



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ March 15, 2019

From the General Presbyter

Thank you! Words cannot express how deeply touched I was at the February Presbytery Meeting and Retirement Celebrations. I was moved by:

- the words spoken, both publicly and privately, from so many of you;
- the humor and glimpse of me that my children shared with you;
- the beautiful painting of the "Peace River" which will serve as a visual reminder of Peace River Presbytery;
- the recognition and gift from the Immokalee Farm Work Community which Miguel Estrada of Mison Peniel presented on their behalf;
- the gifts from you. Thank you!

Since the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery fell before my retirement date, I continue to work just a bit longer. As per the action of the Presbytery, my official retirement is April 30, and the last day in the office will be April 11. There is still work to be done, and each Sunday I have been privileged to share greetings and preach at many of our congregations.

If there is anything you need from me before I retire, or if you want to call or get together, let me know and I will try to make that happen.

The General Presbyter Search Committee continues its work. As approved at the Presbytery Meeting, the Steering Committee will determine what kind of "bridge" between me leaving and the next General Presbyter coming will be addressed at the March 19 Steering Committee meeting.

In case you want to read my final General Presbyter report to the Presbytery (Feb. 28th), where I shared some of my perspectives on the past 18 years, and named some emerging issues, [click here](#).

Each week, in the newsletter, we have an article lifting one congregation to pray for in the coming week. It is timely and appropriate that this week we are praying for Faith, Cape Coral, because the PNC of Faith will be presenting their candidate to the congregation on March 17th. Pray for them, as well as please pray for wisdom and discernment for the Presbytery's GP search, as well as the Steering Committee, as it decides on the leadership needs of the presbytery after May 1.

Thank you again. I am humbled, grateful, a bit overwhelmed, as well as sad in leaving a role and work that I have loved! I am honored that I have been able to serve in this place and time with you all.

Thanks be to God.

Graham Hart

General Presbyter

graham@peacriverpresbytery.org OR 2grahamhart@gmail.com

~ Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral ~

A welcoming, inclusive, and evolving church, spanning over 70,000 square feet on 8.7 acres of land, in the heart of downtown Cape Coral. Faith offers many opportunities for its members, friends, and community with a variety of programming, activities and community outreach. Below are snapshots of the exciting life of the church.



Children & Youth – In addition to Sunday activities, the vibrant Children & Youth Programs offer: **C.A.Y.A.N.** (Children and Youth Arts Night) on Tuesday evenings where children grades K thru 5th grade gather to sing & move to contemporary Christian music. In July, we will welcome back counselors from Cedarkirk who

will present our VBS Summer Day Camp. **Connexions** is a Wednesday evening program for middle & high school youth to connect with each other and connect with God. **Puppet Ministry** is fun, exciting, and a wonderful means of spreading God's word through the use of puppets and music. In June, our Senior High Youth travel to West Virginia to participate in the Cabell-Lincoln County Workcamp. This mission trip is open to all senior high youth in the Peace River Presbytery. <https://www.fpcf.org/childrenandyouthprograms/>



Family of Faith Preschool & Daycare – Our daycare is a licensed child care facility that provides care for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old and After-School care for Elementary age children. Our goal is to provide an early childhood education program of the highest quality, founded on the firm belief of God's grace. Our amazingly devoted teachers and administrative staff currently service a little over 200 families within our community. As our mission, we assist in supporting the Diaper Drive, the Backpack drive, Literacy Book Program, One Warm Coat Mission, Men's Breakfast, the Fish Fry, the Spaghetti Dinner, the Pumpkin Festival, We Care

Food Drive and the Giving Tree. <http://www.capefamilyoffaith.org/>

Music at Faith – Faith hosts an annual **concert series**. These events are open to the public, and in most cases are free. To view our current brochure visit:

<https://www.fpcf.org/musicatfaith/> **Vocal choirs** range from teens to adults and are dedicated to pursuing excellence in music for the glory of God; as well as the **9:30 Worship Ensemble** which provides music for our family service, that consists of newer, more contemporary songs. **Handbell Choirs** range from **Children's**



Chime/Bells (3rd-7th grade) where children learn how to play chimes and bells and get some fundamentals of music reading. **Faith Ringers**, **Bells of Faith**, and **Joyful Noise** range from those who have never rung a bell to advanced handbell ringers. Their commitment of time and talent is apparent during Sunday worship and in all their musical performances.



Health & Fitness – Faith Center is a mission of Faith to be able to provide fitness programming to focus on the physical well-being of our members and community. Open to the public, we currently offer 28 fitness programs per

week. Classes and camps range for children K-5th grade, young adults, older adults, and seniors. Our **Parish Nurse** program is a covenant relationship with Lee Health and provides community outreach and congregational health and wellness thru various health seminars, direct health counseling and education. <https://www.fpcf.org/thehealthychurch/>



Missions – In addition to our partnerships with **Habitat for Humanity, Mision Peniel, Guardian ad Litem, and Volunteer Reading**, our on-site **We Care** food pantry supports a number of families on weekly, monthly, and annual basis. We also provide the families of We Care with backpacks & school supplies at the beginning of the school year.

Education - Through our **children & youth ministry**, we partner with families to help our children know, love, and serve

Jesus Christ. We do this through age-appropriate programs from nursery through 12th grade. We challenge **adults** to grow in their Faith. We offer a variety of Sunday school classes, our Tuesdays Together Bible study, Tai Chi & Meditation, Faith Forum, Memoir Writing, Poetry Workshop, and our Presbyterian Women’s Circles are examples of Faith engaging our congregation to deepen their Christian experience.



Events, Fellowship & Membership – There are various opportunities to enrich your life as a volunteer. We welcome new members throughout the year at our new member orientations. There is always something going on at Faith: Tuesdays Together, Fish Fry, Golf Outing, Church Picnic, Senior Singles, Dominoes, Presbyterian Women of Faith, Card Groups, Men’s Breakfast, Pumpkin Patch & Fall Festival, Live Nativity, just to name a few.

Our mission is to be a community of joy and excitement that promises to love, comfort, and respect everyone through the challenging power of Christ. Our doors are wide open to welcome you. Whether you’re a seeker with more questions than answers or a committed Christian who wants to grow deeper in faith, you will find a home at Faith.

We are the church. We are **WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE, EVOLVING.**
www.FPCFL.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.*



THE PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY & CHURCH OF THE PALMS
invites you to the

Service of Ordination
of
JORDAN MARIE GOODWIN
TO THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Saturday, March 23 at 3 pm

CHURCH OF THE PALMS
3224 BEE RIDGE ROAD, SARASOTA FL. 34239
Reception will follow in the Campus Center.

BREAKING NEWS – MARCH 15

Federal Appeals Court Rules that Clergy Housing Allowance Exclusion Is Constitutional

March 15, 2019 – In a ruling with major implications for clergy across the United States, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals has issued its decision holding that the clergy housing allowance exclusion in federal tax law **is constitutional**. This appeals court decision reverses the lower court’s decision in which the housing allowance exclusion was ruled unconstitutional. It is unknown at this time whether the case will be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, and if so, whether the Supreme Court will take it up.

A copy of the decision is available [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND the PRESBYTERY:

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

Saturday, March 23, 2019

Service of Ordination

of Jordan Marie Goodwin

to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

3:00 p.m. at Church of the Palms

Saturday, March 23, 2019

[Palliative Care and Chronic Illness Workshop](#)

Church of the Palms, Sarasota

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

[PRP Presbyterian Women's Retreat](#)

Day Spring Conference Center, Ellenton  
~~~~~

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

[Faith Place Safety Seminar](#)

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda

*Registration Deadline: Monday, April 22nd
~~~~~

**Wednesday, May 22, 2019**

[POAMN Regional Conference](#)

St. Leo, FL

**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: [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)

**SUMMER EMPLOYMENT**

Do you enjoy working with children and youth? Do you love playing and worshipping 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).

**POAMN REGIONAL CONFERENCE**  
(Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network)  
["Engaging Aging in Today's World"](#)  
May 22, 2019 in St. Leo, FL

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

[Building and Maintenance Worker – First, Port Charlotte](#)

**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**

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 3 | <p><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></p> |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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>                                                                                                                               |
| 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:craigg@fpcnaples.org">craigg@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.*

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

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

#### **Monday, March 18**

Blessing Grants Task Force Video Conference Meeting (9:30 a.m.)

#### **Thursday, March 21**

Steering Committee (9:00 a.m.)

#### **Saturday, March 23**

Service of Ordination of Jordan Goodwin (3:00 p.m. at Church of the Palms)

### **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.

