"And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31

As I write this blog, it is being reported that the earth shook again in Haiti this morning (1/20/2010). This time, it was a lesser jolt than the previous one, nevertheless a big one, a 6.1 on the Richter scale. What’s going on? Nothing unusual.

My daughter walked into my room and demanded that I help her understand why such a big tragedy as a 7.0 earthquake should hit our people who have suffered so much. The school counselor who lives on my block approached me the other evening to express his sadness and pledge his solidarity with the people of Haiti in “this time of unparalleled suffering.” He went on to tell me about the students of Haitian descent he counseled earlier on. “One of them”, he said, “an introverted child whose presence one hardly notices and who seldom volunteers to speak out, stood up in a rage and asked, “Why us”? “There was a silence in the room like you cannot imagine” the counselor said quietly.

Not satisfied with silence as an answer, the young student looked at the counselor strait in the eyes and repeated her interrogation: “Why us?” Then she broke out in tears.

Why us? Why Haiti?

In order to do justice to this question, one has to take a serious look at the counselor’s characterization of the earthquake and its effect, which is “unparalleled”. In my opinion, it is not so much the event that triggers so many queries, it is its magnitude, its devastation and the way it bruises our spirit, opens wide our hearts and threatens our belief in a just and loving God. There haven’t been earthquakes of this magnitude anywhere in recent history. Such a rare occurrence is naturally tied with the catastrophes that befell the country in the summer of 2008 which is still vivid in our memory. Three hurricanes and one storm hit successively in a matter of a few weeks. The toll of human suffering in the form of death, hunger, homelessness, mental stress they left behind is incalculable. From that time on and up to that fateful January 18 instant, many people in and outside the country; both among the victims and those who were looking the situation from outside, pondered and wondered about what they lived, saw or observed. Now we have a bigger fish to fry.

I have no intention of submitting my readers to any tedious analysis of the effects of geological reactions; neither do I wish to dwell in an endless repetition of the suffering of the Haitian people. I do, however, want to take a look at the oft-asked question, “why”.

There are explanations aplenty. From Pat Robertson’s outrageous “pact with the devil” speech, to the commonly expressed comments that “God is teaching us a lesson” to the more informed ‘such things are part of the natural order’; no one wants to stand on the sideline without an opinion. Regardless, **it makes no theological sense to dissociate the event of an “unparalleled” earthquake from the larger issue of brokenness and suffering in the world.**

The Judeo Christian tradition puts the notion of the Fall right in the middle of this discussion, and based on that, the above reference to peace and quiet and total bliss in the garden of Eden (Genesis 1:31) did not last long. The Initial perfection which the first inhabitants of the planet enjoyed was unfortunately disturbed by the introduction of imperfection in human existence. Therefore, humanity stands in the divide between the initial perfect state and the promised restoration through Jesus Christ. Among the Christian writers, thinkers and theologians who ponder this subject, no one has captioned it better than CS Lewis:

> The settled happiness and security which we all desire, god withholds from us by the very nature of the world: but joy, pleasure, and merriment, he has scattered broadcast. We are never safe, but we have plenty of fun, and some ecstasy. It is not hard to see why. The security we crave would teach us to rest our hearts in this world and oppose an obstacle to our return to god: a few moments of happy love, a landscape, a symphony, a merry meeting with our friends, a bathe or a football match, have no such tendency. Our father refreshes us on the journey with some pleasant inns, but will not encourage us to mistake them for home.


We know from teaching and personal experience that brokenness is everywhere we turn. Nevertheless, the way things are sometimes pushes us to the brink of our emotional and spiritual resources, not so much because of their nature, but because they are beyond our control. Happily, we are the people of Easter who still believe in a thing called Hope. Life can make sense in spite of its vicissitudes.

Rev. Dr. Jonas Georges
Jeff Waycott, our Disaster Coordinator, was invited by Eagles Wings to go to Haiti as part of a rescue team. He departed on January 14th and returned on the 28th. The intent of his visit was to get first-hand experience in a disaster situation. We believe that his experience will be invaluable in the event of a disaster in Florida.

We are grateful for his safe return and appreciate his willingness to want to increase his abilities to help in the event of a future disaster in TFP. I am deeply impressed with Jeff’s care and concern for the people of Haiti. He has a big heart and a warm and gentle spirit.

Below are some highlights of his experience. I am sure he will have many stories to share with us as we welcome him back.

We deployed from the North Palm Beach Airport in a small 5 seater and as much cargo as we could take. In flight to Exuma, Bahamas, we got word that the Port a Prince Airport had been closed down. We flew to Turks and Cacos then to Santo Domingo, DR to spend the Night. The next day we drove into Haiti in a 20 passenger van with as much water and food as we could take with us. When we got closer to the Damage zone, we came across a bridge that was out and had to cross a river in the van. 2 days to get into Haiti and we arrived at the UN Logistics Base at the Port a Prince Airport and spent that night at the end of the runway in a tent.

The next day we started going to the meetings at the base and in the afternoon, went to make arrangements with Mountain Top Ministries to stay there for the remainder of our deployment. Our new base of operations was 45 minutes from the airport and was far enough out of the damage zone to give us water, electricity and internet access.

The first few days we went to meetings and worked with Willem Charles (Pastor and Director of Mountain Top Ministries) to acquire local personnel and trucks to start with food distribution and the training and paying of local workers, drivers, and security. Willem also had numerous connections to Local Haitian officials like the Minister of Commerce, the Prime Minister, and the President of Haiti whom we met with several times. After a few meetings we made arrangements with the World Food Program (WFP) to distribute dry bulk food with our Haitian workers and trucks and to work with the UN soldiers to set up Points of Distribution (POD).

Each POD was a unique situation and it was imperative that we adapt quickly and be prepared to exit quickly. Our first experience with being overrun by the crowd in Carfou was a little unnerving but after the food was gone, the people were not hostile, they were hungry and depressed. After this experience, not once was I in fear of harm from the crowds as they would overrun the PODs as supplies were getting low. We went from there to Petionville, then 2 days at Delmas 2, then to our best day that we had in front of the Presidential Palace in Port a Prince where we distributed 420,000 dry bulk meals in just 2 ½ hrs. The crowd held back until the last 2 trucks.

We distributed 2.3 million meals in just 6 days and at the end of the day, that shows the success of our mission. The Eagles Wing Foundation shows us that with just 6 people on the ground and 8 people back home, we were able to mobilize a force of local personnel that was unmatched while we were there. And despite the bureaucracy and paperwork, we were able to get money into the hands of the Haitian workers and food into the bellies of the Haitian people in massive quantities. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served and to have been the hands and feet of Christ.

Jeff Waycott
Disaster Coordinator

As I countdown my last four weeks as your Executive Presbyter, there are days when I feel sad to be leaving you. However, there are more days when I am looking forward to a new phase of my spiritual journey. While it is not clear yet just what that will be, I am waiting in anticipation for God’s directions for my future. One person wrote that retirement is not really retirement, but re-tirement. Already I am considering ways in which I can still be involved in the life of the church while enjoying doing what I want to do, when I want to do it.

My niece and her husband have invited me to spend a week in Aruba the end of March. Another niece has invited me to come to San Diego. My son reminded me that there is an open door to his house at any time in Fairfield, CA. So, as you can see, I will be busy.

Last week I spent a week of study leave with an organization called “Growing Healthy Churches.” This was a recommendation from Paul Borden who was our speaker at the last Presbytery meeting. I served as one of the assessors for a group of pastors and their wives seeking to be church planters. The process was awesome and I would highly recommend it to anyone who is considering planting a church.

I leave this Presbytery with a few concerns some of which I have shared from time to time but the one that weighs most heavily on me is the status of many of our churches. It is painful to see the continued decline in membership in so many of our churches. As I was assessing pastors at the “Growing Healthy Churches” conference last week, I was praying for all of our churches and their leadership. Surely we must begin to look at ways that our churches can be more effective in our communities and can grow in numbers because we are reaching out to those who are un-churched and sharing the gospel message.

God continues to work in my life and in the life of this Presbytery and my prayer is that as we seek new ways to be faithful that we remember that each of us has a unique call to ministry. How that is carried out is not up to us but is part of God’s overall purpose for each of our lives. I have had a wonderful ministry here and I thank God for it! I look forward with anticipation to the plans God has for me and this Presbytery in the days and months ahead.

Arlene W. Gordon
PRAYERS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Your prayers are requested for:

- Sharyn Babe
- Shirley Fairchild
- Pat and John Vaughn
- Nelia Senti
- Johan Askowitz
- Ted Kowalski

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR DR. GORDON

Dr. Gordon’s ministry and service will be celebrated on February 20th during a noon luncheon at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale.

If you have not already done so, please forward your response including check ($15.00 each attendee) prior to the 10th.

Please contact Shari at the Presbytery office if you have questions.

BIRTHDAYS AND ORDINATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

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

ORDINATIONS

- 02/05 Rev. Julio Delgado - HR
- 02/19 Rev. Raul Martinez - HR
- 02/21 Dr. Elaine Klaasen - HR
- 02/24 Rev. Patricia Ashley – Member at Large

PRESBYTERY MEETINGS 2010

February 13, 2010
Riviera PC

Please make your lunch reservations:  305-666-8586

May 11, 2010
Community, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea

September 21, 2010
Community, Deerfield Beach

November 20, 2010
Palm City PC

GA STATISTICAL REPORTING

Reminder:  February 23rd is the deadline for completion of the Session Annual Statistical Report and Clerk’s Annual Questionnaire. Please be aware, the system greatly slows down toward the deadline.

Shari would be happy to complete the on-line process for any church needing this assistance. Please fax your completed forms with the name of the church on the top of each page to 954-785-1983.

Please help our Presbytery again attain 100% reporting!

BOARD OF PENSIONS RETIREE LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 18th
Coral Ridge Yacht Club

Please return response cards by February 12th.
**REFORMED MISSION IN AN AGE OF WORLD CHRISTIANITY**

Registration continues for the June 15-17, 2010 Calvin College conference, "Reformed Mission in an Age of World Christianity". We have already received registrations from more than 21 different countries. If you have not yet registered for this conference, we invite you to focus on the opportunity once again. An early registration discount of 10% is available through January 31, 2010. We have arranged affordable conference fees to encourage attendance from delegates and official representatives of many countries. To learn more about this event, just prior to the Uniting General Assembly, go to: [http://www.calvin.edu/scs/2010/conferences/rcc/](http://www.calvin.edu/scs/2010/conferences/rcc/). Registration procedures are available online and through regular postal mail. We hope that you can join us next June as we learn together about our common expression of Christian faith in a variety of cultural contexts.

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**PRESBYTERIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE**

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Writers Guild

April 28-29, 2010

Scarritt-Bennett Center
Nashville, TN

[Conference info](#)

[Conference schedule](#)

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**UPDATE FROM THORNWELL**


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**EVANGELISM FOR THE REST OF US**

May 25-28, 2010

Participation in the 2010 Thompson Scholars Program is limited to 15 individuals, who are selected after submitting an application via email to Sarah Erickson (ericksons@ctsnet.edu). You may also email for additional information.

Applications will be reviewed as they are received and accepted until the event is full or until April 1.

The email must include the following information:

1. name of applicant, church name/denomination, preferred mailing address, phone number and email address,
2. a brief answer to two questions:
   a. How would you describe the challenges of evangelism in your particular context and in general in our 21st century context?
   b. Why would you like to participate in this event?

The program fee is $165 includes housing for three nights, double occupancy, at the Harrington Center on the seminary campus; all meals are included. Due to a limited number of rooms available on campus, requests for single housing will be on a wait list only; the program fee for single housing, if available, will be $315.00. The reduced program fee for this event has been made possible through the financial support of gifts in honor of Dr. Cecil Thompson dedicated to the support of the work of evangelism in the church.

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**PRESBYTERIANISM: PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE**

A course for seminarians during the 219th General Assembly 2010

July 2 – 10, 2010

Minneapolis, MN

[Download a flier to learn more](#)

[Download a registration form](#)
MONTREAT UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Celebrating Relationships s Nurturing Congregations s Deepening Discipleship

- 2010 Associate Pastors Conference, April 12-15 – The Gift That Is Within You
  http://www.montreat.org/371

- 2010 Arts & Sabbath: The Montreat Artists Series, April 18-22 – Pottery or Photography
  http://www.montreat.org/375

- 2010 Montreat Youth Conference Registration – There is still time to register!
  http://www.montreat.org/382

- 2010 Conferences on Worship and Music, June 20-16 (week I) or June 27-July 3 (week II) - “PROCLAIMING THE MYSTERY OF FAITH: DAILY LIVING THE SACRAMENTAL LIFE”
  http://www.montreat.org/394

- Newly Developed Montreat Wilderness School

- Montreat Hub Highlights News, Posts, Tweets, Videos, Photos and More
  http://www.montreat.org/hub/

WEEK THREE INTERIM TRAINING

When: April 5-9, 2010
Where: Ghost Ranch in Santa Fe
What: Beyond Basics Interim Ministry Week:

Three tracks offered for Interims who have already taken Weeks One and Two and want to continue their learning. They are also open to governing body folk who want to grow in their ability to support their interims.

The three courses:

1) First Responder Ministry (for interims following difficult departures of the former pastor)
2) Congregational Transformation and Transitional Ministry (about the role of the interim in fostering transformation in the congregation)
3) Stories at the Center: Setting the Inner Life in Motion (focused on spiritual development)

Information is also available on line at our website at www.ghostranch.org.
Follow this link directly:
Or call 505-982-8539

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PRESBYTERY STAFF

Executive Presbyter
Rev Dr. Arlene Gordon

Rev. Michel Yonts

Acting Stated Clerk
Jeff Waycott

Communications Specialist
Delphia Sullivan

Coordinator for Disaster Recovery
Susan Carpenter

Executive Assistant
George Wilson

HAE
Rev. Eliane Menezes

Multicultural Portuguese Language Ministry
MAKE INTERNET EXPLORER RUN FASTER

The Web is a sparkling achievement of modern society. It's everywhere—from the home to the classroom. We use it to communicate, to work, to play—even to waste time when there's nothing else to do.

Yet there's nothing more frustrating than having this technical marvel at our fingertips 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, only to watch our computers access the Internet at a crawling pace. Thankfully, Microsoft Internet Explorer provides some useful options for quicker Web surfing. Let's look at these options now.

REDUCE THE SIZE OF YOUR WEB PAGE HISTORY

Internet Explorer stores visited Web pages to your computer, organizing them within a page history by day. While it's useful to keep a couple days of Web history within your computer, there's no need to store more than a week's worth. Any more than that and you're collecting Web pages that will slow down your computer's performance.

**TO REDUCE YOUR WEB PAGE HISTORY:**

1. In Internet Explorer, on the **Tools** menu, click **Internet Options**.

2. In the Internet Options dialog box, in the History section, find the **Days to keep pages in history** box. Type "1" in this box, as pictured in the image below. Click **OK**.

![Internet Options dialog box](image)

DON'T SAVE ENCRYPTED WEB PAGES

Encrypted Web pages ask for usernames and passwords. These pages scramble information to prevent the reading of this sensitive information. You can define Internet Explorer to not save these types of pages. You'll free up space by saving fewer files to your computer, as well as keeping secure information off your computer.

**TO NOT SAVE ENCRYPTED WEB PAGES:**

1. In Internet Explorer, on the **Tools** menu, click **Internet Options**.

2. In the Internet Options dialog box, click the **Advanced** tab.

3. In the Settings section, scroll down to the Security section. Check the "Do not save encrypted pages to disk" option, as shown in the figure below. Click **OK**.

![Internet Options dialog box](image)

SET UP INTERNET EXPLORER SO THAT YOU DO NOT SAVE ENCRYPTED WEB PAGES.
The Presbytery of Tropical Florida met on Saturday, February 13, in the sanctuary of the Riviera Presbyterian Church, Miami. The meeting was very well attended and there was plenty of excitement, which led to the extension of the docket! Following the installation of our new Moderator, Elder Marianne Shine (who has since found it necessary to resign), business commenced. Among the items that were acted upon by the Presbytery:

- The Presbytery approved the "Process and Principles for Tropical Florida Presbytery in the Transference of a Member Congregation to Another Reformed Body." This policy will be further refined in the coming weeks.
- The Administrative Commission for 2nd Presbyterian Church, having completed its work, was dismissed with thanks.
- Mission Grants from the Coral Gables Fund for 2010 were approved.
- The annual adjustment to balance Ministers and Elders was approved.
- Approved the dissolution of the following pastoral relationships:
  - The Rev. Dr. Angel Ramos and Community Presbyterian, Clewiston
  - The Rev. Dr. Gary Cecil and Palms West Presbyterian
  - The Rev. Wayne Kirk and First Presbyterian, Miami.
- Approved with joy for her, but regret for the rest of us, the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Arlene Gordon.
- Approved the retirement of the Rev. Patricia Ashley.
- Approved a Temporary Supply contract between the Rev. Joan Able and Sunset Presbyterian, Ft. Lauderdale.
- Approved the formation of an Administrative Commission to close the ministry of Alta Vista Presbyterian.
- Approved the hiring of the Rev. Michel Yonts as Interim Stated Clerk (part-time).
- Elected the following Commissioners to the 218th General Assembly (July 3-10, Minneapolis MN):
  - Clergy: The Rev. Nigel Leon Lovell-Martin
  - The Rev. Kirk McCormick
  - The Rev. David Massey (alternate)
  - Elders: Polly Shafer
  - Donna Rivett
  - Marianne Shine (alternate)
- Voted to establish a Permanent Administrative Commission for Property Management to have responsibility for managing those properties for which the Presbytery holds title and to act as "landlord and mediator" between congregations sharing space in a single property.

The Presbytery also heard the 2009 Necrology Report regarding the passing of 4 clergy and 41 elders in our Presbytery plus our dear friend, Peter Wendell. We celebrate their lives and their entry to the Church Triumphant!

Financial reports for 2009 were heard, and the Presbytery is in sound financial condition. It was also reported that an Interim Executive Search Committee has been formed.

All this was surrounded and enmeshed in times of worship and praise, and the remembrance of our brothers and sisters in Haiti as they continue to suffer the ravages of the massive earthquake there. Our prayers go out them, and an offering was received for Presbyterian disaster Assistance for work in Haiti.

The members of the Riviera Church warmly welcomed us, and we thank them for their wonderful hospitality.
BIRTHDAYS AND ORDINATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

03/01  Dr. Roger Verse - HR
03/01  Rev. Jung Lip Kim – Member at Large
03/03  Rev. James Goldsmith
       Community, Lauderdale By The Sea
03/09  Dr. Gwendolyn Magby – Trinity, Key West
03/11  Rev. Robert Bonham
       Memorial, West Palm Beach
03/11  Rev. Jung Yn Shin – Korean, North Miami
03/11  Rev. Rosemary N. Welton - MOS
03/12  Dr. Kirk McCormick
       Grace Community, Boca Raton
03/16  Rev. Jacqueline Brovold – Pinecrest, Miami
03/16  Dr. Keith Riddle - MOS
03/18  Rev. Brad Klostreich - Palm City, Palm City
03/21  Rev. Elizabeth Pankey-Warren - MOS
03/23  Rev. Robert Welsh - HR
03/27  Rev. Pamela H. Barras - MOS
03/28  Rev. Amy Baer – Lakeside, West Palm Beach
03/31  Rev. Thomas Crowder - HR
03/31  Dr. Kenneth Richmond - HR
03/31  Dr. Theodore Bush – First, Delray Beach

ORDINATIONS

03/10  Dr. Dohyun Paik - MOS
03/12  Rev. Guihag Hwang - MOS
03/17  Dr. German Vega-Feliciano
       First Hispanic, Ft. Lauderdale
03/24  Dr. Ronald Hilliard – First, North Palm Beach

STATISTICAL REPORTS, ETC.

Thanks to all for your great and gracious cooperation with these annual tasks. I think I sensed a collective sigh of relief!

If your report hasn’t been completed, please let me know how I may help.

Shari

SIGN OFF FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

My time with you went all too quickly and it is not easy to say “so long.” Nevertheless, I must end this chapter of my spiritual journey and discern God’s direction for the next phase of my life. I have fought back the tears in having to leave the staff and so many of you who have shown me so much love and support.

The event on Saturday to celebrate my retirement was awesome. Thanks to so many of you who turned out to wish me well. Your kind words and the many hugs will stay with me for a long time. I was truly moved by the celebration! Words are inadequate to express my feelings of gratitude for such a superb farewell celebration.

Thank you again and again. The Lord be with You!

Arlene W. Gordon

Congratulations and Best Wishes to
Rev. Dr. Arlene Gordon
on her retirement!
PRAYERS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Your prayers are requested for:
- Lolly Siemon
- June Vaughn
- Herb Hellgren
- Maria Luisa Hernandez
- Dita Barros

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PRESBYTERY ADMINISTRATOR

Overall, this person should provide, with the assistance of the Interim Stated Clerk, a caretaking ministry to provide continuity and stability as TPF searches for and calls an Interim Executive Presbyter.

HRC does NOT believe this person should be a vision-setting or even new goal-setting leader, but should help us to continue on the path we've begun recently of being a "Reproducing" presbytery, not a "Reducing" one.

Further information is available on the web: http://www.tfpby.org/misc/employment.html
Interested persons please submit resumes by March 5th to RevKirk@aol.com

NEWS AND EVENTS

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH SPRING GATHERING
April 23-25, 2010

Gold Coast Christian Camp
See attached flyer.

GULF COAST MANAGERS

The gulf coast is still rebuilding from damage caused to homeowners in need from four hurricanes since September 05 and our rebuilding efforts have given blessings to thousands as well as the many volunteers from our nationwide churches which have repeatedly come to one of our five volunteer housing locations, three in Louisiana and two in Texas.

We need to provide support to our weekly volunteers by providing two managers at each site—one to handle administration and food ordering, the other to support volunteers working on homes.

Time period is flexible but usually runs 6 to 8 weeks.

Positions are being applied for the summer/fall 2010 rebuilding period

You can go to the PCUSA/PDA website and download applications or call me directly with questions or for applications

Thank you for your service to Christ's mission

Richard Maag
Volunteer Village Coordinator
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
(c) 502-807 5487 (fax) 504-733 3506

INTRODUCTION TO APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY AND COACHING
March 8-12, 2010 in Atlanta, GA,

Being a bit of a sports nut, one of the metaphors I like for leadership is that of "player coach." Someone who is both on the field engaged in the action and also has a role of mentoring and developing the skills of my fellow players. Coaching also seems to be a very appropriate metaphor for the incarnational way Jesus led and developed a group of followers into being leaders.

I will be conducting an Introduction to Appreciative Inquiry and Coach Training in Atlanta, March 8-12, 2010

In this training you will:
- Conduct an appreciative inquiry into your vocation and mission.
- Learn appreciative ways of creating and coaching change and transformation.
- Develop client's vision, purpose and goals.
- Move from problem states to resourced solutions.
- Grow from fear to love based motivations
- Use the three faces of compassion: Tenderness, Fierceness, and Mischievousness when coaching.

Early tuition price is $700 (early tuition ends Friday 18th February)
Accommodation: Commuter/Residential $150/$530

This program would be ideal for:
- Clergy who mentor and lead others.
- Psychologists and Counselors.
- Spiritual Directors and Coaches

Please see: Introduction to Appreciative Inquiry and Coaching for registration and additional information about this training program.
Listen to Introduction the Appreciative Way of Coaching

I have put a 90 minute introduction to this training program at: The Appreciative Way of Coaching for those interested in gaining a sense of what it would be like to attend one of my training programs.

I wish you great blessings in your life and work.
Rob Voyle

For all of our Appreciative Inquiry based programs please see our latest Training Schedule.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP ASSESSMENT SEMINAR

April 12 (1:30 p.m.) – April 15 (noon)

This seminar will include perspectives on (a) the changing nature of the church and its implications for governing body leaders; (b) the regular work of executive leaders in relation to staff colleagues, presbytery committees and leaders, congregations, and pastors; and (c) the role of executive leaders in the “larger” church, in light of changes within denominational structures and functions. Through the use of case studies, simulations, peer input, feedback from active presbytery leaders, and testing instruments, participants will receive clear and direct feedback on their gifts and areas for growth.

GROWING INTO TOMORROW . . . TODAY

This two day seminar, sponsored by the Board of Pensions, is intended for clergy and lay Benefits Plan members age 50 and older and their spouses. This retirement planning seminar will help participants:

- Reflect on your years of ministry.
- Reflect on your remaining time with your congregation.
- Identify the right time to retire.
- Develop a Transition Plan with the session.
- Identify the tasks for the pastor and the session to manage the transition.
- Help the congregation understand the importance of boundaries.

For information about the seminar, fees or scheduling a seminar, email David Rich (davidrich@cox.net). David is a minister, educator, and consultant in helping pastors and congregations finish strong.

Paul Hooker, Executive Presbyter of St. Augustine Presbytery writes about this seminar, “Gone are the days when a minister or congregation can afford to 'slow down and fade away.' Finishing a ministry requires planning, foresight, and good judgment – not merely on the part of the minister, but also the congregation and its leadership; and not merely about money, but also about mission and vision. David Rich's “Finishing with Vitality” seminar provides a unique opportunity to think through the ending process, encouraging ministers and congregations to plan for the retirement of a pastor in a constructive, forward-looking manner. Every minister thinking about retiring and every presbytery executive who works with retiring ministers, will benefit from the insights available in this seminar.”

Contact:
Rev. Joyce Lieberman
Associate for Call System Support, Office of Vocation
Office of General Assembly and General Assembly Mission Council
Presbyterian Church (USA)
100 Witherspoon Street
Room 4611
Louisville, KY 40202-1396
1-888-728-7228, ext 5730

ASSOCIATION OF SMALLER CHURCH CONGREGATIONS

23rd Annual Conference
May 3 – 5, 2010

Attached brochure invites congregations with 200 of fewer members.
MONTREAT CONFERENCES

2010 Montreat Catalog is ONLINE

Get a glimpse of every conference we offered! This year, Montreat is giving more ways to view the 2010 Catalog. You can view it on the website, download the pdf, or request a physical copy. Visit [http://www.montreat.org/general/online-catalog](http://www.montreat.org/general/online-catalog) to read more about the outstanding line up of conferences Montreat has to offer.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In slightly more than a year, Google Chrome has surprised users and critics alike by leapfrogging to more than 4 percent of the browser market share. That attention and heavy usage is not undeserved. Chrome 4 is blazingly fast, more stable than previous versions, and introduces support for extensions, bookmark syncing, and some HTML5 innovations.

Based on Webkit, the same open-source engine that powers Apple Safari. Chrome's interface is a drastic departure from other browsers. Instead of the traditional toolbar, Chrome puts its tabs on top. Moreover, the tabs are detachable: "tabs" and "windows" are interchangeable here. Detached tabs can be dragged and dropped into the browser, and tabs can be rearranged at any time. By isolating each tab's processes, when one site crashes, the other tabs do not.

The search box and the address bar have been fused into a hybrid "Omnibox," which includes suggestions for URLs culled from your browser's history and search suggestions from your search engine. It remembers site-specific search engine results. There's also Application Shortcuts, a feature that lets you create desktop icons for Web-only applications, such as Gmail. The stealth mode, Incognito, lets you surf without the history-recording cookies.

Despite all that's good and new in the browser from Google, it is still a work in development and users are not universally enthralled with Chrome's sheen. Complaints ranging from secure log-in issues to occasional site rendering hang-ups to support for PDFs and some media players. Problems aside, Chrome is more than a surface polish and is well worth using.

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Fax: (954) 785-1983
E-Mail: center@tfpby.org
Website: [www.tfpby.org](http://www.tfpby.org)

PRESBYTERY STAFF

Interim Stated Clerk
Rev. Michel Yonts
Coordinator for Disaster
Recovery
Jeff Waycott
Executive Assistant
Financial Administrator
Shari Lowe
Communications Specialist
Delphia Sullivan
HAE
George Wilson
Multicultural Portuguese
Rev. Eliane Menezes
Language Ministry

2010 – 2011 PRESBYTERIAN PLANNING CALENDARS

$6.50 each -- may be ordered through the Presbytery office.
IF we receive enough pre-orders we will increase our standard order.
Otherwise, we may not be able to fill your request.
PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH SPRING GATHERING
GOLD COAST CHRISTIAN CAMP, LAKE WORTH, FL

APRIL 23-25, 2010

CHECK IN: 7:30 P.M. FRIDAY NIGHT
CHECK OUT: 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY MORNING

SALT – LITE

Find out how you are like salt and like light…

Matthew 5:13-16

Please call or email a member of the Presbyterian Youth and Young Adult Task Force to register your group:

Dwayne Black: 954-941-2308  DBlackjr@Pinkpres.org
Donna Cutler: 772-940-4232  dstcutler@msn.com
Shirley Saunders: 772-932-4020  shirleyssaunders@gmail.com
Gerry Owens: 305-479-6416

Cost: $25 per person (Only 1 check per church please, made payable to Presbytery of Tropical Florida).
Included in cost: 2 overnights at the facility (bring bedding, towels & toiletries), food, plus much more. First come, first served. The camp has limited space for overnight facilities.

Fun, Relaxation, Fellowship
Great Devotions, Music, Small Groups
Making New Friends, Seeing Old Friends
Campfire & Smores
Carpet Ball, Canoeing, Basketball, Swimming, Ping-Pong
Nature Trails
Conference Cost

Costs, unless otherwise noted, include: Conference fees, lodging and 6 meals. Epworth by the Sea is now a wireless internet campus.

Pitts and Booth, (P & B, more centrally located)

Double Room: $220.00 per person
Single Room: $295.00 per person

Robertson building (newer, w/ bayside view)

Double Room: $235.00 per person
Single Room: $320.00 per person

Commuting: $65.00 per person
(No room/no meals, but meals can be purchased individually from Epworth)

Check with your presbytery to determine availability of scholarships for conference registration cost.

It is the registrant’s responsibility to assure full payment before registration can be confirmed or secured.

Cancellation policy is as follows:
More than two weeks notice: full
Less than two weeks: full, less $50;
Less than 72 hours: full, less $100.

Make checks payable to “ASC”.
Detach and mail this form with check by April 1st to:
Maurine Resch
PO Box 248
Blythe, GA 30805
Phone: 706-373-9480
Email: ascregistrar@bellsouth.net

Please note:

The deadline for registrations is Thursday, April 1, 2010.

Conference Schedule

Monday, May 3rd
2:00-4:00pm Registration
4:00-5:20pm Welcome, Icebreakers & Devotion
5:30-6:20pm Supper at Epworth
6:30-7:15pm Worship
7:15 pm Minute for Mission-Thornwell
7:30-9:00pm Workshop 1-Part I

Tuesday, May 4
7:00-8:05am Breakfast at Epworth
8:15-9:45am Workshop 1-Part II
9:55-11:25am Workshop 2-Part I
11:35-12:20pm Worship
12:30-1:20pm Lunch at Epworth
1:30-3:00pm Workshop 2-Part II
Free Time Free Afternoon
5:30-7:00pm Supper at Epworth

Wednesday, May 5
7:00-8:20am Breakfast at Epworth
8:30-10:00am Group Discussion and Reflection on Workshops
10:00-10:30am Check-Out
10:40-11:05am Business Meeting, Awards & Special Recognitions
11:15-12:05pm Worship & Communion
12:15pm Lunch & Dismissal

Note: We have made changes to the schedule from previous years. Only 2 of 4 workshops may be attended. See information sheet.

A free will offering for the Thornwell Home and School for Children will be taken during the Communion Service on Wednesday morning.

Directions to Epworth: St. Simons Island is 80 miles from Savannah, GA and from Jacksonville, FL., 12 miles from I-95, and 13 miles from Brunswick/Glynnco airport. Follow St. Simons Causeway from Brunswick to Sea Island Road. Go left at light. Take first left at Hamilton Road then right on Arthur J. Moore Drive.

Emergency Contact Number while at Conference:
Epworth-by-the-Sea
912-638-8688

“New Ways for New Days”

Workshop Leaders and topics:

1-A. Bridging the Gap: Ray Jones, Coordinator for Evangelism, PCUSA. The differences in the current generations will be explored along with their implications for the church.

1-B. Clustering: Phil Tom, Associate for Small Church & Community Ministry, PCUSA. This workshop will look at reasons for and models of clustering and co-operative ministry.

2-C. Officer Training: Roe Callaway, Interim Pastor, Cleveland PC, Cleveland, GA. What are the differences and more important issues for officers of smaller congregations? Come and figure out some answers.

2-D. Electronic Media: Dianna Ott, Director of Creative Services, PCUSA. This workshop will look at the uses of electronic media and websites for churches and provide opportunities for hands-on learning.

PLEASE NOTE: due to your feedback, the workshop format is different this year, allowing for more in depth information. Workshops A & B will presented on Monday evening and Tuesday AM. Workshops C & D will be presented on Tuesday AM & PM. Each workshop will consist of distinct parts, I & II.

Isaiah 43:19
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
**Registration Form, May 3-5, 2010**

Name______________________________________
Address_____________________________________
___________________________________________
Church_____________________________________
Presbytery___________________________________
First Time Attending [ ] Pastor [ ] Laity [ ]
Phone: Home (    ) ____________________________
Work (    ) __________________________________
Email______________________________________
Are you willing to share contact information with other attendees? Yes ____ No ____
Double Room ____ or Single Room ____
P & B Lodging ____, Robertson lodging ____,
Commuting ____
Special Needs:
Handicapped Room [ ] 1st Floor [ ]
Close to Meeting Room [ ]
Roommate Preference:
______________________________________
(Roommate assigned if dbl room with no preference)
Amount enclosed:  $_____________
Emergency Contact:
Name______________________________________
Phone______________________________________

**Workshop choices must be indicated in your registration, please circle your choices for each workshop**

Workshop #1 choice  A  or  B
Workshop #2 choice  C  or  D

**History and Goals**

The Association of Smaller Congregations (ASC) of the Synod of South Atlantic, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was organized in April 1987 by a group of visionaries led by the late Rev. Foster Edwards, a PC(USA) minister in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

This group sought to create an organization which would:

- encourage and support smaller congregations,

- promote awareness of the unique strengths and needs of smaller congregations,

- provide opportunities for fellowship, education, and creative thinking and sharing between smaller congregations, and

- facilitate communication between churches, presbyteries, and higher governing bodies.

All churches and their members within the ecclesiastical bounds of the Synod of South Atlantic, having 200 or fewer members are considered as members of the ASC.

It is the hope of every member of the board that our organization will serve to support the life and ministry of the smaller congregations in the Synod of the South Atlantic. We hope to do this through worship, fellowship, education and prayer for the people of these congregations and for their pastors.

**Association of Smaller Congregations**

Synod of South Atlantic
PC(USA)

**23rd Annual Conference**

“New Ways for New Days”
Equipping, Educating, and
Empowering smaller congregations in new times
May 3-5, 2010

**Epworth by the Sea**
St. Simons Island, GA
MODERN REVELATION: THE DISCOVERY OF A MISSION CHURCH

After a two-year search for a senior pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale welcomed the Rev. Dr. Douglas Brower to the pulpit on Easter Sunday 2009. Now that one year has passed, the pastor is amazed at what he continues to learn about his “new” church.

“It is a joy to discover all the ways this church gives of itself. It has been energizing to see this church in mission,” he says.

After a summer getting to know his staff, Dr. Brower began planning for a busy holiday season. He quickly found First Pres’ longstanding participation in two major mission programs made an unforgettable impression.

Opening Hearts And Wallets

Started in 1995, the Thanksgiving basket program has become very popular with the congregation. The first year, the church raised enough money for 50 baskets of Thanksgiving dinner fixings for low-income Broward County families. In 2009, appeals for donations on three Sundays resulted in $25,000, enough money to buy Thanksgiving baskets for 750 families.

“None of this was budgeted, and no single person was responsible. It came from a lot of small checks that added up,” says Dr. Brower.

He was equally impressed by the scene in Fellowship Hall on basket preparation day.

“That was the most amazing morning of my ministry,” he says. “We discovered people have been there since before dawn organizing the food, assembling hundreds of Thanksgiving dinners and getting them out the door.

Dr. Brower and his wife, Susan, volunteered to deliver several baskets and were delighted to find gracious recipients.

“It had the potential to be awkward, but the families seemed happy to meet us and invited us in. The best part was getting to know them. We made some new friends that day,” he says.

Angel tree followed on the heels of the Thanksgiving drive. Lo and behold, the congregation produced another $20,000 to buy multiple Christmas gifts for 387 children of inmates and to throw them a party they will never forget.

“The cool thing was that incarcerated parents were able to provide Christmas for their children through our members’ generosity. It was a wonderful day!” says Dr. Brower.

The Angel Tree angels also run a week-long summer camp for the children. Angel Tree is only one program supported by the church’s active Jail Ministry. Under the guidance of retired First Pres pastor Dick Anderson and his wife, Nancy, members of the Jail Ministry conduct Bible studies twice a week for male and female inmates in the county jail. From time to time, Dick writes character reference letters and testifies on an inmate’s behalf in front of the judge.

“The Jail Ministry was a wonderful surprise. I had no idea so many people were involved or the depth of their relationships,” says Dr. Brower, who gave his first sermon in the men’s jail on February 20.

Mission Work Continues Year Around

As Dr. Brower discovered, mission work at First Pres is not confined to the holiday season. The church has been heavily involved with Habitat for Humanity for more than 10 years. Although the church’s goal was to fund and build 10 houses in 10 years, 18 were realized. Every month, a large group of volunteers from First Pres pick up their hammers and paintbrushes and go to work on a Habitat house. In March, they expressed their appreciation to college students who had come to Fort Lauderdale to spend Spring Break working on Habitat homes by throwing them a cookout.
While these projects were new to Dr. Brouwer, he plans to introduce one of his pet mission projects to First Pres. One of his former churches started a 4-year accredited nursing school in Haiti. He was one week away from taking a group from First Pres to visit the school when the earthquake struck. Although no one in the school was killed, the building was destroyed and classes have not been able to resume. He hopes to make a visit to reestablish the relationship before the end of 2010.

Looking Ahead
In order to get acquainted with as many of First Pres' 2,000 members as possible, Dr. Brouwer is starting a series of small group meetings called “Iced Tea with Doug." Top on his agenda is the subject of stewardship.

“We are depending too much on a small number of families to supply most of the budget. Only 50 percent of our families make pledges," he says.

He also wants to let members know on which issues he plans to focus in the coming year.
Having taught two well-attended Peace, Unity and Purity courses this past winter, he plans to move along to a discussion of the overtures being presented to General Assembly.

“Our congregation needs to be better informed. They need to know how the church stands. We have diverse views, but I hope we can reflect and talk honestly together,” he says.

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PRAYERS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Your prayers are requested for:

- Rev. Dr. James Colvert
- Lolly Siemon
- June Vaughn
- Nelia Senti
- Michael Sullivan
- Marge Hellgren and Family
- Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Magby and Family

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ATTENTION STUDENTS

Florida State University & Tallahassee Community College

Resident applications available
Summer & fall 2010
Spring 2011

Contact
Bruce Chapman, University Minister
Presbyterian University Center
548 West Park Ave.
Tallahassee, FL 32301
850.222.6320 bac4259@fsu.edu

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NEWS AND EVENTS

BIRTHDAYS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name and Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/01</td>
<td>Dr. Rae O. Weimer – HR</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/01</td>
<td>Rev. Randolph Bare – Memorial, West Palm Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/03</td>
<td>Rev. Joan Abell – HR</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/04</td>
<td>Dr. James Bailey II – Peace, Stuart</td>
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<td>04/10</td>
<td>Musarrat Khan – South Asian Ministry</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/14</td>
<td>Dr. Laurie Kraus – Riviera, Miami</td>
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<td>04/15</td>
<td>Rev. Stephen Castillo – MOS</td>
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<td>04/16</td>
<td>Rev. Bryan Wenger – Indian River, Ft. Pierce</td>
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<td>04/16</td>
<td>Rev. Jeffrey Binder – First, Tequesta</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/21</td>
<td>Rev. Moises J. Senti – HR</td>
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<td>04/24</td>
<td>Rev. Julio Delgado – HR</td>
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<td>04/27</td>
<td>Rev. Robert Palisin – HR</td>
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<td>04/28</td>
<td>Rev. Frank Allard – HR</td>
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<td>04/30</td>
<td>Dr. Robert S. Norris – MOS</td>
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ORDINATIONS

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Name and Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>04/06</td>
<td>Rev. Hai Keon Yang – HR</td>
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<td>04/07</td>
<td>Dr. Roger Verse – HR</td>
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<td>04/21</td>
<td>Dr. James S. Kirk – HR</td>
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<td>04/22</td>
<td>Rev. Joan Abell – HR</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/23</td>
<td>Rev. Jung Lip Kim – MOS</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/29</td>
<td>Rev. Constantine Baldassare – HR</td>
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REGIONAL PASTOR GATHERINGS

On April 14th Region 1 pastors will be gathering at Indian River Presbyterian Church at noon.

The Region 2 pastor’s gathering on March 18th was not well attended. However, ministries, personal lives and hobbies were shared as were prayers for one another. The next gathering is scheduled for May 20 (Third Thursday) from Noon to 2pm. An announcement has been sent to the region 2 pastors so they can save the date. A reminder will be sent in early May. The gathering is again scheduled at Korean Presbyterian Church of Miami in Fort Lauderdale. Bring your own lunch!

Fourteen Region 3 pastors attended the gathering at Palmetto Presbyterian Church in Miami on March 16th, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. A Cuban style lunch was served. Dr. Jonas Georges presented his new book “Faith and Caring in the Global Village: The Art and Science of Living and Teaching the Christian Faith in Contexts”. We all had the opportunity to meet some colleagues for the first time. The group was excited to get together and decided to meet again sometime after Easter. Commissioned Lay Pastor Heidi Arencibia offered the New Life (Nueva Vida) Presbyterian Church facilities for the next meeting.

YOUTH SPRING GATHERING
April 23-25, 2010
Gold Coast Christian Camp

Have you registered your group? Don’t miss out. Please call or email a member of the Presbyterian Youth and Young Adult Task Force:

Dwayne Black:
954-941-2308
DBlackjr@Pinkpres.org

Donna Cutler:
772-940-4232
dstcutler@msn.com

Shirley Saunders:
772-932-4020
shirleyssaunders@gmail.com

Gerry Owens:
305-479-6416

Cost: $25 per person (Only 1 check per church please, made payable to Presbytery of Tropical Florida).

PRESBYTERY MULTICULTURAL EVENT
Theme: “Speaking the Truth in Love”
4:00 PM -- April 17, 2010
Grace Community Church. Boca Raton

Since being commissioned by the Coordinating Council of our Presbytery, our Task Force has engaged in seeking to define its task and determine the direction a multicultural ministry might take within our presbytery. We have accepted as our Primary Mission, the responsibility to raise awareness within our presbytery of the need to recognize and celebrate the different cultures among us. Guided by this Mission, one objective is to be intentional in assisting congregations to reach out to these other cultures within their community. As our first step on this journey then, we have planned a Presbytery-wide event for Saturday, April 17th. Our theme will guide the conversation we will have with a carefully selected, representative Panel of individuals from across our presbytery and the conversations in small groups, culminating in the celebration of Holy Communion.

We are inviting your participation in the following ways:

- Mark your calendar and plan to attend
- Prepare and bring a musical item or drama etc. unique to your ethnic group or culture
- Prepare and bring covered dishes, deserts and drinks unique to your ethnic group or culture, for all of us to share and enjoy.
- Respond by the registration deadline which is Monday, April 12th.

We urge your full participation and cooperation. Please respond either by email or telephone, 954-785-2220, indicating the number of persons coming from your church, musical items or drama and the covered dishes and desserts you are bringing. We plan on having the small groups intentionally blended culturally. Kindly send your responses to the Presbytery office. Either Rev. Eliane Menezes or Jeff Waycott will be happy to answer any additional questions you may have. Let us make this a big and wonderful evening of fellowship for our Presbytery. Registration is free.

Yours in ministry,
Rev. Dr. Raymond Anglin
Chair, Multicultural Network Task Force

CONTRAST AND COMPANIONSHIP:
The Way of the Church with the World
Chicago -- July 22-24, 2010

Supporting the transformational process of congregations learning to discern and participate in God’s mission more faithfully and effectively

Early registration savings before April 30th
Featured Speaker: Dr. George Hunsberger

For additional information: www.missionalchurch.org
11TH ANNUAL NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL CHURCH CONFERENCE
“H2O: Deepening our Faith, Widening our Culture”
Chicago -- May 27-30, 2010

Is your community becoming more diverse? Are you interested in reaching out to your new neighbors? Are you already part of a multicultural congregation or racial-ethnic church but want to deepen the conversation about diversity? The 11th Annual National Multicultural Church Conference is a learning and worship event to equip attendees with deeper knowledge and practical skills for practicing multicultural ministry. Detailed information and a full list of speakers is available in the registration booklet from the multicultural congregational support office.

The conference offers seven major tracks including Christian education, evangelism, theological education, and worship, as well as tracks for children and youth. Each track offers a day and a half of instruction and interaction. The conference is designed with dual opportunities for both current practitioners of multicultural ministry and for newcomers. A limited number of scholarships are available. Registration fees begin at $265 for adults. Online registration is available. A detailed schedule and lodging information is available online. Questions or scholarship requests can be directed to Aldenice Lemes, (888) 728-7228, x5252 or Melissa Johnson, (888) 728-7228, x5344.

AN INVITATION...
In 1976 the APA was established to help administrative personnel increase their knowledge of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and to help develop professionalism in the denomination. Becoming a member of APA does not mean you have to be Presbyterian. In fact we are an interfaith group that embraces each other on our path to further education and God.

The Administrative Personnel Association has so much to offer PC(USA) employees throughout the denomination. With almost 100 classes available to us, we are able to combine a well rounded education from polity, to spiritual growth, to technology. To view the classes that are offered through APA, please visit the National Administrative Personnel Website at http://pcusa-apa.org/pdf/certification_handbook.pdf.

What a wonderful time it is to be an APA member or to join us. On May 13, 2010 the Florida Region of APA will be hosting their regional conference in Fernandina Beach. Click here to download the brochure. I would like to offer my personal invitation to join us in this learning experience and to enjoy us in our fellowship. If you should have any questions on the conference or joining APA, please do not hesitate to contact me at office@oldfirstchurch.org or at my office at 850-222-4504.

Diana F. McAda President,
APA Florida Region

Editor’s note: At this conference Barbara Prieto, Riviera PC Miami, will be installed as the President of the Florida Region. Congratulations Barbie!

2010 ARMSS CONVENTION
(Association of Retired Ministers, Their Spouses or Survivors)
Called to a Lifetime of Service – God’s Plan OR Ours
September 9-12, 2010
Bloomington, MN

Additional information, registration form and membership application may be found at http://www.pcusa.org/olderadults/armss.

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COLLEGIATE MINISTRY SUMMIT ‘10 CONFERENCE

Macalester College, St. Paul, MN
July 1-4, 2010

A conference for all those involved in collegiate ministry on behalf of the PC (U.S.A.)

Gather with college ministry leaders and professionals for a rejuvenating time of nurture, reflection, encouragement, and support. Be challenged and inspired by our keynote speaker, Dr. Steve Hayner. Be enriched by useful and timely workshops. Enjoy times for informal resource sharing and networking, opportunities for site visits and the General Assembly Exhibit Hall, as well as a night on the town. Participate in conversations and informal activities with others engaged in collegiate ministry on behalf of the PC (U.S.A.)

REGISTRATION FEE $ 310
STUDENT LEADER FEE $ 280
COMMUTER FEE $ 275
Registration includes seven meals and lodging
Register on-line now!!
Heaven on Earth
An Agrarian Road Trip to the U.S. Social Forum
June 13–26, 2010

You’re invited to the Presbyterian Hunger Program’s Heaven on Earth Agrarian Road Trip to the US Social Forum from June 13–26. Join this delegation of college students, farmers, musicians, bloggers and other adventurous souls. Starting in Louisville, Kentucky, we will make stops in six other states along the way to Detroit, Michigan to visit with congregations and community groups who are participating in the grassroots sustainable and just food revolution that is sprouting up everywhere.

Ellen Davis, professor at Duke Divinity, and author of Scripture, Culture and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible, will ground the trip in the Bible. Jud Hendrix – a young pastor at PC(USA)’s Covenant Community Church – will help the journeyers process the experience and facilitate conversation cafes with congregations and folks along the way. We will attempt to develop a living theology as we experience the growing local agrarian renaissance.

Download the application.
Get all the details.
See the route.

Peace,
Kelly Wilkinson
Program Assistant, Presbyterian Hunger Program
office: 502.569.5819 -- fax: 502.569.8963 -- kelly.wilkinson@pcusa.org
toll free: 888.728.7228 ext.5819
100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202

CIW FARMWORKER FREEDOM MARCH

Come explore how to build sustainable food systems in partnership with poor people’s groups that are organizing successfully for change. Set during the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ 3-day, Farmworker Freedom March from Tampa to Lakeland, FL, the Presbyterian Hunger Program’s Leadership Exchange will give Presbyterians who are working for social justice in their own communities the opportunity to learn from each other and the farmworkers as we act and reflect together.

Date: Wednesday, April 14 (6pm) – Monday, April 19 (1pm).
Place: Cedarkirk Retreat Center, Lithia, FL and churches and streets from Tampa to Lakeland during the CIW Farmworker Freedom March.
Cost: $200–300 includes food, lodging and ground transportation, (transportation to/from Florida not included).
Applications: due by email to PHP no later than Sunday, March 14, 2010.

Direct Applications and Questions to:
Kelly Wilkinson, PHP, kelly.wilkinson@pcuse.org

CONTACT US
Presbytery of Tropical Florida
440 E. Sample Road,
Suite 208
Pompano Beach, FL 33064
Phone: (954) 785-2220
Fax: (954) 785-1983

E-Mail:
center@tfpby.org
Website:
www.tfpby.org

PRESBYTERY STAFF

Interim Stated Clerk
Rev. Michel Yonts
Jeff Waycott
Coordinator for Disaster Recovery
Shari Lowe
Executive Assistant
Susan Carpenter
Financial Administrator
Delphia Sullivan
Communications Specialist
George Wilson
HAE
Multicultural Portuguese Language Ministry
Rev. Eliane Menezes
The May 11th meeting of Presbytery at Lauderdale-by-the-Sea will begin a new way of being the Presbytery and doing business. As we have been trying to do lately, the meeting itself will be surrounded with worship and cast in the order of worship. This will be even more emphasized now so we can gather as the Presbytery to worship. Business at the meeting will be kept to a minimum with most of the business "stuff" being placed on the Consent Agenda (yes, you can still have items removed from the Consent Agenda for individual discussion) or as essential "stand alone" business. The biggest change is that a major emphasis of our meetings will be the opportunity to meet as the Presbytery for fellowship, education, and growth. Each meeting will have a sermon/message from either a member of Presbytery or a nationally known preacher. Each meeting will include a time of education and discussion - in May the topic will be results of the Council's retreat and how we can actually move from a reducing Presbytery to reproducing Presbytery. We will try to spend time "around the tables" to get to know one another better as brothers and sisters in Christ (be prepared to be seated with people you may not know!).

Our Presbytery needs to change the way it operates if it is to grow - and that includes the way we meet as a Presbytery. Come and see some new things happening!

Michel Yonts
Interim Stated Clerk

BIRTHDAYS AND ORDINATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

05/01  Rev. Charles Pipes - HR
05/02  Rev. Robert Collins – First, Boca Raton
05/03  Rev. Walter Arnold III - First, North Palm Beach
05/08  Dr. Evangeline Tolley - MOS
05/10  Dr. David Thomas - HR
05/10  Dr. William Stepp - Memorial, West Palm Beach
05/10  Rev. Gary Travel - HR
05/15  Dr. Calvin Leonard - HR
05/16  Rev. Constance Bright - New Covenant, Miami
05/16  Rev. Elias Collado – Palmetto, Miami
05/16  Rev. Juan Perez - First Spanish, Miami
05/16  Dr. David P. Welton - MOS
05/23  Dr. German Vega-Feliciano - MOS
05/23  Dr. Albert Bush, Jr. – Gardens, Palm Beach Gardens
05/24  Dr. Jonathan Swanson - Central, Miami
05/25  Rev. Hai Keon Yang - HR
05/25  Dr. James S. Kirk - HR

ORDINATIONS

05/01  Dr. Calvin Leonard - HR
05/07  Rev. Douglas LaPointe - MOS
05/10  Rev. Robert Bonham - Memorial, West Palm Beach
05/10  Rev. Robert Welsh - HR
05/11  Rev. Charles Croghan - HR
05/11  Rev. Ryan Baer – Lakeside, West Palm Beach
05/27  Rev. Bryan Wenger - Indian River, Ft. Pierce
05/28  Rev. Stephen Castillo - MOS
05/30  Rev. Jung Yn Shin – Korean, Ft. Lauderdale
05/31  Rev. Pierre DuBose - HR

PRESBYTERY MEETS ON TUESDAY, MAY 11TH

Community Presbyterian Church
Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
The Presbytery Packet is posted on line.

Please call 954-776-5530 to make your lunch reservation today!
PRAYERS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Your prayers are requested for:

- Rev. Dr. James Colvert
- Rev. Joan Abell
- Rev. Charles Pipes
- Shirley Fairchild
- Lolly Siemon
- June Vaughn
- Nelia Senti

Our prayers and fond wishes go with Rev. Eliane Menezes as she begins her Chaplaincy in Texas.

Samuel W. George, the first black minister in our Presbytery when it was South Florida, died on December 2, 2009. He was on the staff of Second Church when Second started the Ascension Mission in the NW area of Fort Lauderdale. He served as founding pastor from 1961 to 1971. He and Sam Orlandi, pastor of Second Church, were very active in the Civil Rights movement in Broward County in the late 60's and early 70's. Rev. George was called to a church in the Pittsburgh, PA area where he lived until his death.

NEWS AND EVENTS

219TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP NAMED

Rev. Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin has been appointed Vice Moderator of the Committee on Review of GA Permanent Committees.

UPCOMING MONTREAT 2010 CONFERENCES

Montreat Women’s Connection,
July 6-10
“Named, Redeemed, and Called” (for women of all ages, cultures, and denominations).
For more information and to register, visit http://www.montreat.org/396.

Faithful Politics
August 8-11
“If God Doesn’t Quit When Things Get Political, Why Do We?”
For all the talk about faith and politics in the media, there are precious few conversations in our congregations about faithful political engagement. It is time to do better. This is not a conference about particular issues, political partisanship, or choosing sides. It is a conference that calls us to trust in the messiness of politics, from the congregation to the city council to the Congress.
For more details and registration information visit http://www.montreat.org/398.

Church Unbound
August 11-14
“Becoming a Gospel Force in the World” If we believe God yearns to turn the church loose to be a Gospel force in the world, how can we partner in what God is doing? Differences – of culture and color, gender and generation, political perspective and theology – are gifts to be explored and celebrated as we live into a Church Unbound. Featuring author, speaker, and pastor Brian McLaren.
For more details and registration information, visit http://www.montreat.org/386.

April 2010 Update on Thornwell's ministry is available on the website.

2010-2011 PRESBYTERIAN PLANNING CALENDARS

Our order has been received. Although we received few pre-orders, our supply usually goes quickly. Please call Shari to reserve yours ($6.50 each).

RECYCLING PRINTER INK

- HP Laserjet 03A For printers 5P, 5MP, 6P and 6MP
- HP29 (Black) for deskjet and Officejet printers.
- Sharp UX-3CR

The Presbytery Office has the above printer ink cartridges if anyone who would like them.
Please contact Delphia at the Presbytery office.
11TH ANNUAL NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL CHURCH CONFERENCE
"H20: Deepening our Faith, Widening our Culture"
Chicago -- May 27-30, 2010

Is your community becoming more diverse? Are you interested in reaching out to your new neighbors? Are you already part of a multicultural congregation or racial-ethnic church but want to deepen the conversation about diversity? The 11th Annual National Multicultural Church Conference is a learning and worship event to equip attendees with deeper knowledge and practical skills for practicing multicultural ministry. Detailed information and a full list of speakers is available in the registration booklet from the multicultural congregational support office.

The conference offers seven major tracks including Christian education, evangelism, theological education, and worship, as well as tracks for children and youth. Each track offers a day and a half of instruction and interaction. The conference is designed with dual opportunities for both current practitioners of multicultural ministry and for newcomers. A limited number of scholarships are available. Registration fees begin at $265 for adults. Online registration is available. A detailed schedule and lodging information is available online. Questions or scholarship requests can be directed to Aldenice Lemes, (888) 728-7228, x5252 or Melissa Johnson, (888) 728-7228, x5344.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

OFFICE 2007 TIPS AND TRICKS

Outlook - Preview Attachments
For most of us receiving Word or Excel files as attachments is a daily occurrence. In previous versions of Outlook you had to open the attachments separately to view them. In Outlook 2007 you can display an attachment's contents inside Outlook. This avoids having to open Word or Excel just to preview the document. This also works with PowerPoint presentations.

If the sender is someone in your safe senders list, the attachments can be previewed automatically. If the sender is not on your safe senders list, click the Preview File button to preview the attachment. To add a sender as a safe sender, right click an e-mail from them and choose Junk E-mail, Add Sender to Safe Senders List. You can still save attachments as you did with earlier versions of Outlook, but the ability to view them inside Outlook will save a lot of time.

Word

Word – Insert text from another document
Cutting and pasting is easy in Word. But, if you want to insert the entire contents of another document in your Word 2007 document, there's a quick shortcut.

To insert a document in your current Word 2007 document, follow these easy steps:

1. Position your cursor where you would like to insert the document
2. Open the Insert ribbon
3. Click Object in the Text section
4. Select Text From File from the popup menu
5. Select your document in the box that opens
6. You can opt to insert a portion of a Word document or a range of Excel cells, if you choose. Just click the Range button. You can specify a range of Excel cells or a Word Bookmark.
7. When you're done, click Insert

Note: The text you insert in your document will not be updated if it changes in the original document

Word – Sorting Lists
To use Word's Sort feature, start by highlighting the data you would like to sort.

Click the Sort button in the Paragraph section of the Home ribbon.
Use the dropdown box to select the type of data you selected. You can choose from text, date, or number. Choose where you would like to put the data in ascending or descending order. Click OK.
Word automatically sorts your data.

CONTACT US
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Website: www.tfpby.org

PRESBYTERY STAFF

REV. MICHEL YONTS
Interim Stated Clerk
Coordinator for Disaster Recovery
Executive Assistant
Financial Administrator
Communications Specialist
HAE

JEFF WAYCOTT
Shari Lowe
Susan Carpenter
Delphia Sullivan
George Wilson
Notes from the May Presbytery Meeting

The Presbytery of Tropical Florida met on Tuesday, May 11, in the sanctuary of Community Presbyterian Church, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. Our time together was surrounded with worship and praise. Business commenced following the installation of Moderator Lucky Arnold.

Council articulated its vision for our Presbytery and its commitment to become a reproducing Presbytery by reproducing disciples, leaders and churches.

We welcomed Presbytery Administrator Amalie Ash, who will serve until an Interim EP is selected.

Among the items that were acted upon:

- Designated Rev. Dr. George McIlrath as Advocate to General Assembly for both overtures being forwarded (Grace Community, Boca and Indian River).
- Approved validation of ministries of Rev. Dr. Angel Ramos and Rev. Doug LaPointe.
- Approved the following covenants:
  - Rev. Jim McNaul as Interim Pastor of Palms West
  - Elder Victor Blandford (CLP) and First, Lake Worth
- Commissioned delegates attending the 219th General Assembly and the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.
- Enrolled the following new members:
  - Rev. Antonio and Rev. Raquel Welty (Honorably Retired)
  - Rev. Dr. Charles Denison
- Approved terms of call for Dr. Denison as Pastor of First, Stuart
- Approved the Church Information Form for the Interim Executive Presbyter.
- Budgeted $5,000 to fund the planned 2010 Presbytery-wide Leadership Training Event.
- Approved the dissolution of the following relationships:
  - Rev. Dr. John Vaughn and Second
  - Rev. Dr. William Stepp and Memorial
- Approved the retirement of Rev. Dr. William Stepp
- Moved Rev. Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin from Designated to Installed Pastor of Myrtle Grove PC in concurrence with congregation.
- Effective with the September 2010 meeting, the lunch cost at Presbytery will be $8.00 (with reservation). If no reservation is made, cost at the door will be $10.

Offerings for Tropical Florida disaster relief ($400.) and Cents-ability ($200.) were taken.

Following lunch and a Spirit-filled sermon by Rev. Kennedy McGowan (God’s Abundance), we met at round tables and engaged in discussion regarding our hopes and vision for the future of the Presbytery. We thank the members of Community Church, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea for their generous hospitality.
Good News!

In the last five months, participating churches collected $7,675 dollars for the Cents-Ability program. And all Presbytery church communities are benefiting from their efforts. The funds will be distributed the first week of June to three major food distributors that serve Martin, Palm Beach, Okeechobee, Broward, Miami Dade and Monroe Counties. These distributors were selected for their single purpose of food distribution and they are primary channels for community pantries, churches, and feeding centers. Each recipient will receive $2,430; the Presbytery will hold 5% in reserve for emergencies which will be distributed at year end. A letter will be sent explaining that collective PCUSA churches in their area contributed to the donation.

The funds collected were the efforts of six churches in Region One, seven churches in Region Two and ten churches in Region Three (who sent in collections by 5/27/10). Special acknowledgment to Grace and Glades in Boca Raton, Lakeside in West Palm, Ascension Peace in Lauderdale and Peace Covenant in Key West for their leadership in collecting $3,805.00 almost 50% of the total collections.

About Cents-Ability: The Presbytery of Tropical Florida’s Cents-Ability program is guided by George Wilson. George has been a member of First Ft. Lauderdale since 1957 where he has served as an elder five times. He is a retired project manager with a background in civil engineering; this experience has helped him re-launch Cents-Ability. George has a passion for the hungry. Each week for seven years he has joined others in the church kitchen preparing and cooking twenty-five gallons of chili for the Broward Cooperative Feeding center, where George is a server.

Once known as the Two-Cents-A-Meal program, originating in 1976 by the Presbyterian Women to address world hunger, the Cents-Ability program is currently under the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP). The PHP provides fund raising materials and information to Presbyteries and congregations.

Be a part of the next contribution September 1st: If your church would like to be a part of the Cents-Ability program; has someone who would like to serve on the task force; or if you need materials contact George at cagewilson4@aol.com

Recipients of Cents-Ability:

Treasure Coast Food Bank Their mission is to obtain and distribute food and needed products through partner agencies to help alleviate hunger in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie Counties. For every dollar they can provide seven meals. Check out their programs at http://www.treasurecoastfoodbank.org/programs.html

Feeding South Florida, formerly know as the Daily Bread Food Bank, is a not-for-profit organization, supporting other South Florida not-for-profit organizations to assist people in need and improve their lives. “We do this by providing food and other grocery products, and by educating and engaging our community to fight hunger and poverty.” They are headquartered in a new 112,000-square-foot building in Pembroke Park, and have a distribution in center in Palm Beach and Dade County. They serve over 800 different charitable feeding programs from Palm Beach to Key West. For every dollar they can serve six life sustaining meals. For more information go to http://www.feedingsouthflorida.org/who-we-serve.htm

FarmShare.org based in Homestead is a distributor of excess and rejected produce. Farm Share.org, using inmate labor and volunteers, re-sorts and packages the abundance of surplus food and distributes it to individuals, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, churches, and other organizations feeding the hungry in Florida. In addition, Farm Share.org directly distributes food to more than 4,000 registered local households -- composed of migrant workers, single mothers, elderly, disabled and other low income recipients -- directly from their packing house. Acknowledging the importance of the problem of hunger in Miami-Dade, County Commissioners voted unanimously to fund Farm Share and save their Individual Distribution Center. This decision directly affects more than 6,500 families in Miami-Dade County who faced seeing the closure of the Farm Share IDC. FarmShare.org ships more than 15,000,000 pounds of fresh and nutritious fruits and vegetables each year to participating agencies throughout the Eastern United States: $10 ships 115 lbs of food. http://www.farmshare.org/programs.php
Reflection

This month’s newsletter contains a small survey by the Pew Research group. The question is “What is in a word?” We all know that words have different meanings and influence. However, sometimes the word is a correct description, but does not fully define the entity. I encountered this last weekend during my graduation from Yale Divinity School.

My son and daughter joined me for the three day event. During dinner, after the Commencement, they discussed their surprise at the elements of faith and patriotism at the University. They thought (correctly) that the University is a center for liberal thought and they did not think God or honoring the military would be given so much attention.

They witnessed the school’s patriotic commitment when I showed them the city block World War I Memorial which is prominently placed near the center of the University. They were visibly moved when we walked through the Rotunda, a cavernous room lined with marble walls that list every student or professor who gave their life from the 1775 American Revolution to the Vietnam War. Each name, rank, location and date where they fell is carved into marble for all to remember.

Since I was graduating from the Divinity School, they anticipated some liturgical elements. However, during the three different Divinity graduation services they heard: eight prayers, sixteen hymns, three sermons, six scripture readings and five benedictions. But, they were most surprised at the main University Commencement which began with a vigorous prayer by the University Chaplain. During the ceremony there were only two songs, between the degree presentations, students and professors sang Psalm 65 and a Hymn: O God, beneath thy guiding hand. The Divinity School Dean closed the Commencement ceremony with a benediction. This Commencement was the sending ceremony for Undergraduates, Law, Business, Medical, Philosophy and other schools. The podium was filled with professors who would normally debate religion, but on this one day they joined in prayer and worship to bless the graduates.

My family knew only the outside reputation of the University, but there is more to the school. This reminded me that I have construed opinions when I have only known the obvious. Like the University, there is more to us. Only when someone knows us do they learn that we are more than our labels. This was a good reminder as I was leaving Divinity School and beginning this new journey with the Presbytery; a reminder to seek to know more than the obvious about my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Amalie Ash

These are among the findings of a national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press that tests reactions to words and phrases frequently used in current political discourse.

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<th>What's in a Word?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Family values</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Pew Research Center April 21-26.

How would you answer?
Go to our survey page to answer and we will post the results in next months Presbytery Times issue http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5VPCZ2Z
Disaster Preparedness

I would like to take a few minutes to let you know how well your Presbytery is connected within the disaster community and what has been accomplished in the last eighteen months.

The Presbytery is now connected at all levels. At the State level I am involved with four key agencies that support volunteer disaster including Florida Interfaith Networking in Disaster (FIND), and the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FlaPDAN). FlaPDAN connects the six Florida Presbytery Disaster programs and meets with us twice a year. These organizations keep us updated and informed on the other disasters happening around our state, country, and the world.

FlaPDAN representative, Kathy Broyard, is also our contact to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) so that in the event of a Hurricane, she will contact PDA and they will send the Presbyterian National Response Team. Dr. Laurie Kraus (Riviera) and Dr. Tim Stover (Calvary) are members of the Response Team. PDA will make funds available for disaster relief.

At the local level, I represent the Presbytery on the Long Term Recovery Coalition for Broward County and the Disaster Recovery Coalition of Palm Beach County and am in contact with the groups in St Lucie County.

St Lucie County program and I recently worked together to get water to Haiti. We were able to get a semi truck loaded with fresh water shipped from Orlando to the St. Lucie County Logistics Center where they stored it until we could transport to the container at the Korean Presbyterian Church of Ft Lauderdale where the congregation packed the container for shipment to Haiti.

This effort to train and meet with the various organizations has brought attention to the Presbyterian’s commitment to disaster relief. For example: The Presbytery of Tropical Florida is a now member of the Broward County ESF-15 partners list which means that in the event of a disaster and the Emergency Operations Center is opened, I will be sitting at one of the computers on the operations floor with the other members of the Coalition such as the United Way. This would enable us to have immediate access to all information in the county such as Points of Distribution, shelters, goods to distribute from churches, and other essential information that would be of extreme importance to our churches in Broward County.

On May 12th I was a participant in a state hurricane exercise and had the opportunity to view the Emergency Response Team fully engaged with the command staff and the emergency support function operational. The massive room is equipped with oversized flat screens, and a hundred plus computer terminals. In case of a disaster we will have access to information that will direct volunteers to receive rapid training and become credentialed. These trained volunteers can then be sent into a disaster zone to help.

There are different training opportunities available for people who want to volunteer and most are free. Some take a bit of time like the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) which is eight weeks. A valuable program is the Compassion Fatigue and Care for the Caregiver training offered by PDA; this program takes one to three days.

Finally, my focus has been to secure relationships with each organization so that if we have an event, they already know who I am and what we can do for each other. While in this position I have received most of the trainings that one can acquire. I continue to expand my knowledge so that in the event of an emergency, the Presbytery of Tropical Florida is as prepared as it can be.

Thank You for allowing me to serve
Disaster Coordinator
Jeff Waycott
The Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association of the PCUSA conference concluded on Sunday, May 16, 2010. This year’s conference was held at Amelia Island with 24 members in attendance from throughout Florida, one member from Georgia and one from California. The Presbytery of Tropical Florida had the largest representation.

Barbara Yatrousis, from First, Ft. Lauderdale received her Level 3 Certification and has just completed 22 years of service to the church – 17 of them at First, Ft. Lauderdale. Lynn Anderson, from First Hollywood is currently working on her Level 3 Certification and was installed as Class of 2013 Nominating Committee and she has just completed 14 years of service at First Hollywood. Shari Lowe, Presbytery of Tropical Florida, is working on her Continuing Education Certificate, after achieving Level 3 Certification in 2009 and she continues her role as Scholarship Chair. Shari also has just celebrated 10 years of service to the Presbytery of Tropical Florida as the Executive Assistant. Barbara Prieto, Riviera, Miami, was installed as President of the Florida Region, is currently working on her Continuing Education Certificate, after achieving Level 3 Certification in 2009 and has celebrated 20 years of service at Riviera.

APA is a professional organization under the PCUSA. Our ministry is to renew, teach, learn and share and return to our workplaces refreshed, energized and with a wealth of information to share with our places of work.

If you would like to be a part of APA or would like more information to share with your staff, pastor, personnel committee, please speak to one of the members mentioned in this article and or visit our Florida Region website at www.flaapa.org.

The Florida Region 2011 Conference will be held in the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. This will be a great way for you to get to know what the organization has to offer.

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**Make Gift of the Heart Kits**

Multiple disasters during the first quarter of 2010 have caused the Church World Service (CWS) warehouses to become low on cleanup buckets. About 550 buckets have been sent to help with flooding in Kentucky and Tennessee. We are nearing the beginning of the hurricane season, and clean-up buckets will be needed. Also needed are school kits. CWS has indicated that they will need at least 70,000 school kits for international responses. Schools in Haiti have recently opened and school kits may be needed to help in that response. Find information about assembling kits on the PDA web site.

**The National Religious Music Week Scholarship**

Applications are currently being accepted until Friday, June 25, 2010. Please visit the Hamilton Community Foundation’s website at www.hamiltonfoundation.org/scholarships (Current College Student section) to learn more.
Birthdays and Ordinations

**BIRTHDAYS**

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<td>Rev. Constantine Baldassare</td>
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<td>Dr. Leon Lovel-Martin</td>
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**ORDINATIONS**

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<td>Dr. James Nimmo III</td>
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Greetings from Your Presbytery Administrator

My first ten days at the Presbytery office have been enlightening and enjoyable; it is an honor to be here during a time when the Presbytery is seeking a new direction.

It is my hope to utilize my gifts to provide the incoming Interim with knowledge about the Presbytery and to have improvements in place for a smooth transition. During the next few months I will send out small online surveys that will give you more complete overview of the Presbytery. The surveys are secure and will not reveal the responder or their email information; survey results will be posted in the following newsletter.

We are going to use this newsletter to focus on the work that is being done in the Presbytery and the special ministries that are indirectly supporting us. I will be reaching out to you for information and welcome your contributions. Next month we will be showcasing the Presbytery’s special multi-ethnic culture and how our church communities are benefitting. In August, the newsletter will focus on Back-to-School and what churches are doing to support their surrounding communities. Please let us know what your church, elders, or missions are doing in your community.

Delphia and I are working on the website redesign. We want to provide you with up-to-date information to help you and your ministries. Both the newsletter and the website are tools that can easily communicate ideas and success stories as well as links to specific programs. We want these tools to be a viable resource for you and your community.

And, finally, know that my door is always open to you. Please call if we can do anything to help you or help your church. It is by strengthening our links to one another that we all are stronger.

Peace and many blessings in your day,

Amalie

Philippians 4:4-9

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**PRAYERS, JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Your prayers are requested for:

- Janet Bailey
- Jim Colbert
- Gwendolyn Magby
- Reg Parsons
- Camus McNair
- The Family of Shirley Fairchild
2010 Peacemaking Offering

World Communion Sunday
October 3rd

This year marks the 30th anniversary of “Peacemaking: The Believers’ Calling”, which called for a renewed emphasis on peacemaking in the PC (USA).

After approving the receipt of the Peacemaking Offering, Sessions are asked to decide and announce how the congregation will use its 25% share of the Offering. Identify past and present peacemaking ministries of your congregation and include an article in the church newsletter when informing members about the Offering.

The 2010 Peacemaking Offering packet contains these and many other recommendations. If you have not received your standing order of materials, please call (800) 524-2612.

http://www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering/

Cedarkirk Summer Camp

Offering over 40 fun, faith-building programs for children and youth who have completed 1st-12th grade.
Space and Scholarship Money still available!
(813) 685-4224
www.cedarkirk.org

Thornwell Home for Children

Dear Friends,

As a staff member of Thornwell Home for Children, everyday I have a chance to see how this ministry changes the lives of children. Children come to us abused, neglected and abandoned, in need of a place to call home. Thornwell has been that place for nearly 135 years. Please join me in support of this life-changing ministry by making a donation. No donation is too great or too small. Every dollar counts! You can make your secure, online donation on my personal webpage by clicking the link below. Thanks!

http://www.thornwellhome.org/friends/?page_id=154

"There are no limits to what can be accomplished through the prayers of people who place their confidence in God.” Matthew 21:22.

Susan Sampson
Florida Regional Director for Resource Development
Thornwell Home for Children
175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr.
Lakeland, FL 33801
Phone 863-682-1900
Fax 863-683-8241
Cell 813-928-148

Presbyterian University Center

The Presbyterian University Center at Florida State University has provided a strong spiritual community on campus for five generations, and continues to welcome and encourage students as they make the important transition to adulthood. The Center provides many ways for students to get involved and build community, such as the Thursday night dinner and devotionals, weekend retreats and socials, tailgating during football season, spring break mission trips, or just hanging out at Calvin’s, the Center’s popular fair-trade coffee shop.

The Presbyterian University Center wants to begin building relationships with incoming students even before the new semester begins, so that they can begin their college careers already connected with a community of believers. If you or someone you know is planning on attending Florida State University in the fall, we would love to hear from you. Our website is pucfsu.com, or if you’d like to contact us directly, our email is bac4259@fsu.edu, and our phone number is (850)222-6320.

Uniting General Council (WCRC)

Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace
June 18-28, 2010 | Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA
http://reformedchurches.org/

I will be attending the pre-conference for International Women and the General Conference as a GA delegate to the National Council of Churches. I was elected to this position for a four year term at the 2008 GA and will serve through the 2012 GA. I will have an official report after the meeting in June. I serve on the Ecumenical Network Committee of the National Council of Churches. In my newly elected role for the Presbytery of Tropical Florida as Local Ecumenical Officer, I will coordinate the local efforts for ecumenical outreach in consultation with the new Presbytery leadership.

Dr. Arlene Gordon
National New Church Development Conference

August 9 - 13, 2010
Don Cesar Beach Resort
St. Petersburg, FL

The conference goal is to ignite your passion to do new church, inspire you with new ideas and methods and equip you with the tools necessary to do new church.

Fees: Racial Ethnic Pre Conference – Not yet determined

Conference Registration: $285 per person (includes five meals Tuesday through Thursday).

Housing: $65 per person per night (double occupancy), $129 per night (single occupancy).

Tracks:
“Nuts and Bolts” of New Church Development
Leadership development
Evangelism & Discipleship
Prayer & Spiritual Formation
Multi-Ethnic Church Starts

New church development coaches will be available to meet with you during the conference.

For further information, [www.presbygrow.net](http://www.presbygrow.net)
To register, [www.pcusa.org/churchgrowth/events.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/churchgrowth/events.htm)

Thank you to Delphia for the new look of the newsletter
"The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God."

--Adams wrote this on June 28, 1813, in a letter to Thomas Jefferson.
Interview with Jeff Waycott attendee to the Multicultural Conference

What was most memorable about the conference?

A few areas made an impact on me. First, I always love the diversity of cultures. The performing arts and music are sometimes very different from what I am used to and in other ways very similar. They had Polish dancers, African American upscale, High school, jazz performers, Youth Group rap, and Spanish/English contemporary worship music. A Swahili church played their music several times. I guess what this reiterates is that the diversity is what makes the multicultural conference so exciting.

What did you learn that was new?

They had an improvisational group come out and perform specialized skits for us while interacting with the audience. They taught us about the effect we have just by the way we talk to others. If we come into a situation negatively, others do not want to engage in conversation. However, if we come in a Christ like manner building each other up and offering positive reinforcement then others will be encouraged to participate. Then we will have diversity in ideas. We practiced inviting others into conversation. When we invite a person into a conversation, they are more apt to feel free to participate.

What tools did you acquire that could be shared with the Presbytery?

They showed a video “Innovation at the Verge”. It is a great teaching video, but very expensive. This is a great training tool for Sessions. It is about bringing Diversity together and making ordinary things extraordinary. For example- two products that business ideas combined were wrapping paper and paper bags. The result was something we use today more times than we think about- Gift bags. The point is it takes different perspectives to bring different ideas together. Another video that might be good for the Presbytery was Wealth, Innovation and Diversity by Joel Barker. It showed that when you bring diversity together, it not only benefits the individuals, but many times, it benefits all of society.

Do you have any final thoughts?

We need to look around us and embrace the differences we all have instead of nitpicking on every little thing. Coming out of this conference and the last Presbytery meeting, I am extremely encouraged with the leadership that is stepping up and the same thing is happening at my church. Perseverance has paid off and the Lord is moving us to amazing new things. I hope that we continue to move out and train disciples and leaders who will move us into the next era of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida and not just sit back and be satisfied with the status quo.

Having attended a number of these earlier Conferences, I have grown in my conviction that these Conferences indeed reflect the future of our Denomination. It brought together between three to four hundred persons from across our country, from Canada and as far as Australia.

The multicultural and racial ethnic diversity contributed once again to what was a delightful and enriching experience, around the Theme: “H2O: Deepening Our Faith, Widening Our Culture”.

The theme of “water” flowed throughout the conference, “subverging” and “converging” in “Streams”, replacing the good old workshops. This I thought was different and generally well received by the conferees. Instead of jumping from workshop to workshop, the streams allowed us to remain with a particular theme, chosen from a long list.

The Plenary sessions were spiritually challenging and a blessing and the Panel discussions very engaging. All of these gave further exposition of the Conference Theme.

I have returned home with a renewed commitment to working with our Task Force to assist our Presbytery to become more intentional in reflecting the multiculturalism and diversity which are natural to our area, here in South Florida.

We will strive to do this through continuing the “conversation” which we began at our Presbytery wide Event in last April.

We will endeavor to seek opportunities for engagement with our Regional Groups and with congregations desiring to reach out into their communities with ministries which are inclusive and embracing.

On behalf of the team representing our Presbytery I wish to express sincere thanks for the opportunity and pray we will be able to translate the benefits derived from attending this conference into the service we will offer the churches within our Presbytery.

Rev. Dr. Raymond Anglin
Ascension Peace Presbyterian Church
MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS

The June 13-19, 2010 Miami Shores Presbyterian Church Youth/Adult Mission trip to New Orleans helped two families. Pastor Danny Loffredo, the team leader, and his friend, Jeremy Broughman, worked in one home with the boys, Phil Benedek, Drew and Trey Hanson, Sam Quinn, and Devon Zifferblatt. Renel Noel, Laurie Benedek, and Bill Tenney worked with the girls, Katrina Herrera, Jenna Lilly, and Sarah Rutland at the other house. Each home had an on-site construction manager to ensure our safety and effectiveness in the work we were doing.

We stayed at a former Presbyterian church east of New Orleans. The building is being used by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, an arm of the Presbyterian Church (USA). PDA houses and feeds volunteers from all over the U.S. who come to New Orleans to help hurricane victims.

PDA works in conjunction with an organization called “Project Homecoming.” This program is similar to Habitat for Humanity by the way it does construction work for people in need. The difference is that the latter organization builds houses from the ground up, while “Project Homecoming” focuses on house rehabilitation.

The work we did was a variety of interesting jobs. Working together, but as two separate teams because we were at two different houses, we laid tile, painted inside walls and trim, sanded drywall, installed door thresholds, put in a kitchen counter, installed blinds, stained cabinets, and grouted tile. More skilled work was provided by Jeremy, a contractor, who did electrical work and tiling. Renel, with his plumbing expertise, installed a water heater and sink in the utility room. We took time to befriend our homeowners, who needed our emotional support as well as our physical help.

The two families we helped were among the reported 70,000 families who, after five years, have not been able to get back into their homes and live normally after the area along the Gulf Coast around New Orleans was ravaged by back-to back hurricanes-Katrina and Rita. One of our homeowners was still living in a FEMA trailer parked next to her house. The other family was getting their electricity from a generator.

On top of these difficulties, one of the homeowners had been cheated out of $106,000.00 in insurance money by contractor fraud. Contractor fraud was rampant following Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.
In the evening, we visited the French Quarter, the popular section of downtown New Orleans. There we experienced Jackson Square with the famous equestrian statue of General Andrew Jackson who defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans. We went inside Saint Louis Cathedral, built in the 1700’s in honor of a French king. We saw the Mississippi River and ate New Orleans seafood. We saw the New Orleans Saints Superdome where thousands of people who did not evacuate the city fled for safety and lived for several days under extremely trying and difficult circumstances.

Some of us got a tour of the Ninth Ward and St. Bernard Parish which was hit the hardest by the disastrous flooding. Cement pads marked where houses once stood. Also, they visited a Hurricane Katrina museum.

Bill Tenney, Team Member and MSPC Missions Committee Chair

There they learned the flooding was from Lake Pontchartrain, immediately north of the city and larger than our Lake Okeechobee. A barge broke away from its mooring and crashed through a dike, allowing the water in the lake to enter a canal that fed water directly into the city.

We are pleased that we had this rich experience, and be a part of the efforts of the Presbyterian Church to give hope to the people of New Orleans who have been out of their homes for five years. We have not forgotten them. We will continue to help rebuild this area.

ONLINE SURVEY

Here are the results for our first online survey that appeared in last month’s newsletter “What’s in a Word”.

![Survey Graph]

- Positive
- Negative

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BIRTHDAYS AND ORDINATIONS

Birthdays

07/03  Dr. Kenneth White - MOS  
07/03  Rev. Mary Wright  
07/05  Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz  
07/06  Rev. Daniel Gerhardt - HR  
07/07  Dr. Ronald Hilliard – First, North Palm Beach  
07/14  Dr. Dana Allin - Indian River, Ft. Pierce  
07/15  Dr. Gustavo Astudillo  
07/15  Rev. Thomas Slager  
07/21  Rev. Luis Mercado-Perez  
07/21  Rev. Danny Loffredo - Miami Shores, Miami Shores  
07/28  Rev. Patricia Ashley - HR  
07/29  Rev. James E. McNaull - Palms West, Royal Palm Beach  
07/30  Rev. Pedro Rivera – Sunrise, Miami  
07/31  Rev. Aida Diego  

Ordinations

07/01  Dr. Sam Rutland - Miami Shores, Miami Shores  
07/01  Rev. James Goldsmith – Community, Lauderdale By The Sea  
07/02  Dr. Robert S. Norris  
07/07  Dr. William Stepp  
07/08  Dr. George McIlrath  
07/09  Rev. Pedro Rivera – Sunrise, Miami  
07/09  Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin - Myrtle Grove, Miami  
07/09  Rev. Constance Bright - New Covenant, Miami  
07/10  Rev. Benjamin Davis - HR  
07/10  Rev. Robert Collins – First, Boca Raton  
07/12  Rev. Ricardo Green - MOS  
07/14  Rev. Elias Collado- Palmetto, Miami  
07/15  Dr. Gary Cecil  
07/21  Rev. Roberto Hernandez - HR  
07/22  Rev. John Rice - HR  
07/23  Rev. Dustin Sedlak - Kirk of the Keys, Marathon  
07/26  Dr. Greta Reed - MOS  
07/26  Dr. Timothy Stover – Calvary, Coconut Creek  
07/31  Dr. Angel Ramos  

HURRICANE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND VOLUNTEER GROUP TRAINING SERIES

I would like to thank all of those who have signed up for a Hurricane Property Assessment, the response has been great. For those who haven’t called or emailed, there’s still time to get yours before we get too deep into the season.

We also have some new opportunities coming up in the Disaster office. We would like to start a Presbytery of Tropical Florida Volunteer group training series. There are many training opportunities for training throughout the disaster community and most of these don’t cost anything. It’s another way to have your congregational leaders better trained and prepared for a disaster should one occur. You can phone or email to set up a training or an assessment for your church today.

waycottj@tfpby.org
Learn About The Women Of Faith Award Winners

Four women have been named recipients of the 2010 Women of Faith Awards by the General Assembly Mission Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Reverend Margaret E. Howland, the Reverend Elizabeth Knott, Ms. Elona Street-Stewart and Ms. Joyce Uyeda will be honored at the Women of Faith breakfast, July 4, during the 219th General Assembly (2010) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Minneapolis, Minn.

The Women of Faith Awards were established in 1986 to honor women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) whose lives exemplify their Christian commitment through witness, service and leadership. The theme for this year's awards is “Women with a Peaceful Heart: Guiding Paths of Peace” and therefore honors women who have helped the church grow in its witness and commitment to peacemaking. Read more about these women.

Responding To Spring Flooding

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is responding to flooding that has affected Kentucky and Tennessee. One Great Hour of Sharing [http://www.pcusa.org/oghs/] funds have been provided to help with immediate needs related to the flooding, and members of the PDA National Response Team are working with the Presbytery and PC(USA) congregations, planning long-term recovery efforts. Volunteer work teams and clean up buckets are needed here and in other locations.

Experience The Good Food Revolution

Experience the good food revolution on this road trip from the vibrant small farms of Kentucky to the bustling Eastern Market of Detroit. Visit church and community initiatives along the way and join thousands participating in the historic second U.S. Social Forum. Join this delegation of college students, farmers, musicians, bloggers and other adventurous souls who are part of the Presbyterian Hunger Program network.

Find out how you can help

ECUMENICAL NEWS

World Communion Of Reformed Churches Is Born

More than 80 million Reformed Christians in 108 countries around the world formally united when the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC) approved articles of union and a constitution bringing them together as the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC).

The merger too pace at the Uniting General Council which met June 14-28 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Although the long-awaited merger went through, afternoon discussion on passage of a constitution and by-laws grew lively and took longer than planned over the issue of representation of women on committees and in leadership positions in the new body. Nonetheless, later in the day delegates gathered around tables to sign the documents passed by the Assembly.

Speaking for the Pre-Assembly Women’s Conference, the Rev. Dora Arce-Valentin of the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba, said, “During these past years we have seen many advances in the role and status of women – we must not retreat.”
The underlying tension rose again during consideration of the draft constitution Friday afternoon. After more than 90 minutes of debate, the group amended the document to provide that "wan a church sends four or more delegates (to General Council meetings), half shall be women."

In a related action designed to ensure the participation of youth as well as women, the group increased from two to three the number of delegates accorded to churches with less than 100,000 members. Larger delegations were already mandated to include at least one delegate 30 years of age or younger.

Clifton Kirkpatrick stated that racial justice is "a bedrock commitment" that will go forward, noting that the REC has committed to support of the Accra Confession: Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth, adopted by WARC in 2004 that reaffirms its commitment to global economic and climate justice. I do believe it is God’s intention that we live together in unity and I thank God for this momentous day . . . in which we are not just called to be more cooperative, but to be one in Jesus Christ."

Pete Borgdorff, president of REC, called the day’s events a “construction zone,” proff that God is using all Reformed Christians to “build a new spiritual house for God.”

as reported by Jerry Van Marter, UGC Correspondent, PC(USA)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Bookkeeper Job Description

The Sunrise Presbyterian Church seeks a part-time bookkeeper. Works with the latest versions of Quick Books 2010 and Excel programs (required).

Expectations: This is a one day a week job done on Monday in 5 hours. The hours are:
10 AM to 3 PM

Tasks: Maintain all income and expense records for Church and Academy. Prepare weekly checks to pay bills and payroll every 2 weeks. Provide weekly income/expense summary reports and monthly full financial reports of the Church and Academy through the Pastor and Director.

The person hired will work with the Pastor of the church and Director of the Sunrise Christian Academy and is accountable to the Pastor as head of staff.

Salary (2010) for this position is $20.00 per hour (a Form W-4 is required).

Submit your resume by email to thesunrisechurch@aol.com or fax to 305 821-6068. Address: 18400 NW 68th Avenue, Miami, FL 33015

I was unable to attend the conference due to a serious family issue but kept up with the news on a daily basis. I was very disappointed not to be able to participate but felt that my family needed my pastoral care and attention after being told that my brother-in-law was very ill and in his final days.

On the last day of the conference, Indonesian church musician, Christina Mandang, died from injuries when hit by a car. She was returning to Calvin College campus shortly after 10:00 p.m., following dinner at a local restaurant, when she stepped into the street to avoid a water sprinkler and was hit by a passing car. She was taken to Spectrum-Butterworth hospital where she died early Sunday a.m. Mandang had led daily worship services for the United General Council. She was organist and pianist in church music and worship at Reformed Seminary in Jakarta, Indonesia. We are deeply saddened by the loss and ask you to be in prayer for her family.

Arlene Gordon,
Presbytery Ecumenical Liaison

The person hired will work with the Pastor of the church and Director of the Sunrise Christian Academy and is accountable to the Pastor as head of staff.

Salary (2010) for this position is $20.00 per hour (a Form W-4 is required).

Submit your resume by email to thesunrisechurch@aol.com or fax to 305 821-6068. Address: 18400 NW 68th Avenue, Miami, FL 33015
SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
REPORT ON THE DEMOGRAPHIC
CHARACTERISTICS OF SOUTH EAST FLORIDA -
APRIL 2010

(In this report South Florida refers to Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Treasure Coast refers to Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties. The region made up of both South Florida and Treasure Coast, also referred to as Southeast Florida.)

POPULATION GROWTH

In 2009, Southeast Florida had a population of 6.2 million, larger than 34 of the 50 states. Miami-Dade was the 8th largest county in the nation, Broward was 18th, and Palm Beach was 28th. The 3 make up the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach MSA, the nation’s 7th largest MSA. The rate of growth was higher for all four counties in the Treasure Coast, with St. Lucie County leading the Region at 38.3%. Broward County, which grew by 367,000 in the 1990s, grew by only 143,000 (8.8%) so far this decade.

ORIGIN OF FOREIGN-BORN RESIDENTS

In 2008, 86% of the Metropolitan Area’s 2 million foreign-born residents came from Latin America. That included over a million from the Caribbean, 396,000 from South America and 293,000 from Central America. Countries with the largest number of foreign born in the MSA included Cuba (623,000), Haiti (183,000), Colombia (133,000), Jamaica (114,000), and Nicaragua (91,000). (count before the Haiti earthquake) Other countries with a significant presence in 2008 included Honduras, Venezuela, Peru, Mexico and the Dominican Republic, each with more than 50,000 residents.

COMPONENTS OF GROWTH

During the first nine years of this decade (2000-09) Southeast Florida: Added almost 209,000 new residents through natural growth (births minus deaths), mostly in Miami-Dade (133,000) and Broward (66,000). Added over 537,000 residents through international migration, led by Miami-Dade (329,000) and Broward (128,000); the Treasure Coast Region also added 76,000 new residents through international migration, led by Palm Beach County with 65,000. Lost almost 104,000 residents through domestic migration, with South Florida losing 276,000 while the Treasure Coast added 172,000.

CHANGING COMPOSITION - RACE/ETHNICITY

There is enormous diversity within the categories we use to present data on race and ethnicity. In 2008, the race/ethnic composition of Southeast Florida was made up of 37% Hispanic or Latino, 41% non-Hispanic White, 18% non-Hispanic Black or African American, and 4% other non-Hispanic. In 2000, the non-Hispanic White population represented 47% of the regional total, down from 57% in 1990. In other words, the non-Hispanic White population of Southeast Florida ceased to be the majority sometime in the 1990s, due mostly to the growth of the Hispanic population in Miami-Dade County.

Between 2000 and 2008 there was continued rapid growth of the Hispanic (477,000) and non-Hispanic Black or African American (153,000) populations in Southeast Florida and an absolute decrease in the non-Hispanic White population (-129,000). With this, the Hispanic or Latino population rose to 37% of the total, while the White non-Hispanic population declined to 41%.

By 2005, Broward had joined Miami-Dade as a “majority minority” county, and minorities continued to increase their share in every other county in the region.

The race/ethnic composition of public school students also suggests future growth in the diversity of the population. For the 2008-09 school year, 40% of the Region’s students were classified
as Hispanic and 29% were non-Hispanic Black or African American; only 25% were non-Hispanic White.

**Changing Composition - Age**

In 2008, compared to the US, Southeast Florida had a higher proportion of elderly residents (65+) – 17.2% vs. 12.8% – and a lower proportion under 35 years of age – 42.1% vs. 47.6%.

In 2008, the median age in Southeast Florida counties ranged from 39.1 in Miami-Dade to 47.5 in Martin, all higher than the US median of 36.9; Florida’s median age in 2008 was 40.3. Median ages were generally higher in the Treasure Coast Region (except St. Lucie), and the lower in South Florida (except Monroe).

Over the next 2 decades, the population 65 and older in Southeast Florida is projected to grow more than any other age cohort, as it absorbs the “baby boom” generation.

The Region's elderly are expected to increase by over 700,000 (68%), to over 1.7 million, rising from 17.0% of the total in 2010 to 24.4% of the total in 2030.

The increase will be more pronounced in the Treasure Coast, where the elderly are projected to represent 31.9% of the total by 2030.

In South Florida, the elderly are projected to reach almost one million (20.7% of the total) in 2030, up from 14.4% in 2010.

**Summary of Growth Trends**

Despite the recent slowdown, Southeast Florida continues to grow at a pace that is faster than the nation as a whole, with higher rates in the north of the Region.

International migration has been the primary source of net growth in the Region for the last 2 decades. Domestic migration also has been substantial, with large numbers of people moving “through” the Region.

Increasing cross-county commuter flows suggest that the regional labor markets, and the regional economy, are increasingly integrated.

The racial and ethnic diversity of the Region’s population continues to increase.

Southeast Florida’s population, and that of the State of Florida, are older than the nation’s. South Florida is younger than Treasure Coast, and is not getting older as fast as the state and the nation.

The demographic data used for this presentation is drawn primarily from the US Census Bureau and the University of Florida’s Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR).

Available population estimates reflect a base of April 2009 (BEBR) or July 2009 (Census).
Skype is a software application that allows users to make voice calls over the Internet. Calls to other users within the Skype service are free, while calls to both traditional landline telephones and mobile phones can be made for a fee using a debit-based user account system. Skype has also become popular for its additional features which include instant messaging, file transfer, and video conferencing.

Here are the steps to install the program on your computer:

1. Visit www.skype.com
2. Select the "Get Skype" tab
3. Your download will start
4. Save the file to your system, making a note of the location and then run it from there (when installing programs it is always best to make sure that no other programs are open). Alternately you can select "Run" to install the program.
5. Follow the online instructions

After installation you can start the program and configure your system. It will walk you through testing your speakers, microphone and camera.
Having completed the configuration you are now ready to contact others that have Skype. The possibilities for the Presbytery are that members who find they are unable to attend a meeting can connect via Skype.
Following God’s call to the Public Schools: 
Meet Jack Wells

In 2008, I heard about an Elder who has a ministry in the public schools. The words Public Schools and Ministry did not seem to go together so I found Jack Wells and asked him about this unique call. He invited me to join him on a school visit to see how it worked. At 7:00 am, I met Jack at a small elementary school in Riviera Beach, just north of West Palm Beach. We were meeting the new principal who was establishing an “encouragement group” for her school. She was aware of the program because she had been a group leader when she was a teacher. We gathered with teachers before class and prayed with them. It was a powerful experience. Recently, I saw Jack and talked to him about his ministry. He said he had just completed seeing 175 schools since January, and did 52 revisits since April.

I found this ministry fascinating, and thought you should meet Jack Wells. In 1992 Jack sensed a call to serve the Palm Beach County Schools and began searching for a way to reach teachers and administrators. At this time, he started hearing about seasoned teachers wanting to leave their vocation before the year had hardly begun. Jack recognized that it was too early in the year for teachers to feel like leaving. This burdened Jack's heart and praying he asked, “What can one man do to make a difference.”

It was at this turning point that Jack felt called to start the unimaginable, to initiate prayer groups for public school teachers and principals. At first, everyone thought he was crazy and no one was offering support. However, Jack knew the law
concerning prayer in schools, knowing that teachers could pray before or after school, and during lunch or planning periods. Jack was confident that this was God’s call and so he continued.

In his first few days, he visited fifteen schools unannounced, persevered, and met with thirteen principals ….he prayed with all thirteen principals. However, he could tell that people were feeling tentative about praying at school. Therefore, he renamed the program calling it “School Life”. When he would ask people if they knew what “School Life” meant they would often say it is a form of insurance and Jack would reply, “Well, sort of”. Soon he called the prayer groups “encouragement groups” and more people joined the program.

Each step of the way Jack has relied on prayer and seeking God’s direction, the results show that God was reaching a group in need. In the first five years, the ministry supported forty-five groups in Palm Beach County. As the ministry became more accepted, the number tripled to 143 groups. Today, 7,000 teachers, 122 principals and 165 schools participate in the program.

Jack is secure in knowing that God continues to direct his path. And, he encourages churches to considering placing their focus on neighboring schools. Jack points out that public school needs after-care programs and support with tutors and counselors. If your church cannot provide some aftercare program, then Jack asks that you pray for schools when you drive pass them.

This month Jack is holding a Celebration Meeting for the team leaders and the principals. The gathering will kick-off the school year and recognize everyone for his or her participation. Jack’s goal is to encourage them in the new school year. Jack’s personal goal for this school-year is to add the 21 schools that do not have an “encouragement group”. It is his renewed call to meet with them, and to give more time to the Charter and Alternative schools.

The results of this ministry are more unified teaching professionals in Palm Beach County. They are supportive of each other and know when someone is facing life’s trials. The District office is aware of Jack’s work and sometimes seeks School Life’s support.

The news of this ministry is spread by word of mouth and some email. Since Jack’s heart surgery, he is relying more on email to reach the team leaders. He uses a simple questionnaire when meeting new teachers and this helps him place them in established groups or to build a new group of encouragement leaders.

After Jack and I talked, he asked me to be sure to point out that this is God’s ministry and he is a servant. I have to agree. It takes a lot of courage to consider bringing prayer on public school property. But this work has reached a special population, one that needs prayer as they guide our children’s future. Parents in Palm Beach County can be thankful for the work and calling of this ministry. Keep this ministry in your prayer.

Jack Wells, is an ordained elder and been in the PCUSA since 1982 (currently attending Memorial Presbyterian Church) along with his wife Marjorie they have worked and lived in South Florida. Jack was a sports coach for twenty-six years serving as a basketball coach in Key West and at Palm Beach Atlantic University. After he retired, he served on the staff of Fellow Christian Athletes for eight years. He is currently a volunteer as the SE Regional Director of Christian Educators Association International.

You can contact Jack at jackw@schoolife.org or 561-543-1776

Amalie Ash

“What can one man do to make a difference?”
Roofs in Holly Hill
The Presbytery of Tropical Florida Answers the Call

Presbytery Disaster Coordinator, Jeff Waycott and members of the Disaster Committee (Randy Shine and Ted Kowalski) plus other volunteers, will be taking a mission trip to Holly Hill located near Daytona, in Volusia County. Holly Hill had several homes damaged in 2009 storms. The call for volunteers came from our FLAPDAN representative Kathy Broyard. Kathy needed volunteers to complete work on seven roofs before they lose funding August 30 2010. The mission includes several volunteers from Central Presbyterian Church in Miami, Grace Community Church and Glades Presbyterian Church both in Boca Raton.

The volunteers will be working from August 1 to August 6 and will be the guest of the Holly Hill community. The members of VIND, a long/term recovery organization, have retrofitted a church to house the volunteers. The Disaster Committee has approved funding for the fuel and meals. That makes this a free mission trip for all the volunteers. Our thanks go out to all who have supported these efforts for our neighbors in Volusia County, if something happens here, we will have friends not too far away.

Jeff Waycott
Disaster Coordinator

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August Birthdays and Ordinations

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<thead>
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<th>Birthdays</th>
<th>Ordinations</th>
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<tr>
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<td>01 Dr. John Vaughn - HR</td>
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<td>03 Rev. Jose Rivera - HR</td>
<td>01 Dr. Kenneth Smith - MOS</td>
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<td>04 Rev. Kennedy McGowan First, Hollywood</td>
<td>01 Dr. Patrick Shaffer – First, Tequesta</td>
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<td>05 Rev. Donna Wrzeszczz - HR</td>
<td>13 Dr. Raymond Anglin Ascension Peace, Lauderhill</td>
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<td>08 Dr. Arlene Gordon - HR</td>
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<td>15 Rev. Shirley Saunders First, West Palm Beach</td>
<td>24 Rev. John Kirkham - HR</td>
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<td>25 Rev. Maria Luisa Hernandez - HR</td>
<td>25 Dr. Richard E. Neumann - HR Palm City, Palm City</td>
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<td>26 Rev. Pierre DuBose - HR</td>
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<td>28 Dr. Thomas Culberson - HR</td>
<td>28 Rev. Pamela H. Barras - MOS</td>
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<td>29 Rev. Jack Noble First [Pink Church], Pompano Beach</td>
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Employment Opportunities

The Presbytery of Long Island is currently seeking candidates for General Presbyter. The complete Church (Presbytery) Information Form as well as Position/Person description is available on the PCUSA Opportunities List. Their search is in the early phase and will remain open up to September 15. All referrals can be sent to The Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Hoyt Duncan, GP Search Committee Chair fpcnpastor@optonline.net
Prayers, Joys and Concerns

Your prayers are requested for:

- PDA Mission to Daytona for roof repairs
- Victor Blandford’s Mission trip to Nicaragua; The Clewiston church is joining the American Nicaraguan Nurses Foundation for mission to hospitals and schools July 28, 2010 to August 7.
- Randy and Carrie Bare at their son’s wedding on the West Coast
- TFPBY Seminarians taking Ordination Exams August 27 and 28.
- The hungry and unemployed in Southeast Florida
- Jim Colvert, undergoing total hip replacement on August 3rd
- Arlene Gordon and family on the death of her brother-in-law
- Retired pastors’ health and well-being.

Hallelujahs

- The newest member of the Presbytery: Dustin and Caitlin Sedlak’s Miss Caiden Grace Sedlak born on June 9th.
- Welcome Pastor Chuck Denison (First, Stuart) to the Presbytery of Tropical Florida.
- For all the Pastors taking much needed vacations
- For the diligent work by our GA Commissioners
- For spreading the gospel during this summers mission trips

From the Treasurer

Thanks to the 43 churches that have paid their full per capita for 2010. We have only two churches who have not paid any of their per capita. All other churches (12) are still paying. Thanks again.

We also want to thank all the churches who got their Mission Grant applications in by August 2nd, the cutoff date. We are now circulating them to the committees for approval. After approval grants will be placed in line for funding when Coral Gables funds become available.

Marge Hellgren

Unity and Reformed Heritage Seminar

March 21-28, 2011 Geneva, Switzerland

The 2011 Unity & Reformed Heritage Seminar will be held at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, headquarters International Centre. Both locations provide easy access to the city of Geneva, including the United Nations, St. Peter’s Cathedral and the Old City, historic sites and other attractions. This educational trip to Geneva is designed to broaden our understanding on theological, social & economical global issues, such as: interfaith dialogue, evangelism, globalization, church unity, justice and peace, ecumenical dialogue, the Reformed faith in the 21st century, among others, and worship.

A one-day visit is scheduled to the WCC Ecumenical Institute – Chateau de Bossey – in a lovely rural setting twelve miles from Geneva. A city tour, a visit to the Museum of the Reformation and one full-day tour to Gruyeres and the old city of Lausanne is also included. The Seminar begins with lunch on Monday and concludes with dinner on Sunday. Sponsored by: The Office of the General Assembly - For additional information: http://www.pcusa.org/dear/unity-seminar.htm
Rev. Dr. Nigel Leon Lovell-Martin was installed as Pastor of Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church on Sunday, July 25th before a congregation including members of the Church and Presbytery. In delivering his sermon, Rev. Dr. Raymond Anglin noted he had also preached when Rev. Lovell-Martin was elected and installed as Myrtle Grove’s Designated Pastor on April 19th, 1998.

Serving on the Installation Commission were Elder Mary Newman (chair), Elder Marge Hellgren, Rev. Diane Shoaf, Rev. Connie Bright, Rev. Dr. Audley Reid and Elder Alfred Campbell. It was a very meaningful event in the life of the church which was joyously celebrated. We give thanks and congratulate Dr. Lovell-Martin and Myrtle Grove for this wonderful and flourishing partnership between pastor and congregation.

As some may not know, the collection taken at ordinations and installations support future pastors through the Theological Education Fund (25 % goes to Louisville and 75% is retained in our Presbytery).

Candidates, Inquirers and Seminarians

Send us updates or reflections and let us know what you are doing at school.

✓ **Benefits:** There is health insurance plan available at the Board of Pensions for students. Go to the website for details [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org) (Lifestages & Events, Attending Seminary)

✓ **Scholarships:** Go to Synod [www.synodofsouthatlantic.org/synodprograms.html](http://www.synodofsouthatlantic.org/synodprograms.html)

✓ **Hebrew and Greek fonts:** The Society for Biblical Literature (SBL) site has free software for Hebrew and Greek fonts including a schematic keyboard for the fonts. This is very helpful for Exegesis Exam.
  - [http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/biblicalfonts.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/biblicalfonts.aspx)
Watch for the Launch

Look for the launch of the new Presbytery website this month.

Thanks to Delphia, the Presbytery’s webmaster, who has worked diligently to meet the projected August launch. I am pleased that we are launching a new site in record time.

It began in June when we started reviewing other Presbytery websites. Delphia started researching the current trends in web design and readability. Once we had a few concepts, Delphia created a diagram on the board (in the Presbytery office) so visitors could offer suggestions. The result is a website that is an informative resource for you, and for visitors to learn about the Presbyterian churches in SE Florida. The new site is designed to be frequently updated as the new vision unfolds in the Presbytery.

Check it out and know that we continue to welcome your comments and suggestions.

Attention: Supply Pastors

To help you get more invitations to preach we will put your Bio and Photo on the new website.
Please send your Bio (and if you have a photo) to Shari or Amalie at the Presbytery Office.
As we receive your submission, Delphia will add it to the Supply Pastors page.

Illuminating the Ministry of Your Lay Community

Do you have an Elder or lay person who is doing a special ministry?
Send us their names, and a quick description about their ministry. We want to know about their work, and share with others their dedication and service. We will share their stories in the newsletter or website.

Pastor’s Oasis

If you are traveling along I-95 and need a break stop by the newly refurbished Presbytery office. There are pastor workstations available with phones; Wi-Fi or computers hooked up for checking email; a private soundproof pastoral room for private conversations; Shari’s hot coffee, and a fridge with cold drinks. No, we did not move, but we have been busy making the office a center for you to use.

Thanks to the FRC who renegotiated the office lease to save the Presbytery much needed monies. For their negotiations included new carpet, paint and repairs. The work inspired us to put some “spit and polish” on the place. Moreover, to make a home for weary interstate traveling pastors needing a place to meet.

Try us; we are better than Starbucks!
Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2010

On July 20 youth and adults from all across the U.S. and all around the world descended on Purdue University, the site of the Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT). PYT is an event sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches (CPC and CPCA) for the purpose of gathering Presbyterian and Reformed young people together for worship, prayer, play and community.

Event staff were expecting 3,500 (due to the economy) and were pleasantly surprised with this year’s registration of 5010. 4200 participants attended Triennium 2007. Presbytery Adult Advisors accompanying our delegation were Rev. Shirley Saunders and Rev. Robert Coleman. Tropical Florida’s delegation of five were Erika Oakvik from 1st Fort Lauderdale; Emily Toupin and Carolyn Quigley from 1st Tequesta; Iman Taylor and Demetrius Boatwright from Ascension Peace. We hope to be able to share reports of their experiences with you in the September packet.

Additional information, photos, and news releases are available at www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org on Twitter at @PYT2010 or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Triennium

Special Discount for Tropical Florida Presbytery Churches

Does your bottled water cost your church more than $17.00 a month?

The Presbytery office has switched to a bottle-less water dispenser to be better stewards of the environment and to reduce costs.

After researching the various providers, we negotiated with Culligan a money saving contract. In the process of the negotiations, we arranged for the churches in the Presbytery to have the same pricing. The bottle-less dispenser needs to be reasonably accessible to your water (kitchen or bath sink). A small cartridge is attached under the sink, which filters the water. The dispenser gives you cold, tepid, and instant hot water.

There is no cost for installation and they service the dispenser annually.

So, if your bottled water is costing your church more than $17.00 a month give Dave Earp a call; tell him you are with the Presbytery.

Culligan Contact:
Dave Earp, Supervisor    phone 561-966-933
dave.earp@culligan.com
cell:  561-718-7592

CONTACT US
Presbytery of Tropical Florida
440 E. Sample Road,
Suite 208
Pompano Beach, FL 33064
Phone: (954) 785/2220
Fax: (954) 785/1983

E-Mail: center@tfpby.org
Website: www.tfpby.org

PRESBYTERY STAFF
Presbytery Administrator
Interim Stated Clerk
Executive Assistant
Financial Administrator
Communications Specialist
Coordinator for Disaster Recovery
HAE

Amalie Ash
Rev. Michel Yonts
Shari Lowe
Susan Carpenter
Delphia Sullivan
Jeff Waycott
George Wilson
Items Available at the Presbytery Office:

If interested in any of the following items, please come to the Presbytery Office and make it yours by giving a donation to the hunger program. No offer will be refused.

- Blonde wood candle stand 44" high (good condition with new candle)
- 2 brass candle snuffers (new polishing)
- HP laser 1000 deskjet printer
- Church color paraments (some wear)
  - red, purple, green, white
  - blue (Christmas) design
- Murphy pastor’s robe – black with black velvet trim
  - no size indicated would fit large man (good condition)
- Collegiate black PhD robe (size 55)
- Collegiate black PhD robe (medium) worn but still usable
- Lap Top Bags:
  - Targus 16 x 11
  - No brand 15 x 11
- RCA TV 19" w VCR built in (remote control & manual)
- Go Video VHS & DVD player (remote control & manual)
- Impression Desk Top Binding System with supplies
- I Box Strap Pack – plastic ties (good for mission trips)
- Nordic Ware faucet filter
- 90-minute audio cassette tapes (15)
- Miscellaneous: labels, office supplies, desk top file stands (1 plastic, 2 metal)
BACK TO SCHOOL

September correlates with new beginnings; it is the season for schools to restart. Public and private school, Sunday school, college, continuing education, and a myriad of programs from computer to photography classes are issuing their fall schedule. It is a time of change, of renewal, a time of self-improvement. All ages should be encouraged to go to school; it is a place to meet new people, to exercise the brain, and to reinvigorate ones self-esteem.

Consider bringing “school” to your church. Short courses that enhance the community and builds relationships could include photographers to give tips on nature photography, birding experts to lead a bird watching day, or storytelling instructors. The Red Cross has courses for care giving, babysitting and CPR. Check your local community schools for someone that teaches art as a spiritual journey; meditation instructors to help quiet the mind and hear the Spirit; or journaling ones prayers and spirituality.

Remember that leaving for school can be a difficult time. Parents with college-aged children maybe experiencing a level of grief and loss, try to reach out to them. First year college students could be feeling disconnected. Encourage your college students to find their college Christian center. Florida State Univ, Clemson, Duke, and others have Presbyterian student centers. These centers, and campus churches, offer a safe place to connect and a home cooked meal. Suggest to the Outreach Committee to send college students greeting cards and “goodie boxes” during the year, this helps keep the students connected to their home church.

What about you? This could be your time to learn how to publish your novel, to speak a new language, ballroom dance, swing a golf club, or SCUBA dive. This could be the September for you to check off items on your life’s “bucket list”. Consider refreshing yourself with some new recreation, some new idea, it will reflect in your ministry and in your relationships.

Finally celebrate the new beginnings of September by attending the Presbytery Meeting (September 21). Come be a part of the new vision, begin educating yourself on the results of the GA, and spend time with your colleagues as we begin moving our churches into a fruitful future.

PRESBYTERY PACKETS

Packets will be mailed to churches on the 9th and posted on the website www.tfpby.org. Churches are reminded to copy the packet for their clergy and elder commissioners.

Please call Community PC to make your lunch reservation(s) as soon as possible (no need to wait until the packet goes out!). As a reminder, the Presbytery voted at the May meeting to raise the lunch cost to $8 per person effective with the September 2010 meeting. Phone 954-427-0222

If no reservation is made, cost at the door will be $10. Please make your reservation, review your packet when received, come to Presbytery and stay until adjournment. It would be a tremendous blessing!
FOR PARENTS: TWELVE SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR CHILD’S ACADEMIC SUCCESS

1. Display a genuine interest in your child’s school day – talk about their progress and their struggles.
2. Celebrate your child’s success and encourage them as they learn.
3. Realize learning takes time.
4. Review your child’s school materials, see what they are reading, appreciate their homework and artwork.
5. Provide an quiet area for your child to study.
6. Encourage a balance of school and outside activities or play.
7. Project a positive attitude about school and the value of education.
8. Be a partner with your child’s teacher. Communicate with the teacher often; respect their profession and their insight.
9. Participate in school events and projects.
10. Avoid criticizing the teacher or the school; this could have a negative impact on your child.
11. Make sure your child has a good night’s sleep and a good breakfast before coming to school.
12. Pray for your child’s school day, the teacher and the school.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: WEBINAR ON STEWARDSHIP FROM PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK

Jesus unbound Lazarus from the tomb - he called him from death to life. Our culture of plenty binds us. The attitude that ‘more is better’ governs our lives. Reclaim the Spirit’s power in our lives.

Calling pastors, elders, stewardship committee members! Learn to unlock the generosity of your fellow church members! Take this opportunity to explore how we can UNBIND OUR GENEROSITY - UNBIND THE GENEROSITY OF OUR FELLOW CHURCH MEMBERS, TOO! -- and make a difference with the lives that we have been given.

Our Webinar leader will be Laura Mendenhall, senior philanthropy advisor for the Texas Presbyterian Foundation; former president of Columbia Theological Seminary, and former pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas.

Just $29.95 for an hour-long Webinar - Tuesday, September 21 at 2:00 pm EDT, 11:00 am PDT.

Click here to sign up today!!

PS - If this time does not fit into your schedule, check back a day or two later to purchase the Webinar for download into your computer to view at your convenience.

Jack Haberer, Editor The Presbyterian Outlook, www.pres-outlook.org

MOTHER’S VOICE CALMS STRESS

A new study confirms an observation that has been noted for millennia – that a simple conversation with mother will calm the nerves of preteen girls. Researchers discovered the phone call triggers the release of a powerful stress-quelling hormone.

Leslie Seltzer, a University of Wisconsin-Madison biological anthropologist, tested a group of seven- to 12-year-old girls with an impromptu speech and series of math problems in front of a panel of strangers, sending their hearts racing and levels of cortisol – a hormone associated with stress – soaring. “Facing a challenge like that, being evaluated raises stress levels for a lot of people,” says Seth Pollak, psychology professor and director of UW-Madison’s Child Emotion Lab.

Once stressed, one third of the girls were comforted in person by their mothers – specifically with hugs, an arm around the shoulders and the like. One third was left to watch an emotionally neutral 75-minute video. The rest were handed a telephone. It was mom on the line, and the effect was dramatic.

“The children who got to interact with their mothers had virtually the same hormonal response, whether they interacted in person or over the phone,” Seltzer says. The girls’ levels of oxytocin, often called the “love hormone” and strongly associated with emotional bonding, rose significantly and the stress-marking cortisol washed away. “It was understood that oxytocin release in the context of social bonding usually required physical contact,” Seltzer says. “But it’s clear from these results that a mother’s voice can have the same effect as a hug, even if they’re not standing there.”

By RICK NAUERT PHD SENIOR NEWS EDITOR
Reviewed by John M. Grohol, Psy.D. on May 14, 2010
University of Wisconsin-Madison
MISSION IN ACTION: LOCAL CHURCH ADVANCES ITS HEALTH MINISTRY

Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church is promoting wellness through a ministry of health.

The Miami Gardens congregation provides the community and its congregants with continuing education on non-communicable and communicable disease processes.

Weekly consultations are held with persons seeking disease prevention information and counseling, blood pressure checks and weight screenings. In cases where individuals are referred to their primary care provider for attention, the Parish Nurse follows up to ensure that each individual is following through on their doctor’s advice.

The program began in 2004 with a health fair and has continued with a series of quarterly information sessions on non-communicable diseases processes, which is facilitated by Elder Barbara Blythe-Martin, registered nurse, and member of the congregation. Resource persons with specific expertise are also invited to resource the discussions, among them have been staff from Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, Broward College’s Department of Nursing, and Nova Southeastern University.

With a grant from the Coral Gables Fund, the program expanded its services in 2009 by acquiring equipment, literature, and a permanent space at the church. The program now offers weekly educational classes on a range of topics.

Through a partnership with the community agency Independent Living Systems the program has provided three eight-week facilitated discussion workshops for older adults (55+ Years) and caregivers of older adults. Thirty-one participants have successfully completed the workshops. Participants were drawn from the church and the community.

The first workshop on Matter of Balance was an eight-week program and provided education on fall risk factors and fall prevention. Standing and chair exercises were conducted to build strength. The second workshop on Chronic Disease Self Management focused on arthritis, hypertension, depression, risk factors, prevention and advance directives. The program covered daily achievable goals for disease prevention. The third workshop on Diabetes Self Management began on August 25. This class is covering risk factors of diabetes and control, and daily achievable goals to manage the disease. For more information on the program, send inquiries to blymar@yahoo.com

REFLECTION

Praise the Source of Faith and Learning By Thomas Troeger

Praise the source of faith and learning that has sparked and stoked the mind with a passion for discerning how the world has been designed.
Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray.
As two currents in a river fight each other’s undertow till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow; blend, O God, our faith and learning till they carve a single course, till they join as one, returning praise and things to you, their Source.

(from Sing the Faith Songbook #2004)
CREATIVE MINISTRY PROJECTS

When I am visiting churches, I like to remember things that can be shared with other churches. I found a church with a program for finding money. I am an Elder on Session and frequently we are caught up in money. It seems there never is enough to do the missions and ministries that we want to. In doing my Hurricane Assessments, I have encountered a Church that has taken the fund question out of the picture and allows their members to do all kinds of ministries in their community without having to worry about funding them.

Community Presbyterian Church in Lauderdale by the Sea has been acquiring grant moneys from various private companies to do all kinds of projects. In order to be eligible for the grants they had to start a separate 501C3 corporation because it has to be detached from the church. There are all kinds of companies who are looking to give moneys to projects just like the ones I will describe. From Home Depot to Target the church has been able to fund projects such as:

- Funding a Garden for a Mentally Challenged Men’s home;
- Feeding the homeless;
- feeding foster children breakfast and lunch through the summer;
- working with the Elderly and one of the Pharmacies

The list goes on and on.

This Church is extremely creative in its ministry projects and I think we can all learn from them. The proof is on the Pastor’s face! As I talked to Pastor Goldsmith, the more he talked about what they were doing in the community around them the more filled with the Spirit he got. The members of the church go out into the community to be the hands and feet of Christ and in return they come back filled with the Holy Spirit and getting creative with funding has given them the avenue to do that.

Jeff Waycott

EDITORIAL: KEEP KNOCKING ON DOORS

When I came to Florida in 1955 we had eight people my first morning in an Elementary School auditorium. We obviously could not sit around and wait for people to come; we went after them. We lived with "No, No and more No’s" and we just kept knocking on doors and setting up programs secular, sacred and a combination of the two. And while he percentage of "Yeses" was not what we wanted it to be, we were using a shotgun rather than a one shot BB rifle.

We had Prayer Meetings and Olympics, Bible Studies and an Annual Palmetto Super Bowl. We gathered for retreats on a weekend and square dancing on a Saturday night. We had the traditional Men’s Dinners and Women’s Meetings.

We had the nontraditional Operation Talkback on Sunday morning where the people could put a question in the offering plate or stand up and challenge or ask questions about what I had just preached. (We did this in the chapel and about 90 people would attend on Sunday (1/4 of our attendance) but those 90 people loved the redesigned service. It worked for them. And, yes, it worked in spreading the word of the Lord.

We stood on the balcony and watched when new folk would come. Before they could reach the church doors, someone greeted them and welcomed them, and welcomed them again before they left. We put on plays and outside dramas and had a call in phone (One A Day, Your Spiritual Vitamins, message on the tape, changed each day). We loved the Lord and we loved them but we knew we could not keep it a secret. When I left, our original eight was pushing toward 800.

I did a weekly radio show that was broadcast on Sunday morning (which could be said to be in competition with my live service). We did not measure how many people an idea brought in to the church membership; but rather, whether if it would reach one person. It was well worth our effort. Pure and simple, if the people of a church care and show it with action, a church will grow.

Rev. Neil Wyrick
**PRAYERS, JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Prayers**
- For this Presbytery as we enter into discussion and discernment for the Amendments to the Book of Order
- Presbyteries and ministers in the Yucatan, Puerto Rico and Cuba
- Missions and Missionaries sharing the ministry to others
- For churches seeking new pastors and educators
- Candidates seeking their first call
- For caregivers in hospitals, hospice, and homes and for families caring for a loved one
- For educators, counselors, and coaches who are guiding our youth.
- For our children, youth and young adults entering school
- For our service men and women returning from Iraq to find jobs and regain wholeness in their lives
- For our armed forces and allies who remain on foreign soil.

**Joy -** Congratulations to Rev Kennedy McGowan and Chantal McGowan who were married August 14th

Remembering **Rev. Egidio Ramos, 1919-2010** Rev. Ramos was born in Cuba and became a member of the Presbyterian Church during his adolescent years. He was among the first group of students from the Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Matanzas and was ordained in 1950. His pastoral life was intense. He performed his ministerial work throughout several cities in Cuba, leaving traces of his love for others, his attention to the elderly and invalids, as well as his inspirational example of humility. Rev. Ramos came to the United States in 1964, where he served as associate pastor in the Visitacion Ministry at the First Spanish in Miami, FL, where he is still remembered for his dedication and effective pastoral spirit. Subsequently, he served in Puerto Rico, Vineland, NJ and in Philadelphia, PA, returning to Miami a few years before retiring. We give thanks for the life of Egidio Ramos, a man dedicated to God, with a profound spirit of service, a kind character, a holy humility, a contagious sense of humor and with his arms always-wide open to share the sanctity of Christian love. Please keep Zaida, his wife of 60 years; sons, Eiel and Eliu; and their families in your prayers.

**BIRTHDAYS AND ORDINATIONS**

**Birthdays**
- 10  Dr. Richard E. Neumann - HR
- 10  Rev. Roberto Hernandez - HR
- 17  Rev. Diane Shoaf - MOS
- 18  Dr. George McIlrath - HR
- 21  Rev. Donald Meeder - HR
- 21  Dr. James Colvert - HR
- 23  Rev. V. Neil Wyrick - HR
- 24  Dr. Stephen Sapp - MOS
- 26  Amalie Ash - Presbytery Administrator
- 29  Rev. Ervin Joslin – HR

**Ordinations**
- 01  Rev. Charles Pipes - HR
- 01  Dr. Dwayne Black - HR
- 01  Rev. Douglas Smith - HR
- 07  Dr. Laurie Kraus - Rivera
- 13  Rev. Elizabeth Pankey-Warren - MOS
- 16  Dr. Randall Gill – 1st Boynton Beach
- 21  Dr. Douglas J. Brouwer – 1st Ft. Lauderdale
- 22  Dr. Kirk McCormick – Grace Community
- 29  Dr. Richard B. Anderson - HR
- 30  Dr. Raymond Gamble - HR

**FLOODING IN PAKISTAN**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is working with ecumenical partners to respond to the disaster in Pakistan. One Great Hour of Sharing funds are helping with the provision of the basics — food packages, shelter materials and non-food essentials — for families in need.

Church World Service Pakistan, which has worked in the area for more than five decades, is providing medical teams and mobile health facilities, which are helping to provide emergency health services. PDA funds will help provide emergency food assistance to 35,000 people, emergency shelter supplies to meet the needs of 17,500 people, and mobile health access for 17,500 people. The food packages consist of basics for a family for a month. Shelter kits include a winterized tent and plastic sheeting.

Donations can be made online. Read the Aug. 4 Situation Report from PDA

*Note: An offering for Pakistan relief will be taken at the September 21st Presbytery Meeting*
The Interdenominational Theological Center — a consortium of seminaries in Atlanta that includes Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary — has elected Pittsburgh Theological Seminary faculty member the **Rev. Ronald E. Peters** as its new president. Many of you will remember Rev. Peters served in our Presbytery until he left for Pittsburgh Seminary to teach. Rev. Peters was pastor of New Covenant and served on the Administration Division of Presbytery, which consisted of Personnel, Finance and Stewardship. Rev. Peters has been on the faculty of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS) since 1991 and serves as professor of urban ministry and director of the Metro-Urban Institute. Rev. Peters will begin his duties as President of ITC Sept. 1.

**PROMOTE THE PEACEMAKING OFFERING**

It is time to plan your fall promotion of the Peacemaking Offering (remember your congregation keeps 25 percent of the offering for your peacemaking ministries).

Here are some promotional ideas:

- Send one or more reminders about World Communion Sunday and the Peacemaking Offering to congregation members. Options include sending the brochure “Celebrate Christ, Our Peace” (available in English or Spanish) or a letter (download a sample letter), or writing a reminder for the congregation’s newsletter.

- Place Offering envelopes in the pews and one of the three bulletin inserts, “Ethiopia Set It Off for Me,” Grinding Mills for Sudan and Partners in the Fight against AIDS, in the bulletin on September 12.

- Present a minute for mission about how your congregation will use its 25 percent share of the Offering. On September 19 insert the brochure “Celebrate Christ, Our Peace” in the bulletin if you have not already sent it. Present one of the minutes for missions in the packet, or reproduce one in the bulletin. Remind the congregation how its 25 percent share of the Offering will be used.

- On September 26 place a second bulletin insert in the bulletin. Use the Peacemaking Offering video, "Peace Be With You," in a worship service and other church gatherings. Download it or order it from the Church Store.

- Check the 2010 Peacemaking Offering Order form to see if you need additional materials; call (800) 524-2612 to order.

- The theme for the 2010 Offering is “Celebrate Christ, Our Peace.”

**CONGREGATIONAL TRANSFORMATION CONFERENCE**

The **Congregational Transformation Conference** gathers pastors, lay leaders and middle governing bodies to explore multiple tracks relating to Transformation.

The 2010 Transformation Conference will be held October 18-22, 2010 at the First Presbyterian Church in Ft. Worth, Texas. Leaders include Kevin Ford and Rex Miller. Ann Philbrick, George Bullard, Trey Hammond, Victor Aloyo, Ray Jones and Suzanne Stabile will lead various tracks.

Space is limited – register now!
ECULINK, NCCC ONLINE PUBLICATION, RETURNS

ECULINK, which for decades has kept tens of thousands of ecumenists informed about the mission and ministry of the National Council of Churches and other regional and local ecumenical organizations, is now available as an online publication. Stay up-to-date about the church unity movement and ministries that are important to you by following Eculink at its new address.

Read more.

VATICAN CARDINAL SAYS LACK OF SHARED COMMUNION HIS GREATEST REGRET

The recently retired senior Vatican official responsible for ecumenical affairs has said his biggest regret during his tenure in Rome is that he did not achieve an agreement on a common communion with Protestants.

"Today, there is a lot of convergence. So, we got closer to each other but we could not achieve the final breakthrough. I regret it very much but you cannot push the issue," said Cardinal Walter Kasper, who retired on 1 July as president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Read more

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CENTENNIAL ASSEMBLY "WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS: NEW ERA."

The year 2010 will mark the one hundredth anniversary of the Edinburgh World Mission Conference, an event that is often regarded as the symbolic beginning of the modern ecumenical movement. With this in mind, the boards of the National Council of Churches and Church World Service have called for their 2010 General Assembly - November 9-11 in New Orleans - to be a gathering of the movement, not simply an assembly of these two organizations. Leaders of various partner bodies - in this effort to realize a visible unity of faith, witness and service, have indicated their strong interest in participating in this centennial assembly, including the National Association of Ecumenical and Interreligious Staff (NAEIS), the organization of State Ecumenical Executives (SEE), the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Canadian Council of Churches, the Caribbean Council of Churches, the World Student Christian Federation, and the U.S. Conference of the World Council of Churches. Representatives from several of these are serving on the Centennial Assembly planning committee, further signifying the distinctive character of this gathering.

Arlene Gordon, as a General Assembly delegate to the National Council of Churches and a member of the Ecumenical Networks Committee of NCC will attend the conference.

JAMAICA: BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE

The International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (EPC) in the Jamaican capital Kingston in May 2011 will be a testimony of solidarity for the culture of the peace that churches are trying to building on the island, says the Rev. Dr. Paul Gardner, the president of the Jamaica Council of Churches, one of the events hosts.

"It will give enthusiasm and momentum to the groups that are working assiduously for peace in the various communities, that's what I think it will do to Jamaica," said Garner, who has been president of the Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Island since 2005 and was elected president of the worldwide Moravian Church in 2008.

PLAN FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Plan now to celebrate the International Day of Peace on September 21. This day is set by the United Nations General assembly as the International Day of Peace - a day when the world is called to observe a ceasefire, practice nonviolence, and reflect on the benefits of peacefully resolving disputes.
SEMINARIANS: REVAMPED INTERNSHIP PROGRAM SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN JANUARY 2011

Internships for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness are a major priority as the Washington Office offers opportunities for young adults to appreciate and understand the work of church-based advocacy for public policy. The office is developing a justice-based theological focus that will provide biblical and practical analysis for persons entering the program.

Opportunities for pastors to spend their sabbaticals learning in the Office of Public Witness will also be available in 2011. Persons interested in sponsoring an intern or applying for either the internship program or the Pastor Sabbatical Program may contact Leslie Woods by email or phone at (202) 543-1126. More information will be available in September.

WHO IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE?

Christian Vocation affirms the need for all baptized Christians in general – Presbyterians in particular – to identify and claim our call to discipleship as reflected in each decision and life choice. While occupation may only be a portion of our call as disciples, the programmatic emphasis for the Sunday before Labor Day – September 5 – is appropriately, Christian Vocation Sunday. Find options for including this programmatic emphasis in the worship and activities of your congregation on the Christian Vocation website.

Young people will also have an opportunity to explore who God is calling them to be at three regional PATHWAYS events this fall. These unique, one-day programs – to be held September 18 in Denver, September 25 in Boston, and October 16 in Cleveland – are designed to provide an opportunity for vocational discernment as well as theological and practical training for volunteer youth leaders, pastors, and youth directors, while offering a parallel track for youth, grades 9-12, who are themselves leaders in their congregations.

Visit the PATHWAYS website to register or learn more.

MISSION GIVING RESOURCE PACKET COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Every PC (USA) congregation will be sent a packet in September that is intended to help sessions make decisions about mission giving in the coming year. Included will be a copy of the 2010–2011 Presbyterian World Mission Giving Opportunities catalog, a publication that will contain information about every long-term PC(USA) mission worker serving internationally and stories of our church’s involvement around the world.

Congregations will have the opportunity to select a mission worker(s) to support through directed gifts and prayers. Congregations often develop long-term relationships with these mission workers that are nurtured by exchanging correspondence. The packets also will include material promoting Shared Mission Support, a funding source that is crucial to the church’s common witness and mission in the United States and around the world. These unrestricted dollars undergird the work of presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly Mission Council. For additional information, please email or call Mary Ruth Phares at (800) 728-7228, x5611.

CELEBRATE EVANGELISM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2010

Follow the timeline for the Evangelism Sunday campaign “that they may know… Christ and our lives.” Develop prayer and Servant Saturday leadership teams now. Download resources including the Skateboarding Evangelism and Shared Christmas Evangelism videos as examples of how Christ is made known as “churches engage their communities” with God’s love.

Download the worship packet now

HOST A SERRV* HANDCRAFT SALE THIS FALL!

Your church can change lives and bring meaningful holiday gifts to your congregation with a fun, community-building event. By purchasing unique handcrafts from SERRV, your church provides opportunity for the low-income artisans who create them. Handcraft Sales are a powerful reminder that together, we can build a positive global community and promote real change for the better. The SERRV consignment program means your sale is risk-free. To request a free, No-obligation SERRV Sale information packet with a handcraft catalog, please call 1-800-423-0071. www.serrv.org

*SERRV is a nonprofit organization with 60 years of experience in alternative trade and development work.
**Looking for a way to boost mission support without impacting a tight church budget?**

Regardless of whether you have a sizable mission budget or are agonizing over cutting mission giving, Alternative Giving is an easy way to encourage mission support.

*What is Alternative Giving?* Alternative Giving is a form of gift giving where the donor donates to a charitable organization instead of buying a tangible gift for the recipient. The organization then provides an “alternative gift” certificate or card for the recipient telling them of the project supported through the gift.

*Why Alternative Giving?* Some people feel that Christmas has become too commercial, and they do not want or need more ‘stuff’. For others the work of a mission organization or project is dear to their heart. Alternative Giving is a practical solution to the dilemma of wanting to give a gift to someone special whose gift preferences are unknown or when material gifts seem trivial or inappropriate.

Medical Benevolence Foundation has materials to help you promote Alternative Giving in your church, both at Christmas and throughout the year. *Simple Gifts of Hope* catalogs with more than 25 suggested medical mission gifts, as well as Christmas cards or all-occasion cards are a few of the items provided free of charge.

For more information on including MBF in your Alternative Christmas Giving or to find out more about promoting Alternative Giving in your church, contact Molly Wyenberg, Alternative Giving Coordinator, mwwenberg@mbfoundation.org, 800-547-7627, ext. 120 or visit the Medical Benevolence Foundation website at [www.mbfoundation.org](http://www.mbfoundation.org).

Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) is a PC (USA) validated mission organization. MBF supports PC (USA) medical mission personnel.

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**Regional Event October 14-16, 2010**

The Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators in the Synods of South Atlantic and Puerto Rico has sponsored regional events every two years over the past decade. These events are designed for the continuing education of all educators and pastors in our synod, especially those who are not able to attend the APCE Annual Event. This year’s event is following a new format – a more limited “workshop-style” event on a cutting-edge topic: “Brain Research and Spirituality”. Understanding that continuing education funds for educators and other church staff have been cut completely or drastically reduced, the cost of this event has been kept very low.

**Registration:** $75.00

**Meals on your own:** available for modest cost at Columbia Theological Seminary

Housing: Limited number* of motel-style rooms available at Harrington Center @ $32/double; $49/single

Register online at [www.apcesoap.org](http://www.apcesoap.org)

For additional information, contact Tom Malone: 864-457-7144

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**OUTREACH: CLEANING FOR A REASON**

If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning - one time per month for 4 months while she is in treatment.

All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women.

It is our job to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there that care. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along.

How important is a Back Pack?
A backpack lets the teacher know this child is prepared.
A backpack lets a child know that they are ready for school
A backpack gives a child a feeling of “likeness” with others

In late August, the Presbytery Office stuffed a hundred plus backpacks for Haitian Earthquake refugee children. The backpacks were distributed to children from PreK to High School at All Nations Church. Rev Jonas Georges and his team distributed them when the parent or guardian provided documentation that the child was an earthquake refugee. This was a test to see if we could identify these children for a larger project, we hope to create with the PDA.

OUTREACH TOOL

The Presbytery Office has ordered copies of the special issue of Presbyterians Today: An introduction to all things Presbyterian. It is an excellent handout for visitors. We will have copies for your church at the Presbytery Meeting September 21.

http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/today/guide-all-things-presbyterian/

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

THIS MONTH ON THE WEB

Creative Ministries
Spotlighting Kirk of the Keys, summer 2010

Additional Pages have been added to the Disaster Response Section, which include:

- The Eagles Wings Foundation
- Training Opportunities
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Hurricane Assessments

Disaster Committee Tool Crib
IT HAPPENED AT PRESBYTERY

The way Presbytery meetings are conducted is changing! We are moving from a corporate business style meeting to a worship/edification style meeting, and it is quite exciting. Gone are the long, admittedly boring, reports – all committee reports are now streamlined so that we are more about doing and facilitating ministry than administratively conducting business. Our meeting of September 21 was held at Community Presbyterian Church of Deerfield Beach, a beautiful setting where we were warmly welcomed and graciously (and deliciously) fed. It was a day of education, sometimes intense debate, and significant action. These are just a few of the highlights:

- The Presbytery learned of new church developments that are happening. The Presbytery voted to approve the chartering of Central Korean Presbyterian Church (meeting at 1st, Miami), and Committee on Ministry presented their new pastor, the Rev. Junho Kim, who was accepted into the membership of the Presbytery and the denomination. We were also introduced to a Baptist minister, the Rev. Dr. Brown, (trained at a Presbyterian school) who is interested in becoming, along with his congregation, Presbyterian and ministering to the Haitian, African-American, Latino community at the soon to be closed Alta Vista congregation’s site.

- The Presbytery was enriched as the Restructuring Task Force brought its innovative, and as it turned out controversial, report to the floor of Presbytery. After extended discussion, questions, and debate, the Presbytery voted to continue the discussion of this plan in “face-to-face,” Presbytery-wide meeting(s) to receive input and consider alternatives. In the meantime, the Interim Executive Presbyter search process is paused for 3 months and the current Administrator and Interim Stated Clerk staff will be continued until a new staffing pattern is in place.

- In what may indeed be a unique occurrence in our denomination, the Presbytery moved Amalie Ash, our Interim Presbytery Administrator, from the status of Inquirer to that of Candidate.

- The Presbytery was informed of a valuable new resource for mission and demographic studies for the churches of the Presbytery, MissionInsite. We were also invited to Korean Presbyterian Church’s 2010 Miami Mission Conference, October 28-31. And we heard a report from the Statewide Coordinator of the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network.

- Good news! The per capita apportionment for church members for next year will not change – it will remain at $31.30 per member!

- Among the various nominations and elections, one was particularly significant: the Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Magby became our Moderator Elect. She will serve as Presbytery Moderator beginning with the February meeting, 2011.

- Voting deadlines on actions taken by the General Assembly in 2010 are as follows:

Amendments to the Book of Order, including the proposed Form of Government – May 31, 2011; The Belhar Confession – July 9, 2011. The Presbytery of Tropical Florida will be debating and voting on these matters as follows:

- All Amendments to the Book of Order, except the proposed Form of Government – November

- The Proposed Form of Government – February

- The Belhar Confession – May

The entire meeting was surrounded by and interspersed with worship and fellowship.
Prayers, Joys and Concerns

REVIVAL for MIAMI-DADE
“TO BRING PEOPLE CLOSER TO CHRIST”

OCTOBER 15-16 2010
7:00 p.m.

In the Sanctuary
Sunrise Presbyterian Church
18400 NW 68th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33015

Evangelists: Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz
and Rev. Pedro A. Rivera

For Information
Telephone: 305-821-5841
Www.sunrisechurchusa.com

Nursery Care Provided

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
Domingo De Comunhão Mundial
Worship Together
(English and Portuguese)
in
Witness to Our Common Faith in Jesus Christ
Adoração Conjunta (em Português e Inglês)

Community Presbyterian Church
Deerfield Beach
E Igreja Presbiteriana
De Deerfield Beach
(A1A & SE 5th St.)

October 3, 2010 – 10:30 a.m.
3 de Outubro de 2010 - 10:30 da manhã

Birthdays
06 Dr. Virginia Purvis-Smith
07 Rev. John Kirkham
09 Dr. Dwayne Black - HR
09 Dr. David Massey
Plantation Church, Plantation
09 Rev. Jason Hefner
13 Rev. Brace Bateman - MOS
24 Elizabeth Allin - Indian River, Ft. Pierce
25 Dr. Douglas J. Brouwer - First, Ft. Lauderdale
26 Rev. Charles M. Falcone
Community, Hobe Sound
28 Rev. James Kennedy
28 Rev. Carol Trax - MOS
29 Dr. John Vaughn - HR
30 Rev. Norman Dalton

Ordinations
01 Rev. Robert Palisin - HR
01 Rev. Jason Hefner
05 Dr. Dennis Andrews
Community, Deerfield Beach
15 Rev. Rosalia Orta - MOS
16 Rev. Cornelius Kostrub – Glades, Boca Raton
18 Rev. Jeffrey Binder- First, Tequesta
19 Rev. Brad Klostreich - Palm City, Palm City
22 Rev. Charles M. Falcone
Community, Hobe Sound
24 Dr. David P. Welton - MOS
25 Dr. Virginia Purvis-Smith
28 Rev. Aaron Janklow – First, Delray Beach
29 Rev. Walter Arnold III- First, North Palm Beach
30 Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz
Rev. Donna Wrzeszcz
Dr. Jonathan Swanson – Central, Miami
PASTORS – ARE YOUR TREASURERS READY FOR THE END OF THE YEAR?

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS
IRS Publication 1771, Charitable Contributions – Substantiation and Disclosure Requirements states
• A donor must have a bank record or written communication from a charity for any monetary contribution before the donor can claim a charitable contribution on his/her federal income tax return
• A donor is responsible for obtaining a written acknowledgement from a charity for a single contribution of $250 or more before the donor can claim a charitable contribution on his/her federal income tax return

Single donations of $250 or more
Single donations of $250 or more MUST be acknowledged by a written statement. A separate acknowledgement can be provided for each single contribution of $250 or more, or one acknowledgement, such as an annual summary, may be used.

Cash donations
ALL cash donations must be acknowledged by a written statement.

WRITTEN ACKNOWLEDGMENT
Please see below the IRS requirements for a written acknowledgement.

Examples of written acknowledgements –
• “Thank you for your cash contribution of $300 that (church name) received on December 12, 2010. No goods or services were provided in return for your contribution.”
• “Thank you for your cash contribution of $350 that (church name) received on May 6, 2010. In exchange for your contribution, we gave you a cookbook with an estimated fair market value of $60.”
Example of an annual summary acknowledgement -

An annual contribution acknowledgement does not have to list every contribution; it can be a letter acknowledging the total for the year. The detail statement above allows the parishioner to verify the contributions.

CONTEMPORANEOUS

The donor must receive the acknowledgement by the earlier of: the date on which the donor actually files his or her federal income tax return for the year of the contribution or the due date of the return. It is best to send the written acknowledgement to donors no later than January 31st of the year following the donation. At the end of the year place in your church bulletin/newsletter a notice advising parishioners NOT to file their taxes until after they have received the contribution statement.

NOT A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION

The donor must absolutely and irrevocably transfer title, dominion, and control over the gift for the gift to be considered a donation. Example - If your church has a capital campaign for a new building and donors are told that the money will be refunded if not used for the intended purpose – THERE IS NO CHARITABLE DONATION.

Those donations should not appear on the annual statement until such time as clear title transfers to the church.

If you have any questions, call Susan Carpenter, Financial Administrator, Presbytery of Tropical Florida.
News and Events

**Fall Presbyterian Youth Event**
“Real Power”
“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”
Philippians 4:13
Date: November 13th, 2010
Time 11:00 a.m.
Place: First Presbyterian, Pompano Beach
Admission: 10 items of non-perishable food per person
Activities: Worship, Small Groups, Deepen your relationship with God, Turkey Bowling and more.

**World Mission**

Have you received your Mission Giving Resource Packet from the GAMC?
A packet has already been mailed to all congregations and presbyteries that will help sessions make decisions about mission giving in the coming year.

Included in this year’s packet:

- a printed World Mission Giving Opportunities catalog
- a flier promoting Shared Mission Support at all levels of the church, which also explains how the General Assembly Mission Council uses its portion of Shared Mission Support
- a flier promoting resources for congregational giving campaigns from our partners at the Ecumenical Stewardship Center
- a flier with information from the Presbyterian Foundation on long-term giving opportunities
- a cover letter explaining the packet and providing instructions on accessing the online searchable listing of giving opportunities

If you have not received a packet contact:
Chris H. Roseland
Phone: (859) 224-8118
chris.roseland@pcusa.org

**Mission to Guatemala**

On November 10th, Jorge Pérez will be traveling on a 5-day medical mission with a team of roughly 100 medical professions and volunteers to serve the less fortunate people in Guatemala. The mission is in great need of both medications and medical supplies.
All mission volunteers are required to pay a mission fee, (used to buy medications and supplies) as well as their travel expenses. If you can help in any way, please contact Jorge Perez.

Ecumenical News

National Council of Churches
Centennial Assembly "Witnesses of These Things: Ecumenical Engagement in a New Era."

The year 2010 will mark the one hundredth anniversary of the Edinburgh World Mission Conference, an event that is often regarded as the symbolic beginning of the modern ecumenical movement. With this in mind, the boards of the National Council of Churches and Church World Service have called for their 2010 General Assembly - November 9-11 in New Orleans - to be a gathering of the movement, not simply an assembly of these two organizations. Leaders of various partner bodies - in this effort to realize a visible unity of faith, witness, and service - have indicated their strong interest in participating in this centennial assembly, including the National Association of Ecumenical and Interreligious Staff (NAEIS), the organization of State Ecumenical Executives (SEE), the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Canadian Council of Churches, the Caribbean Council of Churches, the World Student Christian Federation, and the U.S. Conference of the World Council of Churches. Representatives from several of these are serving on the Centennial Assembly planning committee, further signifying the distinctive character of this gathering.

Read more.

God's Unity. . . Our Journey

A Bible study and reflections on the Ecumenical Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Read more.

Unity & Reformed Heritage Seminar
March 21-28, 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

This educational trip to Geneva is designed to broaden your understanding on theological, social & economical global issues, such as: interfaith dialogue, evangelism, globalization, church unity, justice and peace, ecumenical dialogue, the Reformed faith in the 21st century, among others. Participants will engage the staff of the World Council of Churches, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Oikocredit and other ecumenical organizations based in Geneva. A one-day visit is scheduled to the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey - in a lovely rural
setting outside of Geneva. A city tour, a visit to the Museum of the Reformation & Archeological site and one full day tour to Gruyeres and Lausanne (old city) is also included. This is a great educational opportunity, including time for leisure and relaxation. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of the General Assembly.

Read more.

Employment Opportunity

“Historic - First Presbyterian Church of Miami, Florida with a small congregation seeking to grow, located on fashionable Brickell Avenue, seeks a full-time Temporary Supply pastor immediately. Benefits include spacious, recently renovated, 3-bedroom home located three miles away in Coconut Grove. Please contact the Church Office at (305) 371-3439 or email PIF to info@fpcmiami.org

Information Technology

New on our website
Creative Ministries:
Grace Way Village

Technology Survey
In order to get an idea of your knowledge of different technology areas so that we can improve communications and assistance. We have a mini survey on our website http://www.ttfby.org/survey.html . Please visit the link and fill in the information.

A more user- friendly blog has been setup.
This is Stewardship season for many congregations and I have been thinking about how we are stewards for congregations. Using the definition for stewardship, congregations have been entrusted in our care. How are we stewards for the seekers and for the growth of our congregations.

My first real job was a flight attendant for Eastern Airlines. In 1969, a flight attendant was called a Steward or Stewardess. Many of you know that a Stewardess primary purpose is to get people out of a plane safely in an emergency. This was so important that the first Stewardesses were required to be registered nurses. They were there for the health and care of the passengers. As planes became more advanced and air travel more popular the Stewardess’ job was to provide for the total comfort and safety of the passengers. At 19, I joined a trainee group at the Miami Springs training site. For six weeks, we learned how to get people out of a plane in water, put out fires and jump on inflatable slides. And, we learned to serve 150 people in 3.5 hours a full course meal and cocktails between take off and landings.

I took the job of being entrusted with the lives of others seriously. Stewardess training taught me to be aware of my surroundings; be aware of other people and their needs; be ready for emergencies, and to plan for the unexpected. It taught me to be hospitable even when the person is not so kind; to welcome everyone and thank each one for coming; and to never assume anything, but to check, check, and check again anything that had to do with safety or service.

We are stewards for Christ. We are called to welcome everyone, make them comfortable in their surroundings, to serve them with the bread of our Savior and to feed them with information that will guide them to their destination, knowing Jesus. We need to be aware of their needs and be willing to react to what will make them comfortable and help them on their journey.

As stewards for Christ, we are stewards of the church and the most important door is the Church’s front door. This is where God sends the seekers. How welcoming is your front entrance? How easy is it to find? Take some chairs, sit in front of your church, and critically analyze how it looks to someone driving by? How is your sign, landscaping or do you need some fresh paint? Take a tip from the fast food chains that use red/orange and yellow; two colors that say welcome and hungry. Add some yellow flowering, or yellow leaf plants in front of the church or by the church sign. Help your church building say, “welcome”.

Airlines give more service to the frequent flyer because they want to keep their business. They spend more money on the infrequent flyer in order to get their business. Using this model, how well is your church communicating to the community? Do you have a website? Consider purchasing a mailing list for the surrounding neighborhood and send out a quarterly flyer on your church, welcome them, welcome them, welcome them some more. Is your church near a hotel? Give the concierge or front desk information about worship. Does your congregation include people from another culture? Does your service include a song or words in their language? People may speak English, but often their spirits are moved in their own language. Encourage people to say the Lord’s Prayer in their own language and hear the prayer in many languages. Ask the music director to add a verse in another language. Let you congregation know that they are valued.

As stewards for the Church, we are stewards for Christ, and we are here to welcome, serve, and strive to ensure a meaningful journey.

May you be blessed this month of Thanksgiving, Amalie Ash
Creative Ministry

**Grace Way Village**

John 12:24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

We often hear in our denominational news and in our own Presbytery about the number of churches that are closing. These are often very difficult and painful experiences. Unfortunately, there is often animosity between the small congregational of faithful believers and those who have to make the decision that the ministry of particular congregation will cease as they know it. But there can also be beautiful stories of how God brings about much fruit through the closing of a congregation.

I am privileged to be a part of one of those beautiful stories. It began with First Presbyterian Church of Fort Pierce, a church that enjoyed a wonderful ministry of almost 100 years. In the early 1980s they purchased a second property “out west of town” and wanted to use it for outreach to the growing area. Unfortunately, due to several circumstances, the church had to move out of the downtown area where they worshipped and had to use this second outreach property as their worshipping location. After more than two decades, First Presbyterian was worshiping 20-30 on a Sunday. It was during this time that under the pastoral leadership of Leah Meador, the church decided not to call a part-time pastor, but instead decided to dissolve and merge in with Indian River Presbyterian. They didn’t have to make this decision; the congregation could have survived another 3-5 years. But they saw an opportunity to revitalize the original dream of using their property for outreach if it wasn’t required for Sunday worship. After the merger, a few of us engaged in the study process of how to go about using the First Presbyterian property for the glory of God. It was decided that we felt called to develop a separate faith based; Christ centered 501c3 organization called Grace Way Village.

The goal of Grace Way Village is to help families on the Treasure Coast of Florida live in mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health. While Indian River is the main provider of volunteer support and finances, and I serve as the Executive Director of Grace Way Village, other churches and the community at large have been beginning to support the ministry both financially and with volunteer efforts.

Grace Way Village has a number of programs currently taking place, as well as future ones planned. We have a clothing closet for children up to age 17, which is the only one like it in the county. We have a feeding program on Sunday nights that serves around 70 people per week and provides a safe and comfortable environment for families. We also have a mentoring program for middle and high school students.

Our long-term goal is to build out the property to include several residential programs. One of these is the development of a family transitional living facility that is currently in the approval process with the city. With approval, we will begin a community fundraising campaign and to seek several grants. This facility will house 20 families for a period of up to two years. This will be free of charge, but residents will be required to work or go to school and must be drug and alcohol free. Families will not only receive food and board, but education and support as they seek to provide stable environments for their families.

It is exciting to see all that is happening with Grace Way Village. It is also exciting to see the members of our congregation who were part of the First Presbyterian Church now participating in the life of their new church family. They give smiles, hugs and tears of joy as they see what God is doing because they looked beyond themselves and beyond their congregation into the needs of the community around them. And we know that God is glorified because of their faithfulness.

Dana Allin

“We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”
— Winston Churchill (1874-1965), British wartime prime minister and statesman
The meeting is the 20th but it's certainly not too early to call in your lunch reservations. Contact the Palm City church office 772-286-9958 and press 0.

109 lunch tickets were sold at the September meeting; however, fewer than 60 had reservations. **PLEASE** let's do better for our hosts!

If any Pastor has been unable to locate his/her Presbytery meeting badge, please give me a call as soon as possible. Of course, there’s no charge to replace it.

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**STATISTICAL REPORTING**

No doubt, Clerks of Session will think me sadistic to address this subject so early. In an effort to be “green” GA is not mailing workbooks this year. The Statistical Workbook will be posted on our website www.tfpby.org within a few weeks. However, I will be happy to mail (or e-mail) it to anyone who has difficulty retrieving the document. The user names and passwords are expected to be furnished to us shortly. The option to enter statistical data will be turned on Friday, December 10th. The last day churches will be able to enter data is Wednesday, February 23, 2011. Please remember that I am available to help with the entry of your information to the GA website – you have only to ask. Our Presbytery didn’t quite reach 100% last year (we were close). We can achieve this; we have before.

**REGIONAL Q & A’S**

Presbytery Restructure

Those who attended the September Presbytery meeting will recall that the Presbytery voted against the initial report and recommended that the Restructuring Task Force come up with a revised plan. The five members of the task force went to work and wish to offer a revised plan.

Information sharing gatherings (Q & A sessions) for the pastors and elders will be held in all three regions. Please come and/or send your representatives to ask questions. We need your participation and input for this important matter. With very limited time between the September and November meetings, the task force apologizes to the pastors and elders who won’t be able to attend the following meetings:

**Region 1: November 11th, noon** (lunch $5.00)
Memorial Presbyterian Church
1300 South Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach 33401
Call the church office at 561-832-3631

**Region 2: November 4th, 5:30 p.m.**
First Presbyterian Church (the Pink Church)
2331 N.E. 26th Avenue
Pompano Beach 33062
Call Shari at 954-785-2220 or email shari@tfpby.org

**Region 3: November 17th, noon**
New Life Presbyterian Church
7355 S.W. Coral Way, Miami 33155
A hot Spanish lunch ($4.00) will be served or bring your own
Please call 305-261-8061(leave message if necessary)

Please invite anyone who might be interested but kindly let these churches or Shari know that you’re coming!

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**BOARD OF PENSIONS SEMINARS**

**March 29-30, 2011**

Growing into Tomorrow . . . Today
Holistic retirement planning for mid- to late-career clergy and lay plan members and their spouses or fiancée/es (approx. age 50 and over)

**March 31, 2011**

Render Unto Caesar
Clergy taxes and terms of call issues for active clergy and spouses; church treasurers, administrators, and session leaders; and presbytery staff and committee leaders.

Please Save the Date!
Additional Information to follow.

Go to www.pensions.org (Forms & Publications/Brochures & Reports/Taxes Administration Dues & Rate) and download “Tax Guide for Ministers & Churches” and “Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches”.

If you have any questions - please call Susan Carpenter, Financial Administrator, at the Presbytery offices 954-785-2220.
Prayers, Joys and Concerns

Celebrations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Birthdays</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Rev. Amy Baer – Lakeside, West Palm Beach</td>
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<td>09</td>
<td>Rev. Jacqueline Brovold – Pinecrest, Miami</td>
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<td>Rev. Mardoqueo Munoz - HR</td>
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<td>Rev. David Kwon – Korean, North Miami</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Rev. Maria Luisa Hernandez - HR</td>
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<td>Rev. Carol Trax - MOS</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Elizabeth Allin - Indian River, Ft. Pierce</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Dr. Jonas Georges - All Nations, North Miami Beach</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Rev. Michel D. Yonts - Faith, Pembroke Pines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Rev. Connie Ast Caldwell- First, Ft. Lauderdale</td>
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PASTOR INSTALLATIONS

Two congregations are celebrating new pastor installations this month. Receptions to follow the services. All are invited and most welcomed.

November 7 – 4:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, Stuart
Rev. Dr. Charles Denison

November 28 – 4:00 p.m.
Community, Deerfield Beach
Rev. Dr. Dennis Andrews

Prayers

The Presbytery office has been advised that Rev. John B. Rice entered the Church Triumphant on Sunday, October 24th, 2010. Rev. Rice, former minister of Miami Shores Presbyterian Church, previously served as Chair of the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery. He was honorably retired in 1991. Rev. Rice and his wife of 62 years have been residing in Farmville, VA. Messages of condolence may be sent to: Shirley Rice 206 Trotter Street Farmville, VA 23901

- For the people of Haiti who continue to suffer.
- For the health of the relief workers and volunteers in Haiti
- For the people of Indonesia and their communities damaged in the earthquake, volcano and tsunami
- For the migrant workers who pick the fresh vegetables for our tables
- For all those who will collect, pack and distribute food boxes
- For all the families that are hungry and are reaching out
- For our military Chaplains who share Christ on the frontlines
- For the military families who will not be together this Thanksgiving
- For the blessings of new members who have found our church doors
- For the seekers who are looking for The Way.
- For Susan Carpenter’s daughter Katie undergoing surgery this month.
- Traveler’s blessings to Tim Stover who is traveling to Lebanon
- For the joy of Chip and Aimee Falcone’s new baby, Nathanael Maddox
- For the joy of Brad and Joan Klostreich’s new baby, Lillian Joy
**Community Corner**

**Simple Tools to Reap a Bountiful Harvest**

**HOBESOUND’S PRISON MINISTRY**

On October 11, Hobe Sound Presbyterian church partnered with Chaplain Tony Bishop who is doing prison ministry at Martin County Correctional Institution. The prison only allowed residents to attend the bible study if there were enough tables and chairs. Hobe Sound Community Presbyterian church purchased 12 tables and 48 chairs, which will stay in the prison. As a result, Tony has had almost 100 prisoners attending a weekly bible study, which was up from 15 when there were few chairs. God is doing a wonderful thing here in Martin County, and it is a testimony to the work of the Holy Spirit! Let us continue to work together to see what God can do!

**A Musical Salute to Americas' Veterans**

Community Presbyterian Church of Deerfield Beach

Sunday, November 7, 2010
10:00-10:30 a.m.

Join them for this special patriotic tribute to the men and women of our Armed Forces!!!

Featuring church organist Jeffrey Donahue, the Community Presbyterian Church Choir and the FiddleWorks, Inc. Classic Kids String Ensemble

Community Presbyterian Church is located on A1A 4 blocks south of Hillsboro Blvd.

**Alpha Course**

The Alpha Course takes place every Friday evening at Faith Presbyterian Church in Pembroke Pines at 7:30 pm.

This ten-week practical introduction to the Christian faith offers answers to some key questions. Each weekly session begins with an informal dinner, followed by a large group learning time, and ends with a small group discussion and interaction. Alpha began in London and is now held in numerous churches around the world. Join the thousands who have found answers to their questions about life and God and how they relate. Although the course began on September 24, guests are welcome to come any time. For reservations, call 954-431-3250 Monday – Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. There is no charge for the course, but freewill donations are accepted to help defray the cost of the meal.

The church is located at 1700 NW 98th Avenue, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024.
For information on this listing please call Jane Bodden at 954-432-3249.

**Come ye thankful people, come**

Annual Coral Gables Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. (Wednesday, November 24th). Share together in gratitude for all our many blessings through the beautiful music, the spoken word, and prayers of our Christian, Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters. A reception will follow. For more information please call Riviera PC (305) 666-8586.
Wunderbar!!

Second Presbyterian Church: Amid pumpkins and grapes, plus beer steins and candles, with the sounds of ohm pah pah, wafting softly through McGaw Hall, members and friends of Second Presbyterian Church gathered together to celebrate Oktoberfest on Friday, October 15, 2010. Second Presbyterian had a wonderful turnout. The success of the event was owed to our wonderful volunteers and our financial angels. We’re already planning for next year.

“Real Power”

Fall Presbyterian Youth Event

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”
Philippians 4:13

Date: November 13th, 2010
Time 11:00 a.m.
Place: First Presbyterian, Pompano Beach
Admission: 10 items of non-perishable food per person
Activities:
Worship, Small Groups, Deepen your relationship with God, Turkey Bowling and more.

RSVP: Donna Cutler, 772-940-4232 or dstcutler@msn.com

Employment Opportunities

Director of Children's Ministries

First Presbyterian is looking for a Director of Children’s Ministries! Please forward all questions/comments to Rev. Jeff Binder, Associate Pastor: Rev.Binder@gmail.com; 561.746.5161 x13.
We are planning to fill this position by December 2010, and the position would begin in January 2011.

A full description of the position is available on the website http://www.tfpby.org/employment.html

“You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you” — John Bunyan (1628-88), English Puritan writer and preacher
Study Proves That Women Are More Charitable Than Men

Women across nearly every income level gave significantly more to charity than men, nearly twice as much in some cases, according to a study by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University.

Nonprofits have long suspected that women were the driving forces behind many of the gifts they receive, but they haven’t had much proof. But the results of this study are so decisive and consistent; they can stop wondering, said Debra Mesch, director of the university’s Women’s Philanthropy Institute.

Article from Time by Donna Gordon Blankin

Read More

Ecumenical News

Presbyterian Kids Choir’s Soon-To-Be Hit Single Inspires Healthy Living

Kids are kids. The concept is simple but it is a very important lesson that not only children but adults should learn. One church is telling this to the world.

Read full story

Contact Us

Presbytery of Tropical Florida
440 E. Sample Road,
Suite 208
Pompano Beach, FL 33064

Phone: (954) 785/2220
Fax: (954) 785/1983

E/Mail: center@tfpby.org
Website: www.tfpby.org

PRESBYTERY STAFF

Presbytery Administrator
Amalie Ash
Interim Stated Clerk
Rev. Michel Yonts
Executive Assistant
Shari Lowe
Financial Administrator
Susan Carpenter
Communications Specialist
Delphia Sullivan
Coordinator for Disaster Recovery
Jeff Waycott

“Looking for the reward of good works, we must wait patiently till the last day, the day of resurrection.” — John Calvin (1509-64). French theologian and reformer
### November

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<td>1pm-MOSJP 2pm – COM-1 7pm-COM-3</td>
<td>10am-COR/CON 1pm-Worship Committee</td>
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<td>9:30am-PW Workshop 11am Fall Youth Event</td>
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<td>4pm-Installation First, Stuart</td>
<td>Packets Mailed</td>
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<td>12pm-Q&amp;A-Reg1 3pm-HRC</td>
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<td>8:30-Presbytery Meeting</td>
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<td>4pm-Installation Community, Deerfield Beach</td>
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Access the annual calendar online: [http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html](http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html)
Most Presbyterian ministers are considered employees for federal income tax purposes under the test currently used by the IRS and the courts and should receive IRS Form W-2 from their church or employer reporting their taxable income.

Churches do not have to withhold income taxes from a minister’s pay check. No FICA taxes (social security and medicare tax) can be withheld from a minister’s pay check. Pastors must pay estimated income taxes and self employment taxes.

A few ministers are self-employed, such as some traveling evangelists, tent makers and some interim pastors. A minister of a local church would be considered self-employed with regard to guest speaking appearances in other churches and services performed directly for individual members (such as weddings and funerals).

This W-2 is for a single pastor serving in a church with an effective salary of $80,000 a year. The church has correctly designated $40,000 as housing allowance. This pastor is covered with the Board of Pension under the Benefits plan.

Box 1 – Wages, tips, other compensation

Wages, tips, other compensation includes –
- Salary.
- Bonuses.
- The cost of sending a minister to the Holy Land (if paid for by the church).
- Most Christmas and special occasion offerings.
- Retirement gifts.
- The portion of the minister’s Social Security tax paid by the church as an offset.
- The personal use of a church-provided car.
- Purchases of church property for less than fair market value.
- Expense reimbursements paid under a “non-accountable plan”. A non-accountable expense reimbursement arrangement is one that does not require the substantiation of expenses, or does not require excess reimbursement to be returned to the church. Expenses include moving expenses, mileage, book allowance, medical reimbursement.
- Imputed cost of group term life insurance coverage (including death benefits under the Benefits Plan) exceeding $50,000 and cost of coverage of spouse and dependents over $2,000 which is paid by the employer. (See Box 12 below).
- Below market interest loans to a minister create income to the minister.
- Severance pay.
• Forgiveness of a minister’s debt.
• Payment of a minister’s personal expenses by the church.

Wages, tips, other compensation DOES NOT include –
• The annual fair rental value of a manse or that portion of a minister’s compensation that was designated (in advance) as a housing allowance by the church.

Box 2 - Federal income tax withheld

• A minister can request that their church withhold income tax from their wages.
• Ministers should complete IRS Form W-4.
• A minister can request on W-4 that an additional amount of income tax be withheld to cover their estimated self-employment taxes.
• Report the amount of taxes withheld from the minister’s pay check.

Box 4 - Social Security tax withheld

Box 6 - Medicare tax withheld

These two boxes should be left blank.

Since ministers are not employees for Social Security purposes, the church must not withhold the employee’s share of Social Security and Medicare taxes.

Box 3 – Social security wages

Box 5 – Medicare wages and tips

These two boxes should be left blank.

Ministers are self-employed for ministerial wages and therefore do not have social security or medicare wages.

Box 12 –

Code C – imputed cost of employer provided group term life insurance benefits. This amount is also added to

Box 1.

To calculate the cost go the www.pensions.org (Treasurers & Administrators/ Calculators/ Taxation of Death Benefits...)

An effective salary of $80,000 for a 40 year old single male results in an imputed cost of $132.00 annually.

Failure to report the imputed cost of employer provided group term life insurance benefits makes the benefits FULLY TAXABLE when received.

Box 14 – Other

This box is optional.

Some churches report a church designated housing allowance in this box.

Church treasurers should be sure that the designation of a housing or manse allowance for the following year is on the agenda of the church for one of the final business meetings of the current year. The designation should be an official action, and it should be duly recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The IRS also recognizes designations included in employment contracts and budget line items – assuming in each case that the church duly adopted the designation and that there is underlying specific documentation of each minister’s housing allowance computations. Under no circumstance can a church designate housing allowance retroactively.

“Dearest lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost.” - Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), Jesuit founder