

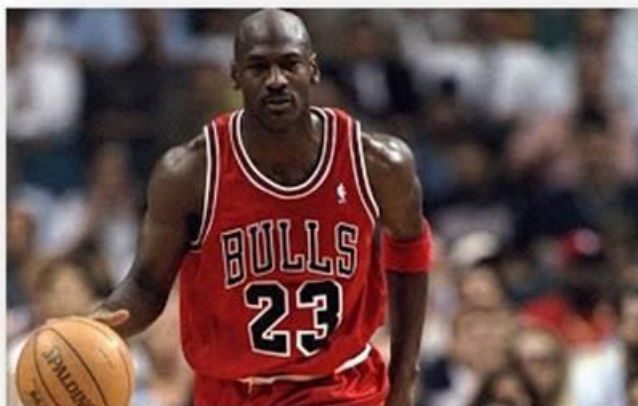


# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – March 1, 2016  
Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, 2016 Steering Committee Moderator

## For The Love Of The Game



No matter where I live, I am a Chicagoan. Its sights and sounds (and sound-bytes) are in my head.

This week I listened to a radio call-in program that addressed the topic of Lent: who practiced, who didn't, why some did, why others did not. Callers lined up with their very nice sounding rationalizations for what they had already decided was true. It was an amusing use of my 'car time'.

But it seems that the conversation has stuck with me. So while putting my k-cup in my coffee machine this morning the metaphor that came to mind regarding that talk show was this: "for the love of the game." For the love of the game, that's why we observe the season of Lent. It's about Love... and the game (sorry if it seems irreverent) is our relationship with/to God. We keep Lent, we observe it, we do it, we practice it... for the love of the game.

"For the Love of the Game" is shorthand for a clause Michael Jordan had written into his contract with the Chicago Bulls. It seemed that pro contracts did not allow you to play/practice your sport outside of their purview. Heaven forbid you should get hurt and no longer be a cash cow for your franchise! So he went to Jerry Krause, the Bulls General Manager and they worked out the "Love of the Game Clause" which allowed Michael Jordan to play pick-up ball, or play anytime and anyplace he wanted. Jordan believed that this extracurricular playing was one of the ways he sorted out stuff in his life and cleared his head.

So while waiting for my coffee to brew this morning, the radio call-in program on Lent and Michael Jordan's "Love of the Game Clause" collided. That's it! I thought. Our observance of Lent is like Jordan's love of the game clause. Lent is an invitation offered to those on the path of God's love and mercy to sort ourselves out

and clear our heads. It's a pick-up game in reflection, in prayers, in spiritual disciplines. It's something added to our regular season just because we can and because it brings joy and growth and maybe even the good kind of tired at the end of a long day.

No one makes you play extra. There is no coercion. There is just the opportunity, like seeing a bunch of guys under the hoop at the park and walking over to join in. There's just that something that wells up inside for more of God and encourages you to make a plan, or a promise and then work it out over these 40 days. Just because. No glory. No cheering crowds. No extra jewels in your crown. Just for the love of the game...

Over the years, whether during Lent or not, when I've committed to a spiritual practice of one kind or another... it has always been for the love of the game and I've never been disappointed. And it seems to me now that the One I meet on the court under the lights is not Michael Jordan (although that would be very cool) but is instead the Creator and Author of all that is, was and is to come.

No one ever had to compel Michael Jordan to play basketball. And my two-cents is we ought needn't be compelled to commit to the season of Lent either.

If you are in this thing we call our life of faith "for the love of the game" I'd really love to hear what you have decided to do to keep these 40 days. Please do drop me an email: [thecelticmonk@att.net](mailto:thecelticmonk@att.net) It would be a privilege to pray for you while you're out on the court.

In peace and joy,  
Kathleen

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller

## **BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.**

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*

Summer will be here before you know it! Beth-El has numerous mission opportunities for adults and youth. From leading Vacation Bible School, to work groups helping out in our community, to scholarships for kids to go to camp at Cedarkirk, there are many ways your church can help support this valuable mission. Call Javier today at 813-633-1548 ext. 228, or email him at [Javier@beth-el.org](mailto:Javier@beth-el.org) to learn more.

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

## **CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

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

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

**Summer is coming soon!** It is hard to believe, but summer camp preparations are already underway. This summer's theme, FEARLESS FAITH, will help campers focus on how they become part of, gain support from, and build their own Christ-centered communities. By looking at leaders from the Bible who used communities given to them by God, campers will be empowered to draw courage from friends, family, and community, stand up to injustice and help change attitudes, forgive others, and connect to and welcome all people. Please help Cedarkirk by letting the children and youth of your church or community know about the unique opportunities available this summer. We are also looking for volunteer nurses and worship leaders for the week-long sessions.

If you have any questions, please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224 or visit [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](#))

## **RELIGION IN THE NEWS – ARTICLES THAT HAVE COME ACROSS MY DESK OR BEEN SENT TO ME (Graham):**

[Fr. Gregory Boyle: Save the World or Savor it?](#) -An Interview with [Faith & Leadership](#)

Countless thousands of former Los Angeles gang members have had their lives transformed -- in some instances, literally saved -- thanks to Homeboy Industries, the world's largest gang rehab and re-entry program. Yet ministry is not about saving the world or saving people, says the organization's founder and executive director, Father Gregory Boyle.

[Max Lucado: Trump doesn't pass the decency test](#)

The Washington Post: Policy aside, shouldn't we all demand that our president at least be decent?

Christianity Today: [Why Max Lucado broke his political silence for Trump](#)

[How the church helps black men flourish in America](#)

The Atlantic: The structure it provides, along with the values it instills, strengthens employment prospects, family life, and more.

[Editorial: Best Picture win for 'Spotlight' is fitting humiliation for church](#)

National Catholic Reporter: With "Spotlight" awarded the Oscar for best motion picture, the public humiliation for the Catholic Church is now as thorough as one might expect. The mighty, indeed, have fallen from their thrones; the humble have been exalted.

CruX: [Vatican Radio, newspaper praise 'Spotlight' as courageous](#)

[Graphic: How the 2016 presidential candidates line up on religion](#)

The Washington Post: The 2016 election has featured a diverse range of faith traditions between the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates. Here's how the candidates break down.

The Washington Post: [Meet the 'Nones,' the Democratic Party's biggest faith constituency](#) [Why exit pollsters desperately need to get religion](#)

The Washington Post: With the presidential votes rolling in, it is time for an altar call moment for exit pollsters: there are more religion angles than just conservative white evangelicals. The Atlantic: [Trump reveals the end of the Religious Right's preeminence](#)

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The following are position openings in PRP churches.

Click on the title for more information.

[Part-Time Employment Positions](#) – Chapel By The Sea, Fort Myers Beach

[Part-Time Bookkeeper / Accounting Clerk](#) – Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

**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
- 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

**CHURCH PRAYER GUIDE: MARCH 2016:**

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 6  | <u>Chapel By The Sea, Fort Myers Beach</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison<br>Email: <a href="mailto:skypilot_mddiv@hotmail.com">skypilot_mddiv@hotmail.com</a>               |
| March 13 | <u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, North Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Valerie Bell<br>Email: <a href="mailto:pastorvaleriebell@gmail.com">pastorvaleriebell@gmail.com</a> |
| March 20 | <u>Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Deibert<br>email: <a href="mailto:edeibert@mindspring.com">edeibert@mindspring.com</a>                 |

March 27

First Presbyterian Church, Lehigh Acres  
Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Winston Lawson  
email: [churchoffice@fpclehigh.org](mailto:churchoffice@fpclehigh.org)

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MARCH 2016**

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

**March 3**

Presbyterian Women CT (10:00 a.m.)

**March 7**

Planning Team (1:00 p.m.)

**March 8**

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

**March 9**

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

**March 10**

Finance Team / Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.)

**March 17**

Steering Committee (1:00 p.m.)

**March 24**

Mision Peniel Task Force @ Covenant P.C., Ft. Myers (9:30 a.m.)



**CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

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

[Braden River Presbyterian Church,](#)  
Bradenton

[First Presbyterian Church,](#)  
Bradenton

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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, Sarasota</a>                                  |
| <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,<br>Port Charlotte<br><a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com">devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</a> | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Port Charlotte                                       |
| <a href="#">Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</a><br>North Fort Myers                                                           |                                                                                                    |
| <a href="#">Faith Presbyterian Church</a><br>Cape Coral                                                                         | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Lehigh Acres                                         |
| <a href="#">Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Fort Myers                                                                   | <a href="#">Covenant Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Fort Myers                                        |
| <a href="#">Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Fort Myers                                                                 |                                                                                                    |

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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 |