



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



WEEKLY PRESBYTERY LETTER - JUNE 9, 2015 Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, 2015 Presbytery Moderator

Dear Friends,

We've just started a new summer book group at Pine Shores. We're reading Geneen Roth's early book: *When You Eat At The Refrigerator, Pull Up A Chair*. In it she shares her own wisdom on why diets don't work...why guilt, fear and shame NEVER motivate change...and how changing what we think (including things we've believed for a very long time) is essential to growth, wholeness and living authentically.

It occurred to me as I prepared to lead our book study this week, that those very same things Roth equates to physical health are also true in our life of faith. Sometimes authentic faith looks a little crazy to folks...like pulling up a chair at the refrigerator. Sometimes spiritual practices of prayer, worship, or devotional time in our life don't look anything like those same spiritual practices in the life of another, or even our own earliest practices. It's also true (though we never tire of using it) that guilt, fear or shame are never the seeds of spiritual growth. And finally, spiritual growth also implies change. Sometimes really big changes.

There is something fresh and exciting about a living faith, where The Holy Spirit gets a word in edgewise. There's something so fresh and so filled with grace when God speaks and our hearts are yielded enough to be open and to listen. I'm wondering what new insight, what new direction, what spacious revelation God has been working in your life. What have you heard Him whisper that changes everything for you?

I'd like to be able to tell you that this Good News comes readily, and easily, without any quandary, struggle or doubt. But that's just not true. Not true for me anyway. But it is how I know I'm alive. Old tapes are being erased. New truth refuses to be ignored. There's discernible expansion in an alive spirit. Expansion and not contraction. There is mercy and compassion that comes from beyond our puny imaginings. Is that how you feel too? That your love of God, humankind and all creation is growing? That you can envision the great love of God for the whole world? Is the self giving love of Christ growing in you?

My hope and prayer for you, for me and for our Presbytery is that we know ourselves to be seated at the feast God has, is and continues to prepare and share with those who love him; that we sense the bounty, the richness and the blessing God alone provides. Because if we are merely shaped by fear, guilt, or shame our faith experience is more like being on a restricted diet!

In the wideness of God's mercy,
Kathleen

Kathleen Weller, Obl.SB
Moderator
Peace River Presbytery

~ ARTICLES OF INTEREST ~

[God's work offers a bounty of diversity, clergy finds, but also stress](#)

Houston Chronicle: Burnout increasing due to isolation and living in a 'fish bowl.'

[Fair to boycott Israel? Global momentum grows](#)

Associated Press: The atmosphere recalls the boycotts that helped demolish apartheid South Africa a quarter century ago.

[Church of England decline heralds calls for innovative use of church buildings](#)

The (London) Guardian: With both rural attendance and beliefs falling in the UK, the clergy are stressing the need for creative solutions.

[Support for same-sex marriage at record high, but key segments remain opposed](#)

Pew Research: As the Supreme Court prepares to decide a case involving states' requirements to recognize same-sex marriage, public support for allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally continues its rapid rise.

[Why Christian denominations aren't going away](#)

Religion News Service: The imminent demise of denominations is premature, and a denominational affiliation is not the "hindrance" many believers consider it to be.

[Involving large church pastors in multiplication](#)

Christianity Today: Uniting small and large churches around the mission of the denomination is important, Ed Stetzer says.



Be inspired . . . Become equipped . . . Get connected!

Experience that deep sense of community one would expect at a national gathering of Presbyterians—a great big family reunion! Join us for a wide variety of workshops, all under one Big Tent, a conference that will inspire and equip Presbyterians to live missionally. In past year each the General Assembly Ministry areas has hosted their own conference... this year you will be able to move between areas and interests in this 3 day event. Also, note the cost has been greatly reduced. The registration is \$395 per person, which includes accommodations, seven meals, campus parking and outstanding programming. Fees for children and youth are no more than \$150 each.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION THROUGH JUNE 19

[Register Online Now!](#)



CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

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

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

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, North Fort Myers	
Faith Presbyterian Church Cape Coral	First Presbyterian Church, Lehigh Acres
Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers	First Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
Hope United Church (PCUSA), Fort Myers	Chapel by the Sea, Fort Myers Beach
First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs	
First Presbyterian Church, Naples	Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples
Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples	Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, 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.

- 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

[June 2015 Update and Financial Appeal](#)

[Winter 2015 Newsletter](#)

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

[Web Site](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following are position openings in PRP churches.

Click on the title for more information.

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

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

PRAYER NEEDS:

Please continue to pray for:

- Robert Dennis, Son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues.
- Sue Angle and Family – following the passing of Ray on May 24.
- Dave & Lil Rea (COM Moderator) – following the passing of Dave’s father on May 26.
- Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner – decisions to make about a hip revision.
- Rev. Norman Hutchinson – recovery from quadruple bypass surgery; also has congestive heart failure. If you’d like to send notes or cards, his address is: 822 South Pelham Road | Welland, ON L3C3E1
- 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
- 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: JUNE 2015:

June 7	First Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers Pastor: Rev. Paul de Jong email: paul@fpcfortmyers.org
June 14	Hope United Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers Interim Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl email: pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net
June 21	Chapel by the Sea, Fort Myers Beach Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison email: skypilot_mdiv@hotmail.com
June 28	Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, North Fort Myers Pastor: Rev. Dr. Valerie Bell email: pastorvaleriebell@gmail.com

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JUNE 2015

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

June 11

Finance Team / Board of Trustees
Steering Committee

June 16

Nominations / Representation Committee

June 25

Mision Peniel Task Force at Presbytery Center, North Port