



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



## Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ January 10, 2019

### First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs

Dear Friends and Colleagues in Ministry in Southwest Florida,

It's an honor to share with you a perspective from First Church in Bonita Springs. Thanks for your prayers for us this week. We especially need them at this hyper-busy time of year, when our staff and lay leaders are fully engaged in ministry demands.

All of you know what the rhythm of life is like in Southwest Florida. We love this time of year, but it brings the challenges of all the seasonal members and attenders who arrive. Each of our churches experiences this to some extent; our congregation in Bonita Springs (a beachside resort/retirement community) may experience it even more than most. Our weekend worship attendance literally doubles from December to January! Many of our "fall congregation" go elsewhere for holidays (we see an attendance dip of about 25%), but then they return by the beginning of January—as do so many others who were not with us in the fall but spend part or all of the January-through-April period with us. Lots of people means lots of blessings—but also lots of work!

Adding to the load of ministry in January, for the past four years our church has hosted seminary students for a one-month Mentorship in Pastoral Ministry. These students are on an academic calendar that allows for a single course during the month of January. It's an ideal time for Master of Divinity students to step out of their classroom environment and into the practical workings of the life of a busy congregation.

The Mentorship program has been enthusiastically embraced by our staff, elders and congregation (including generous financial support). The students live in homes of church families, and the church covers all their travel expenses to and from Florida. They have the opportunity to participate in every aspect of the life of the church. They meet personally with each staff member to learn about their roles, they help as liturgists and teach Bible studies, they accompany pastors on pastoral calls, they observe committees doing their work, and they experience the rhythm of life in the pastoral ministry. We hear from many of the students who have gone through this program (we typically host four of them, men and women, each January) that the practical exposure has greatly enhanced their academic work and helped them prepare better for what lies on the other side of seminary.

The vision that inspired our Session to create this ministry was the conviction that the Church is dependent on the effective "passing of the baton" of leadership from generation to generation. I have challenged the congregation with this perspective: one of the greatest things we can do for our grandchildren and their generation is to invest in raising up gifted and effective pastors of their age, who communicate the gospel to them meaningfully. When you and I are gone from this earth, who knows but that a student in preparation for ministry whom we have invested in may someday be our grandchild's pastor.

Yours in Christ,  
Doug Pratt  
[www.fpccbonita.org](http://www.fpccbonita.org)



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.

**OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Sunday, January 20, 2019**

Installation Service for The Reverend Robert Marrow

4:00 p.m. at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

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**Sunday, March 3, 2019**

Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch - Dedication Service

**ATTENTION CHURCHES & CLERGY:**

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

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

**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: [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)

*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: 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@fpcbonita.org">dpratt@fpcbonita.org</a> Associate Pastor: Rev. Steven Grant Email: <a href="mailto:sgrant@fpcbonita.org">sgrant@fpcbonita.org</a> Associate Pastor: Rev. Brad Rogers Email: <a href="mailto:brogers@fpcbonita.org">brogers@fpcbonita.org</a>

January 20	<u>Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hope Lee Email: <a href="mailto:hope@kpctradenton.org">hope@kpctradenton.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>

### **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.

#### **Thursday, January 17**

Steering Committee (9:00 a.m.)  
Congregational Vitality Team (1:00 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.

