



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



WEEKLY PRESBYTERY LETTER - MARCH 12, 2015
Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, 2015 Presbytery Moderator

THE LIFE OF FAITH



This could easily be a photograph of a winding road in Northern Ireland. The winding, the variety of greens, the stone fence, the economy of a road without any shoulder all serve to lead us to our conclusion. And yet it might lead us to the wrong conclusion. In reality it's "Monks Road" in Kentucky.

I wonder if we, in our lives, aren't sometimes like this photograph. I'm wondering if sometimes when people see us, that they are misled. Do others see us and assume one thing, when something else is true? And what about us--ourselves? Is there a way in us--are there parts of us--that on close inspection, upon serious

reflection are not true of us, or maybe not true of us anymore? Ways that we continue behaving, continue going through the motions? Are you living your real life?

This is not a judgment. I'm not saying we're disingenuous. What I wonder is if there is a picture in our mind – if sometimes it's just easiest to continue living that picture. Our thoughts go something like this: "I've always done this." "It's all I know." "I'm good at it." Or even, "It's how I earn my living." "What else would I do?" Do we live the picture even when the picture is of someone far from our best self? Even when we have a hint that the picture is of someone entirely unlike who we really are?

My hunch is that along the course of our life, people of good intention ... people with our best interest in mind... teachers, mentors, parents, friends suggested what they saw in us--and we began to follow that picture...we became *that* photograph...and lived *that* life. We didn't do it to do harm or with bad motives. Maybe it was the best self with which we could come up at the time--and as time went on, we developed the necessary skills and were rewarded. And yet with the purest of motives, for some of us it was never *our* photograph, *our* true self that we were/are living.

And I wonder if there haven't been moments along the way when we saw the sail of the boat we never piloted, or heard the whistle of the train we never caught, or listened to the whisper in the wind and heard a familiar call...but we ignored it and continued to ignore it...because we were living this other photograph...until finally we didn't hear or see those glimpses anymore.

In our Monday morning meditation class, you will often hear "we are only ever beginners.". And while it's true of the pure prayer of meditation, it's true of our whole life as well. It may seem like we are too deep into a

way, or too far along a path, or even up to our necks in one particular photograph of our life...but we're only ever beginners on this journey and it's never too late to change...*metanoia*...to turn around.

It takes some degree of courage, honesty, and most especially grace to examine the old photograph that we've used as plumb in our life. But God is generous in grace. And when we are ready Love shows up to help us learn to be a beginner...to imagine a new photograph...one that is uniquely who God fashioned us to be as part of His creation. The gentle nurture of the Holy Spirit softens our defenses and we see as if for the first time, hear as if for the first time, and the world opens up before us as if for the first time.

This is the life of faith--learning to be who we were created to be at any age or any stage. In this reflective season of Lent may you experience the courage and grace to investigate spirit whispers and sacred photographs.

In peace and in joy,

Kathleen Bronagh Weller

SPECIAL EVENTS:

(Click on the links or download the attachments.)

[A Weekend to Remember with Jerry Lucas, "Dr. Memory"](#)

Famed basketball legend Jerry Lucas will be at Venice Presbyterian Church from Thursday, March 12 thru Monday, March 16.

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

PRAYER NEEDS:

Please continue to pray for:

- Rev. Dr. Tim Halverson, pastor of Faith, Cape Coral, in the recent loss of his mother.
- 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) – PRAISE REPORT – the lymphoma is in remission!
- 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: MARCH 2015:

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| March 1 | <u>Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Chuck Wiggins email: cjw049@gmail.com |
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| March 8 | <u>Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice</u> Pastor: Rev. Chris Romig email: cromig@venicepresbyterian.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Lyn Olson email: lolson@venicepresbyterian.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Todd Reinschmidt email: treinschmidt@venicepresbyterian.org |
| March 15 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia</u> Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Dr. John Henry email: irrev.rev.316@gmail.com |
| March 22 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Pratt email: dpratt@fpcbonita.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul Fahnestock Email: pfahnestock@fpcbonita.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Steven Grant Email: sgrant@fpcbonita.org |
| March 29 | <u>Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Glenn Buzbee, Jr. email: revglennb@gmail.com |

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MARCH 2015

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

March 12

Finance Team / Board of Trustees

March 19

Steering Committee

March 26

Mision Peniel Task Force @ Vanderbilt P.C.

March 29

Palm Sunday