

# Living with Grace and Passion

A Seasonal Newsletter from Peggy Patenaude  
Autumn 2017

## Coming Up

### Spirituality for Everyday Living Open to All

Fall Mini-Retreat Series  
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM  
Sacred Hearts Retreat Center  
Wareham, MA

September 13: *Life Is Good*  
October 4: *Spirituality in Song*  
November 8: *The Pilgrimage of Life*  
December 13: *An Incredible Love Story*

### A Day Retreat Open to All

**A Journey to Peace: Moving  
through Loss and Grief**  
October 18, 2017  
La Salette Retreat Center  
Attleboro, MA

### Women's Retreat Weekends

**The Story of My Life**  
January 12-14, 2018  
Miramar Retreat Center  
Duxbury, MA

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Retreat**  
April 13-15, 2018  
Sacred Hearts Retreat Center  
Wareham, MA

**A Retreat with a Special Person**  
May 4-6, 2018  
Miramar Retreat Center  
Duxbury, MA

**For information & registration:**  
Contact Peggy at (508) 548-9149 or  
[timeoutretreats@comcast.net](mailto:timeoutretreats@comcast.net)

**For Peggy's complete calendar  
and program descriptions visit**  
[www.timeoutretreats.com](http://www.timeoutretreats.com).

## Peg's Ponderings: *Nevertheless, She Persisted*

Jesus speaks of "persistence" in the parable about an unjust judge and a poor widow. The widow besieged the judge for justice against her enemy and he continued to reject her request. *Nevertheless, she persisted.* "Finally he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God or care about people, but because this woman keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so she won't wear me out.'" (Luke 18:4) The widow's persistence, not compassion from the judge, ultimately gave her what she needed.

Persistence is a virtue. It is not the same as stubbornness. Stubborn people see only one way to think or do something and lack the humility to look at alternatives. They hold on to their opinion or continue their actions even when evidence suggests otherwise.

On the other hand, persistent people pursue a worthy goal patiently with an open mind. They are willing to admit mistakes, look at other perspectives and adjust with new data. Yet, they continue on their path with diligence and determination.

One definition of "persistence" is "a firm or obstinate continuance in a course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition." Persistent people keep going when everything is going against them. Persistence is similar to perseverance. It's that "stick-to-itiveness" quality we admire in those who don't give up when the going gets rough.

*Nevertheless, she persisted* became a popular slogan last February when Sen. Elizabeth Warren, having objected to Sen. Jeff Sessions becoming Attorney General, was silenced. Although she was interrupted and reprimanded as she quoted Coretta Scott King who also disapproved of Sessions, Warren continued her speech - only to be told to take a seat a few minutes later. Sen. Mitch McConnell remarked, "She was warned . . . *Nevertheless, she persisted.*" Retailers immediately cashed in using these now famous three words on T-shirts, mugs, jewelry, posters and more.

Apart from politics and industry, this incident holds an important lesson for us all. Warren's actions, as well as the actions of Rosa Parks, Malala Yousafzai, Gabby Gifford and the throngs of other courageous people who have persisted against all odds, challenge *us* to work for what we think is right and good.

It may be easier to give up, than to deal with injustice, incompetence, greed, corruption and other social ills. Yet, we must stand up for what we deeply believe and value. It is a matter of integrity.

Finally, what is so important to *you*, that regardless of obstacles and pain, you would steadfastly act to achieve a positive solution? What could prompt these words to be said about you, *Nevertheless, she persisted*? Anything is possible. Remember the poor widow.

## Passing It On

**“Spirituality in Song” with StoweGood**  
**October 4, 2017, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM**  
**Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, Wareham, MA**



**StoweGood** -- singer-songwriters Stowe Dailey and Karen Taylor-Good -- is an international touring duo based in Nashville, TN. These amazing women have not only beautiful voices, but also lyrics that have the power to touch one's soul. They will lead a morning mini-retreat through song and storytelling that promises to be uplifting, meaningful, deeply moving - and stowe good!

**Cost:** \$30 payable on arrival.

**Registration:** Due to limited seating, pre-registration is required. Contact Peggy at 508-548-9149 or [timeoutretreats@comcast.net](mailto:timeoutretreats@comcast.net). 70 have already registered. It's best to not postpone!

**“Call to Personal and Global Transformation”**  
**A weekend retreat with Edwina Gateley, July 20-22, 2018**  
**Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, Wareham, MA**

More information to come. Mark your calendar now!

**Recent Events** *A sampling of my spring and summer programs . . .*



**“The Beauty of Being Real”**  
Mini-Retreat, May 3, 2017  
Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, Wareham, MA

**“New Beginnings”**  
Women's Retreat, May 17, 2017  
LaSalette Retreat Center, Attleboro, MA



**“Fired Up!”**  
Mini-Retreat, May 31, 2017  
Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, Wareham, MA



**“Down and Deep ~ Simply Beautiful”**  
Sophia's Circle Retreat  
June 8-11, 2017,  
St. Benedict Abbey, Benet Lake, WI



## A Little Soul Food

*A river  
cuts through a rock,  
not because  
of its power,  
but because  
of its persistence.*

~ Jim Watkins

Remember this?



*The Little Train that Could*  
by Watty Piper

*We are made  
to persist.  
That's how we find out  
who we are.*

~ Tobias Wolff

