



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



## Presbytery Newsletter ~ February 7, 2020

Dear Peace River Presbytery,

One of the joys for me in being part of the Presbytery of Peace River is the commitment to mission and learning. Yesterday I was at Mision Peniel for their board meeting and so many exciting things are happening there. If you have not heard of their new initiative, Pan de Vida, you can look on the web site and learn about it. Pan de Vida provides three meals a week to people in the community who are homebound and also gives them an opportunity for a little socialization. Last year, the garden at the Mision provided over 1500 pounds of produce for the community. Thank you to all the churches and individuals who support this mission of the Presbytery.

In the afternoon, I met with the board for Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance. The board is working hard toward finishing the zoning hearings and will need letters, petitions, and resolutions of support to share with the Collier County Planning Commission. Please look for such a petition at the Presbytery meeting in February and consider whether your church might share such an opportunity to show support for fair housing.

Seventeen people from around the Presbytery left yesterday morning to go to Cuba for five days. They will have the opportunity to see the ministries that are going on in Matanzas Presbytery and meet some of the students at the seminary who will receive free meals because of the support from Peace River Presbytery. It is not too late for you or your church to give a gift toward the \$7500 needed for this year to provide meals to the seminary community. Please be in prayer for those on the trip and for those they will meet.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry has a new director, Teresita Matos-Post. On March 5<sup>th</sup> they will host a dinner and program at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City and showcase the work they are doing with their Step Up for Success Program. There are many ways for Peace River folks to be involved in this important ministry.

The other thing that happens in this presbytery that has impressed me is the number of opportunities provided in churches for learning. Nearly every week a church is hosting a speaker on cultural issues, theological ideas, or spiritual growth. We are happy to share those opportunities in the newsletter so that more people can take advantage of such events. To protect the time of the support staff in the office, we will not be sending out separate emails about events anymore, so please share them for the newsletter.

We will gather on February 27 at Church of the Palms for the Presbytery meeting. It will be a wonderful day for worship, fellowship, and learning. Tod Bolsinger will be present with us and sharing ideas from his book, Canoeing the Mountains. From 11:15 am to 3:30 pm will be devoted to this learning time, with lunch at noon. Anyone is welcome to attend, just please make reservations for lunch so that the church can be prepared.

I look forward to seeing you at various events and worship in the Presbytery.

Blessings,  
Melana



## Around the Presbytery



All ladies are invited to the Peace River Presbytery **Presbyterian Women 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering**, Hosted at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota on **Saturday, February 22**, 9:00 am-1:30 pm. Keynote Speaker: Rev. Kelly Fitzgerald, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry at First Sarasota. Registration deadline: February 3. [Click for the Information Flyer and Registration Form.](#)

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**Science vs Faith?** Is mainstream science incompatible with genuine Christian faith? Pastors, Elders, and Church Professionals are invited to Trinity Presbyterian, Venice for a Luncheon on **Tuesday, March 17**, 12:30-2:00 pm. **Dr. Greg Cootsona, Theologian in Residence** will address this issue. RSVP to the church by Friday, March 13. [Click for Information Flyer.](#)

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*~ Sunrise in Cuba ~*

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If you have information you would like to share about your pastor or your church, please send an email to Lori Doyal, [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org)

**~ ALL ARE INVITED ~**

**Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery  
Thursday, February 27, 2020**

Host Church: Church of the Palms, Sarasota  
8:00 am – Registration Begins  
8:30 am – Finance Forum with the PRP Finance Team  
9:00 am – Stated Meeting Begins  
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\*\* Lunch is \$10. Lunch Reservations are required **by 10:00 am, Friday, 2/21.** \*\*

Contact: [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org) or [alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org)  
or call 941-426-8421 (Lori – ext. 401 / Alesia – ext. 403)

## **Presbytery Calendar: February 2020**

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org)

Please email corrections or additions to [lori@peacriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peacriverpresbytery.org)

*All meetings are at the Presbytery Center location in North Port, unless otherwise noted.*

### **Tuesday, February 11**

Committee on Ministry (9:00 am)

### **Wednesday, February 12**

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 am)  
Cuba Partnership Task Force (3:00 pm – Conference Call)

### **Thursday, February 13**

Finance Team/Board of Trustees (9:30 am)

### **Friday, February 14**

Valentine's Day

### **Monday, February 17**

Presidents' Day – PRP Office is Open

### **Tuesday, February 18**

Pastoral Care Team (11:00 am)  
Communication, Connection, Community Team (2:00 pm)

### **Thursday, February 27**

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (9:00 am at Church of the Palms)

## **Covenant Partners of Peace River Presbytery**

Click on the links to visit each ministry's web site:

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry – Wimauma: [www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)

Mision Peniel Farmworker Ministry – Immokalee: [www.misionpeniel.com](http://www.misionpeniel.com)

Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center: [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org)

Presbyterian Homes & Housing Foundation of FL: [www.phhf.com](http://www.phhf.com)

## Prayer Needs

### Please pray for:

- Fernando Castillo (father of Miguel Estrada's wife, Marifrans) – serious health problems.
- 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

## 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.



The Presbytery Newsletter is a weekly publication of Peace River Presbytery. If you wish to be unsubscribed from the distribution, or if you know someone who would like to receive the newsletter, please contact Lori Doyal at the Presbytery Office:

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