



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – December 10, 2015

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, 2015 Presbytery Moderator

Dear Peace River Presbytery,

I want to let you in on a little secret. I hate surprises. And even more than surprises, I hate waiting. Put these two together and this season should be a torturous time of the year for me ... not only because of the insane pace of life we try to live from November till December 24th, buying, shopping, cooking, wrapping; but the accompanying anticipation and unknowns which jump on my last nerve!

So it should be difficult to account for, that this season of Advent is my favorite season of the church year. Except that I love when the first purple candle is lit in worship on the Advent wreath. I love the words, the music, and the instructions to us in the hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” I love the invitation of the growing darkness and the shorter days... to reflect, recollect, and ponder. Far from being a nuisance or a bother it seems to me that in our shortened daylight the Creator and all of creation is calling us to see with the eyes of our heart.

I should dread Advent—but my heart tells me that something is right in this deep anticipation. That the One for whom we wait in Advent does not disappoint. That there is a real and true gift of Christmas for each of us which surpasses all the artificial lights, artificial trees, greedy lists of wants and the gluttonous behavior to which our culture calls us. I should dread this Advent season and yet I am drawn into preparing for what is Real and yet Unseen—Present but not yet known as He will be known.

My hope and my prayer for you this Advent is a sense of the mystery which God is laying before you. My hope and my prayer for you this Advent is that the greater part of your preparation is done in quiet of your heart. My hope and my prayer for you this Advent is that you will know the One who is wanting to be born anew in you through great love. Because in this great unfolding mysterious waiting, anticipation and surprise...there is nothing to fear.

Waiting with you, prayerfully,
Kathleen

NEXT STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY:

Thursday, January 28, 2016

at Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. / **Meeting** will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Finance Forum with the Presbytery’s Board of Trustees at 9:00 a.m.

Lunch reservations will be required by Friday, January 22. Cost \$10.00

Mark your calendars ... it’s coming up soon!

Additional details within a few weeks.



To all Pastors, Retired Pastors, Teaching Elders, and Treasurers and Business Managers:

Dear colleagues in ministry and service,

Greetings! I hope this message finds each of you doing well and in good spirits.

Board University – the educational program of the Board of Pensions – is pleased to partner with Peace River Presbytery to offer three of our education seminars at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church (Sarasota, FL) in mid-January 2016:

January 12-13: Growing Into Tomorrow...Today (pre-retirement planning for lay and clergy members)

January 14: Render Unto Caesar (terms of call and clergy tax issues for treasurers and administrators, and active clergy)

January 15: Post-Retirement Seminar (retirement living matters for lay and clergy retirees and surviving covered partners)

Registration for the seminars is open on our website. If you have any general questions or concerns about the seminars, please feel free to contact [Board University](#). For registration assistance, individuals may call the Board weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., ET, and speak with the first available service representative at 800-PRESPLAN ([800-773-7752](tel:800-773-7752)).

Blessings and peace,

Nadine L. Monn | Design Specialist

Organizational Training & Development

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) | 2000 Market St., 4th Floor | Philadelphia, PA 19103-3298

P: [800-773-7752](tel:800-773-7752), ext. 7457 / [215-587-7457](tel:215-587-7457) | F: [215-587-7129](tel:215-587-7129) | www.pensions.org

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

Beth-El Food Pantry has an immediate need for canned goods, rice and pinto beans. Our regular deliveries have been down and the pantry is practically bare. If you can help, please call the mission at 813-633-1548 ext. 228.

www.beth-el.org

[December Newsletter](#)

[Adopt A Family 2015 Program](#)

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

Employment Opportunities at Cedarkirk

Cedarkirk is currently seeking to fill a variety of positions (part-time kitchen and housekeeping roles and a full-time Capital Campaign Director). Please visit www.cedarkirk.org/who-we-are/employment/ for more information.

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 Mission Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
- Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

***Would your church like to have a
“Buddy Break” Program?***

Venice Presbyterian Church has been blessed through their ministry in a program they call “Buddy Break”. The program gives caregivers of kids with special needs a break. It is a free kids’ respite program where kids with special needs (VIP kids) make new friends, play fun games, enjoy crafts, therapy dogs, stories, music, activities and more! Siblings have fun too! Meanwhile their caregivers get a break from their ongoing care-giving responsibilities for three hours one Friday night or Saturday morning a month.

For information on starting a “Buddy Break” program, contact Venice Presbyterian at 941-488-2258. Ask for Dick Armstrong, Clerk of Session, or Andrea Lucy, Office Administrator.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Saturday, January 23 ~ Church of the Palms
[The Soul of Caregivers: Nurturing and Reorienting Our Lives](#)
with Rev. Marjorie Thompson
~~~~~  
Thursday, January 28  
Stated Meeting of Presbytery

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The following are position openings in PRP churches.  
Click on the title for more information.

- [Part-Time Bookkeeper / Accounting Clerk](#) – Northminster Presbyterian Church, Naples
- [Communications Coordinator](#) – Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples

**FOR SALE**

26 Passenger Bus – [Click for Information](#)

**PRAISE REPORT:**

Bob and I want to thank everyone for their prayers. Bob is doing well, has been out of the Rehab Hospital for four weeks and has been doing his physical therapy exercises at home. He’s left the walker behind and goes for walks unaided. His orthopedic surgeon has okayed him for any activity he feels like doing, recommending bike riding. We praise the Lord for his goodness and mercy. You may remove Bob from the special prayer request category and list him as a successful result of your prayers.

Peace,  
Sue Ann and Bob Cousar

**PRAYER NEEDS:**

**Please pray for:**

- Rev. Dr. Doug Pratt’s (First, Bonita Springs) wife and family – through the loss of his mother-in-law on December 6, and the Pratts’ travels to Ohio for her service.

**Please continue to pray for:**

- Rev. Devon Ducheneau (Stated Supply Pastor, Wintergarden P.C.) and Family - through the loss of her father, Glenn Beisser, two weeks ago.
- Jim Beckwith - health
- Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller – healing of broken arm
- 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.
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – on kidney transplant list
- 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: DECEMBER 2015:**

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 6  | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Bill Teng<br>email: <a href="mailto:tengpresby@aol.com">tengpresby@aol.com</a>                                                                                                                                 |
| December 13 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Pratt<br>email: <a href="mailto:dpratt@fpcbonita.org">dpratt@fpcbonita.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Steven Grant<br>Email: <a href="mailto:sgrant@fpcbonita.org">sgrant@fpcbonita.org</a> |
| December 20 | <u>Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Glenn Buzbee, Jr.<br>Email: <a href="mailto:revglennb@gmail.com">revglennb@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                              |

December 27

First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton  
Pastor: Rev. Dino Rustin  
email: [dino@firstpresbradenton.com](mailto:dino@firstpresbradenton.com)

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2015**

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

**December 10**

Finance Team / Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.)  
Steering Committee (1:30 p.m.)

**December 20**

Ordination Service for Terri Jo Crego at First, Port Charlotte (3:00 p.m.)

**December 21-25**

Presbytery Office Closed



**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="#">Christ Church of Longboat Key</a><br>Longboat Key  | <a href="#">Peace Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Lakewood Ranch                                       |
| <a href="#">Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota     | <a href="#">Church of the Palms,</a><br>Sarasota                                                   |
| <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota         | <a href="#">Northminster Presbyterian Church,</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                               |

