Newsletters 2014
Points to ponder

Presbytery of Tropical Florida

In the 01/13/2014 edition:

- Presbytery Directory
- 2013 GA Reporting & Necrology
- Did you miss the 2013 Stewardship Workshops?
- Introducing: The Monday Minute
- Finance Desk
- Personal Cloud

Presbytery Directory

By Shari Lowe on Jan 13, 2014 03:18 pm

Please take a moment to go to www.tfpby.org and view the Presbytery directory which can be accessed from under Administrative Documents on the home page (mid left). Are we showing the most current information for your church? For our pastors? Please let me know if any updates are needed. The directory is password protected. Give me a call if you are unable to access this information.

Read in browser »

2013 GA Reporting & Necrology

By Shari Lowe on Jan 13, 2014 03:03 pm

Everyone should have received their log-in and password information to complete the annual statistical reporting to GA prior to Christmas week. Please go to http://oga.pcusa.org/stats and cross this off of your “to-do” list as soon as possible.

Thank you!

Read in browser »
Did you miss the 2013 Stewardship Workshops?
By Amalie Ash on Jan 13, 2014 02:40 pm

You have another opportunity!!!

First Presbyterian Pompano, aka The Pink Church, is co-hosting a Stewardship Workshop Jan 25th and they have extended an invitation to the rest of the Presbytery.

The three-hour workshop will be a fresh presentation by Rev. Charles Barton and Elder Janis Uopesclasis from the Hudson River Presbytery. These two leaders have been successful in implementing a “culture of generosity” in their churches.

This workshop is for Teaching Elders, Deacon, Trustees, Ruling Elders, Staff and Volunteers that are interested in building a more generous community. Bring your team!!

Jan 25th at the Pink Church – 2331 N.E. 26th Avenue, Pompano Beach - Off I-95
Take the Copans Road exit – head east.

Registration is 8am to 9am with Continental Breakfast - Workshop is 9am to Noon

Make a Reservation!! Call or email Shari before Jan 22. shari@tfpby.org or 954-785-2220 x4

P.S. Prepare for this event by reading Not Your Parents Offering Plate by J. Clif Christopher.

Introducing: The Monday Minute
By Amalie Ash on Jan 13, 2014 02:14 pm

Greetings Presbyters,

We are introducing the Monday Minute to provide a more timely communication to better assist your church leaders and staff.

This will replace the Presbytery Times which had become a quarterly newsletter. As a quarterly, or even monthly communication, our news was quickly out dated. In 2012, we tried an online newsletter. We were able to track the online readership and found minimal clicks on both stories and information. As you all know, newsletters take time to write and produce, the Presbytery Staff wanted to provide information that was timely and easy to produce, easy to access and economical and environmental.

The Monday Minute will be produced on Mondays and sent out Monday evenings. If your church has a special event, or your committee needs information or has announcement, the Monday Minute will be available for communicating to the Presbytery.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Blessings,

Amalie
Finance Desk
By itadmin on Jan 13, 2014 09:11 am

When preparing the W-2 for your employees with the Board of Pensions Traditional Insurance please remember to calculate the imputed cost of employer provided group term life insurance benefits.

Please go to The Board of Pensions website to the Taxation of Death Benefits Dues Calculator -


The amount calculated must be added to the W-2 or the death benefits are fully taxable at the time they are paid out.

Personal Cloud
By itadmin on Jan 08, 2014 01:06 pm

Have you thought about your own personal cloud with 1-4 terabytes of storage.

The primary appeal of the personal cloud is its ability to make data available to all devices at once, and then to share or sync that data to other users quickly and easily. The spreadsheet needed for the morning meeting is no longer locked away on the PC at home. As long as your mobile device has Web access, you’re good to go. Storage firms like Seagate and Western Digital have made personal cloud devices a top priority, with relatively low cost systems.
We are kicking off the New Year with brief messages for the week.

Points to ponder

Presbytery of Tropical Florida
In the 01/20/2014 edition:

- Financial Controls and Other Insights – Webinar

Financial Controls and Other Insights – Webinar
By Amalie Ash on Jan 14, 2014 03:40 pm

Employment disputes. Leadership drama. Financial crisis. These Director & Officer and Employee Dishonesty claims are disruptive and embarrassing at best. These are easily avoided by a better understanding of the important role of your church’s constitution and by-laws in assuring good management.

Building Trust, Preventing Disaster – Financial Controls & Other Insights

Jan 22 — 11AM & 3PM Eastern

Review of the related elements of church by-laws and basic principles of financial controls: separation of duties and audit. Added insights from claim experience

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

Phone: 954-785-2220
1-800-940-9511
Fax: 954-785-1983
Email: center@tfpby.org
and work with churches. Especially valuable for newly elected church leaders.

Please register for one of the sessions first!

Register at: https://insuranceboard.ilinc.com

Recent Articles:
Introducing: The Monday Minute
Presbytery Directory
2013 GA Reporting & Necrology
Did you miss the 2013 Stewardship Workshops?
Finance Desk

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Greetings Delphia

In this week's 02/03/2014 edition:

- Statistical Reports — 6% Response?
- March 1st Presbytery Meeting
- It’s February!
- IRS Form 990
- Congratulations: Riviera PC
- What’s happening?
- Unsubscribing Bulletin Subscriptions
- Presbytery Website Under Construction

Statistical Reports — 6% Response?

By Shari Lowe

The great lady at GA who attends to such things reports that 24% of the churches across the country have entered data. In the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, only 6% have begun. Past experience has proven that the closer it gets to the deadline (when system is shut off to churches on February 20th), the slower the system becomes. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please let me know.
March 1st Presbytery Meeting
By Shari Lowe

It’s totally awesome that registrations for Presbytery have begun coming in via the website. Really appreciate it and urge everyone who knows they will attend to go ahead and make yours. Please keep in mind that it is necessary to sign-in at the registration table on the day of Presbytery. We need to include the name of every elder (teaching or ruling) in attendance in the minutes.

Read in browser »

It’s February!
By Shari Lowe

That means if you are planning to submit a Necrology Report, and haven’t done so, it’s overdue! Please take a moment this week to send in the name(s) and date(s) of death of any ordained elder who entered the Church Triumphant in 2013 to be memorialized in our official minutes. Many thanks to those who have either submitted a report or have let me know “0” as requested.

Read in browser »

IRS Form 990
By Susan Carpenter

The Presbytery received a notice from the IRS asking us to file Form 990 - Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax.

We do not need to file this return.
The churches in PC(USA) do not need to file this return.

ALL non-profit organizations have to file this very difficult return BUT we as churches DO NOT HAVE TO FILE.

If you receive this request, don’t ignore. You need to respond to the request with a letter advising the IRS that you are a church and are exempt from form 990.

Read in browser »

Congratulations: Riviera PC
By Amalie Ash
Dear Presbytery of Tropical Florida,

I wanted to let you know that Riviera Presbyterian Church in Miami was recertified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Environmental Ministries through December 2014. This honor speaks to the great commitment that this congregation has to caring for God’s earth.

To become an Earth Care Congregation, Riviera Presbyterian Church originally affirmed the Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of their church life. It also completed projects and activities in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. It continues to grow and deepen its ministry.

The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that have made the commitment to take seriously God’s charge to “till and keep” the garden.

The Earth Care Congregations program was started in 2010 by PC(USA) Environmental Ministries. The goal of the program is to inspire churches to care for God’s earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all of church life. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that made that commitment, and encourages others to follow their lead.

For more information on the earth care program at Riviera Presbyterian Church contact Karen Picciano at picciano@bellsouth.net or 305-274-1934.

For more information on the Earth Care Congregations program go to www.pcusa.org/earth-care-congregations.

Please join me in celebrating the wonderful ministry of this good congregation

Rebecca Barnes
Associate for Environmental Ministries (PCUSA)
Presbyterian Mission Agency - Compassion, Peace & Justice Ministry- Presbyterian Hunger Program

What’s happening?
By Shari Lowe

We’d love to include your items of interest to share with the Presbytery. In our new format it is easier to do so. If you have a submission, please have it in by noon on Mondays.
Unsubscribing Bulletin Subscriptions
By Delphia Sullivan

We feel it is important to keep you up to date with news from around the Presbytery that comes up. However, if you prefer not to receive these bulletins, you may unsubscribe from this list. You can always check on what’s happening via our blog (which feeds into our Bulletin) and our website.

Presbytery Website Under Construction
By Delphia Sullivan

The Presbytery’s website will be undergoing some changes over the next few weeks. Please bear with us as we change the site and make it more user friendly.
Greetings Delphia

In this weeks 02/10/2014 edition:

- From the Interim Stated Clerk
- Pastors Compensation Reports
- Ministers at Large or in Other Service
- Your Help Is Needed
- Project for teachers and youth ministers
- Author Darrell Guder to Speak to Presbytery
- Sunrise PC Seeks P/T Bookkeeper
- Office Online

From the Interim Stated Clerk

By Delphia Sullivan

The Presbytery is reminded that ruling elders who attend Presbytery meetings, either special or stated meetings, are “commissioners,” not “representatives.” This is an intentional distinction made by our Constitution. Ruling elders are not sent to Presbytery as representatives of their Sessions. We believe that God, through the Holy Spirit, works in the hearts and minds of people as we meet together and as we prayerfully discern the will of God as we understand it. Therefore, a Session must not select a ruling elder commissioner based upon her/his opinion about a particular issue being considered, nor is a Session allowed in any way to instruct a ruling elder commissioner how to vote on any issue.
Pastors Compensation Reports
By Shari Lowe

The report forms for 2012-2013 which were distributed to be returned last month are overdue!

If you have misplaced yours, click here. We need to have every installed pastor’s report this month.

Then I can start asking for the 2014 information!

Please don’t make me call.

Read in browser »

Ministers at Large or in Other Service
By Shari Lowe

Have you completed and returned your Annual Report to the COM?

If not, please do so by February 24th. Thank you for your cooperation.

Many, many thanks to those who “just do it” and don’t need reminders!

Read in browser »

Your Help Is Needed
By Delphia Sullivan

The Committee on Nominations is seeking your help.

Persons with a passion to serve in the areas of New Church Development and Transformation are essential to the continuing life and mission of our Presbytery. New Church Development addresses the need to create and expand our ministry. This is crucial at this point due to the recent loss of established churches. Transformation is an exciting project through which you see churches in need respond to guidance and development.

Persons with some financial expertise are being sought for service on the Financial Resources Committee.

Please respond to Arlene Van Kirk, Chair of the Committee on nominations.
772-692-1363  ASVanKirk@comcast.net

Read in browser »
Project for teachers and youth ministers  
By Amalie Ash  

Answer the question in a doodle “If I could Invent One Thing to Make the World a Better Place.....”

http://www.google.com/doodle4google/start.html

Welcome to the 2014 Doodle 4 Google competition

Before there was an airplane, there were doodles of cool flying machines. And before there was a submarine, there were doodles of magical underwater sea explorers. Since the beginning of time, ideas big and small, practical and playful, have started out as doodles. And we’re ready for more. One talented young artist will see his or her artwork on the Google homepage and receive a $30,000 college scholarship and a $50,000 Google for Education technology grant for his or her school.

Closing date for entries is Thursday, March 20th.

Read in browser »

Author Darrell Guder to Speak to Presbytery  
By Shari Lowe

Darrell Guder is Princeton Theological Seminary’s Henry Winters Luce Professor of Missional and Ecumenical Theology. Dr. Guder received his Ph.D. from the University of Hamburg. As an ordained Presbyterian minister, he served as a student outreach pastor and as a faculty member of the Karlshohe College in the German Lutheran Church. His writing and teaching focus on the theology of the missional church, especially the theological implications of the paradigm shift to post-Christendom as the context for Christian mission in the West. He has served as secretary-treasurer of the American Society of Missiology (ASM) and was president of the ASM from 2007–2008. His scholarly translations include Otto Weber, Foundations of Dogmatics (2 vols.); Eberhard Jüngel, God as the Mystery of the World; Karl Barth, The Theology of the Reformed
Confessions (with Judith Guder; Eberhard Busch), and The Great Passion: An Introduction to the Theology of Karl Barth (with Judith Guder).

You are invited to join him following the March 1st meeting for a time of Question and Answer.

Darrell Guder bio as per Princeton Theol Seminary 2014

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Sunrise PC Seeks P/T Bookkeeper

By Shari Lowe

To work 8 hours on Monday. Works with Quick Books 2010 or latest version and Excel (required). Submit your resume to the attention of the Finance Team by email to thesunrisechurch@aol.com by fax to 305 821-6068

By mail: 18400 NW 68th Avenue, Miami, FL 33015

For full job description click here.

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Office Online

By Delphia Sullivan

Microsoft is readying a launch of new “Office Online” branding for its existing Office Web Apps. Office Online will roll out in the coming weeks, and Microsoft’s office.com site will be refreshed to accommodate the changes. The name change follows a similar rebrand for SkyDrive, which is now being christened OneDrive. It’s largely focused on making the online versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote more accessible and easy to find.

Microsoft will start using “Excel Online” and “Word Online” monikers instead of the slightly more confusing “Excel Web App” and “Word Web App” names that exist today. Office Web Apps are currently buried away in SkyDrive (OneDrive), where it’s not always obvious to consumers. Office Online should still be available through SkyDrive, but office.com will serve as an easy way to access the various web apps. The main focus is to ensure consumers are aware of the apps and they’re easy to find.

Office Online is listed prominently as the free option, alongside Office 365 Home Premium (for $9.99 per month) and Office 365 University (for $79.99 for four years).
Greetings Delphia

In this weeks 02/17/2014 edition:

- The Spire Series Presents Mozart
- Are you ready for Lent?
- African American Eco-Leadership and Divestment with Rev. Lennox Yearwood
- This Thursday is Stats Deadline
- Countdown to Presbytery
- APA is meeting in Delray Beach May 14-18, 2014
- Presbytery Wide Bible Study - January 25, 2014
- Per Capita Apportionment
- Moderator Gill passes the gavel
- Part-Time Music Director

**The Spire Series Presents Mozart**

*By Presbytery Contributor*

You are invited to a very special performance on Sunday, February 23rd, 4:00 p.m. at the Pink Church (First PC, Pompano Beach).

Please see attached flyer for information. You may also call the Music Office at 954-941-2308 ext. 112 or visit www.pinkpres.org.

Contributed by Mark Jones

Read in browser »
Are you ready for Lent?
By Amalie Ash

2014 Lenten Devotional Cross-Bound from Presbyterians Today

The cross-bound life seeks not to glorify the Christian but to glorify Christ. The cross-bound life serves and sacrifices and endures. It relies on Jesus’ strength in order to follow Jesus’ example of setting his face toward Calvary—not for his own benefit but for ours. Like Jesus’ original disciples, we often resist the cross. This Lenten study invites readers instead to embrace it. The devotion begins on Ash Wednesday, and with each day will travel through the last week of Jesus’ life as told in the Gospel of Luke. Each daily meditation includes a prayer and a Scripture reading. Chip Hardwick, author of this year’s devotional, is the director of Theology, Worship, and Education for the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PCUSA.

In 2013, Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church in South Carolina invited artist Staci Sarkowski to paint interpretations of each Lenten and Easter Sunday sermon. Her original artwork, along with brief reflections, serves as a parallel devotional in this year’s guide.

Order copies for your congregation now while supplies last and to ensure delivery before Lent.

2014 Lenten Devotional Discount Pricing
1 copy, $4.50
2-9 copies, $3.50 each
10-99 copies, $2.50 each
100-249 copies, $1.95 each
250+ copies, $1.65 each
Shipping: 10% of order, $5.25 minimum

Order online http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/lent2014/
or call 800-524-2612 and ask for PDS 17116-13-013.

Read in browser »

African American Eco-Leadership and Divestment with Rev. Lennox Yearwood
By Amalie Ash

From Greenfaith.org: African American communities suffer badly from climate change—but their voices aren’t heard often enough on these issues. GreenFaith wants to change that.
Join us for a Black History Month webinar on **African American Eco-Leadership and Divestment** with Rev. Lennox Yearwood, President of the Hip Hop Caucus.

Register for the Feb. 27 webinar now. Webinar is free and will provide a recording link.

Rev. Yearwood, Jr. is a minister and community activist who serves as President of the Hip Hop Caucus, a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that empowers young people to participate in elections, policymaking and service projects. In 2010 he was named **one of the 100 most powerful African Americans by Ebony Magazine**. He has led a campaign to ensure the rights of survivors of Hurricane Katrina, and has spoken alongside Bill McKibben at a number of climate change rallies.

There are over 650,000 Hip Hop Caucus supporters across the country. 70% are under the age of 40. 60% are women and a majority are African American and Latino, with a large White contingent, as well as Asian American and Native American representation.

GreenFaith looks forward to Rev. Yearwood’s message about the vital importance of action on climate change for the African American community - and why fossil fuel divestment is an important commitment for faith communities.

Register even if you can’t join us live - we’ll send you the recording link. Register for the webinar now.

Greenfaith.org

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**This Thursday is Stats Deadline**

*By Shari Lowe*

The GA Statistical Reporting System will be turned off late on the 20th. So-o-o, are you finished yet?

Many thanks to those churches who have completed (or are about to complete) their reporting. Don’t wait until the last day because your patience will be sorely tested (system gets really slow). If you complete the workbook pages and fax them to me (name of church at top of every page), I will see that your church information gets in. As I believe everyone knows, I take this report very seriously and always hope and pray for 100% compliance. Please do your part to make this so!

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**Countdown to Presbytery**
By Shari Lowe

Presbytery meets at First Delray Beach on March 1st.

Packets will be posted on our website tomorrow and mailed to our churches. Now is the time to register. You may do so through our website, www.tfpby.org; sending me an email, shari@tfpby.org or calling the office, 954-785-2220. Please register this week!

APA is meeting in Delray Beach May 14-18, 2014
By Shari Lowe

The Florida Region of the Administrative Personnel Association will be holding its annual conference right here on our home turf! This is an excellent opportunity for administrative professionals in our Presbytery to virtually try out membership without commitment. Nancy Fine, Office Manager/Certified Church Administrator at First Delray will be installed as the Regional President at this meeting. Linked to this message is a brochure including registration form. Please take a moment to look it over. Some great training opportunities are being offered. More to follow.

Presbytery Wide Bible Study – January 25, 2014
By Presbytery Contributor

Faith in the Midst of Community Disaster by Rev. Joan LeRoy Abell

Presbyterian Women of Tropical Florida were able to successfully hold another Bible study highlighting the presence of a particular author. Our very own Rev. Joan LeRoy Abell had the opportunity to teach a few women representing four churches from across our Presbytery. Collectively, we learned that our faith informs how we deal with disaster— not only strengthening and giving hope; but also shaping how we help others rebuild and experience that hope. This Bible study on disaster preparedness is available online at http://www.presbyterianmission.org/media/uploads/pda/pdfs/faithamidstdisaster.pdf.

We are grateful to Rev. Abell and the gifts she has shared with us during this study. We encourage all congregations and ministerial staff to use this study soon.

Contributed by Rev. CC Armstrong
Per Capita Apportionment
By Susan Carpenter

So what exactly is “per capita,” and what kinds of things does it fund? Traditionally, per capita monies are given by congregations to the larger Church (presbytery, synod, and General Assembly) in order to fund the things that are needed to keep staff and programs in place that the Church has determined to be “necessary ecclesiastical expenses.” If you’d like to find out more about per capita, there is a link on our website to a flyer that explains this in more detail. Feel free to look it up here.

Read in browser »

Moderator Gill passes the gavel
By Presbytery Contributor

In June, 1989, a young pastor and his family came to the sleepy town of Boynton Beach to serve as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Boynton Beach. In many respects, it seems like yesterday. Rev. Dr. Randall M. Gill announced that he would be retiring effective March 1, 2014. It is with much sadness for the congregation of First Boynton as they wish the Gills farewell. A celebration of honor and reflection will be given in their honor. The congregation at First Boynton is grateful to have had a pastor with such great devotion to his Lord and his flock. He will be missed by all. If you have known Randy, Ann & Laura from way back when, or just recently, please feel free to send cards and letters of fond farewell wishes to First Presbyterian Church of Boynton Beach, 235 SW 6th Avenue, Boynton Beach, FL 33435.

Read in browser »

Part-Time Music Director
By Presbytery Contributor

http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=84e6a8f8964ce43fe4477f1c1d&i=9e4acb16f9&e=8f43f7b356
1400 N. Federal Hwy. Ft. Lauderdale 33304

Seeking a part-time music director.
He or she must be able to demonstrate competence via experience and education of both traditional and contemporary music.
He or she must have abilities in organ performance, piano performance, choral directing and knowledge of sacred music.
We would like to create a service that is truly blended.
Our prayer is that this person will grow this position into a full time ministry.

Please send job resumes:
Pastor Dwayne Black
1400 N. Federal Hwy. Ft. Lauderdale 33304
or Dwaynelblack@gmail.com

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Leave a Blog Comment

Facebook Share Forward to Friend

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Greetings Delphia

In this week’s 02/24/2014 edition:

- Presbytery Meets in Delray on Saturday
- GA Reports
- Couldn’t Have Said It Better!
- BOP Regional Benefits Conference
- Seminar
- IRS Mileage Rate
- Lenten Wednesdays at the Pink Church
- Name Change for Cursillo
- Home Networking Vulnerability

Presbytery Meets in Delray on Saturday
By Shari Lowe

Last call for registration/lunch reservations!
This is the first meeting of the year wherein we will be installing our new 2014 Moderator Rev. Pedro Rivera and thanking Dr. Randy Gill who, in addition to turning over the gavel, is being Honorably Retired. During worship we will remember those Elders who left us during 2013. Under normal circumstances we have only
four meetings a year. Yes, there is business and sometimes debates. However, there is also time for fellowship with your colleagues. Won’t you join us? You may register online at www.tfpby.org or by email to shari@tfpby.org.

**GA Reports**
*By Shari Lowe*

As I believe every clerk knows, the deadline to enter the GA Statistical Report was the 20th at midnight. I have been in contact with someone at every church who has not filed a report. Have you responded and sent in your workbook pages so that I am able to submit your information? Fax to 954-785-1983. The Clerks Annual Questionnaire may be faxed to the Presbytery as well. More on this next week when I see who remains outstanding.

**Couldn’t Have Said It Better!**
*By Presbytery Contributor*

More and more we seem to be a society that is divisive. As you’ll read later in this edition of Monday in Ministry, the Synod is seriously addressing the issues of racism in our area. Our nation continues to grapple with this, as seen in the horrors related to the shooting death in Florida of black teenager, Jordan Davis, by a white adult, Michael Dunn, after Davis allegedly refused to turn down what Dunn referred to as “thug music.”

Much of the nation read with stunned disbelief the news that the Kansas House of Representatives recently passed a bill “allowing individuals and businesses with sincerely held religious beliefs to discriminate against same-(gender) couples without fear of lawsuits.” (from the Huffington Post, emphasis added) Some Christians apparently supported this legislation, while other Christians around the country clearly condemn what many see as hate laws such as this.

As I reflect and pray about the upcoming General Assembly of our Church, I’m aware anew that divisiveness is not just endemic in our secular society; it also is a part of the Church. One would hope that such is not the case within the Body of Christ, but we all know it to be true. Trust is threadbare. Motives are suspect. Sincerity of faith is questioned. Theological positions are ridiculed.

I find both hope and challenge in re-reading a document adopted by the 204th General Assembly (1992) for use in the Church. It is called, “Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement.” (The whole document can
be found here.) Drawn from Biblical passages such as John 7:51, Proverbs 18:13, Ephesians 4:15, and Ephesians 4:3, the General Assembly asked the Church to observe the following 10 guidelines during times of disagreement and/or conflict:

1. Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ.
2. Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.
3. State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.
4. Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus’ teachings.
5. Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people’s motives, intelligence or integrity.
6. Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more faithfully understand our concerns.
7. Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.
8. Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension.
9. Follow these additional guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:
   1. promise to listen seriously to other viewpoints
   2. seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement
   3. be sensitive to the feelings of those who do not agree with the majority
   4. abide by the decision of the majority
10. Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God’s grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.

Reading through these, they seem pretty straightforward, pretty logical, pretty sound, pretty easy, don’t they? And that’s true... until we find ourselves in the midst of serious disagreements. Then it’s easy for hurts and anger to reign, and divisiveness once again becomes the not-desired outcome.

Jesus still holds out for us a different way, a different model, a different path in which to walk. And, who knows? If we can learn more faithfully to live that way in the Church, it might even begin to spill over and impact our whole society.

Used with permission of Steve Plank, Stated Clerk/Communicator, Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery

BOP Regional Benefits Conference
By Shari Lowe

Several members of the Presbytery will be attending the Regional Benefits Conference of the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) the end of April in Philadelphia. This will be an important opportunity to learn about some of the major changes that will be taking effect in 2015 concerning the availability and costs of major medical coverage. Those who attend will provide opportunities for “redelivery” to discuss these changes.

Read in browser »
Seminar
By Susan Carpenter

April 5, 2014 Saturday at Second Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale
April 26, 2014 Saturday at Grace Presbyterian Church in Lantana

TIME - 10 AM - 12 Noon

Redelivery of Financial Information from the Mid Council Financial Networking Conference in New Orleans, November 2013

Come learn all the latest financial, stewardship, trends, IRS information.

Handouts *** Questions Answered *** Discussions

Call and RESERVE your spot.
Call Susan Carpenter
Financial Administrator, Presbytery of Tropical Florida
954-785-2220

IRS Mileage Rate
By Susan Carpenter

2014 Business Mileage Rate $ .56

Lenten Wednesdays at the Pink Church
By Shari Lowe

Those who are in the vicinity might appreciate that during March and April First Pompano Beach will be presenting Bach’s Lunch Lenten Organ Series — Wednesdays at Noon.

Featuring the new Jeffri W. Bantz Memorial Pipe Organ, enjoy lunch and a concert for your lunch hour as follow:
Wednesday - March 12 Organist Mark Jones with NY Philharmonic Oboist Joseph Robinson
Wednesday -March 19 Organist Diana Akers, owner of organist.net
Wednesday -March 26 Organist Mark Jones with Pianist Jon Robertson
Wednesday -April 2 Organist Mark Jones with Harpist Kay Kemper
Wednesday - April 9 Organist Mark Jones with Classical Saxophonist Andrea Gilbert
$10 suggested donation includes luncheon on the Patio and concert program

Name Change for Cursillo
By Delphia Sullivan
Cursillo has changed their name to Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage. You can still access their website using the old website address.

Home Networking Vulnerability
By Delphia Sullivan
In 2014, vulnerable routers, NAS boxes, and other connected devices are leaving our home networks wide open to attack.

Worst-case scenario? Strangers from anywhere in the world can access your files, slip malware into your network, or use your own security cameras to spy on you—all without ever laying a finger on your hardware.

Some older Linksys E-Series routers and Wireless-N routers and access points are vulnerable to a malware infection—dubbed TheMoon—that leaves a self-replicating worm behind.

Things To Do: Full Article

- Change your administrator password. Just about every router around ships with a common (to that brand/model) default login and password.
- Change the SSID - Your router’s SSID can reveal a lot about the router, the most obvious of which is the maker/model number. If someone knows the make/model of your router they can, easily fetch the default login. Even if you’ve changed the default login, they can still use information about the router number to check for vulnerabilities.
- Set a Secure Wi-Fi Password with Quality Encryption. You’ll typically have options available like WEP, WPA, and WPA2. Select WPA2 (or, to future proof this advice, whatever better encryption comes along).
- Disable Remote Access

Read the full article on vulnerabilities
Greetings Delphia

In this week's 03/03/2014 edition:

- First Delray Hosts Presbytery Meeting
- Passing the Gavel
- Special Guest: Professor Darrel Guder
- Inquirer: Minkook Mike Um
- Introducing Dr. Russ Ritchel
- Rev. Dr. Thomas Tewell at First Delray
- Annual Gathering Presbyterian Women
- Multicultural Award - Dwayne Black, Jr
- Randy Gill Retires February 23
- Generosity Workshop DVDs
- Hobe Sound celebrates Chip's Doctorate
- IRS
- Health Insurance Presentation
- Website Makeover

First Delray Hosts Presbytery Meeting
By Amalie Ash
March 1st the members of the Presbytery gatherer at First Delray Beach; hosted by Dr. Doug Hood and Associate Pastor, Jesse Higginbotham and the wonderful volunteers at First Delray. The service, designed by Worship Chair, Diane Shoaf and members of the worship committee, lifted the names of the presbyters that passed in 2013; communion was celebrated. Outgoing moderator, Randy Gill, preached on being fishers of people and how that should look in today's context. The highlights of the meeting: the worship with First Delray's rocking organist, Donald Cannarozzi, leading us in great hymns; inspiring sermon; the delicious box lunches from Jason’s, the quick reports and engaging speaker, Professor Guder. Doug Hood’s hospitality and Nancy Fine and Shari Lowe’s organization gave us a smooth and uplifting gathering. Thank you to everyone at First Delray!

Reading the Gavel

By Amalie Ash

The Moderator’s gavel was passed to Pedro Riviera at the Presbytery meeting Saturday March 1. Pedro has a theme of being Missional for the coming year. This is Pedro’s second time as moderator of the Presbytery; his first was in 1992 and he lead the presbytery through the year of Hurricane Andrew. He is the pastor at Sunrise Presbyterian in Hialeah.

Randy Gill completed his term as Moderator of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, passed the moderators cross to Pedro.

Special Guest: Professor Darrel Guder

By Amalie Ash

To kick-off the new Moderator’s term, Pedro Riviera, invited Princeton Professor Darrel
Guder to speak to the presbytery. Dr Guder is the author of the Missional Church (1998) that set a new course for congregations. Professor Guder spoke on the challenges of today’s church and the pressures from a changing society. He encouraged the listeners to look at the new ways ministry is being done outside the mainline churches and the work being done in western Europe. He pointed to the western cultures as the new mission field. Professor Guder was generous with his time meeting with several pastors Friday and Saturday night for dinner.

Inquirer: Minkook Mike Um
By Amalie Ash

Minkook Mike Um from Korean Presbyterian Church Miami (Cooper City) was voted in as an Inquirer. He was introduced to the Presbytery by CPM Chair, Shirley Saunders. Congratulations Mike and keep the faith on the journey to ministry.

Introducing Dr. Russ Ritchel
By Amalie Ash

Dr. Russ Ritchel will be serving as the interim minister at First Ft Lauderdale. Russ is a member of the Salem Presbytery. He comes to us from Vanderbilt Presbyterian in Naples, Fl. In his 34 years of ministry he has served at Yorkminster, Yorktown, VA, First Presbyterian Winston-Salem, First Presbyterian Midland, TX and First Presbyterian Colorado Springs, CO.

Please welcome Russ to the Presbytery of Tropical Florida.
Rev. Dr. Thomas Tewell at First Delray
By Amalie Ash

First Delray’s Preacher Series welcomes Rev. Dr. Thomas Tewell this weekend March 8th and 9th. Dr. Tewell currently serves as the Executive Director of Faith-Based Ministries in Atlanta. He has served congregations at Memorial Drive PC in Houston, Fifth Avenue PC in New York as well as congregations in Bethlehem, PA, and New Providence, NJ. Dr Tewell is in demand to speak at conferences, seminars and has taught preaching, leadership and stewardship at various seminaries and divinity schools. He served as a Trustee for Princeton Seminary for 15 years.

He will be the guest speaker Saturday evening during dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 (cost: $8.00). And will be the guest preacher at both worship services (9am and 10:30am). If you wish to attend the dinner please call the church office 561-276-6338.

Annual Gathering Presbyterian Women
By Presbytery Contributor

When: Saturday, March 15, 2014 at 10 a.m.
Where: Ascension Peace Presbyterian Church
2701 State Road Seven
Lauderhill, Florida 33313

“From Silver to Gold”
Speaker: Churchwide Moderator Mary Jorgenson

Download the Registration Form

Send check for $8.00 (lunch) by March 10, 2014 made payable to:
Presbyterian Women of Tropical Florida c/o:
Kenly Drummond,
706 N Hepburn Ave, Jupiter, FL 33458

Multicultural Award - Dwayne Black, Jr
By Amalie Ash

Dwayne Black, Jr. received from St. Thomas University and Biscayne College’s Counseling
Graduate program an award for outstanding contribution to multicultural counseling at St. Thomas University. Congratulations to Dwayne, our past moderator and student-pastor of The Sanctuary Church (Second Presbyterian) in Fort Lauderdale.

Randy Gill Retires February 23
By Amalie Ash

Dr. Randy Gill retired from First Boynton Beach after 25 years of service. One of Randy’s special talents is painting; he donated one of his paintings to the church, where it will be installed in the narthex. Randy will continue his work with the Boynton Beach Historical Society, working on his painting and teaching at The Kings Academy in West Palm Beach. His wife, Ann, will continue to teach special education at The Kings Academy where she has taught for 13 years.

Randy and Ann’s ministry were celebrated at the festive dinner Feb 22, there was an emotional and touching Sunday service Feb 23. Randy’s friends told stories, shared meaningful moments and acknowledged his ministry made a difference for many in the church and the community. Happy days of retirement, Randy!

Generosity Workshop DVDs
By Amalie Ash

The Pink Church created DVDs from the January ’14 Generosity Workshop. We have two copies for churches to borrow along with the handouts. If you need a refresher or wish to share with your session please contact the office for a copy. So that everyone has a chance to view them they are on loan for 10 days per church.

Contact Shari to reserve a copy!

Hobe Sound celebrates Chip’s Doctorate

http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=84e6a8f8964ce43fe447fc1df&id=e70d78ca59&e=8f43f7b356
By Amalie Ash

Sunday March 2, Hobe Sound gathered to celebrate Chip Falcone’s Doctorate in Ministry. Chip’s focus is on building up men in our congregations. Over the last few years Chip has shared some of his learning and those who have heard him agree that he has studied an overlook demographic in our congregations. He is sharing his learning and materials with the presbytery. The actual graduation ceremony will be in May at Gordon Conwell in Massachusetts. Congratulations to Chip and Aimee Falcone on this life accomplishment.

IRS
By Susan Carpenter

IRS is “asking”/”requiring” all organizations with EINS to help them “update” their database by filing Form 8822-B. This is an informational form required when there is a change of address or responsible party. Responsible Party is the individual that directly or indirectly manages or directs an entity and the dispositions of its funds or assets. In our churches this would be the Treasurer, the Chair of Finance, the Clerk of Session or even the Pastor. Please go to this location on the IRS website to obtain the form.

Please call me with any questions.

File this form by March 1, 2014.

Health Insurance Presentation
By Presbytery Contributor
Saturday, March 15 10 a.m.-12 noon, Herman Koch, representing Florida Blue, will be presenting information regarding the changes in Health Insurance that have occurred over the past few years.

He will also be available after the presentation to answer any questions. This will prove to be informative and educational.

Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive Miami, FL 33143

RSVP to 305-666-8586
www.rivierachurch.org

Mark this on your calendars. You won’t want to miss it.
You will not be approached to purchase insurance at this event.
FREE EVENT

Website Makeover
By Delphia Sullivan

As we mentioned a few weeks ago, the Presbytery website will be undergoing some changes over the next few weeks to make it more informative for our communities.

The first stage has been completed and is now active. The regularly accessed information and documents are now on the home page. We welcome your feedback.

http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=84e6a8f8964ce43fe447fc1df&id=e70d78ca59&e=8f43f7b356
Greetings Delphia

In this week's 03/10/2014 edition:

- Stewardship Workshop DVDs
- Reminder: Teaching Elders - Marriage Discussions This Week
- Churches Coming Together
- Webinar – Preaching the Easter Sermon
- 4th Awakening - Diana Butler Bass
- God has appointed some in the church...administrators
- COM Section Added to website
- A new Windows 8.1 update tries to win back desktop diehards

Stewardship Workshop DVDs

By Shari Lowe

The most recent Stewardship Workshop was filmed which gives us the ability to redeliver the message to your congregation as requested. Thanks to the Shines, the office has 2 (double-set) DVDs which may be borrowed by any church for a limited time period. Please call the office to get on the list. You will receive a complete packet of the information that was distributed at the training and a double DVD set which will give you the presentation. The materials will be yours to keep but the DVDs must be returned in the agreed upon timeframe. I look forward to hearing from you.

Reminder: Teaching Elders - Marriage Discussions This Week

By Shari Lowe

Teaching Elders: If you are planning to attend, have you contacted the Presbytery office? Discussions will be held at Lakeside on March 13th and Miami Shores on the 14th. Both sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be served at noon. Let me know ASAP if planning to attend. Thank you.
**Churches Coming Together**  
*By Amalie Ash*

This weekend volunteers from Riviera PC joined by the PCUSA DOOR youth arrived at Pan American for a work day. TE Eve Tolley organized the day to help Pan American build an outside play ground. After a new fence was installed, the team went to work with shovels and hard work to turn a small grassy area into a usable play area. Thank you Riviera and DOOR for supporting a neighboring church.

[Read in browser »](http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=84e6a8f8964ce43fe447fc1df&id=9093b03574&e=8f43f7b356)

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**Webinar - Preaching the Easter Sermon**  
*By Amalie Ash*

Join in a webinar Tuesday, March 18 at 2 p.m. ET with Thomas Long.

The Easter story is so familiar - what about it can stir afresh the imagination of worshipers? How can we meet the hearers’ charged expectations? The theme of resurrection is a challenging claim - how shall we climb that theological mountain? This webinar will help you:

- Jumpstart planning for this year’s Easter sermon;
- Recast the message of the power of the Resurrection;
- Explore the possibilities for sermons in some of the classic Easter biblical texts, including those in this year’s lectionary.

The live broadcast will include a Q&A segment so you can ask your questions! For more details go to the Outlook website:  

Thomas Long is the Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta and previously taught preaching at Princeton, Columbia and Erskine Seminaries. He is the author of numerous books and articles on preaching and worship and served as the senior homiletics editor of “The New Interpreter’s Bible.” His latest books are *Accompany Them with Singing: The Christian Funeral Preaching from Memory to Hope What Shall We Say? Evil, Suffering, and the Crisis of Faith*, and *The Good Funeral: Death, Grief, and the Community of Care* (with Thomas Lynch).

[Read in browser »](http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=84e6a8f8964ce43fe447fc1df&id=9093b03574&e=8f43f7b356)

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**4th Awakening - Diana Butler Bass**  
*By Amalie Ash*

Last weekend several TFP pastors gathered at the Coral Gables UCC to hear Theologian in Residence, Diana Butler Bass, recognized professor, author and minister. Professor Bass discussed the impact on today’s changing demographics and where church is currently positioned in history.

“We are in the middle of a new spiritual awakening ... an awakening that moves beyond religious institutions and follows the movement of the Holy Spirit into new expressions of being Christian. This is a space to explore the terrain of politics, culture and spiritual practices in light of this historic spiritual era.”

Seeking perspectives on a broader view of church participation, ministry, and religion’s relevance helps to reduce the anxiety facing our church leaders. Understanding Diana Butler Bass’s perspective of our place in a 4th Great Awakening was reassuring.

See: Christianity After Religion:*The End of Church and the Beginning of a New Awakening* by Diana Butler Bass, HarperOne 03/13
God has appointed some in the church... administrators
By Presbytery Contributor

What is Church Administration? - a gift from God. Training can equip you, but God is the only one who can call and empower you to serve effectively in your role. Good administration is getting others to work together. Church administration is a ministry centered on people, not techniques and paperwork. It is an art of management, not manipulation. It requires faith in God, sensitivity, integrity, timing, administrative skills, and resourcefulness. Have you ever noticed that some church administrators are able to influence and lead people? Their warm smile, sincere concern, and inviting attitude just naturally draw people to them. However, they so offer so much more: They are organized, decisive, creative problem-solvers, excellent decision makers, resourceful, and adept at peace-making.

Continue Reading

COM Section Added to website
By Delphia Sullivan

We have added a Committee on Ministry section to the Home Page of our website. We will be adding relevant material to this section in the next few weeks. Currently posted are the Scholarship Application and the Revised COM Manual.

A new Windows 8.1 update tries to win back desktop diehards
By Delphia Sullivan

With its second major update to Windows 8 in less than 18 months, Microsoft is trying to ease the pain for Windows users who are befuddled by the Windows 8 interface on conventional PCs. Here’s what you can expect. Will it be enough to calm the troubled waters? Here is a list of some of the changes that will take place after next month’s update. Or you can read about them in more detail.

- Desktop programs and Windows Store apps on the same taskbar
- Previewing Windows Store apps from the taskbar
- The taskbar is available from anywhere
- A title bar for Windows Store apps
- Taskbar options when multiple apps are open
- Fine-tuning for Internet Explorer 11
- Disk space at a glance

If you would rather have your have your PC feel more familiar then here are the Top 5 tweaks.
...God has appointed some in the church... administrators.

I Corinthians 12:28 (Amplified Bible)

The following from churchadministrationblog.org resonates for me, but also serves to raise awareness of the importance of this vital role in the Church, including furthering the education of same. As you read, be grateful for those who faithfully serve as bridges of support and wisdom. If your support staff has not joined APA, I encourage your budgeting to enable them to do so (G-2.1102, Book of Order). Our 2014 Florida Conference brochure is at www.floridaapa.org. They can start in Delray Beach this May! SG

What is Church Administration? - a gift from God. Training can equip you, but God is the only one who can call and empower you to serve effectively in your role. Good administration is getting others to work together. Church administration is a ministry centered on people, not techniques and paperwork. It is an art of management, not manipulation. It requires faith in God, sensitivity, integrity, timing, administrative skills, and resourcefulness. Have you ever noticed that some church administrators are able to influence and lead people? Their warm smile, sincere concern, and inviting attitude just naturally draw people to them. However, they so offer so much more: They are organized, decisive, creative problem-solvers, excellent decision makers, resourceful, and adept at peace-making.

You have been entrusted with an amazing ministry that will impact lives, help direct and bring order where needed, aiding the expansion of the kingdom of God. You assist in planning and preparing community events to touch lives. You have days where you experience sheer joy in this ministry, and days when you will feel overwhelmed, under qualified, and ill-equipped. But, it is in those days that you will draw on the strength of the call from God “for such a time as this.”

Contact me or go to our Florida Region website (www.floridaapa.org) for more information on joining APA, and to REGISTER NOW for our Florida Region Conference held from May 14-18. See you there!

Resurrection Blessings,

Sharon

Sharon Gowdy, CA I
Membership Chair
Florida Region of the APA
sgowdy@timschurch.org
813.949.1239
GA's Director of Theology at TFP

The Rev. Dr. Charles "Chip" Hardwick, Director of Theology, Worship and Education for the General Assembly visited Tropical Florida last week. He was invited to discuss the 221st General Assembly overtures concerning marriage and to help facilitate a conversation on the issues. Teaching Elders gathered at Lakeside Presbyterian and Miami Shores Presbyterian to discuss the challenges, concerns and hopes facing the church today. Dr. Laurie Kraus (PDA) joined Chip as a member of Tropical Florida Presbytery to bring an alternative perspective. The two gatherings gave Teaching Elders a chance to talk together and hear the opinions of their peers. Thank you to Lakeside's Nathan McConnell and Miami Shores' Hallie Hottle for hosting the gatherings.

Have you seen the new website?

In February we launched the new presbytery website. The new site is designed to address one goal; to answer your questions. We had our website analyzed and it was determined that the primary reason people use the website is to find answers. That a simple and fast site was important and that the site needed to be easy to access from a smart phone or tablet. Delphi had the site compared for speed and it is 43% faster than similar sites.

Currently we are reviewing every document to make sure everything is accurate. We will be adding more information - videos; next addition will be addressing frequently asked COM questions by the Committee on Ministry Chair, Leon Lowell-Martin.

Please let us know if you find something that needs to be corrected or if you want something added. This is your website to help your congregation and committee.
In this season of Lent, there are opportunities for us to look again at who we are, to make changes in our lives, because we are reminded that You are able to resurrect us into a new life, and our part in that is to let go of the old things, the old ways, the habits that are so unlovely. We are called this season to fast from those things and we listen to Your Spirit as You tell us in the language of love that we should...

- Fast from worry and feast on divine order, by trusting in You, God;
- Fast from complaining, and feast on appreciation;
- Fast on the negatives in life, and feast on the affirmations.

Help us to fast from unrelenting pressures, and feast on unceasing prayer;
- to fast from hostility and feast on nonresistance,
- to fast from bitterness and feast on forgiveness.

Help us God to fast from self-concern and to feast on compassion for others,
- to fast from the shadows of sorrow and to feast on the sunlight of serenity.
Remind us, God, to fast from idle gossip, and to feast instead on purposeful silence,
- To fast from judging others, and feast on the Christ within them.

During this season we want to fast from the emphasis on differences,
- and feast on the unity in life,
- to fast from apparent darkness, and feast on the reality of light;
- to fast from thoughts of illness, and feast on the healing power of You, God,
- to fast from words that pollute, and feast on phrases that purify.
Help us to fast from discontent, and to feast on gratitude.

During this season, and for all seasons,
- we want to fast from anger and feast on optimism,
- to fast from personal anxiety, and feast on eternal truth,
- to fast from discouragement and feast on hope,
- to fast from all the facts in this world that depress us,
- and feast on those truths that uplift us.
Dear God in this season, help us to fast from all the thoughts that tell us we are less than who we really are, and to feast on the truth of Your love that calls us as Your beloved children.

And in this season, as in all the seasons to come, God, we ask You to Help us to fast from fear, and to feast on love.

**Resources – Presbyterian Mission**

Email Gail Strange at pma@pcusa.org and sign up to receive the Presbyterian Mission monthly email.

There are wonderful resources this month on:

- Celebrating the Gifts of Women
- Discernment Guide for New Worshiping Communities
- Youth Book Club based on the book *Divergent*
- Mission programs
- and upcoming trainings and conferences

Take advantage of the resources available through PC(USA).
Greetings Delphia

In this weeks 03/24/2014 edition:

- Presbytery Meeting - March 1st
- Lake Worth Elders: Planning a Future
- Youth Concert at Pink Church
- GA Youth Choir

Presbytery Meeting - March 1st
By Presbytery Contributor

The Presbytery of Tropical Florida convened for its regular stated meeting on March 1 at First Presbyterian Church, Delray Beach. The Host Pastor, Rev. Dr. Doug Hood, welcomed the Presbytery.

The Moderator, Rev. Dr. Randy Gill, opened the meeting with prayer. This being his last meeting as Moderator, Dr. Gill peached on being “fishers of men” or as the new RJV says “fish for people”. It is our responsibility as Christ’s disciples to present Jesus as the Savior of the world and our personal Lord and Savior. Forgiveness, Salvation and Eternal Life come to those who let Jesus into their hearts.

Dr. Gill asked the Constitutional Questions of the new Moderator, Rev. Pedro Rivera. This is his second term as our Moderator. Holy Communion was celebrated and we remembered those Teaching and Ruling Elders who had passed in the previous year. The Presbytery began its business.

The Council Consent Agenda was adopted. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry
presented two Inquirerers. The Committee on Ministry asked the Presbytery to approve the Honorable Retirement of Dr. Gill, who has completed 25 years of service as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Boynton Beach. COM also presented Ms. Amalie Ash our Presbytery Administrator to have her call approved and to be enrolled as a Presbytery member. After examination, Amalie was approved with great joy. The Presbytery adjourned for lunch.

When the Presbytery reconvened Moderator Rivera introduced our guest speaker, Professor Darrell Guder of Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Guder described the church in 2014 America as being like the church in the first century AD. The church has been effectively dis-established. We no longer have a privileged position but must present Jesus to a world that does not want to take Jesus seriously. Today there are so many distractions that pull people away from the truth. It is the truth that will set us free.

The Presbytery resumed its business with committees and task forces reporting. The Youth and Young Adult Task Force spoke about their upcoming youth retreat. They have had a very successful registration. The Presbytery adjourned at 2:20 p.m. to meet on June 3, 2014, at Community Presbyterian Church, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. Moderator Rivera closed us with prayer.

Dr. Albert W. Bush, Jr.
Interim Stated Clerk

Lake Worth Elders: Planning a Future
By Amalie Ash

Saturday March 22, sixteen Elders, staff and leaders met for their first retreat in many years. The group was joined by members of the recently closed Methodist Church.

Teaching Elder, Joan Abell started with a meditation on Abraham’s obedient response to God’s call in his later years. Joan gave the group six categories to consider: Worship, Nurture, Building, Finance, Service and Welcoming. They then chose items in each, to be accomplished in year 1, year 3 and year 5.
For their first year they are committed to a new website and social media; to clean and organize buildings and remove asbestos; to build a relationship with PBA students in the “Workship” program and more.

Let's watch what Lake Worth is doing to reinvigorate their congregation as they prepare for their 100th anniversary in 2015.

Read in browser »
Read in browser »
Read in browser »

Youth Concert at Pink Church
By Presbytery Contributor

You are invited to a FREE youth concert on Palm Sunday at 4:00 PM at the Pink Church.

The band is the Doerfels and they are all brothers. They are one of the most exciting and unique new bands to come along in a very long time. Their music has a blend of acoustic and electric instruments which you don’t see a lot these days. Tho they started out in the bluegrass industry back in 2001, they consider their upcoming album to be mostly alternative music. Their outstanding musicianship and their enthusiasm seem to just draw you in and make you feel a part of the music itself.

We really hope you and your youth can make it.

Take a look at the link below and listen to a few of their songs!
http://www.thedoerfels.com/#!music/c10tw

Blessings,
Keith Cavanaugh
Director, Youth & Family Ministries

GA Youth Choir
By Presbytery Contributor

A mass youth choir is being recruited from across the country to sing for opening worship of General Assembly on Saturday, June 14, in Detroit. Rehearsals will take place on Thursday evening and Friday at First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor. Dr. Jerry Blackstone, director of choral activities at the University of Michigan and one of the nation’s outstanding choral conductors, will conduct the mass youth choir.
Greetings Delphia

In this weeks 03/31/2014 edition:

- **Holy Week: Special worship for Pastors**
- **Holy Week**
- **IRS – Form 941**
- **National Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 6 – 13**
- **PWP Spring Retreat**
- **General Assembly in Detroit in June**
- **Theme: Moving with Jesus into the Neighborhood**
- **Building Biblical Literacy in Hispanic Communities**
- **The KJV out numbers the NIV**
- **Annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days Event**
- **The Cost of Office For iPad vs. Its Competitors**
- **FSU Presbyterian Newsletter**

**Holy Week: Special worship for Pastors**
*By Presbytery Contributor*

Inviting all Teaching Elders and Pastors,
Take time for yourself and worship this Holy Week with your peers.
You are invited to a time of prayer on **Tuesday, April 15**, from 10 a.m. to noon.

This will be a time to prepare for Good Friday and Easter. We will meet at the chapel of First Presbyterian of...
Pompano.
Pastor to Pastors Kernie Kostrub will be leading.

**Holy Week**
By Shari Lowe

In just less than two weeks we will begin our spiritual pilgrimage through Holy Week. All of our worshiping communities will be observing Palm Sunday on April 13, and many will have special worship services throughout that week, especially on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Then, the entire Christian community joins in joyful adoration on the celebration of Easter, April 20!

Be sure to check with your church and note the opportunities being presented to help us through our journey during Holy Week. All such opportunities will be time well spent.

**IRS - Form 941**
By Susan Carpenter

If you are working in QuickBooks then you should check the box for an Exempt Organization.

If the only wages you pay are for your pastor then you should check the box on line 4 of the Form 941. Then there should be NO amounts on all lines 5.

The wages (salary) for a pastor is not subject to social security and Medicare tax.

Your pastor is an employee and you should be filing the quarterly 941 and the year end W-2/W-3.
National Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 6 - 13
By Shari Lowe

National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate our many volunteers. Volunteers take time from their lives to make a difference in the lives of others by giving service to the community.

The Presbytery of Tropical Florida is blessed with many wonderful volunteers serving on Administrative Commissions, Committees, and Task Forces. The Church becomes stronger as each person gets involved, remains faithful, and serves with the same kind of attitude the Lord had when He knelt to wash the feet of His disciples. We thank every one of you for all the wonderful ways you support the Church and the community.

PWP Spring Retreat
By Shari Lowe

Saturday, April 26, 2014
Lakeside Presbyterian Church
4601 South Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33405

Exit the Turnpike or I-95 at Southern Blvd. Go east to Flagler Drive. Just before the Intracoastal Waterway Bridge, turn right onto Flagler. Church is 0.3 miles on your right.

Registration opens at 10:00 AM. Program begins at 10:30 AM.

Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan, Senior Pastor of the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio, is back by popular demand! She received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Duquesne University, a Master of Divinity from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from the McCormick Theological Seminary. Tracy enthusiastically lends her musical background to ministry. She leads seminars and provides music and worship leadership at various synod, presbytery and seminary events.

MUSIC, MESSAGE, MEDITATION

Please reserve your seat by FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH. Contact Terri Thompson by e-mail at admin@lakesidepres.org or call her at the church office at 561-833-3756.
THE ONLY COST FOR THIS EVENT IS $10 FOR LUNCH, TO BE PAID AT THE DOOR UPON ARRIVAL.

PWP Spring Retreat Flyer

Read in browser »

General Assembly in Detroit in June
By Shari Lowe

Commissioners to this year’s meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church soon will be assigned to a specific standing committee of the Assembly. After a couple of days of general meetings, which will include the election of the next Moderator of the General Assembly, commissioners and advisory delegates will meet for some three days in their individual committees to consider the business sent to them by the mid-councils of the Church: presbyteries and synods. The last few days of the Assembly will be spent considering the reports of these committees.

Please remember to pray for those going to this year’s Assembly, especially our commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate: teaching elders Rev. Cecelia Armstrong, (Grace) and Dr. Douglas Hood (First, Delray Beach), ruling elders Windy Johnson (Miami Shores) and Jesus Sanchez- Reyes (First Spanish), and YAAD Kayla Marchel (Ascension Peace).

Read in browser »

Theme: Moving with Jesus into the Neighborhood
By Amalie Ash

The Annual Multicultural Worship and Food Festival is Saturday May 3rd at 4PM Location: Sunset Presbyterian Church 3550 Davie Blvd. Ft Lauderdale, FL 33312

This year’s theme is - Moving with Jesus into the Neighborhood

Each year the Multicultural Network Task Force gathers to celebrate the wonderful diverse cultures in our Presbytery. This year Sunset is hosting the event. You can expect to hear
discussions with guest panelists, entertainment from the different cultures and share in a great feast. There is no cost; but bring your culture’s favorite dish, even if it is French Fries anything to help share in the fellowship of food and friends.

If your family or church family are attending be sure to let Sunset know so they will plan for your arrival.

Building Biblical Literacy in Hispanic Communities
By Amalie Ash

American Bible Society and NHCLC have join forces to combat Biblical illiteracy in Hispanic Communities. According to a recent study conducted by Barna; while 87 percent of Hispanics own a Bible, only 8 percent are reading it regularly or allowing it to inform their worldview. In direct response to this staggering reality, American Bible Society and NHCLC will be mobilizing a national initiative aimed to decrease biblical illiteracy by promoting the importance of regular reading of the Bible.

Pastors and leaders who are interested in participating in Mes de la Biblia, by hosting Bible advocacy events and challenging their communities to return to the practice of daily scripture engagement throughout the year, should visit SaboreaLaBiblia.com to sign up. Once registered, participants can access free resources and materials.

The KJV out numbers the NIV
By Amalie Ash

When Americans reach for their Bibles, more than half of them pick up a King James Version (KJV), according to a new study. The 55 percent who read the KJV easily outnumber the 19 percent who read the New International Version (NIV). And the percentages drop into the single digits for competitors such as the New Revised Standard Version, New America Bible, and the Living Bible.

So concludes “The Bible in American Life,” a lengthy report by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI).
Funded by the Lilly Foundation, researchers asked questions on what David Briggs of the ARDA, which first reported the results, calls “two of the most highly respected data sources for American religion”—the General Social Survey and the National Congregations Study.

There is a paradox in American Christianity. According to the General Social Survey, nearly eight in ten Americans regard the Bible as either the literal word of God or as inspired by God. At the same time, other surveys have revealed—and recent books have analyzed—surprising gaps in Americans’ biblical literacy. These discrepancies reveal American Christians’ complex relationship to their scripture, a subject that is widely acknowledged but rarely investigated.


**Annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days Event**

*By Presbytery Contributor*

The annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days Event was held in Washington, D. C. March 21-24, 2014.

The Conference began at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church for the annual Compassion, Peace and Justice Training Day Program, sponsored by PC(USA) - Presbyterian Mission Agency

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Presbyterian Washington Office, opened the day’s program with a Welcome and sermon entitled “Drop Your Rock!” It was a day of outstanding workshops and training on Resisting Violence and Building Peace. The event is held annually prior to the beginning of the Ecumenical Advocacy Days event.

Marsha Jones Shoushtari, a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles,
shared the story of her pain following the death of her 18 year old son, Bijan, who was shot while riding in the front seat of an acquaintance’s vehicle - three weeks before he would have started college. Her story of an innocent victim of the harsh gun violence plaquing LA brought the audience to tears. She has started a community-wide group, “Stop the Violence - Save Lives” campaign.

The one day Compassion and Justice Workshop was followed by Ecumenical Advocacy Days with the theme: Jesus Weeps: Resisting Violence, Building Peace. At the end of the three day ecumenical days event, we headed for Capitol Hill to visit our representatives and senators to carry the message of peace and justice and to advocate for: 1) the need to curtail the escalation of violence due to the wide-spread possession and use of guns; and 2) re-balancing of funding priorities from military spending to human security.

**The Cost of Office For iPad vs. Its Competitors**
*By Delphia Sullivan*

On Thursday Microsoft finally released iPad versions of its Office apps, answering the pleas of productivity workers everywhere.

As it did with Office for iPhone, Microsoft is making the actual apps themselves free. That means you can download the tablet versions of Word, Excel and PowerPoint without forking out any cash.

That is, unless you want to actually use the apps.

It costs users nothing to use the Office for iPad apps to view a document. Making changes to a document or creating a new file, however, requires a paid Office 365 subscription. The average cost would then be $69.99 - $99.99 per year/$6.99 - $9.99 per month depending upon how many computers and devices you wish to use it.

Various third-party productivity apps are available for iOS that allow users to edit Microsoft-formatted documents on their iPad. Such as: Apple’s iWork (Pages, Numbers and Keynote), Google’s office suite (Docs, Sheets and Slides), Quick Office or Polaris Office 5 or Hopto are just some.
FSU Presbyterian Newsletter
By Presbytery Contributor

Click here for The FSU Presbyterian Newsletter.
There is no cost for participation and they are willing to provide floor space for any participants who prefer not to use a motel/hotel.

Although the deadline was a couple weeks ago, it has been extended as they still have about 50 spaces available for singers, rising grade 8 and older.

Contact: Tom Granum  
Director of Music Ministries  
First Presbyterian Church  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
cell/706-207-6010
Resources – Board of Pensions

At Pensions.Org, the Board of Pensions website, there is a host of valuable information and tools at your disposal.

Go to the bottom of the opening page to "Board University" or click on this link http://www.pensions.org/MembersAndEmployers/BoardUniversity/Pages/default.aspx and you have resources for MEMBERS, TREASURERS AND ADMINISTRATORS, and for MID COUNCIL people.

There are Web Modules, Webinars, Recordings, Seminars and Resources.

If you want to learn more about:

- Personal Finances - 10 lesson web modules plan, Retirement Planning, Insurance Needs, Assembling Important Papers
- Effective Salary, Clergy Housing Allowance,
- 403(b)(9). Increasing Employee Take Home Pay, Tax Free Death Benefits
- Tools – Dues, Effective Salary and Taxation of Death Benefits Calculators
- Federal Retirement Savings Tax Credit and Small Employer Tax Credit

If you have more questions you can also CALL the Board of Pensions at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN)
Greetings Delphia

In this week's 04/07/2014 edition:

- Share the Good News!
- First Miami Installs Chris Atwood
- Jonas Georges called to Camp Director
- Holy Week: All Teaching Elders invited for Worship
- Youth Retreat at Gold Coast
- Clark Simmons @ First Delray May 17th
- Personnel Committee: HR Regulations
- Women of the Presbytery Tea - May 27

Share the Good News!
By Shari Lowe

Welcome to this week's edition of our e-letter, Weekly Bulletin. Our goal is to highlight things going on throughout the Church: within our Presbytery, in our congregations, as well as in the Synod of the South Atlantic and across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Your input is valued, and your comments are always welcomed!

Check the Presbytery website for upcoming events and information to help your elders lead the congregation and manage church affairs. New information is being added each week.

Read in browser »
First Miami Installs Chris Atwood
By Amalie Ash

Sunday April Rev. Dr. Christopher “Chris” Atwood was installed at First Miami. It has been many years since the Presbytery’s longest serving congregation has installed a pastor. The day was celebrated among pastors from across the Presbytery. John Stewart gave the sermon message, Diane Shoaf lead the prayers and worship, Moderator Pedro Riviera lead Chris in the installation. George McIlrath and Ruling Elders Thom Kermes, Michelle Johnson and Frank Pais participated in elements of the service. This was a celebration for the congregation and a blessing to be in the historic Flagler Chapel surrounded by beautiful Tiffany stain glass. Congratulations to First Miami and Chris and Jenna Atwood.

Jonas Georges called to Camp Director
By Shari Lowe

The Dogwood Acres Director Search Committee has announced its selection of Rev. Dr. Jonas Georges to serve as Dogwood Acres’ Camp Director. Jonas Georges has pastored All Nations Presbyterian Church, Miami, the last eight years and also has worked for the Salvation Army, taught School of Ministry courses at St. Thomas University, Miami, and was founder and first executive director of a community development agency partly funded by the PC(USA). Born in Haiti, Jonas and his wife, Gelina, have lived in south Florida for over 25 years and have an adult daughter and a brand-new grandson. We wish our friend and colleague the very best in this new call.

Holy Week: All Teaching Elders invited for Worship
By Presbytery Contributor
Inviting all Teaching Elders and Pastors,
Take time for yourself and worship this Holy Week with your peers.
You are invited to a time of prayer on Tuesday, April 15,
from 10 a.m. to noon.
This will be a time to prepare for Good Friday and Easter.
We will meet at the chapel of First Presbyterian of Pompano.
Pastor to Pastors Kernie Kostrub will be leading.

Youth Retreat at Gold Coast
By Shari Lowe

This past weekend 52 youth and 14 adults participated in the Annual Spring Youth Retreat at Gold Coast Christian Camp.
Youth from Lakeside, First Pompano, First Delray, First Boynton, Miami Shores and Trinity participated. Though kid-less, the pastors from Sunset and Grace were there as well.
While the number was not as hoped, it was a great time and wonderful opportunity for the youth and adults to mingle with those from other congregations.

Ever wonder what happens at the retreat?
Worship and fun! Rev. Diane Shoaf taught the group how to relax with prayer stations and meditations.
The Palm Beach Atlantic Praise Band played for two services. Rev. Jessi Higginbotham was the keynoter for worship and Pastor Nathan McConnell preached.
Activities were as varied as those who attended. Keith Cavanaugh from the Pink Church administered personality tests. Rev. Noe Juarez taught Salsa dancing.
The talent show featured karate, piano, praise dancing, just to name a few. Those who came also enjoyed rock climbing, kayaking, and a pool party.
The theme was Retreat, Refresh, Respond. Jonattan Rodriguez gave a talk to the group regarding mission work as a way to respond. Task Force member Kelsey Larson, currently serving as a missionary in Uganda, sent a video which tied in to the theme.
Many, many thanks to everyone involved! We’d love to hear from those who were
there.

**Clark Simmons @ First Delray May 17th**  
*By Shari Lowe*

Clark Simmons will be speaking during the upcoming Florida Regional APA Conference which will be held in Delray Beach. Since there are many upcoming changes and Clark has limited time at the June Presbytery Meeting to detail these, anyone interested in attending his 2-1/2 hour presentation regarding the Board of Pensions Benefits Plan of the PCUSA is welcome to be with us on Saturday, May 17th, beginning at 9 am. All clergy and church personnel who are covered by these benefits may attend at no charge. You have only three things to do: (1) mark your calendar, (2) call me to register, (3) and arrive in advance of the 9 am start time. Thank you!

**Personnel Committee: HR Regulations**  
*By Susan Carpenter*

The address below is a terrific webinar - Top 7 Things for HR Compliance. This is an easy watch and listen with some VERY important information including how to protect your church from lawsuits.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1E3jnW3Pa8&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1E3jnW3Pa8&feature=youtu.be)

If this address does not work, please contact me and I can send you the original email.

**Women of the Presbytery Tea - May 27**  
*By Shari Lowe*

Women of the Presbytery are invited to Tea at Sunrise Presbyterian Church on May 27th, 2014 from 3 to 6 pm. Tickets are $20.00.
Greetings Amalie

In this weeks 04/14/2014 edition:

- PWP Spring Retreat
- Holy Week: All Teaching Elders invited for Worship
- Mea Culpa!
- May 17th with Clark Simmons
- Gold Coast Retreat Response
- April 23rd Administrative Professionals’ Day
- Evangelism and Church Growth Conference
- Important Notice from PC(USA) – Legal Office

**PWP Spring Retreat**

*By Shari Lowe*

Water, Water, Everywhere

Music, Message, Meditation
Saturday, April 26, 2014
Lakeside PC, WPB
Registration at 10 am; Program begins at 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan is back by popular demand!
Reserve your seat by Friday, April 18th.
Contact Terri Thompson at admin@lakesidepres.org or 561-833-3756. Only cost is $10 for lunch payable on arrival.

Holy Week: All Teaching Elders invited for Worship
By Presbytery Contributor

This week, Tuesday April 15 at 10am. Inviting all Teaching Elders and Pastors, to a time of prayer and communion. Take time for yourself and worship this Holy Week with your peers. We will meet at First Presbyterian of Pompano. Pastor to Pastors, Kernie Kostrub will be leading.

Mea Culpa!
By Shari Lowe

The last Weekly Bulletin had provided an incorrect date for the Tea Party by the Sunrise Women’s Group. It is on May 17th as stated on the flyer which was linked and on our website.

We regret any confusion this may have caused.
For more info please call Carmen, 305-308-4120.

May 17th with Clark Simmons
By Shari Lowe

Only one person has registered to date! Hard to believe with all the changes we may be facing in 2015. There is no charge to attend Clark’s 2-1/2 hour presentation at First, Delray Beach. All clergy and church personnel covered by the Board of Pensions are invited.

There will be time for questions such as Where does my pension go when . . .? (I asked Clark for teasers.)

Gold Coast Retreat Response
By Shari Lowe

(The Presbytery office regrets that our chaperones and youth from Grace Point Hispanic NCD and New Life of Miami were omitted from last week’s article. Our gratitude to Chaperone Yudyt Bermudez for responding and encouraging youth to share the experience.)

Under the theme “Retreat, Refresh, Response”, the Presbytery of Tropical Florida held its annual Youth Retreat in Gold Coast Christian Camp in Lake Worth, FL the weekend of April 4-6. It was a blessing of fellowship, worship, prayer, swimming, dance and laughter together as the body of Christ, with around 70 people, including youth and chaperons. Different workshops, topics of interest, talent night and a bonfire added a particular touch of unity and friendship in this celebration.

For the young people from Grace Point Hispanic Church (NCD), some attending for the first time, it was an enriching spiritual experience. They came renewed and transformed talking about what they learned during those days.

Throughout the weekend we appreciated and celebrated what God is doing among the youth in our Presbytery, and it was really wonderful teaching these young people that we can “Retreat” from the routine activities, that we can “Refresh” spiritually our souls with God’s Word, and that we can “Respond” to God’s call in many ways.

"The retreat this year was really awesome. It was really, really, nice seeing old friends again. The
speaker that come on Saturday was really awesome! She really got through to me personally. It is always nice to meet with friends and make new friends while all being in communion. I will not soon forget it!” (from Stephanie Bermudez, Grace Point Hispanic Church NCD).

“This was my first time going to an all Christian Church Retreat. I was really scared about what was going to happen and the people I would meet. I can honestly say, it was really awesome! I met some of the most amazing people as well as enjoying and having fun with them. I would definitely come back next year!” (from Moises Romano, Grace Point Hispanic Church NCD)

A selection of photos of the Gold Coast Youth Retreat is available on our site.

April 23rd Administrative Professionals’ Day
By Shari Lowe

We’ll cheer our admins next week but thought membership in the Administrative Personnel Association of the PCUSA might be very thoughtful from the boss.

Evangelism and Church Growth Conference
By Shari Lowe

August 11-14, 2014
TradeWinds Island Grand Resort
St. Pete Beach, FL

www.ecg2014.org

Important Notice from PC(USA) - Legal Office
By Susan Carpenter

Below is an email we received from Louisville.
In May, the message below was sent to you regarding federal tax-exempt status issues and possible automatic revocation of federal tax-exempt status for failure to file Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") Form 990 (An Annual Information Report). Since that time, our Office has received a report of a mid council receiving a revocation notice from a state tax authority due to an alleged failure to file a state information report which sounded similar to IRS Form 990. If your mid council or a church in your mid council receives a letter from the IRS or a state taxing authority referencing possible revocation of exempt status, please do not ignore these letters. While it may be that no such submission was due, an incorrect coding by a taxing authority could lead to the revocation of tax-exempt status and the necessity to reapply in order to reinstate this necessary status for the furtherance of ministry.

If you receive a letter from the IRS, please retain the letter and contact April or Becky immediately at the numbers listed below.

If you receive a letter from a state taxing authority, please retain the letter and contact a competent attorney in your jurisdiction immediately for assistance. The Office of Legal and Risk Management Services ("Legal Office") of the Presbyterian Mission Agency may be able to provide a referral to an attorney in your jurisdiction if such a referral is needed. In addition, once legal counsel is secured in your jurisdiction, the Legal Office may be able to provide informational assistance to your attorney.

April L. Davenport, Associate General Counsel
(502) 569-5350
april.davenport@pcusa.org

We have received reports that some churches have received a notice from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") stating that they are required to file IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax. The Group Ruling held by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) which provides 501(c)(3), tax-exempt status to the group, also exempts Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations, presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly from filing Form 990. If your mid council or a church
in your mid council has received a letter from the IRS asserting that Form 990 is due, please contact staff listed below from the Office of Legal and Risk Management Services of the Presbyterian Mission Agency immediately for assistance. Please do not ignore these letters from the IRS. Please also note that exemption from the requirement to file Form 990 does not extend to Form 990-T which relates to unrelated business income.

April L. Davenport, Associate General Counsel  
(502) 569-5350  
april.davenport@pcusa.org

Rebecca L. Rayner, Senior Paralegal  
(502) 569-8021  
rebecca.rayner@pcusa.org
Greetings Delphia

In this week's 04/21/2014 edition:

- **Dorsey Park Mural: Painting on Good Friday**
- **Clergy News: Associate Pastor Running for Office**
- **May 31st - Ordination**
- **Administrative Professionals Week**
- **PWP Spring Retreat this weekend 4/26**
- **May 3rd - Multicultural Worship & Food Festival**
- **Marlins’ Fellowship Day**
- **2014-2015 Presbyterian Planning Calendars**

**Dorsey Park Mural: Painting on Good Friday**

*By Hallie Hottle*

Associate Pastor

This Good Friday Miami Shores youth were painting!
Dorsey Park in Miami. At one time, Dorsey was the only park African American baseball players could play on in Miami. Recently, they had some local artists paint a mural on the wall surrounding the baseball field, and had us not so artistic volunteers painting it in.

Reconciling work on the day of reconciliation!

The Mural was sponsored by the Knight Foundation supporting URGENT, Inc. Their intent is to engage and inspire young artists, URGENT,Inc helped young people create murals in Overtown’s historic Dorsey Park to commemorate it as the home of South Florida’s Negro League baseball team. Artist Kadir Nelson mentored young people as they worked on the murals and learned about a time and place that connects them to their cultural past. The 30 murals created will be officially dedicated to the players of the Negro and Cuban leagues.

URGENT Inc. is a community-based organization whose mission is to empower young minds to transform communities. It does this by promoting shared leadership through empowerment, education and engagement to create collective well-being. Urgent Inc. chooses to work with individuals and communities that are most in need of transformation because its vision is that all people will have the social, educational and economic resources to thrive. It believes elders are the anchors of communities, parents are the coaches, but young people are the drivers of change.

Clergy News: Associate Pastor Running for Office
By Amalie Ash

Ben Sorenson, Associate Pastor at First Ft Lauderdale, will be leaving his position Sunday April 27th. Ben will be focusing on his campaign for State Representative in District 100 which covers parts of Broward and Dade Counties. Ben will remain active in the Presbytery and will be visiting churches in South Florida. He will be preaching at the 9:30 and 11 am services and a reception will follow.

May 31st - Ordination
By Amalie Ash

Amalie Ash will be ordained at 10:30 am Saturday, May 31st at First, Delray Beach. The celebration of this ordination will also be a time to gather and celebrate the community of churches, teaching and ruling elders in Tropical Florida. More details will be sent. Please RSVP to Shari at shari@tfpby.org
Administrative Professionals Week
By Shari Lowe

Administrative Professionals’ Day is April 23rd. We salute all of our dedicated and wonderful Admins serving in the Presbytery and recognize the work of secretaries, administrative assistants, receptionists, and all other administrative support professionals. The 2014 Administrative Professionals Week Theme is MAKING THE LEAP TO REMARKABLE which we think you all are!

PWP Spring Retreat this weekend 4/26
By Shari Lowe

Water, Water, Everywhere
Music, Message, Meditation
Saturday, April 26, 2014
Lakeside PC, WPB
Registration at 10 am; Program begins at 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan is back by popular demand!
Reserve your seat by Friday, April 18th.
Contact Terri Thompson at admin@lakesidepres.org or 561-833-3756. Only cost is $10 for lunch payable on arrival.

May 3rd - Multicultural Worship & Food Festival
By Amalie Ash

Sunset Presbyterian is hosting the Annual Multicultural Worship and Food Festival Saturday May 3 at 4pm. This year’s theme is “Moving with Jesus into the Neighborhood”. These are fun events with good food and fellowship. Bring your favorite dish from your country of origin or from wherever your ancestors immigrated; even if they were on the Mayflower, we all came here from someplace. Sunset Presbyterian is located west of I-95 on Davie Blvd, 3550 Davie Blvd, Ft Lauderdale.
Marlins’ Fellowship Day
By Shari Lowe

The Marlins are having a Fellowship Day on May 31st. Keith Cavanaugh of the Pink Church (1st Pompano) brought this to our attention noting that their families and students went last year and loved it. Join the Marlins on the West Plaza at Marlins Park for an exclusive pregame event hosted by Team Chaplain Chris Lane. Players will give their testimonials and discuss their devotion to faith and community. Entertainment will feature live performances from several praise and worship musicians, as well as other inspiring activities.

CALL TODAY FOR TICKETS starting at just $10! 305.480.1508 Orders under 20, go to: marlins.com/specialevents. For group orders 20+ contact: Kathleen Massolio KMassolio@marlins.com 305-480-1508.

2014-2015 Presbyterian Planning Calendars
By Shari Lowe

We have received a reminder regarding our standing order for Presbyterian Planning Calendars. Individuals or churches wishing to place their order through the Presbytery should contact Shari this week either by email or phone. The cost through the office is $9.50 which includes shipping here. If ordering through the Distribution Service, 1 - 9 copies are...
$14.95 ea. and 10 - 49 copies are $12.95 both plus shipping. You will be notified when received so that your requested copies can be picked up. Checks should be made payable to Presbytery of Tropical Florida.
Greetings Delphia

In this week's 04/28/2014 edition:

- **Ordination: Location Correction**
- **May 3rd - Multicultural Worship & Food Festival**
- **Recovering Congregational Song Workshop**
- **Presbytery Choir - calling singers**
- **Opportunity of a Lifetime**
- **How will you welcome children to worship this summer?**
- **Prayer Lists - How to Protect Privacy**
- **Order your Backpacks**

### Ordination: Location Correction

*By Amalie Ash*

The Ordination for Amalie Ash will be held at **Second Presbyterian Church** in Ft Lauderdale, May 31st at 10am. Lunch will be served at 12:30. This is a Saturday event; all are welcome and encouraged to come.

Please email or call Shari with your RSVP.

### May 3rd - Multicultural Worship & Food Festival

*By Amalie Ash*
Sunset Presbyterian is hosting the Annual Multicultural Worship and Food Festival Saturday May 3 at 4pm. This year’s theme is “Moving with Jesus into the Neighborhood”. These are fun events with good food and fellowship. Bring your favorite dish from your country of origin or from wherever your ancestors immigrated; even if they were on the Mayflower, we all came here from someplace. Sunset Presbyterian is located west of I-95 on Davie Blvd. 3550 Davie Blvd, Ft Lauderdale.

Recovering Congregational Song Workshop  
By Amalie Ash

A workshop for the people in the pews, clergy, music leaders and worship planners with Dr. Patrick Evans

May 31st, following the Ordination Lunch, plan to attend this special 2 hour workshop at Second Presbyterian.

Patrick Evans writes, “Sing to the Lord a new song, all the earth.” This text appears in some form or another throughout the psalms, yet many of our congregations are reluctant to obey its command.

How do we help the members of our congregations reclaim or cultivate their own musicianship? This is an important pastoral ministry, and an essential aspect of liturgy. Many, if not most, of the “people in the pews” in our churches have been vocally disenfranchised by some personal experience in which they were told their singing was not good enough; by the perfection of the recorded music which they listen to on a daily basis, as enabled by ever-advancing technology; and/or by a cultural message, both outside and inside the church, overt or covert, which says that only those who are “trained” singers really need to contribute to the sung portions of the liturgy. Overwhelming cultural forces create passivity and discourage inherent musicianship in all but the trained or highly skilled. This workshop will examine the theology in the embodied act of singing, as well as the spiritual loss that arises when members of the community are cut off from that act. It will address practical, musical, and pastoral ways to help the members of the assembly reclaim their voices and their own musicianship. We will draw on multiple styles and traditions, from chant to global song to spirituals and hymnody as we learn practical ways to ensure that “ALL the earth” is well-prepared and invited to “sing a new song.”

Patrick Evans has been Artist-in-Residence at Broadway Presbyterian Church in New York City since 2001, and currently serves as Associate Director for Admission in the School of Music at DePauw University. He served as Director of Music in Marquand Chapel and Associate Professor in the Practice of Sacred Music at Yale Divinity School and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music from 2004-2012. He was chair of the voice area in the Department of Music at the university of Delaware from 1994-2004, and holds the Doctor of Music degree in vocal performance from The Florida State University.

Presbytery Choir – calling singers  
By Amalie Ash

Pastors, Elders, Staff. we are organizing a presbytery choir. The first gathering will be at the May 31 Ordination and Celebration of the Presbytery. The songs will be sent to
you, and a quick rehearsal 9:30am May 31.

We will sent out additional information next week.

This is for fun, if you like to sing please be a part of this gathering. Dr. Patrick Evans will lead the choir through new songs from the new hymnal. (See: Renewing Congregational Song)

Read in browser »

Opportunity of a Lifetime
By Presbytery Contributor

by John Wimberly

Occasionally, congregations are presented astounding opportunities to grow. One of those opportunities is upon us. The opportunity is called the Millennial Generation. The number of Millennials in the United States differs depending on whose statistics you trust. However, 80 million individuals seems to be a consensus on the size of the millennial population. In 2014, they range in age from 18 to 33.

A great deal has been written about the uptick within the millennial generation who don’t believe in God. What those stories tend to ignore is the 86% of Millennials who say they do believe in God! 58% are absolutely certain they believe in God. 28% believe in God but won’t attach the adjective “absolutely” to describe the degree of certainty to their faith. That sounds pretty much like the members of the Presbyterian congregations I served over the past forty years.

Read the full article

Read in browser »

How will you welcome children to worship this summer?
By Presbytery Contributor

Children in the Sanctuary

A 90-minute webinar
on Thursday, May 1 at
2 pm ET (11 a.m. PT)

Children can worship (not just survive) in the sanctuary. In fact, both they and their elders benefit greatly from their presence. All it takes is a big vision and a few skills to develop and draw them into worship.
This webinar will help you to:

- Catch the vision: why children should be in worship;
- Learn to read Scripture, preach, pray and sing in ways that draw in children;
- Discover how to teach worship education to the whole congregation;
- Gain tips on how to help parents catch and share the vision.

Summer is the perfect time to explore creative approaches to involve children in worship. In this webinar, Carolyn will offer pastors, worship committee members, and Christian educators strategies to play and experiment with worship.

Click here to learn more, register for the live event or on-demand replay ($29.95), or pre-order a DVD ($39.95).

CAROLYN C. BROWN is a retired certified Christian Educator with over 35 years of experience in churches of all sizes. She has a passion for welcoming children into the congregation’s worship. She authored “Forbid Them Not: Involving Children in Sunday Worship” and now maintains a blog.

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Prayer Lists - How to Protect Privacy

By Susan Carpenter

Part of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) that took effect in 2003 made it illegal for health care providers to disclose information about a person’s medical condition. Generally, the Act does not pertain to churches. However, there are things you should do:

1. Get Consent - There’s nothing that prevents a person from telling the congregation that he has a medical condition and would like prayer. But some laws prevent you from telling the world for him. Obtains consent in writing.

2. Keep it Simple - Keep the information general. Pray for Sue rather than Sue has been suffering from debilitating panic attacks that have caused her....

3. Don’t Mention Employees. Even with permission, less is generally better.

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Order your Backpacks

By Amalie Ash

If your church would like to participate in the program please email your order to Delphia at delphias@tfpby.org. She will be keeping track of the orders this year. Churches may order up to 50 Backpacks for distribution within the Presbytery of Tropical...
Greetings Delphia

In this week's 05/05/2014 edition:

- Presbytery Meeting June 3rd
- Grant Workshops Scheduled
- Celebrating 25 Years in Ministry
- Great Deal for Admins!
- Flood Response Update
- Recovering Congregational Song Workshop
- Presbytery Choir – calling singers

Presbytery Meeting June 3rd
By Shari Lowe

It’s not too soon to make your lunch reservation (several have already) or plan your carpool! Presbytery will meet at Community Presbyterian Church, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, on Tuesday, June 3rd. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will be called to order at 9:30. If any minister needs to have a badge replaced, please contact me as soon as possible. Packets will be posted on our website on May 22nd. The minutes of the March 1st meeting are on line now.

Read in browser »

Grant Workshops Scheduled
By Shari Lowe
Three workshops have been scheduled to cover our large geographic area. You may attend any of these. All three workshops will begin at 11:00 a.m. until approximately noon. May 20–Grace, Lantana; May 21–First Spanish, Miami; May 22–Presbytery office.

Please call or email the Presbytery office to register. Thank you!

Read in browser »

Celebrating 25 Years in Ministry
By Shari Lowe

The Myrtle Grove Presbyterian church’s session and members would like to invite you to celebrate with Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin the observance of his 25 years in ministry.

The luncheon will be held at the Signature Grand on July 12th from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Contribution $50

Contact (954) 328-4313 or email: blymar@yahoo.com to RSVP and receive tickets for Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin’s 25 years in ministry luncheon.

Read in browser »

Great Deal for Admins!
By Shari Lowe

Church administrative staff of Tropical Florida have been previously invited to “sample” the APA for one day at the upcoming Florida Regional Conference for $75. Our Presbytery Administrator Amalie Ash has sweetened the deal by offering scholarships to pay half of the $115 conference fee for anyone who would like to attend both Friday and Saturday sessions (includes lunch) without overnight accommodations. Don’t let this opportunity pass you by! Classes being offered at the conference on Friday: PCUSA History Since Reunion (5 hours, Dr. Leon Lovell-Martin) and Financial Reporting and Essentials of Budgeting (2.5 hours each, Susan Carpenter). On Saturday the classes will
be: GA Entities and Social Media 1 (2.5 hours each, Amalie Ash), Board of Pensions Benefits Plan of the PCUSA (2.5 hours, Clark Simmons), Polity II (2.5 hours, Jessi Higginbotham. The morning classes begin at 9 a.m. and following lunch classes resume at 1:15 p.m. Should you decide within 12 months to become a member of the Administrative Personnel Association, the credit earned at this conference would be applied.

Flood Response Update
By Presbytery Contributor

The following is an update from the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN) on the North Florida Flood situation. For the latest Situation Report from the State Emergency Operations Center / Florida Department of Emergency Management. In it you will find weather information and status of each affected county.

I have been working with Melissa Morgan at the Presbytery of Florida office. She and George & Marian MacNeill (FLAPDAN volunteers) have been calling churches in the affected areas to check on them. Most are okay. I have spoken directly with Rev. Hugh Hamilton at Trinity Presbyterian Church and Rev. Randy Jackson at First Presbyterian Church, both in Pensacola.

Rev. Jackson reports that First had water in many areas of the church and have had to remove carpets, etc. They are still assessing the damage. They will be worshiping this Sunday in an alternate building at the church. Rev. Hamilton reports that Trinity had major flooding - worse than Hurricane Ivan. Church volunteers cleared out offices and other rooms and a restoration company was on site with water extraction equipment. They will be holding a potluck picnic and prayer event for the community this weekend in their gym.

Local Emergency Management, Volunteer Florida, Florida VOAD (coalition of faith-based and community disaster organizations) and BRACE (Escambia County’s Long Term Recovery Group) are coordinating response efforts in the area through conference calls and other methods. Well over 2000 flood cleanup kits are in or en route to damaged communities. Water, tarps, comfort kits and other needed supplies have also been coming in. Eight shelters were open by the Red Cross, Mobile Feeding Kitchens are in place and Preliminary Damage Assessments are being done in each area.

Once damage assessments are completed and case managers are in place, there will be a need for volunteer teams to help. This process takes some time and volunteers from out of the area are not currently needed just yet. Please contact me for more information on volunteering once they are ready to receive teams.
The next coordination call will be held Monday afternoon and another report will follow. Please pray for all those affected by this and the other numerous disasters that have recently taken their toll.

Kathy Broyard  
Executive Director / Emergency Management Specialist  
Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN)  
Phone: 941-483-0675  
Email: fla.pdan@pcusa.org

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**Recovering Congregational Song Workshop**  
*By Amalie Ash*

A workshop for the people in the pews, clergy, music leaders and worship planners with Dr. Patrick Evans

May 31st, following the Ordination Lunch, plan to attend this special 2 hour workshop at Second Presbyterian.

Patrick Evans writes, “Sing to the Lord a new song, all the earth.” This text appears in some form or another throughout the psalms, yet many of our congregations are reluctant to obey its command.

How do we help the members of our congregations reclaim or cultivate their own musicianship? This is an important pastoral ministry, and an essential aspect of liturgy. Many, if not most, of the “people in the pews” in our churches have been vocally disenfranchised by some personal experience in which they were told their singing was not good enough; by the perfection of the recorded music which they listen to on a daily basis, as enabled by ever-advancing technology; and/or by a cultural message, both outside and inside the church, overt or covert, which says that only those who are “trained” singers really need to contribute to the sung portions of the liturgy. Overwhelming cultural forces create passivity and discourage inherent musicianship in all but the trained or highly skilled. This workshop will examine the theology in the embodied act of singing, as well as the spiritual loss that arises when members of the community are cut off from that act. It will address practical, musical, and pastoral ways to help the members of the assembly reclaim their voices and their own musicianship.

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**Presbytery Choir - calling singers**

*By Amalie Ash*

Pastors, Elders, Staff. We are organizing a presbytery choir. The first gathering will be at the May 31 Ordination and Celebration of the Presbytery. The songs will be sent to you, and a quick rehearsal 9:30am May 31.

Send your name to Worship Chair, Rev Diane Shoaf. At shoaf456@bellsouth.net

This is for fun, if you like to sing please be a part of this gathering. Dr. Patrick Evans will lead the choir through new songs from the new hymnal. (See: Renewing Congregational Song)
Florida. If you would like more, please let us know in your order, if we have extra we will let you know.

The Backpack Program: Participating churches connect with a nearby school’s guidance counselor or principal. The school will tell you the needs of their student population. Schools discourage placing notes or religious symbols in the backpacks.

Each congregation then gathers the supplies and delivers to the school during orientation. If you do not have school nearby there are other options: Some congregations give to foster homes, homeless family programs, immigrant programs, and to the needy families in their congregations.

It is a way to come together in our communities and support our children and youth. Get your orders in and we will distribute in July.

Read in browser »
Greetings Delphia

In this week’s 05/12/2014 edition:

- Your Valued Input
- Grant Writing Workshops
- RSVP?
- Reminder — Session Records Review for 2013 & prior
- Kid Min Reports
- Recovering Congregational Song Workshop
- Presbytery Choir - calling singers
- Events Outside Our Presbytery

**Your Valued Input**
*By Presbytery Contributor*

Welcome to this week’s edition of our Presbytery Bulletin. Our goal is to highlight things going on throughout the Church: within our Presbytery, in our congregations, as well as in the Synod of South Atlantic and across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Your input is valued, and your comments are always welcomed!

Read in browser »
Reminder: May 20 at Grace Lantana; May 21 at First Spanish; May 22 at the Presbytery office. All sessions begin at 11 and last approximately one hour. The workshops will provide information on the completion of the new Grant Form for 2014. Incomplete forms will no longer be accepted. Please take advantage of this opportunity and call the office to make your reservation.

RSVP?
By Shari Lowe

If you are planning to attend the ordination of Presbytery Administrator Amalie Ash on May 31st (and we hope you are) and stay for lunch, please contact shari@tfpby.org or call the office (954-785-2220 / 800-940-9511) as soon as possible. I’m also collecting lunch reservations for Presbytery in the same time frame, so kindly respond. Thank you!

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By Shari Lowe

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Kid Min Reports
By Delphia Sullivan

Members who attended the 2013 Kid Min Conference share their thoughts and information. This page includes video reports and more will be added in the near future.
Recovering Congregational Song Workshop

By Amalie Ash

A workshop for the people in the pews, clergy, music leaders and worship planners
with Dr. Patrick Evans

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Patrick Evans writes, “Sing to the Lord a new song, all the earth.” This text appears in some form or another throughout the psalms, yet many of our congregations are reluctant to obey its command.

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Overwhelming cultural forces create passivity and discourage inherent musicianship in all but the trained or highly skilled. This workshop will examine the theology in the embodied act of singing, as well as the spiritual loss that arises when members of the community are cut off from that act. It will address practical, musical, and pastoral ways to help the members of the assembly reclaim their voices and their own musicianship. We will draw on multiple styles and traditions, from chant to global song to spirituals and hymnody as we learn practical ways to ensure that “ALL the earth” is well-prepared and invited to “sing a new song.”

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Events Outside Our Presbytery
By Presbytery Contributor
Grieving Loss, Embracing Hope

September 29 - October 1, 2014
Presbyterian Church, Jackson, WY

For details see the brochure

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Greetings Delphia

In this week's 05/19/2014 edition:

- **This Week: Coral Gables Grant Writing Workshops**
- **Florida Regional APA Conference**
- **RSVP Lunch - ordination and Presbytery**
- **Presbytery Meeting June 3rd**
- **Prayers for Delgado Family**
- **Recovering Congregational Song Workshop**
- **Presbytery Choir - calling singers**
- **Reminder – Session Records Review for 2013 & prior**
- **BOP Rep to discuss 403-b Plan**
- **Planning Calendars are In**

**This Week: Coral Gables Grant Writing Workshops**
By Shari Lowe

The Coral Gables Grant Forms will be distributed this week at the three Grant Writing workshops. Susan Carpenter, Presbytery Financial Administrator, will review the forms and answer questions. If you are considering applying for a 2015 grant these workshops are for you.

Reminder:

**May 20 at Grace, Lantana at 11am**
**May 21 at First Spanish, Miami at 11am**
**May 22 at the Presbytery office at 11am**

All sessions last approximately one hour. The workshops will provide information on the completion of the new Grant Form for 2014. Incomplete forms will no longer be accepted. Please take advantage of this opportunity and call the office to make your reservations.
Florida Regional APA Conference
By Shari Lowe

We tried to tell you it would be worth your while to sample some classes — but regrettably most of you missed it. The regional conference for the Administrative Personnel Association of the PC(USA) was a great success! Those who did “try us out” said they loved the experience, learned a lot, and will be joining. You’ll be hearing from us more on that because this organization exists for all of our wonderful administrative folks and the knowledge you will take away will be truly beneficial to you and your church.

Participants chose from the following classes: Spiritual Growth and Discipline, Polity I and Polity II, Hymnology, Living with Grief, PC(USA) History since the Reunion, Financial Reporting, Essentials of Budgeting, GA Entities, Social Media I, and the Board of Pensions Plan. We had something for everyone and more than a few “ah-ha” moments. Our hosts at First, Delray Beach could not have made us feel more welcomed. Nancy Fine (1st Delray) was installed as the region’s President. New officers also include: Membership Chair Barbara Yatrousis (1st Fort Lauderdale), Communications Chair Barbara Prieto (Riviera), and I will serve on the Nominating Committee. Tropical Florida is represented (Robyn Ramirez of 1st Miami, Lynn Anderson of 1st Hollywood, and Nicole Behr of 1st Ft. Lauderdale attended) but we’d love to include admins from all of our churches. Please feel free to contact any one of us with questions.

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By Shari Lowe

It’s not too soon to make your lunch reservation (several have already) or plan your carpool! Presbytery will meet at Community Presbyterian Church, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, on Tuesday, June 3rd. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will be called to order at 9:30. If any minister needs to have a badge replaced, please contact me as soon as possible. Packets will be posted on our website on May 22nd. The minutes of the March 1st meeting are on line now.

Read in browser »

Prayers for Delgado Family
By Shari Lowe

The Presbytery office has been informed of the passing of Mrs. Miriam Delgado, spouse of Rev. Julio Delgado on Sunday night. At this time we have no information regarding arrangements but do ask that you keep Rev. Delgado and his family in prayer. Thank you.

Read in browser »

Recovering Congregational Song Workshop
By Amalie Ash

A workshop for the people in the pews, clergy, music leaders and worship planners with Dr. Patrick Evans

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- Poll: Americans stretch the truth on attending church
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- BOP Rep to discuss 403-b Plan
- The “Disposable Email”
- Tax Holiday for Hurricane Supplies starts May 31st
- Planning Calendars are In

Poll: Americans stretch the truth on attending church
By Amalie Ash

from the GA Newsletter:

WASHINGTON

“I know what you did last Sunday,” claims the title of a new survey.

You skipped church. And then nearly one in seven of you fibbed about attending.

That’s according to a new survey by the Public Religion Research Institute released Saturday (May 17). The study, to be presented at the national meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, was designed to measure the “social desirability bias in self-reported religious behavior.”

The survey finds that many Christians — and unbelievers, too — will exaggerate about attending worship in live phone interviews. However, when asked in an anonymous online questionnaire, people will answer more realistically.
On the phone, 36 percent of Americans report attending religious services weekly or more, while 30 percent say they seldom or never go.

But online, a smaller share (31 percent) of people surveyed said they attended church at least weekly, while a larger portion (43 percent) admitted they seldom or never go.

People who don’t attend worship — but say they did — may not mean to lie, said PRRI CEO Robert Jones.

People respond to phone surveys as they think “a good Christian” would or should answer, he said. “There’s an aspirational quality here,” he said. “People see themselves as the kind of person who would go.”

Once you remove the social pressure of speaking on the phone, “you see people willing to give answers that are probably closer to reality,” he said. “People feel less pressure to conform.”

Three groups were most likely to inflate attendance:

- White mainline Protestants: By phone, 29 percent say they don’t go to church. Online, that jumps to 45 percent.
- Catholics: On the phone, 15 percent. Online, 33 percent.
- Adults ages 18-29: On the phone, 31 percent. Online, 49 percent.

The PRRI study is an update of studies on inflated church attendance conducted in the 1990s. In those studies research teams surveyed Catholics and Protestants in Ashtabula County, Ohio, and compared self-reported attendance claims with actual head counts in scores of churches.

The result: “Actual church attendance was about half the rate indicated by national public opinion polls.”

Since there’s no way to do head counts of people not attending, PRRI found a contemporary technological approach — two different survey formats. Both surveys of American adults were conducted in 2013, with 2,002 people interviewed by cell and landline and a demographically comparable group of 2,317 who answered questions online.

People don’t even have to be religious to inflate claims of religiosity, PRRI found.

Those one in five Americans who are “nones” also may feel greater pressure to fib because “they are the farthest outside general social expectations,” said Jones.

On the phone, 73 percent of “nones” say they seldom or never attend, but 91 percent say so when interviewed online.

In the overall study, 19 percent of adults answering online said religion was not important to them; only 13 percent said so on the phone.

However, among the “nones,” the gap on the importance of religion was markedly wider — 49 percent on the phone, compared with 73 percent online.
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BOP Rep to discuss 403-b Plan
By Shari Lowe

Clark Simmons is coming to Tropical Florida and is being very generous with his time! He will speak briefly at Presbytery on June 3rd. He has also scheduled the annual retiree luncheon on June 4th. On the mornings of both June 4th and 5th (9:30 to 11:00) Clark will give presentations regarding the Retirement Savings Plan (403-b) of the Presbyterian
Church (USA) which is through Fidelity. You do not have to participate in the medical, pension or any other plan offered to be able to take advantage of this savings plan. If you want to hear what Clark has to say – and we understand there are new things coming, please call or email to let me know if you plan to attend on Wednesday or Thursday.

**The “Disposable Email”**
*By Delphia Sullivan*

Need an email for a couple of minutes to register somewhere but also not receive any email or spam in the future? The 10 Minute Mail is right there for you. It’s pretty self explanatory what it does. But if you didn’t get it, then it will basically give you a 10 minute email address where you can receive messages (usually activation/confirmation emails) and view them.

You could also try:

http://mailinator.com/

http://getairmail.com/

**Tax Holiday for Hurricane Supplies starts May 31st**
*By Amalie Ash*

On May 12, 2014, in News Releases, by Governor’s staff

Governor Rick Scott, joined by Representative Ritch Workman, local leaders, emergency management personnel, first responders, health and medical professionals, and industry and business representatives, signed House Bill 5601 that cuts more than $121 million in taxes for Florida families and creates a nine-day sales tax holiday for hurricane supplies beginning May 31.

Scott said that “During the hurricane supply sales tax holiday, Floridians will be able to purchase items to prepare for a hurricane, such as flashlights, batteries, weather radios, and other essential items. Florida’s first responders and emergency officials are the best trained in the world, but it’s no substitute for Floridians being prepared.”

Governor Scott said, “Hurricane season begins June 1 and Florida families need to get a plan. While we always hope for the best, Florida families need to be prepared for anything. Everyone should have a family disaster kit with supplies and medications, be prepared to evacuate if advised to do so by emergency management officials, know your evacuation route and where you can take your pets if you have to shelter, and have all of your important documents and cash together to take with you.”
Planning Calendars are In
By Shari Lowe

The Presbyterian Planning Calendars arrived last week and may be picked up at the Presbytery office. A number of churches were kind enough to pre-order their request and these will be given priority during the distribution. As a reminder, the cost is $9.50 each which is payable on (or before) receipt of the calendars.
Greetings Delphia

In this weeks 06/02/2014 edition:

- This Week: BOP Rep to discuss 403-b Plan
- Dr. C. Patrick Shaffer 1944-2014
- Message From Our Hispanic Churches
- Order your Backpacks
- Tax Holiday for Hurricane Supplies starts May 31st
- Ordination Photo Gallery
- Vocal Recital at Grace Lantana

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Dr. C. Patrick Shaffer 1944-2014
By Shari Lowe

On Friday, May 30th, the Rev. Dr. Patrick “Pat” Shaffer passed away following knee surgery. While everyone is reeling from this very sudden loss, we take comfort in that he is now with the Church Triumphant.

Services will be officiated by Rev. Dr. Albert W. “Skip” Bush, Jr., on June 4th at 4:00 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 482 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta 33469. Clergy are asked to bring their robes, either a white or red stole, and to please arrive at 3:45 for the assembly.

Your messages of condolence may be sent to Mrs. Connie Shaffer, 9249 Riverfront Terrace, Wentworth G, Tequesta, FL 33469.

Driving directions via the Florida Turnpike or Interstate 1-95 and Indiantown Road
FL Turnpike: traveling north or south, use exit # 116, (Okeechobee/Jupiter) at stoplight, turn left onto Indiantown Rd. (State Rd. 706).
Northbound 1-95: use exit 87A eastbound onto Indiantown Rd.
Southbound 1-95: use exit 87B onto Indiantown Rd.
Total driving distance to church is approximately 8 miles from exits

1. East on Indiantown Rd. approximately 3.8 miles to the East Coast Railroad Tracks.
2. Continue east over the tracks, as you approach the drawbridge, get in the left lane. On the other side of the bridge, turn LEFT at the traffic light onto US Highway #1.
3. Proceed north on US # 1 over another drawbridge (approx. 1 mile ).
4. Get in left lane. At the 2nd traffic light (.5 mile) beyond the bridge, Turn LEFT onto Tequesta Drive.
5. There is a Bank Atlantic on the northeast corner, a Sunoco gas station on the northwest corner, and a Bank America on the southwest corner.
6. Go west on Tequesta Drive back over the railroad tracks (approx. 1 mile) to the 2nd traffic light. Continue west over a small bridge. The First Presbyterian Church is on the LEFT, one block west of the bridge. Attendant available for parking assistance.

South bound travelers on I-95 from Martin or St. Lucie County may use the Hobe Sound Exit #96 (State Road 708 East) (NO Turnpike Exit).
Go east on 708 about 7 miles to U.S. Highway #1, turn RIGHT, drive south about 10 miles to Tequesta Drive.
Follow direction #6 to the church.

Traveling on US Highway # 1 Northbound, use the above directions starting at Indiantown Rd. & US # 1. Traveling South, at the Martin / Palm Beach County line, continue for approximately 1 mile and turn RIGHT onto Tequesta Drive and follow the directions listed above.
We realize that a number of you are planning to attend the Retiree Luncheon hosted by the Board of Pensions. There should be sufficient time following the lunch to attend the service.
The Board of Pensions has already committed to the final count, please don’t change your plans.

Message From Our Hispanic Churches

By Presbytery Contributor

The Hispanic/Latino Caucus from South Florida congratulates our sister Rev. Amalie A. Ash for her ordination. The hispanic churches in the Presbytery of Tropical Florida are proud of this new achievement in the life of our Presbytery Administrator. We thank Amalie for the whole spiritual and emotional support to the Hispanic churches, and her accompaniment in moments of joy, during difficult periods or transition. Her presence symbolized the support for the Hispanic work in our Presbytery at all times, and has helped to strengthen the ties of connection with it, for which we are deeply grateful to the Lord. We reiterate our love and support and Amalie’s hard work in behalf of Tropical Florida Presbytery.

Rev. Otoniel Bermúdez
Hispanic/Latino Presbyterian Caucus
Moderator

Order your Backpacks

By Amalie Ash
If your church would like to participate in the program please email your order to Delphia at delphias@tfpby.org. She will be keeping track of the orders this year. Churches may order up to 50 Backpacks for distribution within the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. If you would like more, please let us know in your order, if we have extra we will let you know.

The Backpack Program: Participating churches connect with a nearby school’s guidance counselor or principal. The school will tell you the needs of their student population. Schools discourage placing notes or religious symbols in the backpacks.

Each congregation then gathers the supplies and delivers to the school during orientation. If you do not have school nearby there are other options: Some congregations give to foster homes, homeless family programs, immigrant programs, and to the needy families in their congregations.

It is a way to come together in our communities and support our children and youth. Get your orders in and we will distribute in July.

Tax Holiday for Hurricane Supplies starts May 31st
By Amalie Ash

This is the time to organize your church emergency supplies. The tax holiday ends June 8th.

Ordination Photo Gallery
By Delphia Sullivan
We wish to add our sentiments in congratulating Amalie Ash on her ordination. You may view some of the photographs online.

Vocal Recital at Grace Lantana
By Shari Lowe

Nicole Kelly and Emily Thompson have extended an invitation to the Presbytery to attend their vocal recital on Friday, June 6th, 7:00 p.m., at Grace Presbyterian Church, 1844 Hypoluxo Road, Lantana. A reception will follow.
BOP Rep to discuss 403-b Plan
By Shari Lowe

Clark Simmons is coming to Tropical Florida and is being very generous with his time! He will speak briefly at Presbytery on June 3rd. He has also scheduled the annual retiree luncheon on June 4th. On the mornings of both June 4th and 5th (9:30 to 11:00) Clark will give presentations regarding the Retirement Savings Plan (403-b) of the Presbyterian Church (USA) which is through Fidelity. You do not have participate in the medical, pension or any other plan offered to be able to take advantage of this savings plan. If you want to hear what Clark has to say — and we understand there are new things coming, please call or email to let me know if you plan to attend on Wednesday or Thursday.

Planning Calendars are In
By Shari Lowe

The Presbyterian Planning Calendars arrived last week and may be picked up at the Presbytery office. A number of churches were kind enough to pre-order their request and these will be given priority during the distribution. As a reminder, the cost is $9.50 each which is payable on (or before) receipt of the calendars.
Greetings Delphia

In this week's 06/09/2014 edition:

- Prayers for GA Commissioners
- Minister Name Tags
- Payroll - How to Properly Manage Payroll
- Marianne Broome
- John Knox Village Silver Angel Award
- You Are Your Own Digital Bodyguard

Prayers for GA Commissioners
By Shari Lowe

Commissioners and Advisory Delegates from across the country are preparing for the meeting of the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), beginning this weekend, June 14-21 in Detroit. Let us keep them and the Presbyterian Church (USA) in prayer. Each commissioner and advisory delegate has been assigned to one of the assembly committees. We thought you’d be interested where our commissioners will be. Ruling elder commissioner, Jesus R. Sanchez-Reyes (First Spanish, Miami), has been assigned to the Peacemaking and International Issues Committee (#11), which he will moderate. Moderators and vice-moderators are selected by Moderator Neal Presa in consultation with members of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and the Committee on Representation from the list of commissioners. Dr. Arlene Gordon (President of the National Black Caucus) will serve as the Peacemaking Committee Assistant. The Stated Clerk has appointed a committee assistant and a parliamentarian for each committee. These are volunteers with assembly experience. Ruling elder commissioner, Windy Johnston (Miami Shores) has been assigned to the committee...
regarding Middle East Issues (#4). Teaching elder commissioner, Cecelia “CC” Armstrong (Grace, Lantana) has been assigned to Immigration and Environmental Issues (#15). Teaching elder commissioner Doug Hood, Jr., (First, Delray Beach) has been assigned to the Mid Councils Issues (#5), and Kayla Marchal (Ascension Peace) Young Adult Advisory Delegate from our Presbytery, will be serving on the Church Polity and Ordered Ministry committee (#6). A random selection process is used to achieve a representative diversity of views and experience on each assembly committee. Also attending from Tropical Florida are Ruling Elders Vilmarie Cinton-Olivieri (First Spanish), Coordinator of the Translators; Randy Shine (First, Pompano Beach), Overture Advocate (re. Board of Pensions); and Michele Ready (Riviera, Miami) who will be attending the Face-to-Face meetings. Safe travels and may the Holy Spirit infuse this gathering.

Minister Name Tags
By Shari Lowe

While it’s fresh in our minds. please let me know if your name tag was not available at the June 3rd Presbytery Meeting. I was only asked to make one and that just doesn’t sound right! Any minister who wishes to have his/her tag updated or replaced, needs only to ask. Please let me hear from you.

Payroll - How to Properly Manage Payroll
By Susan Carpenter

From one of the newsletters I receive - Free Church Accounting

One of the biggest challenges facing small churches and nonprofits today is how to properly manage payroll for their organization. I have grown increasingly alarmed over some payroll issues I have seen lately.
Pastors and Treasurers (paid and volunteer) do not often realize that they can be held personally responsible for the penalties incurred from these payroll mistakes.
See what Bill O’Connell, CPA, said about those penalties and read what needs to be corrected in many church and nonprofit organizations.
http://www.freechurchaccounting.com/manage-payroll.html?awt_l=E8HCU&awt_m=3knbAQ1P8lh4IXx

Read in browser »
Marianne Broome
By Shari Lowe

Marianne Broome died peacefully at her home on June 2nd at age 87. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Vicki and Jack Boswell, her grandson Paul DeSantis and granddaughter Briana Boswell, and stepsons Brad, Carter and Wes Broome. Marianne was a strong, gracious, loving woman, and an exceptional artist. Marianne worked at the Presbytery office for some years and then went to work at First, Pompano Beach, as telephone receptionist and aide to Pastor Jack Noble. Marianne was a long-time member of Second Church. She sang in their choir for many years where she met her future husband, Paul Broome. Her daughter Vicki grew up at Second Church. A Memorial service will be held in her honor at First Presbyterian Church of Pompano Beach on a future TBD.

Read in browser »

John Knox Village Silver Angel Award
By Shari Lowe

Gary Richardson has been nominated for the John Knox Village Silver Angel Award. The nominees, their families and participating clergy were invited to a dinner celebration in the Lakeside Dining Room on Friday, June 6, at 6 pm. Each Angel received a beautiful plaque and gift from The Village. In addition, each congregation received a contribution in honor of their angel.

Gary Richardson has been an active member of The Sanctuary Church (Second Presbyterian) since April 18, 2006. He has served the church throughout the years in many capacities: elder, deacon, committee member, etc. He also serves on the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry. He is a dedicated and caring volunteer whose generosity of time and talents make him a gift to this church and the community.

Read in browser »

You Are Your Own Digital Bodyguard
By Delphia Sullivan

It’s easier to steal your identity than it is to steal your car.

Last weekend, U.S. and European authorities took down two networks responsible for hijacking and extorting money from hundreds of thousands of computer users.

Top 5 Cybersecurity Tips:

Tighten up your e-mail
Your strongest, toughest password should be the one you use for email. Most sites and services rely on email to verify changes to your account or warn you of unusual transactions that may indicate a security breach, so your email account is your last line of defense.

Don’t just choose a random collection of letters and numbers. The best way to secure your password, according to security professionals, is to make it a complete sentence.

**Use antivirus software**

There is no such thing as an impregnable line of defense. No antivirus software will catch every piece of malware; there are simply too many new programs and approaches to hacking into your computer to guarantee you’ll stop them all. But just because a door can be kicked in doesn’t mean you shouldn’t bother to lock your home.

There are plenty of basic, reputable and free antivirus programs from the likes of AVG, Avast, and Bitdefender. Not using one of them is foolhardy.

**Don’t click that link**

This may sound extreme, but you should never click on a link embedded in any email. Never, ever, ever. That means no videos of cats riding Roombas. No Rickrolling. Many of the most effective attacks use what looks like a legitimate email to trick you into clicking - and then you’re infected. CryptoLocker, one of the programs authorities targeted last weekend, often used spurious UPS and FedEx tracking messages. Don’t fall for it. Go directly to the official site by typing the actual, legitimate address into your browser. If there’s really an important message for you, you’ll find it there.

**Dump Windows XP**

According to the security firm Avast, tens of millions of computers around the world are still running Microsoft’s Windows XP operating system. But Microsoft, for all intents and purposes, has abandoned the software by ceasing all security updates for it. The best way to deal with this is to get a new computer. It may feel like a form of blackmail, but you’re better off buying a new laptop for about $400 than sticking with a system that criminals can break into easily.

**Protect your phone**

Although it is not as endemic as malware for laptops and PCs, smartphones are drawing more attention from hackers. Security firms recently found several viruses posing as legitimate apps. Meanwhile, more of us are using our phones for banking, paying bills, even as digital wallets. Again, use one of the free programs - Lookout or AVG, for example - to protect your phone as you would your PC. Finally, according to a Consumer Reports survey, 34 percent of smartphone owners don’t bother to password-protect their phones. Don’t be one of that minority: Lock your phone down.
Greetings Delphia

In this week's 06/16/2014 edition:

- Report from GA
- June 3rd Presbytery Meeting
- Order your Backpacks

**Report from GA**
*By Amalie Ash*

I am one of ten members of the Presbytery attending the 221st GA, so my experience is a small snapshot of our denomination’s big event. I arrived here with a few goals and two assignments. Goal one was accomplished over the weekend, when I spent 10 hours in the Face2Face CLC committee room. Along with Michele Ready (PNC Riviera), we interviewed candidates, read PIFs and observed Elders from around the country represent their congregations and communities. We met several fine candidates and will bring their PIFs back to the presbytery. Another goal was to meet with the 1001 Worshipping Communities program and to learn ways Tropical Florida could benefit.

The GA opened on Saturday; the opening worship is a highlight of the weekend; it is a joy to experience worship in multiple languages and new liturgies. The new Moderator is the elected Sunday. For the next two years Moderator Heath Rada and Vice-Moderator Larissa Kwong Abazia will guide the PCUSA. Heath was the CEO of the Richmond Red Cross and President of Presbyterian School for Christian Education. (Go to the GA...
website for more on their complimentary backgrounds and vision). It was during the moderator election that the first hiccup occurred; the electronic voting system failed, then the backup remotes failed. The moderator won on paper ballots with 52% of the votes.

Presbytery Leaders may volunteer to be Presence Keepers. We are assigned a meeting room and maintain a pray vigil for the people and the issues. I am assigned to the Social Justice Committee where overtures for gun violence, abortion, hunger, end-of-life, drug policies, fairer tax systems and the death penalty were discussed. This room called for prayer, it is a privilege to be there for them. When the committee meetings are over we have assignments in the plenary meeting.

Tomorrow, I will be speaking for an overture “to evaluate the process for ordination and exams”. Overtures will absorb the next few days, keeping the commissioners working into the night on difficult issues. Some overtures have speakers standing in lines patiently waiting their turn; the marriage overtures and Israel/Palestine divestment have the longest lines. Please keep your commissioners in your prayers and pray for the challenging votes coming before them.

June 3rd Presbytery Meeting
By Skip Bush

The Presbytery of Tropical Florida was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Pedro Rivera, at 9:30 a.m. on June 3, 2014, at the Community Presbyterian Church, Lauderdale by the Sea. The Rev. Jim Goldsmith, pastor, brought us greetings. Our guests and first time elders were introduced. Our Transitional Presbyter, newly-ordained Rev. Amalie A. Ash, was introduced and congratulated. Rev. Diane Shoaf led worship based on a southern camp meeting. Rev. Dr. Chris Atwood read from the Memoire of Charles G. Finney. Holy Communion was celebrated.

The Order of the Day was the recommendation of the PUP AC concerning Friendship PC, Hialeah and their CRE Dr. Winston Sosa. The Rev. Dr. David Massey and Elder Michele ready introduced the PUP’s recommendations. The Presbytery held a 45-minute hearing for members of the Friendship PC to share their comments. The PUP AC then made its first recommendation: That Friendship PC and its CRE be transferred to ECO. This was debated for 20 minutes, pro and con, and the Presbytery voted to approve that the church and its CRE be transferred to ECO. The PUP AC then made its second recommendation: That due to the missional needs of the Presbytery, Friendship PC not be allowed to take their property with them to ECO. The commissioners from Friendship PC presented a substitute motion where Friendship PC would contribute 10%+ in order to take their building to ECO. The Presbytery debated the substitute motion for another 20 minutes and voted not to allow the church to keep their
The Presbytery then approved the PUP AC’s second recommendation. The PUP AC report was received for information.

The Presbytery received greetings from the Rev. Dr. Heahwan Rim, Synod Transitional Executive and Stated Clerk, who spoke about changes in the Synod structure. The upcoming General Assembly will consider shrinking the number of Synods from 16 to 8, which means that we might gain North Carolina and/or Alabama. Our Regional Representative from the Board of Pensions, Clark Simmons, spoke about changes coming to the Pension Plan. They are expecting to give a 4.6% experience apportionment to both retired and active members. The Presbytery then adjourned for lunch.

The Keynote Speaker was the Rev. Dr. Hector Rodriguez from PC (USA) headquarters who spoke on being a vibrant church in a truly multicultural setting. Most of the Presbytery’s business was in the Consent Agenda. The Human Resources Committee presented a new job description / title for the Transitional Presbyter, which was adopted. The Commissioners to the General Assembly in Detroit, MI, were commissioned by the Moderator.

Having finished its business, the Presbytery adjourned with prayer at 2:45 p.m. There was opportunity to have Session records reviewed following the meeting. If you didn’t make it this time, plan to bring yours in either September or December following the Stated Meeting.

Order your Backpacks
By Amalie Ash

If your church would like to participate in the program please email your order to Delphia at delphias@tfpby.org. She will be keeping track of the orders this year. Churches may order up to 50 Backpacks for distribution within the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. If you would like more, please let us know in your order, if we have extra we will let you know.

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Schools discourage placing notes or religious symbols in the backpacks.

Each congregation then gathers the supplies and delivers to the school during orientation. If you do not have school nearby there are other options: Some congregations give to foster homes, homeless family programs, immigrant programs, and to the needy families in their congregations.

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Greetings Delphia

In this weeks 06/23/2014 edition:

- From 221st General Assembly
- Loan and Grant Compliance
- 2015 Coral Gables Grant Form
- Payroll and Self-Employment
- Last Call: Order your Backpacks

From 221st General Assembly
By Amalie Ash

Moderator Heath Rada, Vice Moderator, Larrissa Kwong Abasia & some of our group

The following letter is from the Moderator and leadership of the OGA June 21, 2014

To the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adjourned today after a full week of discussion, debate, prayer and discernment. The week also was
enveloped in worship, celebrations, fellowship and glory to God. The Assembly, anchored on the theme “Abound in Hope” (Romans 15:13), was a resounding confirmation that the PC(USA) is alive, well, and fully engaged in being faithful to God. Tough issues were tackled and challenging decisions were made. These actions were not done lightly, and each commissioner and advisory delegate carefully and prayerfully worked in committee and as a full body in plenary. Now, over the next two years, members of the 221st Assembly and other leaders in the church will be about the business of interpreting and guiding people through the decisions made. We hope you, too, will be ambassadors for the Assembly’s work, and we offer ourselves and our colleagues as resources.

Now, some highlights:

Relating to the world

- The Assembly approved the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” campaign, recommended by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. This is a call on the whole church to join in a movement to provide quality education to 1 million children in the U.S. and around the world in the next four years - as a way to alleviate poverty.
- The Assembly approved a measure to divest from three corporations - Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions - it believes are not in compliance with the church’s policy on socially responsible investing. The decision is a significant step in the denomination’s policy that says it should not profit from “non-peaceful pursuits.” This does not constitute divestment from Israel - the church maintains significant investments in companies that do business in Israel.

Relating to our communities

- The Assembly approved “The Interreligious Stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).” This statement is the result of work by Presbyterians, Christians of other denominations, and representatives of many faith traditions to study how Presbyterians should best engage with people of different faiths.
- Recommendations that the PC(USA) advocate measures to prevent gun violence won resounding approval. The GA’s decision calls for such actions as the formation of support, healing and advocacy groups for those who have experienced gun violence in their families; and opposition to “stand your ground” and other legislation that may entitle gun owners to shoot before taking alternative measures.
- The Assembly celebrated the nearly 250 new worshipping communities in more than 100 presbyteries that have been counted since the last General Assembly. Clearly this is a movement of the Holy Spirit, giving the promise of renewal and rebirth throughout the church.
- For nearly 200 years, the Presbyterian church has served as one of the greatest forces for mission in the world. In that spirit, the Assembly endorsed an initiative to encourage Presbyterians to go beyond the walls of their congregations and increase their engagement in service to their communities and the world. By “living missionally,” we are intentionally joining in God’s transformations of societal injustices by following Christ’s example of service through faith, hope, love, and witness.

Relating to each other

- The Assembly approved a recommendation to allow teaching elders pastoral discretion to perform “any such marriage they believe the Holy Spirit calls them to perform,” where legal by state law. The body also passed a recommendation to change language in the Book of Order to indicate that “marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman.” Our prayer
is that together, through our covenant with one another, the PC(USA) can move forward on this issue in love and with respect.

- The Assembly overwhelmingly voted to add the Confession of Belhar to the PC(USA)’s Book of Confessions. The action must now be ratified by a majority of the presbyteries within the next year. Specific language on all of the Assembly’s actions is available on PC-biz (www.pc-biz.org). Assembly in Brief, a more detailed compilation of the Assembly’s decisions, will be available for download next week at www.pcusa.org/ga221. Jesus clearly tells us in John 13: 34, “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” Agape love for those in our world, in our communities, and for each other is essential in these days ahead. We don’t all agree, yet we must find paths to peace and reconciliation using the unconditional love of God as our guide. Our charge to you now is to go forth with the actions of the 221st Assembly, living missionally as the church beyond walls, and engaging in the process of working together with churches in the task of reconciliation. We look forward to working with you.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
Ruling Elder Heath K. Rada, Moderator, 221st General Assembly (2014)
The Reverend Larissa Kwong Abazia, Vice Moderator, 221st General Assembly (2014)
The Reverend Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Ruling Elder Linda Bryant Valentine, Executive Director, Presbyterian, Mission Agency

**Loan and Grant Compliance**
*By Susan Carpenter*

All churches with grants and / or loans are required to provide to the Presbytery

- a copy of the annual budget
- proof of insurance
- a pledge to the Mission Budget of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida

If you have a grant or a loan please send the above to Susan Carpenter.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

**2015 Coral Gables Grant Form**
*By Susan Carpenter*
It’s time to sit down and complete the paperwork to apply for a 2015 Coral Gables Grant.

Grant applications are due by 5 PM September 2nd, 2014.

Grant Applications are available on the Presbytery website - www.tfpby.org.
You can download it as a Word doc. or pdf

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Honorarium vs Self Employment vs Employee

1. To be considered INCOME it must be derived from
   • the conduct of a trade or business
   • be involved in the activity with continuity and regularity, as distinguished from an occasional action
   • and the primary purpose for being involved in the activity is for income of profit.
   e.g. A tax preparer is asked to present a seminar at a tax preparer’s annual convention in which an honorarium is received. As the tax preparer is not in the business of being a professional speaker, it is not income. This would be an Honorarium.
   e.g. “Batok was an automobile mechanic who took a one-month job painting houses, earning $ 4,200 which he reported as other income, not Schedule C [Self-Employment]. The IRS charged SE [self-employment] tax in audit, but the court determined that Batok wasn’t “in the business” of painting houses (John A. Batok v. Comm, TCM 1992-727).” This was neither self-employment income nor Employee Income; it was Other Income.

2. Worker Classification as Self-Employed or Employee
   The IRS and courts look at three classifications in making a determination of a worker’s status
   In 2013 the IRS looked at more cases of worker misclassification than in the previous 5 years combined.
   a. Does BEHAVIORAL control over worker exist?
      i. To what extent are instructions given and taken?
         An employee is general subject to the business’s instructions about when where and how to work.
      ii. What training does the business give the worker?
         Employees generally are trained to perform services in a particular manner.
   b. Do FINANCIAL controls over worker exist?
      i. Can the worker realize a profit or incur a loss?
An independent contractor can make a profit or loss whereas an employee can only make a profit.

ii. Is the worker’s investment significant?
An independent contractor provides the tools and has unreimbursed expenses and business and travel expenses.

iii. To what extent does the worker make services available to the general public?
An independent contractor generally workers for more than one business or is actively looking for work from more than one business.

iv. How does the business pay the worker?
An independent contractor is generally paid by the job but some professions are paid hourly.

c. What type of RELATIONSHIP between the parties exist?

i. Does a written contract exist that describes the relationship the parties intend to create?
A written contract could create a de facto employee contract if it contains HOW the work is to be performed.

ii. Does the business provide the worker with employee-type benefits, such as insurance, a pension plan, vacation pay, or sick pay?

Employee benefits are only paid to employees.

iii. How permanent, on-going, is this relationship?
Permanent and indefinite relationship indicates an employee-employer relationship but independent contractors can have a long-lasting relationship.

iv. To what extent are the services performed by the worker a key aspect of the regular business of the company?

An employee-employer relationship exists if the success of the business is dependent upon the relationship. E.g. Brick laying company - brick layers - employees, accountant - independent contractor. It is essential for a company to retain a good accountant but accounting is not the company’s regular business.

3. Self-Employed Individuals

A 1099 must be issued to all self-employed individuals if $ 600 or more is paid for services.

A 1099 must be issued to all lawyers for ANY dollar amount paid for services.

“Employers who fail to withhold income, FICA and Medicare tax because its workers are improperly classified as independent contractors are assessed a tax of 1.5% OF THE EMPLOYEE’S WAGES FOR Federal income tax withholding and 20% of the employee’s portion of FICA and Medicare. The percentages are doubled to 3% and 40% respectively if the employer fails to file Form 1099.”

4. Depositing the payroll taxes

Whether a company has payroll done in house or hires a payroll service, the employer is responsible to the deposit of payroll taxes and the filing of returns.

The IRS will hold responsible persons personally liable for 100% of the corporate payroll tax. The 100% penalty is not necessarily imposed on the most responsible taxpayer. There is an exception for volunteer and tax-exempt organizations. “The IRS may not
impose the trust fund recovery penalty on volunteers, unpaid members or a board of trustees or directors of a tax-exempt organization to the extent that such members serve solely in an honorary capacity, do not participate in the day-to-day or financial operations of the organization, and do not have actual knowledge of the failure to pay the trust fund taxes for which the penalty is imposed. However, the relief does not apply if it result in no other person being liable for the penalty…”

a. A responsible person is one who had the duty to collect and pay over the taxes. The following have been held to be responsible - board members, corporate officers, manager, payroll check signers, payroll report signers.

b. The responsible person must have acted willfully in failing to pay the collected taxes. “Willful” can be nothing more than knowing the liability exists and paying another creditor.

The IRS has said that a person could be held liable for the unpaid trust fund taxes if they could have obtained information about the financial affairs of the corporation by simply asking for the information. A person cannot avoid liability by “wearing blinders” to avoid obtaining actual knowledge of the tax delinquency.

5. Employee Rights

If a person is a de facto employee but the company is treating them as an independent contractor the individual can file a Form 8919 with their personal tax return and only pay ½ of the self-employed taxes. The company would then be held responsible for the additional taxes, interest and penalties.

The information above comes from a 35 page continuing learning training seminar. The Presbytery of Tropical Florida does not provide legal or tax advice. This is not intended to substitute for the advice of legal or tax counsel

6/17/2014

Last Call: Order your Backpacks

By Amalie Ash
Greetings Delphia

In this weeks 06/30/2014 edition:

- Need support for the decisions at GA?
- Tropical Florida represented in the PCUSA
- Childrens Ministry and Sunday School educators
- Coral Gables Grant Conf Call - 60 days to Deadline
- Microsoft Office 365
- Taking Control of your Multiple Email Accounts

**Need support for the decisions at GA?**
*By Amalie Ash*

Teaching and Ruling Elders, Do you need material to assist your congregation and small groups discuss recent General Assembly decisions? By Wednesday afternoon, July 2, the Presbytery website will have several links and resources for your access. We have been collecting letters, comments, bulletin inserts and other information (in several languages) for your use.

In August, a conversation with the GA Commissioners will be organized once all have returned from vacations and mission trips.

**Tropical Florida represented in the PCUSA**
*By Amalie Ash*

Congratulations to Tropical Florida’s denomination representatives.
Arlene W. Gordon The Rev. Dr. Gordon has been elected to serve on the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She is currently serving as President of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus and serving as a Parish Associate at the Korean Presbyterian Church of Miami.

Nigel Leon Lovell-Martin The Rev. Dr. Lovell-Martin has been elected to serve on the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly. Leon is the Chair of COM in Tropical Florida Presbytery. He is the Pastor at Myrtle Grove Presbyterian, Miami Gardens.

Gwendolyn D. Magby The Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn D. Magby has been elected to serve on the General Assembly Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns. Gwen is also a commissioner to the Synod of the South Atlantic. She is the Pastor for Trinity Presbyterian, Key West.

Childrens Ministry and Sunday School educators
By Amalie Ash

See the Presbytery website for teaching videos for your Children’s Ministry.
Last fall a small group of children educators attended the Kid Min Conference in Columbus. They share what they learned and what they have implemented in their ministry. Delphia videoed their presentations so you can watch when convenient.

See these five presentations:
A Church For Every Child (Barbara Hassall- Sunrise PC, Miami)
Church, Family and You (Melanie Stepp - Palms West PC, Royal Palm
Creating A Kid Friendly Church (Crystal Davis – Tequesta PC)
Double Your Volunteers (Crystal Davis)
Turning Parents Into Partners (Pati Higginbotham - Hobe Sound PC )

Thank you Barbara, Melanie, Crystal and Pati for sharing your experience with the Presbytery.

Coral Gables Grant Conf Call - 60 days to Deadline
By Amalie Ash

If you have questions we will have two Grant Conference Calls on July 8th at 10AM and 5PM. Call information will be posted on July 7th.

Have you reviewed the 2014 Coral Gables Grant Application? It is on the Presbytery website.

Has your Session, Mission Committee or Staff discussed a new ministry for your church? Dream!

This grant is one of gifts of being in Tropical Florida. If you have an idea that will help build your ministry consider the Coral Gables Grant.
It only comes around once a year. It is due in September. Read the guidelines and see if your idea fits.

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**Microsoft Office 365**  
*By Presbytery Contributor*

Microsoft is donating its Office 365 to eligible nonprofits.

Office 365 includes anywhere access to the Office tools you know and love such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote plus professional email, web conferencing, file sharing, and more.

To see if your nonprofit organization may qualify for this free service, see this page: Microsoft Corporation Citizenship

The number one qualification is having obtained recognized charitable status in your respective country. In the US that would mean you had applied for and obtained recognition of tax exempt status from the IRS.

Eligible organizations must also operate on a not-for-profit basis and have a mission to benefit the local community such as providing relief to the poor. See the above link for more examples.

If you think you qualify,

- go to the Office 365 for Nonprofits page
- click the “Get started toward a donation with a FREE trial” link
- click the Office 365 Enterprise E3 for Nonprofits FREE trial green button
- set up your account

You should get an email from MS before your 30 day trial ends that will confirm or deny your organization’s eligibility. If you do not receive that email, you can contact their customer support.

**Note:** If you have older versions of Office, you may need to upgrade these with a monthly/annual charge per user.

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**Taking Control of your Multiple Email Accounts**  
*By Delphia Sullivan*
Do you have more than one e-mail address OR access your e-mail from more than one device (a smartphone, a laptop, a desktop) OR access your e-mail from more than one location (home, office)? Then maybe it’s time to switch over from a POP3 to IMAP. POP is the oldest type of email on this list. POP stands for “Post Office Protocol”. It basically works by downloading email data to the first client that connects to it. **Pros:**

- Email downloads to one location, keeping only a single copy.
- Easiest to set up.
- Most commonly used.
- For email accounts with multiple users, each email only goes to the first person to open it.

**Cons:**

- No message syncing.
- Once the email is downloaded, it disappears from the server.
- No contact, calendar, or data syncing.

IMAP, which stands for Internet Message Access Protocol. It talks back and forth with the mail server. This means that if you download a new email in Outlook on your desktop computer, it will also download to your iPhone. Moving emails from one folder to another is also synced. It also takes more processing power and can be prone to more mistakes. **Pros:**

- Full message syncing.
- Multiple device and client support.
Flags and to-do items sync.
Messages saved on server and downloaded to every new account.
Very simple to enable and use.

Cons:

- Since messages are stored on the server, space can easily become an issue.
- Syncing issues can arise.
- If multiple people are using the same account, message syncing can create confusion.
- Not supported by all email providers.

Taking Control Of Your Multiple Email Accounts

Read in browser »

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Delphia at delphias@tfpby.org She will be keeping track of the orders this year. Churches may order up to 50 Backpacks for distribution within the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. If you would like more, please let us know in your order, if we have extra we will let you know.

The Backpack Program: Participating churches connect with a nearby school’s guidance counselor or principal. The school will tell you the needs of their student population. Schools discourage placing notes or religious symbols in the backpacks.

Each congregation then gathers the supplies and delivers to the school during orientation. If you do not have a school nearby there are other options: Some congregations give to foster homes, homeless family programs, immigrant programs, and to the needy families in their congregations.

It is a way to come together in our communities and support our children and youth. Get your orders in and we will distribute in July.