



# PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – May 12, 2016  
Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, Steering Committee Moderator

## An Exultation

Dear Peace River Friends,

This week I was listening to the poet David Whyte reading his own work and that of other poets he admires. While I deeply appreciate his poetry, in actuality I would listen to him read from the telephone book with his rich Irish brogue.

In introducing a particular sonnet, he referred to the species of bird called a lark...which has a limited range of habitat on the globe. Years earlier I'd read a book titled "An Exultation of Larks" by James Lipton in which he described the proper names used to group all creatures great and small—a pride of lions, a colony of ants, a gaggle of geese, an exultation of larks...

The new information for me from Whyte was that this little bird has a big voice and that it sings a beautiful, melodic song especially when ascending vertically in flight. He quipped that there was no wonder that the grouping of these birds was called an exultation—so distinct, beautiful, unexpected and joyful is their sound.

The possibilities of metaphor reflecting the spiritual life are endless. And I simply cannot shake the image that when we gather together looking heavenward, our song is as that of the lark...and our gathering together is the exultation due the One who is my God and your God. My Lord and your Lord. Our song, our lives, our worship is never sweeter or more brilliant than when it's done together—for while we may praise God alone--it's only together that we are an exultation!

So I am pleased to be able greet you, Exultation of Peace River Presbytery. And to encourage each of us to consider the ways that we might rise and sing those songs that only come when we are moving vertically...upward and together. For as surely as God designed the lark with such a gift ability, we too have been called to soar.

In peace, I remain one voice in the exultation,

Kathleen

## Articles that have come across my desk or been sent to me (Graham):

[It's time to break up with the culture wars](#)

Crux: The culture wars are over. Not because one side lost and the other won, but because that way of seeing the world is in the process of being replaced by something else.

[Unplugging on the Sabbath: How to rest in a post-religion era](#)

The New York Post: While most Americans agree it's important to set aside a day of spiritual rest, plenty of us don't follow our own advice, especially among the younger generations.

[Virginia congressman's bill would make it illegal for Donald Trump to ban Muslim immigrants](#)

The Washington Post: A Virginia congressman announced a bill Wednesday that would make it illegal for the United States to block an immigrant based on his or her religion.

[G. K. Chesterton's 'Way of Wonder': Q&A with author Dale Ahlquist](#)

America: An interview with a leading authority on the British Catholic writer about his new book, "The Way of Wonder: Classic Wisdom from G. K. Chesterton."

[Study: Changes in racial composition lead to decline in church attendance](#)

Religion News Service: The more mixed the Sunday morning pews are, the fewer people are likely to be in them, study finds.

[Acceptance grows, slowly but steadily, for gay evangelicals](#)

NPR: Growing up, gay evangelicals thought they had to be one or the other. It's different now.

[Women form the vanguard of Pope Francis' agenda](#)

Crux: Pope Francis has called for greater leadership by women in Catholicism in the future, but already there are multiple arenas in which women are the vanguard of implementing his agenda.

**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.

*Kathy*

Kathleen Dain  
Executive Director

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

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- [Pastoral Intern – Overview](#) – [Position Description](#) – Siesta Key Chapel
- [Finance Secretary \(part time\)](#) – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

### PRAYER NEEDS:

#### Please continue to pray for:

- The family and loved ones of The Rev. Dr. Don Harris, of Westminster Communities, following his passing on Thursday, April 28.
- The people of Ecuador following the earthquake
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – recovering from neck surgery
- Jim & Becky Beckwith - health
- Robert Dennis, Son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues
- 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: MAY 2016:

|       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 1 | Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples<br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jack Haberer<br>Email: <a href="mailto:jhaberer@vpcnaples.org">jhaberer@vpcnaples.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Tammy Letts<br>Email: <a href="mailto:tletts@vpcnaples.org">tletts@vpcnaples.org</a> |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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| May 8  | <u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rafael (Ray) Quiles<br>Email: <a href="mailto:stpaulspres1@comcast.net">stpaulspres1@comcast.net</a> |
| May 15 | <u>Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto</u><br>Pastor: Rev. John Foulkrod<br>email: <a href="mailto:jfoulkrod@ppcfl.org">jfoulkrod@ppcfl.org</a>                         |
| May 22 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte</u><br>Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Terri Jo Crego<br>email: <a href="mailto:pastor@fpcpc.com">pastor@fpcpc.com</a>          |
| May 29 | <u>Wintergarden Church, Port Charlotte</u><br>Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Devon Beisser Andrews<br>email: <a href="mailto:revdev08@gmail.com">revdev08@gmail.com</a>     |

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MAY 2016**

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

**May 12**

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

**May 16**

Nominations and Representation Committee (10:00 a.m.)

**May 18**

General Assembly Commissioners Training (1:30-3:30 p.m.)

**May 19**

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

Personnel Team (11:00 a.m.- Note time change)

**May 30**

Memorial Day Observed – PRP Offices Closed



**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,<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                                        |

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| <a href="#"><u>Cypress Lake 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 |