: <a href="mailto:kathy@beth-el.org">kathy@beth-el.org</a><br>Pastor: Rev. Tamara Leonard-Lara<br>Email: <a href="mailto:pastor@beth-el.org">pastor@beth-el.org</a>               |
| March 31 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Naples</u><br>Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Craig Goodrich<br>Email: <a href="mailto:craig@fpcnaples.org">craig@fpcnaples.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Rex Childs<br>Email: <a href="mailto:rexc@fpcnaples.org">rexc@fpcnaples.org</a> |

### PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MARCH 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, March 7**

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

**Monday, March 11**

Restructure Task Force - Go-To-Meeting Video Call (12:45-5:00 p.m.)

**Tuesday, March 12**

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

**Wednesday, March 13**

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

**Thursday, March 14**

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

**Friday, March 15-Sunday, March 17**

Association of Smaller Churches: "Reclaiming Vitality" (St. Simons, GA)

**Thursday, March 21**

Steering Committee (9:00 a.m.)

### 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.

