Newsletters
2013
The January newsletter is dedicated to the conversation surrounding the difficult decisions facing members of the presbytery. Some of our churches are feeling called to leave while others are called to stay.

Both have wondered why... why leave, why stay.....

This is to give a forum to help express what is on our hearts. The February newsletter will be available for your comments and additional thoughts. The deadline for the February newsletter is January 15.

LETTERS TO THE PRESBYTERY

Stated Clerk of General Assembly

Dear friends,

Over two thousand years ago, the shepherds and, later, the magi did not have a GPS when they set out on their journey to find the newly born Christ child. But they had something infinitely better. The magi had a brilliant star, the shepherds had directions from not just one but a host of angels leading them directly to the stable where Jesus, God-With-Us, lay.

This king in a manager must have been a big surprise to them. The Bible is full of stories of journeys that have surprising endings. The overarching theme seems to be that God cares as much about what we learn on the way as God does the destination.

We are in one of those journeys as a church. Our travel seems to be focused on a horizon beyond our sight. What lies out there for us? Is there a surprising life-giving grace-filled gift? Will we have the open eyes and open hearts to receive this newness?

This is what I know on this journey. I can think of no better traveling companions that you. You are sisters and brothers committed to Christ and his church who give far more than gold, frankincense, and myrrh on a daily basis. Your imagination sees the possible every day.

I also know that God has much more mission for the PCUSA to do. So while we may get weary on our journey we have some additional road to travel.

May God bless you with a renewed spirit this Christmas.

Gradye Parsons
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Tropical Florida Presbytery,

In Amalie’s last report to the presbytery, she encouraged those who were discerning leaving the PC(USA) to help answer the “why?” question that is currently circulating around the presbytery, “Why are we considering leaving the PC(USA)?” I commend her for opening the dialogue in this written fashion as it helps people to think through what they are saying rather than reacting to what others are saying.

This is an emotionally charged time in the denomination and the presbytery. I heard several people at the November presbytery meeting talking about those who are considering “divorcing” those in the PC(USA). While I resist the analogy, I understand the frustration and hurt that many are feeling as a result of our decisions to consider departure.

Let me say first that I deeply love this denomination. I love my colleagues in this presbytery and the other presbyteries where I have served. I consider it a privilege to have friends on all sides of the issues in the denomination. I was baptized, confirmed, ordained as an elder, and ordained as a pastor in the exact same spot in my home church in Goleta, California, and so I am personally mourning the potential separation between myself and the PC(USA).

I feel, however, that we are at a Genesis 13, Abram/Lot moment, in the PC(USA). The herds and herders of Abram and Lot were in constant battle and Abram said (and I am paraphrasing), “There shouldn’t be fighting because we are brothers. So let’s go in two different directions.” I want to write this letter as graciously as I can. At the same time, in order to answer the “why” question, I will say things that many don’t agree with. Please know that my aim is to “speak the truth in love.”

What I see in the PC(USA), and even in our own presbytery, is constant and never ending battles. These battles are not glorifying to God and turn our attention away from mission and ministry. We have always had battles, and there will be battles in any denomination. However, the “big tent” has gotten so big that the two views, in my opinion, are incompatible with one another, and are beyond the point of agreeing to disagree.

The main strife is over the authority of scripture and, in my opinion that is the fundamental issue with a variety of ramifications. The greatest concern for me in the passing of 10-A wasn’t just the removal of fidelity and chastity, as troubling as that was, it was that scripture was relegated to guiding ordaining councils not the standard under which we have authority. So I see on the progressive side, scripture being authoritative, but subject to the Spirit’s move through culture. I can’t affirm that, and if that is the view of scripture then what is the theological and moral standards for officers? I will never vote to ordain or install someone who sees scripture in that light. And what I also see on the progressive side is a move not to ordain and install those like me who hold to a classic view of scripture and a Reformed Christian faith.

I will give you an example in Christian Askeland, a member of our congregation, who received his Ph.D. from Cambridge, England in early Egyptian manuscripts. He was recruited by the PC(USA) to be its missionary at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt. The week after 10-A passed, but before it officially was law, he was called by the PC(USA) and told that he had to publically support the view of scripture as “the guide” for ordaining councils as well as the ordination of those not living in fidelity in marriage or chastity in singleness. He said I can’t go along with that and resigned the position. I find it unsettling and frustrating that while those on the progressive end of the church have been allowed to say, “Jesus alone is Lord of the conscience” to not conform what I consider orthodox theology and practice. And yet, Christian Askeland could not claim the same right to have Jesus as Lord of his conscience in order to preach and teach to classical views of scripture and sexuality. How can I in good conscience be party to a denomination that does this?

This leads me to my other concern, which is the political landscape of the PC(USA). It appears to me that we seem to be most adamant about making rules to not make rules. Los Ranchos Presbytery and others have tried to make the former G-6.0106b the standard for their presbytery. They have also tried to specify essentials. These actions were taken to court, and so far the decision has been that you can’t specify any blanket standards for ordination. Ironically, at the same time, there seems to be a move to make a blanket standard that you must approve the ordination of people involved in sexual activity outside of marriage. The Covenant Network has issued their rationale and desire for the “Kenyonization” where pastors couldn’t refuse to participate in ordinations because of their own conscience. I assume in the not too distant future the participation in same sex marriages. Whether this happens or not is yet to be determined, but I predict this will be the conflict for the next decade in the PC(USA).

These concerns seem to be heightened with the new Form of Government. The idea that higher councils can “control and direct” lower councils concerns me. I am concerned about the removal of synods for the mere fact that the GA then becomes the next council above the presbytery. In the last five years, the GA commissioned the “Louisville papers” to show presbyteries how to bankrupt churches who are considering leaving. While I am thankful for the posture of Tropical Florida, I feel like I am looking over my shoulder as to when the GA is going to jump and “control” Tropical Florida in this matter.

At the local level, all of this is very disconcerting to our members and potential members. We have lost members and potential members, we have had people who say they can’t join while we are PC(USA), and others are saying if we don’t make a move in the next year they will need to leave. While we will probably lose some members if we leave the PC(USA), we will undoubtedly have a mass exodus if we don’t. So for the sake of the peace, unity and purity of our congregation we will most likely need to make that move.

I will conclude by saying again, that I love this denomination and I love our presbytery. I grieve over the personal feeling the denomination has left me. The “tent” of the PC(USA) hasn’t actually gotten wider, it has just moved to the left. I feel as if I am no longer even in that tent. I think as Abram and Lot affirmed for the sake of peace, we may need to go in different directions. This peace will allow more energy for all of us to focus on our mission.

In Christ,

Dana
Pat Ashley

In response to Amalie's invitation to write for the newsletter, I offer a concern, a suggestion, an observation, a question, and a belief.

I did not attend the November presbytery meeting, as I was out of the state. I was surprised to learn that the presbytery had taken an action on the “Motion to have the PUPAC review denominations where congregations are wishing to be dismissed” without ever having heard or seen of it before the presbytery meeting itself. My concern is that sometimes we are taking action precipitously on matters that are delicate and complicated. My suggestion is that all actions, especially those related to gracious separation, at the very least be included in mailed presbytery packets. Perhaps they could/should be distributed via e-mail as well.

The observation is that we are attempting to function as a presbytery with a significant portion of our leadership considering leaving the denomination (and, therefore, our presbytery). My question is, How can we be healthy in such a circumstance? This is a real question, not a rhetorical one, and I welcome response.

I believe that the fact of ten churches requesting to participate in our gracious separation discernment process is cause for sorrow. I trust absolutely that renewal and new vision will come of it. At the same time, I believe it is cause for confession: we have failed to find God’s way to live well together.

Dr. Larry Schenk
Peace Covenant Presbyterian Church

Here’s why I am staying in the PCUSA. I support the changes we have made in our ordination standards. I believe they put an end to yet another form of discrimination in our church and society. The time has come for us to stop treating our gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and trans-gendered brothers and sisters as second, third, fourth and fifth class citizens in the Kingdom of God.

It is time that we as a Church focus our attention on the calling, gifts, abilities, and preparation for ministry of those God has set apart for leadership as Deacons, Teaching-Elders, and Ruling-Elders. Many of our congregations are already doing this with regard to those we employ as choir directors, organists, educators, and in other positions of ministry, focusing on their God-given gifts of creativity and ability and not on their sexuality.

Many of those opposed to the new standards for ordination and who are subsequently leaving the denomination are doing so on what I believe is a literalistic and legalistic interpretation of a few passages of scripture. Let’s be honest, we all do the same thing at times. However, we do so selectively, ignoring similar prohibitions regarding a variety of other subjects in Leviticus; refusing to single out others listed in I Corinthians and labeling them as unfit for ordained ministry; ignoring the fact that the vast majority of Paul’s writings are about grace and not law; and turning a blind eye to the fact that Jesus has absolutely nothing to say on these matters. The author of Leviticus is not my savior; Paul is not my savior; Jesus is my savior, so I will listen most closely to him. Jesus did not read Scripture literally or legalistically – for proof I point you to the “You have heard it said, but I say to you...” passages in the Sermon on the Mount. He was decidedly aligned with the least, the last, the lost, and the lonely, and believed that love was the basis on which all things should be done.

The time has come for us, as Jesus did, as Paul did, as our church has done for centuries, to move beyond the selective application of Scripture which supports our cultural biases; to move beyond a literalistic and legalistic reading of Scripture; to move beyond “the law” and embrace the grace of God for all God’s people.

I have grown up in a time and a culture that has often treated some among us differently – African-Americans, women, immigrants, and those of varied sexual orientation. Thankfully, with regard to the first three of these groups I did not grow up in a church that felt or acted that way, and I’d like to be able to say that during my ministry, during my lifetime, the same could be said with regard to the last of these groups. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. used to say: “The arc of history always bends towards justice.” For me this is a justice issue.

Finally, to quote Leslie Weatherhead: “It is not what we generally think of as sin which keeps us from the Kingdom, but things like supposed superiority, pride, vanity, intolerance, egotism, quarrelsomeness – really, of course, the worst sins of all – all those things which prevent the family feeling, the feeling that we are just like others, and all children in God’s family.”

This is why I am staying.
Randy Bare, Teaching Elder
Presbytery of Tropical Florida.

I am grateful for Amalie’s invitation to share our thoughts on what is going on in our denomination and how it affects us in our Presbytery, our churches and each of us as teaching elders. I wanted to speak personally about this. My wife Carrie’s grandfather was a PCUSA pastor, her mother was the church organist at a PCUSA church for over 30 years and Carrie is a PCUSA ruling elder and was a Youth Advisory Delegate to the 1969 UPCUSA General Assembly. I began to follow Christ as a college student through the ministry of First Presbyterian Church Berkeley, and became a candidate in the Presbytery of San Jose in 1984 and was ordained as a Minister of Words and Sacrament by the Presbytery of Twin Cities in 1990. I have been blessed to work with colleagues in the Presbytery of Twin Cities, the Presbytery of San Francisco and now the Presbytery of Tropical Florida for almost 25 years. For my entire adult life, I have been part of the PCUSA and have been enriched by relationships with colleagues with whom I agree but also with colleagues with whom I disagree. So, this is a wrenching time for me. Loyal members of our formerly PCUS congregation have shared with me that they cannot stay in the PCUSA in good conscience and have already resigned their membership. Others have quietly drifted away. Others feel just as strongly that the PCUSA is their spiritual home. As a parish pastor, I find myself in an extraordinarily difficult space in attempting to be a faithful shepherd to my entire flock.

As a minister member of Presbytery, the difficulties are also wrenching. The church where I now serve as a Teaching Elder and Pastor has entered the discernment process under our Presbytery’s gracious separation policy. That decision by our Session to enter this process means that I have therefore entered a parallel process of discernment with our Committee on Ministry. As I go through this process, I am grateful both for our Presbyterian tradition of doing things in a decent and orderly way and for our shared commitment to living under our polity. I am also grateful for these wise words from our Constitution. “To be one with Christ is to be joined with all those whom Christ calls into relationship with him. To be thus joined with one another is to become priests for one another, praying for the world and for one another and sharing the various gifts God has given to each Christian for the benefit of the whole community. Division into different denominations obscures but does not destroy unity in Christ. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), affirming its historical continuity with the whole Church of Jesus Christ, is committed to the reduction of that obscurity, and is willing to seek and to deepen communion with all other churches within the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. F-1.0302a.

It is my prayer, that my fellow Presbyters will be priests for one another, praying for one another during this season. Regardless of what decision our congregation takes, and regardless of what decision I make, I am committed to making real in my own life the words captured in our Constitution. I am committed to deepening communion with all of my fellow Presbyters, including those who reach may reach different conclusions in their discernment process. Our Lord Jesus calls us to very high standard of discipleship. Part of that discipleship is maintaining relationships with those with whom we disagree. We need time to deal with such a complex set of issues that involve deep and strong convictions and feelings on all sides. But I am confident that as we go through this process, our shared commitment to the bonds of fellowship will continue. Practically speaking, no matter what happens in our discernment process, all of us will remain part of member communions in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. But underneath that institutional community, we will have shared bonds of friendship forged through living into this current conflict. If we stay engaged with each other and work through these complex issues faithfully, I believe God will bless us richly.

Rev. Randall Gill
First Presbyterian Church of Boynton Beach
On A Jeremiah Journey

We believe that at this time we are called to remain in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. It causes us great sorrow that close friends are choosing to begin the process of leaving. As a pastor, I have always relied on these friends for counsel and support.

“Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?” Jeremiah 8:22
We will stay within the PCUSA. Like Jeremiah, we want to be witnesses to the Truth, even during painful times. This issue is more than sexuality. It is about what we believe about Scripture and the call to serve Christ through mission. We believe we don’t live in a perfect world, and Christ reaches out to all people. Jesus was an uniring advocate for human dignity. He calls us to live lives of care and respect. Jesus says, “Come, still there is room at my Great Banquet.” There are Sundays when our congregation truly looks like the kingdom of heaven. In an urban setting, we are reaching a variety of people, poor and needy, who live in our immediate neighborhood. As a church, we want to hold together and keep our eyes on Jesus. We love the church, even those with whom we disagree. Pray for us as we work for renewal in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
The situation in which our denomination finds itself is sad and difficult. I have friends on both sides of the issue, and I sense that the conflict has taken a toll on many of these friendships. Sadly, there are topics that we just can’t discuss. I wish there were another way to resolve the issue that confronts the PCUSA without separation, but that hope now appears lost. Another “Reformed Body” seems all but certain.

My own thinking over the years has been shaped in significant ways by Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary. Rich was one of my philosophy professors at Calvin College when I was a student there, and a few years later he preached at my ordination. I now count him a friend (and I would like to think he feels similarly about me). Rich spoke last summer at the “Fellowship of Presbyterians” event in the Twin Cities, and he urged those in his audience to avoid separation. Among his arguments was that the evangelistic voice is needed within the larger Presbyterian tradition. He challenged us to listen both to those who are more conservative than we are and also those who are more liberal. Rich, to his credit, has modeled this behavior for the church many times in recent years.

Recognizing that many of us are tired of fighting over ordination standards, and are therefore looking for a safe haven elsewhere, Rich warned his audience that “there is no safe haven. Our safety,” he said, “can only be found in that place of missional fidelity,” where Christians align themselves with what God is doing in the world. I’ve been trying hard these last few years to do just that. I would welcome the opportunity to do that with my new colleagues here in the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, and yet it seems likely that some of my newly formed friendships in this Presbytery will come to an end.

I did not grow up in the Presbyterian Church. I came to the denomination in the late 1970s as a seminary student who suddenly and painfully found himself without a denominational home. I didn’t know that by going to Princeton Theological Seminary I was closing the door on the tradition in which I was raised and which I loved. And so, today I am more grateful than I can say to the denomination that embraced me when I desperately needed an embrace, that provided for me a path to the ministry I felt called to do.

Beyond that, I helped to ordain my older daughter a couple of years ago as a minister of word and sacrament in the PCUSA, and she has found a ministry in this denomination where lives are being changed and where people are hearing the Word of God proclaimed fearlessly and with great conviction. So, this denomination is now something I share at an important level within my own family.

It would be an understatement to say that my feelings today are decidedly mixed. On the one hand, I feel deep appreciation and gratitude, but all of that is tempered by a growing unease with what our denomination has become. More than anything I want to get beyond the conflict that has consumed the 31 years I have been ordained in this denomination. What does the future hold for me? I don’t know, but for now I’m holding onto that “place of missional fidelity” described by my old teacher and friend.

And of course I am grateful to our friend, Amalie Ash, for asking us to speak to each other in this way. My prayer is that this conversation will be helpful to us as colleagues and friends. Much is at stake.

Why am I staying in the PCUSA?

Ever since 1964 when I was ordained as a Presbyterian Minister the question regarding Gays has been brought to the General Assembly. And every year those attending General Assembly have consistently opposed the ordaining of Gays. Finally, this year the changing of a few words has opened the door a crack to let Gays into the leadership of our congregations. The pressure for this change remained incessant for the past 50 years.

Carried on a smear campaign against our General Assembly—which incidentally its voting members are not G.A. Staff but the Elders and Ministers we as congregations have sent to that gathering. I believe their negativism has contributed to unnecessary discontent within some of our congregations.

The issue of "Abortion" has also tended to divide us. Who is right and who is wrong? There isn’t time to work this one out in this writing but some people feel very strongly about their position. And there are countless other social issues. Where is the tolerance for differing perspectives?
We are living in a time of great change. Not only are we as individuals facing economic losses but losses in church membership. That is very upsetting to most of us! That makes some of us angry or depressed! We want to find someone to blame. The Government and Wall Street make good targets. But so does the Institutional Church.

I believe that those who have chosen to withdraw from the Presbyterian Church of the USA have done, and will do, much harm, not only to our denomination but also to the congregations who become caught up in controversy. I have seen over the years that it is often the larger and more affluent congregations that leave our denomination. Why is that? And what part does the Pastor of that church play? Is he the pawn of his congregation or does he offer the kind of leadership that keeps a congregation together and focused on the real work our Lord has asked us to do?

Then there is the issue about who gets the church property after a scism? In most cases generations of church members have financially paid for those church buildings and believed in the Presbyterian Church of USA. Now why should a particular group of people in this one moment of time snatch those church buildings away? I don’t think it’s right! It might even been considered thievery! I feel that any congregation who doesn’t want to remain within PCUSA should move out of that church building and go and start their own church from scratch like those who came before them.

In brief, I’m very upset about the divisiveness that is occurring within our Denomination! I think it is the wrong thing to do and the wrong time to do it!

James R Mclean – Elder
Faith Presbyterian Church, Palm Springs, Florida

Why do people go along with the crowd, even when they know it’s wrong?

Simply stated, people go along with what they think is the popular opinion out of a desire to avoid reprisal or isolation—even if they object to that opinion personally. Instead of Silence.

This is exactly what is happening to us today—Christians are not immune from wanting to "get along." Think about it: We don’t want to ruffle feathers or seem confrontational. So instead of speaking out to defend traditional marriage or explain our position on the dignity of human life etc., we remain silent.

This shouldn’t be. Now is the time to break this "spiral of silence." Will you help us become a people who will not remain silent when they simply don’t want to be "out of step" with what is perceived as the majority opinion? I say "perceived" because, often, the "acceptable" opinion is actually a minority one. Its dominance flows from the way in which it is presented by the media and by strong-willed advocates. Many are being coerced into silence in the debate over so-called gay "marriage." Actually, "debate" is a misnomer. Most Americans oppose gay "marriage." Every voicing their own opinions, they remain silent. It leads to what can be called the "Spiral time the question is on the ballot, voters uphold its traditional definition.

Yet people are often afraid to speak out. They are afraid of being labeled a "bigot", a "homophobe", or even a "monster". The result is the "spiral of silence."

Through our teaching we are a winsome case for biblical Truth. For example, we can explain and demonstrate how societies thrive when they develop a strong, healthy marriage culture. We have certainly seen the consequences of the breakdown of marriage in the faces of thousands of children. The good news is these kinds of spirals are fragile: Once exposed, they unravel. If brave people insist on speaking out, and do so in a winsome and appealing way: Then the fears and illusions that created the "spiral of silence" lose their power.

People begin to realize that they are far from alone.

Shelly A. Sands
Clerk of Session
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Key West Florida

The new Gracious Separation Agreement (GSA) I feel is another way for several people to find ways to satisfy their own selfish ambitions and not take into consideration the church as a whole in the way God would want us to be.

About a few months ago we as a body voted to transform Tropical Florida Presbytery from a "Reducing to a Reproducing Presbytery.
The goals set by the committee who formulated this new change in the way things are done at Tropical Florida Presbytery are as follows:

- Make new Christians and make new churches.
- Support churches in helping them envision and develop their futures.
- Support pastors and lay leaders through leadership development.
- Enable congregations to work together to nurture partnership in mission.

Apparently the same group of people who devised this new way of restructuring our Presbytery is the same group of people who is sitting on the commissions that makes all the decision and who are part of the churches that is planning their gracious separation agreement (GSA) under minding the same people who look up to them.

The name for this commission (PUPAC) which stands for Peace, Unity, and Purity Administrative Commission also called (Discernment AC).

There is no peace, no unity, no purity in this commission and I question their discernment which I feel is base on a evil spirit as opposed to a good spirit.

I would like to see that name change from PUPAC and the very same people who adopted the mission goals not served on this committee because of their plans to leave the denomination. I feel they do not have the whole church in heart but only looking to satisfy their own ambitions.

Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin
Associate Missional Presbyter

**Congregations in a Period of Discernment:** Ten congregations within our presbytery have requested the opportunity to be involved in a period of discernment as they contemplate their future within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The decision by the leaders of these congregations to consider withdrawing their membership from the PCUSA resulted from the adoption of a constitutional amendment, which they felt rejects the authority of scripture and contradicts the confessions of the church. The amendment eliminated the sexual standard of “fidelity and chastity” for church officers. The new language outlining the requirements for ordained service is stated as follows:

*Standards for ordained service reflect the church’s desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate’s calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.*

Let us join in prayer for the pastors, ruling elders, and members of these congregations as they seek to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading them in this time of uncertainty.

**ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION**

**HOW DOES THE GRACIOUS SEPARATION EFFECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION?**

What do I do if my church is leaving the denomination under the Gracious Separation Agreement and I am a member of the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA)? Can I still remain a member of the association? And, why should I remain a member if my church is leaving?

The APA has a membership option for you if your church is leaving under the Gracious Separation Agreement. You can retain your membership and your certification credits by becoming an Affiliate Member.

The courses offered through the APA apply to many areas of your job as staff member in a church. Administrative classes cover such topics as Conflict Management, How to Run a Meeting, Newsletters and Bulletins, Personnel Issues, Risk Management, Stewardship Programs and Capital Campaigns, and many, many more topics that are relevant to your job. Spiritual Studies has classes on Bible history, Biblical Interpretation and Theology. And, of course, the Technology classes are a must for any church staff person. By continuing your membership with the APA, you can use the skills gained through the APA to help you and your church.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Barbara Prieto, the Florida Region APA President at 305-666-8586 or rivierachurch@bellsouth.net.
Every January, many of us tend to make a new year’s resolution. Whether it is to lose weight, exercise more, spend more time with family and friends, reaffirm our commitment to God or grow as an individual by taking education classes, we look at January as a way of starting the new year with a commitment.

This sense of a new beginning also applies to our professional lives and with the lives of those who we work with each and every day. Your administrative support staff; your secretaries, day care workers, bookkeepers, office managers and administrative assistants, are counting on you to help them begin this new year with a new sense of commitment. The commitment of enhancing the skills that they already possess by funding their membership to the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as well as budgeting the funds for them to attend an APA conference. This investment for your support staff, a mere $75 for the membership dues and approximately $500 for attendance at an APA conference, is a great way to start off this new year.

This year’s Florida Region Conference will be held from May 16th through May 20th in Sarasota, Florida. After January 24th, the registration form can be found on the Florida Region’s website, www.floridaapa.org. This is a great gift that you can give those in your office who are most supportive of you. Allow them the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to you and your organization by encouraging them to make the resolution that this is the year that they are going to start the process to become more educated about Presbyterian Church USA history, theology and polity.

Contact Barbara Prieto, Florida Region President, at 305-666-8566 or rivierachurch@bellsouth.net to find out how your staff can begin this new year right by becoming affiliated with this great association.

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

**SHARI’S SHOUT OUT**

Happy 2012!

Truly hope your Christmas was especially blessed. Here we are with a clean slate to start anew – what will the year bring?

Statistical Reports were sent to all Clerks of Session on December 9th. Please keep in mind that the February 22nd deadline for submission will be here in the blink of an eye. Necrology reports are due the end of January. Churches are asked to respond (None) if no elder died during the year, so that I may hear from everyone.

Church Representation at Presbytery. A letter was included with the above mailing providing each church with the number of Commissioners having voting rights in 2012. Please let me know if the letter goes astray or you have any questions.

Boundary training sessions are currently being planned – two, perhaps three sessions – for 2012. In preparing the listing for the Committee on Ministry, it was surprising how many Teaching and Ruling Elders had never attended. When the dates become available, please register as soon as possible. In accordance with Presbytery policy, Ruling Elders serving on COM, CPM and PJC are to attend.

Thank you all for your friendship and for all you do. I can’t promise not to nag this year; but with your help, I won’t!

God bless us every one!

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

**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.
**UNDERSTAND KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN HEALTHCARE REFORM**

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), or federal healthcare reform, determines certain “dos and don’ts” for the Medical Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), with several provisions, such as the small employer tax credit and the prohibition against placing lifetime caps on healthcare benefits, already in place.

Additional provisions are scheduled to go into effect in 2012 and 2013, and the entire law will be in full force in 2014.

To help you, as well as plan members, understand what the PPACA requires of employers and consumers and how the law affects coverage under the Medical Plan, the Board of Pensions has created a new web page, [Pensions.org/healthcarereform](http://Pensions.org/healthcarereform)

Here you’ll find descriptions of the major provisions of PPACA, listed by year of implementation. Those provisions that require you to take action are highlighted. By keeping track of and responding to these action items, you can see to it that your employing organization complies with the law and maximizes potential benefits from the legislation.

The Board will update [Pensions.org/healthcarereform](http://Pensions.org/healthcarereform) as the law and its implications unfold. Please bookmark the page in your web browser so you can refer to it quickly.

Questions? Please call Member Services at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN).

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**TECH TALK**

This year we will be preparing our newsletters to go out on the 25th of the month. Please submit your articles no later than the 15th of the month.

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**BIRTHDAYS**

02 Dr. Mack Sigmon – First, Delray Beach  
02 Rev. David Kwon – Korean, North Miami  
08 Dr. Maurice Stone - HR  
09 Rev. Robert Coleman – Goodwill, Ft. Pierce  
12 Rev. Jack Noble - First [Pink Church], Pompano Beach  
14 Rev. Mardoqueo Munoz - HR  
20 Rev. Michel D. Yonts- Faith, Pembroke Pines  
21 Rev. Aaron Janklow – First, Delray Beach  
22 Dr. Jacqueline Rhoades - HR  
23 Rev. Suk Won Han – Korean, Palm Beach  
24 Rev. Jefferson P. Rogers - HR

**ORDINATIONS**

01 Rev. Moises J. Senti - HR  
01 Dr. Jacqueline Rhoades - HR  
01 Dr. Raul Fernandez-Calienes - MOS  
07 Dr. Dana Allin - Indian River, Ft. Pierce  
15 Dr. David Massey - Plantation Church, Plantation  
21 Rev. Robert Coleman – Goodwill, Ft. Pierce  
22 Rev. Martin Anorga – HR

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Region 2 Gathering – 1st Fort Lauderdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Noon COM (Region 2&amp;3) 1:00 COM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Deadline for GA applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>10:00 Covenant Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>10:00 CON/CON</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Region 1 lunch First Stuart 1:00 Multicultural TF</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>9:30 FRC</td>
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<td>February 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Noon COM (Region 2&amp;3) 1:00 COM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Newsletter Deadline for Submissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Packets Mailed</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>9:30 – FRC Board of Pensions Retiree Luncheon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Presbytery Meeting – Sunrise PC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE IN
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING?

JOIN THIS MOVEMENT TO FIGHT HUNGER AROUND THE
TIME OF THE SUPER BOWL!

Go to www.tacklehunger now to sign up!
Join today in this simple, youth-led movement to fight hunger. All you have to do is follow these 4 steps:

1. Register your organization at www.tacklehunger.org NOW
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.

HAITI MISSION UPDATE

As we approach the second anniversary of the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti, it might be helpful for us to look at the world picture of response. It is heartening to know that the World Bank is continuing to work there. Last month it endorsed a new 12-month strategy. See the following update, obtained from http://reliefweb.int.

Read the full article online

WINTER COURSES IN CORAL GABLES BY
EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

- Dr. Christopher Grundy, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Eden Theological Seminary will be teaching a class on Christian Public Worship right here in Florida. The course will be taught during the evening at Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ January 17-20 and January 23-26. There will also be a class session on Saturday January 21 from 8:30-3:00pm

- Starting in February, Dr. Kristen Leslie, Professor of Pastoral Care and Theology, will be teaching the course Pastoral Theology and Care at Coral Gables. This course will be offered one week-end a month (Friday and Saturday) during the months of February, March, April and May. This will be a hybrid course involving on-line instruction and in class work. What congregation wouldn’t appreciate their pastor taking time to brush up on their pastoral care skills?

- Eden will also be offering an on-line course Biblical Studies 1: Torah and the Former Prophets taught by Dr. John Bracke. This course begins in February.

ATTENTION SEMINARIANS –
SCHOLARSHIPS MONMOUTH

What college was meant to be.

We would like to introduce you to the new Presbyterian Scholarship available at Monmouth College. The Presbyterian Scholarship awards students who are interested in connecting their faith to an education at Monmouth College.

Two Presbyterian students per state are eligible for a $5,000 scholarship. These scholarships are renewable for up to three additional years. It is our hope that you will assist us in awarding these deserving students by nominating them at monmouthcollege.edu/scholarships. Students may apply for this scholarship at the aforementioned website or by submitting the enclosed scholarship form. Additionally, students must receive a letter of recommendation from you, their Presbyterian pastor, on church letterhead. Please address these letters to: ATTN: Vice President for Enrollment.

If you have any questions regarding these Presbyterian Scholarships, contact:
Monmouth College Admissions - 700 East Broadway, Monmouth, IL 61462 – monmouthcollege.edu
800-747-2687

For additional information on Monmouth College please use the following links:
General Information www.monmouthcollege.edu
Admission Application http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/admissions/apply
Scholarships (including this Presbyterian Scholarship) http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/admissions/financialaid/scholarships.aspx
Schedule a visit to campus http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/admissions/visit
Note to Clerks of Session

The Book of Order, Form of Government, charges the Presbytery with an annual review of the minutes and records of the local churches. As the Stated Clerk, I have established four times to accomplish this task. These are as follow:

Saturday, February 2nd
Lakeside Presbyterian Church, WPB
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 26th
Second Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale
(Immediately following the Stated Meeting, approx. 3:00 p.m.)

Saturday, April 20th
Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church, Miami Gardens
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 1st – FINAL REVIEW
Sunset Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale
(Immediately following the Stated Meeting, approx. 3:00 p.m.)

Please make every effort to have your minutes read and your records reviewed at the time and place that is the most convenient for you. If you cannot attend, please be sure that an elder from your church brings the records and checklist to one of the gatherings. Our goal is to have 100% of the church minutes and records reviewed during 2013.

Please RSVP now to the Presbytery office for the February 2, 2013 gathering at Lakeside Presbyterian Church so we know how many to prepare for. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

May God bless you and your ministry.

In Christ’s service,

Albert W. Bush, Jr.
Interim Stated Clerk

Tropical Florida’s Leadership Day:

Planting Seeds

Seventy elders and teaching elders representing twenty-four churches recently gathered at Second Presbyterian Church in Ft Lauderdale for a day of learning and building church leadership. From the worship, lead by Worship Chair, Diane Shoaf and Moderator Dwayne Black to the surprise ending each component was designed to introduce a new idea.

Rev. Dr. Daniel Williams, Transitional Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk from Central Florida Presbytery; and Rev. Dr. Sterling Morse, Coordinator, Racial Ethnic and Cross Cultural Ministries, General Assembly Mission Council, were guest speakers. Dan Williams gave an overview of the changes in the Book of Order and the background for the changes or additions. He spoke directly to the Elders and Teaching Elders during the morning breakouts while Rev. Dr. Albert “Skip” Bush, Interim Stated Clerk for Tropical Florida, led the breakout for Clerks and Deacons.

Sterling Morse talked about the importance of creating a cross-cultural community in our churches. His presentation covered new statistics showing the growth of various racial ethnic communities in our country and the impact on our churches. Sterling stated that we do not need special demographics to know who is in our communities, “we need to just go outside and look around the neighborhood to know there are other cultures living among us”; that our churches represent “Christ in our communities.” Dan and Sterling’s presentations will be available soon.

Presbytery Financial Administrator, Susan Carpenter provided valuable tax and accounting information for church Treasurers and Administrators. Teaching Elder Dennis Andrews (Community Deerfield) and Barbara Haley, Christian Educator (Community Lauderdale by the Sea) spoke to us about
Don’t miss Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, Professor of New Testament and Chair of Biblical Studies at Atlanta’s Interdenominational Theological Center. She will be teaching at four churches “Confessing the Beatitudes” the 2011-2012 Horizons Bible Study. (Attached is the flyer with church locations and times.)

Miami Shores invites us to Sam Rutland’s retirement. Sam and Mimi Rutland will be honored Sunday Feb 10th following the called Congregational Meeting.

Rev. Dr. Frank Yamada, President McCormick Theological Seminary will be at First Ft. Lauderdale Feb 11th for their Christianity and Culture Series. Dr. Yamada’s topic is titled Reading for 2040: Biblical Interpretation in the 21st Century will look at how we read and interpret the Bible in this century. For more details go to http://www.firstpres.cc/christianity_culture.asp

The day ended with positive comments that we need to do this more often and that it was worth the investment of a Saturday. We are thankful for Moderator and pastor at Second Presbyterian Church, Dwayne Black, and his team for hosting the day. And for each of the speakers who provided useful information to help us be better leaders in our churches. And thank you to the attendees for getting up early and driving from South Miami and Ft Pierce to participate in the days events. It was a good day.
Happy New Year!
(Really hope it has been, thus far.)

Presbytery meets at Second Presbyterian Church (The Sanctuary) on Tuesday, February 26th. I had someone register the second week of January and immediately wished I could clone him! Registrations are consistently difficult to get; which I don’t understand, since surely everyone knows whether (or not) they are attending. I have even received responses the morning of the meeting when I’m handling physical registrations and not on a computer. Please take a moment as soon as possible to either: call the Presbytery office, send an email or complete your registration on-line. I had hoped to be able to have the on-line registration include pre-payment by this meeting, but it does not appear feasible.

Dates and places for the Church annual records reviews have been announced and appear elsewhere in this newsletter. You may RSVP for any of these now – why wait?

Everyone should have received an email in mid-December regarding the GA Annual Statistical Reporting. Reminder: 2012 Necrology Reports (ordained ruling elders only) need to be returned by January 31st (if none, please so state).

The Clerks Annual Questionnaire www.pcusa.org/clerks2012 and Session Annual Statistical Reports http://oga.pcusa.org/stats need to be completed on line by February 20th or handwritten and returned to me by that date.

I recently read something that I would like to share:
“Faith is dead to doubts, dumb to discouragement, blind to impossibilities, knows nothing but success. Faith lifts its hands up through the threatening clouds, lays hold of Him who has all power in heaven and earth. Faith makes the uplook good, the outlook bright, the inlook favorable and the future glorious.”
Let’s trade our fears for faith and expect the greatest year of our lives!

Shari
Departure of Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus

Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus is moving to Louisville to lead Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the PCUSA. Laurie has been a member of Tropical Florida and pastor at Riviera Presbyterian for twenty-five years. Her recovery and rebuilding work from Hurricane Andrew set the course for supporting others facing disaster recovery. She has been on the ground for tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, fires and human caused disasters like Columbine, 9/11 and Virginia Tech. Laurie will remain a member of Tropical Florida, but her new home will be in Louisville. To say good bye and celebrate, Rivera Presbyterian gave Laurie, and her husband Warren, who has been the Minister of Music for 50 years, a party complete with a roasted pig, Cuban food, songs, poems and many shared memories.
Guidelines for Consideration in the Dismissal of Churches

The following guidelines will assist the Presbytery’s Response Teams and the PUP AC when it makes its recommendation to presbytery for its decision on churches desiring to leave the denomination and for its decision on the future of the denomination’s property. It is the hope of the presbytery that reconciliation may take place with churches so they decide to remain a part of the mission and ministry of the PCUSA denomination. Any loss of a sister church diminishes the whole and we pray that this can be avoided. The following categories are areas that will be explored with the churches to determine a fair outcome to all parties.

**History**
- What is the age of the church?
- Over the years of this church’s existence, how many people have been members of this church?
- How many members are there currently? How long have they been members of this church?
- What has been the relationship of the church with the denomination throughout the years?
- In what ways has the presbytery been involved with this church? (This includes leadership training, committee work, disaster recovery, loans, grants, etc.)
- How has the church benefitted by being part of the PCUSA?

**Theological**
- What theological struggles is this church now experiencing in relation to the PCUSA? Be specific and clarify any misconceptions.
- What are the theological/social issues of the surrounding community?
- Can resolution of these issues be accomplished through more information and study?

**Financial**
What are the financial assets/liabilities of the congregation?
- Property value
- Endowments
- Church budget

- Loans
- Other
- The Presbytery of Tropical Florida has a fiduciary responsibility to the denomination for its property and to all the saints who have contributed to the church over the years. Considering all of the above factors, what will be a fair monetary resolution for the loss of the denomination’s property and it’s presence in this community?

**Tropical Florida Presbytery**
- The mission of Tropical Florida Presbytery is as follows:
  - To make new Christians and make new churches.
  - To support churches in helping them envision and develop their futures.
  - To support pastors and lay leaders through leadership development.
  - To enable congregations to work together to nurture partnerships in mission.

Given this mission consider the following questions:
- Considering the geographic location of this church, in what way will the PCUSA presence be diminished?
- What will be the loss of leadership to the presbytery?
- What financial implications must be considered if this church chooses to leave the denomination?
- How will the theological and ethnic diversity of the presbytery be affected?
Boundaries (Sexual Misconduct)

On Tuesday February 19th, Boundaries (Sexual Misconduct) Training will be conducted at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale. Registrations should be received from those who missed it in 2012 and those for whom it has been more than five years since they received this training.

Registration form can be downloaded from the website: http://www.tfpby.org/admin/publications/sexualmisconduct2013.pdf

Finance

- business mileage rate now $.565 per mile
- charitable mileage rate remains at $.14 per mile
- Pastor's receive a W-2 which must include the imputed value of the Board of Pensions Death Benefits
- 1099 for everyone you pay $600 or more
- total of the numbers on the four quarterly 941's must total the numbers on the annual W-3
- 2013 Tax Tip webinar available at www.pensions.org
- contribution statements must go out to anyone contributing cash or any single donation of $250 or more
- contribution statements must include statement that no goods or services were provided in return for the Tax Deductible contribution.
- UPDATED AND NEW FORMS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.TFPBY.ORG under "Administration" and then "FINANCE"

Call Susan with any questions
What will your administrative staff be doing from May 16th through May 19th? Will they be sitting at their desk doing their normal tasks? Or, will they be learning new skills, making new contacts and being spiritually nourished with other administrative personnel?

In May, the Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be holding their Annual Conference in beautiful Jacksonville Beach. Classes offered include Polity, Legal Matters, Helping Aging Parents While Working Full Time, Theology, Presbyterian Foundation, Spiritual Growth and Healthy Lifestyles.

This well-rounded educational opportunity will appeal to every administrative worker in a church entity. Not only will your staff learn skills to help them with their work, but they will be provided with spiritual growth opportunities and educational forums to help them with their personal well-being.

For more information about the conference, including a registration form, please visit the Florida Region’s website (www.florida-apa.org). Don’t miss this opportunity to give your staff the forum for personal and professional growth. It will be an investment that will be returned to you many times over.

Want to know more about how the APA can benefit your organization? Contact Allyson Criminger, Florida Region President, at allyson@staugpres.org or by phone at 904-733-8277.

Nancy Fine
President-Elect and Membership Chair
Florida Region of the APA

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What happens when your technology person is unavailable?

Who knows your important passwords?

One employee in control of vital passwords, can pose a big problem to companies, especially during times of disaster. What could you do if your network crashed, or you needed access to your system and someone else has all the passwords?

The most crucial factor is you shouldn’t trust one person or organization with passwords to vital systems. We don’t mean personal passwords to systems, we mean passwords to vital systems, like servers or Internet connections. If one person has the passwords, there’s just too much risk. If they are disgruntled, they have the power to do some serious damage, and if they are injured or are no longer alive, you’ll face untold amounts in lost profit, and fees in recovering passwords and information.

There are a number of things you can do to mitigate problems like these.

- **Keep a password list** - It could be a good idea to keep a physical list of the more important passwords. This is an important document, so it’s a good idea to not leave this one lying around. If you have a safety deposit box or safe in the office you can put the list here.

- **Set passwords to the position, not the employee** - Many companies will often give passwords to one person who will be in charge of these. When they advance, or if they switch roles, they will often take a password with them. Instead, look at organizing this a different way around: Assign a password to the position rather than an individual so that when they leave the person filling their role is given this password instead.

- **Assign a person to be in charge of passwords** – This is a good idea, especially if you work with Managed Service Providers. A person of authority within your organization should be the main contact person, and they should have copies of all passwords given to outside companies.

- **Change passwords regularly** - To avoid having employees steal things it’s a good idea to change your passwords on a regular basis. If an employee leaves a position and is in charge of an important password, you should take steps to change this scenario even if you trust the person.

Information you should keep:

- **Internet Service Provider** – Technical Support Phone #, Login information, make/model of modem
- **Webhosting/Email/Domain Name**
  - These can be handled by one company or individual
- **Computer login** – one person should set this and not allow the user the option of changing it.
- **Misc Logins** – bank accounts, retail etc.
- **Computer Systems** – Setup information, Serial numbers, configuration
With the New Form of Government having been approved, many specifics previously required are more flexible. The spirit of this form is to try and capture what this presbytery feels is essential to include in a church’s minutes in order to ensure transparency and good order.

Section I:

1. Each congregation is to maintain the membership rolls (active, affiliate, baptized), baptismal roll, deaths, pastors, elders, deacons (if applicable). This register of the rolls of the church was updated on __________.

2. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held on ________________.
   At this meeting, the following transpired: (check if yes)
   _____ Review Terms of call for pastor
   _____ Elected Members of the Nominating Committee
   _____ Elected new elders and deacons if applicable
   If the election of the Nominating Committee or new elders did not occur at the annual meeting, please indicate below when this occurred:
   ________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________

3. New Officers were examined by the Session on ____________.

4. New Officers were ordained/installed during worship on ________________.

5. If you have deacons, you held a joint meeting with the session on ________________.

6. The Session established the annual budget on ________________ (please attach a copy of the budget in your minutes)

7. The session elected the treasurer on __________ for a term of ________________.

8. The session elected the clerk on ________________ for a term of ________________.

9. The church has had financial review (G-3.0113) with the findings reported to the session on ________________.

10. The Annual Statistical Report has been attached to the minutes at the end of the calendar year. yes or no

Section II:
Please take an average month and check if the following information has been recorded in the session minutes. (month looked at ________________)

1. The meeting was opened and closed with prayer. yes or no
2. Date, hour and place of the meeting was recorded. yes or no
3. Name of the moderator is given. yes or no
4. A quorum was declared yes or no
5. Names of those absent and excused were listed yes or no
6. The minutes of the last meeting were approved yes or no
7. All action items are recorded yes or no
8. Clerk has signed the minutes yes or no

Section III:
The following items should be contained in the minutes if applicable:

1. The Session has authorized baptisms on ________________.

2. The Session has authorized the observance of the Lord’s Supper at least quarterly:
   Yes or no Indicate the dates ________________

3. The Session received new members:
   By letter of transfer on: ________________
   By reaffirmation of faith on: ________________

4. The minutes contain a detailed financial report within the year. yes or no

5. The Session took a candidate under care on ________________. 
Section IV:
Congregational Meetings may contain the following information. Please indicate if appropriate:
1. A new pastoral relationship was established on _____________________.
2. A pastoral relationship was dissolved on _________________________.
3. Any matters relating to property issues such as purchase, lease, sale, were discussed and voted on:
   ________________________________________________________________.

Section V:
The annual meeting of the corporation was held on _______________________. (this meeting can be the same as the
annual meeting of the congregation.)

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REVIEWER:

Items to be worked on for next year’s review:
__________________________________________________________________________

The minutes of _________________________________ Church were reviewed and approved as:

   without exception            with exception

Date:  ___________________________________________________________

Reviewer’s Signature:  _____________________________________________

Presbytery Representative’s Signature:  _____________________________

*** The New Form of Government allows congregations to set their quorums for congregational meetings and for
sessions. Also, announcements of those meetings are to be determined as well. These are to be in the By-Laws of the
church.

_______ Check if the church has re-done their by-laws
_______ Check if your church needs help with the re-writing of by-laws

Because each church now determines the quorums for sessions and congregations, it would be advisable in the beginning
of your minutes for a calendar year, to state: the quorum for a session meeting is _________ people/percentage of the
session
The quorum for a congregational meeting is _________ percentage of active members.
Grace PCUSA 
and 
PW of Tropical Florida Presbytery 
presents 

CONFESSING THE BEATITUDES 

In the nine lessons of Confessing the Beatitudes, the 2011–2012 Horizons Bible study, Margaret Aymer invites us to consider the Beatitudes as they might have been heard when Jesus spoke them—during the time of the Roman Empire. While great in many respects, Rome was a cruel regime under which many suffered. We are invited to identify with those who are poor and oppressed and, at the end of each lesson, to enter into a process of confession. 

ABOUT THE AUTHOR 
Margaret Aymer is associate professor of New Testament and chair of Biblical Studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. She is an ordained minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), serving within the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Margaret is the author of First Pure, Then Peaceable: Frederick Douglass, Darkness and the Epistle of James (New York: T&T, 2007), as well as various academic and liturgical articles and resources. Margaret is married to Laurent M.R.G. Oget of France, a software engineer. 

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Lessons Covered</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Wednesday, February 20, 2013  
6:00 pm          | Riviera PCUSA            | 1 and 2         |
|                     | 5275 Sunset Drive        |                 |
|                     | Miami, FL 33143          |                 |
|                     | 305-666-8586             |                 |
| Thursday, February 21, 2013  
6:00 pm          | First PCUSA              | 3 and 4         |
|                     | 1715 N.W. Pine Lake Drive |                 |
|                     | Stuart, FL 34994         |                 |
|                     | 772-692-6500             |                 |
| Friday, February 22, 2013  
6:00 pm          | Sunset PCUSA             | 5 and 6         |
|                     | 3550 Davie Blvd.         |                 |
|                     | Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312 |                 |
|                     | 954-581-5470             |                 |
| Saturday, February 23, 2013  
9:00 am – 2:00 pm | Grace PCUSA              | 7, 8, and 9     |
|                     | 1844 Hypoluxo Rd.        |                 |
|                     | Lantana, FL 33462        |                 |
|                     | 561-585-4136             |                 |

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer Oget will preach Sunday, February 24, 2013 at 10:30 am worship at Grace PCUSA. 

To register for the all day Saturday study session, please call Barbara Stanton, at Grace PCUSA (561) 565-4136 or you may email her at gracechurchpres@bellsouth.net. Deadline for preregistration is February 20, 2013 by close of business. Lunch is $8 for pre-registered individuals and $10 the day of the event.
Birthdays

Dr. Roger Verse - HR
Rev. James Goldsmith – Community, Lauderdale By The Sea
Dr. Gwendolyn Magby – Trinity, Key West
Rev. Jung Yn Shin – Korean, North Miami
Rev. Rosemary N. Welton - MOS
Rev. Ruffin Stepp - Palms West, Royal Palm Beach
Rev. Jacqueline Brovold – Pinecrest, Miami
Rev. Elizabeth Pankey-Warren - MOS
Rev. Robert Welsh - HR
Rev. Pamela H. Barras - MOS
Rev. Thomas Crowder - HR

Ordinations

Dr. German Vega-Feliciano – HR

Presbytery Times
March 2013

Celebrating Women in Tropical Florida 2013

This month we are featuring – on page 3, some of our women pastors

Presbytery Office

Amalie Ash - Presbytery Administrator
Skip Bush - Interim Stated Clerk
Kernie Kostrub - Pastor to Pastor
Shari Lowe - Executive Assistant
Susan Carpenter - Financial Administrator
Delphia Sullivan - Communications Specialist

Phone: 954-785-2220
1-800-940-9511
Fax: 954-785-1983

Address:
440 E Sample Road
Suite 208
Pompano Beach, FL 33064

Email:
center@tfpby.org
The Presbytery of Tropical Florida convened for a Stated Meeting on February 26, 2013 at The Sanctuary/Second Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale. The Moderator Elder Dwayne Black, student pastor for the Sanctuary called the meeting to order with prayer. New elders were introduced. The Rev. Dr. Heahwan Rim, Transitional Synod Executive and stated Clerk, brought greetings from the Synod and discussed changes happening in the Synod. Elder Clark Simmons, our Board of Pensions Representative, spoke about the stability in the pension funds and proposed changes in the major medical. He invited all to attend Pensions Workshops being held in different churches in the Presbytery. Moderator Dwayne Black, Jr., turned the gavel to COM Chair Rev. Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin as he brought greetings from the host church.

The first item of business was the final report of the Second PC Administrative Commission. They reported that The Sanctuary will continue in its present location with a growing ministry. A brief video was shown. The Presbytery voted to dismiss the AC with thanks at the installation of the new session.

The Discernment (PUP) Administrative Commission reported on the appointment of Presbytery Response Teams to visit with the four churches seeking Graceful Separation. Guidelines for dismissals were included. Amendments to the GSA were prepared for second reading, approved and adopted. Amendments to the Constitution to include the proposed new translation of the Heidelberg Catechism were approved.

The Presbytery then went to worship. The Praise Band for The Sanctuary / Second PC led the singing. The Rev. Diane Shoaf, Worship Chair, led the service. The Stated Clerk read the names of Teaching and Ruling Elders who went to their reward in 2012. The outgoing Moderator Dwayne Black, Jr., preached the sermon. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated and the Rev. Dr. Randall Gill was installed as the 2013 Moderator.

After worship we adjourned for lunch in McGaw Hall. The lunch was provided by Café Joshua Catering Company all proceeds and services benefit The Lord’s Place, a ministry for homeless persons. We all enjoyed the fellowship.

The Presbytery reconvened to hear reports from the different standing committees and task forces. Newly-installed Moderator Dr. Randy Gill presided. At the conclusion of business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet again on June 1, 2013 at Sunset Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale.

Dr. Albert W. Bush, Jr.
Interim Stated Clerk
Celebrating Women in Tropical Florida 2013

In January, Joan Abell and I had dinner with Laurie Kraus as she was preparing to move to her new call in Louisville. I listened as Joan and Laurie reminisced about their ministries and their journey in the Presbytery. I thought about the other stories women had told me during the last three years and what amazing roads they had traveled. It seemed that their work should be remembered and what better time than a month dedicated to Appreciating Women.

When I started organizing the information for this newsletter I thought there were approximately twelve women ministers in the Presbytery. My plan was to give each minister a paragraph about their call to Tropical Florida, where they served, and their education. I was surprised that there are 25 women Teaching Elders in the Presbytery serving in hospitals, schools, non-profits and churches.

The UPC voted to ordain women as Deacons in 1906, Elders in 1930 and Ministers in 1956. Yet the churches were slow to change. And Tropical Florida was very slow as an example: In 1980, Diane Shoaf was only the second woman Deacon called to Miami Shores 74 years after the denomination agreed to have women deacons. Today only 30% of PCUSA active ministers are women and 50% of them are serving churches while the rest are in hospitals, schools, and nonprofits. Today, 10 of the Presbytery’s 25 women ministers are actively serving in a church.

It is notable that Jacky Rhodes was the third woman to be ordained in 1959; Joan Abel was the first called to Tropical Florida in 1984; JoAnn Germershausen was the first Moderator of Women Clergywomen in 1987 and Connie Bright was the first African American woman ordained in Tropical Florida in 2000. These women along with Pat Ashley, Laurie Kraus, Gwen Magby, and Heidi Arencibia are icebreakers for Hallie, Kim and CC the most recent women called to Tropical Florida.

It was a bold move to ordain women in the UPC. Churches left the denomination and churches were split on the decision. Today we are blessed with women serving as Deacons, Elders, Treasurers, Chairs of Transformation, CPM, Council, Nominations, Moderators and serving throughout the Presbytery and churches. You can find information for Celebrating Women in your church at allwomen.pcusa.org

Amalie Ash
Heidi Arencibia was called to New Life Presbyterian in 2009 as a Commission Lay Pastor. After completing her requirements for Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Heidi was installed at New Life in 2011. Heidi came from Matanzas, Cuba where she was a professor of Christian Education and Evangelism at the Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Cuba. In Cuba, she was the President of the Board of Christian Education for the Methodist Church, was the Director of the Alvaro Reynoso Technological Library, and a Spanish Grammar and Literature teacher. She has published several papers, newsletters and children’s education booklets. Heidi received her BA in Education, Spanish and Literature from Juan Marinello University, Bachelors and Masters in Theology from Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Matanzas, Cuba.

Cecelia “CC” Armstrong was called to Grace Presbyterian in Lantana in 2011 as part of the PCUSA residency program “For Such a Time as This”. Prior to a call to ministry CC was a High School Mathematics Teacher in Georgia. During this time she served as an Elder and Deacon at Belle-Terrace Presbyterian in Augusta, GA. She has also served as a Chaplain at Atlanta’s Grady Memorial Hospital and supply pastor at Beth Salem Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. She received a BS in Pure Mathematics from Spelman College and a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from University of Southern Mississippi and her Masters of Divinity from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary.

Pat Ashley (HR) Pat was called to Pastor Pinecrest Presbyterian Church in 1987. Before coming to Florida Pat had served as a project director with the Regional Inter-Faith Association in Jackson, Tennessee; as associate pastor with First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, OH; and interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Delaware, OH. Since joining Tropical Florida Presbytery she has served as Interim Pastor at Peace Covenant (Key West), Community Church (Hobe Sound), Sunrise (Miami), and First Presbyterian (Rome, NY) and as Stated Supply at First Miami. Pat currently is serving on Committee on Ministry, is a member of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program’s National Response Team, and does volunteer work with the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center. She has been an Adjunct Faculty member at S. Florida Center for Theological Studies and St Thomas University. Pat has served the Presbytery as the Interim Executive Presbyter, Moderator, Chair of Council, Chair of Committee on Ministry, and a member of the Presbytery Response Team. Pat is a certified Spiritual Director with experience in leading groups and group leaders. Pat has a B.A. in French from Rockford College (Ill), a Masters of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary and a S.T.M. from Union Theological Seminary (NY). Pat was ordained in 1974.
Pamela Barras was called to serve as a full time staff chaplain at Vitas Hospice Care in 2005. Earlier she has served as a Deacon at Bellaire Presbyterian (Houston, TX) and an Elder at First Presbyterian Arlington, TX. In her professional career Pamela was a CPA and a Chief Financial Officer in the healthcare industry. Following her academic CPE experience she felt a strong call to hospital chaplaincy. She is involved with Plantation’s Clergy Association. She has a BBA in Accounting from the University of Texas and a Masters of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Connie Bright (HR) Constance Bright was ordained on July 9, 2000 at Accession Peace Presbyterian Church; she was the first African-American women ordained to the ministry in the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. Connie was called and installed as Designated Pastor of Alta Vista (North Miami). She has served as Parrish Associate and recently retired as Stated Supply Pastor of New Covenant (Miami). Before entering ministry, Connie served for 32 years as teacher, counselor and guidance counselor for Broward County School System. Connie has been the Moderator of Presbyterian Women, served on the Committee on Ministry, Committee for Preparation for Ministry, the Older Adult Task Force, a commissioner to the Synod, and the Congregational Resources Committee. Connie has a Bachelor of Science from Alabama A&M, Master of Science from Nova University and a Masters of Divinity from South Florida Center for Theological Studies.

Jackie Brovold was called to Pinecrest Presbyterian Church in 1996. She came from the Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill, NC. Jackie also served at First Presbyterian in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and was interim pastor at Grace Presbyterian in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Before entering into ministry, Jackie was a teacher in Connecticut and spent her summers teaching at the Oneida Reservation School. Jackie has been an active member in the denomination working for diversity and women in ministry. She has served as Chair of Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Chaired the Women in Ministry Conference, and has a passion for children’s education. She has a Bachelor in English and Biology from St Olaf College, a Masters in English from Washington University (St Louis, MO) and a Masters of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School.

Connie Ast Caldwell began her ministry as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale in 2005. She came from First Presbyterian Church of Orlando where she served as Associate Pastor Worship, Congregational Care, and Christian Education and was the Director of Congregational Life and Adult Education. Before her called to ministry Connie worked in human resources and marketing with McDonnell Douglas Corp. Connie has Bachelors in Marketing from Indiana University, a Master of Business Administration from Webster University, Master of Divinity from Reformed Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Aida Melendez Diego is serving at Pan Americana and is a Hospital Chaplain. She has served on several committees in the Presbytery, Presbyterian Women and Presbyterian Women of the Synod. Before called to ministry Aida was an Allstate Insurance Agent and Manager and was a Board Member of Dade County Housing Finance Authority. Aida has a degree in Pedagogics and Psychology from Cander Methodist University, Havana, Cuba, a certificate for Clinical Counseling from Hunter College (NY, NY), a Bachelor in Psychology and Spanish from St Thomas University (Miami) and Master of Divinity from South Florida Center for Theological Studies.
JoAnn Germershausen is serving as Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Stuart. JoAnn came to the Presbytery from Lyndhurst, NJ where she was an English teacher in the Juvenile Justice program. JoAnn served two terms as the first Moderator of the National Association of Presbytery Clergywomen in 1987 – 1993. She was active in the denomination’s efforts to revitalize urban churches, was a minister delegate to the GA. She was associate pastor at Bound Brook (NJ) and Covenant Presbyterian (Scranton, PA), and Stated Supply and Moderator at Bethania Presbyterian (Scranton, PA). For five summers was the Director of the Music, Art and Drama at Lackawanna Presbytery’s summer camp program. She and her husband owned a religious radio station WAAT “The Way” in Scranton, PA. It was a cross denominational station that featured local churches and national Bible centered ministries such as “In Touch”. She hosted the weekly Sunday morning programs for Covenant Church. She received her Masters of Divinity from Princeton in 1983.

Arlene Gordon (HR) retired in 2010 as Executive Presbyter for Tropical Florida Presbytery where she was called in 2003. She had served as the Interim Executive Presbyter in the Presbytery of Detroit, on the General Assembly Council staff and as Associate Pastor at Sojourner Truth (Richmond, CA). Since retiring Arlene was elected president of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, is a Parish Associate at Wounded Healer (Korean Presbyterian Church Miami’s English ministry) and serves on Committee for Preparation for Ministry. Before entering the ministry Arlene spent 27 years working for the federal government in Budget, Foreign Service, and Child Support and was the Acting Director of Office of Child Enforcement (San Francisco). Arlene has been a consultant to the Alban Institute, Lilly Foundation, and PCUSA’s Urban Ministries Project. She has been on the Board of a Chair at San Francisco Theological Seminary, been awarded the “Spirit of Detroit” (Outstanding African American Women in Leadership) and “Christian Woman of the Year” (Zeta Phi Beta Sorority). Arlene has served the denomination as Dean of Youth Triennium, Preacher for Montreat Youth Conference and Co-Director of the Peacemaking Conference. She has published several articles and contributed to blogs and magazines. Arlene graduated from Southeastern University (Washington DC) has a Masters of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate of Ministry from United Theological Seminary.

Hallie Hottle is the Associate Pastor at Miami Shores Presbyterian Church where she was ordained in October 2012. Hallie was a member of Great Rivers Presbytery (ILL) while obtaining her ministerial degree. She did her field education at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City where she was Director of youth ministries and served as hospital chaplain in Clearwater, FL. She is the Presbytery’s Chair of Hunger Action Committee and serves on the Presbytery’s Youth Task Force. She is a supporter of the Next Church initiatives, animal welfare and a marathon runner. She has a B.A. in psychology from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA, and is a 2011 graduate from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Kim Kavazanjian came to Central in 2011 from Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida, where she worked with religious organizations all over the U.S.A. in partnership with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. In 2009, Kim served as a missionary with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Fellowship’s program in Colombia, where she worked with the Presbyterian Church of Colombia in its ministries around the area of Barranquilla, Colombia. She has also served as a missionary in Misiones, Argentina through the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). She is a graduate of Bates College in Maine with a degree in religion, Spanish and dance, and was awarded the Master of Divinity in 2009 from McCormick Theological Seminary.
Laurie Kraus is the new Coordinator for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) in Louisville, KY. Laurie was called to pastor Riviera Presbyterian in 1988. She served as the chair of the administrative commission for Hurricane Andrew relief and recovery in the Presbytery of Tropical Florida and was one of the founding members of the PDA National Response Team. She was awarded the Doctor of Humane Letters (honorary) by Sinai University in Jerusalem for her leadership in interfaith graduate theological education. Kraus has served as a member and trainer on the National Response Team of PDA. She has been involved in disaster responses for numerous hurricanes, church fires, and shootings throughout the United States. She is a co-developer of PDA’s emerging Human Caused Disaster response ministry and curriculum. She is a certified spiritual director. Laurie has been Moderator, Chair of Council, and Chair of Preparation for Ministry, Transformation and Co Chair of Peace Unity and Purity AC. She is the author of Tuning My Heart: the Melody of the Liturgical Year in Proclamation, Poetry and Praise, and has been published in several journals. She was content editor and contributor to Out of the Depths: Voices of Faith from September 11. Laurie holds a BA from Wheaton College, the M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Columbia Theological Seminary and Florida Center for Theological Studies.

Gwen Magby accepted a call at Key West’s 119 year old Trinity Presbyterian Church August 2002. She came from Atlanta where she served as the Youth Pastor at Andrews Chapel and the Assistant Pastor of New Life Presbyterian in College Park, GA. Gwen has been devoted to Key West. She is currently serving as Vice-President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, after serving as President for four years. She is a board member of the Department of Juvenile Justice; designated Chaplain for the Youth Detention Center. Gwen provides prayer for the City of Key West Commissioner’s meetings, and is the facilitator for the Faith-Based Community Network. Gwen has served on several committees for the Presbytery, was the Moderator in 2011-2012 and is currently the acting Chair of Council. Gwen received her BS degree from Jackson State University (Jackson, MS), Masters in Business Education from Mississippi State University (Columbus, MS), a Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary (Richmond, VA) and in 2001, Gwen Magby received her Doctorate of Ministry degree from Johnson C. Smith Seminary.

Leah Meador (HR) Retired as Chaplain of Treasure Coast Hospice in 2010, having served as Director of the Chaplaincy Department since 2004. She was ordained in 2002 and served as Parish Associate at Gardens Presbyterian, and Supply Pastor First, Ft. Pierce. Since retiring Leah has been leading the Boundaries Training throughout the Presbytery, is developing a Seniors Ministry and Retired Ministers program, is Chair of the Property Administration Commission and is on the Presbytery Response Team. Leah has served the presbytery on Committee on Ministry and is on the pulpit supply list.

B.A., Sociology, Eckerd College, St. Pete (1968) M.Div., Florida Center for Theological Studies, Miami (1994). After college Leah’s first job was at the Center for Social Research. Emory, Atlanta - Researcher and Author. Worked for and volunteered at churches in and for the Presbytery of Central Florida. One year after arriving in Palm Beach County in 1985, Leah found
herself for the second time the only full time employee at a church where the pastor just left (Westminster, PBG). After (again) training elders, leading stewardship, planning worship with worship committee and preaching, counseling, supervising oyster staff, etc., she decided to go to seminary to learn how to do what she had been doing!

Eliane Menezes is a Hospital Chaplain at Homestead and Mariners Hospitals working with the Palliative Care Team and on the Ethics Committee at the Homestead Hospital. She has served as a Chaplain for the Church World Service at the Port Isabel Detention Center (Los Fresnos, TX) where she was active in immigration issues and in the community of Spanish speaking churches. She was the Director of the Portuguese Language Ministry, a GA supported program. She was a student pastor at James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY. Before her call to ministry Eliane worked for Transbrazil Airlines and owned a retail store in Miami. Eliane has a Bachelor in Business Administration from Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil and a Master of Divinity from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Rosalia Orta (HR) came to the Presbytery from New York City Presbytery. She served in the Clinical Pastoral Education Services at Baptist Hospital (Miami) until her retirement. She was the Pastor at Home Presbyterian Church (Bronx, NY), a social worker for the Salvation Army, Cumberland Hospital (NY), and translator for Social Services in Brooklyn. She served as Elder and Deacon. Rosalia has a BA in Sociology and Puerto Rican Studies and a Masters of Divinity from New York Theological Seminary.

Elizabeth Pankey-Warren is Parish Associate at First United Methodist Church in Boca Raton. Elizabeth has served the last 12 years as a volunteer in Boca Raton. In 2002 she chaired capital campaigns and projects with Habitat for Humanity to construct a home solely by women. She is a member of the Board of Boca Helping Hands. She has served as Associate Pastor at Downtown Presbyterian (Nashville, TN), First Presbyterian Boca Raton and Miami Shores Presbyterian Churches. She has a BA in English from Southwestern at Memphis, TN and a Masters of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity School in 1986.

Y. Jacqueline “Jacky” Rhoades (HR) was ordained in 1959 in the Atlanta Presbytery. She is the third woman to be ordained in the denomination. Jacky, a native of France, was a Missionary in the Belgian Congo for ten years (’49-’59); a translator for the Conference of Reformed Churches in Nigeria; the Chaplain and Professor of Religion at Stillman College; Director of Resources for the Presbyterian Church); GA Director of Minority Church Development; Director of The Seminary of the Community (CLP Training); Co-Pastor of New Covenant Church (Miami); Pastor Hillsdale PC (Mobile Al); and Associate Pastor First Presbyterian (Gary, IN). Jacky served the denomination as a Commissioner, writing curriculum, Synod PJC, staff support to GA Committees during Assembly, Committee on Theological Education of GA, and created a Multicultural Christian Education Curriculum and program. Jacky served tirelessly in every Presbytery she was called. In Tropical Florida she was the Chair of New Church Development, Committee on Ministry, and Chair of Theology and Worship. She directed Children’s programs at Second Presbyterian, and has been teaching adult Bible classes at Riviera Presbyterian for many years. Jacky has been committed to education and has involved in many aspects. She was the Professor of Religion for Florida Memorial College; Board of Trustees for Eckerd College; Director of Doctor of Ministry and Dean of S. Florida Center for Theological Studies (SFCTS); wrote numerous articles, and was Professor Theological Ethics, Bible and various other subjects. Jacky received her Bachelor of Art from the Universite d’Aix (Marseilles, France), a M.A in English Bible from Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Richmond, VA), a Diploma from Colonial School, Bruxelles, Belgium, and her PhD in Theological Ethics from Emory University (Atlanta).
Shirley Saunders has been serving as Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of West Palm Beach since December 2009. She currently serves on the Presbytery Committee on Ministry and the Presbyterian Response Team. Before going into fulltime church service she worked for Pan American Airlines. And before entering ministry, Shirley was the Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Stuart for 20 years. She also served for many years on the Presbytery Youth and Young Adult Task Force. She received her Masters of Divinity from Reformed Theological Seminary; an M.S. from Barry University in Human Resource Development; and a B.A. from Wheaton College in Modern Languages.

Diane Shoaf was ordained in Tropical Florida in 1991. She served a church in Homestead when Hurricane Andrew ravaged South Miami. Her early years in ministry were spent in the response and recovery. Before her career in ministry Diane was a physical therapist in the Miami area. Diane was the Parish Associate and Interim at First Presbyterian Hollywood and Interim minister at Alta Vista. Diane has a commitment to education and was Associate Dean for Theological Studies at Florida Theological Center and helped merge the Center with St Thomas University. Diane has served on many special committees and currently is the Chair of Worship. She has a BS in Physical Therapy, University of Florida, Masters of Education, University of Miami and a Masters of Divinity Columbia Theological Seminary and Florida Center for Theological Studies.

Evangeline “Eve” Tolley came to the Presbytery in 2008. She is an Adjunct Professor of Counseling at Alliance School of Counseling (Nyack, NY). She was an Adjunct Professor at Florida Center for Theological Studies and now an Adjunct Professor in the Dept. of Ecumenical Studies at St Thomas University (Miami). She serves on the Boards of the Outreach Foundation and Medical Benevolence Fund. She is a Parrish Associate at Riviera Presbyterian and is actively involved with ministry to Kenya and missions to orphaned children. Coming from an extensive background in education focusing on social work and social policy; Eve has numerous academic honors and publications. She has been a consultant and researcher as well as a professor, and counselor in social work, pastoral care, psychotherapy and behavior issues. Eve has a BS in Home Economics and Adult Education from University of Missouri, an M.S. in Professional Counseling and Allied Health Sciences from University of North Florida, Ph.D. in Social Policy and Social work and Applied Research from Medical College of Virginia, Masters of Divinity from Yale Divinity and a S.T.M. in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Yale Divinity School.

Rosemary Welton became a member of the Presbytery in 2005 when she was called and continues to serve as Chaplain at Vitas Hospice. She came from Hudson Memorial Presbyterian where she was the Associate Pastor. She was ordained in 2001. Rosemary has been a Parrish Associate at First Hollywood and is now at Central in Miami. Rosemary has long career in music as a teacher in Naples and Miami and as choral Director at the Ransom-Everglades School (Miami). Rosemary has a Bachelor of Music Education from FSU, Master of Music from University of Miami, and a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Education from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Raquel Welty (HR) came to the Presbytery in 2009 from the Presbytery of Hudson River (NY) where she was ordained in 1985. She is currently supporting the ministry at Lakeside Presbyterian in West Palm and where she and her pastor husband are leading a Spanish Bible study. Raquel was the Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Ossining, NY. She was a Missionary for the UPCUSA in Chile, S.A. and a teacher at Presbyterian Schools in Medellin and Bogotá, Colombia, S.A. She has supported the denomination as a member of the Bi-National Service, the Fund for Theological Education, and organizing co-pastor of UPCUSA bilingual church in Melaque, Mexico. She has been a translator and teacher; she has translated church programs into Spanish, written articles for Horizons, Preaching in a Global Context and others. Raquel has degree in Christian Education from Union Seminary, Matanzas, Cuba, a Bachelor of Arts from Boricua University, Masters of Divinity from Union Seminary, New York.
Diane Shoaf After Hurricane Andrew 1992
Shari’s Shout Out

Thank you to those who completed their annual Statistical reporting and Clerks Questionnaires – roughly 75% of our churches. Obviously, I am disappointed with the response, as my goal has always been an optimistic 100%. Those who did not submit their information will be listed in the Stated Clerk’s Report to the June 1st Meeting of the Presbytery and, subsequently, recorded in the minutes.

2013-2014 Presbyterian Planning Calendars may be pre-ordered through the Presbytery office by sending an email or calling. I need to confirm our order to the Distribution Service by March 27th. We have a standing order of 100, but may need to reduce this amount based on your response. The unit cost (due to our bulk order) plus postage will be $9.50 each.

Dates to keep in mind:

April 2  Region 2 Pastors’ Gathering -- Sunset, noon
April 5-7  Youth Retreat at Gold Coast
April 20  Session Records Review – Myrtle Grove, 9:30 a.m.
April 27  Multicultural Annual Event – Grace, Lantana, 4:00 p.m.
May 6  Boundaries Workshop – Gardens, 9:00 a.m.

Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church

Many of us want to “try before we buy”. The Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA) offers that opportunity as well. As an inquirer, you may attend any conference in a given year without paying dues and without receiving credit towards certification as a Certified Church Administrator. However, you must pay for registration, hotel rooms and meals. But, if in the same year you decide that the APA is an organization that excites you and you recognize the value of being a member, classes taken will be credited towards your certification, as long as your membership dues and Level I certification fees ($25) have been paid.

You have an opportunity to “try before you buy” this coming May in Jacksonville Beach. The conference, scheduled from May 15th through May 20th, afford you an opportunity to partake in educational, spiritual and fellowship opportunities with others who understand the unique demands of working for a church entity.

The registration deadline is quickly approaching. Download the Conference Brochure on the Florida Region’s website (www.florida-apa.org) and see how attending this year’s conference fits with your professional and personal life.

Interested but still have more questions? Contact the Florida Region President, Allyson Criminger, at allyson@allyson@staugpres.org or by phone at 904-733-8277.

Nancy Fine
President-Elect and Membership Chair
Florida Region of the APA
I am so glad that our Presbytery is working towards healing and moving forward, as seventeen pastors pondered what that looks like during our Pastor’s Retreat at the Duncan Conference Center on April 23rd -24th.

I come home and think about a new word I learned - “liminality.” Kent Ira Groff, our retreat leader explained how liminality is a threshold or a doorway between two places or times. He pondered with us how sometimes we find ourselves at the threshold of ambiguity or disorientation. But it is at those times we can best assess the “realm of pure possibility where novel configurations of ideas and relations may arise.” This might be a good time in the life of our presbytery where we stop and consider the possibilities God has put before us to be light bearers in the world around us – working on healing and reflecting how some of the questions we are wrestling with might actually be “fine companions that sharpen our eyes for the road ahead.”

I would like to thank our Presbytery and COM for making this retreat available to pastors. It shows foresight that time spent together in a positive atmosphere fosters good health and healing in the life of our churches and presbytery.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shirley Saunders (1st Presbyterian Church of WPB)
Clergy News

After 19 years of service, Jack Noble retired from First Pompano “the Pink Church” Sunday April 28th.

The church gathered for one service, it was a packed sanctuary and very few dry eyes as Jack shared his care and love for the congregation and how much he will miss them. The church held a reception afterwards where Jack was recognized for his work in building the school and many programs for the children. Jack will be Honorably Retired at the June 1 Presbytery meeting.

Interim Dudley Rose is serving at Miami Shores.

Exponential 2013 - Amalie Ash

Each year several thousand church planters and transformers gather in Orlando. This year 5,300 came to gain and share ideas. The focus was wide open with workshops about reaching the un-churched, finding seekers, marketing ideas and much more. For several years the Committee for New Church Development has sent pastors and elders to Exponential. Attending this year was Hallie Hottle (Assoc. Pastor Miami Shores) CeCe Armstrong (Pastor Grace Lantana), Otoniel Bermudez (Pastor Grace Point a New Church Development), Steve and Joy Cho (Youth Pastor, Korean Church Miami) and Ruffin and Melanie Stepp brought several members of Palms West.

We gathered one evening of the three day show to share what we learned. Each person had attended different workshops and each one felt they had learned something that would help their ministry. Surprisingly, well known author, Bill Easum, was the most memorable and voted most interesting workshop leader by four of the pastors. Agreeing that Bill Easum has a straight forward approach to telling us what we need to do to “stay alive”. He was voted the one that we should invite to the Presbytery.

Exponential is a learning opportunity. And it is an opportunity to become reinvigorated about church, discipleship, and reaching out. When you have several thousand ecumenical people in one place who are seeking to find ways to be a better church, to revitalize the church, to grow the church and to share Christ in their communities you come home feeling inspired. Consider taking your church leaders next year in April; the tickets are inexpensive right now and they are available.
Our Presbytery meeting on June 1st is coming up quickly. I think everyone knows the words to my usual refrain: Go ahead and make your lunch reservations now (please)! Our friends at Sunset will appreciate your courtesy. We have only four Stated Presbytery meetings a year. Would you plan to attend each one and remain until the adjournment? Sessions are asked to commission their full contingent of ruling elders to attend these meetings. Every church should want to have a say in what is being done now and in the future of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida.

Recently the office has received inquiries as to whether we know of any musicians who might be available to substitute when the church organist/pianist is away. My good friend, Menchi, at First Spanish suggested we develop a something similar to our pulpit supply listing. We feel this is a wonderful idea that potentially every church could benefit from and, therefore, need your help. Would you kindly include the ad following this “Shout Out” in your church newsletter? It would be a great blessing to those in need on any given Sunday. Ideally, when we receive sufficient responses, we could post a listing by region on our website. In the interim, whatever information is received will be shared upon request.

With summer vacations upcoming (while we are sharing), one of our church admins has advertised her services as a “Virtual Secretary” working on a project basis or as needed. She has 11 years of church office experience handling programs, bulletins, agendas/minutes, annual reports, flyers, mailings, newsletters and can handle these remotely.

If you wish additional information, please contact the Presbytery office.

From May 15th through the 20th I will be on study leave attending the Florida Regional Conference of the Administrative Personnel Association in Jacksonville. I wish each and every one of our church admins were members of this wonderful organization of the PC(USA). It’s our time of furthering our knowledge, sharing best practices, and fellowship with colleagues. In 2014 the conference will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Delray Beach. It would be a blessing to have more of our Tropical Florida churches represented.

Attn: Organists/Pianists

Would you be willing to help another church in the Presbytery of Tropical Florida during times when their musician cannot accompany worship? If so, please contact Shari at the Presbytery office, 800-940-9511, 954-785-2220 or shari@tfpby.org Name, address, email and phone contact info is requested. It is the Presbytery’s hope to assemble a listing of available musicians within the various regions that could be shared with churches as needed. Financial considerations would be between the church and the musician.

Events

2013 Gathering of Presbyterian Women of the Synod of South Atlantic

Migration: Journey of Faith
October 25-27, 2013
Epworth by The Sea – St. Simons Island, Georgia

Registration Booklet:

Florida Presbyterian Cursillo

Spiritual renewal weekend will be held at the Christian Church Conference Center, Silver Springs, FL beginning at 5 PM, Thursday, October 31 through November 3, 2013.

www.FloridaCursillo.org
Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church

At this time of year, church staff can take a moment to rest following the tremendous workload associated with Easter. A truly joyous time of the year, often church personnel don’t have the time to appreciate the true meaning of the Resurrection of our Lord.

In August, the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be gathering for their Annual Conference in beautiful Charleston, South Carolina. The Conference theme “Be still and know that I am God” will appeal to everyone with a strong sense of faith. Scheduled from August 22nd through August 24th, attendees will find that the opportunities for spiritual and educational growth benefit not only themselves, but their families and church entities as well. Visit the National APA website (www.pcusa-apa.org) for more information.

Led by ministers and experts in their fields, attending an APA Conference offers opportunities for professional development and personal growth, for those called by God to serve in a PCUSA church entity. Interested in finding out how this association can benefit everyone working in a church environment. Visit the Florida Region’s website (www.floridaapa.org) or contact Allyson Criminger, Florida Region President, at allyson@staugpres.org or 904-733-8277.

Nancy Fine
President-Elect and Membership Chair
Florida Region of the APA

News From Hamlin Home
Hamanna, Lebanon

There is always good news from Hamlin Home. Through the gracious contributions of the ACO (Action Chretienne en Orient) and the Dr. Nucho family, the new Hydrotherapy unit has been delivered. This has been long anticipated and is a welcome addition to the new therapy center that has been under construction for over a year. There are a few finishing touches to be accomplished before the center is open but the work continues and should be concluded soon. In the meantime, Hamlin has submitted a proposal to the PCUSA requesting support for the renovation of ten rooms to be used for patients that may be transferred to Hamlin from other facilities for rehab and physio/hydrotherapy.

Employment Opportunities

Mission Advancement Officers – 2 Full-Time Positions – Georgia and Florida

Might God be calling you to use your gifts and experience to make a difference in the lives of children and families? Thornwell Home for Children, a 137 year-old independent non-profit Presbyterian ministry in covenant relationship with the Synod of the South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church(USA), is seeking two full-time Mission Advancement Officers, one Georgia-based (Atlanta area) and one central Florida-based (Orlando or Tampa area). Mission Advancement Officers are responsible for maximizing philanthropic support from, and promoting awareness of, the agency’s mission among individuals, churches and other public and private constituencies in these respective regions. Please visit our website for more details and candidacy submission instructions at www.thornwell.org/job/jobs

Associate for Communications
Grade: Exempt Status: Exempt
Entity: Office of the General Assembly
Department: Ecclesial and Ecumenical Ministries

BASIC COMMITMENT: This position calls for a basic commitment to Jesus Christ and the Christian Faith, as well as a basic commitment to the mission program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as noted in its theological confessions, the Book of Order, and the actions of the General Assembly. The Associate is a co-leader in the Ecclesial and Ecumenical Ministries Area. The Associate will develop and implement communication strategies for the Office of the General Assembly working proactively with the members of OGA’s three ministry areas. The Associate serves as a member of the OGA Staff Coordinating Team.
Stewardship Kaleidoscope, a Presbyterian Stewardship Conference held annually for elders, pastors, presbytery staff and volunteers, was held this year in St. Louis and attended by approximately 225 PCUSA participants from throughout the country. Attending for the Presbytery of Tropical Florida were Randy and Marianne Shine.

From a wide variety of workshops offered, Randy attended workshops on Practical Planned Giving in Congregations, Stewardship of Church Facilities, and Rethinking Stewardship: New Strategies, while Marianne attended Making Money Move for Mission and Ministry, Creating a Spiritual Culture of Generosity in Your Church, and “Capital Campaigns 101. Both Randy and Marianne attended How a Presbytery Team Can Train Congregations, but each at a different time, to benefit from different participant interactions.

Outstanding plenary sessions were held each day: “Stewardship is the Meaning of Life,” by Rev. Dr. Tom Trinidad, President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Professor of Theology; “Christ Transforming Culture: Changing Money into Manna,” by Rev. Susan Andrews, General Presbyter of Hudson River Presbytery; “Leading Congregations toward Generosity,” by Rev. Wendy McCormick, currently serving the Center for Congregations; a panel of ruling and teaching elders responding to questions from participants.

Meetings were opened with prayer and worship services included hymns, prayers, inspiring sermons, and passionate singing from the women’s and men’s choirs of a local Presbyterian church.

We learned that stewardship is NOT: a once a year event; all about money; fund raising; meeting a budget; just about us. Successful stewardship IS disciple making; treasure management that keeps us spiritually focused on God and caring for all God has given us; the commitment of time, abilities, material resources and influence. Among many other lessons: use storytelling; involve the pastor as a key member, but not the leader of the stewardship team; address the realities of generational differences in perspectives and preferences; strongly encourage members to attend ongoing Christian personal financial planning classes.

Stay tuned for a presbytery wide workshop to be offered, based on the wealth of valuable information from this Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference.

Here is a devotion from Hudson River Presbytery, to guide our commitment to stewardship:

Leader: Let us praise the Lord who is good. God’s love is everlasting.
People: We trust in God, who will guide us as we move...
   In attitude from scarcity to abundance
   In lifestyle from consumption to renewal
   In finances, from debt to freedom.

Leader: Let us come to God with thanksgiving, let us complete our promise to the Lord.
People: We worship God, who empowers us as we move...
   In liturgy from avoidance to celebration
   In giving from funding to offering
   In emphasis, from annual to year-round.

Leader: We celebrate the signs of hope in our midst. We dedicate ourselves as God’s faithful servants.
People: We serve God, who calls us to move...
   In practice from maintenance to mission
   In outreach from parochial to global
   In relationships from domination to interdependence.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy and Marianne Shine
Overview by the Stated Clerk
Skip Bush

The Presbytery of Tropical Florida met for its stated meeting on Saturday, June 1st, 2013 at Sunset Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale. Moderator Rev. Dr. Randy Gill called the meeting to order and Rev. Diane Shoaf opened the meeting with prayer. Sunset Pastor, Rev. Noe Juarez, a member of the first Residency Program, welcomed the Presbytery on behalf of the congregation. Greetings were brought to the Presbytery by Chaplain Bruce Chapman, Presbyterian University Center at FSU and Steven Devane the new CEO of the Duvall Home.

The first item of business was the adoption of new policies for the Coral Gables Fund. The Fund was established with the gift from the former First Presbyterian Church of Coral Gables. The changes allow 5% of the corpus to be used for grants for mission projects approved by the Presbytery. These changes will make more money available for mission. The Interim Stated Clerk presented amendments to the Book of Order and an overture from the Pink Church. There was a lot of discussion.

Worship was a joyous blend of music and scripture readings. Holy Communion was celebrated. The offering taken will be split between the Duvall and Thornwell Homes. The Presbytery then had wonderful lunch prepared by the Hispanic ladies of the congregation.

When we reconvened at 1:20, the Committee on Ministry presented two new pastors for examination. We joyfully welcomed the Rev. Jennifer C. Young Thompson as the new pastor of First Picture Collage of the June Presbytery Meeting

A Slideshow is posted on our website http://www.tfppy.org/administration/presbytery-meeting/

Missions Around the Presbytery
Presbyterian Church, Port St. Lucie and the Rev. Jessi Higginbotham, who will serve as the Associate Pastor for First Presbyterian Church, Delray Beach. The COM then presented two veteran members to be granted Honorable Retirement: from Miami Shores Presbyterian, the Rev. Dr. Sam Rutland; and from the Pink Church (First Presbyterian Church, Pompano Beach), the Rev. Jack Noble. Members of the Presbytery paid tribute to these pastors. The Presbytery voted them their new status. Congratulations to two great leaders!

Treasurer Marge Hellgren reported on income and expense. The Youth leaders spoke about the Youth Triennium. Those present were charged by the Stated Clerk as part of worship. Other reports were made and the Presbytery adjourned at 3:50 with prayer.

Special Thanks to Randy Shine for this month’s Presbytery Photos
Clergy News

The Presbytery welcomed two new members at the June meeting. Port St Lucie called Jennifer C. Young-Thompson. She transferred from Coastal Presbytery where she served Pike Rocky Point Presbyterian Church in Rocky Point, NC for 9 years. She has twin sons, Luke, and Iraqi War Vet, who attends a Christian College in nearby West Palm Beach and James, a history teacher who she hopes will join her in Florida. Her daughter, Micah, is a senior at the University of North Carolina in Wilmington.

First Delray Beach has called Jessi L. Higginbotham as the Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults. Jessi comes from Fayetteville, Tennessee. There she served First Presbyterian Church for four years. She is from Jacksonville and is happy to be back in Florida.

Lakeside Presbyterian has asked Nathan McConnell to serve as Part-time Student Pastor for the next three months with a possibility of one three-month extension. Nathan has received Master of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in the Church of Scotland and is an Adjunct Professor at Palm Beach Atlantic University. He is married to Courtney and has four daughters. They are excited about serving at Lakeside and seeing what God has in store for the church.

Reaching the milestone of Honorably Retired are: Jack Noble from First Pompano’s Pink Church after 19 years and 42 years in ministry. And, Sam Rutland from Miami Shores after 9 years (after having served Indian River, Ft. Pierce, for 9 years) and 38 years in ministry. Both men sat together as members of the Presbytery spoke about their ministries and their work in the Presbytery. Both had served as Moderators, Chaired the Council and held many positions of service. Jack Noble may hold the record for chairing the most committees in his 19 years at First Pompano.
Shari’s Shout-Out

The Presbytery office will be placing another order for the booklet “Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate”. If any church (or individual) should wish additional copies, please let me know and we can include your order with ours. The booklet is $9.44 each which includes the shipping to the Presbytery office.

This just in... Interim Stated Clerk Skip Bush has expressed sympathy for those who have not yet had their Session Records reviewed. He’s planning one more chance immediately following the Presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale, on September 24th. Those churches, that have not yet completed the review, are urged to have someone at this meeting with the records. As a reminder, books are not to be dropped off. The person bringing the records must stay for the review and take the records with them at the conclusion. You’ll review another church while yours are being checked. Call or email to let me know you will attend shari@tfpby.org / 954-785-2220 or 800-940-9511.

Substitute Church Musicians Needed! Please contact me to add your name to a listing being created for our churches for when their regular musician is away. This will be a big blessing to all!

The Presbytery has been advised of the death of Elder, Commissioned Lay Pastor and former Executive Presbyter, Jose Daniel Rodriguez on April 10, 2013 in Jeffersonville, Indiana at the age of 75. He is survived by his wife of over 58 years, Celita, two children, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren (with one more on the way). Please keep Mrs. Rodriguez and his family in prayer during this particularly difficult time.

MISSIONS AROUND the PRESBYTERY

Peace Covenant, Key West

The Jubilee Fund closed out because HUD funds from the US Government were reduced making the Fund unable to provide its services. The ecumenical fund was founded by four denominations, Methodist, Catholic, Lutheran and PCUSA. These four worked together to help rebuild after Hurricane Andrew.

When the funds were divided the Presbytery received $135,000 to offer as a grant. The grant was specifically focused on churches participating in a housing program. Larry Schenk at Peace Covenant Presbyterian, Key West applied and was awarded the grant.

Trinity Key West – Neighborhood Accountability Board

One of Trinity Presbyterian’s missions is the restorative justice Neighborhood Accountability Board. This is a non-profit, faith based community organization in Key West to reach "at risk" youth between ages 10 to 15. It is a prevention program which acknowledges that crimes committed by youth causes injury to people and communities. The project goals and desired outcome insist that the justice addresses those injuries and that the collaborative community parties participate in that process. This restorative justice program, therefore, enable the victim, the offender, and the affected members of the community to be directly involved in responding to the crime. They become central to the criminal justice process, with State and legal professionals becoming facilitators of a system that aims at offender accountability, reparation to victim, and full participation by the victim, the offender, and the community. The Key West restorative process of involving all parties is fundamental to achieving the restorative goals and desired outcome of reparation and peace, rather than measuring the amount of inflicted punishment, how many harmed, addressed, or prevented shall be the project’s focus. For more information or to make donations towards this program, please contact Gwen Magby @ (305) 296-3318 or via e-mail at RevMagby@bellsouth.net
New Ways to do Mission, Outreach and Fundraising

Miami Shores PC – Join the Motorcycle Dream Tour

Several months ago a member of Miami Shores PC walked into Pastor Hallie Hottle’s office with an idea. He wanted to ride his motorcycle from Miami to the Artic Circle and back. Along the way, he would raise money for various charities though various social media. She told him he was crazy, but that most great ideas are a little crazy. After several months of preparation, NPR interviews, newspaper interviews and talking to charities in the Miami area, he cannot turn back. Andrew Smith is going to ride his Triumph Bonneville bike 15,000 miles. He is going to accomplish one of his dreams, meet people and give a new slant to ministry. Miami Shores is excited to support him.

Asking Hallie why Miami Shores is supporting this she said: “As Christians we believe in an incarnate God. God does not just sit around watching us, He came here as Jesus Christ and walked the people. As a church, the body of Christ, this is what we seek to do, to be with and among people. Our local churches can only reach so far, until one of our parts goes off to ride his motorcycle across the country, and then suddenly our reach grows. If Jesus had a motorcycle, he might have made such a trip”

How is this Mission for MSPC? “We are aware that the church ministry may not have any donations to this program. What we want is a reputation as a church that supports dreamers. While Andrew is riding, we are going to be collecting dreams from people, 15,000 for the number of miles he is riding. We are going to write them on ribbons and wrap them around our church. It is going to look crazy. Our Church needs to do ministry in new ways. Dreaming is contagious, and we are hoping to catch it.”

You can follow Andrew at http://www.arcticridefordreams.com/ You can place your dreams on the site, donate to help support several non profits, ask Andrew to mail a card, see a church or some small act on his ride. This mission will support Urban Promise in six cities, Chapman Homeless Shelter, House of Hope, Restore International, and MSPC.
Calvary Presbyterian
Mission 6 days a Week

Calvary’s Congregation is not taking a break, this summer they are busy building PDA Buckets: Cleaning supplies and items for tornado recovery, July 4th celebration with Homewood Nursing Home, Collecting “Trash to support scholarships” at Broward College, and in their spare time they are constructing a community labyrinth, with a fire pit. This summer they are hosting Literacy Campfires at their new fire pit. In August, they have their new “Pit Stop” an outreach to Broward College, stuffing 40 back packs for a local elementary school, and school supplies for clients of For Children’s Sake.

Central Church
Operation Kid-to-Kid

Central has two mission trips this summer. One is our Youth Summer Mission Trip to Daytona Beach, from 6/16-6/21. The other is an Intergenerational Mission Trip to House of Hope, Haiti, from 7/6-7/12. Central will be busy with their Vacation Bible School and continuing their monthly Mission such as Camillus House which has provided humanitarian services to the indigent and homeless populations of Miami-Dade County, Florida for more than 50 years, the center offers a full System of Care for persons who are poor and homeless.

Community Deerfield – Steeple on the Beach: A Mission from Indiana

July 1 Kicks off Deerfield’s second summer of Meet to Beat the Heat: The community event will have snow cones, face painting, Bible Trivia, and music and community groups. July 8-16 Deerfield will be recipients of the First Presbyterian Church Richmond (IN) summer mission trip, led by Rev David Layman. The congregation at Deerfield will provide lodging and hospitality. Congregation from Richmond ID will be helping with the landscape, painting and will assist with worship and the weekend gathering. In addition, they will be assisting in community outreach for Deerfield’s music program and Beat the Heat program by calling on new neighborhoods.

First Ft Lauderdale – Summer Missions for College and Youth

Nick Merchant, Youth and College Ministries Director will have a busy mission-event packed summer. He is currently leading a team of ten college students building a Habitat House in Key West. In July, the High School mission group will travel to Tampa, the thirty-five HS students will build housing for migrant workers. Forty students from the middle school program will attend the Great Escape to Ocklawaha (near Ocala). While twenty plus Kirk Singers and their chaperones will be touring Southern California; the youth choir will be performing and joining their host churches mission projects. In between these events there will be Family Beach Nights, Summer Lock-ins (sleep overs). Plus the church will be stuffing 40 Presbytery backpacks to add to their backpack program. In August, the church will hold their Vacation Bible School for 200 kids. Ben Sorenson, Associate Pastor, said that their Mission Trips and VBS are open to other Presbyterian Churches and there are some scholarships available to participate.

Myrtle Grove Presbyterian – Focusing on the Neighborhood

Leon Lovell-Martin and the congregation are having their first Arts Camp. They have 32 children registered for the 4 week program that includes dance, drama, art and music for the neighborhood kids. Plus they are hosting Vacation Bible School and packing 100 backpacks for children in Jamaica.
First West Palm - Buy a Tile and help pay for a Roof

Shirley Saunders handed me a postcard at the presbytery meeting. It was for a new fund raising effort: Buy a tile to help the church pay for a badly needed new roof. 1 tile is $5.00 – 4 tiles $20.00 and put the tile (s) in the name of someone for their distinguished Book of Honor. Want to help First West Palm? Buy some tiles!

Grace Presbyterian Evangelism Unit takes a break
The Evangelism Unit at Grace is taking a well-earned break after making over 360 sandwiches for CROS ministries. This monthly commitment helped school children in Palm Beach County

Palms West – Brush and Pray: Kingdom, Church, and Pastor
Tropical Florida Presbytery Brush and Pray: Palms West Elders and Pastor are praying each day for the Presbytery. With a small tent card by their sink they pray while they brush their teeth for each church and the pastor. Hurray for Summer Party Water Slides, food, and fun to kicked off the end of school for the kids. Ruffin Stepp’s childrens’ ministry continues to grow.

Second Presbyterian - Food Trucks, Vintage Cars and then Elvis
Dwayne Black and the Sanctuary team added to their outreach list with a special Memorial Day weekend event: Food Trucks and a Vintage Car Show to benefit the Broward County Food Bank. And, then Elvis showed up singing hymns and gospel music.
Presbytery Office - Back Packs: A Backyard Mission

This is the third year and we have doubled our distribution from last summer with 1500 backpacks going to disadvantaged kids in Southeast Florida. Thank you all for participating.

Community (Lauderdale-by-the-Sea)

Heading to the South Seas

The 75 members of Community Church collected over 1400 pounds of books, school supplies, reference materials and even a shed (for storage) for the Vanuatu Islands in the South Pacific Ocean.

The five cargo containers were shipped via freighter last week. This Mission was generated when they received a spiritual call to help the South Pacific islanders. Their islands are becoming uninhabitable due to urgent environmental issues and rising water levels. These Islanders will be relocated in five years. During this time they are being taught English and cultural skills for a new environment.

This is a massive undertaking scheduled over the next five to seven years. Jim Goldsmith will be traveling there in July to receive the supplies and to survey the situation and distribution.

Riviera Presbyterian – Presbyterian School in Kenya

Riviera is sending eleven to Kenya in July. They will be going to continue supporting a school built by the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. This is a Christian academy for 3yrs to 15yrs (8th grade). They will paint the buildings and when children are out of class, they work with them. This year’s theme is ecology and the student’s impact in the world.

Korean Presbyterian Church Miami - Six Overseas Mission Trips


Missions around the World

They come together to pray and prepare for these trips. A mission team can include barbers/hairdressers, opticians, dentists, photographers, musicians and various medical professionals. The mission teams organize soccer teams providing team shirts and equipment. The KPCM mission team goes to make a difference in the lives of those they meet. Make plans next year to join one of their teams. It will be a trip to remember.
Clewiston Presbyterian – Medical Supporters for Nicaragua
Lake Worth’s CLP Victor Blanford and members of the Clewiston congregation travel to Nicaragua to provide support to the nurses and bring medical supplies. This has been an ongoing mission of the church in Clewiston.

Calvary - Supporting a Hospital– Plant a Cedar in Lebanon
Calvary has begun a campaign to assist in raising funds for the Hydrotherapy Unit at Hamlin Nursing Home in Lebanon. The congregation is looking for partners who would like to contribute to the effort. For those who participate, you will not only have the knowledge of helping to continue Christian ministry in these middle eastern mountains but will be remembered for centuries to come for planting a tree in the forests of cedars in Lebanon. Some of these trees date back to the time of Christ and several trees will be planted in honor of the Presbytery and all who participate in this effort. If you would like to contribute to this effort, contact Dr. Timothy Stover at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Coconut Creek, 954-972-1540 or tvstover@comcast.net. Any amount will be greatly appreciated. Together we can make a difference in a country where Christianity is struggling to maintain its presence. Hamlin remains committed to meeting the needs of their clients and those needing services in the surrounding area. However, due to the issues stated above, Hamlin is facing a $14,000 shortfall and is now turning to funding sources outside Lebanon. This is a meaningful project.
PCUSA STEWARDSHIP KALEIDOSCOPE WORKSHOP
Marianne Shine

WHAT: Two 3 hour workshops with helpful resources to help you develop a culture of generosity in your congregation.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Teaching and Ruling Elders, stewardship committee members, volunteers. It takes a team effort! Bring as many as you can, to build an energized and effective stewardship team.

WHY: Come to learn, share and be energized through this interactive workshop created by the Presbyterian Foundation and Board of Pensions, led by Robert Hay, Jr., Ministry Relations Officer. You will walk away with ideas for a generosity plan customized for your specific congregation, so you can organize your generosity/stewardship leadership group, communicate with the different generations in your congregation, integrate all aspects of your church into the life of generosity, and teach the year-round spirituality of gratitude and generosity.

WHEN & WHERE:
Thursday, October 3, 2013, 6:00 – 9:00 PM @ First, Tequesta (dinner included).
OR
Saturday, October 5, 2013, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM @ Second, Ft. Lauderdale (lunch included).

RESERVATIONS: Call Shari at the presbytery office, 954-954-785-2220.
In preparation for this dynamic workshop, your church will receive a copy of Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate, by J. Clif Christopher

RECOMMENDED READING:
Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate, by J. Clif Christopher

Let us trust in God, who will guide us as we move.
- In attitude, from scarcity to abundance
- In lifestyle, from consumption to renewal
- In finances, from debt to freedom.

This program is brought to you by the Finance Resource Committee, the Presbytery Foundation, and the Board of Pensions.

CREATING A SPIRITUAL CULTURE OF GENEROSITY FOR EVERY GENERATION

In attitude, from scarcity to abundance
In lifestyle, from consumption to renewal
In finances, from debt to freedom.

This program is brought to you by the Finance Resource Committee, the Presbytery Foundation, and the Board of Pensions.

Let us trust in God, who will guide us as we move.

Plan ahead by signing up now. There is no cost, but reservations are needed, for planning purposes on space and food. If you have any questions, you can call Marianne or Randy Shine, 954-428-4007.

Let us trust in God, who will guide us as we move.

In attitude, from scarcity to abundance
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Let us trust in God, who will guide us as we move.
Presbytery Sponsored Events: Building a Better Presbytery

MissionInsite Workshops:
If you would like to learn about this powerful data base and know your community’s demographics, the Presbytery will be hosting four workshops to get you started. Intern Katie Carpenter has researched each of your churches and will provide a sample of your surrounding community demographics. She will be teaching you how to use the program so you can access more data and the mailing lists. This program is free to your church as a member of the Presbytery. It is brought to you by the Committee on Transformation, New Church Development and the Finance Resource Committee.

July 9 – Presbytery Office – 10:30 to Noon – prior to Region Two gathering
Note: Additional dates will be emailed to the churches and pastors.

Please Contact Shari to reserve your spot.

Chaplain’s Conference
September 27-29, 2013 Tampa, Florida

Sponsored by the Synod of South Atlantic

PCUSA Finishing Next New Hymnal
Jim Scalf

In 2004, The General Assembly (GA) authorized a study to be developed by the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC), the Presbyterian Association of Musicians and the office of Theology and Worship to address the feasibility of a new hymnal. A broad questionnaire was developed and sent out to music leaders and clergy throughout the denomination. Research Services tabulated the results and presented them to the 2006 General Assembly. The GA authorized the PPC to research, develop and produce a new hymnal. The total cost of development was to be covered by the PPC with no GA funds to be used.

The Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song (PCOCS) was formed and first met in the fall of 2008. PCOCS consisted of 15 voting members (two of whom were under the age of 25), and three ex officio members appointed by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation and the Office of Theology and Worship.

Three years of meetings and countless hours of homework were spent culling 10,000 submissions for the hymnal. The PCOCS’s final meeting was in January, 2012. The remaining work to prepare for publishing was done by the PPC staff.

The new hymnal will be titled “Glory to God” and some songs were written to be sung with guitar and other instruments. “Shine, Jesus, Shine”, “They’ll Know We are Christians By Our Love” and “Step by Step” are among those often led on guitar. “Glory to God” can be purchased in red or purple depending on the desire of the church. The new hymnal is slated for delivery in late 2013 and over 600 churches have pre-ordered this new hymnal.

A statement in the preface of that first green hymnal still rings true today, some 75 years later. “Probably no one church will use all of the hymns in the book, but the editors have earnestly sought to make the hymns included so representative and so varied that every church will find in it a sufficient number to suit its particular needs and preferences.”

(cont. on page 13)
Kid Min 2013 - Presbytery Scholarships Oct 11-14 Columbus Ohio

The Presbytery Office is providing five scholarships to attend this year’s conference on children’s ministry. The scholarships will include airfare, lodging, and registration. Please note: it does not include meals. These scholarships are for people who are active in children’s ministry; who will agree to work with each other in choosing separate conference learning tracks; and who will then create three workshops in the Presbytery to share information with the other churches. We would like to have representatives from each region. To apply, please contact Amalie at amalie@tfpb.org by August 1, 2013.

Triennium 2013 – Purdue University, Indiana

Pray for the safety and for the uplifting experience at this year’s Triennium. The Presbytery has 10 students and three chaperones going. Represented will be Goodwill, Miami Shores, Accession Peace, Boynton Beach, First Stuart and Grace Point (NCD). Chaperones are Hallie Hottle, Boisy Waiters and Kelsey Larson.

PCUSA Finishing Next New Hymnal (cont. from p.12)

Hymnals History

Green hymnal
Authorized by the General Assembly of the PCUSA in 1933.

Red hymnal - 1955
This Hymnal was authorized in 1949. This was the first hymnal of First Presbyterian Church of Tequesta and was used until 2008

Blue Worshipbook - published in 1972

The Presbyterian hymnal
Published in 1990, and by April, 2008, 2.4 million copies had been sold. In 2008, We bought this hymnal to replace the red hymnal

Hey Busy Pastors and Busy Elders

Take a Break!!

No Time to take a vacation – Make yourself a few Day-cations

Change the pace of your day:
• Give yourself a 30 minute Sabbath – Take a Nap
• Rec-Create – Take a sunrise or sunset stroll-check out God’s artistry
• Commit to Hydration – Drink more water
• Commune with nature – take an easy-fix dinner to the beach at sunset – cool off
• Find your city and nearby state parks –
• Take a walk, read the historical markers, you may find a good sermon.

• Visit our Lighthouses
• Write someone a letter – surprise them!
• Write God a letter about things on your mind.
• Eat Ice cream (in a cone) outside an ice-cream shop
• Find people who like to laugh.

Nothing we do is more important than taking care of ourselves so we can take care of others......

Have a blessed summer,
Amalie
The Benefits of Faith Community Nursing Alumni Dinner & Presentations
Wednesday, June 19th, 2013
5:30pm
Duncan Conference Center,
15820 S. Military Trail, Delray Beach, FL 33484

The speakers will discuss the integration of faith and health, how it benefits the church, temple & faith community, Best Practices, new Wellness Series available, and more!

Open to the public.
Cost: $20 includes dinner, $10 nursing students
Please RSVP & mail payment to Catholic Charities,
P. O. Box 1885, West Palm Beach, FL 33402
by June 12th.
Interfaith Health & Wellness is a Program of Catholic Charities

Other Events around the Southeast
Check their websites for details
- PCUSA’s Big Tent Louisville, KY - August 1-3
- National Elders Conference – Big Tent - August 1-3
- Interim Training - Montreat August 25-30
- Evangelism and Church Growth Conference, St Pete Beach, FL - Sept 16-19
- Catalyst Conference Atlanta, GA October 2-4
- Wee Kirk/Small Church Conference Montreat, NC October 21-22

Adversity

By Charles Stanley, Christian Post Contributor
(Romans 8:16-18)

When difficulties arise, how can you be sure you're responding in a way that would please the Lord? Here is an acrostic, based on the word adversity, that suggests the steps you should take:

**A**ccept the events of your life as part of how God equips you.

**D**ecide to follow Jesus’ ways of responding to trials.

**V**eer to neither the right nor left from the path of obedience.

**E**xpect the Holy Spirit to help you grow through your difficulties.

**R**emember how the Lord has helped you in the past.

**S**et your face like flint (Isa. 50:7) to endure the trial without wavering.

**I**nvest additional time in your relationship with God.

**T**rust the Lord, especially when you do not understand.

**Y**earn to be made ready for the return of our Savior.

For More Information

For more info, contact
Bernadette Macy,
561-345-2000 x256.
Birthdays

June
Rev. Rosalia Orta - HR
Dr. Kenneth Smith - MOS
Rev. Charles Croghan - HR
Dr. Richard B. Anderson Dick - HR
Rev. Donald Davis - HR
Rev. Cecelia (CC) Armstrong, Lantana - Grace
Rev. Ben Sorensen, Ft. Lauderdale - First
Rev. Kim Kavazanjian, Miami - Central
Rev. Martin Anorga - HR
Dr. Leon Lovell Martin, Miami - Myrtle Grove
Rev. Benjamin Davis - HR
Dr. Charles (Chuck) Denison, Stuart - First
Rev. Antonio (Tony) Welty - HR

July
Dr. Kenneth White - MOS
Rev. Daniel Gerhardt - HR
Rev. Otoniel Bermudez, Jr., Miami Shores - NCD Grace Point Hispanic
Rev. Jose Manuel Capella Pratts, Miami - First Spanish
Dr. Gustavo Astudillo - MOS
Rev. Thomas Slager, Clewiston - Community
Rev. Hallie Hottle, Miami Shores - Miami Shores
Rev. Patricia (Pat) Ashley - HR
Rev. James E. McNaul - HR
Rev. Pedro Rivera - Miami - Sunrise
Rev. Aida Diego - MOS

August
Rev. Robert Vance - HR
Rev. Jose Rivera - HR
Rev. Kennedy McGowan, Hollywood - First
Dr. Arlene Gordon - HR
Rev. Shirley Saunders, West Palm Beach - First
Rev. Maria Luisa Hernandez - HR
Rev. Pierre DuBose - HR
Dr. Thomas Culberson – HR

Ordinations

June
Rev. Edward Peachey - HR
Rev. Daniel Gerche - HR
Dr. Maurice Stone - HR
Dr. James Nimmo III - HR
Dr. Thomas Culberson - HR
Dr. Kenneth White - MOS
Rev. Gary Fravel - HR
Dr. Stephen Sapp - MOS
Rev. Frank Allard - HR
Rev. Robert Vance - HR
Dr. Albert (Skip) Bush Jr. - Palm Beach Gardens - Gardens
Rev. Otoniel Bermudez Jr. - Miami Shores - NCD Grace Point Hispanic
Rev. Donald Davis - HR
Rev. Bruce Bateman - HR
Rev. Robert Polland - HR
Rev. Kennedy McGowan, Hollywood - First
Dr. Gwendolyn Magby - Key West - Trinity
Rev. Ervin Joslin - HR
Dr. Arlene Gordon - HR
Rev. Jose Manuel Capella-Pratts - Miami - First Spanish
Rev. Leah Meador - HR
Rev. Rosemary N. Welton - MOS
Rev. Suk Won Han - Palm Beach - Korean
Rev. Heidi Arencibia - Miami - New Life
Dr. David Thomas - HR

July
Dr. Sam Rutland - HR
Rev. James Goldsmith - Lauderdale By The Sea - Community
Dr. Robert S. Norris - MOS
Dr. William Stepp - HR
Dr. George McIlrath - HR
Rev. Pedro Rivera - Miami - Sunrise

Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin - Miami - Myrtle Grove
Rev. Constance Bright - Miami - New Covenant
Rev. Benjamin Davis - HR
Rev. Robert Collins - HR
Rev. Elias Collado - Miami - Palmetto
Rev. Roberto Hernandez - HR
Rev. Howard Westin - HR
Dr. Timothy Stover - Coconut Creek - Calvary
Dr. Ange IRamos - MOS
The Rev. Dr. Douglas Brouwer welcomed the Presbytery to the Sanctuary for our opening worship.

Through a series of readings and visual images, we considered Baptism as a living Sacrament that joins us together into the Body of Christ which is the church. We sang together accompanied by First Church’s magnificent pipe organ. Rev. CC Armstrong used a paper-cutting demonstration to show that when all the extras are cut away, we join hands around Jesus who is our Savior. After worship was over we moved to the fellowship hall where we met around round tables. The number on our meal ticket gave us our seat assignment so that we would meet new people. The Moderator, Rev. Dr. Randy Gill, brought the Presbytery to order with prayer.

The first order of business was a discussion of the strength of the Presbytery. At the table we discussed when the Presbytery had been most helpful and what we will do to fulfill our mission. The results of each table’s answer will be tabulated and will be presented at the Stated Meeting in December. A box lunch was served.

After lunch the Presbytery reconvened at the tables in the Fellowship Hall. The first major item of business was the duel vote to dismiss the Clewiston Community Presbyterian Church to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church with their property. The team from the Presbytery negotiated a cash settlement around $84,500 over three years plus the per capita for three years. The PUPAC said that they voted to ask the Presbytery to dismiss the congregation “with regret” and the two votes passed without exception. The PUPAC reported that the Session and Congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Miami, has voted to withdraw from the GSA process. The Presbytery received the good news with applause.

Representatives of the Youth Task Force reported on the recent Youth Triennium. The Young Adult Volunteers who are living and working in the Miami area were introduced. COM presented the Rev. Monica Styron, the new Interim Pastor of Riviera Presbyterian Church. The next candidate to be presented was “Willie” Figueredo, the NCD pastor of Well Spring NCD. The Presbytery examined Willie and voted to proceed with his ordination on September 29, 2013. Lastly, the Presbytery adopted the Presbytery Residency Program where the Presbytery will bring newly ordained persons to “intern” in our church, helping the pastor and church leadership explore new missions.

Most of the Presbytery’s business was in the Consent Agenda. The Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Miami, asked the Presbytery to give them “original jurisdiction” to act as the Session and Trustees for the church. There was a heated discussion with representatives from the church expressing their opposition. The Presbytery voted to give the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Miami, original jurisdiction.

The business completed, the Presbytery voted to adjourn to meet again on December 7th, 2013 at Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church, Miami Gardens.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Albert W. Bush, Jr.

December 7th, 2013 Presbytery Meeting

Please note that the location for the meeting has changed. Presbytery will be meeting at Second Presbyterian Church (The Sanctuary) in Fort Lauderdale.

Many thanks to our friends at Second for hosting this meeting despite having already scheduled a concert (Florida Singing Sons) that evening.
Willy Figueroedo was ordained on Sunday September 29th, at the Kol Tikvah Temple in Parkland. Rabbi Bradd Boxman at Kol Tikvah generously shared the sanctuary with members of the new church plant Wellspring Community Church, members of Glades Presbyterian Church, friends from Parkland, friends from the Presbytery and Willy and Sandra’s family. Pastor to Pastor, Kernie Kostrub fulfilled his hope to preach at Willy’s ordination after shepherding him through the PCUSA ordination requirements. It was a beautiful service and celebration. Willy and his wife Sandra are serving the NCD Wellspring that is currently worshipping at the Riverglades Elementary School in Parkland.

Welcome Rev. Monica Styron serving the interim at Riviera. Monica is from Susquehanna Valley Presbytery (NY) and was received as a member at the September meeting of Presbytery.
Chair of Finance Elder Randy Shine and Board of Pensions Liaison Elder Marianne Shine attended the 2013 Kaleidoscope Stewardship conference; they were charged to find tools to share with the Presbytery. They returned armed with a book suggestion and a plan for two stewardship workshops. The book they suggested resulted in the Presbytery reading Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate, by Clif Christopher. During the June Presbytery meeting, each church received two copies of the book; one for the Teaching Elder and one for the Stewardship Chair. The book was so popular that the Presbytery had to reorder copies for Sessions and other church leaders.

Over the summer Randy and Marianne worked with the Presbytery Foundation representative, Robert Hay. Together they created a meaningful workshop that followed the principles in Christopher’s book and other contemporary writers on stewardship. First Tequesta and Second Presbyterian Churches offered to host the workshops and the Foundation offered to provide the meals.

The two workshops took place in early October. Nineteen churches and seventy-seven people participated; Trinity brought twelve elders from Key West and many churches had their entire Session participating. Those attending were thankful for the information and felt the program had given their leaders a renewed energy for building generosity in their congregations.

We will have more programs on stewardship and generosity in 2014. For now, many thanks to Randy and Marianne Shine for helping us rethink stewardship in 2013.
Redelivery Program

CeCe Armstrong (Grace, Lantana) has been encouraging the Presbytery to create a redelivery program. Her vision was to provide a means to share what is gleaned from conferences and seminars and re-deliver the information to the wider presbytery. The Finance Committee decided to try the idea with the Stewardship Workshop program. This was an investment to help the churches build generosity and giving. The finance committee paid for Randy and Marianne to attend the conference with the understanding that they would take separate learning tracks and create redelivery workshops. The Finance Committee purchased the books for the Presbytery and paid for additional materials.

In June, we offered five scholarships to the 2013 KidMin Conference in Columbus, Ohio. In October, five children’s ministry school teachers from five churches: Sunrise, Ascension Peace, Palms West, Hobe Sound and Tequesta went to the conference. They had agreed to take separate tracks, to find reading materials, speakers for the Presbytery and to hold two workshops in 2014 on children’s ministry.

It is our hope to do a similar program for worship/music leaders, and other programs that are instrumental in the life of our churches. We all benefit from the Redelivery Program and we are making better use of your per capita dollars when representatives attend conferences and workshops.
Around the Presbytery

Youth Ministry – First Presbyterian Church of Boynton Beach

At the First Presbyterian Church of Boynton Beach, we have a vibrant, diverse, flourishing youth group!

Currently made up of 12 middle school and 6 high school students, the youth group has recently been growing, with several different cultures being represented. Twice a week, young Haitian, Hispanic, and Caucasian believers come together under one roof to learn from the Word of God, grow in fellowship with each other, and have fun! One of the highlights from our summer together was a mission trip to Savannah, GA with the organization, “YouthWorks!” For one week, we got our hands dirty and our spirits refreshed as we reached out to some of Savannah’s most vulnerable. Since then, we have been brainstorming ways that we can do the same thing in our own community in Boynton Beach. There is never a dull moment when it comes the FPCBB youth group, and we are excited for what God has in store for our crazy family in the days ahead!

Kelsey Larson

Christianity and Culture Night: The Mind- Body- Spirit Connection
First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale

Monthly speaker series until May ’14 subjects include Adrenal Burnout, Meditation, Oral Health, Genetically Modified Foods (GMOs). See the full series and dates at www.firstpress.cc

Gleaning Days- C.R.O.S Ministries

Gleaning is a food recovery strategy that allows produce that is below market grade, but nutritious and beneficial to be harvested and distributed to the food insecure in Palm Beach County. There are over thirty Saturdays in 2014 and six days in 2013 for your group to participate.

Go to the Presbytery website for Dates and Details or email directly: Rev Keith Cutshall Kcutshall@corsministries.org.
First Delray’s School for Christian Formation presents:

Dr Greg Ogden, Nov 9th from 1 to 3pm

Dr. Greg Ogden is a writer, speaker and discipleship teacher living in Monterey, California. He was formerly Executive Pastor of Discipleship at Christ Church of Oak Brook in Oak Brook, Illinois. Previously, he was Academic Director of Ministry Programs and Associate Pastor of Lay Equipping and Discipleship at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. For twenty-three years, he served as a pastor with the Presbyterian Church USA. You are invited to join Dr. Ogden for lunch at noon prior to his presentation. Lunch $5 per person. There is no cost for the presentation.

Is Your Youth Pastor Careful?


Last week I searched out youth pastors to take our <a>Youth Ministry in America</a> survey. I followed their Twitter feeds, read their blogs, and scouted out youth conferences. It's clear that youth pastors are working hard to serve students and help them grow in their relationships with Jesus. I'm excited to see the pure passion they have for ministry.

But I'm worried, too. Some youth pastors seem so anxious to reach out and connect with their students that they forget to use caution in how they do it. For example, one student tweeted about how his youth pastor was his top friend on Snapchat (meaning they've sent the most "snaps"—photos—to each other). Snapchat is an app that allows you to take and send photos that delete automatically a few seconds after being opened. Because of this fleeting format, <a>Snapchat</a> is widely used for "sexting." Is your youth pastor using good judgment with social media? What about safe mission trips? Training leaders? Take our <a>survey</a> (it’s for church leaders, pastors, youth pastors, and youth volunteers), share it, and let it become the basis for conversation about how your church is doing with keeping youth, and your youth pastor, safe.

- Read about one church that <a>wasn't careful</a>— landing a youth intern in jail, and two boys in therapy.
- Have you read our <a>Essential Guide to Youth Ministry Safety</a>?
- New Q&A: How long should your church keep consent forms and screening records?

Ashley G. Moore
Assistant Editor, ChurchLawAndTax.com
Looking Forward – Paperless in 2014

The Presbytery is looking for ways to be more efficient and economical. The reduction in the number of churches has forced us recalibrate our budgets and to seek ways to be effective on less income. This has been a team effort.

As many of you know the cost of newsletters and large mailings have increased; soon postage will be rising again. To be more cost efficient and to consider the Presbytery’s environmental footprint we will be moving to a minimum paper usage office. So, we will be sending packets for Presbytery by email and posting them on the website. Packets for committee meetings will be emailed prior to the meeting; we know that some committees have last minute items, but we will strive to reduce the number of unnecessary copies.

We have noticed that many committee members bring their wireless devices to Presbytery meetings and to committee meetings. Some read their packets and information on their tablets and their phones. It is becoming a primary way of moving information and we want to support those who choose to be paperless.

We will be sending out information update emails in November, please make sure that your information is up to date. If we do not hear from you we will send you a postcard with the email update request. Look for Shari’s communication in November.

Is your church overrun by paper? Piles of paper and reports everywhere? Then go to the web address below and you will find valuable information about HOW LONG you need to legally keep your church records. [http://www.history.pcusa.org/records/cong/retention_recommendations.cfm](http://www.history.pcusa.org/records/cong/retention_recommendations.cfm)

The above website is at the Presbyterian Historical Society, part of PC(USA). More information to follow regarding parental consent forms signed by parents.
Shari’s Shout-Out

The 2013-2015 Book of Order is available for purchase. Please contact me should you wish a copy (or copies) reserved. Cost: $9.00 each. We also have a few calendars remaining ($9.50 ea.). Our website is ready to take your reservations (including lunch) for the December 7th Presbytery meeting. I’m constantly amazed that folks don’t “just do it” and wait until the last minute or don’t make reservations at all! Please don’t assume that we know you are attending.

The Ecumenical Institute
School of Theology and Ministry
St. Thomas University
invites you to our
Fall 2013 O’Neill Lecture Series

“Soul Repair: Veteran Recovery from Moral Injury After War”

Rev. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock

Rev. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock is Research Professor in Theology and Culture and Founding Co-Director of the Soul Repair Center and a Commissioner-Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). A native of Pahauku, Japan, Dr. Brock is the daughter of a veteran of the Korean War and the stepdaughter of a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and the Vietnam War and she was raised in a military family. She is the first Asian American woman ever to earn a doctorate in theology (Claremont Graduate University, 1988). In December 2004, she and Dr. Gabriella Letati began work on the Truth Commission on Conscience and War, which in November 2010, recommended extensive public education on moral injury. An award-winning author, she and Dr. Letati co-authored Soul Repair: Recovery from Moral Injury After War (Boston, 2013).

November 12, 2013
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Chapel of Saint Anthony.
16401 N.W. 37 Avenue Miami, Gardens, FL 33054
At this time of the year, we are reminded of our many blessings. Our sincere gratitude and thanks go to our wonderful volunteers. Though we may not say it often enough, you are truly appreciated. A special thank you to those members in the class of 2013 who will be rotating off their committees at the end of the December 7th Presbytery meeting. Your help has been invaluable and we hope you will serve again in the future.

Presbytery Office

Amalie Ash - Presbytery Administrator
Skip Bush - Interim Stated Clerk
Kernie Kostrub - Pastor to Pastor
Shari Lowe - Executive Assistant
Susan Carpenter - Financial Administrator
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