



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ January 31, 2019

Mision Peniel

“My House is Your House”



In 2019, Mision Peniel reaches 13 years since it moved from being a good intention to a reality. During this time, we have witnessed the challenges that this community faces. It is complicated to establish a list of priorities since each of the identified needs is, at some point, the most difficult reality faced by one or more families. But to be effective in the process of helping, we must address those challenges in a certain order.

“Immokalee” in the Seminole language means "my house". A place with such a name is expected to be hospitable and to welcome any who have their place of residence right there. Contradictorily, the lack of decent and accessible housing is the reality for most families of agricultural workers in this community. Abusive fees for rent, overcrowding, deplorable conditions and non-existent maintenance are just some of the conditions faced daily by those who come here to work bringing food to our tables.

Having a place to call home is one of the most satisfying things anyone can experience and is essential in the development of every human being. One of our priorities is to provide our people with a space in which they feel safe and know that at the end of the day they have a place to go for refuge and to find rest. However, it is sad that very few in our community can claim that this is possible for them.

That is why our attention has been drawn in that direction and, as reported recently to the Presbytery, we are now part of the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance Initiative that hopes to develop a project that not only will provide housing in a market that does not satisfy the current demand, but that does so by being accessible and in full respect of the dignity of the families that could be part of the project.

An effort of this size requires the participation of many who are interested in making a difference. The Peace River Presbytery churches today have a great challenge and a great opportunity. We can show that not only do we know how to speak well of God's love, but we also struggle to be able to manifest it concretely to our neighbors in their difficulties. Our prayers, ideas, financial support and effort to take this initiative forward will make a difference in the lives of many so that they can have a decent place to call "their home".

Stay tuned for the information we hope to share from now on, which will keep you updated on the opportunities and advances of this new adventure.

And yes, if ever a farmworker says to you, "my house is your house", they really mean that. Let us do so in the same way.

Rev. Miguel Estrada
www.misionpeniel.com

*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.*

COMING UP ...

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Stated Meeting of Presbytery

and

**Honoring The Reverend Graham Hart, General Presbyter,
on the occasion of his retirement.**

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Location: First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

Registration Begins - 8:00 a.m.

Financial Forum – 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Begins – 9:00 a.m.

Lunch reservations will be required in advance. Details will be posted soon.

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

**Saturday, February 2, 2019**

[Presbyterian Women's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering](#)

Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers

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Friday, February 8, 2019

[Christ at Work through His Church in the Middle East](#)

Rev. Elmarie Parker

Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

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**Saturday, February 9, 2019**

[Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director, World Mission Initiative](#)

(Pittsburgh Theological Seminary)  
Guest Speaker at the Faith Focus Weekend  
First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota  
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Saturday, February 23, 2019
[The Life and Friendships of C.S. Lewis](#)
Church of the Palms, Sarasota
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**Sunday, March 3, 2019**  
[Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch - Dedication Service](#)  
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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 22nd
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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)

[January 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).

### 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: FEBRUARY 2019**

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 3  | <u>Mision Peniel Farmworker Ministry</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Miguel Estrada<br>Email: <a href="mailto:migustrada@hotmail.com">migustrada@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                                            |
| February 10 | <u>Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Glenn Buzbee, Jr.<br>Email: <a href="mailto:revglennb@gmail.com">revglennb@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                                     |
| February 17 | <u>First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glen Bell<br>Email: <a href="mailto:gbell@FirstPresSarasota.org">gbell@FirstPresSarasota.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Kelly Fitzgerald<br>Email: <a href="mailto:kfitzgerald@FirstPresSarasota.org">kfitzgerald@FirstPresSarasota.org</a> |
| February 24 | <u>Stated Meeting of Presbytery</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

### **PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 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.

**Saturday, February 2**

Presbyterian Women's Gathering (Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers)

**Monday, February 4**

Planning Team (12:30 p.m.)

**Thursday, February 7**

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

**Monday, February 11**

Personnel Team (by Zoom Conference; time TBD)

**Tuesday, February 12**

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

**Wednesday, February 13**

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

**Thursday, February 14**

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

**Thursday, February 21**

Steering Committee (9:00 a.m.)

Restructure Task Force (12:00 p.m.)

**Thursday, February 28**

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota)

(including the Celebration of the Retirement of Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter)

**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.



