



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



WEEKLY PRESBYTERY LETTER – FEBRUARY 3, 2015
Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, 2015 Presbytery Moderator

MINDLESS or MINDFUL

I've never counted how many times a day I have to enter a password or a security code on my computer, iPad or online. A modest estimate is dozens—but some days likely far exceed that number. My guess is the same is true of you.

When this practice became a necessity, I chose a set of numbers that I just hoped I would remember. And then I'd use that same set again and again, as not to have to remember others! Until of course the gurus of passwords began to advise us all that we needed different passwords for everything lest our life work, savings and identity be compromised.

Most passwords will accept up to 16 letters, numbers, symbols or characters. And up until recently I've used: Notafraidtotry. One cap, one symbol and 14 characters. I chose it as a reminder to myself of how I wanted to live. When entered, the safety indicator always told me it was "Very Secure" as far as passwords go.

But its dual purpose, along with being easy to remember and being very secure... was that it reminded me of who I chose to be each day: someone who is not afraid to try. Neuroscience can tell you more about this than I can, but each day as I typed in my password, it became a little more true of me. So much so that last week I changed my password. (Can't tell you the new one, but it's a doozy). I changed it because I realized I didn't need "NotAfraid..." anymore.

I learned the lesson of the silent work of what we put into our minds long before my password epiphany. It was 30 some years ago as a participant in a discipleship Bible study of The Navigators called 2:7 (shorthand for Colossians 2:7) Through the two-year small group study, we memorized 60 Scripture verses in what today is called the Topical Memory System.

So, back to my topic. In the days in which we live, the opportunities for mindless stuff to fill up our minds and lives continues to grow. How many passwords did you enter to get to your email? But we have at our disposal the opportunity to use these little openings for something more.

Is there a word, a phrase, a short sentence (less than 16 characters) that could remind you of who you are or who God is calling you to become? How about a name of God that is meaningful to you and your circumstances at the moment like:—1 Jehovah Jireh—the One God who provides. Do you think it might make a difference for you to be reminded of that several times a day rather than 32446857?

Indeed the potential for us to be mindless abounds...but also does the opportunity for us to be mindful even in the small things. So go ahead. Listen for God to whisper what He's working out in your life. And change your passwords.

*For God's glory,
Kathleen Bronagh Weller*

SPECIAL EVENTS:

(Click on the links or download the attachments.)

[February 7th: Faith Focus with Dr. Cynthia Rigby](#)

All are invited to First, Sarasota on Saturday, February 7th for their Faith Focus Weekend, with Guest Speaker, Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Professor of Theology at Austin Seminary.

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#### [February 26 & 27: Baby Boomers & Beyond with Dr. Amy Hanson](#)

As we face a drop in church membership and the next generation of retirees moving to Florida and NOT automatically coming to church, as has been the habit of past generations, breathe, don't panic, but do something. Keep your calendar marked for the presentation of [Amy Hanson](#), Baby-Boomer and Beyond ([click here for more info](#)) at the Stated Meeting of PRP on February 26, and the regional workshops on Friday, February 27.

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[February 28 & March 1: God's Call To Mission with Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell](#)

When we wonder what is God up to in the world, is the global church in trouble?... breathe...God is at work as God has been for a long time. Mark your calendars for a Saturday morning, February 28th, presentation by Hunter Ferrell, Director of Global Missions for the PCUSA ([click here for video](#)).

STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

Thursday, February 26, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota
6135 Beechwood Avenue | Sarasota, 34231

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Amy Hanson on Baby Boomers & Beyond

**Lunch Reservations are required no later than Monday, February 23.

\$10.00 per person – payable at registration

Email reservations to: lori@peacriverpresbytery.org / alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org

or call the Presbytery Office, 941-426-8421

Include your name and church.

(Lunch includes hot sandwiches and sides.)

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

[Winter 2015 Newsletter](#)

[Fall 2014 Newsletter](#)

A Thank You Note:

I would like to THANK Peace River Presbytery for your thoughtful prayers, emails, text messages, phone calls and cards, following the loss of my son Christopher.

I could not have gotten through this without God’s help, my family and my friends.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Alesia Sharpe

If you would like to make donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the address is:

Muscular Dystrophy Association
In Memory of Christopher McGinnis
6315 Presidential Court, Suite 140
Fort Myers, FL 33919



PRAYER NEEDS:

Please pray for:

- The family (Martha Chaney) and friends of Rev. Paul Chaney (retired), who passed away this past weekend. His service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 8th, at Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota.
- The family and friends of Dr. Stephen Hayner, who passed away on Saturday, January 31, after a

battle with Pancreatic Cancer.

Please continue to pray for:

- Alesia Sharpe, PRP Office Manager, in the passing of her 25-year old son, Christopher, on January 14 from complications related to Muscular Dystrophy. *(Thank you note from Alesia above).*
- Sung and Hope Lee, in the passing of Sung's close uncle, Rev. Dr. Syngman Rhee, Moderator of the 212th General Assembly.
- Pat Woody and family, in the loss of Rev. Dr. Ray Woody, Pastor Emeritus of Siesta Key Chapel.
- 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
- Donna Blaser (wife of Wayne Blaser) – Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
- 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: FEBRUARY 2015:

February 1	<u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Co-Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bruce Wismer email: pastors@pineshorespres.org Co-Pastor: Rev. Karen Wismer email: karen@pineshorespres.org
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February 8	<u>Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Michael Mansberg email: covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net
February 15	<u>Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kathi Wiggins email: pastork@comcast.net
February 22	<u>Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u> Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Jane Jones-Norris email: jjn7416@gmail.com

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 2015

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: www.peaceriverpresbytery.org

February 7

Faith Focus with Cynthia Rigby (@ First, Sarasota)

February 10

Committee On Ministry

February 11

Committee On Preparation For Ministry

February 12

Finance Team

Nominations / Representation Committee (@ St. Paul's Presbyterian Church)

February 18

Mision Peniel Task Force (@ Covenant Presbyterian Church)

February 19

Steering Committee

February 26

Stated Meeting of Presbytery (@ Pine Shores Presbyterian Church)

February 27

Baby Boomers & Beyond Workshops with Dr. Amy Hanson (@ Venice and First, Bonita Springs)

February 28

Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of World Mission (@ First, Sarasota)

