



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ May 1, 2019

FEATURED CHURCH: TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, VENICE

## FOUR TAKE AWAYS

### FROM TRINITY'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

Trinity had its beginnings with a dozen people as a store-front church meeting Breissler's Ice Cream parlor in the 1960s. Then, on March 30, 1969, it was received by then Southwest Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church (Northern) in the USA. For most of its fifty years its leadership has been under two pastors: John Parrett (1973-1994) and Chuck Wiggins (1996-present).



Last year, a **TRINITY@50 Team** was established. Its immediate set goal was not simply to hunt down old photos and to collect memories, but to celebrate who the church is TODAY and its trajectory into the future. The TRINITY@50 Team came away with four "takeaways."

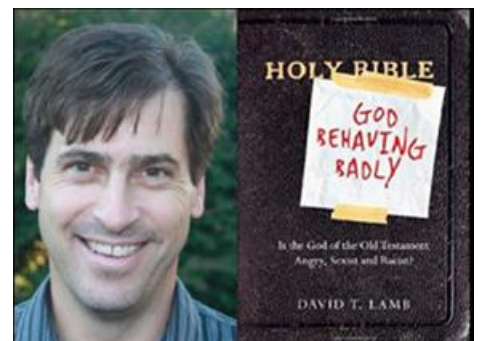


**First, the conviction about MISSION** underscoring reality of why the church exists in the first place: Not merely for itself. A MISSION & MINISTRY FAIR was held on March 3 with twenty-four exhibitors highlights the congregation's expansive commitment to global, regional and local outreach.

The speaker for the morning was the Rev. Joe Davis of GraceLife Sarasota, an unconventional (funky?) congregation that meets on Sunday mornings in its

downtown digs, McCurdey's Comedy Theater. Joe reminded his hearers that the church—as portrayed in Acts 11—began as a movement not an 'institution.' When it becomes "institutionalized" it is DOA.

**Second, that Trinity continue to have a serious commitment to biblical and theological grounding** in what it does. Through a generous benefactor, Dr. David Lamb was brought in as our Theologian-in-Residence. An Oxford-educated scholar, superb communicator and bestselling author of *God Behaving Badly*, Lamb is Professor of Old Testament at Biblical Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. During his time in SW Florida, his most popularly received presentation was OUR ADULT CHILDREN & CHURCH: WHERE ARE THEY?



**Third, was the 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Day of Celebration itself** on April 14. Trinity has been

characterized as a “Palm Sunday kind of church” because of when it was chartered, various groundbreaking, new additions and dedications and also the beginning of Pastor Chuck’s ministry on March 31, 1996.

Dr. M. Craig Barnes of president of Princeton Theological Seminary was preacher of the morning whose message accentuated the past, present and future existence of the church with the time honored that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8) A Cantata by the Chancel Choir and Orchestra was held that afternoon followed by a Gala Banquet in the Community Life Center.



**The fourth takeaway was the unveiling of a TIME CAPSULE** at the conclusion of the Gala Banquet

That evening. This is to be interred beneath the Memorial Garden on All Saints Day in November. It has been suggested that it be opened on the congregations 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary: April 10, 2044—Palm Sunday.

After the tables have cleared and confetti has been swept off the floor, and much of the crowds have “returned north”, the enduring reassurance for the Trinity Church family in this massive cultural shift that is taking place is the promise from her Lord: *“I will build my church and the gates of hades will not prevail against it.”* (Matthew 16:18)

## BRIDGE GENERAL PRESBYTER



All are welcome to contact our Bridge General Presbyter, The Rev. Dr. Kathi Wiggins.

Kathi’s contact information is:

Email: [kathi@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:kathi@peacriverpresbytery.org)

Office Phone: 941-426-8421, ext. 404

Office Days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, with some time spent out of the office on pastoral visits.

## STATED MEETING of PRESBYTERY

**Thursday, May 16, 2019**

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

8:00 a.m. – Registration / 9:00 a.m. – Meeting Begins

8:25 a.m. – Financial Forum with the PRP Board of Trustees

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**Lunch Reservations are no later than noon, Friday, May 10.**

Contact Lori at the Presbytery Office: [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) / 941-426-8421, ext. 401

\*\*Include the name and church for each reservation.

Lunch is \$10.00 and payable at Registration (no credit cards).

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND the PRESBYTERY:

**Saturday, May 4, 2019**

[Health and Wellness Fair](#)

Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch

All are invited!

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**Wednesday, May 8 and Thursday, May 9, 2019**

[An Evening with Dr. Tremper Longman III](#)

Church of the Palms, Sarasota (5/8) and Venice Presbyterian Church (5/9)

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**Wednesday, May 22, 2019**

[POAMN Regional Conference](#)

St. Leo, FL

### **NOTICE – PCUSA PLANNING CALENDARS**

The PCUSA Store is changing the format of the Planning Calendars to be a 16-month, rather than 18-month format to be more in line with the church calendar.

The calendars for 2019-2020 will begin with September 2019 (instead of June) and go through December 2020.

Orders will not be shipped from PCUSA until August 2019.

Church Offices and Clerks of Session, please watch for an email from Lori (PRP Office) with the Order Form for Calendars.

If you order through the Presbytery Office, you receive a pass through discount because of the bulk order that the Presbytery Office places.

Questions? Please contact [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org)

### **BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.**

*A ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

**Beth-El**  
*Farmworker Ministry, Inc.*

PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

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

[April 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: [misionpenielpeacriver@gmail.com](mailto:misionpenielpeacriver@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).

## **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. Terri Jo Crego (pastor of First, Port Charlotte) – loss of her mother
- The General Presbyter Nominating Committee (GPNC)
- 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: MAY 2019

|          |                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 28 | <u>Peace River Presbytery</u>                                                                                                                           |
| May 5    | <u>Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Chuck Wiggins<br>Email: <a href="mailto:cjw049@gmail.com">cjw049@gmail.com</a>           |
| May 12   | <u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Rob Marrow<br>Email: <a href="mailto:rmarrow@vpcnaples.org">rmarrow@vpcnaples.org</a>     |
| May 19   | <u>Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dawn Mayes<br>Email: <a href="mailto:revdawnmayes@gmail.com">revdawnmayes@gmail.com</a> |
| May 26   | <u>TBD</u>                                                                                                                                              |

## PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MAY 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, May 2**

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

### **Wednesday, May 8**

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 a.m.)  
Nominations Committee (3:30-5:00 p.m. – GoToMeeting Video Conference)

### **Thursday, May 9**

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

### **Tuesday, May 14**

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

### **Thursday, May 16**

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (9:00 a.m. at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples)

**Monday, May 27**

Memorial Day

Presbytery Offices Closed

## 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.

