



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Presbytery Newsletter ~ May 31, 2019

## Burnt Store Presbyterian Church

~ Worth the Wait ~



Prior to the creation of Peace River Presbytery 26 acres of land on Burnt Store Road in the southern part of Punta Gorda were purchased by a predecessor presbytery. The idea was some day to plant a church on the land. When Burnt Store Presbyterian Church became a reality on March 20, 1983, ten of those acres were used as the property on which our church's physical plant was built. Approximately 16 unused acres lay adjacent to the church property. At that time it was thought that on those remaining acres one day a presbytery office might be built.

When it became apparent that such an office building would not be built in south Punta Gorda our church became interested in buying the 16 acres. A letter was sent to Peace River Presbytery in which our Session asked permission to have the first opportunity to buy the property should the decision be made to sell it. That day came and in 1993 Burnt Store bought the 16 acres. Although we thought up ideas, dreamed up creative plans, and tried to come up with a way, or ways, that we could make the best use of the property, nothing took shape.

When we built our current sanctuary in 2001, a part of the 16 acres was cleared for additional parking. A secondary reason for clearing some of the land was to make a fire break between the woods and our building. But still nothing significant was planned for the land.

Years passed and around 2007 our Session's Property Committee had a wonderful idea. We contracted with a company who came onto the acreage and removed palm trees, paid us a nice fee for each one, and sold them to landscapers. The harvesters were very careful to do a couple of things; make sure that not too many trees were taken from any one spot and make sure they did not destroy the natural look of our woods. In the midst of the tree harvesting project county officials came onto the property and discovered gopher tortoises and immediately shut down the operation. We had no idea of the presence of the critters and so we sought information concerning their removal to another habitat. We learned that it would be too costly to do so and at that time the harvesting operation was abandoned.

A decade passed and on the Ides of March, 2017 a developer made a cold call on us. He visited me in my study and we talked for a couple of hours as he made his pitch. His company wanted to build a 100 unit Senior Care Facility on 5-6 acres of our additional property. The man called on me on a Wednesday, the day of our weekly dinner and class in our fellowship hall. I knew that Mike Huston, our Clerk of Session would be in attendance that evening. When I told Mike the details of the developer's visit we became very interested and soon a Senior Care Facility Committee was formed. To begin the process the committee arranged separate meetings

with the developer, the Board of Trustees of Peace River Presbytery, a law firm, the city, an engineer, and the owner of the property next to the church.

For two years now we have been in the planning stages for the facility and we are having to overcome one big hurdle. The 10 acres of our property on which our physical plant is built, while originally in Charlotte County, at our request was annexed into the city of Punta Gorda. We accomplished this in preparation for our current sanctuary as we needed city water and sewage. Our remaining 16 acres are in the county and we need annexation in order to provide city water and sewage to the new Senior Care Facility.

At issue is the fact that the property next door to us is in the county. It needs to be annexed at the same time as we are because the city is no longer willing to create enclaves and that is exactly what would happen if that property remained in the county. The good news from our developer is that he is confident that this obstacle can be overcome without too much trouble.

And so the plan is for construction to commence in November on a 100 unit Senior Care Facility on our property. 70 units will be for assisted living and 30 units for memory care. The developer only requests of us that we be ready and willing to do ministry in the facility. We have quite a bit of input in determining the shape that ministry will take.

While there are a ton of additional details with which I could bore you—I will spare you. We are excited that, after quite a long time, plans are finally being made for the property we purchased from the mothership a little more than a quarter of a century ago. A comprehensive market study indicates that a facility such as the one we anticipate is needed in our community. We thank God for the opportunity he is providing us to be a part of such a project—all because of a cold call he orchestrated a couple of years ago.



Tim Stewart, Pastor  
Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda  
May, 2019

### **PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY CONGRATULATES:**

#### **Rev. Dr. Clinton (Clint) Cottrell**

June marks the beginning of Clint's ministry at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church. Moving from Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church where Clint has served for 14 years, he is well known in Peace River Presbytery. But as a reminder ... Clint hails from Pittsburgh, received an MDiv from Pittsburgh Seminary and a doctorate from Trinity School for ministry. He had over 20 years in federal service before entering the ministry. He is married to Amy with three children and several grandchildren. Clint is a licensed private pilot, loves to fish, is a member of the Gulfcoast Harmonizers (barbershop), and chief chaplain for the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

### **PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY WELCOMES:**

#### **Rev. Katie Lee Morrison, Validated Ministry**

Katie was born and grew up in Spartanburg, S.C. She has two younger sisters and both continue to live in SC. Her parents were always involved in her life and played a supportive role in her growth in the church and in school. Katie attended Furman University and majored in Religion with a concentration in Latin American Studies. She next received an MDiv from Princeton Seminary. She began as an Associate Pastor at First

Presbyterian Church in Burlington, N.C. and later served as a Pastoral Intern at Siesta Key Chapel. She now lives in Bradenton with her husband and works as Chaplain at the Tidewell Hospice.

## PRESBYTERIAN PLANNING CALENDARS

Order Forms and Information about the Planning Calendars have been emailed to Clerks of Session, Church Offices, and Church Pastors.

The Order Deadline through the Presbytery Office is Friday, June 14.

If you need additional information, please contact Lori Doyal at the Presbytery Office:

[lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) / 941-426-8421, ext. 401

## UPDATE FROM THE GENERAL PRESBYTER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Over the last couple weeks we have conducted face-to-face interviews with finalist candidates. We have poured over recaps of reference calls that were made and documented by committee members. The finalists are being invited to participate in a leadership assessment conducted by LeaderWise. For over 49 years this organization has been committed to supporting ministry and denominational leaders through candidate assessment, clergy leadership development, fitness evaluation, team building, counseling, consulting and workshops. While we are enjoying our summer schedules, be assured that we are pressing forward with your charge to the GPNC. We covet your prayers.

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.

## PRESBYTERIAN OLDER ADULT MINISTRY NETWORK (POAMN) REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Kirkwood Presbyterian, Hope United Presbyterian, and Palma Sola Presbyterian all sent representatives to the POAMN Regional Conference held at St. Leo Abbey in St. Leo, FL on May 22.

The theme of the conference was “Engaging in Aging in Today’s World”, with guest speaker Rev. Ray Jones, III.

For more information on the POAMN, visit the website:  
[www.poamn.org](http://www.poamn.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)

[May 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 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:**

- 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: JUNE 2019

June 2	<u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Stewart Email: <a href="mailto:sunburn1320@mac.com">sunburn1320@mac.com</a>
June 9	<u>Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Wally Johnson Email: <a href="mailto:revwallyjohnson@gmail.com">revwallyjohnson@gmail.com</a>
June 16	<u>Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte</u> Pastor: Rev. Devon Beisser Andrews Email: <a href="mailto:revdev08@gmail.com">revdev08@gmail.com</a>
June 23	<u>Oak Pointe Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Jane Jones-Norris Email: <a href="mailto:jjn7416@gmail.com">jjn7416@gmail.com</a> Stated Supply Associate Pastor: Rev. Lynne Peter Email: <a href="mailto:lynne.peter117@gmail.com">lynne.peter117@gmail.com</a>
June 30	<u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Ray Quiles Email: <a href="mailto:chaprafi@gmail.com">chaprafi@gmail.com</a>

## PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JUNE 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.*

### **Monday, June 3**

Planning Team (12:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte)

### **Thursday, June 6**

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

### **Wednesday, June 12**

Cuba Partnership Task Force (3:00 p.m. - Conference Call Meeting)

Nominations Committee (3:30 p.m. - Go-To-Meeting)

### **Thursday, June 13**

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

### **Tuesday, June 25**

Committee on Ministry (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.

