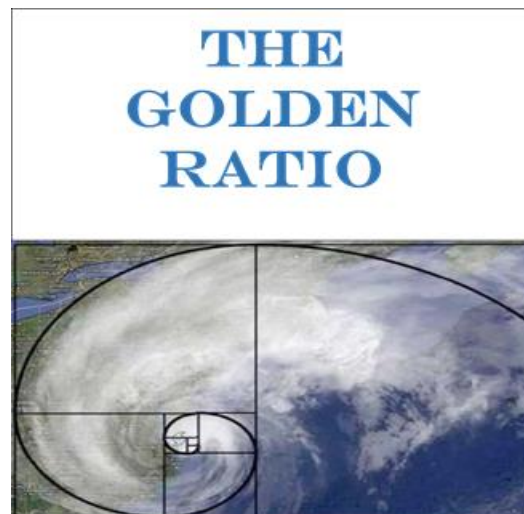
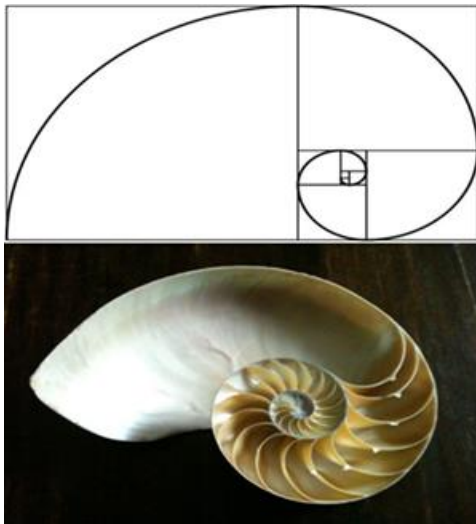




PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – February 2, 2017
Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller, Steering Committee Co-Moderator



Dear Friends,

According to LIVE SCIENCE, “The Golden Ratio is a special number found by dividing a line in two parts so that the longer part divided by the smaller part is also equal to the whole length divided by the longer part.” (Pheh, that’s a mouthful)

In equation form, it looks like this:
$$a/b = (a + b)/a = 1.618033988748948420$$

Historically the number can be seen in the architecture of the ancient world like the Great Pyramids and the Parthenon. This ratio, also known in art as the “Divine Proportion” was used by DaVinci to define all of the proportions in his Last Supper including the dimensions of the table, walls and background. In nature the ratio appears in such varied places as the placement and number of flower petals, the spiral pattern of a pine cone, shells (including the chambered nautilus), galaxies, hurricanes and the double helix spiral of DNA. This phenomena is not worthless or useless but dependable and beautiful.

I am not trying to wow you with my scientific or mathematical knowledge for they are sorely lacking. I am attempting to help you step back, to get a broader view, perhaps even to move you toward awe at how God has sprinkled the sacred into both divine and ordinary; into sound waves and sea shells and sock-eyed salmon; and into and around you and me.

Because at work in this world always, even when hard to see or grasp, a Loving Creator has breathed life into us and left a fingerprint for us to notice. Under every leaf and in the eye of even the perfect storm, God prompts and participates, God reveals and responds to and with us and all creation. God has set in our world

the cadence of God's own heartbeat on behalf of, and for the good of all. This is bigger (like the equation above) than what most of us can comprehend most of the time.

Do you see God's hand right now in whatever is churning in you...in your family...your congregation...our nation...or the world? Do you know where to look, what to listen for, how to apprehend the holy in your midst no matter what is enchanting or distracting or dragging you down?

I return often to the images above of the Divine Ratio for to remember. They remind me that the *greatest beauty* and the *greatest devastation* have something in common. Neither one of them could be, except for God. They teach me in the best of times to remember to be thankful and grateful. They teach me in the worst of times especially when I don't understand, that I am still in God's allowing and that God is near.

May you be blessed this week. May you be startled by the smell of the sea or the sound of the symphony. May you be captivated by the final hesitation of the sun before it sets or simply fascinated by the symmetry of a shell. May you be brought to awe by God's revelation in this good creation and receive healing for apprehending God there.

In holy $(a/b = (a + b)/a = 1.618...etc.)$,

Kathleen
Co-Moderator of the
Steering Committee

STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

Thursday, February 23, 2017
Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral
4544 Coronado Parkway | Cape Coral, 33904

8:00 a.m. ~ Registration Begins
9:00 a.m. ~ Financial Forum with Board of Trustees
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. ~ Stated Meeting

Lunch Details will be published soon. Cost: Approximately \$10.00

**** Lunch Reservations are required no later than Thursday, February 16. ****

Contact Lori Doyal at the Presbytery Office to make lunch reservations:

E: lori@peacriverpresbytery.org or P: 941-426-8421

Include name, church, and contact information.

(Reservations are not required to attend the meeting.)

EXCITING TIMES!

Congratulations to Oak Pointe Church (formerly Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church) on their move into their new location in Bradenton!! Pastor Jane Jones-Norris and the entire congregation are very excited and have been working hard to remodel the church and move in.

Please join them in celebrating this joyous new beginning at their ...

Dedication Service on Sunday, February 5th at 10:30 a.m.

Address of Oak Pointe Church: 1215 Bayshore Gardens Parkway, Bradenton.

FAITH PLACE SAFETY WORKSHOP

To honor the policy that all ministers and ministerial inquirers and candidates shall be required to attend a seminar offered by the Presbytery **biennially** on the issues of sexual misconduct, a ***Faith Place Safety Workshop*** will be offered on **Tuesday, May 2nd** at First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte (2230 Harriet Street, Port Charlotte.)

Schedule:

Registration – 8:30 a.m.
Workshop – 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (lunch included)
Cost - \$10.00 payable at Registration

Who should attend?

All Pastors, Staff, and Elders with roles in Christian Education and Personnel, Inquirers, and Candidates.

Reservations are necessary. Email: alesia@peacriverpresbytery.org, call the Presbytery Office: 941-426-8421, or fax the Presbytery Office: 941-423-9412. Include the names and titles of those who will be attending.

If unable to participate in the Presbytery-offered training, the minister shall work with Presbytery to find a suitable alternative. Failure to comply may result in investigation and discipline.

We are fortunate that Patti Jung, Visiting Professor of Christian Ethics, St. Paul School of Theology, and author of “Professional Sexual Ethics”, has agreed to facilitate the workshop. This year’s offering will discuss: Child Protection to include such topics as mandatory reporting, confidentiality, two-deep adult leadership rule, screening of volunteers; background checks, and specific Florida law considerations.

Note: A notice and flyer for this important event were sent to all Churches, Members of Presbytery, Candidates, and Inquirers last week.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Drive Fore Kids

Legacy Golf Course
Saturday, March 11, 2017

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry’s first annual golf tournament is almost here! Here is a fun way you can help support the ministry of Beth-El while enjoying one of our beautiful Florida golf courses. Annually, the mission sends 40 to 50 children of farmworkers to Cedarkirk Christian Camp for a summertime, week-long, adventure. Your foursome pays the way to send one child to camp. All of the proceeds from the tournament will go toward sending farmworking kids to camp this summer. For more information call Kathy at 813-633-1548 ext. 223.

[Golf Tournament Flyer](#)



PO Box 860
Wimauma, FL 33598
Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

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

*Thank you for supporting Cedarkirk and holding this ministry in your prayers for the last 45 years.
We look forward to witnessing God's handiwork here in the years to come!*

For additional information, please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224 or visit www.cedarkirk.org.

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

The Mision Peniel Team 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](#))

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- Rev. Dr. Clint Cottrell (Pastor of Cypress Lake P.C.) - health
- Walter Chuquimia (Pastor of Beth-El) - health
- Nathan Hart (Graham's son) and his family - health
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – continued recovery
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – continued recovery
- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel - health
- Jim 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

PRESBYTERY PRAYER GUIDE: FEBRUARY 2017:

February 5	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Senior Pastor: Rev. Dino Rustin Email: dino@firstpresbradenton.com Associate Pastor: Mary Beth McSwain Email: marybeth@firstpresbradenton.com
February 12	<u>Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hope Lee email: hope@kpcbradenton.org
February 19	<u>Oak Pointe Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Jane Jones-Norris email: jjn7416@gmail.com
February 26	<u>Stated Meeting of Peace River Presbytery</u> at Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral Keynote Speaker: Ray Jones, PCUSA Director of Evangelism and Congregational Vitality

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 2017

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

Thursday, February 2

Mision Peniel Team (10:00 a.m.) – at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers

Saturday, February 4

Presbyterian Women Annual Gathering – at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

Monday, February 6

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

Planning Team (1:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, February 8

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, February 14

Committee on Ministry (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

Finance Team / Board of Trustees (12:00-4:00 p.m.)

Thursday, February 16

Personnel Team (8:30-9:20 a.m.)

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

Monday, February 20

Dinner Gathering with Ray Jones – 6:00 p.m. at Carmel Kitchen, Sarasota
(reservations to Elizabeth Deibert, P: 941-779-4900)

Wednesday, February 22

Dinner Gathering with Ray Jones – 6:00 p.m. at El Gaucho Inca, Fort Myers
(reservations to Devon Andrews, P: 941-525-6671)

Thursday, February 23

Stated Meeting of Presbytery at Faith Presbyterian, Cape Coral



CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

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

Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto – office@ppcfl.org
Christ Church of Longboat Key Longboat Key	Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch
Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Church of the Palms, Sarasota
First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

<u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Presbyterian Church of the</u> <u>Covenant,</u> Sarasota
<u>Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Siesta Key Chapel,</u> Sarasota
<u>Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u> Venice	<u>Venice Presbyterian Church,</u> Venice
<u>Community Presbyterian Church,</u> Englewood	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Arcadia
<u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</u> North Port	<u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</u> Punta Gorda
Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte <u>devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</u>	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Port Charlotte
<u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u> North Fort Myers	
<u>Faith Presbyterian Church</u> Cape Coral	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Lehigh Acres
<u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers	<u>Covenant Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers
<u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers	
<u>Hope United Church (PCUSA),</u> Fort Myers	<u>Chapel by the Sea,</u> Fort Myers Beach
<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Bonita Springs	
<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples	<u>Lely Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples
<u>Moorings Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples	<u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples

