Meditation

He went up on a mountainside by himself, (Matthew 14:23)
One of the blessings of the old-time Sabbath day was the calmness, restfulness, and holy peace that came from having a time of quiet solitude away from the world. There is a special strength that is born in solitude. Crows travel in flocks, and wolves in packs, but the lion and the eagle are usually found alone.
Strength is found not in busyness and noise but in quietness. For a lake to reflect the heaven on its surface, it must be calm.
Our Lord loved the people who flocked to him, but there are numerous accounts in the Scriptures of His going away from them for a brief period of time. On occasion He would withdraw from the crowd and quite often would spend His evenings alone in the hills. Most of His ministry was performed in the towns and cities by the seashore, but He loved the hills more and at nightfall would frequently seclude Himself in their peaceful heights.
The one thing we need today more than anything else is to spend time alone with our Lord, sitting at His feet in the sacred privacy of His blessed presence. Oh, how we need to reclaim the lost art of meditation! Oh, how we need “the secret place” (Ps. 91:1 KJV) as part of our lifestyle! Oh, how we need the power that comes from waiting upon God!

It is good to live in the valley sweet,
Where the work of the world is done,
Where the reapers sing in the fields of wheat,
And work till the setting of the sun.
But beyond the meadows, the hills I see
Where the noises of traffic cease,
And I follow a Voice who calls out to me
From the hilltop regions of peace.

Yes, to live is sweet in the valley fair,
And work till the setting of the sun;
But my spirit yearns for the hilltop’s air
When the day and its work are done.
For a Presence breathes o’er the silent hills,
And its sweetness is living yet;
The same deep calm all the hillside fills,
As breathed over Olivet.
Every life that desires to be strong must have its “Most Holy Place”
(Ex. 26:33) into which only God enters.

Taken from daily devotional Streams in the Desert by L B Cowman (1925)
Reflection on Goal Setting

The New Year is here and I am stilling contemplating my goals for 2011. Last year at this time, I was worried about completing twenty pages of a post reformation paper and planning to finish my required Greek language course in the summer. Today I have new concerns centered on the Presbytery, such as, how can we help churches grow, how can we help our communities, how do we reach the new seeker, and will my Greek be done by May.

The time between Christmas and New Years has been my goal-writing period. I have kept goals since 1982. Each year, I have reviewed my goal-list by marking completed goals with a big “C” and often moving the in completes to the next year. It was popular in the 1980’s to have a complex goal-planning book. I embraced the idea and kept goals for travel, health, family, financial, self-improvement, and spiritual growth.

A 1996 goal was to join Toastmasters (“C”) and in 1999, I was assigned the first speech of the New Year titled Goals: Do they work? To prepare for the speech, I reviewed my file of goals. Two things surprised me: I had a 52% completion rate and five goals kept recurring and remained incomplete. So, I made those five goals my 1999 goals. As of today, I have completed only two of the five goals.

What is it about these five goals that are so hard to complete? These five remaining goals require me to change myself. For me to make my needs important, as in to taking time to eat balanced meals, to exercise, to manage stress, and to be more organized. Personal goals on the surface appear easy, but are much harder than creating a new program, improving the bottom-line, or taking an Old Testament final exam.

Recently, the Human Resource Committee had the staff prepare our 2011 goals.

We each listed items that we felt would make improvements, support the Presbytery, or make our jobs more efficient. This week, while the office is quiet, I have been praying and seeking Jesus’ goals for the Presbytery and how can I serve those goals. I was hoping for some inspiration that would help the Presbytery grow. Instead, I felt the persistent sense to “take care of myself” and “be ready” for what is to come.

Unhappy with this direction, I opened Scriptures and was quickly reminded that Jesus teaches us to “be ready”, to make sure we have enough oil in our lamp (Matthew 25).

To focus on readying ourselves and make sure we are ready to “run the race” (Hebrews 12). In order to do this, we have to give attention to ourselves.

Ready for what? This time last year, I was writing goals that did not include being a Presbytery Administrator; that idea had never entered my thoughts. We do not know the future, but we can be ready for it. We can take care of the “loose ends” in our lives, take care of our health, have our finances in order, and all those things that we put off doing because someone, or something, sidetracks our intentions.

Because we do not know what lies ahead, we still make plans and set goals. However, no one knows what God has in store for us in 2011; we only know we are to be ready. Therefore, my goals in 2011 will be couched ways to develop time for myself, and to insure there is a theme of readiness: readiness for an unknown future, readiness to go the distance, and readiness to receive God’s blessings for the Presbytery of Tropical Florida.

Peace and blessings in your New Year,
Amalie
STRESS MANAGEMENT:
TEN SELF-CARE TECHNIQUES

This brochure was shared at http://www.ucc.vt.edu/stdysk/stresmgt.html by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

TO RELAX. Throughout the day, take "mini-breaks". Sit down and get comfortable. Slowly take in a deep breath; hold it; and then exhale very slowly. At the same time, let your shoulder muscles droop, smile, and say something positive like, "I am r-e-l-a-x-e-d." Be sure to get sufficient rest at night.

PRACTICE ACCEPTANCE. Many people get distressed over things they will not let themselves accept. Often, these are things that cannot be changed, for example someone else’s feelings or beliefs. If something unjust bothers you that is different. If you act in a responsible way, the chances are you will manage that stress effectively.

TALK RATIONALLY TO YOURSELF. Ask yourself what real impact the stressful situation will have on you in a day or in a week, and see if you can let the negative thoughts go. Think through whether the situation is your problem or the other person’s. If it is yours, approach it calmly and firmly. If it is the other person’s, there is not much you can do about it. Rather than condemning yourself with hindsight thinking like, "I should have...," think about what you can learn from the error and plan for the future. Watch out for perfectionism -- set realistic and attainable goals. Remember: everyone makes errors. Be careful of procrastination -- practice-breaking tasks into smaller units to make it manageable, and practice prioritizing to get things done.

GET ORGANIZED. Develop a realistic schedule of daily activities that includes time for work, sleep, relationships, and recreation. Use a daily “thing to do” list. Improve your physical surroundings by cleaning your house and straightening up your office. Use your time and energy efficiently.

EXERCISE. Physical activity has always provided relief from stress. In the past, daily work was largely physical. Now that physical exertion is no longer a requirement for earning a living, we do not get rid of stress so easily. It accumulates very quickly. We need to develop a regular exercise program to reduce the effects of stress before it becomes distress. Try aerobics, walking, jogging, dancing, or swimming.

REDUCE TIME URGENCY. If you frequently check your watch or worry about what you do with your time, learn to take things a bit slower. Allow plenty of time to get things done. Plan your schedule ahead of time. Recognize that you can only do so much in a given period. Practice the notion of "pace, not race".

DISARM YOURSELF. Not every situation in life requires you to be competitive. Adjust your approach to an event according to its demands. You do not have to raise your voice in a simple discussion. Playing tennis with a friend does not have to be an Olympic trial. Leave behind you your "weapons" of shouting, having the last word, putting someone else down, and blaming.

QUIET TIME. Balance your family, social, and work demands with special private times. Hobbies are good antidotes for daily pressures. Unwind by taking a quiet stroll, soaking in a hot bath, watching a sunset, or listening to calming music.

WATCH YOUR HABITS. Eat sensibly -- a balanced diet will provide all the necessary energy you will need during the day. Avoid nonprescription drugs and avoid alcohol use -- you need to be mentally and physically alert to deal with stress. Be mindful of the effects of excessive caffeine and sugar on nervousness.

TALK TO FRIENDS. Friends can be good medicine. Daily doses of conversation, regular social engagements, and occasional sharing of deep feelings and thoughts can reduce stress quite nicely.
# Prayers, Joys and Concerns

## Celebrations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Birthdays</th>
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<tr>
<td>02 Rev. David Kwon – Korean, North Miami</td>
<td>01 Rev. Moises J. Senti - HR</td>
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<td>08 Dr. Maurice Stone - HR</td>
<td>01 Dr. Jacqueline Rhoades - HR</td>
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<td>09 Rev. Robert Coleman – Goodwill, Ft. Pierce</td>
<td>01 Dr. Raul Fernandez-Calienes - MOS</td>
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<td>12 Rev. Jack Noble First [Pink Church], Pompano Beach</td>
<td>07 Dr. Dana Allin - Indian River, Ft. Pierce</td>
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<td>14 Rev. Mardoquio Munoz - HR</td>
<td>13 Rev. Danny Loffredo Miami Shores, Miami Shores</td>
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<td>17 Dr. Paul Kindschi - HR</td>
<td>15 Dr. David Massey Plantation Church, Plantation</td>
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<td>24 Rev. Jefferson P. Rogers – HR</td>
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## Prayers

For the sick, the suffering and the caregivers by their side  
For our troops  
For the economy  
For those languishing without jobs  
For communities that are financially burdened and having to make hard choices about schools and services  
For the health and welfare of our pastors who strive to bring the Good News  
For elders and deacons who are dedicated to the wholeness of their church

## Employment Opportunities

The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) has an internship opportunity for a highly qualified person who would like to sharpen her/his skills in communicating a church and/or ecumenical organization in the 21st Century. The internship will be for 18 months – 12 months in the WCRC offices in Geneva and 6 months in the intern’s home country. The Geneva portion will be from March 1, 2011 to February 29, 2012. The home country portion will be from March 1, 2012 to August 31, 2012. Applications (available on the website)  

Prospective Interns should apply to the General Secretary of WCRC. Please forward before January 25, 2011 a résumé and letter of motivation to:  
The General Secretary  
World Communion of Reformed Churches  
PO Box 2100  
150 route de Ferney  
1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland  
You may send it by email to gs@wcrc.ch

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**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
Shari’s Shout Out

Board of Pension Seminars

Register asap. Space limited to 30 people including reservations being received from outside of our Presbytery.

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

From The Treasurer

All churches requesting Per Capita deferments are asked to submit these early in January.
Thank you to all churches who have made their Per Capita pay-up.

Annual Reports

Did you receive your annual statistical packet (mailed December 10th)?
Please don’t wait to complete and submit.
Necrology Reports are due no later than January 21st.
GA Reports must be entered on line by February 23rd.
Anyone needing assistance should contact me.

February 26 Presbytery Meeting
First PC of North Palm Beach
561-622-8818 (early lunch reservations anyone?)

FOR SALE

Rev. Charlie Pipes (our first Hunger Action Enabler and 1966 Moderator) has over 200 Bible History Books, video tapes and sermon illustration books available for a very reasonable price. If you are interested or wish any further information, please call him directly at 561-394-9653.

Community Corner

JOINT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Elders / Leaders / Deacons please join us on one of the following Saturdays beginning at 8 a.m.

January 22 Faith, Pembroke Pines
January 29 First, Stuart
February 5 Central, Miami

This training is not region-specific and you may attend any you wish. An email was sent in mid-December and can be accessed through the following link.

News and Events

Grants for low-income groups organizing for self-development

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s Self-Development of People (SDOP) program will hold a series of free workshops across the country during 2011 for grassroots groups interested in applying for grants to aid community organizations. Self-Development of People is a ministry of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. The first workshop will be held in Columbus, Ohio on February where groups can learn how to apply for the grants. To attend, RSVP to Mary Lewis.

Witnesses of These Things: Ecumenical Engagement in a New Era

**Information Technology**

**DIGITAL OVERLOAD: YOUR BRAIN ON GADGETS**

The average person today consumes almost three times, as much information as what the typical person consumed in 1960, according to research at the University of California, San Diego. And The New York Times reports that the average computer user checks 40 websites a day and can switch programs 36 times an hour.

Scientists say juggling e-mail, phone calls and other incoming information can change how people think and behave. They say our ability to focus is being undermined by bursts of information. These play to a primitive impulse to respond to immediate opportunities and threats. The stimulation provokes excitement — a dopamine squirt — that researchers say can be addictive. In its absence, people feel bored. The resulting distractions can have deadly consequences, as when cellphone-wielding drivers and train engineers cause wrecks. And for millions of people, these urges can inflict nicks and cuts on creativity and deep thought, interrupting work and family life. While many people say multitasking makes them more productive, research shows otherwise. Heavy multitaskers actually have more trouble focusing and shutting out irrelevant information, scientists say, and they experience more stress. – from NYTimes

**Brain Maxes Out At Multitasking**

Our brains are set up to do two things at once, but not three, a French team reports in the journal *Science*.

When humans pursue two goals, A and B, concurrently, the brain assigns oversight of one task to the left frontal lobe and the other to the right frontal lobe. This labor division suggests that humans would struggle to carry out more than two tasks at one time.

**Good In Small Doses**

In small doses, multitasking can help you stay alert — Studies show it’s pretty easy for us to keep music in the background when we focus on something else. But when something in the background forces itself into your consciousness, you do get distracted. Such as when your computer announces: "You've got mail."

**Fighting Distractions**

Typically, the concern about our dependence on technology is that it detracts from our time with family and friends in the real world. But psychologists have become intrigued by a more subtle and insidious effect of our online interactions. It may be that the immediacy of the Internet, the efficiency of the iPhone and the anonymity of the chat room change the core of who we are, issues that Dr. Aboujaoude explores in a book, “Virtually You: The Internet and the Fracturing of the Self,” to be released next year.

We do spend a lot of time with our devices, and some studies have suggested that excessive dependence on cellphones and the Internet is akin to an addiction.

Web sites like NetAddiction.com offer self-assessment tests to determine if technology has become a drug. Among the questions used to identify those at risk: Do you neglect housework to spend more time online? Are you frequently checking your e-mail? Do you often lose sleep because you log in late at night? If you answered “often” or “always,” technology may be taking a toll on you.

So – Make life simpler, happier, less stressful and prioritize.
## January 2011

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## February 2011

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Access the annual calendar online: [http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html](http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html)
Presbyterians Serving In Tragedy

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

“Typically more members of our team, including mental health professionals with trauma recovery training, will make more trips to Tucson over the next months, or perhaps years as the congregations and community move through their own recovery,” Robinson wrote in a letter to Linda Valentine, executive director of the General Assembly Mission Council. “Our team is often asked to provide ‘Compassion Fatigue and Care for the Caregiver’ trainings” as well as consultation on what to expect as the churches and community absorb the impact of these events,” he stated. In addition, as is often the case, the rewards of PDA’s efforts flow back and forth between the helpers and those being helped. “On Sunday morning (Jan. 9) as I listened to sermons by colleagues in Tucson reflecting on the aftermath of the tragedy and the commemorations of MLK weekend, I was struck as I always am, by the integrity, authenticity and vulnerability of faith leaders who step into the pain and chaos of a human caused disaster with words of honesty and calls for the church’s meaningful participation in the healing of the community,” Kraus wrote to Valentine. “It is one thing to lead as one has been trained in the ordinary seasons of a congregation’s life,” she continued. “It is another to step into the disorientation of sorrow, anger, confusion and need that inevitably follows in the wake of human caused disasters — feelings that faith leaders share, and that are magnified by their willingness to listen, care for and respond to their people and their community.” In a “minute for mission” she offered at Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson that morning, Kraus said that PDA’s first intention in responding to such disasters is to refresh and reinforce the power of love and presence that pastors and congregations spend so generously for their community’s healing. “I told them that all Presbyterians were touched, as well, and sending their power of prayer and presence through the NRT and by their participation in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to support the healing work being offered through the Presbyterian and interfaith community in Tucson,” Krause said.

Redemption is certainly what those in Presbytery de Cristo experienced, according to Presbytery Pastor/Stated Clerk the Rev. Sue Westfall, who wrote to Robinson thanking PDA “for the extraordinary assistance, wisdom, experience and expertise that Rick, Laurie and David provided this community in the aftermath of Tucson’s tragedy.” Noting that one of Tucson’s PC(USA) congregations suffered a fatality and an injury in the shootings, Westfall said the NRT “immediately began providing counseling, consultation and support not only to our Presbyterian community but also to the wider ecumenical/interfaith [community] as we came together to coordinate efforts to respond.” Westfall added, “The American Red Cross even pulled them in to help with trauma counseling and support as the memorials and funerals were held throughout the week. In short, they ministered to the Presbyterian community and the whole Tucson community in a very significant, capable, and visible way.”
Presbytery Times is changing March 1st

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

If you have any comments please contact Delphia Sullivan

Shari’s Shout Out

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

Presbytery Meets at First PC North Palm Beach on Saturday, February 26th.
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
Meeting Called to Order at 9:30 a.m.
Packets will be posted at www.tfoby.org on February 15th.

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

Attention Clerks of Session

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

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

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

Presbyterians Today 2011 Lenten Devotional Guide

Living the Word through Lent
In English and Korean
If you/your church would like to place your order through the Presbytery office, you can be assured the lowest bulk price. To determine interest, we would need to have your order by February 11th. Arrangements must also be made to pick these materials up from the Presbytery office.
Prayers, Joys and Concerns

Celebrations

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

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

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

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

Prayers

Prayers for our
Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East
For the people of Egypt and Tunisia
For those recovering from the floods in Queensland, Australia
For those recovering from the floods in Brazil
For those striving for recovery from the Haitian earthquake
For those who are suffering in the extreme cold this winter, who have little heat or cannot pay heating bills
For those who are being trafficked, for the children sold as slaves and abused, for those who there seems to be no escape.
For the people who are seeking employment and those that are underemployed

For the pastors and seminary graduates seeking a call
For Sunset, First Miami, Grace and Faith Presbyterian Churches preparing for the Residency Program
For the Residents who will be applying to the Residency Program
  • Dr. Bill Weimer
  • Dr. Skip Bush
  • Dr. Jim Colvert
  • Tomas Diego

Employment Opportunities

Director of Camp/Conference Ministry and Leadership Development
Presbytery of the Peaks
Lynchburg, Virginia.
For more information go to
www.peakspresbytery.org
or to send resume by 02-15-11
contact: dukeferrell@hotmail.com

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

The Sunrise Presbyterian Church in Miami is seeking a bilingual (English/Spanish) Secretary-Bookkeeper for the Church & Academy to work Mon-Thurs 9 AM – 3:30 PM. Sunrise generally follows the public school calendar.
Required skills: Microsoft Office & Quick books accounting software.
The Job description is available in the church office. Please call 305-821-5841 for additional information.
Community Corner

“When Hope Lives,” by Bill Tenney. Member,

Miami Shores Presbyterian Church

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Goodwill Presbyterian Church Project
STEP: Student Tutorial and Enrichment Program

By Verna J. Hunter, STEP Program Coordinator

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Board of Pensions Seminars
Mar. 29-30 Growing into Tomorrow...Today seminar: http://guest.cvent.com/d/xdqtsw
Mar. 31 Render unto Caesar seminar: http://guest.cvent.com/d/ddqtsw

Registration deadline – February 25th
Class size limited to 30

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

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

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

Ecumenical News

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

Feb. 4-7, 2011 Oblate Renewal Center, San Antonio, Texas
Further Reading on upcoming events

Presbytery Contacts

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Pompano Beach, FL 33064
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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
## February 2011

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Access the annual calendar online: http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html
IT HAPPENED AT PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery meeting held First Presbyterian Church, North Palm Beach was a very busy, and sometimes intense, day. A huge thank you for the wonderful hospitality shown to us by this congregation. These are just a few of the highlights:

- The Presbytery worshipped at the Lord’s Table and celebrated the lives of those Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Elders who were called home to the Lord in 2010.
- The Presbytery debated vigorously the proposed New Form of Government, and then voted 89 to 23 (with 4 abstaining) against its adoption.
- The Presbytery postponed until the May meeting a revision of the Principles and Process policy from the Discernment Administrative Commission.
- The Presbytery enrolled as members the following new members:
  - The Rev. Linda LeSourd Lader, Temporary Supply Pastor, 2nd, Ft. Lauderdale
  - The Rev. Kim Kavazanjian, Temporary Supply Associate Pastor, Central, Miami
  - The Rev. Valdir de Franca, validated ministry with Latin American Mission

The Presbytery also renewed the Parish Associate relationship between the Rev. Bob Collins and Grace, Boca Raton; approved the change of status of the Rev. Jun Ho Kim from Organizing Pastor to Pastor for Korean Central, Miami.

- The Presbytery recognized the honorable retirement of the Rev. Leah Meador and the RE. Theodore Bush.
- The Presbytery took an offering for Haitian Relief, focusing on displaced Haitians within the bounds of Presbytery, and receive $787.
- The Presbytery heard from members of Second Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale, and vote 72 to 10 to ratify the action of the Presbytery at its November meeting forming an Administrative Commission with power of original jurisdiction.
- The Presbytery approved the change in status of Guillermo Figueredo from Inquirer to Candidate.
- Among other elections to various committees, sub-committees, task forces, and council, Mr. John Terech, Elder, Palm City, was elected as chair of the restructured Coordinating Council for the next 3 years.
- The Presbytery received the report of the Human Resources Committee that the following have been hired for our new staff structure:

  Kernie Kostrub, Pastor-to- Pastors
  Bryan Wenger, Associate Missional Presbyter, Region 1
  Leon Lovell-Martin, Associate Missional Presbyter, Region 2
  Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz, Associate Missional Presbyter, Region 3
FOLLOWING PRESBYTERY:
The Stated Clerk would like to thank the elders and pastors who came for the first Session record review meeting on February 26. Twenty-three churches had their Session records reviewed that day. They were:

- Lakeside, West Palm Beach
- First, Boynton Beach
- Palm City
- Peace, Stuart
- Hobe Sound
- First, West Palm Beach
- Sunrise, Hialeah
- Faith, Pembroke Pines
- Community, Clewiston
- Indian River, Ft. Pierce
- First, Pompano Beach
- First, North Palm Beach
- Plantation
- First, Lake Worth
- Korean, Miami
- Korean, Palm Beach
- First, Hollywood
- Ascension Peace, Lauderhill
- Faith, Palm Springs
- Goodwill, Ft. Pierce
- First, Delray
- Grace, Boca Raton
- Sunset, Ft. Lauderdale

The next record review session is yet to be scheduled, but will be held in Region 3, probably in early April. The Region 2 review will follow the Presbytery meeting on May 24, 2011, at First, Pompano Beach.

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MINISTRY WITH HAITIANS
Pat Ashley

As I write this, the presbytery has not yet acted on the Haiti Report. As you read this, the action has been taken. I was asked by our presbytery and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program to compile information on the response to the Haiti earthquake that is taking place both in South Florida and from South Florida.

While hard data is difficult to come by, the information from schools alone (see the report, pp 17-18) indicate that there are thousands of earthquake survivors living in our midst. Add to this that virtually every Haitian or Haitian-American has been profoundly and personally affected by the earthquake, through loss of and/or care for family members, and through reaction to the on-going suffering it has caused. Clearly, we have with our neighbors an occasion for ministries of compassion and of justice.

Three highlights of the report:

Several congregations in our presbytery have taken creative, energetic, and personal initiative to show Christ’s love with earthquake survivors. This is good news! These congregations have solid connections with trustworthy people in Haiti, so that efforts are sure to get where they are intended. Any Presbyterian in our area can readily become involved in this response through supporting existing ministries. (See pages 5-8 of the report).

A lot of vital work is taking place right here. Competent agencies that have been engaged with Haitians for years are involved in trying to make a difference. Again, all of these agencies would welcome – and definitely need – our support. Many of them are open to partnering with us in developing the longer-term response that will be so important for true recovery to take place. (See pages 9-20 of the report).

The ministry ranges from immediate relief through programs for making needed change possible to advocacy for policies that directly affect the quality of life of earthquake survivors. Whatever the gifts of those willing to become more involved may be, there is a place to make good use of them.

I encourage your review of the report, which has been sent to every minister and every church in the presbytery and is posted on the presbytery website. Hard copies of the full report and all appendices are available in the church office. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comment.
Hamlin - The Hospital with a Mission

Last November a group of pastors and lay leaders from the PCUSA traveled to Lebanon and Syria. The purpose of was to provide an opportunity for those participating to interact with members of the protestant churches in Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria. Fortunately I had to opportunity to be a part of the experience and have to encourage everyone who may have the occasion to go to Lebanon, do not miss the chance to see and experience this beautiful part of the Middle East.

One of the outstanding experiences of the trip centered on Hamlin Nursing Home, a hospital located in the mountains West of Beirut. Hamlin is a part of the Middle East Council of churches where the PCUSA is represented by Dr. Nuhad Tomeh. Hamlin has a long history of service as a hospital, nursing home and nursing school. The hospital began at the turn of the century as a center for treating tuberculosis patients and has continued to serve the Middle Eastern community ever since. With the help of protestant churches around the world, Hamlin has made its home in several locations, has expanded, has survived world and civil war yet has never ceased serving the community through health as well as spiritual care.

Today, Ms. Sanaa Koreh, a graduate of the Hamlin nursing program, is director of the nursing home and the person behind new ideas and ways to restore clinics for the local community and reopening the nursing school. Times are difficult and funding is always an issue, however, Hamlin Nursing Home is doing well, mostly as a result of the excellent reputation it has among both the Muslim and Christian communities. However there are always opportunities to help continue this ministry. Thanks in part to the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, several local churches, and support from individuals around the country, funds have been raised to help pay for a new generator for Hamlin.

For those of you who have traveled in the Middle East, you are undoubtedly aware of the tenuous nature of the electric services available. Hospitals, of course, are most vulnerable to this problem but thanks to the generosity of many, Hamlin will be able to sustain their vital services in times of electrical blackouts. Not only is the advent of a new generator on the horizon but, sometime in June, Hamlin set to open a community clinic. Because of Sanaa Koreh’s optimism and tenacious work ethic, Hamlin future looks brighter than ever.

For those who may be interested in supporting this ministry, please contact the Dr. Timothy Stover at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Coconut Creek. Also, if anyone is interested in visiting Hamlin and would like to attend the opening of the clinic in June, you are most welcome. If this article has piqued your interest and you would like to know more about the history of Hamlin, two additional articles are available for further reading.

God’s Peace,
Timothy V. Stover

Story of Hamlin
Hamlin - Letters

Visiting Pastoral Assistant

Seeking active retired minister to fill one-year, 33 hours/week position as visiting pastoral assistant for St. Leonard’s-in-the-Fields and St. John’s Kirk of Perth, Scotland, beginning June, 2011. Housing and small allowance provided. Interested parties please email resume or PIF to Ellen Marquardt, twugrad67@gmail.com by March 31.
This is a follow-up on our earlier letter announcing the Presbytery-wide event planned for Saturday, March 5, 2011 at Plantation Presbyterian Church in Plantation, at 4:00 PM. In it we invited 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.

This letter is intended to urge your full participation and cooperation and to ask that you respond either by email or telephone, at 954-785-2220 (Presbytery office), Dr. Ray Anglin at 954-733-7334, or Dr. David Massey at 954-587-0830, indicating the number of persons coming from your church and the ways in which you will be participating. Hearing from you would also assist our planning team in our preparation.

Please call us if you have questions or need additional information by Wednesday, March 2, 2011. We are anticipating another wonderful evening of inspiration and fellowship. See you then.

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

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**Clergy News**

Since November, the Presbytery has installed five pastors. Chuck Dennison at First Presbyterian Stuart; Tom Slager at Community PC in Clewiston; and Dennis Andrews at Community PC in Deerfield Beach. In January there were two pastors installed. Dustin Sedlak at Kirk of the Keys in Marathon (pictured above left Dustin and Caitlin Sedlak with Celeb and Caiden), and Chris Ham - at All Villages in Port St. Lucie (pictured above right Chris and Christi Ham with Matthew and Thomas). Getting started at a church is a big undertaking and takes a lot of energy. If you are near one of these ministers give them a call and see how they are doing. Keep them, their families and their congregations in your prayers.

**RETIRED**

December 31, 2010 Ted Bush, Pastor at First Presbyterian Delray. Ted served Delray for twenty-six years and has been in ministry for forty years. His plan is to retire, to take some time off.

January 1, 2011 Leah Meador has served in ministry since 2002 and is retiring from a caring ministry in hospice. She is busy with a list of “honey dos” that she had been putting off doing. We wish them well and encourage them to enjoy a well-deserved rest. This Presbytery is deeply thankful for their work, their leadership and for answering the call to ministry.
Prayers

- For the Christians and Muslims in the Middle East, for those seeking peace.
- For the people of Christ Church, New Zealand who are devastated by the earthquake.
- For the missionaries, students, ministers, peacekeepers, medical teams and caregivers that risk their health and safety to serve the world in the name of Jesus Christ.
- For elders and pastors praying to grow their church, to redefine their mission or to find ways to serve.
- For the elders of First Miami, Sunset-Ft Lauderdale, Grace-Lantana and Faith- Palm Springs as they prepare their congregations for the new Residency Program.
- For pastors, and their families who are serving a new church and are new to the area.
- Of Gratitude for the elders and pastors who give their time to help run this Presbytery and their churches.
- Of Gratitude for the Commissioned Lay Pastors dedicating their time to the ministry of our small churches.
- Of Gratitude for the retired ministers and elders who continue to dedicate time and expertise to the Presbytery.
- For the environment - the Everglades, our fresh water source, may our leaders manage it with care.
- For the future of the Presbytery and the denomination, may God’s will be done.

Events

Online Calendar of Events and Meetings

Miami Springs PC - Mission Conference

**March 4-6**

On March 4, 5, and 6, we welcome our MSPC Foreign Mission Partners back for an exciting weekend. On Friday and Saturday evenings, Missionaries will speak in member's homes during a pot-luck dinner. You can sign up for one or two mission evenings. On Sunday morning, Dr. Hunter Farrell will preach and Jenny Reitz presents at The Jesus Café. Dr. Hunter Farrell– Keynote Speaker Director of World Mission, Presbyterian Church, USA. Ms. Jenny Reitz– Co-director Jesus House of Hope Port de Paix/ La Pointe, Haiti. Ms. Kendal Stewart– Director Habitat for Humanity, El Salvador.

Lenten Retreat for Clergy

**March 7**

This is the second retreat for clergy sponsored by the Committee on Ministry. The Advent Phase, held in early December, had eighteen ministers attend an afternoon of collegial worship and fellowship. It was a time to exhale from the exhaustive pre-Christmas planning and for a few hours to breathe in God's peace. These are small half-day retreats that are designed for pastors by pastors.

The pastors leading the retreat are part of an ad-hoc group of Spiritual Directors in the Presbytery. This group gathers to seek ways to help ministers be refreshed and renewed. Pastor Jim Goldsmith, Ft Lauderdale by the Sea PC, and Pastor Pat Ashley will be the Lenten retreat leaders. We encourage you to take a day for yourself, give yourself a gift. Spend time in a serene setting listening to God prepare your heart for Lent. Come and break bread with others who share your walk, your worries, and your hope.

Place: Duncan Center – 15820 South Military Trail, Delray Beach


Time: 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch (complimentary)  
12:45 – 3:45 Retreat

Contact Shari by Friday March 4th
Board of Pensions Seminars
March 29-30
Growing into Tomorrow...Today seminar: http://guest.cvent.com/d/xdqtsw

March 31
Render unto Caesar seminar: http://guest.cvent.com/d/dddqtsw

Presbyterian Women
Annual Gathering Presbytery of Tropical Florida
When: Saturday, March 19, 2011
Where: First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale, 401 SE 15th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
Flyer

Spring Retreat
When: April 16, 2011
Where: First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason Street, Delray Beach, FL 33483
Flyer

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

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

Birthdays

03 Rev. James Goldsmith - Community, Lauderdale By the Sea
09 Dr. Gwendolyn Magby - Trinity, Key West
11 Rev. Robert Bonham - Memorial, West Palm Beach
11 Rev. Jung Yn Shin - Korean, North Miami
11 Rev. Rosemary N. Welton - MOS
12 Dr. Kirk McCormick – Grace Community, Boca Raton
16 Rev. Jacqueline Brovold - Pinecrest, Miami
16 Dr. Keith Riddle - MOS
18 Rev. Brad Klostreich - Palm City

21 Rev. Elizabeth Pankey-Warren - MOS
23 Rev. Robert Welsh - HR
27 Rev. Pamela H. Barras - MOS
28 Rev. Amy Baer - Lakeside, West Palm Beach
31 Rev. Thomas Crowder - HR
31 Dr. Theodore Bush - HR

Ordinations

10 Dr. Dohyun Paik - MOS
12 Rev. Guihag Hwang - MOS
17 Dr. German Vega-Feliciano - MOS
24 Dr. Ronald Hilliard - First, North Palm Beach
### March 2011

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Access the annual calendar online: [http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html](http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html)
ASSOCIATE MISSIONAL PRESBYTERS AND PASTOR TO PASTORS

The new presbytery structure is beginning to take shape. March 28, the three Associate Missional Presbyters (AMP) and the Pastor to Pastor began serving in their new positions. The objective of this new structure is to help further the vision of a reproducing presbytery.

Each AMP is responsible for a specific region of churches. The AMPs are charged with promoting and facilitating a healthy ministry in their respective region. They will be looking for ways to support your congregation.

The Pastor to Pastor will be supporting the ministers in the presbytery. He will be attending Regional clergy gatherings, will be a spiritual resource, and will be available in times of need. The Pastor to Pastor and the AMPs will be contacting you soon.

Region One AMP Rev. Bryan Wenger is the Associate Pastor at Indian River PC. Brian has served as a solo pastor for the Upsala Community PC, a small church in Stanford, FL. Brian was a CPA before answering a call to ministry in 1998; he graduated from Pittsburg Seminary. Brian has served the presbytery on COM and HRC.

Region Two AMP Rev. Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin is the Pastor at Myrtle Grove PC beginning in 1997. Leon also served at Alta Vista PC. Leon recently completed his doctorate at Florida Atlantic University with a concentration in Human Resource Development and Organizational Leadership. Leon has served the presbytery as Moderator, Chair of Council, COM, PJC, GA Commissioner, Synod President of Association of Smaller Congregations and many other committees and programs.

Region Three AMP is Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz, pastor and Evangelist. Edwin served as the Pastor and Church Revitalization developer at Cypress PC. Edwin has an extensive background in immigration, social services, Head Start, educational training and teaching college level courses. Edwin has a BA in Social and Behavioral Science from University of South Florida, attended Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and completed his MDiv at S Florida Center for Theological Studies in 2005. Edwin has served the presbytery on the Multicultural Committee, is Chair of Evangelism and a member of two Administrative Commissions.

Pastor to Pastor is Rev. Kernie Kostrub, Pastor at Glades PC since 1990. Kernie has served churches in Gainesville, FL, Fairbanks, Alaska, Doylestown, PA and New York City. He is a graduate of Fuller Seminary. Kernie has served the presbytery as Moderator of Administrative Commission, Coordinator of Covenant Group, FRC Chair, Council, Region 2 liaison, and the Evangelism Committee.

PRAYERS

- The people of Japan
- The people of Libya and other countries striving for change
- The people of Egypt starting to rebuild their government
- The people of Haiti recovering and rebuilding
- The caring people and agencies seeking to serve the underserved
- For the care givers and home bound
- For the PCUSA Churches and ministers

Please join me in praying for the presbytery’s churches and ministers. The New Form of Government, Amendment G-6.0106b, and Confession of Belhar votes are being posted weekly. There is a steady conversation about “what if?” The days ahead will test members of this presbytery and we need to keep each other in prayer. Please join me as I intentionally pray each day for the individual churches and ministers in the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. I am praying the Holy Spirit will guide us through this time, for we do not know what lies ahead.
REGION 3 UPDATE

We are so blessed that at times do not see it! Just in the last few weeks we have seen God doing great things in our Region 3. Miami Shores held a great Missions Conference, pastors were commissioned, installed and a church was chartered. Yes, a new sister church was born; Central Korean Presbyterian Church was chartered and Pastor Jun Ho Kim was installed. At that very same time, further south in our region Kim Kavazanjian was commissioned at Central Presbyterian Church. That was just in one Sunday.

I pray every day that God will inspire us to look for God’s blessings. We should look for opportunities to be a blessing to others by looking outside our churches, and outside of ourselves and see the thirst, the hunger of those seeking a spiritual life; seeking Jesus. That may just be a starting point to transform from a reducing presbytery to a reproducing presbytery; from declining churches to healthy reproducing churches. When we decide to dream the dreams of God, when we decide to adopt God’s vision for our local congregations we will begin to experience God in new ways. Shifting from our desires and attempt to discern God’s desire is a transforming act in itself. I know God wishes for us to multiply, I know God has given us a message in Jesus Christ, I know God has given us the power through the Spirit to accomplish great things for the kingdom. Let’s get it going!

Let’s get together and share dreams and visions in the Holy Spirit at the Region 3 Pastors Luncheon will be on Tuesday, April 5th, 2011 at Riviera Presbyterian Church from 11:30AM to 1:30PM. We will have fellowship, devotions, exchange ideas, dreams and visions, and of course, great food. Please RSVP to Edwin at edgiusa@yahoo.com

Let’s also count our blessings one by one!

Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz
Associate Missional Presbytery Region 3
(Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties)

BIRTHDAYS

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<td>Rev. Randolph Bare</td>
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<td>Rev. Frances Waldron</td>
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Rev. Jun-ho Kim was installed at Korean Central Presbyterian Church on Sunday March 20th.

Rev. Kim is from Seoul, Korea where he served as a Music Director, a High School Director, a Children’s Director and Assistant Pastor of Young Adult Ministry. Rev. Kim was the Associate Pastor of KM Group’s 300 members in Atlanta, GA. Rev Kim has a degree from Seoul Jangsin University and Theological Seminary, a Masters of Divinity Degree and Masters of Theology Degree in Christian Worship and Preaching from Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary. Rev. Kim is currently working on his Doctor of Missionology degree from Grace Theological Seminary.

Rev. Kim Kavazanjian was commissioned to serve at Central Presbyterian Church on Sunday March 20th.

Kim will be the Associate Pastor for Intergenerational and Youth Ministries. Kim comes to CPC from Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida, in partnership with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. In this position, Kim worked with religious organizations from across the USA. In 2009, Kim served as a missionary with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Fellowships’ program in Columbia, SA. In Columbia, she worked with the Presbyterian Church of Columbia’s ministries in Barranquilla. Kim has served as a missionary in Misiones, Argentina through the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Kim was born in Hinsdale, IL, and transferred from the Long Island Presbytery where she was ordained as a Youth Elder. She is a graduate of Bates College in Maine with a degree in Religion, Spanish, and Dance. She was awarded her MDiv from McCormick Theological Seminary in 2009.

Rev Dr. Jonathon Swanson. Rev. Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin, Rev. Larry Schenk, and Presbytery Administrator, Amalie Ash participated in the Commissioning. Central Church congregation, elders, and ministers from Miami celebrated this blessing for the church.
A crucible is defined as "a severe test, as of patience or belief, or a trial." I have been challenged and tested as in a "crucible" these past four years. I do not want, to crush or belittle God's work in me, but God has used these seminary years to equip and hone my heart and head so that I may be all that God desires. There were times of frustration and questioning, but they led to a deeper understanding of God's Word and the mission of the church. Since beginning my formal training, I have come to a greater knowledge and commitment to God's Kingdom work of reconciliation as an Ambassador of Christ (2 Cor. 5:17-21). But this is getting ahead of myself, as my journey began many years before I entered seminary.

I am indebted to many who urged me to trust in God's faithfulness and to those who helped prepare me for the transforming experience of seminary. My youth minister was the first to tap me on the shoulder and ask if I had ever considered God's call on my life. After an arduous season of ministry in North Carolina, God used a former missionary to fan the flame by urging me to consider answering the call to serve as the Director of the Youth in her church in Fort Pierce (Indian River Presbyterian). The former pastor, Dr. Sam Rutland, took a huge risk on this young 25 year-old by asking me to give my first sermon. After that sermon one of the members took me aside to ask when I was going to take the next step along the journey and go to seminary. (Little did they know that they would become my sponsor in the ordination process?) After an interim process and after assisting the newly installed pastor with his next steps for ministry in the church, I began to sense it was time to follow God's next steps by going to seminary. These events and many more numerous divine relationships over the years provided the support, encouragement, and accountability I so desperately needed in order to take up my cross and follow Christ! But where should I go to follow?

I knew I wanted to go to a top seminary. I began my research knowing God would lead the way. I just needed to trust and follow. My wife, Leslie, is Cuban and she was very willing to move "anywhere" there was not snow...hmmmm. I knew her strong connection to family and her requirement for warm weather would require God's grace and moving. I considered three schools but kept hearing strong recommendations for Asbury Theological Seminar in Orlando. Since it was not Presbyterian and was Arminian I quickly wrote it off - or so I thought. My wife and I prayed for a year and a half, and "Asbury" kept coming back again and again. Reluctantly, I visited the campus and immediately felt at home. Although it would require a two hour drive each way, at least once a week, but the direction of God seemed clear, Asbury was to be the place that I "leaned into" the transforming process of formal discipleship.

My first class on campus was "Kingdom, Church, and World". I was amazed at the professor's knowledge and humility, as well as his desire to inspire the class to love God by wholly trusting God's very Spirit! One class after another added another tool for ministry or developed my understanding and connection to the Catholic Church. I was challenged individually and corporately academically, theologically, and relationally. One interesting reality at the Asbury-Orlando campus is that 85% of the students live an hour or more away. The traditional model and experience of most was not feasible for the 300 students day-in and day-out. We had to be very intentional in our relationships and leverage the time we had on campus to encourage one another in our growing to be more like Christ. The disadvantages to this commuter model are numerous: less one-on-one time with students and professors, cost of travel-as some even traveled by air, and scheduling of classes on certain days, etc., but there were wonderful benefits as well. Most of the students were in part-time/full-time ministry. This allowed them to keep one foot in "ministry" and one in "academia". The discussions were in-depth and due to the diversity in ethnicity and Protestant theological traditions (e.g. Episcopalian, Methodist, Assembly of God, Baptist, Presbyterian) I learned much from our sisters and brothers in Christ. This added to the instant evaluation of the methods propounded since many had several years of ministry experience which presented challenges for our professors. Once again, though, they taught with a fear of the Lord and a boldness from God who had called them to prepare the next generation of pastors. It truly was a kairos season.

I had the opportunity to serve the Asbury community as a student representative and president for three of the four years. As I began to understand the challenges of the commuter context I enabled others to focus on the 2-3 vital areas that would have the greatest impact on this season of preparation. I had the privilege to serve alongside some amazing women and men as we sought to serve our community in small yet tangible ways.

I am so grateful for God's patience with me. God's goodness to me at Asbury will never be forgotten. This season of growth has equipped me to take the next step in empowering others to follow Christ more faithfully with their whole life! May God be most glorified to the highest, by the gracious work of the Father, Son and Spirit through my life and the community of faith.
SHARI’S SHOUT OUT

GA annual statistical reporting was completed with 95% of our churches being reflected. Our sincere thanks to those who assisted with the overall effort! Three churches did not report – same as last year, only a different three. We still covet 100%, perhaps next year? The Clerks Annual Questionnaire may still be completed on line.

April 27th has been designated Administrative Professionals Day. We truly appreciate all the helpful and wonderful office personnel serving in Tropical Florida. Pastors, support your special person in the office and celebrate this year by an introduction to the Administrative Personnel Association of the PCUSA. The APA is holding its Florida Regional Conference May 11 – 15 in Palm Beach Gardens. A special rate of $75 has been set for anyone who would like to “try-it-out” one day (Friday) with classes, lunch and fellowship.

- I’m taking pre-orders for the Presbyterian Planning Calendar coming out shortly. Email or call to reserve your copies at $7.00 each, payable when received. Orders need to be picked up from the Presbytery office.
- Copies of the 2009-2011 Books of Order are available for purchase at $3.00 each.
- Copies of the Book of Confessions are available for purchase at $5.00 each.

Congratulations to the Korean Central Presbyterian Church on being chartered March 20, 2011.

The Korean Central PC is located at First Miami Presbyterian Church. The church has 34 members and the pastor is Rev Jun-ho Kim.

The Presbytery of Tropical Florida is blessed to have this faithful and dedicated congregation in the presbytery.

Congratulations to First Presbyterian Church, Miami on 115 years in ministry. Miami’s oldest organized Christian congregation will celebrate with a free concert on Friday, April 1st at 7 p.m. and a classic reformed service of praise on Sunday, April 3rd at 11 a.m. The Anniversary Service will include a bagpipe procession with the oldest Boy Scout Troop in the city, Troop 7, carrying the Scottish Tartans. Special music will include the premiere of a new hymn written for the occasion and a Proclamation recognizing the contributions of the church of Miami’s community, which will be personally delivered by Major Regalato. Luncheon will following in Fellowship Hall. All are invited. For additional information, please call (305) 371-3439.
**Presbytery-wide Multicultural Event**

Rev. Dr. Raymond Anglin

On Saturday, March 5, 2011, some sixty persons representing a wide cross section of our Presbytery, gathered at the Plantation Presbyterian Church in Plantation, to share in what has been described as a wonderful evening.

It began with the host church led by their pastor David Massey, welcoming us and creating the atmosphere for a “multicultural experience”. Jeff Waycott and the Praise Team from Glades Presbyterian Church moved us into worship and set the stage for our continuing experience.

As our anticipation deepened we received a special oratory selection from young Brianna Mitchell from Goodwill Presbyterian Church and a folk song duet from Sybil Peart-Lyon and Barbara Martin representing Ascension Peace and Myrtle Grove Churches.

Guided by our theme: “Speaking the Truth in Love...continuing the Conversation” a panel of persons carefully chosen, shared personally, openly and honestly their experiences from their racial ethnic contexts. They were Diane Shoaf, Edwin Collado, Robert Coleman, Barbara Martin, Yolande Pierre and Musarrat Nasir with Jonas Georges moderating.

This evolved into a very lively, informative, sensitive and open conversation between the panelists and the audience which concluded with celebration around the Lord’s Table.

Having been spiritually served we moved from the sanctuary to the fellowship hall where we enjoyed a variety of scrumptious ethnic dishes, desserts and drinks.

It was indeed a wonderful evening and the Multicultural Network Task Force joins me in thanking all who contributed to making it so.

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**Haitian Earthquake Mission Update**

Pat Ashley

Each month in our presbytery’s newsletter, an aspect of our Haitian earthquake response will be highlighted. This month we focus on the work of All Nations Presbyterian Church, North Miami Beach.

The church has been working with Haitian students, some of whom are earthquake survivors, to adapt to the school system, providing counseling and (with the help of presbytery funding) over 200 backpacks of school supplies for the opening of the school year. Jonas Georges, the pastor, has been involved with those who find their way to the church, referring them to help. Sometimes, with the aid of PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) funding, the church has provided rental assistance. The church offered a tutoring program in which 36 earthquake survivors participated. It also sponsored a party during the holidays for contacts from the tutoring program and from those who came for help. The church is a center of activity for the community, open to receiving both people in need and those who want to partner in offering help. The community looks to the church and to the pastor to be able to respond, and the church is committed to accompanying the community in the name of the church. The pastor appears periodically in the local media, especially radio. Most recently he has been on a program aired on Island TV and another program on Channel 2.

An interview with pastor Jonas Georges yielded the following impressions concerning the impact of the earthquake on Haitians currently in South Florida:

- The psychological trauma from the earthquake has gone largely untreated, but could become more accessible if presented in the right way;
- Housing will be a major factor for survivors in the coming year;
- Keeping children in school can be an important force for recovery;
- Job placement is a key need for the coming year.
Hunger Action

Jesus said, “You give them something to eat.” (Mark 6:37)
By Rev. Amy Baer

I have been present in South Florida food pantries lined with empty shelves just moments before opening their doors to masses of hungry people. Yet by God’s grace, I have never witnessed the closing of one of these food pantries for lack of food. How is this possible? It is possible because every day, God is inspiring and equipping ordinary people and congregations to serve the hungry in extraordinary ways. The food pantries and soup kitchens in our Presbytery, serving thousands of hungry people daily, are modern-day examples of feeding the multitudes.

This year, as we continue on our journey toward becoming a reproducing Presbytery, my prayer for us all is that this mission will find expression in hunger action. Above and before all things, I hope we will all join in prayer for God’s direction and inspiration in these hard times. If you or your congregation feels called to engage in hunger action this year, here are just a few ideas for you:

Collect: Participate in the Cents-a-ility Offering
Simply add a special collection of loose change to your worship service once a month. Last year, the congregations of Tropical Florida Presbytery raised over $17,000 through the Cents-a-ility Offering, and this money was distributed directly to local congregations and non-profit agencies serving the hungry here in South Florida. If your church chooses to participate, please send these collections directly to the Presbytery Office, marked for the Cents-a-ility offering.

Donate: Commit to food donations for a local food program
There is undoubtedly a food pantry or soup kitchen in the neighborhood of your congregation. Call them, ask them what they need, and conduct a canned food drive or commit to preparing and serving one dinner a month. Call or e-mail me at abaer@crosministries.org for a step-by-step guide to conducting a food drive and a list of food programs in your area.

Communicate: Conduct an Offering of Letters with Bread for the World
Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation’s decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. U.S. Representatives from districts within the bounds of our Presbytery are among those who will be key policy makers on foreign aid programs this year. For a free download of Bread for the World’s 2011 Offering of Letters Kit, go to http://files.bread.org/dmngood/ol2011/OL2011_Handbook.pdf. This kit unpacks all of the details about the 2011 Bread initiative, seeking to make our U.S. foreign aid distributions more efficient, transparent, and accountable.

Please call or e-mail me for any resources or questions; I am always available to assist you. Please also let me know if you decide to continue participating in hunger action and/or if you choose to engage in a new form of hunger action. Your Hunger Task Force needs to know about the programs and initiatives that touch your heart.

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TRAINING MIDDLE EASTERN PASTORS

Some churches in the Tropical Florida Presbytery are forming a partnership with the Evangelical (Presbyterian) Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt. Would your church be interesting in continuing a 150+ Presbyterian commitment to God's church in the Middle East? For more information, please contact Rev. Bryan Wenger.
CELEBRATE SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE SUNDAY
April 10, 2011
Resources to help you interpret the mission of Self-Development may be found on SDOP’s website. You’ll find two SDOP-related hymns, liturgical suggestions, stories about SDOP projects and more! Visit www.pcusa.org/sdop to view the materials.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN RETREAT
Join the Presbyterian Women at First PC of Delray Beach.
Special guest Rev. Dr. Tracy R. Keenan will lead the day in song and inspiration.

The Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan is the senior pastor of the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio. She received a Bachelor of Science in Education from Duquesne University, a Master of Divinity from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from the McCormick Theological Seminary. Tracy enthusiastically lends her musical background to ministry at Covenant and to the Church at large, leading seminars and providing the music and worship leadership for various synod, presbytery, and seminary events.

Date and Time: April 16, 9:30 to 2:00
Cost: $10.00 includes lunch and morning snack
Location: First PC Delray Beach
33 Gleason Street, Delray Beach

Send Registration to Polly Shafer – 1951 SE East Erwin Road Port St. Lucie, FL 34952
Flyer

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

MULTI-FAITH SUMMER INTERNSHIP
May 31 - July 28, 2011
Summer Internship for young adults 20 to 30 years old, called "Farm the Land, Grow the Spirit."
The internship will be held for the months of June and July, and will include building vegetable gardens on the property, supporting a local cooperative farm, and studying nonviolence philosophy and strategies in the Muslim, Jewish and Christian Traditions. Application, flyer and brochure are available on the Stoney Point Center website.

2011 ECO-STEWARDS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Program connects young adults with faith, earth in Montana
LOUISVILLE – For young adults who want to explore the connections between faith, environmentalism and community, the Eco-Stewards Program offers a chance to spend the summer doing just that.

A joint program of the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Association and Presbyterians for Earth Care, Eco-Stewards trains young adults (ages 20-30) in eco-stewardship skills and then sends them out to optional internships with churches or camps.

This year’s weeklong training event will be June 2-9 in southeastern Montana. Participants will camp on a farm on the Crow Reservation and will “delve into the complex environmental issues surrounding land use, poverty, agriculture, and sustainability in a cross-cultural context,” according to the program’s website.

To learn more about or apply for the 2011 program, visit the Eco-Stewards website.
BIG TENT EVENT
June 30 – July 2, 2011
Indianapolis, IN
More information

2011 ENGAGE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
August 8-11, 2011
Don Cesar Hotel in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

The Engage 2011 Conference will walk participants through the new “Engage” evangelism resource and train them how to use it in a congregational setting. As participants engage their own stories of personal transformation as well as God’s story of redemption in scripture, churches will learn how to re-connect with their communities.

Dan Kimball will be the conference keynote speaker. Dan has written several books focusing on culture, church and mission including They Like Jesus But Not The Church, The Emerging Church and Emerging Worship. He is on staff at Vintage Faith Church in Santa Cruz, California which he planted and founded with a team in 2004. He is adjunct faculty at George Fox Seminary and a columnist for Leadership Journal and Outreach magazine.

National New Church Development Conference, sponsored by the PCUSA Office of Church Growth
August 8-11, 2011
TradeWinds Island Grand hotel St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Brochures may be downloaded from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) website.

To register for the Engage conference, go here.
Questions may be forwarded to Meredith Kemp-Pappan, administrative assistant for Evangelism, at meredith.kemp-pappan@pcusa.org or by calling 1-888-728-7228, ext. 5088

THE GREEN E-NEWS

Our first E-Newsletter gave us the opportunity to see just how we are reaching out to our members. 510 emails were delivered successfully, of which 50% were opened. 66% of these prompted visitors to our website to read more and to explore the site. By preparing the e-news we save on the costs of printing and mailing and we can better tailor articles for readers as we can track statistics for areas most often visited.
### APRIL 2011

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**2pm. COM Region 1**

1:30pm MOSJ&P

10am Evangelism Conference Call

12pm COM Region 2

3 pm HRC

PW spring Retreat

10am Multicultural TF

9:30am FRC

10am CON/COR

9:30am HRC

### MAY 2011

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2pm COM Region 1

1:30pm MOSJ&P

4pm Coral Gables

9:30am FRC

10am Multicultural TF

10am Council 1pm COM Region 2 2pm COM

9am FLAPDAN

APA Council Retreat Presbytery Packet Posted

Access the annual calendar online: [http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html](http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html)
REGION 1 UPDATE

Greetings Region 1 Churches! I thought we had a great start together at our Region 1 lunch on April 14. The Presbytery has given me an e-mail address (wengerb@tfpb.org) that I will primarily be using for this AMP position. I also have my mailing address and phone contact info below. It has been a time of a fair amount of administrative and personal preparation for this new journey ahead of us. I really appreciate your prayers, partnership and participation as we launch out together in “different” ways with the “same” gospel message, bearing witness in word and deed, where God has planted each of us, to the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Please be in touch about getting together for coffee/lunch/a 30 min phone chat – whatever works best for you in May & June – I really want to hear the stories of your congregation, the hopes and dreams of the people, and even your needs for pastoral leadership resources and effective support in mission & ministry endeavors. I’ll be in touch directly over the next month to initiate that contact as well – we will see “who gets to who” first! I would also love to receive via e-mail or snail mail your church newsletters or other communication avenues you use within your congregations. This will also help me become better acquainted with the DNA/passions of the people of God you have been called to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination & love!!

Looking forward to being with you all soon!

Blessings in Christ,
Bryan

Rev. Bryan L. Wenger
Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 1 of Tropical Florida Presbytery
2499 Virginia Ave
Fort Pierce, FL 34982
772-464-4263 x105
Fax 772-464-2351

REGION 3 UPDATE

The church is alive and well. This last Holy week all congregations in Region 3 commemorated and celebrated the passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Some shared services; others had special dramatic presentations, while others open their doors for visitors seeking spiritual experiences. I had the great privilege to have visited and worship with 5 of our congregations. The reality of the occasion was evident, the Gospel proclamation was creative, the singing of praises, spiritual and hymns was inspirational and God’s people were reminded of the immense grace of God in Christ Jesus. I tell you, the church is alive and well, after all the head of the church; Jesus is ALIVE!

This month of May we will celebrate and may get visitors for Mother’s Day and Memorial Day...Let’s try to be more intentional in engaging our visitors and attempt to transition them into disciples. That is the way to become a presbytery in reproduction and a church to grow. Need ideas on how to engage and retain visitors? Let me know! We can help.

Very important to note: MAY 11, 2011, at 12:30pm we will have our Pastors luncheon at Riviera Presbyterian Church in South Miami. We will bring resources and discuss the potential constitutional changes. We will enjoy a "Build your own Taco" bar. Let me know if you are coming at edgiusa@yahoo.com.

That way we will have plenty. See you on the 11th. If unable to attend, let me know if you wish for the materials to be sent to you.

Paz,
Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz
AMP Region 3
Do You Seek Your Own Spiritual Growth And Maturation?  
Would You Enjoy Learning In An Open, Supportive Environment With Others Who Are Committed To The Spiritual Life?  
Do You Sense A Call To Accompany Others In Their Journeys Of Faith?

I write today to share with you the enduring work of several of our colleagues in Tropical Florida Presbytery and to invite minister members as well as members of the churches in the presbytery to explore the educational and formational opportunities available to you at St. Thomas University.

Florida Center for Theological Studies (FCTS) recently joined St. Thomas University (STU) to provide ecumenical graduate theological education in South Florida. The School of Theology and Ministry at St. Thomas University is building upon the legacy of pioneers in theological education in South Florida as the school offers women and men opportunities for spiritual growth, for theological education, and for preparation for faith-based leadership in the local church, denominational/diocesan appointments, chaplaincy and non-profit organizations.

- **Do you want to complete that Bachelor’s degree you started long ago?**  
  Maybe the Online Bachelor’s Degree with a Religious Studies major is for you.

- **Are you interested in deepening your prayer life and helping others to do likewise?**  
  Consider the Online International Spiritual Studies or the Spiritual Companionship certificate programs.

- **Have you pondered a change in career, even a call to ministry?**  
  The 36 credit Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry (with a specialization in Deaf Ministries available for interested students) and the 72 credit Master of Divinity degree programs are guided by the Association of Theological Schools’ standards while providing flexibility for adult learners and for the priorities of multiple Christian traditions.

- **Do you love to study Scripture?**  
  Why not join the Biblical Scholars Series certificate program.

- **Are you seeking continuing education?**  
  We offer a Graduate Certificate in Loss and Healing and a PhD in Practical Theology as well as lectures and special programs throughout the year.

Twenty-five years ago, the Rev. Dr. Melvin Schoonover, with the support of New York Theological Seminary, traveled to Miami to create opportunities for theological education for women and men in South Florida. Local Presbyterian clergy and scholars joined the effort. The Rev. Dr. Carroll Schuster served as the first Board Chairperson; the Rev. Dr. Y. Jacqueline Rhoades served as the first Academic Dean; the Rev. Dr. Tom Davis served as core professor in the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degree programs; and the Rev. Dr. Irvin “Mike” Elligan served on the Board of Directors and led the Field Education component of the Master of Divinity degree program, at the newly-chartered South Florida Center for Theological Studies. Throughout its twenty-five year history, Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degree programs as well as diploma programs in Creole, English and Spanish were offered to students representing the rich cultural and denominational diversity of South Florida. Presbyterian students/graduates included Constance Bright, Sally Campbell-Evans, Bob Coleman, Aida Diego, Edie Gause, Jonas Georges, Randy Gill, Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz, Laurie Kraus, and Leah Meador. In 2010, Young-Seo Park received his Master of Divinity degree and Dwayne Black, Yeon Chang, and Boisy Waiters are current students.

Much has changed since those beginnings in the mid-eighties. Even as Mel Schoonover was tending to the growth of South Florida Center for Theological Studies, Dr. Joseph Iannone and Dr. Mercedes Iannone were invited by then-President of St. Thomas University, the Rev. Dr. Patrick O’Neill, to lead the newly-formed Institute of Pastoral Ministry in developing graduate and certificate programs preparing Catholic women and men for pastoral ministry. Today the legacy of these pioneers in theological education in South Florida continues in the inauguration of the Master of Divinity degree program and the establishment of the Ecumenical Institute at St. Thomas University. I currently serve as Director of the Ecumenical Institute in the School of Theology and Ministry at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens, Florida and look forward to welcoming you to the campus in Miami Gardens or study in our virtual classroom.

Please visit our web-site at www.stu.edu/theology or contact me at dshoaf@stu.edu. May we together discover how the School of Theology and Ministry at St. Thomas University might provide educational and formational opportunities for lay and ordained, volunteer and staff, women and men attentive to their and others’ journeys of faith. Programs begin in late August. Don’t delay.
**PRAYER**

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change
courage to change the things I can
and wisdom to know the difference.

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**BIRTHDAYS**

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

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**ORDINATIONS**

01 Dr. Calvin Leonard - HR
10 Rev. Robert Welsh - HR
10 Rev. Robert Bonham - HR
   Memorial, West Palm Beach
11 Rev. Charles Croghan - HR
11 Rev. Ryan Baer – Lakeside, West Palm Beach
16 Rev. Aida Diego – MOS
17 Rev. Luis Mercado-Perez – MOS
26 Rev. Raquel Welty - HR
27 Rev. Bryan Wenger - Indian River, Ft. Pierce
28 Rev. Stephen Castillo -HR
30 Rev. Jung Yn Shin – Korean, North Miami
31 Rev. Pierre DuBose - HR

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**SHARI’S SHOUT OUT**

Presbytery meets at First Presbyterian Church (The Pink Church), Pompano Beach, Tuesday, May 24th.

A meeting packet will be mailed to each church on May 12th. The number (upper right) on the envelope label indicates how many elder commissioners may represent your church (vote) at the meeting, based on the parity report approved at the February meeting. Church offices are reminded that the packet needs to be copied for each clergy and elder commissioner attending. The packet will also be posted online for downloading. It’s not too early to make your lunch reservations. Please call 954-941-2308.

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The Presbyterian Planning Calendars are in! If you haven’t already, reserve your copies now ($7.00 ea.). Orders need to be picked up at the Presbytery office and paid for when received.

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Copies of the 2009-2011 Book of Order ($3.00) and the Book of Confessions ($5.00) are also available for purchase.
CARING FOR ELDERLY LIVING IN HAMLIN NURSING HOME

Caring for an elderly is an incredibly emotional and difficult issue that almost every family faces and or will face in the future. The basic principles for elderly care are patience and respect.

The reality is that everyone is going to get old one day; and as we age our bodies aged, and when we are caring for elderly we should deal with these changes, such as emotional, physical and the mental changes that comes with age.

As Physiological functions wane when people getting old, taking care of an elderly is to take heed to these changes and to be careful not to treat the person as handicapped. Of course there are a lot of changes in vision, it becomes more limited, they need to be oriented kindly to the bathroom, to the bed, to the way out etc... with hearing deficiency, also they might need to be talked to loudly but never in shouting!
Sometimes they need to be assisted when they need toileting or moving around. Appropriate care should be giving because old people most of the time they are not people with disease but people who needs assistance, care, and attention to meet their needs.

Always to address to a person we should show respect and consider calling him as Mr. or Mrs. And the most important is to protect their privacy no matter how old they are.

It can be difficult to make decisions that are in the resident’s best interest without feeling that you are steeling their independence and their privacy. That is why sometimes, elderly they don’t show appreciation because they are wrestling with as many conflicting emotions as we are.

In Hamlin Nursing Home, staff can get really emotionally involved and they might become Sympathetic and empathetic. But with all this emotional involvement patience and respect should always be the basic principals when taking care of an elderly.

We should never forget that it is the most difficult step to take when it comes to the family taking the decision to send their beloved seniors to a nursing home... Guilt is a major emotion to be dealt with when deciding to hand over care to experienced professionals.
At the same time any type of change can be very frightening for elders and can shake their physical and psychological status. They might stay in bed or do nothing waiting to die, it could be a motive for more attention or it could be a sign of depression. Nothing can replace their home and nothing can bring back their identity, nothing can replace their memory in this beautiful place which is their home, their things......
Never the less we have to deal with the guilt feeling of family members who lives abroad or at a distance, we have to deal with their tears of separation, their fear of mistreating their beloved when it comes, to handle them to professional.

Finally, a good nursing home it’s a blessing for the residents and their families; it’s the best solution to protect the person from harming himself, not to be isolated from the society and the world, he can make friends with other residents he can get involved in many activity and be free from many responsibility. He can be monitored for his health from a very professional team.

To finish, all this should be based on respect and patience.

Thank You
Letter from the Director,
Sanaa Koreh

Further Reading:

- Continuing Support for Hamlin Nursing Home

ECUMENICAL NEWS

You can read the latest articles on the following:

- SLC Church Distribution of Quran
- Cuba Church Faces New Reality
- 2011 National Works in Church Unity
- World Sunday for Peace
- Institute on Chr. Muslim Relations
- International Ecumenical Peace Convention
- World Week for Peace in Palestine

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1 In Lebanese words its better to call as SIT and KHAWAJA
HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE MISSION UPDATE
Pat Ashley

FIRST, NORTH PALM
MISSIONARY FLIGHTS INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH WITH A MISSION

Each month in our presbytery’s newsletter, an aspect of our Haitian earthquake response is highlighted. This month we focus on the work of First, North Palm. The church supports and works in partnership with two missions that pertain to Haitian earthquake survivors:

- Missionary Flights International (MFI), 3170 Airmans Drive, Ft. Pierce, FL 34946; www.missionaryflights.org

Missionary Flights International is an aviation ministry that supports Christian missions throughout the Caribbean, especially the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The church has worked with MFI for about 10 years. The organization was on the ground with supplies in Haiti one day after the earthquake, flew there frequently in the immediate aftermath, and continues several flights per month. The church collects supplies and equipment that are included in these flights. World Vision re-designed medical kits for Haiti, the congregation packed them, Missionary Flights International flew them to Haiti, and YWAM (see below) arranged for their distribution and has provided video of the operation in Haiti. Indian River and Grace Community, Boca have also contributed thousands of dollars to MFI’s work.

- Youth with a Mission (YWAM) — Haiti Freeman and Shelly Nettles P.O. Box 236, Akron, PA 17501; JEM, Rue Maurepa, St. Marc, Haiti. www.ywam.org; e-mail: snettles_5@hotmail.com.

Youth with a Mission is an international movement of Christians from many denominations dedicated to serving Jesus throughout the world. After the earthquake, St. Marc became a key location for three tent cities sheltering earthquake victims. Freeman and Shelly’s work has shifted to survival relief, and they have been able to receive and direct resources that the church has sent. The current need is to expand the existing work of building more permanent housing (duplex-like houses) and to provide clinics in the tent-city areas.

**Events**

Online Calendar of Events and Meetings

Missionary Flights International (MFI), based in Ft. Pierce, FL is offering individuals or small groups (up to 14 people) to spend a week on a worktrip in Haiti to construct housing for earthquake survivors. The cost for such a trip is $500, which includes housing, food, and transportation from/to Ft. Pierce. It does not include the cost of a passport, getting to Ft. Pierce, shots, additional food or drink beyond what is provided, or souvenirs. Additional contributions are encouraged in order to provide building materials. Roger Sands, 561-252-6615 / rogerS@missionaryflights.org, is the contact person. Churches may be in touch with him to discuss dates and arrangements for possible church-group trips. He can also send a link with pictures from previous trips. For individuals or groups, there are spaces open in several scheduled trips: April 14-21, June 23-30, September 15-22, September 22-29, and February 9-16. Roger can provide you with extensive information about exactly what a trip entails. You are also welcome to visit the organization’s website: www.missionaryflights.org.

**Administrative Personnel Association**

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

**Multi-faith Summer Internship**

May 31 - July 28, 2011
Summer Internship for young adults 20 to 30 years old, called "Farm the Land, Grow the Spirit."

The internship will be held for the months of June and July, and will include building vegetable gardens on the property, supporting a local cooperative farm, and studying nonviolence philosophy and strategies in the Muslim, Jewish and Christian Traditions.

Application, flyer and brochure are available on the Stoney Point Center website.
**BIG TENT EVENT**
June 30 – July 2, 2011
Indianapolis, IN
More information

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August 8-11, 2011
Don Cesar Hotel in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

The Engage 2011 Conference will walk participants through the new “Engage” evangelism resource and train them how to use it in a congregational setting. As participants engage their own stories of personal transformation as well as God’s story of redemption in scripture, churches will learn how to re-connect with their communities.

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August 8-11, 2011
Tradewinds Island Grand hotel St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Brochures may be downloaded from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) website.

To register for the Engage conference, go here.
Questions may be forwarded to Meredith Kemp-Pappan, administrative assistant for Evangelism, at meredith.kemp-pappan@pcusa.org or by calling 1-888-728-7228, ext. 5088

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**FLORIDA WELCOMES EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**
**FALL 2011 COURSE IN CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA**

B116 - Biblical Studies
IV: Paul and the Interpreters of Paul

*More than half of the New Testament is devoted to texts either written by Paul or in his name. This course offers an introduction to the figure of Paul in his social and historical context, and to the interpretation of his letters. It also explores how the figure of Paul (after his martyrdom) became an authority for ministry and the leadership of the church in the writings of the interpreters of Paul in the late first and early second century. The course seeks to engage students in their imaginations for ministry – attending to Paul’s relationship with his churches, his negotiation of authority in

his leadership and his reliance upon and freedom within the traditions of his early Jewish religious heritage in communicating his understanding of the good news of Jesus Christ.*

This course will be taught by Dr. Deborah Krause, Professor of New Testament.
The course will be a mixture of on-line learning and classroom instruction.
Classroom instruction will take place at Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ September 16-17, October 14-15, November 4-5 and December 9-10.
Class will be held on Friday evenings from 6:30-9:30 pm and Saturday from 9:00-3:00 pm.

The class can be taken credit non-degree, with credit being applied to a graduate theological degree. Credit non-degree students must have completed a bachelor’s degree. Students will apply for admission as a credit non-degree student, completing an application which includes a reference from their pastor as well as submitting official transcripts from the colleges they have attended.

http://www.eden.edu/Miscellaneous/Credit%20Non-Degree%20Students.aspx

Please contact the Rev. Carol Shanks, Director of Admissions, for further information: cshanks@eden.edu or (877)627-5652

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**WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES VACANCY NOTICES FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO POSITIONS**

**ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY - UNITY AND MISSION**
**ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY - PUBLIC WITNESS AND DIAKONIA**

Those who may be interested in applying for these positions can go to:

All applicants should apply online HRO@wcc-coe.org within the planned time frame.

**17 - 25 MAY 2011, KINGSTON, JAMAICA**
The International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC) will be a "harvest festival" celebrating the achievements of the Decade to Overcome Violence which began in 2001. At the same time it encourages individuals and churches to renew their commitment to nonviolence, peace and justice.
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Access the annual calendar online: [http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html](http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html)
Please Support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance efforts in storm and flood ravaged communities. To show our collective support and concern, please send your donations to the Presbytery office and we will send 100% of the donation to the PDA in your church’s name. Your contributions to this critically important mission of the PCUSA are needed. We will be communicating any special needs or other ways your congregations can provide support.

**KEEPING THE MOMENTUM IN CHALLENGING TIMES**

There are many issues that distract us Presbyterians these days from mission and ministry. “In a time such as this” is a popular mantra of our General Assembly literature. In this time, when we are faced with changes to our Constitution, I would like to point out that the Presbytery of Tropical Florida has been engaged in redefining itself with regard to its mission.

Two years ago, on a Council retreat, there was a new mission statement adopted. We know you’ve heard it several times. We want to go from a reducing presbytery, to a reproducing presbytery. The fact that you know this statement is key! We’ve focused on making sure everyone gets behind this vision! For it is we who need to not only know the mission, but be in prayer and take an active part in achieving the goal.

At the Council retreat last year, a task force was formed to look at and potentially redesign our staff and structure to best suit the mission of the Presbytery. The proposal of that task force and the Presbytery’s adoption of it have led to our new structure. We now are seeing more collaboration amongst the regions in mission and ministry thanks to our AMPs. Ideas are being shared, and relationships are being formed.

This year at our Council retreat, we focused on strategies that the local church could adopt that would, in some cases, transform the congregations or, in other cases, lead to reproduction and new church plants. The vocabulary words for this year are missional communities and incarnational ministry. So many of our churches were designed around an attractional model of ministry. “Build it and they will come” is not only a great quote from “Field of Dreams”, but it was also the thinking behind our church campuses. Sometimes, this model works. Sometimes, it has its issues, especially if the church campus cannot be maintained properly or if most of the budget is going to maintaining the property. We are not here to say that we should abandon this model. It works for some. But there is some new thinking out there (not really new, but completely Biblical) that suggests that we have to go out into the world and meet people where they are. Some folks will never, on their own, enter a church building. But maybe they’ll enter a home or a place of recreation and hear about the Gospel? The idea is that we need go and get them. John 20:21 says “As the Father has sent me, even so am I sending you.” We need to be sending our own to meet people where they are and eventually guide them into the church.

Rev. Dana Allin, Rev. Kennedy McGowan, and Rev. David Kwon are all involved in different forms of this missional, incarnational, reproductive ministry. Our Presbytery’s website has a link to videos explaining them. Our AMPs are there to help as well, putting you in touch with folks that are doing this. If you want to transform your congregation, plant another church, or start a house church movement, we can help! Let’s focus on the positive and grow our churches and our Presbytery to the glory of God.

by John Terech
REGION 1 UPDATE

Dear Friends

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Phil. 2:1-4, ESV)

I have had this verse on my heart and mind a lot lately. We have, no doubt, had many thoughts and/or conversations with others about the majority of Presbyteries passing amendment 10-A last month. We’ve read the articles, blogs – maybe even wrote a letter to our congregations and further processed “what all this” means with our sessions and other leaders. And yet today/now, Jesus is calling and sending His people out with the Gospel to a world which is hurting – physically, spiritually and emotionally.

Thank you for the privilege of beginning the journey of “getting to know you and your congregations” and I will continue to do so in the days and months ahead. I am encouraged as I listen to your stories – your hopes and dreams – and visit with you and get to see your mission and ministry contexts. I am excited to learn and watch new missionial initiatives and opportunities being birthed out of Council – partnering with NCD & Transformation & ultimately with each of YOU – to continue the journey God has called us to at this time: “FROM A REDUCING TO A REPRODUCING” people here in Tropical Florida Presbytery.

Please be in prayer about who in your congregation may want to explore connecting to the missional coaching opportunity coming on board this fall for TFP as introduced at the May Presbytery meeting by Dr. Dana Allin! I will be sending out a packet to each of the Region 1 churches in early June with more info and will be happy to talk further with you about this opportunity to learn how to build relationships in the communities where God has planted our churches. Please be in touch!!! (wengerb@tfpby.org or 772-464-4263 x105)

Have a blessed summer and let us be one in Christ, reflecting His light and love to the world around us each and every day He gives us!

Pressing on with you,

Bryan

Rev. Bryan L. Wenger
Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 1 of Tropical Florida Presbytery
2499 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce, FL 34982
772-464-4263 x105
Fax 772-464-2351

REGION 2 UPDATE

PASTORS AND LAY LEADERS WILL DISCUSS MISSION COACHING

Pastors and elders representing churches in Region 2 will meet on June 8, 2011 to develop ideas on how to engage collaboratively in supporting the work of missional coaches as a strategy to promote the Missional focus of congregational ministry.

During their April 8 meeting the pastors discussed ways in which lay leaders and clergy can work together to expand the mission strategy of local congregations by sharing ideas about mission activities that work well and those that can be transformed to become more effective.

The gathering will take place at First Presbyterian Church of Pompano Beach beginning at noon. All pastors in the region are invited and are being encouraged to invite at least one lay leader who has a desire to work with others to extend the mission of the congregation beyond the “walls” of the sanctuary.

A $5 donation will be collected to offset the cost for lunch.

Nigel Leon Lovell-Martin, Ph.D.
REGION 3 UPDATE

SHIFTING GEARS

The Apostle Paul encourages believers to change their way of thinking so that their way of living may also change, (Rom.12:2). Some call these mental shifts; shifting from our usual way of thinking to a different and sometimes radically new way of thinking.

This maybe a timely reminder, as we move from a reducing presbytery to a reproducing presbytery. Our new vision requires shifts in our ways of thinking, change in mind set, and even change in how we speak. Some changes may be from complacency to intentionality of vision and growth, from no new members to reclaiming the ministry of evangelism and discipleship, and from staring at failure to ceasing the new opportunities by God’s grace.

This summer we will be unrolling the transformational Missional/Incarnational model for ministry. As I visit our Congregations in Region 3, I will be sharing and encouraging three shifts or new ways of thinking that will refresh and bring newness to our life in community. Shifting our ways of doing and becoming the church will allow the Spirit to inspire new things that will bring glory of God and perhaps prosperity to our congregations.

First: Shift from our present plans and hopes to God’s expectations for the present and vital future of our congregation. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" Jeremiah 29:11

Second: Shift from inward driven efforts to outward driven efforts. "Therefore, go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" Matthew 28:19

Third: Shift in language (from religious to biblical, from institutional to organic, from scripted to relational) "Instead, speak the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ" Ephesians 4:15

Can you imagine what God can do if we adopt these shifts in our hearts and minds? Can you imagine how these shifts may provide a new refreshing wind of the Spirit to transform our lives and congregations? Can you just imagine? I remember my old manual transmission car; every time I shifted gear, I got more power.

Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz
Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 3 Miami-Dade and Monroe

CLERGY NEWS

The office of Moderator changed hands at the recent presbytery meeting. Outgoing Moderator, Lucky Arnold, having served the Presbytery during the last year, welcomed the new Moderator, Gwen Magby. The Presbytery thanks Lucky for his pastoral leadership and available counsel. And, we welcome Gwen and her guidance in 2011 and 2012.

The Presbytery welcomed Heidi Arencibia. Heidi has been serving New Life PC in Miami as their Commission Lay Pastor while she completed her ordination requirements. Heidi’s ordination and installation will be held Sunday June 26th at the New Life Church.

The Presbytery welcomed Jose Manuel Capella-Pratts. Jose is coming to the presbytery from the Presbytery of San Juan where he has been the minister at Hato Rey Presbyterian Church in Rio Piedras, PR. Jose will be installed at First Spanish Miami in August.

Congratulations to Jonathan Swanson, pastor at Central PC recently who ran the 100-mile road race from Key Largo to Key West.
EXPO NENTIAL 2011

You will be hearing about exponential 2012 during the next twelve months and I encourage you to sign up. This three-day event held in Orlando is for everyone desiring to refresh, renew, or rethink their ministry. Exponential is billed as “the largest gathering of church planters on the earth” with the tag line “Accelerating Multiplication”. In their array of workshops and key note speakers there was an energy for reaching out and sharing Christ in new ways. Three of the many keynote speakers shared a few ideas that could make a difference in any church.

Michael Frost, VP of Morling College and founder of the Tinsley Institute in Sydney Australia spoke about reaching out to his community leaders. He let the Mayor, Chief of Police and City Commissioners know that his church was willing to support them if they needed anything. One day the mayor said that they had not been able to manage the weekend crime at a large mall of pubs and clubs. After a few meetings, a group of volunteers created “Street Preachers” and they started their ministry at 10pm. They helped young people get home safely, hear their heartbreaking stories of being jilted by a girlfriend, and stopped fights before they happened. They reduced the crime and the mayor is thankful. Who ended up becoming the new disciples? The bartenders, servers, and bouncers; those that worked the midnight hours, and did not attend Sunday service. They saw the difference these “Street Preachers” made. They became a new ministry that met in the wee hours of the morning after the pubs and clubs closed.

Reggie McNeal, Missional Leadership Specialist from Dallas, TX is originally from South Carolina. He said that South Carolina schools are at the bottom of the list in the United States. Yet, there are more churches in the area than there are schools. He asked, “What would be the impact on education if the churches began adopting their nearby schools?”

Matt Chandler, Lead Pastor at The Village Church, Flower Mound, TX

He spoke to an audience filled with church planters, emerging church pastors and all sorts of people seeking a new way to do church. His message was to remind those that think “the old way of being a church is passé” is wrong thinking. He reminded the audience that the traditional churches are what made it possible for everyone to be there. To know that there is a way to meld new ideas with the old ways.

We do not need to abandon what we know. We do need to stop repeating things and hoping for new results. Think about how you can reach out to your community, help a school, or create a new church atmosphere in your congregation. This year there will be an ongoing discussion about ideas; try some or create your own and share them with us.

We can be a growing presbytery.

By Amalie Ash
Presbytery Administrator

BIRTHDAYS

01  Rev. Rosalia Orta - HR
02  Dr. Kenneth Smith - MOS
04  Rev. Charles Croghan - HR
04  Dr. Richard B. Anderson - HR
09  Rev. Donald Davis - HR
17  Rev. John Hendricks - HR
22  Rev. Constantine Baldassare - HR
24  Rev. Kim Kavanajian – Central, Miami
25  Rev. Martin Anorga - HR
26  Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin - Myrtle Grove, Miami
27  Rev. Benjamin Davis - HR
27  Dr. Charles Denison – First, Stuart
28  Rev. Antonio Welty - HR

ORDINATIONS

01  Rev. V. Neil Wyrick - HR
01  Rev. Edward Peachey - HR
01  Rev. Daniel Gerhardt - HR
01  Dr. Maurice Stone - HR
01  Dr. James Nimmo III – First, Port St. Lucie

01  Dr. Thomas Culberson - HR
01  Dr. Kenneth White - MOS
03  Rev. Juan Perez - First Spanish, Miami
03  Rev. Gary Frel - HR
04  Dr. Stephen Sapp - MOS
08  Rev. Frank Allard - HR
11  Rev. Robert Vance - HR
11  Dr. Albert Bush, Jr. - Gardens, Palm Beach Gardens
15  Rev. Donald Davis - HR
16  Rev. Brace Bateman – HR
16  Rev. Robert Polland - HR
17  Rev. Kennedy McGowan – First, Hollywood
17  Dr. Gwendolyn Magby – Trinity, Key West
18  Kellen Smith
19  Rev. Donald Meeder - HR
19  Dr. James Colvert - HR
21  Rev. Ervin Joslin - HR
23  Dr. Arlene Gordon - HR
23  Rev. Leah Meador - HR
24  Rev. John Hendricks - HR
24  Rev. Rosemary N. Welton - MOS
25  Rev. Suk Won Han – Korean, Palm Beach
26  Rev. Randolph Bare – Memorial, West Palm Beach
30  Dr. David Thomas – HR
30  Dr. Keith Riddle - MOS
I'm usually nagging about deadlines or some such, so I'd like to take a moment to just say thank you. I'm truly blessed to be serving with all of you these past 11 years and want you to know how grateful I am to have been given the opportunity.

Thanks to all who called in their registrations for the Presbytery meeting. It surely makes planning easier. A special thank you to our hosts at the Pink Church.

The APA Florida Region had a wonderful time of learning, sharing and collegiality at our conference in Palm Beach Gardens in mid-May. Our deepest thanks to our instructors who gave so generously of their time to share their knowledge. We wished more of our Tropical Florida administrative professionals had joined us.

One of our instructors, Deputy Eddie Nelson of the Palm Beach Sheriff's office, has developed a program "Security for Houses of Worship" which he has offered to share with our Presbytery. We're hoping to present his class sometime this summer. This class, coupled with a Personal Safety class and lunch would involve the better part of the day and, hopefully, be considered worth your drive. I've wanted to get us together for so long; can this be the time? Of course, any/everyone is welcome. Please help us gauge your interest and let me know. The cost will be $25.00. Do you prefer a weekday or Saturday? Your thoughts via e-mails and calls would be appreciated.

**Boundary (Sexual Misconduct) Training First Stuart - June 13th (9:30-3:30)**

During 2011 three opportunities for Boundary (Sexual Misconduct) Training will be offered, the first of which will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Stuart. You may sign up for this class by calling Shari at the Presbytery office or emailing her (shari@tfpby.org). You may also fax in your registration form. The cost for this training (including lunch and book) is $25.00 per person. COM and PJC committee members will have their registration fees paid through the COM budget. The CPM budget will pay for its members. Churches are encouraged to cover their pastors' costs. Those who received training in 2006 should register. Any newer minister member who has received training during the past five years elsewhere should submit a certificate for their file. Please contact Shari with any questions. The other dates will be broadcast as soon as possible.

**Clergy Compensation Reporting**

You didn't think we forgot, did you?

Churches will be receiving individual requests to update the information in the Presbytery file within the next week or so. Once received, kindly return a form for each pastor serving your church as soon as possible.

(Please don't make me nag.)

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**Administrative Personnel Association**

The Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association invites you to join other church administrative leaders who believe that professional and knowledgeable staff in the church office is important. In today's world, churches need up-to-date, fresh and prevailing leaders to guide them through the many facets of church administration. The APA can help administrative personnel gain the knowledge necessary to improve the quality of professionalism in the church office.

The Mission of the APA is to offer opportunities for professional development and personal growth for those called by God to serve as support staff of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This mission is accomplished by providing continuing education events for certification and occasions for fellowship, worship and spiritual nurture and prayer at both National and Regional meetings as well as seminary sponsored training events.

Led by ministers and experts in their fields, the Administrative Personnel Association gives you an exceptional value by combining career and spiritual development into one cost-effective event, the 2011 National APA Conference in Las Vegas from November 3rd through November 6th.

Church leaders and members will reap the rewards when you return from the conference. Staff generally return with higher productivity, new and upgraded skills, superior performance and effectiveness, greater communication with pastors and other staff, as well as increased work satisfaction.

For more information about the APA's Certification program and the upcoming 2011 National Conference, please visit the Florida APA website at www.floridaapa.org.

If you would like more information about the APA, please contact Barbara Prieto, Florida Region President, at 305-666-8586.

Watch for more information and tips from the Administrative Personnel Association in the next issues.

**Nancy Fine**

Membership Chair Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Can we talk?
Did you know that environmentalists believe that those speaking from Sunday pulpits can make a significant difference in your environment? Are you aware that I am in trouble? That God created me, just as God created you, however, God expects you to take care of yourselves and take care of me. Help! I need you.

I appreciate that you are recycling and reusing more items, and that you are buying more green products and using less fuel. Really, that means a lot to me. Would you consider doing more?

You all inhabit one of my favorite spots, that little southeast corner of the tip of Florida. There you have wonderful clear skies, big beaches, lots of wildlife, fresh water, and nice weather. Have you heard that your water supply, Lake Okeechobee, is very low?

If you want to help me, let us start with fresh water. I know it is important to you, and keeping the fresh, brine, and salt water separate is one of my biggest jobs. Keeping the water tables up helps me do my job.

Would you give me a few minutes from your pulpit on Sunday and the Sundays ahead? Could I be in your bulletin? Start by sharing some tips on saving water. I bet many do not know that they can have green lawns by making a couple of changes in their watering. Children love to help me, teaching them to be Water Patrols will increase their awareness of dripping sinks and running toilets. Some people in your congregations are struggling and cannot make the repairs to stop water waste. Maybe some of your tool handy parishioners could create a “water waste brigade” and help others save money and water.

Check with your water department or city utilities. They may have rebates and ideas for water saving, such as rain barrels. Here are a couple of communities that have made a big difference for me:

- **Miami-Dade Water and Sewer** has replaced older showerheads, toilets and aerators with high-efficiency plumbing fixtures in 1,000 homes built prior to 1985. This program targeted and benefited homeowners who qualify for the Homestead Senior Exemption. The project produces an estimated water savings of 23.4 million gallons per year. The project was completed in 2009 at a total project cost of $388,394, including $25,000 in South Florida Water Management District funding.

- **St. Lucie County** has replaced older toilets and showerheads with high-efficiency plumbing fixtures at three Fort Pierce Housing Authority developments. The project produces an estimated water savings of 26 million gallons per year. The project was completed in 2007 for a total project cost of $179,465, including $50,000 in South Florida Water Management District funding.

If you checkout the South Florida Water Management website you can find ways to help your congregation, materials to distribute, even special speakers for your fellowship nights.

http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/sfwmdmain/home%20page

Just imagine, if all the Presbyterians in South Florida had more efficient toilets (only $98 at Home Depot and Lowes), aerators on their sinks and showers, and made a few changes you can see how much you could help me get better. You and I are in this together. I need you and you need me.

Peace, Your Earth.

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**GROUND ZERO: JOPLIN, MISSOURI … ALABAMA, TEXAS, CAROLINAS TOO**

A powerful F-4 tornado leveled parts of Joplin, Missouri, this week. It’s the latest in a series of weather-related disasters that have left families across the United States devastated by the immense loss and unsure of how to begin again.

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** is equipping congregations to respond to this incredible need by providing tools, technology and training. Join us in our mission to help our neighbors and church family who are suffering. Read more →

**Give to Presbyterian response**

Visit the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website or call (800) 872-3283
PRAYERS

Nathan and Daniel Baer

- For those impacted by the tornados, floods and fires
- For all the volunteers, emergency, and recovery workers
- For the world’s farmers dealing with drought and floods
- For Japan recovering from the tsunami and earthquakes
- For the people of the Middle East seeking a new way
- For the people working to aid victims and prevent human trafficking
- For our Christian family around the world who sacrifices so much for their faith
- For our earth
- For our congregations that are praying for their churches
- For our ministers and elders seeking to lead and encourage the congregations
- For the Resident Churches - First Miami, Sunset, Grace, and Faith as they select their Residents
- For the Residents who are seeking their first call
- For the leadership of the Presbytery and their efforts to continue the vision of strengthening and growing churches and disciples
- For Rev Ryan and Amy Baer and their new twin boys Nathan and Daniel.
- For Kim Kavazanjian and her family, grieving the loss of Kim’s sister.

Paul Kindschi ‘returns home’ after a lifetime of Christian service

Reverend Dr. Paul Kindschi, 94, died peacefully in his sleep on April 15, 2011. He was ordained to Christian ministry in the Wesleyan Church in 1939 and served the church for over 65 years until his retirement at age 84. During his career he served several pastorates and in a number of church administrative roles including Director of Planned Giving for the Billy Graham Association. Following his church administrative positions, he moved to Grand Rapids in 1984 and served for a time as Associate Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church. After moving to Florida, he served three churches prior to retirement in 2001 from Tequesta Presbyterian Church where he was named Associate Pastor Emeritus. In 2008, Paul and Meredith returned to Grand Rapids to live at Porter Hills Village. He is survived by his devoted wife Meredith, and his three children.

Pat Shaffer, First PC Tequesta, reflected that he will miss Paul, that he was a wise counselor and a good friend.
HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE MISSION UPDATE
Pat Ashley

HAITI MISSION: RELIGIOUS LEADERS’ GATHERING

On May 10, 2011, our presbytery, through Pat Ashley, Haitian Research Project; Jonas Georges, chair, Mission Outreach, Social Justice, and Peacemaking Committee; Amalie Ash, presbytery administrator; and Sam Rutland, pastor, Miami Shores Presbyterian Church invited religious leaders working with earthquake survivors in South Florida to lunch. Ten people, from Church World Service, the Episcopal Diocese, South Florida Urban Ministries – Project Heal, St. Thomas University’s Center for Justice and Peace, and our presbytery met at Miami Shores Presbyterian Church. We discussed perceptions of key issues for earthquake survivors in South Florida in 2011, and we brainstormed together about possible shared work. The energy in the room was palpable as we spoke together.

Recognizing that things have changed since the earthquake over a year ago, we wanted to articulate the current needs. Three issues came to the fore. First, changes in immigration policy are having profound impacts on earthquake survivors in our midst. The temporary protected status of Haitians who living in this country before the earthquake is coming up for renewal, and no one knows if it will be renewed. In addition, those entering the country as parolees, that is people legally recognizing as having special needs due to the earthquake are also unsure whether their status will be extended. Many earthquake survivors were able to enter our country through tourist visas in order to receive the help of family and friends here. Those visas are beginning to expire, and again, the status of this group is unclear. With the recovery proceeding very slowly in Haiti, and with no job or home to which to return for those who came after the disaster, the feeling of the group was that advocacy for policies that would provide a clearer and more secure status for these victims would be enormously helpful.

Second, the group noted that recovery in Haiti is highly impacted by the migration of former residents of Port-au-Prince to outlying areas, and many of the implications are not yet defined. What is evident, however, is that long-term economic development is essential for recovery. Beyond rebuilding structures, a new way of life will need to unfold.

Third, in South Florida housing has risen to be a major issue. Survivors were taken in by relatives who were already stretched to the breaking-point to live from day to day. To add more people to already-crowded housing at the very time that our own economy led to job loss for many, posed a strain that must be addressed.

We discussed a dozen ideas for possible shared work. We could work toward a housing center that would assure shelter for displaced families for up to six months. We could invite greater coordination of existing legal services by gathering representatives from all involved agencies. We could be more pro-active in long-term economic development in Haiti. Several of our ideas clustered around immigration issues: we could urge our constituents to advocate for more permanently legalizing the status of many Haitians among us; we could educate ourselves about current legislation and how to contact appropriate officials; faith-based communities could take a stronger leadership role. In addition, it is important for all of us to view recovery for Haiti through the eyes of the scriptural call to help the suffering and to do justice. We might invite Haitians to share their stories with us in church gatherings. We could communicate our concerns to denomination offices based in Washington DC. We could make sure that South Florida churches become more involved. We would use Haitian coffee in our gatherings as a way of embodying dedication to economic development. We could coordinate funding in Haitian mission.

WE ARE PRESBYTERIANS

There are many conversations going on in the church about who we are as Presbyterians and where we are headed as a denomination. Former Moderator Bruce Reyes-Chow announced a new web video-based effort this week and invites participation from all Presbyterians. Other conversations include NEXT, the Fellowship and a new series of YouTube videos from Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons.
MULTI-FaITH SUMMER INTERNSHIP
May 31 - July 28, 2011
Summer Internship for young adults 20 to 30 years old, called "Farm the Land, Grow the Spirit."
The internship will be held for the months of June and July, and will include building vegetable gardens on the property, supporting a local cooperative farm, and studying nonviolence philosophy and strategies in the Muslim, Jewish and Christian Traditions. Application, flyer and brochure are available on the Stoney Point Center website.

BIG TENT EVENT
June 30 – July 2, 2011
Indianapolis, IN
More information

2011 ENGAGE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
August 8-11, 2011
Don Cesar Hotel in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

The Engage 2011 Conference will walk participants through the new "Engage" evangelism resource and train them how to use it in a congregational setting. As participants engage their own stories of personal transformation as well as God's story of redemption in scripture, churches will learn how to re-connect with their communities.

Dan Kimball will be the conference keynote speaker. Dan has written several books focusing on culture, church and mission including They Like Jesus But Not The Church, The Emerging Church and Emerging Worship. He is on staff at Vintage Faith Church in Santa Cruz, California which he planted and founded with a team in 2004. He is adjunct faculty at George Fox Seminary and a columnist for Leadership Journal and Outreach magazine.

National New Church Development Conference, sponsored by the PCUSA Office of Church Growth
August 8-11, 2011
Tradewinds Island Grand hotel St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Brochures may be downloaded from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) website.

To register for the Engage conference, go here.

INTERIM EXECUTIVE TRAINING
September 16-20

For those who are already in an interim executive/general/associate presbyter or synod position, who are scheduled to begin service in one of these positions, or who have been recommended by their governing body as having particular gifts in these areas with a recommendation from their COM and their immediate executive/general presbyter or synod executive/associate. Learning goals include the study of multiple layers of organizational system complexity, multiple cultures within an organizational system, governing body infrastructure, and application of the interim process and developmental tasks to governing bodies. For more information and to register online visit www.montreat.org/484.

GETTING UNSTUCK: THE MONTREAT INSTITUTE FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP
October 23-27

What would it mean to “get unstuck” from yesterday’s worn out programs and begin to envision God’s call for us in the 21st century? Reserve your place today at a leadership conference for pastors, elders, deacons, Christian educators, Church musicians and lay leaders.

For more information and to register visit www.montreat.org/457.
**JUNE 2011**

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**JULY 2011**

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Access the annual calendar online: [http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html](http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html)
IT HAPPENED AT PRESBYTERY:

Rev. Michel Yonts

LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR

Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn D. Magby
Moderator

REGION 1 UPDATE

Pressing on with you,
Bryan

Rev. Bryan L. Wenger
Associate Missional Presbyter

REGION 2 UPDATE

Nigel Leon Lovell-Martin, Ph.D.
Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 2

REGION 3 UPDATE

Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz
Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 3 Miami-Dade and Monroe

PRESBYTERY MISSION GRANTS

The annual letters regarding Coral Gables Grants and the Youth Ministry grants have been mailed to all churches - to both Clerks of Session and to Pastors.

The deadline for submitting grant requests is Tuesday, August 2nd. This is a firm deadline. Any requests received after that date will not be considered for 2012 grants.
TERMS OF CALL INFORMATION

BUSINESS MILEAGE

SHARI’S SHOUT OUT

PRAYERS

CLERGY NEWS

BIRTHDAYS

ORDINATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

Nancy Fine
Membership Chair Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

www.floridaapa.org.
WORDS FROM YOUR EARTH

Love, your Earth

HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE MISSION UPDATE

Pat Ashley

EVENTS

Online Calendar of Events and Meetings
# AUGUST 2011

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NOTES FROM THE CLERK

It is good to have a time to get away from both the joys and the stresses of ministry, and I hope that is what the summer will be for you. Looking forward to when things pick up again in the Fall, I encourage you to prepare yourselves for two events in September:

Presbytery will meet on September 27, 2011, at First, Ft. Lauderdale. Part of the business we will conduct will be the adoption of a new Gracious Separation policy that was referred back to the Discernment Administrative Commission at the last Presbytery meeting to be returned to the Presbytery for a vote in September. You will receive the policy in the Presbytery packet. Please read it carefully, along with all the other material in the packet, so you will be ready for the meeting, discussion, and vote.

Immediately following the Presbytery meeting on the 27th, there will be a make-up event for those Sessions which have not had their records for 2010 reviewed as of yet (23 Sessions). This will be the final opportunity to have those records reviewed. If the clerk is unable to attend that session, the records can be sent with your pastor and/or Presbytery commissioner(s) along with the completed record review form (available from the Presbytery office) including page numbers of examples for each item listed on the form. The person who brings the records will need to stay through the review to help with the process - they cannot just drop your records and leave. We would love to have 100% completion on the record review for this year, so please help us by getting your records reviewed at this final time.

Rev. Michel Yonts

The New Book of Order is now available on the Tropical Florida Website.

REGION 1 UPDATE

Region 1 Pastors gathered for lunch on Thursday, July 21, hosted by Chip Falcone at Community Presbyterian Church in Hobe Sound. We had a chance to introduce ourselves to Dan Carlson (and he to us), the newly hired Director of Ministry and future Co-Pastor (if the way be clear) at Memorial Presbyterian Church. Our conversations focused mainly on sharing in mission opportunities together: youth ministry, weekly feeding ministries, helping keep local food pantries stay stocked with summer necessities, the Saint Lucie Habitat for Humanity Apostle’s Build; the Grace Way Village Family Transitional Living Project at the former site of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Pierce and a PDA coordinated mission trip to the tornado zone in Tuscaloosa, AL this fall, being coordinated by Jeff Binder at Tequesta Presbyterian Church. We ended our time together in prayer. Please, if you need any information on our future Region 1 gatherings or mission opportunities, I would love to talk with you and get you connected! I can be reached at 772-464-4263 x105 or wengerb@tfpby.org. Enjoy the rest of your summer! God’s Blessings.

Rev. Bryan L. Wenger
Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 1 of Tropical Florida Presbytery
2499 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce, FL 34982
772-464-4263 x105
Fax 772-464-2351
REGION 2 UPDATE

**Pastors and Lay Leaders Gathering:** Pastors and elders are invited to the next gathering, which is scheduled for September 7, 2011 in Ft. Lauderdale. Attendees will have an opportunity discuss the implications of the new Form of Government and to review a sample of a Manual of Administrative Operations, which each session is now required to adopt to guide the work of its particular church.

**New Pastors:** The Reverend Dr. Lawrence “Mack” Sigmon and Mr. Noé (pronounced No-á) Juarez were examined by the Committee on Ministry and given permission to labor within the bounds of this presbytery pending their examination and enrollment as members. Mack Sigmon will serve as Interim pastor/head of staff at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach and Noé will serve as the designated pastor at Sunset Presbyterian Church of Ft. Lauderdale.

**Mission Trip:** Pastor David Kwon led a group from the Wounded Healer Fellowship in Ft. Lauderdale to Nicaragua. The highlight of the mission trip was the final night of the revival service on July 24.

**Compensation Reports:** Pastors and clerks of session are being reminded to submit to the presbytery the annual compensation report for each ordained minister serving the congregation. This review is important to ensuring that compensation is congruent with the terms of call for each pastor. Reporting forms were sent to each church and should be returned to the presbytery office c/o Mrs. Shari Lowe, Administrative Assistant.

**Church Visits:** The Associate Missional Presbyter worked with Plantation Presbyterian Church and the Wounded Healer Fellowship in Ft. Lauderdale in July.

**Nigel Leon Lovell-Martin, Ph.D.**
Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 2 (southern Palm Beach & Broward Counties)

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REGION 3 UPDATE

Engage, encounter, exchange, interact, involvement, participate or attract; this is what I find in the dictionary when I looked up "engage." It is the intentional effort to become involved in someone else life, the purposeful interaction with something or someone. This coming August 8 thru the 11, I will be attending the ENGAGE Evangelism conference, in St Petersburg with 6 others from our region to learn, and receive inspiration on how to Engage Jesus in our lives; by igniting a greater passion for him and his word, by living the Story as disciples, and by engaging our friends and communities with the good news Jesus brings to our lives and communities. The origins of the word engage, gives us the notion of "pledging oneself to do something." In our context we can engage others by listening, getting involved, interacting and above all letting them know.

May I encourage you to engage your session with a fresh approach to the year’s program by just asking one new question: How can our program engage us, and the unchurched community together? This is missional ministry; engaging our community and not solely ourselves.

**EVENTS:**
- Region 3 pastors gathering/lunch: 17th of August at 12:30 at new life Presbyterian.
- Engage evangelism conference: August 8-11 St Petersburg
- Reception with GA vice moderator Landon Whitsitt, PW Moderator and other dignitaries (by invitation only) August 20th Contact me if you wish to receive an invite.

In God’s Grip
Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz
AMP Miami-Dade and the Keys
Rev. Dr. James Colvert, Sr. (1935-2011)

The Reverend Dr. James W. Colvert, Sr., passed away peacefully on July 22, 2011. A Memorial Service was held on July 26th at First Presbyterian Church, Pompano Beach. Dr. Colvert served churches in Alabama, Indiana and Florida. He served in varying capacities at Westkirk, Sunset, Plantation, Miami Shores, First Pompano and First Ft. Lauderdale. Dr. Colvert taught Philosophy and Religion at Broward College for over 30 years. He was active in financial development for the South Florida Council Boy Scouts of America, Nova Southeastern University and Florida State Music Teachers Foundation. An eagle scout and recipient of the Siler Beaver award, he was involved in the South Florida Council Boy Scouts for many years. Dr. Colvert was a Lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve and had the honor of serving as Chaplain to Presidents Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon while they participated in the Inverrary Golf Classic.

Dr. Colvert is survived by his wife, Sue Bentley Colvert, and children, grandchildren and great-grandson.

Rev. Raul Martinez (1927-2011)

The Reverend Raul Martinez died on May 24th. On Sunday July 3rd at noon Pan Americana celebrated his life which was attended by his family and friends. Raul Jr. gave a beautiful Eulogy for his father and Ana Cecilia (both from New Jersey) who shared very warm and funny memories of him. Good friends from way back: Rev. Antonio Welty from Colombia shared fond memories from Seminary and their strong friendship; Rev. Añorga participated in Pan Americana’s rebirth back in mid-seventies, with Rev. Raul’s presence at that point who together with his wife, ignited the growth of the Church at that time, up from its ashes, because the original Inter-Americana Church (former name) was dead. Very interesting story, in the presence of old church members from then, who are still with the church today. Also participating in the service was Rev. Julio Delgado. Attendees heard a taped sermon by Rev. Martinez related to Pentecost and the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Martinez’s ashes were taken by his son to New Jersey, where he had been a pastor for many years before moving down to Miami, to be buried. Mrs. Martinez has returned to Pan Americana to help with plans to re-ignite its spirit through Evangelism and youth activities with the children of the neighborhood and their Day Care.

Is your congregation doing innovative ministry? Each year Union Presbyterian Seminary awards congregations for innovative ministry. Since 1991, 94 churches in 28 states have received these awards. Each of the eight awards carries a $1,000 prize to support the congregation in its ministry. For more information and to apply for one of the UPSem Congregation Awards, you may download the brochure and application or request an application by sending an e-mail to April Swofford at aswofford@upsem.edu or call 1-800-229-2990, ext 231. The application and instructions are only available electronically. The deadline for the 2012 Awards is FEBRUARY 15, 2012.
**PRAYERS**

For the people of Somalia and the aid workers seeking to provide relief
For the families and people of Norway grieving from tragedy
For South Koreans dealing with landslides and floods
For the Haitian people and the volunteers working on rebuilding Haiti
For those seeking a new way in the Middle East
For the Christians around the world seeking to gather in worship

For the people rebuilding their lives from tornadoes and floods
For the farmers who are suffering loss from the extreme heat
For the teachers preparing for a new school year
For the emergency responders and the volunteers that come to the aid in disaster
For those gathering in Minneapolis this summer Aug 25-26
For the students taking their Ordination Exams Aug 26-Sept 1
For the churches, pastors, elders and staff of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida

**BIRTHDAYS**

02  Rev. Robert Vance - HR  
03  Rev. Jose Rivera - HR  
03  Rev. Linda Lader – Second, Ft. Lauderdale  
04  Rev. Kennedy McGowan – First, Hollywood  
05  Rev. Donna Wrzeszcz - HR  
08  Dr. Arlene Gordon - HR  
15  Rev. Shirley Saunders – First, West Palm Beach  
25  Rev. Maria Luisa Hernandez - HR  
26  Rev. Pierre DuBose - HR  
27  Rev. Devin Brown  
28  Dr. Thomas Culberson - HR

**ORDINATIONS**

01  Dr. Kenneth Smith - MOS  
01  Dr. Patrick Shaffer – First, Tequesta  
07  Dr. John Vaughn - HR  
13  Dr. Raymond Anglin – Ascension Peace, Lauderdale  
18  Rev. Jose Rivera - HR  
24  Rev. John Kirkham - HR  
25  Dr. Richard E. Neumann - HR  
25  Dr. Audley Reid  
25  Rev. Richard W. Anderson – Palm City  
25  Rev. John Stewart - MOS  
28  Rev. Pamela H. Barras  
29  Jack Noble – First, Pompano Beach

**CLERGY NEWS**

Sunset Presbyterian, Ft Lauderdale welcomed their new resident, Noe Juarez on July 24.

Noe is one of two residents that will be serving in the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. The residency is for two years and is part of the GA program “For Such a Time as This” sponsored by Eli Lilly Foundation. This is the program’s second year and Tropical Florida was one of six Presbyteries awarded the grant.

A native of Peru, Noe graduated from Union Presbyterian Seminary 2010, and then completed a yearlong CPE residency at Duke University Hospital. His wife, Laurie, is from North Carolina. She graduated from Union with a Masters of Arts in Christian Education (09). They have two children Paul Santiago (4) and Ella Gloria (2).

Noe will be examined by the Presbytery September 27, his ordination will follow. The elders at Sunset worked diligently to bring a full time pastor to their church. Join the elders and congregation at Sunset as they welcome Noe and Laurie to their new home.
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEERFIELD BEACH

ANNOUNCES AFFILIATION WITH MARIA’S HOUSE MONTESSORI PRE-SCHOOL

Reverend Dr. Dennis Andrews of Community Presbyterian Church, and Elizabeth Sinatra, owner and Director of Maria’s House Montessori School, are pleased to announce that the School has become a Christian Montessori pre-school directly affiliated with Community Presbyterian Church.

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

The National Conference of the Administrative Personnel Association will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada from November 3rd through November 5th, 2011. Classes offered at the conference include GA Entities, Legal Matters, Personnel Issues, Stewardship Programs and Capital Fund Campaigns, Polity I, Safety in the Workplace, Office Administration II, Risk Management, Theology as well as other pertinent classes applicable to any person working in a church office, governing body or institution of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Held in Las Vegas, the city that never sleeps, you can be assured that the attendees will be wide awake learning from clergy, certified Christian Educators and other professionals, who will teach them skills needed to be more effective in their job. The knowledge gained from those attending the conference will benefit the staff and members of their respective organization as they will return with new and upgraded skills and higher productivity.

Have you considered budgeting continuing education funds for your valuable staff? For a minimum investment ($75 for the membership fees and approximately $500 for conference attendance), you will gain a more enthusiastic, spiritually-nurtured staff member who will share their knowledge with those around them.

For more information about the upcoming conference, go to http://pcusa-apa.org/national.htm. Remember that the deadline for registering is September 30th. Contact Barbara Prieto, President of the Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association, 305-666-8586 or rivierachurch@bellsouth.net to find out how your staff can benefit from joining the APA.

Nancy Fine
Membership Chair Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
www.floridaapa.org.

2011 PEACEMAKING OFFERING

RECEIVED BY MOST CHURCHES ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the Peacemaking Offering celebrated their thirtieth anniversary in 2010. The Offering was organized following the adoption by the General Assembly of Peacemaking: The Believers’ Calling, which called for an emphasis on peacemaking across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This year as your church plans to receive this Offering, remember the peacemakers of years past — in your congregation, presbytery, synod and the denomination as a whole. Make this year a time to renew your commitment to peacemaking as part of your calling as a follower of Christ, who not only taught us the ways of peace but is our peace.

The theme for the 2011 Offering is “A Harvest of Justice Is Sown in Peace” (James 3:18). The art is Santa Cena, a serigraph by José Ignacio Fletes Cruz. Please see the resources, ideas about promoting the Offering, and suggestions for how to use your congregation’s share of the Offering. Order any resources that will help interpret the Offering by calling Presbyterian Distribution Service, (800)524-2612, or by using the order form found at http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/specialofferings/peacemaking-offering/
JOIN THE PRESBYTERY’S MISSIONAL VISION

Last week I had the opportunity to sit with the Executive Presbyters from the Synod of the South Atlantic. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the work in presbyteries from the perspective of being Missional. Joining the conversation was Princeton Professor of Missional and Ecumenical Theology, Darrell Guder. Dr Guder is the author of the Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America. (Wm. B. Eerdman/1998)

I returned with an even deeper commitment to the Presbytery of Tropical Florida’s vision to be more Missional. These churches reach out to the community, with less concern about growing their numbers in the church, and more concern about serving those who could use their help. Being Missional is keeping with the Great Commission in Matthew; it is a better way to represent Jesus Christ to others.

Many churches have experienced difficulty attracting visitors and new members, the Missional church does not abandon those efforts. It does shift the focus from bringing people “in” to going “out” to the people. The church is rewarded by a sense of fulfillment for doing something for others.

Congregations become more connected working together for the greater good of their neighbors. New Life Presbyterian in Miami, Lauderdale by the Sea, Ft Lauderdale, and Goodwill PC in Ft Pierce are examples of churches that are small, but actively reach outside of the church. These churches support many who do not attend their churches, who may not believe in God, or know who provided that hot meal, warm cap, education or helping hand.

After spending two days with the other Presbytery’s I can see that Missional is a trajectory that we are all seeking to travel. It is a better way to think about being a church; it brings the church back into the community. I encourage you to listen to John Terech, Dana Allin, and your Associate Missional Presbyters as they bring you ideas and offer trainings in how your church can become more Missional. You can make a difference and your church will become more connected in the process.

Blessings, Amalie Ash

WORDS FROM YOUR EARTH

Have you ever walked outside your house and felt cool air coming from your window or door? Have you wondered if you have enough insulation in your ceiling? If you lived in the north you would be more aware of air leaks, insulation and heating/cooling efficiencies because they make a big difference in the cost of utilities and the comfort of the home. Checking those things and making the adjustments to your house, business, or church is called weatherization. Weatherization is a hot topic for communities seeking to reduce utility costs and help the environment. And weatherization is a service churches can provide their congregations and communities. Check your county for information about a weatherization program in your area.

This could help your church, members who are on low incomes, and the homebound save significant money and help me, your Earth. Just Google “weatherization and your community name” for more information.

Weatherization Assistance Program (from US Dept of Energy)

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) enables low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. Funds are used to improve the energy performance of dwellings of needy families using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provides funding to states, U.S. overseas territories, and Indian tribal governments, which manage the day-to-day details of the program. These governments, in turn, fund a network of local community action agencies, nonprofit organizations, and local governments that provide these weatherization services in every state, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and among Native American tribes. The energy conservation resulting from these efforts of state and local agencies helps our country reduce its dependence on foreign oil and decrease the cost of energy for families in need while improving the health and safety of their homes. During the past 33 years, WAP has provided weatherization services to more than 6.4 million low-income households. Families receiving weatherization services see their annual energy bills reduced by an average of about $437, depending on fuel prices. Because the energy improvements that make up weatherization services are long lived, the savings add up over time to substantial benefits for weatherization clients and their communities, and the nation as a whole.

Love, your Earth
HAITIAN MISSION UPDATE

MFI MISSION WORKTRIP REPORT

Pat Ashley

In early April I shared some information with the presbytery concerning the possibility of a mission worktrip to Haiti through Missionary Flights International Missionary Flights International (MFI), based in Ft. Pierce, FL is an organization to which several of our churches have contributed in order to participate in Haiti earthquake recovery. MFI is now offering individuals or small groups (up to 14 people) to spend a week on a worktrip in Haiti to construct housing for earthquake survivors. The cost for such a trip is $500, which includes housing, food, and transportation from/to Ft. Pierce. It does not include the cost of a passport, getting to Ft. Pierce, shots, additional food or drink beyond what is provided, or souvenirs. Additional contributions are encouraged in order to provide building materials. Roger Sands, 561-252-6615 / roger5@missionaryflights.org, is the contact person. Churches may be in touch with him to discuss dates and arrangements for possible church-group trips. He can also send a link with pictures from previous trips. Because he is familiar with the culture, he can help the group navigate the adventure of customs and immigration, and has contacts for any special needs that may arise. For individuals or groups, there are spaces open in several scheduled trips: September 15-22, September 22-29, and February 9-16. Roger can provide extensive information about exactly what a trip entails. You are also welcome to visit the organization’s website: www.missionaryflights.org.

I went on the June 23-30 trip. Fourteen of us stayed at Baptist Haiti Mission in Fermathe, Haiti, located in the mountains a couple hours’ drive from Port-au-Prince. The lodgings consist of two rooms of bunk beds and a large meeting/dining room. Food was available for breakfasts and lunches, which we prepared ourselves. Dinner (delicious!) was provided each evening. Bathrooms were located in a separate building, and the bathing facilities consisted of a spigot, a bucket, and a cup. The workday ran from about 8:15 am until 5:00 or 5:30 pm (including an hour’s travel each way to and from the worksite). We rode to the worksite over marginal roads standing in the back of a flatbed truck. Our primary work consisted of laying cement blocks and applying stucco to the inside and outside walls. We worked each day with several highly-skilled Haitian construction workers, who taught us what we needed to do. There were devotions and a team meeting most evenings. On Sunday we attended an adult Bible study and worship in the morning, as well as a gathering for hymn-singing and Bible study with the missionaries in the evening.

We witnessed great beauty and great poverty. We worked hard and became a mutually appreciative and respectful team. We built 2 2/3 houses for three families. I had not realized the extent of earthquake damage in the mountains outside Port-au-Prince, and I felt privileged to participate in providing housing in an area that has received little media or governmental attention.

I would be happy to talk with you more about my experience.

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INDIAN RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / HAITI PARTNERS

Indian River Presbyterian Church has contributed funds for the work of Haiti Partners to rebuild schools in Haiti. Haiti Partners contact info: www.haitipartners.org; Jonathan Chan, contact person; PO BOX 2865, Vero Beach, FL 32961; Physical Address: Haiti Partners, 601 21st Street, Suite 100, Vero Beach, FL 32960; 772-539-8521; info@haitipartners.org / jchan@haitipartners.org

Sixteen Haitian co-workers are listed on the website for Haiti Partners. The organization works with seven existing schools, all of which have been formed and operated by local Haitian communities. The project provides payroll funding for 100 employees in the schools, as well as several hundred construction workers in a variety of capacities. 1100 Haitians students receive an education. Microloans also restore employment for more than 180 small business owners to re-establish their earthquake-damaged businesses.

The church is currently working with the organization to provide feedback on new educational materials based on co-founder Kent Annan’s new book, Aftershock: Searching for Honest Faith When Your World Is Shaking. The church has also offered to host seminars for Haiti Partners on an as-needed basis.

If you or your church would like to support this work, please contact Bryan Wenger, associate pastor, 772-464-4263 x105, bryan@irpcfamily.org.
UPDATE FROM LEBANON AND HAMLIN NURSING HOME

There are many good things happening at Hamlin Home these days and the support given by the Presbytery of Tropical Florida has not been forgotten or lost in the progress being made. New projects have begun and plans continue to reopen the hospital. The amount of funding required is staggering but the resolve of Ms. Sanaa Koreh and the Synod of Syria and Lebanon remains.

The projects that are currently underway include the construction of a building for physical therapy. Also, a second building will augment the physical therapy facility and provide space as a conference room for mission groups or for those pilgrims on retreat. There is also a restoration project underway to refurbish rooms for those who wish to stay at Hamlin during a mission trip or spiritual retreat. Hamlin’s ministry now provides mission opportunities for Christians from around the world that wish to see many areas mentioned in Scripture and to worship and speak with Christians from Coptic, Orthodox, Maronite, and evangelical traditions.

Regarding the funds that were sent to assist in the purchase a new generator, the process continues. Purchasing capital equipment is not quite as efficient as in the U.S. and includes familiar pitfalls such as unreliable contractors. Unfortunately, unreliability applied to the first company utilized by Hamlin. Regardless, to Hamlin’s credit their Director Sanaa will not accept such business practice and has been working with another company from Beirut. After talking with their representative, examining their proposal and having a building engineer from Baptist Hospital verify that the price and equipment are acceptable, there is hope that the new generator can be in place in the near future. And you thought Island Time was unpredictable.

So it goes. Hamlin Home continues to provide care for the less fortunate elderly of Lebanon, capital projects go on, and the Ministry of Jesus Christ is maintained in the Middle East. If any congregation or individual is considering a mission trip to the Middle East, I would urge them to consider making Hamlin their destination. Those who consider going to Lebanon can contact the PCUSA Liaison to Syria and Lebanon, Dr. Nuhad Tomeh or Dr. Timothy Stover at Calvary Pres.

God’s Peace
OREGON NCD USES HOSPITALITY, EARTH CARE, FOOD TO LIVE INTO THE GOSPEL

Common Table Public House in Bend, Ore., serves up source-conscious food to the community. —Photo by Matt Ebbing
Special to Presbyterian News Service
by Erin Dunigan - BEND, Ore.

The town of Bend, in central Oregon, is in what is often referred to as the least-churched county in the least-churched state. Even still, it is no stranger to church plants.

“Bend is like a graveyard for churches,” said one of its more recent pastors, the Rev. Zachary Hancock.

Hancock was called to be the organizing pastor for a proposed Presbyterian new church development in Bend.

“When I got to town all the young pastors looked at me as if ‘That’s just what we need here: another church planter,’” he said.

But Hancock wasn’t actually that interested in getting people to go to church.

“My big goal is not to get people to go to church, but to engage people in doing the living into the reality of God, which is the way of the gospels, the way of Christ,” Hancock said. “That doesn’t necessarily have to look like going to church and sitting in a pew and listening to a sermon.”

What it is about is ‘doing service’ in and for the world.

As with many churches, the steering committee of this NCD was interested in finding a way to reach out to young adults ages 18-35.

“I felt that we could really engage young people who don’t want anything to do with church if we could give them something to participate in and believe in that their heart knows as truth,” Hancock said.

This is different than simply trying to gather the young people and bring them into the church.

“What I was saying is that we need to pursue not an age group, but what we have been called to — what Christ has called us to. When we do that, people will follow, whatever their age is,” he said.

That call, in the case of Bend, has taken the form of the Common Table Public House. Its mission: “Feed all people, cherish the earth and pursue awareness.” Hospitality, welcome and action are at the heart of this ministry experiment that serves people daily, in the form of food and drink, and monthly with a shared meal and faith gathering.

“We are trying to be a place, to use the cliché, that earns the right to be heard — more than that, that earns the right to have the privilege of people joining you and trusting you that you are a safe place where they can be authentic, tell their story and participate.”

There are no crosses up at Common Table; as a public house, it has a full bar.

Common Table is trying to live up to its name — a common table that draws no distinction between people, regardless of who they are. One of the menu items, called the ‘World Bowl’ is offered by donations on a sliding scale. They’ve also created wooden tokens, with $10 carved onto them, which are distributed to those in need, who can then trade them in for a meal.

Hancock likens the space to the diversity often found in a subway station — a mix of the corporate executive with the briefcase standing alongside a schizophrenic talking to the wall. It is in this ‘great mix’ that Hancock sees the Kingdom of Heaven.

“A lot of our labor is through volunteers — and that is not just to save a buck,” said Hancock, who believes people practice a spiritual discipline when they volunteer. As a reminder, the dishwashing sink is surrounded by a painted mural of Brother Lawrence, the monk who is know for his ‘practice of the presence of God’ in all situations — including washing dishes.

Common Table sees food sourcing as another spiritual discipline.

“One of the other reasons that we opened a restaurant was because I felt like one of the ways we can make an impact on our planet is how we source our food — how far we bring it, how it is raised and how it is delivered,” Hancock said.

That’s a challenging goal in a world where we are accustomed to tomatoes year round. But Common Table is at least trying to point itself in that direction, with about 10 percent of its food being locally sourced, and a monthly ‘Meet Your Farmer’ dinner that tries to connect people more closely with the food they are eating.

Hancock recounts a story of some particularly mealy tomatoes: “They weren’t good because they were transported from really far away so I asked, ‘Why are we serving these if they are not good?’” They were being served because they were on the menu. “Then why don’t we change the menu?” he asked.

“We need to live out of our passion — I think people respond to that,” Hancock said. “I think that we don’t have enough imagination and we don’t trust that people are drawn to vibrancy.”

Erin Dunigan is a freelance writer, photographer, and pastor who lives in a small coastal community in Baja California, Mexico when she is not following her wanderlust out into the world.
ECUMENICAL NEWS

Christians Reach Broad Consensus on Appropriate Missionary Conduct

“Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World: Recommendations for Conduct”, a five-page document on the conduct of mission “according to gospel principles”, was released during a public presentation on Tuesday 28 June at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, Switzerland.

The recommendations regarding respectful behavior on the part of missionaries, evangelists and other witnesses when sharing the Christian faith were issued following a five-year series of consultations among the World Council of Churches (WCC), the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue (PCID) of the Roman Catholic Church and the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA).

The three bodies include Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, Protestant, Evangelical, Pentecostal and independent churches with a combined membership of some two billion people representing nearly 90 percent of the world’s Christians.

Read more.

Baptist, Presbyterian Congregations Brew a Thriving 'pub-lic' Ministry

A pub is not necessarily the first place you’d expect to find a Southern Baptist pastor and a Presbyterian minister leading a conversation about faith and spirituality. But every Thursday night in Bellaire, Mich., you’ll find the Revs. Corey Lecureux and Andrew Pomerville convening just such a group at Short’s Brewing Company.

Full story.

WCC Afro-descendent Conference Calls for Churches to use Education Against Racism

A call to churches worldwide to educate people about racism was made by church leaders from across the Americas and the Caribbean at the end of a conference held last week in Managua, Nicaragua.

The conference, which was organized by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Latin America Council of Churches (CLAI), focused on the violence of racism against people of African descent in the region.

It was the first ever conference to bring together church leaders of Afro-descendent communities in the Americas and the Caribbean.

Across the region, churches run educational institutions including universities, colleges, schools and Sunday schools, and they are encouraged by the conference declaration to review their curricula to make sure they include education on the racism and racist discrimination that is so common in Latin America.

Read more.

Religious Leaders Meet with President and ask Him to form ‘Circle of Protection’ around Programs for those in Need

Prominent Christians, Jews, Muslims unite to protect funding for poverty assistance

NCC Interfaith Relations Commission seeks nominees for ‘Interfaith Engaged Congregations’
Together in Christ

More than 1700 Presbyterians gathered in Indianapolis for the Big Tent conferences. Below are just some of the stories shared:

- Everyone has a stewardship story. Read what that means for communicators.
- Improving communication in the public square. Read about a new initiative.
- Seeking ways to welcome all people. Read more from the multicultural conference.

Find additional reports, videos and resources for from Big Tent →

Spotlight on YOUth

Presbyterians Today carries a monthly feature on what youth care about and who Jesus is to them. Help us by encouraging young Presbyterians to share their stories. Click here for the online form →

High-tech, high touch—finding the balance

Churches are embracing technology to better connect with parishioners while balancing the need for one-on-one communication. Read more →

Doing mission in a digital age

Podcasts, webinars, social media, and texting are just some of the new ways the gospel is reaching more people. Learn more →

Invitation to the Word

“He touched her hand, and the fever left her.”
—Matthew 8:15

In light of Jesus’ actions consider how technology provides us unprecedented contact with others, remembering that effective ministry touches people. Read more →

Reporting from Haiti

Haitians are sharing their personal stories with the world through a high tech mission project facilitated by GAMC. See Haiti in a way you never have before.
The Haiti Response Team is on Facebook

Be a witness for Jesus Christ

Download worship materials for Evangelism Sunday on September 25. Learn how others can experience what we know about God through who we are, what we do, and how we live.

Electronic planning calendar

Whether a pastor or layperson, click here to get your own Presbyterian planning calendar, available electronically for the first time.
Access the annual calendar online: [http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html](http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html)
CLERGY NEWS

INSTALLATION OF REV. JOSE MANUEL CAPELLA-PRATTS

Congratulations to The Rev. Jose Manuel Capella-Pratts on his Installation as Teaching Elder at First Spanish Presbyterian Church. The worship was attended by local pastors; the Presbytery’s Administrative Commission for Installation; the Rev. Landon Whitsitt, Vice Moderator 219th General Assembly; and Elder Martha Rodriguez Fonseca, Moderator of the Presbyterian Women, PC(USA). We pray God’s blessing and prosperity to the congregation and its new leadership.

On August 28, Jack Noble celebrated 40 years of ministry with members of the community, congregation, and friends. Jack was honored with a proclamation from Pompano Beach Mayor Lamar Fisher, and Commissioner Mike Long. For the event the three worshiping services joined as one singing Jack’s favorite hymns and listening to verses that have been meaningful to Jack. A video of Jack’s life, and a video by people who have been touched by Jack’s ministry and pastoral care, added a touching conclusion. An delicious catered meal gave the Pink Church congregation and elders time to thank Jack for his ministry at the church.

Former Executive Presbyter Rev. Arlene Gordon, was elected president of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, which met as part of the Big Tent event last month in Indianapolis, IN. She succeeds the Rev. Gregory Bentley, pastor of Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa, AL, on the campus of Stillman College.

In her first letter to NBPC members as president, Dr. Gordon wrote: “There is much challenging work ahead ... I believe this organization is more vital now than ever before as we continue to faithfully serve our beloved church.”

THE RESIDENT CLASS OF 2011 WAS COMMISSIONED AT THE GA CHAPEL IN LOUISVILLE AUGUST 24TH

The Presbytery of Tropical Florida has two residents: Noe Juarez, serving Sunset PC in Ft Lauderdale and CeCe Armstrong, serving Grace PC in Lantana. Rev Joan Abell (HR) was appointed by the COM to be their mentor during the two year program. Part of the program is specific training for church redevelopment and preparation for first call ministers. The program includes access to GA consultants that will benefit other churches in the presbytery.
**REGION 1 UPDATE**

September 1 - Grace Church, Lantana welcomes their new Pastor Cecelia Armstrong via the GA supported 2 year residency program. You will meet CeCe at the September Presbytery meeting.

September 15 - Region 1 Pastors’ Gathering at First Church, West Palm Beach, at Noon with Pastor Shirley Saunders hosting.

Region 1 Goal is to have at least one Church the end of September participating in a new missional activity in the neighborhood context. For example, up to $500 is available for a church that is interested in starting a feeding program. This money will come from the Cents-ability donations and must be used for a Hunger mission. The focus is not to give to a church to give to another program; but to actually have a food pantry, make sandwiches for schools, food for soup kitchens, food bags for families or a similar hunger-related service opportunity.

Several churches in Region 1 along with Regions 2 & 3 have invested in the Missional Coach Training Initiative through Bob Logan and Dana Allin and are looking to start Tangible Kingdom Primer Groups with interested individuals. Let’s keep this process in our prayers!

Please let me know “what’s new” with your congregation or if you have any questions about the above information.

Rev. Bryan L. Wenger  
Associate Missional Presbyter  
Region 1 of Tropical Florida Presbytery  
2499 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce, FL 34982  
772-464-4263 x105  
Fax 772-464-2351

**REGION 3 UPDATE**

**ENGAGING IDEA**

This last August a group of seven from Region 3 of our presbytery representing Central, Sunrise and Riviera congregations attended the Engage Evangelism Conference. We had excellent teaching, fellowship, and inspiration.

One idea we learned, in which we may be able to engage our communities, is creating and providing a “Community Prayer Box.” This box may be placed near access to the day care, pre-school, or a busy sidewalk near your property. It may be placed in neighborhood stores or members yards. Another opportunity for a Community Prayer Box is when your congregation is holding a pumpkin patch, an arts & craft fair, or any other event in your property where the community is invited. You may even bring it up a notch by providing a prayer booth where elders, deacons or Stephen ministers may listen and offer spiritual support to visitors. Collect the prayers frequently and make them part of the Sunday worship to be presented in prayer with all others. This is a great way to build bridges with our communities and may lead to missional and incarnational ways to be the church.

**Updates & Shout outs!**

- Our Region has begun the process of establishing Missional/Incarnational Communities with representatives from various congregations. There will be one Spanish and one English missional community starting in mid-September. These communities run for eight week cycles. If you are interested in knowing more about this model for congregational health and growth, let me know. I have many resources for you to explore.
- COM September 8th 1pm  
- Presbytery Meeting is on September 27th at First Fort Lauderdale.
- Congratulations to New Covenant, New Life, Trinity, First Spanish, All Nations, and Pan Americana congregations in distributing backpacks and school supplies to over 350 children in Region 3 in partnership with the presbytery
- Pray for all the congregations who have already or will be starting their “program year” this coming month.

In God’s Grip  
Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz  
AMP Miami-Dade and the Keys
Two additional opportunities for Boundary (Sexual Misconduct) Training have now been scheduled. You may sign up for your preferred class by calling me at the Presbytery office or sending an email to shari@tfpby.org. You may also fax in your registration form for either the October or November training. The cost for this training (including lunch and book) is $25.00 per person. COM and PJC committee members will have their registration fees paid through the COM budget. The CPM budget will pay for its members. Churches are encouraged to cover their pastors’ costs. Those who received training in 2006 should register for one of these upcoming sessions. Information regarding who should attend can be found on the registration form. Any newer minister member who has received training during the past five years elsewhere should submit a certificate for their file. Please contact me with any questions. Please register and submit payment (if not serving on the referenced committees) as soon as possible.

The Presbytery has copies of the 2011-2012 Presbyterian Planning Calendar ($7.00 ea.) and the 2011-2013 Book of Order ($9.00 ea.).

UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2011
First, Ft. Lauderdale

You can now Sign Up Online for the Meeting

ATTENTION TREASURERS - $ SAVING TIP

With your FL Consumer Certificate of Exemption (DR-14) – issued by the State of Florida your church does not have to pay sales tax on any purchases of services and supplies for use by your church. This includes sales tax on your telephone service.

Additionally, your church is exempt from the FL State and Local Communications Service Tax (CST). There is a special form which must be filed with your telephone carrier to avoid the Communications Service Tax. Please call the office and I can send you a copy of this form or call your provider directly for the form.

Susan Carpenter
Presbytery Financial Administrator
PRAYERS

- For the people of Somalia and those suffering in sub-Saharan Africa
- For the people of Haiti as they continue to rebuild
- For the health care workers and aid workers who go to the far places to serve
- For the Christians serving in the Middle East
- For the American farmers and their losses from the drought
- For the people recovering from storms, tornados, floods, and fires
- For those that serve to help in the disaster recovery and rebuilding process
- For the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance teams that give tirelessly
- For the teachers who are returning to school; thanks for their call to teach
- For the children, teenagers, and young adults returning to school and college; pray for their future
- For the churches with returning members, new programs, and renewed hope

BIRTHDAYS

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ORDINATIONS

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ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

What valuable skills does your administrative staff possess? They are organized, good listeners, peacekeepers, negotiators, and generally set the “tone” of the office. But, they also are eager students, wanting to learn to be more effective in their job.

What is your organization doing to help your administrative staff? Do you provide time out of the office to replenish their spirit? Do you provide time and funds to help them learn additional skills to make them more effective in their job?

One way to be supportive of your administrative staff is to allocate time and funds to send them to conferences. And the best resource for them to learn is to have them attend an Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Conference.

The next national APA conference will be held from November 3rd through November 5th in Las Vegas, Nevada. There, your administrative staff will take classes from clergy and professionals on a variety of topics relevant to their duties in your office. Your staff will also network with others who share similar professional experiences. The benefits of a small investment in time and money ($75 for membership fees and approximately $500 for conference attendance) can make a big difference to your administrative staff and your organization. Remember that the deadline to register is September 30th.

Why don’t you contact Barbara Prieto, the Florida Region President of the APA and find out how a small investment in your staff will benefit not only them, but also you and your organization? Barbara can be reached at 305-666-8586 or rivierachurch@bellsouth.net. You will be glad that you did.

Nancy Fine
Membership Chair Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

www.floridaapa.org.
HAITIAN MISSION UPDATE

CAFE COCANO AND THE CENTER FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY

Pat Ashley

The Center for Justice and Peace at St. Thomas University makes available Cafe Cocano, coffee produced by a Haitian cooperative. Organic coffee-growing replenishes the soil and reverses deforestation, one of the key issues with which Haiti has been struggling for years. Coffee is also one of the world’s largest commodities, and the fair-trade partnership in which Cafe Cocano participates offers a concrete opportunity to bring investment and sustainable development to one of the poorest regions in the Western Hemisphere. One of the unique aspects of Cafe Cocano, different from other fair trade coffees, is that the growers sell fully-processed coffee directly to roasters. This eliminates “middle-men” and keeps profits in the hands of those who need it most.

Since adopting Haiti as a mission priority, our presbytery has served Cafe Cocano at our meetings. It can be easily order on-line at www.cafecocano.com. You can also call Anthony Vinciguerra, Director of the Center at 305-628-6717. The coffee can also be picked up at the St. Thomas University Bookstore. Your church may want to consider using it for church functions and/or making it available for sale.

BULLETIN INSERTS

Five bulletin inserts on our presbytery's involvement in Haiti mission are posted on our website and will be included in the presbytery packet. Churches are encourage to share these with session and mission committees, to make use of them in your own congregation’s mission planning, to include them in the worship bulletin to help educate the congregation, and to contribute to these or other Haiti-related mission projects. Remember that our presbytery has adopted Haiti as a mission priority for the next three years.

For more information, please contact Pat Ashley, 786-210-0980.

HELP WANTED: BUSINESS PLAN WRITER

Our presbytery has contributed $4000 to FANM (Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami)/Haitian Women of Miami for their work with earthquake survivors living in South Florida. Director Marleien Bastien has a vision for the immediate future. FANM needs adequate space for five purposes:

- The functioning of all its programs
- A Haitian restaurant
- A place to host events catered by the restaurant
- Workspace for Haitian artisans
- Boutique space to sell the work of Haitian artisans.

The functioning of this space will pay for the expenses of and provide income for the businesses involved.

In addition, it will provide a means for the local community to support FANM in its work. There are several vacant buildings in Little Haiti which would be suitable for these purposes. Due to the current economy, now is an ideal time to seek such a facility.

To bring this vision into being, the immediate need is for a person to create a business plan which can be used to approach funding sources and investors. If you can help, or if you would like more information, please contact Pat Ashley, 786-210-0980.
“God is GREAT and He has worked a miracle in a little room given to us at the center in Sunset Gap!” A year ago, the Community Center was at risk of being shut down and thanks to what God has done through Community Church, it is now filled with a “Full Steam Ahead” energy that has the Board of Directors ready to look towards the future with hope again.

During Community Church’s time at Sunset Gap, they completed the playground; assembling the last of the new equipment ordered for the preschool children. They completed the garden area started during their last visit; sealing the new picnic benches and laying down new stones. Some helped clean the room where the preschool will be set up for this school year, and organized school supplies for the children of the area to have throughout the year. The children purchased food for the food pantry and they delivered the food items collected in Broward County, as well as delivering the quilts, pillowcase dresses, winter clothes, shoes, blankets and many other items. Community Church also completed the GED/Library room, stamping books, stocking shelves, downloading software, hanging curtains, etc.

In addition to all that they accomplished, their most celebrated success was when the head of adult education for Cocke County, in the State of Tennessee, came to inspect the GED/Library room. Community Church had set up the room to benefit of the community; he was extremely impressed! The GED/Library project has been a nine month undertaking accomplished with the assistance of many individuals, sponsors, granters and contributors at Community Church, within the community, among the corporate world and through several partnering non-profits. They had hoped the Department of Education would qualify them to do the GED pre-testing on site and have a part-time teacher come assist the GED students in need of a little extra help. But, that’s not what they got...

The representative from the State was so impressed with what had been accomplished at the center that he announced that he was going to certify it as a satellite classroom - something not usually done, but everything had to be in place to be able to fulfill that standing. He announced that he would serve as the lead teacher. They would be given a part-time teacher, two local volunteers would be trained to cover the classroom, classroom supplies would be supplied, office supplies needed would be supplied, electronic notebooks, a projector, an overhead projector and other electronics would be made available, students could be pre-tested on site and ALL of the aforementioned would come at NO cost to the program!

He also announced that because the area we’re serving is so impoverished, he’d see to covering the cost of the GED testing for any of the students that can’t afford to pay for the test and that the students would be included in the annual May graduation ceremonies held for students completing their GED requirements. And he agreed to advertise the program. In addition, the school board is going to run a dropout intervention and career training program out of the little GED/Library set-up.

What God has accomplished has the potential of changing not just lives but the entire educational, economic, and mental well-being of the Cosby community and its surrounding hollows. Thank-you to EVERYONE who played a part in making this happen. Watch for our updated list of projects, programs and items needed to the benefit of the people of the Appalachian Mountain area of Sunset Gap.

(Reported to Presbytery by Community Church Lauderdale by the Sea)
WESTMINSTER HOUSE

The Presbyterian University Center at Westminster House (PUC) is a Presbyterian Church USA mission outpost in service to students and others at the Florida State University since 1938. Here, students find “space for grace”—a welcoming, hospitable home-away-from-home. Our facilities include student residences, meeting and dining areas, kitchen, administrative space and library. Our goal is to embrace each student as Christ’s own, as they are, where they are.

PUC serves as a crucible for young adults to develop mature faith and healthy interpersonal relationships during a critical phase of their lives. Our ministry values students’ vocational and career interests, helping them to discern those trajectories. As a setting for addressing life’s larger questions, PUC adds important value to any student’s higher education experience.

This fall Calvin’s Coffee House re-opens as an outreach ministry that has become one of the university’s more popular gathering sites. Apart from serving excellent refreshments, Calvin’s stages alternative activities on weekends such as Music Night. Otherwise, PUC hosts free suppers with devotions and programs each week. We sponsor visits to worship in area congregations, mission trips and retreats. An annual highlight for us continues to be participation in the Montreat Collegiate Conference.

PUC is open daily and for scheduled activities on weekends and evenings. Founded as a “student house” Westminster House continues to greet students joyfully and support them in Christ’s grace. We welcome parents and others to visit PUC when in Tallahassee or to contact us if we may be at all helpful.

Visit www.pucfsu.com to learn more about the Presbyterian University Center at Westminster House including upcoming activities, events or general information. PUC is one of many Presbyterian Church USA campus ministries located at colleges and universities nation-wide. See www.pcusa.org/ministries/collegiate/campus-ministry-locator to connect students with them.

Contact:
The Reverend Bruce A. Chapman, D. Min., Presbyterian University Minister
850-222.6320 - bac4259@fsu.edu.
www.pucfsu.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Community Church of Lauderdale By the Sea is seeking a Church Secretary
Quickbooks/Computer Skills Required.
Call for an appointment 954-776-5530.

LINKS

**Presbyterian Foundation Group**

Whether a Presbyterian gives locally, nationally, or globally, the Group provides a means to support the many missions and ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Not only has it helped tens of thousands of Presbyterians with a variety of gift options, but, as a faith-based organization, Presbyterian Foundation group provides an opportunity to invest in mutual funds and investment management services that reflect Christian values.

The Presbyterian Foundation is committed to bring people and mission together. Let the Foundation help you realize your passions and goals. Visit the [Presbyterian Foundation website](http://www.presbyterianfoundation.org) or call (800) 858-6127.
ECUMENICAL NEWS

ST THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Centering Prayer,
Monday evenings, 5 p.m.
September 12, 19, 26 in the Chapel

Special Event:
O’Neill Inter-religious Dialogue Lecture Series
Wednesday, September 21, 7 p.m. in the Chapel
Dr. Amanullah De Sondy, Visiting Professor, University of Miami, will discuss his academic interest in Islamic masculinities and his participation in interfaith dialogue.

Contact Rev. Diane Shoaf, Director of the Ecumenical Institute, dshoaf@stu.edu or 305-474-6002, for further information and to volunteer for worship and special event planning teams and to serve as hosts, liturgists, musicians, and vocalists

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

Each year on 21 September the World Council of Churches calls churches and parishes to observe the International Day of Prayer for Peace. 21 September is also the United Nations-sponsored International Day of Peace.

The International Day of Prayer for Peace offers an opportunity for church communities in all places to pray and act together to nurture lasting peace in the hearts of people, their families, communities and societies. The idea was proposed in 2004 during a meeting between WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and coincides with the UN International Day of Peace. The Day of Prayer is one of the initiatives of the WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence.

Formation of Presbyterian Young Leaders

We invite you to support the ecumenical formation of our church leaders, particularly of young adult leaders. Ecumenical experiences are a powerful mean by which church leaders are transformed and shaped. The following is a testimony of a young pastor whose life and ministry has been impacted by her ecumenical experience:

“The twenty-first century American religious landscape reflects the worlds’ diversity. Now in America, Protestant and Catholic churches stand side-by-side Jewish synagogues, Islamic mosques, and Buddhist temples and no population has been greater impacted by these changes than young people. Young people in this country are growing up and coming of age amidst this increasing diversity and must be included in ecumenical dialogue. Any effort toward ecumenical formation inherently must consider the religious diversity both among our Christian brothers and sisters as well as among our new neighbors of different faiths. Young people hold the unique opportunity of being socially connected with persons from various religious traditions and the potential for dialogue is great. It is important to equip a younger generation of Christians with the tools necessary for dialogue and life together. Please consider making a financial contribution toward these efforts!”

Jennifer Lancaster
Read more.
SHARE WITH YOUR AUDIENCES

BORN AT GROUND ZERO
An interfaith community was born at a Presbyterian Center near New York City following the violence of 9/11. Read how Muslim, Jewish and Christian members are working as allies for peace while remaining committed to their faiths.

- Share why understanding what Muslims believe can make us better peacemakers.

WHY THE PEACEMAKING OFFERING MATTERS
Conducting peace camps, preventing gun violence and ending the use of children as soldiers are just some of the reasons this Offering is so important. Share the impact with your audiences.

Presbyterians for Peace
Share worship materials focused on recommitting to peace as we approach the anniversary of 9/11
Read which outreach programs Presbyterians are actively supporting in their communities.

The Interfaith Generation
Share how expanding our worldview can strengthen our Christian faith.
Find more items from September’s issue of Presbyterians Today.

The Changing Landscape of God’s Mission in Mexico: U.S. Presbyterians Respond
A webinar to discuss World Mission’s response to the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico’s decision to sever relations
The Changing Landscape of God’s Mission in Mexico: U.S. Presbyterians Respond
Thursday, September 1
10:15-11:30 a.m. EST
Register now – space is limited

Cross Re-Dedication
Community, Deerfield Beach
After a long absence – due to hurricane damage. Community Church, Deerfield installed their cross on the Briggs Hall.

Re-dedication of this Cross will be included in their first Saturday at 6:00 p.m. church service on September 3rd.
### SEPTEMBER 2011

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### OCTOBER 2011

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<td>2 2:00 COM Reg 1 7:00pm COM Reg 3</td>
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Access the annual calendar online: [http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html](http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html)
IT HAPPENED AT PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery of Tropical Florida met on Tuesday, September 27, 2011, at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale. In many ways, this was a rather abbreviated meeting with only a few of our committees/councils/commissions bringing action items to the floor of Presbytery. But in those four were some very important actions.

The primary piece of business was the presentation of and vote on the new Gracious Separation Agreement. Following action to rescind the previous policy, the Presbytery asked questions and discussed the new policy brought by the Discernment (Peace, Unity, and Purity) Administrative Commission. Let me say that the policy was not the only gracious thing on the floor of Presbytery. The presentation and discussion all took place in an atmosphere of grace, peace, and collegiality. Thank you to all the members of the PUPAC for your hard work in drafting this document. Only one minor amendment was made and before the vote was taken we were asked to pause for 5 minutes of silent meditation and prayer and a few minutes of small group discussion. A couple more questions and it was time for the vote. On a standing vote the "Process and Principles for Tropical Florida Presbytery in the Transference of a member congregation to another Reformed Body" was passed with only one dissenting vote.

From the Committee on Ministry report we celebrated the honorable retirement of the Rev. German Vega and dismissed the Rev. Danny Loffredo to Flint River Presbytery to take a solo pastorate there. We also welcomed the Rev Lawrence "Mack" Sigmon to the Presbytery to serve as Interim Pastor at First, Delray Beach; the Rev. Joann Germershausen as a member-at-large; approved the call of Noe Juarez to Sunset, Ft. Lauderdale, pending his ordination; and approved the call of Cecelia Armstrong to Grace, Lantana, pending her ordination. Noe and Cece are coming into our Presbytery through the denomination's Residency Program. Thanks to Amalie Ash for all her work to get our Presbytery plugged into that program.

We also heard about and approved some grant applications for Haitian ministries, and heard a report about a particular ministry with Haitian coffee growers - listen up all you coffee drinkers, you can feed your habit AND help the economy of our neighbors in Haiti at the same time (contact the Presbytery office or Pat Ashley for details).

Our thanks to the folks at First, Fort Lauderdale, for a warm welcome and great lunch. Thanks to our Moderator, Gwen Magby, and our Parliamentarian, Skip Bush, for their leadership in the meeting, and to God be the glory for a day of grace and fellowship.

Michel Yonts
Interim Stated Clerk
Rev Kostrub's Sermon is available on our website as well as Photographs from the meeting.
REGION 1 UPDATE

"Rise up, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; Do not forget the oppressed. Why do the wicked renounce God, and say in their hearts, 'You will not call us to account'? But you do see! Indeed you note trouble and grief, that you may take it into your hands; the helpless commit themselves to you; you have been the helper of the orphan." Psalm 10:12-14

It was one of those meetings I will never forget - spending the lunch hour in early July with a young man from Palm City Presbyterian Church - Noel Thomas. God has touched and broken his heart for the young children in the world (and in this country especially - yes, the USA!) who have been forced and/or sold into the sex trade industry. Listening to him share about his journeys and observations abroad and also in this country as he works on a documentary film on this heart-wrenching issue that none of us like to think is "really, truly occurring" in the lives of innocent children, touched and wreaked havoc on my heart as well.

Did you know that Florida is #3 in the nation for Human Trafficking, with 80% of the victims being young girls? Noel has founded "Redeem the Shadows" and hopes to continue to build awareness about this growing problem not only in countries around the world, but yes - even here in the United States - some 200,000 American children each year! I encourage you to check out their website redeem the shadows to learn more about his ministry and how you can further educate yourself on this serious problem. I also have copies of his brief ministry report to share with anyone who is interested. How can the Church be silent!? Noel hopes to open a rescue home (The Redeemed Home) for sex traffic minors in the South Florida Region in the future. Pray for God’s protection and provision for Noel and a growing number of folks becoming involved in this ministry - that the Lord will make a way for His healing love to intersect the lives of these children in great need of God’s rescue.

I encourage all churches in TFP to begin to share stories with each other about how God is touching/breaking the hearts of your leaders/congregants in ways that solidifies current mission commitments or maybe is even leading your congregation into new ways of being the hands and feet and heart of Jesus!

With hope for the least of these,

Rev. Bryan L. Wenger
Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 1 of Tropical Florida Presbytery
2499 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce, FL 34982
772-464-4263 x105
Fax 772-464-2351

REGION 2 UPDATE

Pastors and Lay Leaders Gathering: Pastors, associate pastors, parish associates and lay leaders are invited to the next Region 2 gathering which is scheduled for Wednesday November 1, 2011 at Grace Community Church in Boca Raton beginning at noon. Lunch will be provided for a $5 donation. The Reverend Kennedy McGowan will facilitate a discussion on the Missional Church based on some of the literature in the field of missiology. Kennedy will recommend resources for reading prior to the event and that information will be sent to pastors via email. Lay persons who are interested in receiving information should contact their pastor or contact Leon Lovell-Martin at 53147@bellsouth.net.

Ordination Service: The presbytery would like to invite you to attend a solemn service of ordination and installation for Mr. Noé (pronounced No-á) Juarez as the pastor at Sunset Presbyterian Church of Ft. Lauderdale on Sunday October 9, 2011 at 4 p.m. Noé was born in Peru and is a graduate of Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Richmond. He and his wife Laurie (who holds the M.A. in Christian Education from Union Seminary) are parents to two children.

At Montreat Conference Center, North Carolina

Institute for Church Leadership: The Reverend Dr. Craig Barnes, pastor of Shady Pine Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, will be the opening worship speaker at the Institute for Church Leadership which will be held October 23-27, 2011 under the theme “Getting Unstuck”. Attendees will explore what it means to “get unstuck” from worn out programs and begin to envision God’s call for the church in the 21st century. The institute is designed for teaching and ruling elders, deacons, Christian educators, church musicians and lay leaders. Some of the topics to be addressed include Adaptive Leadership, Coaching for Development, and the Exhibition of the Kingdom of God. Among this year’s leaders are Linda Bryant Valentine, Darrell Guder, Mark Achtenmeier, Cynthia Rigby, and Debra Mumford.

Academy for Missional Preaching: The academy is a study of the theory and practice of Missional preaching. Teresa Stricklen and David Gambrell both serve as Associates for Worship for the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and will lead the Academy for Missional Preaching, April 15-20, 2012 at Montreat. David is a graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and will lead in prayer and reflection on Missional preaching within worship. Teresa will guide and coach participants on how to preach sermons that are profound, relevant, and memorable. Teresa has served on the faculty at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Vanderbilt Divinity School. Region 2 teaching elders that are leading their congregations through the transition into becoming Missional churches are being encouraged to attend this
event. A limited number of scholarships will be available through the Committee on Ministry for teaching elders leading smaller membership congregations.

For more information on Montreat conferences visit online at www.montreat.org or call toll free 800-572-2257.

**Peacemaking Offering:** “A Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace” based on James 3:18 is the 2011 theme for World Communion Sunday, which will be celebrated on October 2nd. Most congregations receive the Peacemaking Offering on this day but it could be received on any Sunday of the year. The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the Offering it receives to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50 percent is used by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Free resources are available at www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering

**Available Resources**

**New Form of Government:** Now contained in the new Book of Order 2011-2013, this publication is available in print and a number of online versions. Also available for free download is the Advisory Handbook for Councils (new language for governing bodies) for the Development of Policies and Procedures as required by the Form of Government. For these resources visit: http://oga.pcusa.org/constitution.htm

**Rev. Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin**
Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 2 (southern Palm Beach & Broward Counties)

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**REGION 3 UPDATE**

**Go, Go, Go!**

Region 3 is moving forward with our first demonstration of a Missional Community with members from El Cordero and New Life. We were hoping for 7 to 9 people to join, but 17 showed up at the first gathering and the journey continues. We will be meeting at homes, cafeterias and at the malls as we explore and discover the missional heart of Jesus. We will do prayer walks, do compassionate people watching, cross over cultural and generational boundaries, abandon comfort zones, and learn to connect with others as Jesus did, in the streets where the people are. This is the living church in the community,

One of our greatest challenges in learning and practicing the missional life is the decision to “offer to God our plans in exchange for God’s own plans.” This is done both at an individual and group level. Members have commented that they are discovering that God wants them to be “missional aware” 7 days a week 24 hours a day, not only at church and its meetings. They are also discovering how to adopt a “Jesus Posture” with acceptance and unconditional love to all around as they do everyday life.

This is just not the typical bible study; it is a journey to reclaim our sense of call and “sentness” and it is an adventure in finding out how to Go, Go, Go into the darkness with God’s very light and mission.

From the Missional Adventure, Reporting;

**Rev Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz**
AMP Region 3

October 1: Sunrise Presbyterian Outreach with “The Food Trucks” and family entertainment
October 4: 7pm Regional COM Conference Call
October 6: 1pm COM
October 18: 12:30 on… Pastors Luncheon at First Spanish Miami
October 25: 7pm Region 3 COM call
October 27: Council 10am
October 30: 4pm Reformation Sunday worship and gathering at New Life
SHARI’S SHOUT OUT

**BOUNDARY (SEXUAL MISCONDUCT) TRAINING**
First Pompano Beach – October 22nd
Miami Shores – November 5th
9:30-3:30

**NOVEMBER 19TH AT PINECREST**
Though Presbytery just met, I need to draw your attention to our next meeting.

Council will meet on October 27th. All reports to Council need to be submitted by October 20th. Since only 3-1/2 weeks will have passed, the majority of Presbytery reports will be in the supplemental packet. However, any report coming to Council that will have no changes will be in the November 9th mailed/on-line Presbytery packet. Please note: I will be attending the APA National Conference from November 2nd to the 6th. If anyone living close to the Presbytery office is able to spare an hour or two the morning of the 9th, your assistance with packet collation would be a great blessing. I hope to hear that assistance is forthcoming.

Our on-line registration for Presbytery went fairly well. We’ll continue this method, also encouraging those who wish to call the church for reservations to do so. Since the internet responses come to the Presbytery office, please be aware that in the future, registrations received the day before the meeting will not be reflected with the information given to our host church; i.e., no lunch reservation/$10 for your ticket. Your cooperation and understanding is appreciated.

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The Presbytery has copies of the 2011-2012 Presbyterian Planning Calendar ($7.00 ea.) and the 2011-2013 Book of Order ($9.00 ea.).
If you have already picked up your copy and did not receive the “Errata” it is available on the website

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**LET’S TALK ABOUT MONEY**
from Susan Carpenter

**BOP INCREASES MEDICAL PLAN COSTS**
If you’re working on the 2012 budget, you’ll need to know about the recent announcement from the PC(USA) Board of Pensions. The 2012 premiums are going to increase for all participants in the BOP medical plan.

The percentage of salary will increase from 19.5% to 20.25% for the medical premium. The pension and life/disability premiums remain at 11% and 1% of salary, respectively.

The minimum and maximum salaries for the computation of medical premiums also increase: from $34,385 to $38,000, and from $105,800 to $117,000.

In addition, the out-of-pocket expenses go up for plan participants, in the co-pays and deductibles.

There will be further increases in 2013.

The BOP has complete details in their latest newsletter, which can be found online at www.pensions.org. Click on Forms & Publications, then click on Newsletters, then click on Board Bulletin Summer 2011.

The decisions affect participants in both the traditional and the affiliated benefits programs.

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First Spanish seeks an inexpensive or donated piano for their social hall. Please keep them in mind. If someone can make this wish come true, please call 305-642-4755.
**PRAYERS**

- People affected by the Pacific Typhoons
- For earthquake victims in Nepal and Tibet
- Those who are rebuilding from floods and tornadoes
- Those who are supporting the recovery efforts aiding in the rebuilding
- For the health of our earth, air and water
- For women seeking small freedoms in the Middle East
- For the brave who have opened doors for a new dialogue in the Middle East
- For a civil conversation in the USA; for leaders with courage
- For the homeless that will be moving for the warmer weather
- For those who care for our homeless and displaced brothers and sisters
- For food banks, community soup kitchens and pantries seeking to feed the hungry
- For the churches that are prayerfully seeking Gods will for their future
- For pastors and candidates seeking a call

- For pastors and their families who are struggling with health concerns
- For Diane (Mrs. George McIlrath)
- For Dr. Ray Anglin recovering from surgery
- For the ministries of Noe Juarez (Sunset) and Cecelia Armstrong (Grace Lantana) who will be ordained on October 9th and 16th, respectively.
- In thanksgiving for the 75 year ministry of First, Miami Springs
- In thanksgiving for the 60 year ministry of Second Church, Fort Lauderdale

With God All things are possible.

와 신 모든 것 들이 가능 하다.

Con Dios todas las cosas son posibles.

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**BIRTHDAYS**

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<td>Dr. Dwayne Black</td>
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<td>Dr. David Massey</td>
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<td>Rev. Eliane Menezes</td>
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<td>Palm City, Palm City</td>
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<td>Rev. Charles M. Falcone</td>
<td>Community, Hobe Sound</td>
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**THE OFFICE OF GENDER AND RACIAL JUSTICE**

The Office of Gender and Racial Justice assist the Presbyterian Church in fulfilling its commitment to become an open, inclusive and racially just church through worship based action. Worship based action is founded upon a Reformed biblical understanding of gender equality and justice. [Read More]
October is generally a time when many things happen. Our snowbirds are returning to fill the pews in our churches. The Florida plants begin their subtle change from the heat of the summer to the cooler weather of winter. And, our organizations begin to plan their stewardship campaigns and next year’s budget.

One important item in that budget is the continuing education line item. But make sure to not only budget for the pastoral staff’s continuing education but also budget for your administrative staff’s continuing education. They are a valuable asset to your organization and need your support to learn additional skills that will benefit you, your staff and your members.

By investing a small portion of your budget on your administrative staff, you will gain a large return on your funds. Your administrative staff is eager to learn how to better serve your organization, be it a church or governing body. Your administrative staff wants to become more efficient and more professional. But, they need to learn the skills to do so. Your administrative staff wants to serve God and all His children and needs to be spiritually nurtured. Your administrative staff needs you to be as supportive of them as they are of you.

Don’t forget to show your administrative staff what they mean to your organization. Make sure to budget funds for both their membership fee ($75) in the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and continuing education funds (approximately $500) for them to attend APA conferences in your upcoming budget.

To find out more about the APA, contact Barbara Prieto, Florida Region President, at 305-666-8586 or rivierachurch@bellsouth.net.

Nancy Fine
Membership Chair, Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
www.floridaapa.org

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**First Presbyterian Church Celebrates 75 Years**

The First Presbyterian Church of Miami Springs will be celebrating its 75th anniversary during the month of October.

It began in 1935 when Dr. David Iverson, of Shenandoah Presbyterian Church, was asked to start a mid-week prayer service for a group of 11 people in a private home in Hialeah. This group had increased to 65 people by October of 1936, and the First Presbyterian Church of Miami Springs was organized. The Rev. Robert Torrence was called to be the first pastor. The church met in the second story of the Miami Springs Post Office, which is now Stadnik’s Drug Store.

The original church, which is now the little chapel, was literally built by the congregation—the men doing the manual labor on weekends and after work, while the women kept them fed. By October 24, 1937, though the building was not quite finished, the first service was held in it.

A new Sunday School unit was constructed in 1950 and the sanctuary dedicated in 1951. In 1958 they sponsored a mission church, Friendship Chapel. Then in 1965, with a membership of 691, a new group of buildings was built and all the buildings were joined together.

Since 1983 the chapel has continuously been home to a number of Hispanic congregations, with the current one also celebrating an anniversary in October—their 15th. However, this Miami Springs church has been and is currently the home of other ministries such as an Autistic learning center, Youth For Christ, HeartBeat of Miami (a pregnancy center with alternative measures to abortion).
THE OFFICE IS SKYPE READY

The new 55 inch screen will be our access to new information and a way to save on expenses and travel time. The SKYPE ready equipment will enable committee members to call in or video in. We will hold training and demonstrations in November. Google Skype and learn how your committee meetings can be better attended.

Also, starting in November, the PTF will be offering Webinars and other videos that will better inform your churches on such things as the new Book of Order, leadership, stewardship ideas, accounting/tax information and more. We will have brown bag lunch showings of various leadership and Webinars and then have a round table discussion on the day’s topic.

SHARE WITH YOUR AUDIENCES

DID YOUR CHURCH PARTICIPATE IN A BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM?

If your church provided backpacks or helped a school with supplies let us know. If you can give us an estimate of the number of children you helped that would be even better. In the November Newsletter we are going to talk about the collective support the Presbytery provided the children in south Florida.

The Presbytery’s backpack program is in its second year. The Backpack Program was started August 2010 when we provided 120 fully supplied packs for children displaced by the 2010 Haiti earthquake. This year, the Presbytery provided over 900 backpacks for children in need. Churches that expressed an interest to their AMP were provided with the empty backpacks and their congregations provided the necessary supplies; in some cases the Presbytery provided the supplies. So send us an email or give us a call and tell us about your back to school program. center@tfpby.org

Everyone is invited to attend the first “Caring for Creation Expo and Interfaith Prayer Service” Saturday, November 12th, at Spirit of Joy Church, located at the corner of Rouse Rd. and Hwy 50 in East Orlando, (see flyer). The Expo is from 3-6 pm and will feature local, fun, environmentally friendly vendors and activities for the entire family to enjoy. Have fun AND raise awareness on being good planetary stewards. The event will conclude with an Interfaith Prayer Service at 6:00pm -- highlighting the traditions that every faith community shares in respecting God’s gift of creation. This entire event is sponsored by Sunshine State Interfaith Power and Light (SSIPL), www.sunshinestateipl.org, a faith based environmental organization that believes God is the author of creation. Through his divine inspiration we are called to protect and nurture the beauty that is planet earth. Please join us at the Interfaith Creation Care Expo and Prayer Service to learn more about achieving this, and about living as willing and fulfilled caretakers in God’s image and likeness. For more information contact: eclayton@orlandodiocese.org; 407-246-4819.
IS SOUPER BOWL OF CARING ON YOUR CHURCH CALENDAR?

PLEASE MARK SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH AND REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE!

TACKLE HUNGER

Are you looking for a meaningful and simple way for your young people to serve their community and join thousands of youth across the nation in helping others? Souper Bowl of Caring is a national, non-profit organization that uses the energy around the Super Bowl game to mobilize youth to fight hunger in their community. It is so easy to participate. Souper Bowl of Caring provides you with the materials you need. All you have to do is follow these 4 steps:

1. Register your church at www.tacklehunger.org
2. Collect your donations on or near Super Bowl Sunday-February 5th
3. Report your collection at www.tacklehunger.org
4. Donate the collection to the charity that your church chooses

If you have questions, contact Emily Heeg, Florida Director, at emilyheeg@yahoo.com or 904-288-8414.

STEWARDSHIP

A CONSTANT STATE OF THANKFULNESS

While others are holding on tightly to what they have, one man is giving his money away. Read why he thinks it’s the best way to live.

HOW YOUNG ADULTS GIVE

What does stewardship look like for today’s young adults? In talking with two of them, key themes emerge. Learn more

ORDER YOUR 2011 STEWARDSHIP THEME MATERIALS

This year’s annual campaign theme is based on 1 Corinthians 16:1-4, ”Saints Alive — Living Generously. Get the annual theme materials. Find additional resources and a preview of the theme in this year’s Giving magazine, available free from the Church Store. Order your copy today →

IS YOUR CHURCH USING ITS MISSION GIVING RESOURCE PACKET?

Mission Giving Resource Packets were mailed in late June to all congregations and mid-councils. The packets include: Shared Mission giving opportunities in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Presbyterian World Mission giving opportunities catalog Overview of the General Assembly Mission Council ministries Resources for congregations’ annual stewardship campaigns Presbyterian Foundation: an innovative way to give If you don’t have yours, call (800) 728-7228, x5627 and we will send you one!

FIND STEWARDSHIP EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES


A NEW SPIRIT: TRIENNIAL ASSEMBLY OF HISPANIC/LATINO PRESBYTERIAN MEN


2012 CHURCHWIDE GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

RIVER OF HOPE

Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center
Orlando, Florida, July 18-22, 2012
Information and Registration Booklet online
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Presbytery of Florida announces its search for a
Transitional Executive Presbyter

Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders may email PIFs or resumes by Nov. 15 to:
Search Committee Chair, Presbytery of Florida
effective@presbyteryofflorida.com
A position description will be available after Oct. 4
For more information, call 850-638-2322 X4 (Melissa)

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND MISSIONAL MINISTRIES
Grace Community Church, Boca Raton, Florida

PURPOSE:
To serve as a minister to the whole congregation by fulfilling our church’s vision particularly in youth and mission ministries of Grace Community Church by providing passion, leadership and vision to the church’s youth and their families, and by expanding GCC’s response to the needs of our broader community and the world through missions, all in in response to our church’s vision of Celebrating God – Growing Disciples-Changing Lives by fulfilling GCC’s CORE Values:

Connecting with God and others
Outreach to Others
Responding to Needs
Equipping for Life

PROFILE:
We are looking for an experienced person who connects with and influences people for Jesus Christ. He/she should be a mature disciple with experience and passion for youth and mission ministries. The candidate should be engaging, organized, creative, and a team player.

A SKETCH OF THE SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:
Youth Ministry (~75% of time)
Equip Junior High and High School students to be dynamic disciples of Jesus Christ
Recruit and train lay leaders to serve in the youth ministries of the church.
Develop teens into leaders within the group and larger church.
Organize and implement outreach activities such as retreats, service projects, and mission opportunities for the youth of the church.

Reach out to the youth community to attract new youth and their families to the church in order to grow disciples for the Kingdom of God.
Equip parents to grow in their parenting skills.

Misional Ministries (~20% of time)
With assistance from the Mission Ministry Team, develop a plan by which disciples at GCC can serve our community and world in the name of Jesus, thus fulfilling our CORE values. This includes but is not limited to:
develop partnerships with community ministries wherein GCC disciples can serve develop partnership(s) with ministries whereby GCC disciples can serve abroad on mission projects explore ways to equip GCC disciples for greater ministry outside the walls of the church.

General Duties (~5% of time)
Attend weekly staff meetings and quarterly Coordinating Team meetings.
Performs all duties as assigned.

RELATIONSHIPS:
Works in coordination with Program and Support staff.
Serves and staffs the Mission Ministries Team.
Under the direct supervision of the Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, and has access to the Human Resources Ministry Team (HMRT).

COMPENSATION AND EVALUATION:
Compensation will be based on experience, starting at a $50,000 salary base and is slightly negotiable given experience. Insurance reimbursement is built into the salary. Other vouchered allowances include car, cell phone, and conference.

For tax purposes, we will honor the ordination of any candidate ordained in a viable Christian body (as determined by GCC).

Annual performance review will be conducted by the Head of Staff with the HRMT, and reported to the Session. Evaluations will be based primarily, yet not solely, on the above-mentioned responsibilities. The HRMT will review the compensation package on an annual basis.
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Access the annual calendar online: [http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html](http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html)
CLERGY NEWS

All are welcome to join the congregation of Grace Lantana for the Installation Ceremony of Rev. Cecelia Armstrong with fellowship to follow.

Please share in their joy on:
Sunday, November 6, 2011 at 5:00 PM
Grace Presbyterian Church
844 Hypoluxo Rd
Lantana, FL 33462
SW corner of Hypoluxo and I-95
(561) 585-4136

PASTORAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Winning coach, teacher and leader is herself led to a new calling through For Such a Time as This pastoral residency program. Read the full article: http://www.pcus.org/news/2011/10/27/pied-piper-detroit/

REV. CORNELIUS (KERNIE) KOSTRUB

RETIRING

This December, Rev. Cornelius Kostrub, pastor at Glades Presbyterian Church, will be retiring. Kernie has been at Glades for 21 years and has been a pastor in the Presbytery Church USA for 35 years. A celebration of his years in ministry will take place on the evening of Dec. 3rd at a local restaurant. For more information on attending this event please like the Facebook page Kernie’s Retirement Party or contact Sarah Kostrub, 561 901-8965, kostrub31@gmail.com

REGION 1 UPDATE

Happy November – Ministry & Mission opportunities continue to take shape in the lives and hearts of our congregations as the season of Fall, Thanksgiving, and Christmas arrives and approaches. Much is also continuing to “play out” in our denomination and the hearts and minds of our local congregations in Tropical Florida Presbytery. I have provided scripture from 1 Corinthians 1 for your Session/leaders to reflect on and share and pray about in your congregations as well as a resource and link from The Ogilvie Institute re: Prayer & Preaching. Read, reflect, be challenged – be transformed!

1 Corinthians 1:10–17 (NRSV) — 10

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. 12 What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” 13 Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

PREACHERS AND SHAKING KNEES

With Abel Orozco on October 06, 2011

Every preacher has had the sinking feeling in their gut that what they have to share is uninspiring. Sometimes preachers think they are not witty enough, or fresh enough, or intellectual enough. They may feel alone in their endeavor, believing it falls solely on them to convince their congregation of God’s word. Although these feelings are real, they could not be further from the truth.
Pray that our preachers would be settled in that which is true.

- May they be reassured that the gospel is always relevant and inspiring.
- May they be encouraged that when they openly share how the gospel has touched their life, that is always enough.
- May they believe deep down in their hearts that every time the gospel is preached, it is the Holy Spirit that will draw people to God.
- May they feel supported in knowing that God is speaking to the congregation as much as God is speaking to them.

http://www.brehmcenter.com/initiatives/ogilvieinstitute/conversations/preachers_and_shaking_knees/

As you pray for the ministry of TFP, note several churches have been invited to consider the following homeless outreach ministry being supported/resourced from the Presbytery:

The presbytery is going to provide an outreach opportunity for churches who have (or would like to have) a program supporting the homeless or persons in need.

This program is similar to the August Back Pack program, The Presbytery will provide a bag, a blanket (stadium size) and a water bottle. Your congregation would gather supplies such as razors, tooth paste, personal toiletries, socks, caps, and snacks. The church is responsible for identifying the homeless or need based program and for arranging to deliver to the organization.

Ideas for program resource are migrant, homeless, or food bank programs….or programs your church or community currently supports.

Please also pray for several congregations in Region 1 (All Villages, Indian River, Memorial & Palm City) and Region 2 & 3 congregations as well, who have been involved in forming missional communities via “The Tangible Kingdom Primer” and engaged in monthly missional coach training via resources from the Transformation Committee. Good stuff happening here.

Also, a reminder that our next Region 1 Lunch is scheduled for Noon at Palm City Presbyterian Church on Thursday, November 17.

May the peace of Christ be with you all,

Rev. Bryan L. Wenger
Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 1 of Tropical Florida Presbytery
2499 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce, FL 34982
772-464-4263 x105
Fax 772-464-2351

REGION 2 UPDATE

An Outreach Opportunity

The seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas are almost here and this allows us opportunities to share and to care. The presbytery would like to assist smaller membership congregations with a great opportunity to share and to care for the poor people in their neighborhood. Through the generosity of those who have contributed to this year’s Peacemaking Offering, the presbytery will donate its share to purchase and distribute bags, each containing a water bottle and a blanket. It is our hope that smaller congregations will use this opportunity to request some of these bags and to add a few more items – such as toothpaste, tooth brushes, and combs – to them for distribution. If you are interested please contact Leon Lovell-Martin at 954-643-6976.

Congratulations!

The congregation at Second Presbyterian Church celebrated 60 years of ministry with a worship service last Sunday. Several pastors who served the congregation as pastor or as an associate pastor or parish associate were in attendance, including the Rev. Dr. Greta Reid and the Rev. Linda Lader. The congregation was chartered sixty years ago under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Samuel G. Orlandi, a man of great renown and remembered for his social justice advocacy. Dr. Orlandi was a member of the South East Florida Presbytery and was active in the Synod as chairman of the Committee on Social Education and Action. He was also instrumental in the racial integration of the Synod to create a “Non-segregated Church.” The Ascension Presbyterian Church, which later merged with Peace Presbyterian to form the current Ascension Peace Presbyterian Church in Lauderdale, was established by the Second Presbyterian Church as the first African American Presbyterian congregation in Ft. Lauderdale.

Marks of a Missional Church

I was once given the challenge to help a congregation to become a missional church and then report back within thirty days. I thought, “[I]f ever there was a task that was beyond one’s ability to achieve, this was that task.” Of course, no one could capriciously transform an existing congregation with a non-missional predisposition into a missional church. A missional church requires a change in thinking, a new way of how we understand the church. Missional thinking does not happen overnight, it requires Christians to develop a new
“habit of mind” or a transformation of our perspective because a missional church shares many characteristics that some churches have never practiced or have never embraced. Roxburgh and Boren (2009) have outlined some marks of a missional church as follows:

- Proclaims in words and deeds and ways of being in the world that Jesus Christ is Lord of God’s new reality of shalom, which God is working to bring about through Christ and inviting us to participate in through the Holy Spirit.
- Is a group of followers of Jesus Christ who offer themselves to God’s mission of redeeming and blessing the world; however, that needs to occur in specific incarnate circumstances with unique individuals and social systems, as discerned through Holy Spirit.
- Knows God to be a sending God of love and justice who wants to extend those blessings to all of creation.
- Looks for the Holy Spirit at work in the world, not apart from it.
- Sees the culture as a mission field.
- Emphasizes discerning God’s will in particular situations.
- Is nonbeliever friendly, which means it’s nonjudgmental, doesn’t use jargon and is hospitable to the other as uniquely other.
- Meets people where they are to help them encounter the living Lord.
- Gospels in everyday language and actions.
- Understands the multifaceted dimensionality of God’s good news in Jesus Christ that accommodates to our needs.
- Doesn’t separate the church from the world into “us and them” categories but sees all people as co-journeymen on the planet who share an innate spiritual longing for God as well as the common self-deception of sin.
- Understands and respects those who don’t believe and the problems they have with the institutional church, while at the same time encourages people to join us along the Way of Christ.
- Holds the mandate to tell others the good news together with the call to do social justice as the same mission of God.
- Isn’t moibund in human rules but is responsive to emergent situations that are discerned to be calls of Christ through the Holy Spirit.
- Intentionally invites others into God’s way of life in Christ.
- Is honest about the demands of God’s way as it seeks to create disciples, not just members of the institutional church.
- Empowers all people to use their gifts for God’s purposes in the church and the world.
- Looks more like a New Testament church than an established Christendom church (and understands what this means).
- Is intentional about following God’s Spirit wherever it leads as believers of Jesus Christ.

Reference

If your congregation is developing as a missional church share your story with us, we will be glad to hear from you.

Leon Lovell-Martin
Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 2 – Broward and Southern Palm Beach Counties

**REGION 3 UPDATE**

**Opportunities for Missional Impulses:**

Many congregations in Region 3 will be involve in ministry during the next few weeks as they share out of their collective abundance with others identified as experiencing need during this season of Thanksgiving. We will be collecting cans and trying to purchase items that will provide a nice Thanksgiving meal for a needy family. Likewise, many organizations in the community such as the Lions, Kiwanis, and Rotary do similar activities. In addition, sports figures also join in sharing from their abundance with the community. This is all great and commendable actions in our communities.

However, for the community of Christ, the body of Christ; those called to be the feet, hands, and voice of Jesus in the world it is a great missional opportunity to practice hospitality and develop new friendships. This can happen at two levels. First, Invite others outside of the congregation (those friends that just won’t come to church) to participate in collection of food items, maybe they will like to come and put the food baskets together or even deliver them. Secondly, the families receiving the baskets may be willing and open to experience a real friendship that may grow and may eventually lead them to faith.

Missional Communities become intentionally aware of potential opportunities to be Jesus to others by adopting his
posture (advocate, defender, and helper) and genuinely caring for others, not as targets, but as humans loved by God. During the last few weeks 15 members of El Cordero Presbyterian have been studying and practicing the principles of missional/incarnational community with amazing results. This coming winter I will be leading another cycle of our Missional/Incarnational model. If interested, let me know.

Region 3 Updates:
Nov. 3rd COM Reg. 3 at 12 noon
Nov. 3rd COM 10m
Nov. 5th Riviera Presbyterian Art Exhibition
Nov 19th Presbytery at Pinecrest Presbyterian

**SHARI’S SHOUT OUT**

**Safety in Houses of Worship**
Training on December 5th
9:30 a.m. to noon
Deputy Eddie Nelson of the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office

Do your ushers know what to do in case of an emergency on Sunday morning?
Have you taken precautions to keep office staff safe?
Do you have a security team in place?
If you have answered “no” to any of the questions above then this informative class is for you.

There was expressed interest in this topic when a previous inquiry went out but coordination of days was difficult.
It is hoped many can attend. We can setup and use Skype for a handful of people. Please notify the office if you plan to use Skype, as there is a limit to the number that can get on at one time.

Those who wish to attend in the Presbytery office are welcome to do so, but should plan to arrive no later than 9:15 before the training begins.
Please call the office if you plan to use Skype as there are limits to the number that can log in and you will also need our contact information.

This opportunity is being brought to you by the Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association (APA) of the PCUSA.
APA members will receive 2-1/2 hours of credit for their participation.

**Shout Outs!**
Congratulations to Kirk of the Keys in their outreach ministry at the “Conchtober Fest”
Congratulations to El Cordero on their Anniversary celebration on Nov. 21 at 4pm
Congratulations to all congregations sharing Thanksgiving baskets throughout the Region 3

**Coming Soon:**
Region 3 Christmas Luncheon: Tuesday December 6, 2011:
More details to come.

From the Missional Adventure, Reporting;
**Rev Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz**
AMP Region 3

**2012 Per Capita remains unchanged at $31.30.**

**Presbytery meets on November 19th!**
Pinecrest Presbyterian Church
Reservations may be made at http://www.tfppy.org/forms/regform.html
or by calling the church 305-661-1009 no later than the 17th please, as no one will be monitoring responses after that date.

**Presbytery packets** will be mailed to churches on the 9th and posted on the website.
Thanks a million to Lynn Anderson (1st Hollywood) and Treasurer Marge Hellgren for their gracious offers of assistance with the mailing that morning.
Extra hands really make the assembly process so much faster!

If anyone needs calendars ($6.50) or the new **Book of Order** ($9), just let me know before the meeting and I’ll bring them to Pinecrest.
Please bring your payment to the meeting.

**Boundaries Seminar**
Miami Shores Presbyterian Church
9:30 - 3:30 Saturday, November 5th
All who are supposed to attend have been notified.
Have you made your reservation? (If not, why not?)
Please contact Rev. Leah Meador directly to make yours now
LeahLBM@comcast.net or 561-818-9191
LET’S TALK ABOUT MONEY

From Susan Carpenter

On The Presbytery of Tropical Florida website (tfpby.org) under Administration and then Finance is a “Housing Allowance Request Worksheet and Board Resolution” from The Church Law Group.

This set of forms should help you and your churches comply with the IRS rules regarding housing.

Please note the following:

1. The housing allowance information MUST be in your session minutes before the start of the new year.
2. The housing allowance amount should take into account unexpected housing costs or inaccurate projections of expenses. It is okay for your housing allowance to exceed your actual expenses; the less of your actual expenses or housing allowance should be used on your tax return.
3. A housing allowance can be amended during the year if a minister’s housing expenses are more than expected. However, an amendment is only effective prospectively.
4. A pastor or session backdating session minutes to qualify for a housing allowance may violate the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, exposing the pastor and session to fines or imprisonment. Even if the pastor’s or session’s action does not violate the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, it may result in civil or criminal penalties under the tax code.

The Housing Allowance is a terrific benefit to our pastors so let us make sure that it is done right.

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PRAYERS

- Susan Krch
- Diane McIrrath
- Dwayne Black, Jr.
- Stephen Ash (Amalie’s brother)
- John Tomlinson (Susan’s father)
- The Victims of the Earthquake in Turkey
- The responders and relief workers in the Turkish earthquake
- The hunger relief workers preparing for the winter demand
- The homeless advocates preparing their communities for the winter weather
- The churches that are fearful of the changes in the PCUSA
- The sessions and pastors discerning the Gracious Separation Agreement
- The sessions, pastors and church members who are experiencing the loss of fellow Presbyterians
- The Presbytery of Tropical Florida and its missions to ministers, churches and community programs
- The pastors of the Presbytery who are busy planning the Christmas programs
- The Presbyterian Women seeking to provide support for the church

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BIRTHDAYS

05 Rev. Raul Martinez – HR
09 Dr. Audley Reid - MOS
16 Dr. Timothy Stover – Calvary, Coconut Creek
19 Dr. Raul Fernandez-Calienes -MOS
20 Rev. Jacob Krch – Member-at-Large
24 Rev. Connie Ast Caldwell – First, Ft. Lauderdale
24 Rev. Dustin Sedlak - Kirk of the Keys, Marathon
28 Rev. Edward Peachey – HR

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ORDINATIONS

01 Rev. Amy Baer - MOS
04 Rev. Jacqueline Brovold – Pinecrest, Miami
06 Rev. Mardoqueo Munoz - HR
10 Rev. David Kwon- Korean, North Miami
13 Rev. Maria Luisa Hernandez - HR
15 Rev. Carol Trax - MOS
15 Rev. Elizabeth Allin- Indian River, Ft. Pierce
16 Dr Jonas Georges - All Nations, North Miami Beach
18 Rev. Connie Ast Caldwell – First, Ft. Lauderdale
23 Rev. Michel D. Yonts – Faith, Pembroke Pines
Presbyterian Women of Tropical Florida FALL WORKSHOP

November 12th, Saturday
9:30 to 2:30
Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church in Opa Locka.
The cost is $10.00 per person.

The program includes a Bible Study Overview by Cora Sutton, "Confessing the Beatitudes"; "Health and Wellness" by Barbara BlythLovell-Martin; "Thailand Orphanage" by Shirley Nicholas and "Children's Home Society Orphanage" by Angelica Rosas.

Also schedule a mountaintop experience, July 18-22, 2012. The 2012 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be at the Gaylord Palms in Orlando, Florida. Scholarships are now available via the web at www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering or contact Elizabeth Torres, PWP moderator at lilly5379@yahoo.com. The scholarship will cover the registration to the Gathering. Early registration starts December 1, 2011 via the web. Makes plans to come as this is in our own "backyard" and be prepared to receive a blessing!

Thanks to the generosity of Presbyterian Women in the South Atlantic Synod along with the Synod of Living Waters, Columbia Friendship Circle raised $49,208.30! Four students of Columbia Seminary were awarded scholarships as well as one graduate fellowship. During these hard economic times all of these future pastors are very grateful that their tuition for one year is paid in full.

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

November is a time of thanksgiving. We spend this time thinking about those things in our lives that we are thankful for; be it family, friends, colleagues and God. But are we showing our administrative staff how thankful we are for everything that they do for our church?

Show your administrative staff how grateful you are for everything they do for you, your staff and your members. Make sure to include in your 2012 budget the membership fees for them to join the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as well as continuing education funds to attend APA conferences. For a small fee ($75 for the membership dues and approximately $500 to attend a conference), they can become part of this great organization, recognized in the Book of Order G-2.1101 – G-2.1102. The Presbytery affirms the skills and dedication of these certified lay employees by providing recognition at Presbytery at the time of their certification and by inviting these employees to Presbytery meetings, granting them the privilege of the floor.

By attending APA conferences, your administrative staff will improve the quality of professionalism in the offices that are usually the first points of contact with congregations, governing bodies and agencies of the Presbyterian Church (USA). They will learn the importance of efficient office procedures and develop a deeper commitment and understanding of the issues, policy, history and theology of our church.

For more information about the APA and how it will benefit your administrative staff, contact Barbara Prieto, Florida Region President, at 305-666-8586 or rivierachurch@bellsouth.net.

Nancy Fine
Membership Chair, Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
www.floridaapa.org
FIRST, HOLLYWOOD

HOLLYWOOD CARES, INC. / PROJECT PAPILLON

Each month in our presbytery’s newsletter, an aspect of our Haitian earthquake response is highlighted. This month we focus on the work of First, Hollywood.

Since early 2007 First Presbyterian Church, Hollywood, FL has joined with Temple Beth-el, Hollywood, FL to be in partnership with Project Papillon in Haiti. Project Papillon [http://www.cmiprojectpapillon.org] is a multi-faceted organization, registered in Haiti and funded in 2004, to provide food, shelter, and health care for orphans and other children in Haiti, with a special emphasis on HIV-positive children. It is closely related with Connection Ministries International (also a Haitian organization founded in 2003) that mobilizes youth to do community service working with children in Haiti. The church and the temple have raised over $35,000 for the project.

After the earthquake, a focus of the partnership has been on establishing an Outreach Center especially for youth. Founder John Dieubon received training at Strategic World Impact in Bartlesville, OK. The purpose is to provide post-traumatic stress counseling, to open a music academy, to provide training in micro-finance and business start-up, to offer education on HIV prevention, and to cultivate a restoration of hope in the future for youth in Port-au-Prince. A budget for the center is attached.

The program prospectus states as follows:
“The objective of this project is to help children and young people find hope and stability, by providing them a comfortable quiet place where they can learn and receive various kinds of assistance. The project has been operated since October 2010, even though all the projects are not completely finished.

“Training at the Center will include disaster relief, business, computers, micro finance, education, HIV/AIDS prevention and leadership. By nurturing each person’s unique gifts and talents, we hope to instill in those who visit the Center self confidence and hope in the future. We believe that this approach will help these children become good and productive citizens who will work to make Haiti a prosperous self sufficient nation.

“This project will be one hundred percent for the community, serving the children from our 3 homes (29 children) and also children and youth in the surrounding community, including the children in nearby tent cities. The center will also give employment opportunities to young Haitians who want to help their country on the road to recovery.”

CAFÉ COCANO

At our last presbytery meeting, Anthony Vinciguerra, director of the Center for Justice and Peace at St. Thomas University (STU), spoke to us about Café Cocano and how STU is connected with it. Our presbytery adopted Café Cocano – organic coffee grown by a cooperative of Haitian farmers – as our “official” coffee. Our churches are encouraged to use this coffee at your coffee hours and perhaps to make it available to your members.

Anthony sends this invitation: “For those in South Florida ordering two or more cases we offer free delivery -- this can be arranged on a order-by-order basis or we can schedule a monthly (or bi-monthly) delivery. These orders are generally paid by check (written to St. Thomas University, with “Café Cocano” in the memo), and can be arranged as tax-exempt if you provide us with your Tax ID number.”

In addition, he’s willing to go or to send someone to our churches: “Many churches will often "introduce" the coffee to the congregation by having us come one weekend to give a short (2min) talk after services, offer sampling of the coffee, etc -- and then move into serving/offering the church on an ongoing basis.”

Anthony can be reached at avinciguerra@stu.edu. The coffee can be ordered through the website, www.cafecocano.com.
**SHARE WITH YOUR AUDIENCES**

**2012 CHURCHWIDE GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**RIVER OF HOPE**
Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center
Orlando, Florida, July 18-22, 2012
[Information and Registration Booklet online](#)

**October: Domestic Violence Awareness Month**
Victims of domestic violence and their abusers may be present and listening. Learn how your congregation can send a message of comfort and redemption by using these tools.

**PDA: Working with others for Christ**
Learn how Presbyterian Disaster Assistance’s unique approach to serving those in need means PDA is able to use your donations to more effectively help others.

**Giving a voice to youth in Africa**
Read how a recent conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is empowering the youth of the Presbyterian community there.
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Access the annual calendar online: [http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html](http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html)
CALL FOR THE PRESBYTERY TO A SEASON OF PRAYER DURING ADVENT

In the next couple years our presbytery faces emphatic and significant change.

Ten churches have requested that we participate together in the time of discernment outlined in our gracious separation process. This means that we are embarking upon an active search for the will of God, that we will be speaking truth to one another which will sometimes be tough to say and hard to hear, and that we face a future even more unknown than usual.

Your Council invites our whole presbytery to a season of prayer during Advent.

Let us pray God’s guidance for our churches and our clergy as they decide where and how to belong.

Let us pray sustenance and grace for our staff and our discernment team as they do their work.

Let us pray nurture for persons who will make different choices than those with whom they have travelled in the last months and years.

Let us pray God’s comfort for those who mourn.

Let us pray for renewed energy, intelligence, imagination, and love as we seek to serve God.

Specifically, let’s pause at 12 noon each day during Advent for this prayer, knowing that as we do so we are joined with sisters and brothers in Christ.

IT HAPPENED AT PRESBYTERY

The November Presbytery meeting was chock-full of exciting things for our Presbytery.

- An amendment to our bylaws was passed that will change the way churches are represented at Presbytery. Representation by congregations at Presbytery meetings shall be determined in the following manner:
  - One ruling elder commissioner for each teach elder in an installed or temporary pastoral position (no former Parish Associates are included in this representation); plus
  - Churches with less than 100 members: 1 additional elder commissioner
  - 101 to 300 members: 1 additional elder commissioner
  - 301 to 500 members: 1 additional elder commissioner
  - For each additional 500 members: 1 additional elder commissioner not to exceed 7.
  - The number of active members shall be determined by the last completed Annual Statistical report of the General Assembly.
- It was reported that the remedial case that was before the Synod PJC was finalized – only one item was sustained, and remedial action on that item was determined to be moot, so no action needs to be taken.
- The Presbytery voted to authorize the PUPAC to explore and make a determination and to the suitability of Reformed denominations for congregations seeking Gracious Dismissal to be dismissed too. They will begin by considering the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and New Reformed Body being established by the Fellowship of Presbyterians.
- It was reported that 10 churches have entered into a period of discernment with the Presbytery for Gracious Dismissal. They are:
  - Faith, Pembroke Pines
  - Grace Community Boca Raton
  - Central, Kendall
  - Kirk of the Keys, Marathon
  - First, North Palm Beach
  - Palm City
  - Memorial, West Palm Beach
  - Indian River, Fort Pierce
  - First, Miami Springs
  - All Villages, St. Lucie West
- It was reported that the staffing model be changed such that the PASC position will be removed and the Presbytery Administrator and Stated Clerk will be separate positions. If the way be clear, the current Administrator, Amalie Ash, will continue as Presbytery Administrator.
- Dwayne Black was moved from the Inquirers Roll to the Roll of Candidates.
- Dwayne Black was also approved to hold the position of “Student Pastor” at Second Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale, for one year to provide Pastoral ministry for that congregation.

In the midst of all this, and other business, we enjoyed the hospitality of Pinecrest Presbyterian Church, Miami, along with worship and fellowship as a Presbytery.
Elder and Moderator-Elect, Dwayne Black was moved to Candidacy and was made the student pastor at Second Presbyterian Church, Ft Lauderdale. Dwayne has been serving as the Director of Youth, Children and Family Ministries and the Director of Contemporary Worship at First Pompano since 2005. Dwayne is the son of Rev Dwayne Black, Sr. and he is married to Cindy and they have two children. He has an extensive background in business and event planning. Dwayne is completing his Masters of Divinity at St. Thomas University.

Ben Sorenson, was approved for ministry as the Assistant Pastor for Children, Youth and Families for First Ft. Lauderdale. Ben is a graduate of Emory University (BA), Duquesne University (MA), Georgetown University Law (JD) and Turner School of Theology (M.Div). Ben is also an Intelligence Officer in the Navy Reserve. Ben has been under the care of the Tropical Florida CPM.

Chris Atwood was approved for membership in the presbytery after accepting a call as fulltime Temporary Supply Pastor at First Miami. Chris is from Olympia Presbytery in Seattle, he completed his Masters of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary and is completing his Doctor in Philosophy at Wheaton College; his dissertation: Jonathan Edwards and Justification. Chris and his wife have just moved to Miami, he began serving First Miami Nov 19th.

Dan Carlson was approved for membership in the Presbytery after accepting a call at Memorial (West Palm) as the co-pastor. Dan completed his masters of Divinity at Regents College in Vancouver, British Columbia. Krista Carlson accepted position as Evangelist for Outreach at Memorial. She completed her Masters of Divinity at Regents. Dan and Krista are from San Francisco Presbytery, they recently moved to West Palm with their 4month old son, Colton. Dan and Krista will be ordained Sunday Nov 27 at Memorial Presbyterian church.

Please reach out to these new Teaching Elders and remember them in your prayers.

Cornelius Kostrub known as Kernie to the presbytery since 1990, is retiring December 4th after celebrating 35 years in ministry. He has served in churches in New York City, Doylestown, PA, Fairbanks, Alaska and Gainesville, Florida. Kernie has recently served the presbytery as the Pastor to Pastor, reaching out to ministers in all three regions. Kernie is looking forward to his retirement but will still be active in the Presbytery. Join the presbytery and the congregation at Glades Presbyterian in wishing Kernie a blessed and reinvigorating retirement. Thank you Kernie for the gifts of your ministry.
Dear Readers,

At the September presbytery meeting the Gracious Separation Agreement (GSA) was passed, this agreement is to provide a process for churches who feel called to separate from the PCUSA denomination. Since the passing of the GSA, I have had numerous phone conversations that essentially ask the question “Why”. Why are congregations leaving? Why should a church stay? Why is there a sense of urgency? Why is there no one speaking on behalf of the presbytery and the denomination? Why ...........

Giving this serious thought, we have decided to use the newsletter for an open forum on the question. The January and February issues of the Presbytery Times will be devoted solely to the conversation surrounding the GSA. I invite you to write your thoughts, opinions, theology, and expressions of faith and life experiences as a member of the PCUSA and as a member of the greater Church. Tell us why you feel called to leave the Presbytery, why you feel called to make the decision now, why you feel called to stay in the Presbytery, why the Presbytery or the PCUSA is important to you...you decide on what you want to say.

Please take the time to share your thoughts. Write a paragraph or a page, it can be positive or not so positive...just share your thoughts by December 15th and email to the Presbytery office at center@tfpby.org. Your fellow presbyters are asking. Help them to understand why we are all looking at the same thing and yet seeing something different.

Peace to all this season of Advent,

Amalie

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**REGION 1 UPDATE**

Dear Friends – A blessed Christmas to you, your family and congregation!!! I want to share a devotional that has focused me on the true meaning of Christmas – a very timeless message our world needs to hear. Proclaim it this Advent & Christmas & into the New Year!

Blessings, Bryan

Shared by The Rev. Dr. Bill Paul ’59
Honorably Retired Pastor, Pittsburgh Presbytery

Saturday, December 25, 2010

Morning Psalms 2; 149
First Reading Zechariah 2:10-13
Second Reading 1 John 4:7-16
Gospel John 3:31-36
Evening Psalms 98; 96

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

- - -

The meaning of Christmas is made abundantly clear in this passage.

Christmas is the announcement that in the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem God was giving the world a Savior. To celebrate it is to receive the love and life that the Holy One intends for all. John writes: "God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him." Christmas is the divine signal that the Eternal One has come to us in human flesh. It is the call to celebrate that the Word became flesh and lived among us. It is the life changing message that God so loved the world that he sent his only Son. It is that, but more.

It is also an invitation to action, to share God's love in words and deeds. "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another." It is to become a bearer of God's love to others. That’s the test of genuine faith and the incontrovertible sign that God abides in us.

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Prayer: Dear God, having received your saving gift through the Babe of Bethlehem, now empower us to be instruments of your love. May your grace pass through us and bring healing and peace to a troubled and hurting world. Amen.

Rev. Bryan L. Wenger
Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 1 of Tropical Florida Presbytery
2499 Virginia Ave, Fort Pierce, FL 34982
772-464-4263 x105
Fax 772-464-2351
REGION 2 UPDATE

Academy for Missional Preaching: This is a reminder that a limited number of scholarships are available through the Committee on Ministry for teaching elders leading smaller membership congregations, and are interested in attending the Academy for Missional Preaching from April 15-20, 2012 at Montreat Conference Center. The academy is a study of the theory and practice of Missional preaching under the direction of Teresa Striklen and David Gambrell, Associates for Worship for the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. David is a graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and will lead in prayer and reflection on Missional preaching within worship. Teresa will guide and coach participants on how to preach sermons that are profound, relevant, and memorable. Teresa has served on the faculty at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Vanderbilt Divinity School. Region 2 teaching elders that are leading their congregations through the transition into becoming Missional churches are being encouraged to attend this event. Contact Leon Lovell-Martin at 954-643-6976 for more information on scholarships.

For more information on Montreat conferences visit online at www.montreat.org or call toll free 800-572-2257.

Faith in 3D

Registration is open for the 2012 Faith in 3D conference at Disney World! Faith in 3D is a grand gathering of youth and leaders in the spirit of ecumenism. The event will take place over the MLK weekend of January 13-16, 2012. Faith in 3D welcomes middle school through high school youth and their adult youth leaders. This event is sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA), The Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). Be part of the fellowship by joining Presbyterians across the denomination and other Christian brothers and sisters. For more information you may contact Gina Yeager-Buckley at (888)728-7228 Extension 5497 or download a brochure at www.pcusa.org/events/18414/faith-3d/

Available Resources: New Form of Government: Now contained in the new Book of Order 2011-2013, this publication is available in print and a number of online versions. Also available for free download is the Advisory Handbook for Councils (new language for governing bodies) for the Development of Policies and Procedures as required by the Form of Government. For these resources visit: http://oga.pcusa.org/constitution.htm

Leon Lovell-Martin
Associate Missional Presbyter
Region 2 – Broward and Southern Palm Beach Counties

REGION 3 UPDATE

A Missional Call of Old

His name was John Wesley Works, grandchild of slaves, and son of a church choir director in Nashville, Tennessee. He loved history and the classics, but his passion was with the music of his people, his past, and his heritage. Though he journeyed as faculty, department chair and eventually president of a college, he dedicated much of his free time to the collection, preservation and publication of African-American spirituals folk music. Though he died almost a century ago, he left us a gift.

He wrote a great hymn that many of us sing at Christmas time and perhaps at other times in the life of a congregation. This hymn captures the tradition of a joyful message, a call to action, and a reminder of our mission as Christians. The lyrics transport us to night of nights in a valley near Bethlehem, to the moment the angels appear to the shepherds; and they are told. They were told a message that just rattled their evening routine, which changed their night into joy, expectant hope and jubilation. They were so excited about what they heard and saw that the gospel writer tells us that: “when they had seen him; they spread the word about this child: Luke 2:17.

John W. Works was inspired by the experience of the shepherds; he was just touched and transformed and gave us these wonderful words:

“Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born”

I pray that during this year’s Advent and Christmas time we don’t forget our mission to go and tell. To go and tell of the reconciling love of God in Jesus Christ, of entrance into the new kingdom of God, and the promise of transformation and true life. Let us embrace the mission and vision of the shepherds and GO and TELL others about the gift of God in Christ. We are gifted with the message and we are gifted with a call, we are gifted with the power. Go, tell it on the mountain, the highest places, the corner store, the neighborhood, the family, to friends; “That Jesus Christ is born.”

REGION 3 EVENTS:

- December 6th Region 3 Christmas Pot-Luck Luncheon At New Life. Special Guests: Our Hr Pastors In The Region. Noon RSVP as soon as possible to this email: edgiusa@gmail.com
- Hundreds of Thanksgiving baskets were distributed this last season of gratitude to God for God’s unflagging love and sustenance. Our congregations demonstrated the love of God to their communities.
- Congregations in Region 3 have demonstrated great creativity in dealing with the special opportunity of having Christmas on a Sunday. We have congregations that will hold regular Christmas Eve services, and Christmas Sunday morning worship, others decided to hold services Christmas day in the evenings. Some are actually having the children Christmas pageant during the Sunday morning service. Congratulations to each congregation’s leadership in taking advantage of this special opportunity in our calendar this year.
- New Year, New Energies and Opportunities: New round in Missional/Incarnational Communities demonstration project will begin in January. If your congregation wishes to participate please let the Regional Presbyter know.

ON BEHALF OF MY FAMILY AND MYSELF; I WISH ALL OF YOU;
CO-LABORERS OF THE MOST HIGH, A BLESSED AND MERRY
CHRISTMAS. ¡FELICIDADES, FELIZ NAVIDAD, FELIZ AÑO
NUEVO Y FELICES REYES!

Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz
Associate Missional Presbyter, Region 3 (Miami-Dade and the Keys)
As we begin this final month of the year, our thoughts naturally turn to family, friends, celebrating the birth of the Christ Child and the upcoming season of STATISTICAL REPORTS! (Sorry, I just couldn’t resist.) Your year-end packets with passwords will be arriving shortly.

Both the Annual Clerks Questionnaire and the Statistical Report (in English, Spanish, and Korean) have been posted on our website (you’ll find this under Administration and then Publications); and, beginning December 9th, you may start entering your information on-line. (Do I hear your cheers?). The closing date for entering the information is February 22nd, 2012. Please keep in mind that the system slows down drastically as the end nears, so it’s advisable to get it done early.

As always, I am very happy to handle the entry process for both reports on behalf of any congregation that sends me their completed handwritten sheets. Last year our Presbytery was just 2 churches shy of 100%. Please -- let’s achieve it this year.

Necrology Report
This report is used to submit the name(s) of any ordained elder who died during 2011, whether currently serving on session or not. It is not necessary to use the form provided; however, if sending your information by email, please include the date of death. If faxing the in the form, please print legibly. To prevent any misunderstanding or assumption on my part, I am asking every church to respond. If no elder died during the year, please send an email or fax with “None”. Please submit the necrology information by January 31st in order for the names to be included in the overall report submitted to the Presbytery in February, which then becomes part of our official record (minutes).

Board of Pensions Retiree Luncheon
Clark Simmons is inviting all BOP pensions retirees to join him at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club on Thursday, February 23, 2012.
You’ll soon be receiving a personal invitation but perhaps you’ll want to mark your calendars now. Plan to attend, enjoy a great lunch with your colleagues, while personally receiving useful information. What’s not to like?!

Gentle reminder: Those interested in being considered as commissioners to the 220th General Assembly, June 30–July 7, 2012, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, should get their applications in now. The deadline is January 10th. Hopefully, a Young Adult Delegate (YAD) will represent Tropical Florida this time.

I’ll be home for the holidays beginning December 21 and will return on January 3rd. Wishing you all a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

Let’s Talk About Money From Susan Carpenter
All churches need to put this information in the bulletins/newsletters

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2011 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church.

TRAINING – 2012
SAVE THE DATES February 27 – March 1, 2012
Coming to YOUR Presbytery the Board of Pension –
Post-Retirement – financial planning does not end at retirement
Getting in Shape Fiscally – for seminarians and early- to mid-career clergy and bookkeepers and Treasurers

Render Unto Caesar – for COM and CPM members, seminarians, pastors, bookkeepers and Treasurers
More information coming soon.
Questions? Call Susan Carpenter at 954-785-2220

FROM THE TREASURER:
Greetings at Christmas Time.

With the end of the year coming up and the making of a new Mission Budget for 2012 I would ask that all churches finish paying their 2011 Per Capita and also pay up their 2011 Mission commitments by December 15th so that we can process them and finish up our commitments for 2011 before a new year is here. As you are aware the mission funds received in 2011 will fund the 2012 Mission Budget.

I wish to thank all the churches who have paid their complete per capita for 2011, those who have been paying all year and to the churches who made and paid Mission pledges.

Marge Hellgren, Treasurer
**PRAYERS**

- For the communities around the globe that are recovering and rebuilding from disasters
- For the generous and brave responders who have worked tirelessly in disaster relief
- For the men and women in the military, civil service and agencies working in hostile areas
- For the leaders of communities, states and the country who are willing to work on our behalf
- For the men and women in emergency response
- For the teachers and educators – for medical professionals
- For missionaries and their families serving around the world
- For pastors, lay pastors, Christian educators, worship leaders, youth pastors, musicians, Sunday school teachers that serve their church and communities.
- For church administrators who manage the day to day work of the church
- For the elders, deacons, committees and volunteers that keep churches alive with activities
- For our retired pastors and their families

The list goes on...Bob Dylan sang, “you have to serve someone...” we are all servants and we are using our gifts in vocations and call. The altruistic service of the world’s caring souls is something to consider this Advent Season.

During Advent, please pray for the pastors, elders and congregations of the presbytery.

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**BIRTHDAYS**

01 Dr. Patrick Shaffer – First, Tequesta
01 Rev. Cornelius Kostrub – Glades, Boca Raton
03 Dr. Raymond Anglin - Ascension Peace, Lauderhill
04 Rev. Douglas Smith - HR
06 Dr. Winston Sosa – Friendship, Hialeah
08 Dr. Randall Gill – First, Boynton Beach
11 Rev. Richard W. Anderson -Palm City, Palm City
14 Rev. Robert Polland - HR
20 Rev. Angel Ramos - MOS
21 Rev. Katie Fellows Christie - MOS
23 Rev. Frank Allard - HR
25 Rev. Leah Meador - HR
28 Dr. Elaine Klaasen - HR
28 Dr. Jonas Georges - All Nations, North Miami Beach

**ORDINATIONS**

01 Rev. Antonio Welty - HR
01 Rev. Van Lahmeyer - First, Miami Springs
01 Dr. Evangeline Tolley - MOS
08 Rev. Diane Shoaf - MOS
11 Dr. Theodore Bush - HR
13 Rev. Shirley Saunders – First, West Palm Beach
14 Rev. Jacob Krch – At-Large
15 Dr. James Bailey II - Peace, Stuart
28 Rev. Gustavo Astudillo - MOS

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**ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION**

During this most joyous time of year, we celebrate the birth of Christ. It is during this time that we affirm how blessed we are to be able to serve Him in our ministry.

Your administrative staff also feels blessed to serve Him as well. They feel “called” to their ministry of support to your office. Their willingness to lend a compassionate ear to those who need compassion, their eagerness to serve everyone they come in contact with and their enthusiasm for their jobs in Christ’s Church make them ambassadors for Christ’s Kingdom.

Make sure to acknowledge your administrative staff’s ministry by encouraging them to join the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Better yet, make sure to pay their membership dues ($75) and conference attendance fees (approximately $500) out of your budget. This small investment will help validate to them that their ministry to your organization is valued. Membership applications are available on the Florida Region’s website at www.floridaapa.org.

Find out how your administrative staff’s membership in the APA can benefit them, you and your organization, by contacting Barbara Prieto, Florida Region President, at 305-666-8586 or rivierachurch@bellsouth.net.

Nancy Fine
Membership Chair, Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

[www.floridaapa.org](http://www.floridaapa.org)
At our last presbytery meeting we heard from FANM – Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami, Inc. or Haitian Women of Miami. This organization has received a grant from our presbytery for its work in earthquake response.

FANM was founded in 1991 with the vision of advancing social, economic, and political justice among Haitian women and their families in South Florida. The founding group consisted of 10 Haitian women. FANM evolved as one of the first organizations in South Florida of its kind, offering culturally competent services, care, and advocacy to Haitian women and their families. The ethnic composition of its board is three Haitians, two Caucasians, and 1 African American. Several programs withing FANM have proved helpful to earthquake survivors currently living in South Florida.

The Family Intervention and Empowerment Program provides support to migrant families focusing on transitional and cultural adjustment needs. Services include case management, parenting education and support, psycho-social assessments, treatment plans crisis intervention, and mental health counseling. The program provides counseling in the areas of domestic violence and anger management, as well as assistance and advocacy to parents/guardians and victims with legal proceedings.

The Youth Development and Leadership Program prepares youth to meet the challenges of tomorrow. The program provides after school programs, summer camp, and spring break programs. Core components include academics, physical fitness, and financial literacy/responsibility. Staff assists children with homework, literacy activities, tutoring, and FCAT preparation in reading, math, and science. Financial literacy and responsibility programs provide tools necessary to become financially responsible and self-sufficient.

The Adult Education and Literacy Program provides basic adult education and computer literacy skills.

These programs are vital in enabling earthquake survivors living in South Florida to take their place in a new life and to help adults enter the job market in order to help family members remaining in Haiti.

**FERMATHE, HAITI**

In September, we had an incredible experience on an eight day trip to Fermothe, Haiti, in the mountains above Port Au Prince. Our fifteen member mission team worked with the Haitian Masons to build 3 1/2 homes of cinder block construction for Haitians victimized by the big earthquake almost two years ago. The three completed homes will house a total of 22 people, who have been living in fragile shelters next to the site of each new home.

Above are photos of some of our group at work, the Haitian children now living in the first home we finished, one of the fragile shelters, the cement replacement home, and two of the three housewarmings, where we gave to each family a devotional Bible, a regular lantern and a special lantern that you wind up for 30 seconds to light a room for 40 minutes, and to each individual a special blanket.

To see more photos, go to www.tfpby.org, or call the Presbytery office at 954-785-2220 to borrow a DVD of our trip. If you would like to have a copy of the DVD for your church or mission committee, email me at shine42@aol.com, and I would be happy to mail one to you.

Missionary Flights International (MFI), based in Ft Pierce, FL flew us there on one of their DC-3s. MFI has been flying missionaries and supplies to Haiti, the Dominican, and S. America for 47 years, and they are now flying volunteers to build homes in Haiti, with over 20 built so far. You can learn more about them and their future trips on their website, www.missionaryflights.org. They Put Wings to the Gospel!

Marianne Shine

Luke 10:27
Haitian Women of Miami - is celebrating its 20th anniversary on Thursday, December 1, with a tribute to one of its founders, Marleine Bastien. We heard from Marleine at our last presbytery meeting. If you would like to participate, tickets, at $50 per person, are available at 305-756-8050. The celebration will take place at the Aventura Cultural Arts Center, 3385 NE 188th Street, Aventura, FL.

**HAITI/CAFE COCANO TRIP**

Anthony Vinciguerra, director of St. Thomas University’s Center for Justice and Peace, who spoke to us at our September presbytery meeting, has sent the following information.

Dear Friends -

We are pleased to announce the Fall 2011 St. Thomas University immersion in our sister diocese of Port-de-Paix, Haiti (December 11th-15th, 2011).

As many of you already know, Port-de-Paix is the sister-diocese of the Archdiocese of Miami. It is also the poorest region in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. As such, the relationship with Port-de-Paix gives St. Thomas and our partners the unique opportunity to witness the critical issues being faced by the developing world, and consider ways that our research, curriculum and community resources can engage that reality in mutually beneficial ways.

As part of the trip travelers will be asked to participate in three pre-trip orientation sessions, and once on the ground in Haiti will meet extensively with individuals and organizations involved in the University’s three collaborative development projects (see attached for more information).

The people of Port-de-Paix face a tragic reality, however they also have a profound spirituality, and innumerable gifts to share with those of us in the United States. We hope you will consider joining us on this incredible journey.

Please note: Spaces are limited. All interested should review the attached trip overview and submit the application by November 29, 2011 to Center for Justice and Peace Administrator Michael Imasua (mimasua@stu.edu). The first pre-trip preparatory session is tentatively planned for December 1, 2011.

Peace and all best -

-Anthony V.
Overview
Application

*Peace to you all this Advent Season,*
*Love, Your Earth*
SHARE WITH YOUR AUDIENCES

Tackle Hunger With Us in 2012!

February 5, 2012

Souper Bowl of Caring (SBoC) is a national movement of youth working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. On the weeks leading up to or on Super Bowl Sunday, young people take up a collection (many use a soup pot), asking for one dollar or one item of food for people in need. They give 100% of their donation directly to the local hunger-relief charity of their choice. Last year more than 260,000 youth participated in Souper Bowl of Caring, collecting more than $9.5 million in dollars and food for local hunger-relief charities. Be part of this movement to tackle hunger in America! Learn more and register today at tacklehunger.org to receive your FREE 2012 Playbook with resources to make your collection a success.

Important dates, conferences, and events

January 16–20, 2012
Disciple-Making Church Conference
Learn how your congregation can become a disciple-making church
To attend: Register now or read more about the conference
Location: St. Pete Beach, Fla.

February 1–4, 2012
Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) Annual Event
Experience dynamic seminars, plenary, workshops, and worship
Theme: God’s Surprising Wonders
To attend: Read more about the event and register now
Location: Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and DeVos Convention Center, Grand Rapids, Michigan

April 26—29, 2012
2012 National Multicultural Conference
Training in multicultural church growth by experienced church professionals
Special guest: Joel Barker, acclaimed futurist and filmmaker
Theme: “God’s Door is Open: Who Are We to Stand in the Way?”
Location: Charlotte, N.C.
Click for more details and watch for our conference registration booklet

July 18—22, 2012
Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women
Join thousands of women for worship, community building, and education
Theme: River of Hope
Registration opens online December 1; order your free booklet now
### DECEMBER 2011

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Access the annual calendar online: [http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html](http://www.tfpby.org/calendar.html)