

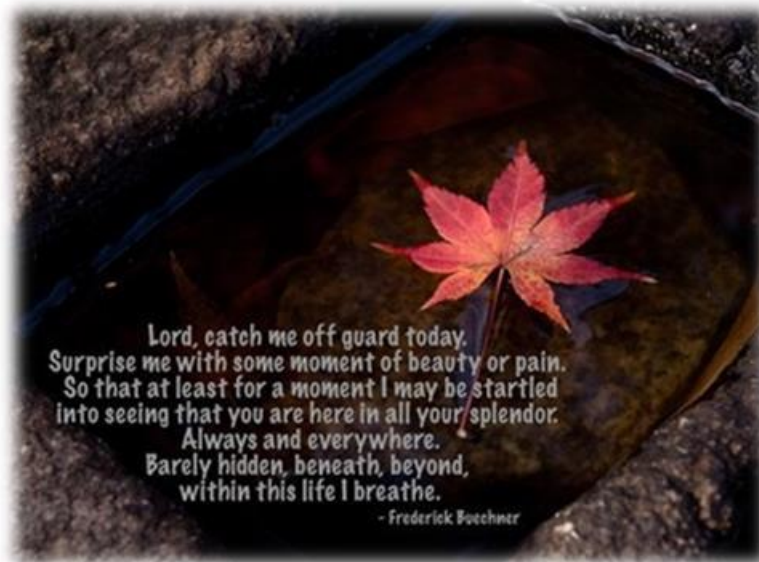


# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – August 13, 2015  
Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, 2015 Moderator, Peace River

## GOD'S BARELY HIDDENNESS



Dear PRP Friends,

I'm wondering today, about the last time you were 'startled into seeing' that God is near in all His splendor. Both the quote and the photo above speak to me about how my busyness, my accumulation of many things, my self-importance and even sometimes my legitimate importance all have the ability to separate me from the truly real, the truly important, the eternally important!

Since we made our move to Sarasota, I have more time to think such thoughts as Sam and I explore in and around our new living situation. It raises some melancholy within me to understand as Buechner so poetically says it that God is 'barely hidden.' Melancholy, because though I've felt somewhat God-aware for most of my adult life I realize I've missed God's *barely hiddenness* more than I've seen it. I've dashed over it, around it, circumvented it or simply ignored it in the name of more important things to do and people to see...

But there is both a cognitive and palpable difference to your life and mine – when we watch for, take in or simply tarry long enough in the moments of our life so that the Divine Presence can reveal Himself, can reveal His very Real Presence, the only Presence that makes our days' worth living, our projects or jobs worth doing, our pains worth enduring.

Buechner also reveals in those few words the depth of his own relationship with this God who is barely hidden. You see he desires God so singularly, so fervently, that he asks that God reveal Himself 'in beauty or in

pain.' Buechner is not a person who wants only the good that comes from God. His prayer is chiefly for God...clothed in whatever God deems necessary.

Perhaps in between the drenching rains we've all experienced this last month, there will come a little bit of time for you to venture out of doors with Buechner's prayer on your lips and in your heart. *"Catch me off guard Lord, surprise me with beauty or with pain, so I might be startled into seeing You in Your barely hiddenness."* For it is true friends, God is as close as your breathe. Blessed are those who know it to be true... and see Him there.

Enjoy the rest of these lazy days of summer.

In Christ's Peace,  
Kathleen

Kathleen Weller, Obl. S.B.  
Moderator, Peace River

**FALL REGIONAL GATHERINGS:**

**Thursday, August 20 @ Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice**  
9:30 a.m. (with lunch)

Contact the Church Office, 941-488-2258, to make lunch reservations.

~~~~~

**Thursday, August 27 @ Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples**

8:30 a.m. (with continental breakfast)

Contact the Church Office, 239-597-5410, to make breakfast reservations.

~~~~~

**Thursday, September 3 @ Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch**

9:30 a.m. (with lunch)

Contact the Church Office, 941-753-7778, to make lunch reservations.

~~~~~

Attendance and Lunch Reservations are to be made with the host churches,  
not the Presbytery Office.

These are not Stated Meetings, and Presbytery business will not be conducted.  
The purpose is to build relationships between churches, connect churches missionally,  
and to give opportunity for churches to share with one another.

~~~~~

The next **STATED MEETING of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY** is scheduled for:

Thursday, November 19, 2015

at Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Sunday, September 13, 2015, 4:00 p.m.

**Installation Service for The Reverend Tamara Letts**

Associate Pastor, Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

**THE YOUTH OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**



*(Background: The Anderson Auditorium)*

During the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the 2015 Montreat Youth Conference in Montreat, North Carolina, Clarisse Durnell, Director of Christian Education for First Presbyterian Church Sarasota, gathered the youth from the Florida churches for a group picture. During the six sessions of the conference, the fourth session had the highest attendance of youth from Florida churches. Four churches and over 40 youth and adult advisors represented Peace River Presbytery. The churches represented were Church of the Palms, First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Peace Presbyterian Church, and Pine Shores Presbyterian Church.

The conference theme was "This Is Our Story". "We learned how our stories are authored by God ... unique, intertwined, sometimes messy, are still being written and that, no matter what, we are to have the courage to share our stories. Taking a group picture told our story of how we are connected living in Florida. Some youth from Sarasota attend the same high school together. Most importantly, we all attend Presbyterian churches where we learn and grow in our faith stories."

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

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

### **Back To School Appeal**

Every summer Beth-El Farmworker Ministry reaches out to its mission partners in the collection of back to school supplies. From pencils and paper to backpacks and new shoes, every year Beth-El helps over 500 returning students with much needed school supplies. To learn how your congregation can help or to receive a complete list of needed supplies, please contact Beth-El Farmworker Ministry at [813-633-1548](tel:813-633-1548) or email: [info@beth-el.info](mailto:info@beth-el.info). Gracias!

[www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)

[August Newsletter](#)

[Back To School Supplies List](#)

[June 2015 Update and Financial Appeal](#)

## **CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

*A place apart to build up the body of Christ in love.*

[www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org)

## 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

- Collection Centers for Mision Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
  - Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

## SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday, October 24, 2015, 9:30 a.m. ~ First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

Guest Speaker: Rev. John Buchanan, Editor of *The Christian Century*

~~~~~

Saturday, January 23, 2016 ~ Church of the Palms

[The Soul of Caregivers: Nurturing and Reorienting Our Lives](#)

with Rev. Marjorie Thompson

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following are position openings in PRP churches.

Click on the title for more information.

[Organist](#) – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

[Communications Coordinator](#) – Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

[Director of Christian Education](#) – Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

[Organist / Accompanist](#) – Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda

## PRAYER NEEDS:

### Please continue to pray for:

- Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner – recovery from hip revision surgery.
- Robert Dennis, Son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues.
- Anita Adkison, mother of Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison, Pastor of Chapel By The Sea – undergoing treatment for breast cancer. Lives in Arkansas.
- Rev. Susan Rice, Associate Pastor of Faith, Cape Coral – health
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – on 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

- 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: AUGUST 2015:**

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 2  | <u>Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk<br>email: <a href="mailto:jimkirk1212234@gmail.com">jimkirk1212234@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                       |
| August 9  | <u>Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Learned<br>email: <a href="mailto:mink@moorings-presby.org">mink@moorings-presby.org</a>                                                                                                               |
| August 16 | <u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jack Haberer<br>email: <a href="mailto:jhaberer@vpcnaples.org">jhaberer@vpcnaples.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Tamara Letts<br>email: <a href="mailto:tletts@vpcnaples.org">tletts@vpcnaples.org</a> |
| August 23 | <u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Ray Quiles<br>email: <a href="mailto:stpaulspres1@comcast.net">stpaulspres1@comcast.net</a>                                                                                                           |
| August 30 | <u>Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto</u><br>Pastor: Rev. John Foulkrod<br>email: <a href="mailto:jfoulkrod@ppcfl.org">jfoulkrod@ppcfl.org</a>                                                                                                                          |

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2015**

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

**August 13**

Finance Team / Board of Trustees  
Steering Committee

**August 20**

Regional Gathering at Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice

**August 27**

Regional Gathering at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

**September 3**

Regional Gathering at Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch  
Presbyterian Women

**September 7**

Labor Day – Peace River Presbytery Office Closed

**September 8**

Committee On Ministry

**September 10**

Finance Team / Board of Trustees

**September 13**

Installation Service for Rev. Tamara Letts @ Vanderbilt, Naples

**September 14**

Nominations Committee  
Planning Team

**September 21**

Mision Peniel Task Force @ Covenant, Fort Myers



**CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

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

|                                                                |                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Braden River Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton                                            |
| <a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton     | <a href="#">Palma Sola Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton                                       |
| <a href="#">Westminster Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton  | Palmetto Presbyterian Church,<br>Palmetto – <a href="mailto:office@ppcfl.org">office@ppcfl.org</a> |

|                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>Christ Church of Longboat Key</u></a><br>Longboat Key                                                                   | <a href="#"><u>Peace Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Lakewood Ranch                            |
| <a href="#"><u>Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                                                      | <a href="#"><u>Church of the Palms,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                        |
| <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                                                          | <a href="#"><u>Northminster Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                           |
| <a href="#"><u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                                                    | <a href="#"><u>Presbyterian Church of the</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Covenant,</u></a> Sarasota |
| <a href="#"><u>Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                                              | <a href="#"><u>Siesta Key Chapel,</u></a><br>Sarasota                                          |
| <a href="#"><u>Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Venice                                                                          | <a href="#"><u>Venice Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Venice                                   |
| <a href="#"><u>Community Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Englewood                                                                     | <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Arcadia                                   |
| <a href="#"><u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>North Port                                                                   | <a href="#"><u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Punta Gorda                         |
| Wintergarden Presbyterian Church,<br>Port Charlotte<br><a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com"><u>devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Port Charlotte                            |
| <a href="#"><u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>North Fort Myers                                                           |                                                                                                |
| <a href="#"><u>Faith Presbyterian Church</u></a><br>Cape Coral                                                                         | <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Lehigh Acres                              |
| <a href="#"><u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Fort Myers                                                                   | <a href="#"><u>Covenant Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Fort Myers                             |
| <a href="#"><u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Fort Myers                                                                 | <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Fort Myers                                |
| <a href="#"><u>Hope United Church (PCUSA),</u></a><br>Fort Myers                                                                       | <a href="#"><u>Chapel by the Sea,</u></a><br>Fort Myers Beach                                  |
| <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Bonita Springs                                                                    |                                                                                                |



|                                                                |                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples    | <a href="#"><u>Lely Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples       |
| <a href="#"><u>Moorings Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples | <a href="#"><u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples |