



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



## Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ January 3, 2019

### “What Time Is It?”

If you were a child of the 50's – the question of “What time is it?” could have been followed with some rendition of Buffalo Bob and his marionette singing: “It's Howdy Doody Time” (for a journey down memory lane, at least for some of us, [click here](#)).

What time is it in Peace River Presbytery? Like the month, January, named after the Greek god Janus, who was gifted with the ability to look back and look ahead at the same time, this is our season of reflection and anticipation.

I find myself looking back with gratitude, as well as wondering with some excitement: What will be next for Peace River, and for myself as retirement looms? I also find myself with some sadness, for people and relationships that have been important will shift, and roles I have had will end. Recently, as I have trained some PNC's, I was hit with the realization that I will not be in my role to welcome and support the pastor which that search committee will choose. As the wise writer of old said: “for everything, there is a season ...”

The work of the General Presbyter Search Committee will be nearing its conclusion soon, and then the work of the Presbytery will begin in earnest as you, with your new General Presbyter, live into this more narrowly aimed mission/vision statement: **We believe God is calling us as a presbytery to assist and support congregations, connect disciples in mission and be the Body of Christ together.**

In the coming years, these values will be instructive: **Affirm a culture that nurtures joyful and caring relationships as we learn to do God's work together.**

And as the Presbytery approved last November ([click here for the full report](#)), these seven Strategic Priorities will help you find the path to walk:

1. **Support pastors**
2. **Equip church leaders**
3. **Improve communications**
4. **Encourage greater diversity**
5. **Empower outreach**
6. **Prepare for transition**
7. **Create new and renewed worshipping communities and ministry models**

What time is it in the life of Peace River?

- A time for change? Yes!
- A time for something new? Yes!
- A time for gratitude? Yes!

- A time for prayer for the GPNC as they make important decisions? Yes!
- A time to get ready to put out the welcome mat for your new General Presbyter? Yes!

It is our time to trust that God is wanting to do more abundantly than we could ever ask and think.

With your new General Presbyter, there will be exciting work and new ministries to do.

"I am confident in this", as Paul said in Philippians 1:6, "that the one who began the good work in you will bring it to completion ..."

2019 – As always, The Year of our Lord! Thanks be to God!

*Graham*

Graham Hart

General Presbyter

[graham@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:graham@peacriverpresbytery.org)

### **ATTENTION CHURCHES & CLERGY:**

**2019 IRS Business Mileage Rate: 58 cents per mile**

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-issues-standard-mileage-rates-for-2019>

### **ATTENTION CHURCH FINANCE PERSONNEL and SESSIONS:**

The deadline for 2018 contributions to and through Peace River Presbytery is **Friday, January 4, 2019**.

For contributions to be posted for 2018, they must be received (not postmarked) by this date.

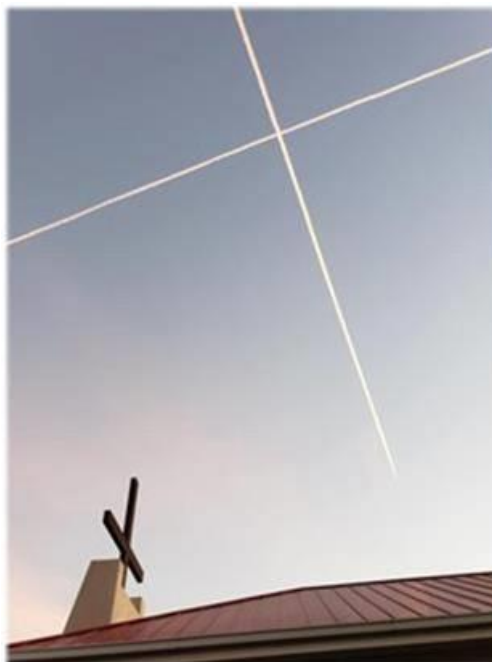
For additional information, please contact Lori Doyal, PRP Financial Secretary and Communications Coordinator:

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

### **CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

The following message was sent to the Presbytery Moderator by a member of Northminster Presbyterian Church:

*Last night, at our Christmas Eve Service...at the end of the service, with a brass quintet playing, we sang "Silent Night" outside the front of the church and lit our candles and God gave us a miracle. In the sky, two airplane contrails formed a cross. What a benediction! We wanted to share it with you on this wonderful day filled with God's miracles and blessings.*



## 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)

[December 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"

**Critical needs for December and January** include blankets of any size and men's and women's jackets. The mornings are very cold for the farmworkers and many of the trailers and camps they live in do not have sufficient heat. Contact us if you'd like these items to be picked up. Thank you for any donations you are able to make at this time.

### **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).

### **ARTICLES of INTEREST**

(selected by Graham Hart)

#### [There's more religion than you think in Bach's 'Brandenburgs'](#)

The New York Times: To Bach and most of his contemporaries, secular and liturgical works were both religious: A central purpose of all serious-minded music, wherever performed, was to honor God.

#### [Bad priests, of all kinds, chase people away from Christ and the church](#)

Religion News Service: More people leave the church because of bad priests than because of disagreements over dogma, says Fr. Thomas Reese.

#### [How a St. Louis church became a skate park](#)

Atlas Obscura: Welcome to heaven on earth for skaters.

#### [Internet church isn't really church](#)

The New York Times: Showing up in person is exhausting, especially compared with live-streaming. But being together is the whole point, says Laura Turner.

#### [A holy mess: Churches, other nonprofits confront parking tax](#)

Politico: Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the parking benefits that churches, synagogues, hospitals, colleges and other nonprofits offer their employees are suddenly taxable.

#### [Ukraine moves to form a unified Orthodox Church independent from Russia](#)

NPR: Ukraine elected the head of a newly unified Orthodox Church this weekend, a move that the nation's president hailed as an important safeguard against future Russian aggression.

### **PRAYER NEEDS**

#### **Please continue to pray for:**

- 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: JANUARY 2019**

January 6	<u>Peace River Presbytery</u>
January 13	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Pratt Email: <a href="mailto:dpratt@fpcbbonita.org">dpratt@fpcbbonita.org</a> Associate Pastor: Rev. Steven Grant Email: <a href="mailto:sgrant@fpcbbonita.org">sgrant@fpcbbonita.org</a> Associate Pastor: Rev. Brad Rogers Email: <a href="mailto:brogers@fpcbbonita.org">brogers@fpcbbonita.org</a>
January 20	<u>Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hope Lee Email: <a href="mailto:hope@kpcbradenton.org">hope@kpcbradenton.org</a>
January 27	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Lehigh Acres</u> Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jim Berger Email: <a href="mailto:drjimberger@gmail.com">drjimberger@gmail.com</a>

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

[Board of Pensions Retirement Planning Seminar](#)

Tuesday & Wednesday, January 29-30, 2019

Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral

**SAVE the DATE:**

**Thursday, February 28, 2019**

**Stated Meeting of Presbytery**

*(including the honoring of The Reverend Graham Hart,  
General Presbyter, on the occasion of his retirement.)*

**Location: First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota**

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**Sunday, March 3, 2019**

Peace Presbyterian Church - Dedication Service

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JANUARY 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.*

**Tuesday, January 1**

Happy New Year! - Presbytery Offices Closed

**Thursday, January 3**

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

**Monday, January 7**

Nominations and Representation Committee (10:00 a.m.)

Planning Team (12:30 p.m.)

**Tuesday, January 8**

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

**Wednesday, January 9**

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

**Thursday, January 17**

Steering Committee (9:00 a.m.)

Congregational Vitality Team (12:30 p.m.)

**Sunday, January 20**

Installation Service for Rev. Robert Marrow (4:00 p.m. at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples)

**Monday, January 21**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Presbytery Offices Closed

**Tuesday, January 29 and Wednesday, January 30**

Board of Pensions Retirement Planning Seminar (Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral)

**PEWS for SALE**

Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples, has 150 pews for sale. Each pew is 40 inches long. The church is asking \$75 each, with 90-day notice.



If interested, please contact Bill Moyer: 239-825-2220 / [wamoyer1958@gmail.com](mailto:wamoyer1958@gmail.com)

**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.



