



## REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR PENNY



Hello Bee Ridge friends,

Life Supporter Dallas Wright tells about a time when he commuted over an hour to work. He learned a beautiful lesson about perspective. These are his words:

“The job was very stressful, but the drive home was beautiful countryside and always helped me relax. There were many winter wheat fields planted along the way. I especially loved them because they were an oasis of green amongst the barrenness of winter.

One day as I passed a particularly lovely spot, I was not quite ready to give up the beauty, so I looked into the rearview mirror. To my surprise, the field appeared even greener! Farther down the road I tested again other fields, and sure enough they always appeared a deeper and more beautiful green.

I reflected on how we often feel that things were better in the past, and it occurred to me that, just as that wheat stood exactly the same, my *perception* of it had changed in the reflection.

So it is with our past. When it appears that there was more good to experience then than now, I remind myself of that day. To fracture an old adage and coin a new one: ***the grass is always greener in the rear-view mirror!***

Memory has a way of making the past seem rosier than it was. If you find yourself wishing that things were the way they used to be, it may just be that the grass looks greener in the rearview mirror. And if you spend too much time admiring the view in the mirror, you’re likely to miss something great just ahead!

God asks us to rest in His plan for us, to be assured in faith and hope that our future is in God’s hands. May we remember this as we grow older, and also as we look forward to the future of Bee Ridge.

Blessings,

*Pastor Penny*

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**PENNY PITTS**, Pastor

Pastor@BeeRidgeChurch.org

**THOMAS PIZZI**, Music Director

MusicDirector@BeeRidgeChurch.org

### OFFICE

Office@BeeRidgeChurch.org

**TOM KOMAR**, Custodian

### CORPORATE OFFICERS

**ROBERT DAISLEY**—president

**BRUCE LIVINGSTON**—vice president

**DAWNMARIE DANIELS-CARSKY**—secretary

**JERRY VAN DYKE**—treasurer

### SESSION

**COREY DEVITO**, Elder, class of 2018

**JOYCE KELLY**, Elder, class of 2018

**MICHELLE MULLIN**, Elder, class of 2018

**ART CHIODO**, Elder, class of 2019

**JEFF ACKROYD**, Elder, class of 2019

**JOE LIPSON**, Elder, class of 2019

**BRENDA ALSUM**, Elder, class of 2020

**DEBYE BERNARD**, Elder, class of 2020

**LARRI GREATH**, Elder, class of 2020

**DAWNMARIE DANIELS-CARSKY**, clerk of session

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**JANETTE STACK**, 100 year anniversary

**DAWNMARIE DANIELS-CARSKY**, business

**BRUCE LIVINGSTON**, point, buildings & grounds

**VACANT**, christian education

**DAVE & KAY SANCHEZ**, congregational care

**JOYCE KELLY**, fellowship

**JOYCE STOBBS**, honey bees

**DEBYE BERNARD**, membership

**JOE HOCHADEL**, mission outreach

**JOE LIPSON**, nominating

**ART CHIODO**, personnel

**CAROL CHIODO**, presbyterian women

**LIZ ACKROYD**, publicity/media

**JEAN DEVITO**, worship

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## NOTES FROM SESSION

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*Submitted by Dawnmarie Daniels-Carsky, Clerk*

In January we elected new elders for the class of 2020. We are so happy to welcome our new elders and know that they will be a wonderful addition to our session as we continue to grow through our interim transition.



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## CONGREGATION SUBMITTAL

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*Submitted by member of the church*

***It's strange*** how twenty dollars seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping.

***It's strange*** how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie.

***It's strange*** that you can't find words to say when you're praying, but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend.

***It's strange*** how you think nothing of paying \$15.00 for a meal plus tip at a restaurant, but complain about paying \$9.00 for a full-course meal at a fund-raiser for the church.

***It's strange*** how difficult it is to read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy it is to read a popular novel.

***It's strange*** how everyone wants front-row tickets to concerts, but they want to sit in the last row at church.

***It's strange*** how we need to know about an event for church 2-3 weeks before the day so we can include it in our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events at the last minute.

***It's strange*** how difficult it is to learn a fact about God and share it with others, but it's easy to repeat gossip.

***It's strange*** how we believe everything that magazines and newspapers say, but we question the words in the Bible.

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## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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**Sunday, Feb 11, 2018**

9a Choir Practice  
10a Service in Main Sanctuary  
11a Coffee, Cookies, & Conversation  
2p Mision Peniel Open House

**Monday Feb 12, 2018**

10a Membership Committee Meeting

**Tuesday Feb 13, 2018**

10a PW Circle meets in the Parlor  
6:30 p 4-H meets in Keys Hall  
7p PW Circle meets at Stobb's

**Wednesday, Feb 14, 2018**

Ash Wednesday  
6p Ash Wednesday Communion Service

**Saturday Feb 17, 2018**

7:30 a P W Annual Gathering (Leave from BRPC)  
Buddy Break Venice Presbyterian

**Sunday, Feb 18, 2018**

9a Bible Study  
9a Choir Practice  
10a Service in Main Sanctuary  
11a Coffee, Cookies, & Conversation

**Monday, Feb 19, 2018**

6:30p Southfield HOA Meeting

**Tuesday, Feb 20, 2018**

11:30 am PW Gathering (here)  
2p Business Committee Meeting  
4:30p Mission Outreach Committee Meeting

**Wednesday Feb 21, 2018**

9a Bazaar item Drop Off

**Thursday Feb 22 2018**

8a Peace River Presbytery Stated Meeting  
10a Balance Class

**Saturday Feb 21, 2018**

9a Bazaar item Drop Off

**Sunday Feb 25, 2018**

Cents a bility Sunday  
9a Choir Practice  
10a Service in Main Sanctuary  
11a Coffee, Cookies, & Conversation

**Tuesday, Feb 27, 2018**

11:30a Birthday Bunch Lunch  
7p Session Meeting

**Wednesday Feb 28, 2018**

11:15a Coffee, Cookies, & Conversation

**Saturday, Mar 3, 2018**

8a Spring Bazaar

## BAZAAR COMING UP!!

It's that time of year—Bazaar time!! The date is Saturday, March 3. There are opportunities to contribute your time and energy during the two weeks before, and the day of the bazaar. Located in Albritton Center are sign-up sheets. Add your name to your favorite job.

**START NOW** to sort through your stuff!! Don't wait until the week before the bazaar! Clean your items!! If it is broken, throw it away! Bring your good, clean, barely used stuff to church on **Sunday, February 18 and 25**, after each service, or **Wednesday 21 and 28** between 9 am and 12 noon.

**MARK YOUR LINENS.** Let us know the size of bedspreads and sheets by labeling them before you drop them off. The same applies to drapes or tablecloths.

Here is a list of **TOP SELLERS IN PAST BAZAARS:**

- Appliances-radios, mixers, bath scales, CD players
- Baby furnishings and clothes
- Books-novels, Children's books
- Camping equipment
- Clocks and watches
- Collectables
- Household items-lamps, rugs, chairs, wall hangings, curtains
- Jewelry
- Kitchen items
- Musical instruments
- Pet supplies
- Plants
- Records, CDs
- Sports equipment
- Tools-hand and power, garden, mechanic, tool boxes
- Toys
- Vehicles-Bikes, trikes, wagons



items are cookies, cakes, pies, cobblers, banana & other sweet breads, fruit/chocolate bars, rice cereal treats, muffins, brownies, etc.

Call Joyce Kelly, 371-1713 if you have questions.



**CRAFTS!!** Our craft section is always popular and profitable. We need lots of ladies and gentlemen to help this year. You can make your own crafts at home and bring them in on Friday, March 2 at 9 am. Get out your knitting needles, sewing machines, and craft books and get busy!

**BAKE SALE!!** Don't forget our always popular bake sale. Get your recipe boxes out and decide what great goodies you can make. All baked goods should be at the church on Friday, March 2, 9-12am. Popular



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## SMALL LOCAL MISSION UPDATE

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Submitted by Carol Chiodo

### HELP BEE RIDGE CHURCH SUPPORT MISSION PENIEL

Peace River Presbytery supports Mision Peniel , a mission that connects migrant farmworkers to faith communities and the world. Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church has supported Mision Peniel with contributions of rice and beans for a while, especially last year during our Celebration 2017 Anniversary. Bee Ridge's Presbyterian Women's Group (PW) decided to respond to an article in the Peace River Presbytery newsletter citing Mision Peniel's continuing critical needs. We would like to offer our Bee Ridge congregation the opportunity to participate in collecting personal hygiene products for these workers. During the months of February and March there will be a basket in the narthex. If you are able, please consider donating an item or two from the following list:



TOOTHBRUSH  
TOOTHPASTE  
DEODORANT  
SMALL SHAMPOO  
RAZORS  
SOAP  
LOTION

Our PW April Gathering program is titled "April Shower for Mision Peniel" and we will be placing these items in Ziploc bags to be delivered to Mision Peniel later in the month.

Look for Joyce Stobbs or Carol Chiodo if you have any questions. You'll find us by the basket!

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## MISSION OUTREACH

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Joe Hochadel, chair



Addy challenged us to bring cans for All Faiths Food Bank in honor of Souper Bowl of Caring on February 4th. We collected 172 canned goods! Go BRPC!

In March we have several events coming up.

**Sunday March 4th** we will be participating in the Crop Walk, a walk that raises money for the Hungry.

You can sign up to walk with us or donate on our team page at

**<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/sarasotafl/BeeRidgePresbyterian>**

Also on the 4th of March, there is a concert for Children at risk featuring John Rutter's Mass of the Children at Church of the Palms. This is a great opportunity to get to know regional non-profits whose mission is to support at-risk children. Photography and art created by our communities youth will be on display. The concert and event are free. Free-will offering for Unicef.



**Misión Peniel** began as a mission outreach to the farmworkers in Immokalee, through the work of Beth-El Farmworkers Ministries in 2006. When economic constraints made it difficult to continue to support the mission through Beth-El ministries, a new partnership with Peace River Presbytery emerged in 2013. Today Misión Peniel is sustained by the churches that are a part of the Peace River Presbytery through budget support, volunteer workers, donations and most importantly, through the compassion of so many church members and friends!

The mission exists to address the isolation and injustice among the farmworkers in Immokalee, providing support through spiritual and material care. All who share in this ministry experience God's transforming love. "Peniel" means the face of God, a reference from Genesis 32:22-31, where Jacob encounters "the face of God" and called it Peniel. On any given day, the mission seeks to share "Peniel" with all!

Every Friday, the mission welcomes church group volunteers to help organize donations for distribution and prepare the meal to be served in the late afternoon to the farmworker community. The average number served on a given Friday is 500-600 people, which includes men, women and children. Midweek activities include bible studies, evening worship and special small group fellowship gatherings. Pastor Miguel Estrada also provides pastoral care and counseling to farmworkers.

**Opportunities to get involved include:**

- Scheduling a group from the church to serve on a Friday;
- Volunteer as an individual or smaller group midweek;
- Donate needed items/host a donation drive for specific items requested;

- Support through financial gifts;
- Prayer support for the farmworkers and the mission.

**An Open House is scheduled for Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2-4:30 p.m.** and all are invited to come and see what God is doing through your support at Misión Peniel!

Please visit the mission's website and Facebook page for additional information and a glimpse of who this mission serves! [www.misionpeniel.com](http://www.misionpeniel.com)

Please join us for an

# OPEN HOUSE

at

## MISIÓN PENIEL

*celebrating our new location and your partnership*

Sunday, February 11, 2018  
**2 - 4:30 pm**  
208 Boston Avenue  
Immokalee, Florida 34142

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***Come and see what God has been doing through your support!***

- ~ **Meet** the Coordinating Team and Staff
- ~ **Tour** the mission and community
- ~ **Learn** about our vision for 2018 and beyond
- ~ **Experience** the culture of the Farmworker Community

*~ Light refreshments will be served*

**RSVP** requested but not required:  
[misionpenielpeaceriver@gmail.com](mailto:misionpenielpeaceriver@gmail.com)



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## WORSHIP

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*Jean DeVito, Chair*

We're working hard on continuing to provide wonderful worship experiences that are both educational and enjoyable.

We have several special services coming up that we will be having in the Historic Little White Church and we will be beginning a new 5 week bible study February 18th.

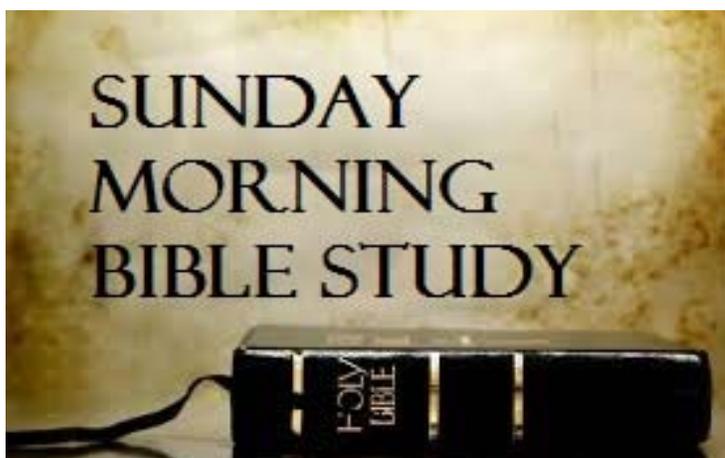
DID YOU KNOW??? Our banners are hand made by one of our new elders, Brenda Alsum. Stay tuned for some new ones in the upcoming months.



### ASH WEDNESDAY

**FEBRUARY 14, 2018 @ 6pm**

**Communion Service in the  
Historic Little White Church**



**STARTING FEBRUARY 18th @ 9AM**

**in the Albrtton Center Parlor.**

**We will begin a 5 week bible study.**

**Hope you'll join us!**



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## FELLOWSHIP

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*Submitted by Joyce Kelly*



### Fellowship Pot-luck Lunch

The fellowship committee is sponsoring a pot-luck lunch on Sunday, February 25 after church services. You may bring any kind of dish. Please bring enough to share if we have visitors.

You may bring your items to the kitchen prior to the service and it will be kept hot or cold as needed. Invite others to join us for this fun time of fellowship and good food.



Those of you who attended the January Gathering, including 6 of our faithful men, got a real treat to hear our delightful speaker Byron who was from Crime Stoppers. We learned so much that would serve to keep us safe and tuned in to our surroundings. There are many hints that we could share with you but one of the biggest and simplest of cautions is to lock your doors to your house...and lock your car immediately when you get in and out of it. Also lock your car when you are pumping gas BUT remember to take the key with you when you get out. These are simple things that we need to be reminded to do.

The PW Gathering for February 20th at 1130 will again be a good program with a speaker but maybe not of interest to our men this time. My neighbor Sandy Klein will be bringing us some hints on looking our best. She is a Mary Kay representative and a woman of faith also. This meeting isn't to sell anything but to answer questions that some of our women have about make-up and looking fresh. Where did our eye brows go and where can we find them??? We hope for a good attendance for this different type of program. As always the fellowship will be great and women are asked to bring a dish to share for "Pot Luck". The coordinating team will be the hostesses for dessert and drinks. Invite a friend or neighbor to come share the fun.

#### **FEBRUARY MEETINGS TO BE AWARE OF:**

**Thursday Feb. 8** Coordinating Team

9:00 AM in the Parlor

**Tuesday Feb. 13** Circles meet

10:00 AM in the parlor

and

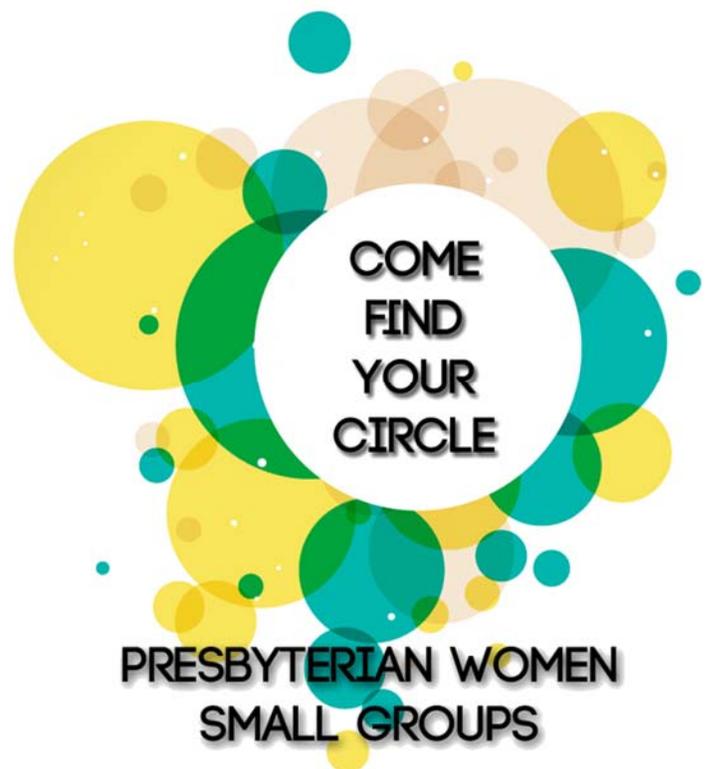
7 PM at Joyce Stobbs home

**Saturday Feb. 17** The Annual Gathering of Peace River Presbyterian Women will be held at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church in Punta Gorda. We will car pool and leave from the church at 7:30 AM. There is a \$12 charge which includes registration, refreshments and lunch. See Carol Chiodo or Elaine Warren to sign up by February 7, and for further in-

formation. This annual meeting includes a Keynote speaker, Rev. Dawn Mayes who will speak on the theme "Christ Our Rock". At the business meeting part of the morning we see how the PW functions in our Presbytery.

This day always provides a wonderful time to reconnect with other women in Peace River. If you haven't attended an Annual Gathering before you will enjoy being a part of it this year.

**Tuesday Feb. 20** PW Gathering 11:30 Keys Hall with speaker, Sandy Klein and pot luck lunch. Come and bring a friend!



Join us after most services in the Albritton Center Parlor for fellowship and reflection. You can also sign up to volunteer to bring the cookies...

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## MEMBERSHIP

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*Debye Bernard, Chair*

2017 we gained some new members and said goodbye to 5 members that joined the Church triumphant., where they are rejoicing with our Lord.

This year, we are looking into new ideas to engage our members and welcome suggestions. Currently we are talking to Cysis a program for pregnant teens, run from Riverview High School. Similar to last years local missions we are looking at taking in donations of diapers, etc. We'll keep you posted.



If you are on the campus and you notice a light bulb out, a running toilet, a door knob that sticks or something in disrepair please call the church office, send an email or drop a note into the collection plate on Sunday. When we work together our campus becomes more vibrant and safe!

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## BUSINESS

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*Submitted by Dawnmarie Daniels-Carsky*

The business committee is looking forward to 2018! Currently we are completing an audit on our books. This is standard procedure and is required by Presbytery once a year. Once that is complete, we will have the budget ready to distribute to the congregation.

We are working on our brochures for weddings and will be marketing our church as the perfect venue for weddings. If you know of anyone looking for a wedding location, please pass our contact info on.

Giving statements for 2017 are available after service or via email if you contact the office at [office@BeeRidgeChurch.org](mailto:office@BeeRidgeChurch.org). Please notify the office if you find any discrepancy.

Help us make 2018 a year to remember!

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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Nursery Workers | Greeters for Sunday Service  
Ushers (offertory) | Lay Readers  
Temporary Clerical Work in Office | etc.



Know someone in our congregation who goes above and beyond? Email the office at [office@BeeRidgeChurch.org](mailto:office@BeeRidgeChurch.org) with "Unsung Hero" in the subject line. Tell us who and why. We'll randomly draw a name each month, highlight them in the bugle and on our Facebook Page!

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## PUBLICITY

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*Submitted by Liz Ackroyd*

Did you know that @BeeRidgeChurch posts the weekly Sermons to our Facebook page? We think this is a great opportunity to deliver the word of the lord not only to our congregation but the community at large! Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/pg/beeridgechurch/videos> to view and share the weekly sermon videos to spread the faith and fellowship we share at Bee Ridge Presbyterian!

COMING SOON:

Bee Ridge Presbyterian YouTube Channel!

