



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



WEEKLY PRESBYTERY LETTER - APRIL 14, 2015  
Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, Presbytery Moderator

~ HOLY SILENCE ~



Sunrise over the Visitor's Center



A Celtic cross in the Cemetery



Sunrise over the Sanctuary



Twilight from my window

Above are photos taken last week while at the Abbey of Gethsemani. Since I began making an annual silent retreat in 1992, I've taken hundreds of photos and, more recently, videos. I always feel so blessed by this opportunity. I'm always surprised in what God reveals here on this prayerfully hallowed ground that has been prayed on 7-times-a-day by the Trappist monks since 1848. My time is often marked by nameless healings and a profound sense of well-being. Perhaps taking pictures is a way to capture all of that or even an attempt to take it home with me.

Intellectually we all know that it isn't true. We can't capture grace or healing or blessing. They're more elusive and more powerful than that. The Psalmist tells us: "God's mercies are new every morning." We know we needn't be afraid. And yet...

It's soulful work to trust God alone and to surrender our ideas, our plans, our will and our way, to His. When in the course of a day, a week, a lifetime my ego continues to set the agenda – to take care of myself – to watch out for #1 – my plans swirl like a springtime tornado sucking up whatever is in its way, leaving not much more than a splintered path in its wake. Then in enlightened moments (that may not last any longer than that) we stand and look back at the debris field of our lives, wondering just how everything got so twisted or in some cases, how so much went so very wrong.

Of course the image of a twister is dramatic. Perhaps in your life and mine there is instead just this dull angst. It's not that everything is wrong, but it's also not true that everything is right. We catch ourselves in unguarded moments taking a telling deep sigh. Is this all there is, we wonder. Is this who God made me to be; is this what God created me to do?

Deep silence invites us to stop, to breathe, to fall backwards in a trust-fall into the arms of God. In deep silence (a rare commodity) we listen, holy listening, without our agenda/phone/instant messaging tangling Divine communication. Now after these 23 years, of my annual trek to this place, the moment I see the monastery wall as I approach from the winding road to the north, I experience a release of any anxiety or any other malady my body may be unconsciously holding. It's the feeling of coming home. None of this is new information to those who know me. I share about the necessity of daily and extended silence every chance I get.

Do you have extended, intentional silent space in your life? Where and how do you listen for and receive God's mercies that are new *to you* every morning? How do you experience deep healing in your life? Or even how do you discern whether the path you're on is guided by the One who created you—who knit you together in your mother's womb? Are you travelling your path, or perhaps someone else's?

The momentum of our culture will carry us to places we never intended to go if we let it. It may even reward us for being *someone* we were never intended to be. Paraphrasing Catherine of Genoa, do you know the deepest you that is God?

Let me encourage you to silence and an exercise of Lectio Divina, without words. Use the photos I provided at the top, or Google search and download some beautiful images and take the silent path with them for twenty minutes. Let God alone speak as you look and listen without distraction. Allow the Holy Spirit to touch the tightness or rough edges that have developed. Rest for a while in Divine mercy, grace and love...and let God do the healing work you need and that Christ made yours in the resurrection.

In peace and joy,

Kathleen Bronagh Weller, [thecelticmonk@att.net](mailto:thecelticmonk@att.net)



## CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

(click on church name to link to its web site)

<a href="#">Braden River Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton	<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton
<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton	<a href="#">Palma Sola Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton
<a href="#">Westminster Presbyterian Church,</a> Bradenton	Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto - <a href="mailto:kcooper@ppcfl.org">kcooper@ppcfl.org</a>
<a href="#">Christ Church of Longboat Key</a> Longboat Key	<a href="#">Peace Presbyterian Church,</a> Lakewood Ranch
<a href="#">Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</a> Sarasota	<a href="#">Church of the Palms,</a> Sarasota
<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Sarasota	<a href="#">Northminster Presbyterian Church,</a> Sarasota
<a href="#">Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</a> Sarasota	<a href="#">Presbyterian Church of the Covenant,</a> Sarasota
<a href="#">Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</a> Sarasota	<a href="#">Siesta Key Chapel,</a> Sarasota
<a href="#">Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a> Venice	<a href="#">Venice Presbyterian Church,</a> Venice
<a href="#">Community Presbyterian Church,</a> Englewood	<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Arcadia
<a href="#">St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</a> North Port	<a href="#">Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</a> Punta Gorda
Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte <a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com">devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Port Charlotte

<a href="#">Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a> North Fort Myers	
<a href="#">Faith Presbyterian Church</a> Cape Coral	<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Lehigh Acres
<a href="#">Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</a> Fort Myers	<a href="#">Covenant Presbyterian Church,</a> Fort Myers
<a href="#">Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</a> Fort Myers	<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Fort Myers
<a href="#">Hope United Church (PCUSA),</a> Fort Myers	<a href="#">Chapel by the Sea,</a> Fort Myers Beach
<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Bonita Springs	
<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a> Naples	<a href="#">Lely Presbyterian Church,</a> Naples
<a href="#">Moorings Presbyterian Church,</a> Naples	<a href="#">Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</a> Naples

### **MISION PENIEL**

*A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee*

The Mision Peniel Task Force continues to meet and build the support and structure for continuing this vital ministry. If you want to make a donation to support this recovery effort you may send the check (marked Mision Peniel) to Peace River Presbytery | 5600 Peace River Rd. | North Port, FL. 34287.

- Volunteer Position Opening: Publications Coordinator ([click for information](#))
- Meal Serving Schedule ([click for information](#))
- Collection Centers for Mision Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
- Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

### **BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.**

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

[Position Opening: Executive Director](#)

[Winter 2015 Newsletter](#)

[Fall 2014 Newsletter](#)

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The following are position openings in PRP churches.

Click on the title for more information.

[Part-Time Choir Director](#) – Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

[Interim Choir Director](#) – Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice

[Organist / Pianist / Accompanist](#) – Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

### **PRAISE REPORT:**

- Rev. Rob Swinsburg and Family, on the birth of his first grandchild, Jane Evelyn Eccles, on April 6. Baby and all are well.

### **PRAYER NEEDS:**

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

- Anita Adkison, mother of Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison, Pastor of Chapel By The Sea – recovery from breast cancer surgery and treatment to follow. Lives in Arkansas.
- Rev. Susan Rice, Associate Pastor of Faith, Cape Coral – health
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – kidney failure – is undergoing dialysis and is on a kidney transplant list. Greg is also diabetic and underwent quadruple bypass heart surgery in June 2013.
- Glenn Beisser (father of Rev. Devon Beisser Ducheneau, Stated Supply Pastor for Wintergarden P.C.) – lung cancer and heart issues
- Hmingi Browne's (A.P. of Church of the Palms) sister, Nutei – health
- Grandson of Tim and Martha Halverson - suffering from a rare autoimmune disease.
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Misión Peniel
- 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
- Pastors and Educators in transition
- Nations in crisis

## **CHURCH PRAYER GUIDE: APRIL 2015:**

April 5	<a href="#">First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</a> Pastor: Rev. Dino Rustin email: <a href="mailto:dino@firstpresbradenton.com">dino@firstpresbradenton.com</a>
April 12	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</a> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hope Lee email: <a href="mailto:hope@kpcbbradenton.org">hope@kpcbbradenton.org</a>
April 19	<a href="#">Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</a> Pastor: Rev. India Dennis Email: <a href="mailto:pastorindy@gmail.com">pastorindy@gmail.com</a>
April 26	<a href="#">Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</a> Pastor: Rev. Rob Swinsburg email: <a href="mailto:pastorrobwpc@verizon.net">pastorrobwpc@verizon.net</a>

## **PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: APRIL 2015**

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

### **April 14**

Committee On Ministry  
Personnel Team  
Pastoral Care Group

### **April 15**

Committee On Preparation For Ministry (#1)

### **April 20**

Planning Team – @ St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port

### **April 23**

Mision Peniel Task Force @ Covenant Presbyterian, Ft. Myers

### **April 26**

Installation Service for Rev. Dino Rustin @ First, Bradenton

### **April 29**

Committee On Preparation For Ministry (#2)

