



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



**Weekly Presbytery Letter – October 13, 2015**

**Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, 2015 Presbytery Moderator**

## **The Gratitude of Being**

Sam and I just returned from a 12 day transatlantic crossing. With the blessing of my orthopedic surgeon, we embarked on a cruise that had been in the planning for 18 months. It was different than we intended because of my reduced mobility, but glorious nonetheless. In fact, the added challenge added benefits that we could not have anticipated.

We wondered at first "should we still go?" We had no little trepidation. Even some fear about it not being all we hoped...somehow less. Yet, when all was said and done we agreed that it was likely the best time away of our whole marriage.

What made it so?

We took each day as it came. Not knowing what I was going to be able to do, we didn't make advance plans. In the morning we talked about what to do till noontime...and over lunch decided what if anything would come next.

We stayed flexible. Early on there were some things that we had crossed off the list of what was possible. But 12 days is a long time...and things I didn't think I could do at first became doable in the second week of the voyage.

We appreciated being. Just that. We appreciated being away. We appreciated being together. We appreciated the surprises the water, sun and sky offered us each day. And the moon and stars at night. We appreciated the vast and glorious creation that was all gift to any who would see it.

We were grateful. At the end of the day, we'd look back and talk about our experiences of the day. Sometimes we'd gone to an event or class together. Sometimes we'd gone our separate ways. But I don't think there was one day that we weren't grateful for what the day held and we'd share it together.

Those are not bad ways to go through our life... receiving each day, flexible, appreciative of being and grateful. And those are not bad ways for being the Church of Jesus Christ. It's a way of holding all things lightly, receiving all as sacrament. A sacred trust of God to His creation. That's another thing that was obvious as we looked north, south, east and west and saw only water...how small we really are...smaller than we ever usually imagine. Tiny, infinitesimal...yet loved by God.

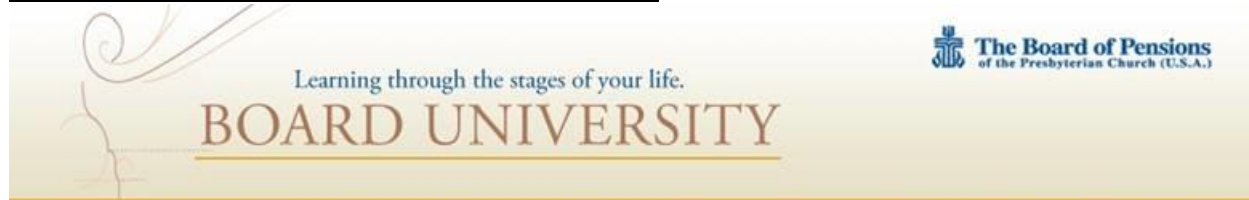
May this week you know the blessings and the humble gratitude of being. May any delusion of personal

grandeur be replaced by the startling grandeur of God. And may you be thankful to be loved of God. There is immense grace in such a simple perspective.

Hoping joy on your journey,  
Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, Moderator

Kathleen Weller, Obl.SB  
Director, SANCTUARY HOUSE  
email: [thecelticmonk@att.net](mailto:thecelticmonk@att.net)  
phone: 941-922-1597 x 280  
*"My Deepest Me Is God" Catherine of Genoa*

## **Board of Pensions Workshops Coming to Peace River – Save the Dates**



The Board of Pensions will offer their highly acclaimed seminars here in Peace River in January. All events will be held at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. Registration will open soon, and each seminar is limited to 30. Please look for the invitation coming from the Board of Pensions, or [click here](#) to go to the registration site. Registration is not yet open.

These seminars are being offered here at the request of the Committee On Ministry and are designed for Peace River Presbytery members and congregations. Since it will be offered here in January, others are apt to come, which is why we suggest that you register early. The "Render Unto Caesar" Seminar is designed for personnel committees, treasurers, and business managers. The new, comprehensive, one day, post-retirement seminar will be offered here for the first time.

**January 12-13, 2016: Growing Into Tomorrow ... Today:** Be informed, educated, and inspired for a journey toward wholeness in retirement living with our two-day seminar for members and guests within 15 years of retirement. (Pre-retirement planning).

**January 14, 2016: Render Unto Caesar:** Addressing how to structure terms of call to be more cost-effective and to clarify clergy tax issues, this seminar is for treasurers, administrators, and active clergy (teaching or commissioned ruling elders).

**January 15, 2016: Post-Retirement:** An informative update on the state of the Pension Plan and other resources, this seminar on post-employment retirement planning is designed for plan retirees, surviving covered partners, and their guests.

Visit the **Board University** ([click here](#)). Note – The Board of Pensions programs and resources are organized into three audiences so you can find what best fits your needs: members, treasurers/administrators, and mid councils.

---

## **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 Farmworker Ministry is looking for transportation help.*** On October 16th we have the opportunity to transport up to 30 women from Beth-El to Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa for free mammograms. Then on November 23rd we need assistance bringing up to 60 kids to Beth-El for a special Advent workshop. Our existing bus can only fit 14 passengers at a time so we really need help! If a church has a bus we could use for those dates, or volunteers willing to help transport people, please call the mission and speak to Javier at 813-633-1548 ext. 228. ¡Gracias!

*Kathy*

Kathleen Dain, Executive Director

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

[October Newsletter](#)

## **CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

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

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

## **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!**

Thursday, October 22, 2:00-4:00 p.m. ~ Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ft. Myers

Mision Peniel Celebration

Please join us for the 2 year celebration of our Covenant Partner  
under Peace River Presbytery. We are excited!

Saturday, October 24, 9:30 a.m. ~ Faith Focus Weekend at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Buchanan, Editor of *The Christian Century*

~~~~~

Wednesday, November 18 ~ Three Locations

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

[Informational Brochure with Times and Locations](#)

~~~~~

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

Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery

~~~~~

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.

[Organist](#) – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

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

---

### **PRAYER NEEDS:**

**Please continue to pray for:**

- Jim Beckwith - health
- Rev. Dr. George and Merle Chorba – loss of his mother, Hilda.
- 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: OCTOBER 2015:**

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>October 4</p>  | <p><u>Church of the Palms, Sarasota</u><br/>         Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen McConnell<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:smcconnell@churchofthepalms.org">smcconnell@churchofthepalms.org</a><br/>         Congregational Care Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hmingi Browne<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:hbrowne@churchofthepalms.org">hbrowne@churchofthepalms.org</a><br/>         Discipleship &amp; Outreach Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bruce Hedgepeth<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:bhedgepeth@churchofthepalms.org">bhedgepeth@churchofthepalms.org</a></p> |
| <p>October 11</p> | <p><u>First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br/>         Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glen Bell<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:GBell@FirstPresSarasota.org">GBell@FirstPresSarasota.org</a><br/>         Associate Pastor: Rev. Melanie Hamill<br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:MHamill@FirstPresSarasota.org">MHamill@FirstPresSarasota.org</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>October 18</p> | <p><u>Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br/>         Pastor: Rev. Dr. Christopher Carlson<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:pastorchr@npcsarasota.org">pastorchr@npcsarasota.org</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>October 25</p> | <p><u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota</u><br/>         Co-Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bruce Wismer<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:pastors@pineshorespres.org">pastors@pineshorespres.org</a><br/>         Co-Pastor: Rev. Karen Wismer<br/>         email: <a href="mailto:karen@pineshorespres.org">karen@pineshorespres.org</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: OCTOBER 2015**

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

**October 14**

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (9:00 a.m.)

**October 22**

Mision Peniel Task Force (11:00 a.m. at Covenant Presbyterian)

Celebration of the Ministry of Mision Peniel (2:00 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian)

**October 24**

Guest Speaker at First Presbyterian, Sarasota (9:30 a.m.)

**October 29**

Nominations / Representation Committee (9:00 a.m.)

Steering Committee (1:30 p.m.)



**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="#"><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       |