



Presbytery Times

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Presbyterians Serving In Tragedy

LOUISVILLE – Three members of the National Response Team (NRT) of [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) arrived in Tucson, Ariz., within 48 hours of the Jan. 8 shootings there that killed six and injured 13, including U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. PDA's NRT trio was the only national religious community responder to serve in Tucson in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy. "We can be grateful to a denomination with the vision to equip, train and deploy faith leaders into arenas of human-caused violence," said the **Rev. Laurie Kraus, pastor of Riviera Presbyterian Church in Miami, FL**. Kraus has served on PDA's NRT since its inception in 1996. She was joined in Tucson by fellow NRT members Rick Turner, a member of John Knox Presbyterian Church in Greenville, S.C., and the Rev. David Holyan, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, Mo. — who at the invitation of [Presbytery de Cristo](#) began immediately to offer support and encouragement to pastors, congregations and the presbytery as they responded to the crisis.

"Typically more members of our team, including mental health professionals with trauma recovery training, will make more trips to Tucson over the next months, or perhaps years as the congregations and community move through their own recovery," Robinson wrote in a letter to Linda Valentine, executive director of the General Assembly Mission Council. "Our team is often asked to provide 'Compassion Fatigue and Care for the Caregiver trainings' as well as consultation on what to expect as the churches and community absorb the impact of these events," he stated. In addition, as is often the case, the rewards of PDA's efforts flow back and forth between the helpers and those being helped. "On Sunday morning (Jan. 9) as I listened to sermons by colleagues in Tucson reflecting on the aftermath of the tragedy and the commemorations of MLK weekend, I was struck as I always am, by the integrity, authenticity and vulnerability of faith leaders who step into the pain and chaos of a human caused disaster with words of honesty and calls for the church's meaningful participation in the healing of the

community," Kraus wrote to Valentine. "It is one thing to lead as one has been trained in the ordinary seasons of a congregation's life," she continued. "It is another to step into the disorientation of sorrow, anger, confusion and need that inevitably follows in the wake of human caused disasters — feelings that faith leaders share, and that are magnified by their willingness to listen, care for and respond to their people and their community." In a "minute for mission" she offered at Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson that morning, Kraus said that PDA's first intention in responding to such disasters is to refresh and reinforce the power of love and presence that pastors and congregations spend so generously for their community's healing. "I told them that all Presbyterians were touched, as well, and sending their power of prayer and presence through the NRT and by their participation in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to support the healing work being offered through the Presbyterian and interfaith community in Tucson," Krause said.

Redemption is certainly what those in Presbytery de Cristo experienced, according to Presbytery Pastor/Stated Clerk the Rev. Sue Westfall, who wrote to Robinson thanking PDA "for the extraordinary assistance, wisdom, experience and expertise that Rick, Laurie and David provided this community in the aftermath of Tucson's tragedy." Noting that one of Tucson's PC(USA) congregations suffered a fatality and an injury in the shootings, Westfall said the NRT "immediately began providing counseling, consultation and support not only to our Presbyterian community but also to the wider ecumenical/interfaith [community] as we came together to coordinate efforts to respond." Westfall added, "The American Red Cross even pulled them in to help with trauma counseling and support as the memorials and funerals were held throughout the week. In short, they ministered to the Presbyterian community and the whole Tucson community in a very significant, capable, and visible way."

Presbytery Times is changing March 1st



In today's fast paced electronic world. We are deluged by emails daily. We only have time to skim the contents of these emails, reading further if something catches our attention. Many of you have also expressed the concern regarding the cost of printing the newsletter. With these factors in mind, the March issue of the newsletter will be entirely electronic (we will not be mailing copies). The news will be in a summarized format with links to further reading online, where you will find the full article and a copy of the newsletter for printing should you still wish to do so. A new distribution list has to be developed. Should you fail to receive a your copy next month. Check our website and you will be given the opportunity to opt in to receive your e-news.

If you have any comments please contact [Delphia Sullivan](#)



Shari's Shout Out

The February 23rd **statistical reporting deadline** is fast approaching and few congregations have begun the task. Please complete your information now and either (1) enter it on line or (2) send your worksheets to me. Either way, **please**, let's get your report to the General Assembly.

Presbytery Meets at First PC North Palm Beach on Saturday, February 26th.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Called to Order at 9:30 a.m.

Packets will be posted at

www.tfpby.org on February 15th.

Make your lunch reservations (and pay) now at <http://firstpresnpb.org/resources/tropical-florida-presbytery/> or you may call the church office 561-622-8818 with name(s) and pay at Presbytery. The church needs your reservation on later than Tuesday, February 22nd. I really hope most will select the internet registration method. We'd like to explore it further for similar and other events/purposes. Thanks to our hosts for affording us this option!

Attention Clerks of Session

Following the Presbytery meeting in North Palm Beach on Saturday, February 26th (approx. 3:30 pm), there will be an opportunity for churches to have their 2010 Session minutes and church registers reviewed.

The [Checklist](#) which should be completed and brought with you is available on our website or by calling Shari at the office. You will need to have this checklist and the Session minute book containing minutes since your last review and the Church Register (Roll Book). If your minutes are in Spanish, Korean, or Creole you will also need to provide a translation in English. Those clerks present will review one another's records and for that reason your books may not be dropped off. The whole process should take no more than an hour. In addition, this will serve as an educational opportunity, so if you have any questions about keeping minutes, procedures, or polity, please bring those with you as well.

Please keep in mind that all congregations are required to have their records reviewed annually. There will be additional opportunities, as yet not scheduled; but it is hoped that this one will be convenient for many. Thank you!

Presbyterians Today 2011 Lenten Devotional Guide

Living the Word through Lent

In English and Korean

If you/your church would like to place your order through the Presbytery office, you can be assured the lowest bulk price. To determine interest, we would need to have your order by February 11th.

Arrangements must also be made to pick these materials up from the Presbytery office.

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

Celebrations

Birthdays

01	Dr. James Nimmo III – First, Port St. Lucie
02	Rev. Raquel Welty - HR
03	Rev. Ryan Baer - Lakeside, West Palm Beach
11	Dr. Raymond Gamble - HR
17	Rev. Van Lahmeyer – First, Miami Springs
21	Dr. Sam Rutland Miami Shores, Miami Shores
26	Rev. John Stewart - MOS

Ordinations

05	Rev. Julio Delgado - HR
12	Dr. Richard Cromie - HR
19	Rev. Raul Martinez - HR
21	Dr. Elaine Klaasen – HR
24	Rev. Patricia Ashley - HR

Presbyterian Kirk of the Keys in Marathon joyously invites you to attend the Installation of Pastor Dustin Sedlak on Sunday, February 13th, 4:00 p.m. There will be a time of fellowship immediately following.

RSVP: kirkofthekeys@gmail.com or 305-743-4256.

Prayers

Prayers for our

Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East

For the people of Egypt and Tunisia

For those recovering from the floods in Queensland, Australia

For those digging out of the mud slides and floods in Brazil

For those striving for recovery from the Haitian earthquake

For those who are suffering in the extreme cold this winter, who have little heat or cannot pay heating bills

For those who are being trafficked, for the children sold as slaves and abused, for those who there seems to be no escape.

For the people who are seeking employment and those that are underemployed

For the pastors and seminary graduates seeking a call

For Sunset, First Miami, Grace and Faith Presbyterian

Churches preparing for the Residency Program

For the Residents who will be applying to the Residency Program

- Dr. Bill Weimer
- Dr. Skip Bush
- Dr. Jim Colvert
- Tomas Diego

Employment Opportunities

Director of Camp/Conference Ministry and Leadership Development

Presbytery of the Peaks

Lynchburg, Virginia.

For more information go to

www.peakspresbytery.org

or to send resume by 02-15-11

contact: dukeferrell@hotmail.com

The Sunrise Presbyterian Church in Miami is seeking a bilingual (English/Spanish) **Secretary-Bookkeeper** for the Church & Academy to work Mon-Thurs 9 AM – 3:30 PM.

Sunrise generally follows the public school calendar.

Required skills: Microsoft Office & Quick books accounting software.

The Job description is available in the church office. Please call 305-821-5841 for additional information

Applications and cover letters for [Associate Mission Presbyters](#) (one for each region) and [Pastor to Pastors](#) position will be reviewed by HRC on February 10th.

Community Corner

“Where Hope Lives,” by Bill Tenney. Member,
Miami Shores Presbyterian Church



The third Sunday of every month, Miami Shores Presbyterian Church provides financial support and volunteers to serve dinner to the clients of Community Partnership for Homeless at their facility, 1550 North Miami Ave. The motto of this service organization is “Where Hope Lives.”

The 17 volunteers who met at the church at 4:30 p.m. carpooled easily downtown. It was a late Sunday afternoon in December, and traffic was light. When we entered the facility, a security guard waved us through. We crossed a courtyard where men, women, and children were waiting for the dining room doors to open. We exchanged friendly greetings with them. In the kitchen, those volunteers who had served before showed us how to don hairnets, aprons and gloves. First-timers had to overcome their concern about their appearance.

The veterans then found themselves a place on the serving line. The food items consisted of spaghetti, salad, roll, and pudding. The drink was like cool-aide. Since the food is usually served cafeteria style, those of us not on the serving line wondered what we would be doing. Would we just walk around, and be friendly? Suddenly, the dining room doors opened, and any fears that we had about not having enough to do were quickly dispelled. The people streaming in had been instructed to take a seat, and in no time every table was filled. Our job was to bring their food trays and drinks to them at their tables. Soon, we were wishing that we were on roller skates.

We served 300 people that night, but it seemed like 500. The majority of the people being served were well-behaved and grateful. The children were especially good. On the other hand, we had to cope with some people who were impatient and demanding. One young woman decried, as her tray was put in front of her, “I am not a child,” even though she clearly had an adult portion. Others made a face when they saw the food. These behaviors tested our Christian patience. There were three teen-agers serving with us, and we trust that this was a positive learning experience for them.

The MSPC Missions Committee, provided a Christmas present to the clients in the persons of Jim Gregory and his friend, Chuck. They brought their guitars and Jim sang Christmas Carols during the dinner. How surprised and pleased we were when the people stopped eating to applaud.

At the end of the evening, we were exhausted as we rode back to the church in the dark, but in our hearts was a great satisfaction. As those who do mission work know, we always get back much more than we give.

Mission Trip to Africa

Grace Community Church of Boca Raton will be taking their fifth annual mission trip to Africa to work and share the love of Christ with the children and missionaries at Children of Promise orphan ministry and Talitha Kumi Christian Academy located in Arandis, Namibia . The dates of the trip will be July 7-21, 2011. Whatever your particular gifts might be, anything from music to medicine, you can help. We anticipate the cost for this trip to be approximately \$4000. If you would like to join us on this trip or would like more information, call Jane Sackler at Grace Community Church 561-395-2811 ext. 203. To learn more about Children of Promise online, visit www.childrenofpromiseministries.org

Grace Community also has planned a trip for teens (Middle and High Schoolers) to ReCreation Ministries (helping rebuild homes for the poor) in Asheville, North Carolina and one for Children (4th-6th grade) to Thornwell School in South Carolina and would be happy to open or share the info with others so they can organize their own, if there is an interest.

Goodwill Presbyterian Church Project STEP: Student Tutorial and Enrichment Program

By Verna J. Hunter, STEP Program Coordinator

Traditionally, when both parents worked, an extended family and the community looked out for the children after school. Presently, families are increasingly scattered and the community less inclined to step in. The extended parental force is all but gone. For that reason, an after school program is desperately needed to our youth; a program that will provide a positive impact in the areas of academics, life skills, and religious education.

Most children have a unique set of problems that make it difficult for them to succeed in life. There are less opportunities, minimal preparation in skills needed for academic success, no exposure to functional skills and limited positive role models. This is compounded by the fact that the only structured environment they have which addresses these concerns is school. Unfortunately, many different issues affect how students perform and succeed in that school environment. Teacher ratio, parents with little time to interact with their children, and very rapidly increasing technology that demands different applications of academic skills are only a few of the key issues. We can see the negative results of these daily in the ever-increasing dropout rates, poor FCAT scores, teen pregnancy, HIV, youth violence, and other juvenile delinquency resulting in death.

Each of the issues has challenged the ability of our educational system to meet the needs of all students. As schools struggle to meet the ever-increasing number of problems facing our students, and as they attempt to do this on budgets that tighten each year, choices have to be made which allow them to reach the largest number of students. The result is that many become the students

that are known to “fall between the cracks” and can be lost to society.

Goodwill Presbyterian wants to “Stand Up!” to meet the needs of these students. We want the opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to pooling resource within our church and community and expanding its ministry to meet the collective needs of our youth population who seek help.

The mission of the Goodwill Presbyterian Church STEP program is to offer third through tenth grade at-risk students a safe haven of academic remediation in a nurturing environment. The program will promote and enable each student to improve grades, build self-esteem, and develop personal and social life skills.

The program provides a contract for the parents to sign; it includes requirements for participation such as an understanding of attendance and time in the program. These requirements are necessary for the student’s success. The students have to agree to behavior expectations. Each week the students discuss Bible verses that are designed to help fortify their success as personal mottos. Verses such as Proverbs 3:5 they discuss the question “Am I trusting God with the critical areas of my life?”

The program has forty-seven students. Reading, mathematics, science, Christian education and social skills are afforded to each student. So far ninety-five percent have shown marked improvement in all subject areas. With the FCAT exams coming in March the teachers are expecting positive results from every student.

News and Events

Board of Pensions Retiree Luncheon

February 25th – noon Coral Ridge Yacht Club
Representative Clark Simmons looks forward to seeing everyone. Please RSVP to the invitation.

Board of Pensions Seminars

Mar. 29-30 Growing into Tomorrow...Today seminar:
<http://guest.cvent.com/d/xdqtsw>
Mar. 31 Render unto Caesar seminar:
<http://guest.cvent.com/d/ddqtsw>

Registration deadline – February 25th
Class size limited to 30

Big Tent Event

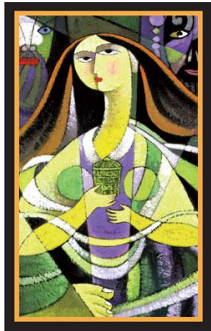
June 30 – July 2, 2011
Indianapolis, IN
Join thousands of Presbyterians for your choice of nine national conferences, all under one roof.
www.pcusa.org/bigtent
(800) 728-7228 x 2417

Administrative Personnel Association

Florida Regional Meeting
Gardens Hilton, Palm Beach Gardens
May 11 – 15, 2011

Take advantage of this opportunity to “try out” an APA conference locally. You do not need to be a member to attend; however, should you decide to become a member within 12 months; e.g., for 2012, any class credits earned would be applied toward your certification. Conference details are posted and will be distributed with the Presbytery packet. Can't attend the entire conference? Come on Friday, May 13th and leave with the possibility of 5 credits. Cost \$75.

Conference details



Celebrate the Gifts of Women 2011: Beautiful Women Who Do Beautiful Things

On Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, February 27, 2011, we celebrate the beautiful women in the household of God who regularly do beautiful things in love and faithfulness to Jesus Christ. There are women in scripture and women in our congregations who regularly do beautiful.

[Read More](#)

Ecumenical News

2011 NAEIS Annual Gathering: "Welcoming One Another: The Promise of Community"

Feb. 4-7, 2011 Oblate Renewal Center, San Antonio, Texas

[Further Reading on upcoming events](#)

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[Delphia Sullivan](#)

Presbytery Calendar



February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2pm-COM Region 1 Conference	2 10am-CPM	3 10am-Council 1pm-COM Region 2 2pm-COM	4	5 8am-Leadership Training Reg. 3
6	7	8	9	10 12-Region 1 Pastors Lunch 3pm-HRC	11	12
13 4pm-Installation Dustin Sedlak	14	15 Presbytery Packets	16 9:30am-FRC	17 10am-Multicultural 10am-Covenant Group	18	19
20	21	22	23 Deadline for GA Statistics	24 7pm-COM Reg 3 Conference	25 Board of Pensions Retiree Luncheon	26 8:30-Registration 9:30am Presbytery Meeting
27	28					

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2pm-COM Region 1	2	3 Synod Meeting Noon-COM Reg 2 1pm-COM	4 Synod Meeting	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 9:30am-FRC	17 10am-Multicultural	18	19 Annual PW Meeting
20	21	22	23	24	25 Newsletter Deadline	26
27	28	29 BOP Retirement Seminar	30 BOP Retirement Seminar	31 BOP Render Unto Caesar 7pm-COM Reg 3 Conference		

Access the annual calendar online: <http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html>