

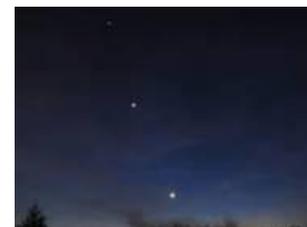


PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – November 6, 2015

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, 2015 Presbytery Moderator



Dear Peace River Presbytery,

Even though our colors don't change from green to a hundred different shades of crimson, bittersweet, and gold we all have begun to experience the change of season...from summer to autumn here in SW Florida.

Our change includes the Gulf dropping in temperature from a balmy 89 degrees to a slightly chilly 74. It includes that steady rise in traffic which means our visitors from the north are arriving. Around where I live, we've had a stalwart pair of Sandhill Cranes that have spent the summer with us... my granddaughter named them Mark and Marbella McIntosh...but now five or more of their friends have joined them. It seems humans aren't the only snowbirds! Summer foliage dulls a bit, but new winter flora and fauna are not far behind.

Each year as I am able to turn the page from October to November, I am reminded anew of those things for which I am most grateful. It's not just "the usual suspects" that I round up, but those things that only come as I sit and listen waiting on God to remind me of His great love for me and for all people.

This year I've been especially blest in this reminder as I've been drawn to see God's hand and handiwork in creation as metaphor for truths I might otherwise have missed. Like the way the wake off the back of a big ship disappears in a matter of minutes—reminding me of both the enormous beauty and yet impermanence of life, and how from turbulence calm does indeed return. I've been blessed over the past two months watching Venus, Jupiter and Mars dance their way into the closest orbit they will share until 2021—reminding me that there is order to this universe; and if God cares so much to order their path, how much more does God order our paths.

And as I've been awakened hours before dawn by various and sundry things these last several months I've begun to learn to listen in the dark. Not willingly, but steadily. Not without some turmoil, but yielded to the still small voice that persisted in shadows. And here I've only just begun to understand how

what most call success in this life is in fact folly and what most call folly is instead faithful and true. In the dark there is wisdom that the light gobbles-up in its sharp glare.

So as your mornings and evenings have just (because of daylight savings time) been thrown catty wampus...let me invite you into the wisdom of the darkness and there to seek what God has to reveal to you. Let me invite you to study the Light of creation and the shadows it casts, as it speaks to you of the Immanence of God. And let me encourage you to use every bit of this month of Thanksgiving...to give thanks for your blessings – especially those which are too precious to be revealed in the crassness of bright light.

In peace and joy,

Kathleen

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, Moderator

CELEBRATING WORLD MISSION

Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of World Mission, PCUSA

Wednesday, November 18 – Regional Gatherings

Thursday, November 19 – Keynote Speaker at the Stated Meeting of Presbytery

For information, [click here](#).

STATED MEETING of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

Thursday, November 19

Hosted by: Community Presbyterian Church

405 S. McCall Road | Englewood, 34223

Key Note Speaker: Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of World Mission for the PCUSA

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8:00 a.m. ~ Registration Begins

\* 9:00 a.m. ~ Finance Forum\* with the Presbytery's Board of Trustees and Treasurer

9:30 a.m. ~ Stated Meeting Begins

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**** Lunch Reservations are required NO LATER than Friday, November 13.**

\$10.00 per person, payable at registration, covers lunch and morning refreshments.

Submit reservations to Lori Doyal, lori@peacriverpresbytery.org or 941-426-8421

Include the name for each reservation, church, and a contact phone number or email.

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\*All are invited to this forum and are welcome to ask questions about the Presbytery's budget and finances.

### **Articles of Interest:**

[Pew study: More Americans reject religion, but believers firm in faith](#)

Religion News Service: Americans as a whole are growing less religious, but those who still consider themselves to belong to a religion are, on average, just as committed to their faiths as they were in the past -- in certain respects even more so.

[3 leadership strategies every pastor should adopt](#)

Baptist News Global: Addressing church decline is about confronting a shifting reality, says the Rev. Amy Butler.

[Some find redemption on death row, but few find mercy](#)

The Conversation: As the growing amount of time between sentencing and execution has made redemption claims more plausible, mercy has ironically become more difficult to find.

[How should conservative Christians handle a rapidly changing culture?](#)

Washington Post: The manner in which conservative Christians navigate their journey away from outdated notions of a “Christian America” will have much to say about the quality of our public life in the actual America, says Michael Gerson.

[New books allege mismanagement, excess at the Vatican](#)

Washington Post: Allegations suggest a mix of formidable forces confront Pope Francis as he seeks to reform a Vatican bureaucracy long shrouded in secrecy and charged for years with being inefficient and lacking in transparency.



**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)

**We opened registration for the seminars on our website today.** 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](#)).

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, ext. 7457](#) / [215-587-7457](#) | F: [215-587-7129](#) | [www.pensions.org](#)

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**Also from the Board of Pensions - Check Your Benefits Coverage**

Annual enrollment, **now through November 13**, is the chance for employees to review, choose, and change benefits coverage. During this time, employees may:

- change their level of medical coverage;
- enroll in or make changes to dental coverage; and
- apply for or change supplemental death benefits coverage.

Annual enrollment is the only time employees can enroll for, or make changes to, these benefits for 2016, unless they experience a qualifying life event during the year (such as marriage or the birth of a child). It's also a good time for employees to review their savings and investments in the Retirement Savings Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (RSP) in preparation for a secure retirement.

Look for the annual enrollment postcard in your mail soon, and visit [pensions.org/annualenrollment](http://pensions.org/annualenrollment) for additional information.

## **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.

¡Gracias!

*Kathy*

Kathleen Dain, Executive Director

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

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

### **Cedarkirk Youth Retreat**

Calling all youth groups! On November 13th-15th, Cedarkirk is offering a new youth event called Fusion designed for both middle school and high school groups. Rev. Loli Reiter will be our keynote speaker and preacher as we explore how we can live boldly for God. You can find out more and even register your group at

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

### **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/](http://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 Mision Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
- Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

## **UPCOMING EVENTS!**

Wednesday, November 18 ~ Three Locations

Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of World Mission for the PCUSA

[Informational Brochure with Times and Locations](#)

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Thursday, November 19, 9:30 a.m. ~ Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery

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Saturday, January 23 ~ 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.

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

## **FOR SALE**

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

### **PRAYER NEEDS:**

#### **Please continue to pray for:**

- 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. 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: NOVEMBER 2015:**

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 1  | <u>Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Michael Mansperger<br>email: <a href="mailto:covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net">covenant.presbyterian@comcast.net</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| November 8  | <u>Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kathi Wiggins<br>email: <a href="mailto:pastork@comcast.net">pastork@comcast.net</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| November 15 | <u>Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Jane Jones-Norris<br>email: <a href="mailto:jin7416@gmail.com">jin7416@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| November 22 | <u>Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Chuck Wiggins<br>email: <a href="mailto:cjw049@gmail.com">cjw049@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| November 29 | <u>Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice</u><br>Senior Pastor: Rev. Chris Romig<br>email: <a href="mailto:cromig@venicepresbyterian.org">cromig@venicepresbyterian.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Lyn Olson<br>Email: <a href="mailto:lolson@venicepresbyterian.org">lolson@venicepresbyterian.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Todd Reinschmidt<br>Email: <a href="mailto:treinschmidt@venicepresbyterian.org">treinschmidt@venicepresbyterian.org</a> |

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: NOVEMBER 2015**

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

**November 10**

Committee On Ministry (9:00 a.m.)

**November 11**

Committee On Preparation For Ministry (10:00 a.m.)

**November 18**

Regional Meetings with Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell

**November 19**

Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery

**November 25-27**

Presbytery Office Closed

**November 26**

Thanksgiving



## 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="#">Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota       | <a href="#">Presbyterian Church of the<br/>Covenant,</a> Sarasota                                  |
| <a href="#">Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota | <a href="#">Siesta Key Chapel,</a><br>Sarasota                                                     |
| <a href="#">Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Venice             | <a href="#">Venice Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Venice                                              |
| <a href="#">Community Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Englewood        | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Arcadia                                              |
| <a href="#">St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</a><br>North Port      | <a href="#">Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Punta Gorda                                    |
| Wintergarden Presbyterian Church,                                  | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Port Charlotte                                       |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Port Charlotte<br/> <a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com">devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</a></p> |                                                                      |
| <p><a href="#">Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> North Fort Myers</p>                      |                                                                      |
| <p><a href="#">Faith Presbyterian Church</a><br/> Cape Coral</p>                                    | <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Lehigh Acres</p>  |
| <p><a href="#">Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>                              | <p><a href="#">Covenant Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Fort Myers</p> |
| <p><a href="#">Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>                            | <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>    |
| <p><a href="#">Hope United Church (PCUSA),</a><br/> Fort Myers</p>                                  | <p><a href="#">Chapel by the Sea,</a><br/> Fort Myers Beach</p>      |
| <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Bonita Springs</p>                               |                                                                      |
| <p><a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>                                       | <p><a href="#">Lely Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>         |
| <p><a href="#">Moorings Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>                                    | <p><a href="#">Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</a><br/> Naples</p>   |