



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ July 26, 2017

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller
Steering Committee Co-Moderator



Dear Friends,

Only late in life am I learning the power that images holds for me. I have accepted photography to be a spiritual practice for me-- snapping my way through nature, relishing each new image. It's not unusual for me to download dozens of photos each week from favorite websites, because they remind me of something or call me towards something else. I've learned that color (the brighter the better) makes me happy—and joy is a fruit of the Spirit is it not? On FB I can hardly post without a picture or graphic sharing from my heart.

This new learning translates not only into my social media life, but into my personal walk of faith. Last year I created an Advent devotional using photographs, selected to help interpret the Scripture for the day. Earlier this year I offered a class on Visio-Divina... a practice of contemplating God in what we see both in nature and printed images. I reminded participants that in such a practice there is no need for an

image to be 'holy'... only that our intention is prayerful and pure. Folks are always a little surprised when God speaks to them visually, without the need for words

As I've openly, yet still timidly, walked this path in wordless devotion, I've been surprised by how many others on a parallel journey have crossed my path. Some are way out ahead, some just putting their toe into the silent pool. There are some who can't imagine that prayer has ever needed words (the Spirit murmurs for us). While others insist that true worship for them happens in the sights, smells and sounds of creation rather than indoors through a good or not so good sound system.

All of which causes me to wonder about the many options of devotional practice(s). I wonder, what is God is doing in your life – and how is God leading or speaking in fresh ways? How are you being surprised in your experience? What is the surprising path upon which God is leading you? Are there new ideas or practices that continually come up on your radar? What have you noticed? How do you respond? Is there a practice (that you may not have ever considered a spiritual practice...) through which God has touched you? Is your heart longing for something new?

I love the above picture of the lion. It was one of my on-line finds. *John of Damascus (676 – 749 CE) a Syrian monk wrote: "The invisible things of God, since the creation of the world, are made visible through images."* If we indeed believe that God is the Author of all things, the Creator of all things, then people and places and

things of all sorts can open for us a glimpse into the holy. So, let's take a few minutes with the lion - and prayerfully answer these questions:

1. What emotion is evoked within as you sit for a while with the image?
2. Is there a situation in your life in which that emotion is active?
What are the circumstances?
3. Does a Scripture come to mind that speaks to either the image (in this case a lion) or to the emotion that bubbled up in you?
4. Is there a call to you in this image...something to do?
5. Is there a pondering...something to think on?
6. Just look at the photo again after answering the questions.
7. And thank God for whatever you have been given.

Indeed, humankind is made in the image and likeness of God. Just imagine how easy it would be for us to see God-likeness in each other, if we noticed what God is revealing in myriad beauty of creation.

Be blessed on your journey,

Kathleen

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Weller
thecelticmonk@att.net

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

TOPIC: Radical Generosity

PRESENTER: Robert Hay, Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation

Tuesday, September 12 - Wintergarden Presbyterian Church

(Address: 18305 Wintergarden Avenue / Port Charlotte, 33948)

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Smaller Sized Congregations

Wednesday, September 13 – First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte

(Address: 2230 Harriet Street / Port Charlotte, 33962)

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Medium Sized Congregations

and

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Larger Sized Congregations

Letters with additional information, including suggested gathering dates and times for each church, were mailed to all Clerks of Session and Pastors at the end of June. Please check with those individuals for the details.

Churches are welcome to attend any and all sessions.

[STEWARDSHIP KALEIDOSCOPE 2017](#)

Deadline to register: August 1

[OVERVIEW OF STEWARDSHIP KALEIDOSCOPE](#)

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

2017 Events:

- Challenge to Change - *A unique mission-trip program designed for a variety of groups.* Year-round
- Family Retreat - *Our annual family retreat and reunion event! Come and reconnect!* Sept. 1-3
- Silent Retreat – *A new retreat designed for folks who are seeking space to listen to God.* TBA
- Falltastic - *A special fall event designed for our elementary friends.* Sept. 29-30
- Senior Adults Retreat - *A day-event designed just for our senior friends.* Oct. 11
- Fusion - *A Cedarkirk event for middle and high school youth!* Nov. 10-12 & 17-19
- Christmas Retreat – *A little bit of summer camp at Christmas time!* Dec. 22-23

*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.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

www.beth-el.org

The worshipping community of Beth-El would like to add Christian banners to its worship space. If your church or congregation has a banner, vestments or other worship supplies that you would like to donate, please contact Kathy@beth-el.org. Gracias!



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: www.beth-el.org

[July Newsletter](#)

***** Beth-El Farmworker Ministry needs your help!** Every year the mission distributes over 500 backpacks and back to school supplies to children and youth in our community, but we cannot provide this service without your help. Right now our resources are very low and time is running out. All donations must be received by July 31st to insure students get their backpacks in time. To learn more, call Beth-El at 813-633-1548 ext. 227.

Gracias!

The *Back to School Supplies Wish List* is included in the newsletter.

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

www.misionpeniel.com

Please be sure to contact us to schedule your next visit and reserve a date to volunteer at Misión Peniel! Thank you for your ongoing partnership with this mission!

Staff Contacts:

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: migustrada@hotmail.com
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: ruthdeyoe@gmail.com
- General Email: misionpenielpeaceriver@gmail.com

Addresses:

- Facility Address: 208 Boston Ave., Immokalee, FL 34142 (not for mailing)
- Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34153
- Mailing Address for Contributions*: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287

***Contributions to Mision Peniel:**

- Mail to: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287
- Checks can be made payable to Peace River Presbytery or to Mision Peniel.
- Please note *Mision Peniel* in the memo section.
- Contributor information is provided to Mision Peniel each month.

Other Information:

- Collection Centers for Mision Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
- Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- Alesia Sharpe and Family, in the passing of her mother.
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Kathryn Pendergrass (wife of Rev. Dr. Daniel Pendergrass) - diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer
- Robert Berger – Rev. Dr. Jim Berger’s 96-year old father. Hospitalized in PA from an apparent stroke
- Jim & Becky Beckwith – health
- Rev. Dr. Clint Cottrell (Pastor of Cypress Lake P.C.) - health
- Nathan Hart (Graham’s son) and his family – health
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – health
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – health
- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel - health
- Robert Dennis, son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – on kidney transplant list
- 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: JULY 2017:

July 2	<u>PDA/FLAPDAN – Covenant Partner of Peace River</u>
July 9	<u>Lely Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Supply Pastor: Rev. Dr. Harry Schill III Email: h_schill3@verizon.net
July 16	<u>Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Doug Learned Email: jsullivan@mooringschurch.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Jaci Smith Patman Email: jpatman@mooringschurch.org
July 23	<u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples</u> Interim Pastor: Rev. Bob Sheldon Email: rsheldon@vpcnaples.org
July 30	<u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rafael (Ray) Quiles Email: chaprafi@gmail.com

CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS

[PT Director of Congregational Care & PT Music Director
\(2 Positions\) – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood](#)

[Director of Christian Education – Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers](#)

[Administrative Secretary \(Part Time\) – Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, N. Fort Myers](#)

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: AUGUST 2017

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

All meetings are at the Presbytery Center location in North Port, unless otherwise posted.

Thursday, August 3

Mision Peniel Team (10:00 a.m. at Mission Location in Immokalee)

Monday, August 7

Planning Team (1:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, August 8

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

Wednesday, August 9

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

Thursday, August 10

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

Monday, August 14

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

Thursday, August 17

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

Thursday, August 24

Congregational Vitality Team (12:30 p.m.)

CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

Please visit our web site, www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches

Click on the city, then the church, to visit their web site.

