In this weeks 07/07/2014 edition:

- [PCUSA Response to Border Children](http://www.pcusa.org/news/2014/7/7/response-unaccompanied-children/)
- [What’s Happening?](#)
- [Miami Dolphins Faith & Family Night](#)
- [Assistant Director of Campus Ministry, Coordinator of Multi-Cultural Student Ministry](#)
- [How to use the Plus addressing in Gmail](#)

**PCUSA Response to Border Children**

By Amalie Ash

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with churches and presbyteries who are caring for the children and families crossing the Mexican border. Recently, PDA has been active providing aid to refugees in the Middle East and other similar human caused global crisis. Today, the Office of the General Assembly’s Stated Clerk, Gradye Parson’s sent the attached letter concerning the children at the border. Gradye’s letter give suggestions how you can help the border’s churches and care givers.

If you would like details on this crisis the PDA provides more information; attached is a FAQ from the PDA website


By Shari Lowe

Welcome to this edition of our 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 South Atlantic and across the Presbyterian Church (USA). Your input is valued, and your comments are always welcomed! We’d really like to include more about the goings-on at Tropical Florida churches. Please tell us what you’re doing over the summer. If you have concerts or speakers at your church that you feel would be of interest to others in the Presbytery, please share that as well. Hope everyone had a happy 4th. Today I felt like the old Maytag Repair Man (the loneliest person on earth) as the phone rang fewer than five times!

Read in browser »

Miami Dolphins Faith & Family Night
By Shari Lowe

September 21 — 4:25 p.m., KC vs. Miami
Tickets: $25 for Upper Level and $60 for Lower Level
Space is limited but tickets can be reserved with only $1.00 per seat deposit.
Free postgame concert with Contemporary Christian pop artist Jonny Diaz.
For additional info: Group Sales Dept. 888-346-7849 ext. 6 / Grouptix@Dolphins.NFL.com

You may also contact the Sales Dept. to learn about their pregame church service opportunity or Fundraising with the Fins Program.

Read in browser »

Assistant Director of Campus Ministry, Coordinator of Multi-Cultural Student Ministry
By Presbytery Contributor

Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Marquette University is accepting applications for an Assistant Director, Coordinator of Multicultural Student Ministry. Primary responsibilities include development of Campus Ministry programs focused on pastoral outreach and support for students of historically underrepresented cultural and ethnic background and facilitation of intercultural faith community building. S/he will collaborate closely with members of Marquette’s campus ministry team.

This is a 10 month position.

Requirements: Master’s degree in Theology or related field. Two years of experience in campus ministry or related field. Two years of experience in multicultural ministry. Spanish proficiency.

Application Process: Please apply online at: https://employment.marquette.edu/postings/3065.
How to use the Plus addressing in Gmail
By Delphia Sullivan

Your Gmail address that can give you greater control over your inbox and save you some time and headache. When you choose a Gmail address, you actually get more than just “yourusername@gmail.com.”

Here are two different ways you can modify your Gmail address and still get your mail:

- Append a plus (“+”) sign and any combination of words or numbers after your email address. For example, if your name was hikingfan@gmail.com, you could send mail to hikingfan+friends@gmail.com or hikingfan+mailinglists@gmail.com.
- Insert one or several dots (“.”) anywhere in your email address. Gmail doesn’t recognize periods as characters in addresses — we just ignore them. For example, you could tell people your address was hikingfan@gmail.com, hiking.fan@gmail.com or hi.kin.g.fan@gmail.com.

The real value in being able to manipulate your email address is that it makes it really easy to filter on those variants. You may subscribe to a number of newsletters, you’re probably looking for an easy way to organize them inside of your inbox.

How to Use Plus Addressing in Gmail
In this week's 07/14/2014 edition:

- **Literacy Project: Bilingual Books**
- **Backpacks**
- **Grants: Evangelism and Church Growth Conference 8/11-14**
- **Major Savings in Software**
- **Reflection From Doug Hood, 221st GA Commissioner**
- **Pastoral Letter from PFR and the Fellowship**
- **Pastoral Letter of 86 Hispanos Latnos Leaders to our communities in the US and our sister churches in Latin America**
- **Self Development of People Workshops**
- **Night of Joy**
- **Services for Marianne Broome**
- **Church Future?**
- **Retired Church Workers Sometimes Need Help**
- **NEEDED Chancel Choir Director**

**Literacy Project: Bilingual Books**

*By Amalie Ash*
We have received a donation of children’s Spanish/English books with CDs. These are teaching tools to help children learn the basics; alphabet, counting, weather, animals, and more. If you have a need for these books for your church or community please contact Shari. Please let us know the estimated number of children needing these books. They will be available for distribution in August. The literacy project is provided by an anonymous donor with a passion for children and their future.

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**Backpacks**  
By Amalie Ash

We have the backpacks ready and everyone will receive their requested order. The backpacks will be available at Second Presbyterian unless other arrangements have been made. The two churches in Key West will be delivered the weekend of July 26th. If anyone is coming sooner please let me know. Could someone from the Miami area pick up for the four Miami churches, and be a distribution point?

This year we have two sizes: All are for Elementary Grades

Small (15 inch) for Pre-K, K and First Grade
Average (17 inch) for Grades 2 to 5

You will receive a combination of the two sizes. We may have a few left over; I will know this weekend. Thank you all for participating.

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**Grants: Evangelism and Church Growth Conference 8/11-14**  
By Amalie Ash

Do not forget the PCUSA Evangelism and Church Growth Conference is being held on St Pete Beach next month.

Remember there are $500.00 education grants for small church teaching elders. If you are interested in the 1001 New Worshiping Communities, Evangelism, and Congregational Transformation you may enjoy this conference. Plus, there are special tracks for Hispanic, Brazilian, Korean and African American congregations to learn new ways to relate to evangelism and social
justice issues. See the website for details.

If you have not taken a vacation, the Trade Winds Island Grand Resort is a great place to take the family.
For more information check the website:
http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/ecg2014/

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**Major Savings in Software**
By Presbytery Contributor

We (First Delray Beach) are converting our computers away from Microsoft XP. Of course, that means that we need to purchase new software. In the past, I have purchased software from sources that provide charity pricing. I have also purchased software directly from Microsoft for non-profits.

Last Thursday, my morning was spent pricing the software that we will need. The lowest bid I found was for $1,260. My computer tech told me to look into techsoup.org. Once there, I had to register the church, which is normally a process that can take several weeks. I called them and they fast tracked our registration and we were qualified while I was on the phone. What was even better, I purchased the same software that was $1260 for only $396. That is a major savings to the church’s budget!

Techsoup.org has lots of software vendors that they work with. Make sure to read the information carefully as there are limitations on how many purchases you can make within a two year period. But, all in all, it was an easy process that saved the church substantial money!

For example, I purchased Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2013 for $32 a copy. And, since we are going to use Windows 7, I was able to purchase their 64 bit version for only $12 a copy.

Even if you don’t have a need for new software at the present time, take a moment and register with techsoup.org. This way, when you are ready to make that purchase, you are all set up.

Nancy Fine,
Church Administrator

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**Reflection From Doug Hood, 221st GA Commissioner**
By Presbytery Contributor

by, Dr. Doug Hood, Pastor First Delray, Moderator-elect and 221st GA Commissioner

Ministry of Imagination
“There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.’”

John 3:1, 2 (Common English Bible)

Nicodemus calls the church to a ministry of imagination. A Pharisee, Nicodemus departs from the narrow, walled-in sectarian views of his colleagues and comes to Jesus in sympathetic inquiry. Perhaps Nicodemus is weary of the wooden, cramping and belittling understanding of the Bible that limits fellowship with others of another point of view. Perhaps Nicodemus fears that barriers of thought and divisions in the fellowship of faith can produce nothing higher than spiritual dwarfs. Perhaps Nicodemus simply wishes for a more expansive and imaginative faith and believes that Jesus can offer the necessary nutriment. For whatever reason, Nicodemus comes to Jesus.

A large faith, a full-grown faith must borrow from others. The genius of maturity is the recognition that a wider vision of this life demands the stimulus of thought found in another’s wealth. No one discovers adequate nourishment for their own development within the poverty of self-centeredness and narrow-mindedness. If we are to exercise ourselves in the wider vision of imagination - as does Nicodemus - we must listen sympathetically to understandings not our own. Otherwise we exist only in an echo chamber, our thought never growing, never expanding. It is well documented that even Shakespeare fetched his water of inspiration from the wells of other great thinkers and writers.

J. H. Jowett reflects that one’s life, thinking and theology will remain comparatively dormant unless it is breathed upon by the bracing influence of fellowship of thought that is beyond our own. Communion with viewpoints on every side, viewpoints to both the left and right of our own grasp of the Bible and the world of thought, lifts our powers for imagination. It is in a grand and inquisitive imagination that our faith discovers strength and grand proportions. It is where we acknowledge that Jesus is more than anyone can ever fully grasp.

It would be well if persons of faith were to exercise the same imaginative curiosity of Nicodemus. A sincere recognition of another’s position, appreciation for another’s point of view and discovery of another’s purpose and aim in faith strengthens the fellowship of church. Rather than “leaving the table” when disagreements of faith arise perhaps it would be a richer and more spacious church if we recall that largest common denominator that has always held the people of faith together, the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Joy,

Read in browser »

Pastoral Letter from PFR and the Fellowship
By Presbytery Contributor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
Meeting in Detroit, our 221st General Assembly has taken two significant actions on the teaching and practice of marriage according to the PC(USA)’s Book of Order. First, the GA approved an Authoritative Interpretation (AI) that now permits PC(USA) pastors to conduct same-sex weddings, and allows sessions to approve the use of church property for such ceremonies. Secondly, the GA approved a proposed amendment to the Book of Order that would replace current language with a description of marriage as a relationship between “two people, traditionally a man and a woman.”

While the AI goes into effect immediately, the proposed amendment requires ratification by a majority of the presbyteries before any change could be made, a process that takes about one year. Both measures are designed to allow pastors and congregations to participate in same-sex weddings, in states where gay marriage is legal.

We grieve these actions by the General Assembly. We believe we will look back on this day and see the error of these decisions. But an Assembly of our denomination has spoken, and now we must move ahead without compromising compassion or conviction.

It is extremely important to understand that while the AI and the constitutional amendment broaden the denomination’s interpretation of marriage, they do not require any pastor to officiate or any session to authorize the use of church property for a marriage service with which they disagree. It remains up to each pastor and each session to determine what is and is not appropriate for their congregation.

Proponents of these two actions have made great effort to invite and welcome those who hold unwaveringly to a traditional interpretation of marriage to remain engaged in the mission and ministry of the PC(USA) with full integrity. Some will resolve to do this-others may not. Those of us who do remain in the PC(USA) will, no doubt, encounter other decisions and actions with which we will disagree. We are not here to fight and divide, but to continue to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and to testify to the transforming power of his love that is available to everyone. We urge you in the strongest possible way to refrain from actions, attitudes, and language that would mar the image of Christ in your response to the Assembly’s actions.

Let us commit to one another, and to Almighty God, that we will seek to embody the grace and love of our Savior across our theological differences, and in personal and congregational deliberations about our future in the PC(USA).

Pastoral Letter of 86 Hispanos Latnos Leaders to our communities in the US and our sister churches in Latin America
By Presbytery Contributor

A group of 86 PC(USA) leaders of Hispanics Latinos communities sent a Pastoral Letter addressing the recent actions of our 221 General Assembly met in Detroit on June 14-21, 2014.
As you also know, most our people are really concerned about the Assembly’s decision and the feelings goes from celebration and happiness to anger and frustration. In the midst of this, we felt we had to share a message with our communities and with the sisters churches in Latin America from which we came and are still part of our roots.

The letter, originally in Spanish was translated to English and Portuguese.

Jose Luis Casal

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**Self Development of People Workshops**
By Presbytery Contributor

2 SDOP Workshops have been scheduled:
August 1st, 2014 - Second PC, Fort Lauderdale
Time: 5.00 - 7.00 p.m.

August 2nd, 2014 - New Covenant PC
Time: 10.00 a.m. - noon

For more information, see the flyers Ft. Lauderdale | Miami

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**Night of Joy**
By Shari Lowe

Our Presbytery will be providing transportation to any church going to Night of Joy on September 6, 2014. There will be no cost to the churches for the transportation but you will need to purchase
your own Night of Joy Tickets. What we need to know now is if your church has interest. Each church may bring a maximum of 16 People on the Bus. Please remember the Presbytery requires you to send 1 Adult for every 7 Youth (so you can bring 14 youth and 2 adults on the bus).

Without knowing the demand, it is planned to have a pick-up at 3 determined locations throughout the Presbytery (Miami, Ft.Lauderdale and Delray Beach). These locations will be announced well before the date. We will also be providing t-shirts! So please submit t-shirt sizes with your reservation. With that being said, we need to hear from any church having interest as soon as possible but no later than August 15th (center@tfpby.org). Each adult will have to complete a background check form, if you have not submitted one in the past year. Help us help you make plans to attend this worthwhile event!

Read in browser »

### Services for Marianne Broome
By Shari Lowe

A Memorial Service for Marianne Broome will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Pompano Beach on Saturday, July 26th, 11:00 a.m.

As you will recall from our earlier announcement (and many of you remember), Marianne worked at the Presbytery office before joining the staff at The Pink Church.

Read in browser »

### Church Future?
By Shari Lowe

During the week I came across this cartoon. It struck me as a timely reminder because a number of our congregations are in the middle of, just beginning, or just wrapping up a pastoral search process. Do you want to grow? Though all churches will claim (and think) that they want to grow.
Many really don’t. To grow means that someone will be sitting in my pew at worship... those new people will be making decisions about my church. There was a congregation who stepped back from the brink of a decision to merge with another Presbyterian congregation, partly because it would have meant leaving the building where they had worshipped for some 85 years. That congregation held its last service in that building in late June because they ended up selling to a different church. What they feared before had come to pass anyhow, only without an intentional future as a congregation lying ahead of them. For more and more congregations, the day is drawing to a close when each can have its own building, run its own programs, support its own mission causes and call and hire its own staff. Resources are too limited. Trying something new is risky, and frankly frightening. It’s time to rethink how we are doing things and be bold to follow where He might lead us.

Retired Church Workers Sometimes Need Help
By Shari Lowe

After long careers at modest salaries, many retired PC(USA) church workers need financial assistance during retirement. Some need help because they were unable to build sufficient savings. Others face an extraordinary expense, such as the cost of assisted living for an ailing spouse - a burden they cannot carry alone. The Assistance Program provides more than 575 Housing and Income Supplements each year to retired church workers or their surviving spouses. It receives no funds from dues; its ministry depends on the generosity of caring Presbyterians like you.

If you already made a gift to the Assistance Program this year, thank you! If you have not, please go to pensions.org/giveassistance to make your gift online, or call the Board of Pensions at (800) 773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN), ext. 7300, for information on other ways to support the program.

NEEDED Chancel Choir Director
By Presbytery Contributor

Starting the last week of August. The Position involves directing the Adult Choir - no keyboard skills are needed we have an Organist/Keyboard person. Rehearsals are on Wednesday night at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 10:30 am - Our Worship service is at 11:00 am. Contact Rev. David Massey 954-465-4994. Plantation Presbyterian Church 901 NW 70th Ave. Plantation, Florida
In this weeks 07/21/2014 edition:

- **Hispanic/Latino Conference in Puerto Rico**
- **IRS - Church Payroll Tax Audits - the IRS is Watching**
- **Board of Pensions - Affiliated Dues for 2015**
- **Can Employers Remburse Employees For HealthCare Coverage Purchased On The Exchange?**
- **NEEDED Chancel Choir Director**

**Hispanic/Latino Conference in Puerto Rico**
By Presbytery Contributor

Under the theme: “A Transformative Discipleship: Compassion, Justice and Love”, more than 100 Hispanic pastors and leaders from the PC(USA) met in the city of San Juan, Puerto Rico during the first week of July, to reflect, learn and discuss this important and topical issue. Four pastors and leaders of our Presbytery of Tropical Florida had the opportunity to participate: Rev. Otoniel Bermúdez (Grace Point Hispanic Church NCD), Rev. Heidi Arencibia (New Life Presbyterian Church), Rev. Noe Juarez (Sunset Community Presbyterian Church), and Ruling Elder Yudyt Bermudez provided their talents and gifts this week and helped to enrich this reflection. Hispanic leaders shared the challenges and opportunities in these new changing times. We analyzed and discussed the recommendation from the Civil Union and Marriage Issues Committee, approved by the 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Together we committed to continue working in each of the places where God has placed us, and gave thanks to the Lord for the opportunity and privilege of building up the body of Christ in these challenging times.
Christianity TODAY posted an article about Church Payroll Tax Audits in their June 2014 issue.

At a recent 8 hour training the program spent an hour talking about the increase in IRS Payroll Tax audits. A payroll tax audit can be time consuming. The records the IRS will look at are the following:

1. General Ledger
2. Form W-4 - Your church should have every employee complete an new W-4 EACH year. Your church should also have a completed I-9 and a background check for every employee.
3. Form 941 - Quarterly Payroll Tax return.
4. W-2 - This is the form given to each employee at the end of each year. The church should make sure that the information on the W-2 and W-3 agrees to the amounts reported on the quarterly 941.
5. Ministerial Tax Status - This is the annual amount allocated to Housing for the pastor as well as Salary and other items in the Terms of Call. This action should be taken at the last Session meeting of the year and should be in the minutes. Please do not write, “Same as last year.”
6. Form 1099- MISC - Churches must issue a 1099-MISC to all self-employed persons to whom you pay non-employee compensation of $ 600 or more during the calendar year. You must also file this form for any lawyer to whom you pay ANY amount of money during the year.
7. Employee expense reimbursement - Each church should have a well-written accountable expense reimbursement plan. It also should have files documenting the reimbursements made under the plan during the year, including all expense receipts containing dates and amounts, the business purpose of the expenses, who was involved with the expenses, and proof that each reimbursement request was submitted within 60 days of when the expense occurred, call the safe harbor period.
8. Church-owned vehicles - A church should keep records of any vehicles it owned during the year and note any personal use of those vehicles. For any personal uses, the church must calculate the value of those personal miles and report those values as taxable income to respective employees.
9. 403(b) plan payments - Any church that offers a 403(b) plan must keep a copy of the plan document on file and records of how they complied with its plan.
10. Staff gifts for holidays or special occasions - All cash gifts, including love offering collected by the church to be given to ministers and staff, and cash equivalent (such as gift cards), MUST be reported as taxable income on employee Form W-2.
11. Property transfer - The fair market value of ANY property transferred to minister or staff members as a gift must be recorded as taxable income.

SO, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO RIGHT NOW?
1. Make sure that your church has all the records above.
   a. If you don’t have a reimbursement policy - write one.
   b. Make sure that your employee files are complete and updated annually.
   c. Obtain a W-9 for each person providing your church with services, at the FIRST payment to the person, and advise them they will receive a 1099-MISC at the end of the year if they are paid $600 or more annually. I have a short and sweet note I include with each such payment.

2. Make sure that you have correctly classified workers
   a. Employee vs independent contractor

3. Check your By-Laws and Manual of Operations to make sure that your church is abiding by what is written. If your church has changed what it is doing then change your By-Laws and Manual of Operations.

4. If your church is collecting a Love Offering for a staff member have the donor make the check payable to the individual and do not report the donation in your church records. This kind of staff gift is NOT taxable and does not need to be included on the W-2

The above information is taken from the Church Payroll Tax Audits — the IRS Is Watching written by Dan Busby and published in Christianity Today.

The information in this alert is for educational purposes only and should not be taken as specific legal advice.

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**Board of Pensions - Affiliated Dues for 2015**

By Susan Carpenter

The Board of Pensions has approved an increase in monthly dues of approximately 3 percent, on average, for active Affiliated Benefits Program participants effective January 1, 2015.

For specific monthly dues go The Board of Pensions website at [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org).

Congratulations to our former Executive Presbyter, Rev. Arlene W. Gordon, who was elected as a Director of The Board of Pensions.

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**Can Employers Remburse Employees For HealthCare Coverage Purchased On The Exchange?**

By Susan Carpenter
With the adoption of the Affordable Care Act, effective 2014, employers can not reimburse employees for health insurance premiums purchased through the health insurance marketplace. Further, these premiums can not be paid for with monies from a Medical Flexible Spending Account or a Health Reimbursement Account.

In certain situations employers may forward post-tax employees wages to a health insurance issuer.

The rules are very complex. Please talk to your legal adviser before paying any premium on personally purchased health insurance. There are significant penalties for violating these rules.

The information in this alert is for educational purposes and should not be taken as specific legal advice.

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**NEEDED Chancel Choir Director**

By Presbytery Contributor

Starting the last week of August. The Position involves directing the Adult Choir - no keyboard skills are needed we have an Organist/Keyboard person. Rehearsals are on Wednesday night at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 10:30 am - Our Worship service is at 11:00 am. Contact Rev. David Massey 954-465-4994. Plantation Presbyterian Church 901 NW 70th Ave. Plantation, Florida
In this weeks 07/28/2014 edition:

- **Clergy News: New Calls for Noe and Pastor Shin**
- **This Week: Self Development of People Workshops**
- **Night of Joy: Sign up by August 15th**
- **2015 Coral Gables Grant Applications and Youth Grant Applications**
- **2014 Loan and Grant Compliance**
- **“Campus Refresh Days”**
- **Outreach Foundation**

**Clergy News: New Calls for Noe and Pastor Shin**
By Amalie Ash

Noe Juarez has accepted a call as Associate Pastor for Missions at Highland Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, PA. Noe and his family will be moving this week.

Pastor Jung Yn Shin has accepted a call as part time Executive Officer for National Council Korean Presbyterian Congregations, and will serve as the part time mission pastor at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Marietta, GA. Pastor Shin begins his work at NCKPC August 1st.
The Presbytery of Tropical Florida will miss you. We pray your new calls are rewarding and a blessing to many.

This Week: Self Development of People Workshops
By Presbytery Contributor

The Presbyterian Mission Agency’s Self Development of People will be holding grant workshops in Tropical Florida.

Do you know a grassroots group that needs support? They do not need to be Presbyterian. The workshop will explain the program, what qualifies a group for funding and the application process. Registration is limited to the first 30 participants.

Please email Mary Lewis at mary.lewis@pcusa.org or call her at 800-728-7228 x 5791 to register.

Two workshops scheduled:
August 1st at Second PC “the Sanctuary” at 1400 N Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale
Time: 5.00 - 7.00 p.m.

and

August 2nd - New Covenant PC, 4300 N.W. 12th Ave, Miami, 33127
Time: 10.00 a.m. - noon

For more information, see the flyers Ft. Lauderdale | Miami

Night of Joy: Sign up by August 15th
By Shari Lowe
Our Presbytery will be providing transportation to any church going to Night of Joy on September 6, 2014. There will be no cost to the churches for the transportation but you will need to purchase your own Night of Joy Tickets. What we need to know now is if your church has interest. Each church may bring a maximum of 16 People on the Bus. Please remember the Presbytery requires you to send 1 Adult for every 7 Youth (so you can bring 14 youth and 2 adults on the bus).

Without knowing the demand, it is planned to have a pick-up at 3 determined locations throughout the Presbytery (Miami, Ft.Lauderdale and Delray Beach). These locations will be announced well before the date. We will also be providing t-shirts! So please submit t-shirt sizes with your reservation. With that being said, we need to hear from any church having interest as soon as possible but no later than August 15th (jessihigginbotham@firstdelray.com). Each adult will have to complete a background check form, if you have not submitted one in the past year. Help us help you make plans to attend this worthwhile event!

Read in browser »

**2015 Coral Gables Grant Applications and Youth Grant Applications**

By Susan Carpenter

SEPTEMBER 2, 2014 at 5 PM EST

This is the deadline for the 2015 grant applications.

The NEW application for the Coral Gables Grants, which was approved at the June 2014 Presbytery Meeting, is on the Presbytery Website, www.tfpby.org. The application is in the middle of the website under Finance and then under Grants. Please read the entire application. Please do not use any other version of the application; a grant request using previous versions of the application will be rejected.

The information about the annual Youth Grant is also available on the presbytery website in the same location.
Please call me with any questions or concerns.

2014 Loan and Grant Compliance
By Susan Carpenter

There are a number of requirements for all churches to be in compliance with the covenants of their loans and grants.

EACH YEAR the church must
* Provide the Presbytery with a copy of the annual budget
* Provide proof of liability and property insurance for the church
* Make and pay a pledge to the Mission Budget of the Presbytery
* Pay the annual Per Capita Apportionment

At this time 19 our of the 29 churches with loans/grants are not in compliance.
No payments will be made to those churches until they are in compliance with the above covenants.
Please contact me to find out what requirements your church is missing.
Thank You for your prompt attention to this request.

“Campus Refresh Days”
By Delphia Sullivan

We need volunteers to help us refresh our beautiful campus. We have a lot of cool and quick refresher tasks that need to be done to help us maintain this beautiful campus God has given us.

We will hold our first ever “Campus Refresh Days” on July 26 and August 2 from 9am to 1pm.

There are a lot of opportunity areas. Here are just a few:

- For the street entrance area: We need a few volunteers to help clean and paint the wall.
- For the school/parking lot/playground area: We need a few volunteers to help clean and paint this wall, as well.
- For the area outside of the Sanctuary entrance: We need a few volunteers to help clean, power wash the sidewalk, paint the exterior doors, and cut back trees with a pole saw.
- For inside of the sanctuary: We need a few volunteers to help set up a round table for special event information, dust and wax pews, and clean up a few knick knacks.

These are just a few of the service opportunities available. We could use about 40 volunteers. We will have snacks, water and maybe some jamming tunes! It will be a great, fun day of activity! If we get 40 volunteers to help refresh the campus, Dwayne has promised to wear one of his wackiest
outfits (gigantic plastic glasses and all!) to preach on Sunday morning. Let’s make this happen!

There are other ways to help if you can’t take part in the manual labor. We will need a few supplies as we get closer to the service date.

For more information and to volunteer your time, energy, supplies, love, thoughts, prayers, anything... contact Carol Clark at carolmsclark@gmail.com or 954-650-4250. She would love to get you connected in any way possible!

Outreach Foundation
By Presbytery Contributor

Greetings from The Outreach Foundation,

Amidst the world’s trouble and turmoil, we are so thankful for you and for our partners around the world who are showing and sharing the love of God in Christ Jesus. We are writing today to alert you to new information about several of our mission partners.

To read executive director Rob Weingartner’s Call to Prayer and Action for Iraq, click here. For an update on our ongoing work in support of the Synod of Syria and Lebanon’s relief work, click here.

To view a video celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Bill and Bette Bryant Crisis Nursery in Lusaka, Zambia, click here.

We invite mission leaders and mission committee members from your congregation to attend the Connecting Mission Leaders conference in San Antonio on October 16-18, 2014. We are co-sponsoring the conference with Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship and The Antioch Partners. For more conference information please click here.

And if you are on Facebook, we invite you to become a “friend” of The Outreach Foundation. A few times each week we post updates on our partners and God’s mission in the world.

Grace and peace in the Lord
In this week's 08.04.2014 edition:

- **Conference Call: Coral Gables Grant Q&A**
- **Stewardship Seminar**

**Conference Call: Coral Gables Grant Q&A**
By Amalie Ash

Do you have questions regarding the Coral Gables Grant?

Financial Administrator, Susan Carpenter will be holding two conference calls next week.
Wed 8/13 at 6PM and Thurs 8/14 at 12 Noon

To be on the conference calls please email Shari Lowe at shari@tfpby.org no later than this Thursday (8/7). Shari will email you the conference call number.

Reminder: The 2015 Coral Gables Grant is due in the Presbytery Office by SEPTEMBER 2, 2014 at 5 PM EST
Revive your Stewardship and Generosity Program

The Presbyterian Foundation is hosting a stewardship seminar with Dr. Clif Christopher, author of Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate. Clif's books are an extremely insightful look at stewardship methods today. This seminar will allow you to take an honest look at what may be missing in your stewardship program and ways to improve its effectiveness.

Tuesday, September 30, 2014
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
1655 Peel Ave
Orlando, FL 32806

Schedule
8:30 AM registration
9:00 AM seminar begins (lunch will be provided)

3:30 PM seminar concludes

Cost $10 - includes lunch

Click here to register

Read in browser »

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Blog Post: Uneasy Worship

By Doug Hood

Blog Post by Moderator-Elect Dr. Doug Hood

“I know your works. Look! I have set in front of you an open door that no one can shut. You have so little power, and yet you have kept my word and haven’t denied my name.”

Revelation 3:8 (Common English Bible)

Increasingly today people go to church when their lives are uneasy and other resources for restoring calm and order have been exhausted. What they seek from church is a healing balm; they look to be soothed with inspirational music and drugged with holy words that promise security. This romanticized notion of church must be confronted with the facts. Church was never intended to be a stable, smug and conventional purveyor of religious sedatives. The prophet Amos corrects this polished impression of
God’s gathered people, “Doom to those resting comfortably in Zion! (Amos 6:1a)

If the church is called to be uneasy, the Presbyterian Church (USA) is doing something right. There is a deep divide in the present leadership of the church over the Palestinian and Israeli conflict and the question of divestiture from companies that are abetting Israeli violation of Palestinians’ human rights. The recent Authoritative Interpretation concerning marriage is viewed as not only an act of dishonesty but as unfaithful to the Church’s own polity while others celebrate the correction of injustice toward persons marginalized by the church. Absent is the stability and assurance many seek within the walls of our sanctuaries.

The author of Revelation is well acquainted with uneasy worship. Church as an amiable and undisturbed place of comfort is unknown to John. Present is a deep and pervasive uneasiness. It is in the midst of this angst that God speaks a word to John, “Look! I have set in front of you an open door that no one can shut.” God’s people must now decide. They can withdraw from the present discomfort of the church and seek some physical or mental drug to relieve the distress or accept the challenge to new life and hope; to walk through the open door at the invitation of our Lord.

Acceptance of the Lord’s invitation must begin with a new commitment to spiritual formation. If our shared worship and ministry is to be a springboard for a revival of faith and a renewal of the church, we must place our parched lips once more to the springs of spiritual power that flows from a growing relationship with Jesus. It will be the renewal of what the church only occasionally now calls “piety” that will give rise to a new dynamic for engagement in the secular world. The future of the church depends upon the renewal of faith in the living and active Christ and an uneasy worship that recognizes that the kingdoms of this world are in conflict with the Kingdom of our Lord. God sets before the church an open door that welcomes us to a deeper understanding of God’s will and a greater reception of God’s grace. Moving through that door will demand honestly facing the present uneasiness of the church and the trust that God’s Word is true; that what God opens before us can never be shut.

Read in browser »

Nominations: Presbytery Treasurer
By Amalie Ash

Committee on Nominations:

The Presbytery of Tropical Florida (PTF) is seeking a Treasurer to begin January 2015. This is a unique opportunity to participate in TFP’s governance and the vision for ministry in Southeast Florida.

The position: The Treasurer is responsible for oversight of the presbytery’s budget and
serves as a PTF Trustee.

This important volunteer position includes participating on the Presbytery Council (approx. 6 to 8 meetings/yr.), attend Presbytery meetings (4), and Finance Resource Committee (approx. 10 meetings/yr.). The Treasurer reviews major financial decisions such as sale of property and loans.

The Treasurer works closely with the Transitional Presbyter and the Presbytery Financial Administrator.

If you have a background in managing a budget, finance, banking, business or have served as a Treasurer this could be time to share your gifts and experience.

For questions or to submit your name please contact Arlene Van Kirk at ASVanKirk@comcast.net or Amalie at amalie@tfpby.org.

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**Pastors: Opportunities to serve**

By Shari Lowe

Interim, Bridge Interim, Stated Supply, Pulpit Supply or Temporary Moderator: the Committee on Ministry is updating their list of pastors seeking to serve.

Send your name, contact information, interest and available time to Presbytery office: center@tfpby.org

Interim Pastors who have received at least one unit of interim training are invited to submit their bio and information (include the dates of your training) to the Presbytery office. Please indicate if you would like your information posted to the Presbytery website’s available Interim Pastors.

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It’s not too early to make reservations for lunch at Presbytery. We are delighted to report that yours would not be the first even if you did this today! Seriously, it’s very helpful to have the information earlier, rather than the usual increase in count the week before. Why wait? You may do this on-line at www.tfpby.org or via email: shari@tfpby.org. You’ll get a message that I’m on vacation but I will still get yours when I return.

The Presbytery will meet on Tuesday, September 23rd, at Ascension-Peace Presbyterian
Church, 2701 North State Road 7, Lauderhill. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will be called to order at 9:30.

Delivery of School Supplies To JB Elementary
By Presbytery Contributor

Nancy Caldwell and Carole Cox representing Presbytery Women at First Presbyterian Church, Stuart delivered 19 backpacks, 19 reams of paper and other supplies to the Jensen Beach Elementary School on Friday, August 8th. The principal of the school was most appreciative and will distribute the materials to the students who need them.

This was a PW summer mission project and all those involved enthusiastically participated.

It was a great success!

Arlene Van Kirk

Assembly of Hispanic Presbyterian Men
By Presbytery Contributor

Estimados/as Hermanos/as - DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, (below in English)

Nos queda solo un mes para entregarle al hotel la lista final de participantes para la V Asamblea Trienal de Hombres Presbiterianos Hispanos-Latinos en Las Vegas, NV en Oct. 24-26, 2014. Estas registraciones de $210.00 por persona que incluye dos noches de hotel y todas las comidas del evento más materiales, son subsidiadas gracias a la colaboración de muchos presbiterios, iglesias y hermanos individuales, pero si no entregamos la lista final en Septiembre los precios del hotel cambiarían y no podríamos dar las registraciones en ese precio.

También pueden asistir mujeres y niños, así como mujeres y hombres de habla inglesa pues tenemos presentadores en inglés y ofreceremos traducción simultánea para los oradores principales en español. Las registraciones se pueden reproducir para entregar copias a quienes quieran asistir. Esperamos que compartan esta propaganda con sus iglesias y amistades.
LES PEDIMOS QUE DE INMEDIATO MANDEN SUS REGISTRACIONES CON SU CHEQUE AL REV. ALFREDO MIRANDA Y UNA COPIA DE LA REGISTRACION A LA REGISTRADORA DEL EVENTO CECILIA CASAL - shiccasal@sbcglobal.net

Haga su cheque o money order a nombre de Hispano/Latino Caucus Mid Atlantic y ponga en el memo: For Hispanics Latinos Presbyterian Men National Assembly

ENVIEN LA REGISTRACION JUNTO CON EL CHEQUE A:

Rev. Alfredo Miranda - P. O. Box 1763 - Clemmons, NC 27012 - amiranda@salempresbytery.org

ENGLISH

Only a month left to send to the hotel the final list of participants in the V TRIENNIAL ASSEMBLY OF HISPANIC PRESBYTERIAN MEN IN LAS VEGAS NV ON OCT. 24-26, 2014. The registrations of $210.00 per person that includes hotel, meals and all the materials have been subsidize by donations of presbyteries, churches and individuals but if we do not send the list in September the cost will be increased substantially.

Women and children can registered as well as ENGLISH SPEAKING people. We have 2 English speaking speakers and it will be provided simultaneous translation in English for the 2 keynote speakers in Spanish.

YOU MAY REPRODUCE THE REGISTRATION ACCORDING YOUR NEEDS. PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION IN YOUR CHURCHES AND WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

SEND IMMEDIATELY YOUR REGISTRATION FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO REV. ALFREDO MIRANDA AND SEND A COPY OF THE REGISTRATION FORM TO THE REGISTER CECILIA CASAL - shiccasal@sbcglobal.net

Please make the check or money order payable to: Hispano/Latino Caucus Mid Atlantic and indicate on the memo: For the Hispanics Latinos Presbyterian Men National Assembly.

SEND YOUR REGISTRATION WITH YOUR CHECK TO:
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Gracias. THANKS
Jose Luis Casal, Miembro del Comite Planificador (Member of the Planning Team)

Casino Night: 9/13 Benefit for Love Thy Neighbor
By Presbytery Contributor
An event to benefit Love Thy Neighbor, The Sanctuary Church and the hungry & homeless of Ft. Lauderdale.
SEPT. 13th, 6:00pm McGaw Hall

$30 pre-purchased ticket-casino voucher to attend the event will be on sale after services on Sundays throughout August & the beginning of September, at the church office or at lovethyneighbor.org or sanctuarychurchftl.org
In this week's 08/19/2014 edition:

- **This Week: Coral Gables Grant Q&A Conference Call**
- **Pastors: Opportunities to serve**
- **Casino Night: 9/13 Benefit for Love Thy Neighbor**
- **Stewardship Seminar - Orlando 9/30**

**This Week: Coral Gables Grant Q&A Conference Call**

By Susan Carpenter

Do you have questions regarding the Coral Gables Grant or the Youth Grants? Financial Administrator, Susan Carpenter will be holding a conference call on Wednesday, August 20th at NOON. Contact Susan at susanc@tfpby.org for information. REMINDER: The 2015 Coral Gables Grant and Youth Grant forms are due in the Presbytery Office by SEPTEMBER 2, 2014 at 5 PM EST.

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Interim, Bridge Interim, Stated Supply, Pulpit Supply or Temporary Moderator: the Committee on Ministry is updating their list of pastors seeking to serve.

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Moral Week of Action

By Presbytery Contributor

The moral week of action is taking place in states across the south, as well as a few in the midwest, in order to draw attention to the issues of voting rights, Medicaid expansion, labor rights, and environmental justice.

To learn more about events in Florida, you can contact:

Rev. Dr. Russell Meyer, President, FL Council of Churches
Phone: 813.435.5335
Email: rmeyer@floridachurches.org
Miami Shores Gathers To Pray For Peace
By Hallie Hottle

Reconciling God,

We come to you today with so many things pressing for your attention. We come to you stuttering our prayers because we don’t know what to pray for first. So Spirit, we pray you intercede for us, to help us pray when we can’t find the words, and to pray for us when we’re unable.

Merciful God, Grant peace.

God today we pray for Iraq. We pray for the people who are caught in the crossfire of others who have confused violence as your way. We pray for those trapped and for those who have died and will die for their unique belief in you. God we also pray for our men and women being sent into this conflict zone. May you be with our leaders as they make decisions for our military members. Please God, let peace trump politics in order to protect the bodies and hearts of all people.

Merciful God, Grant peace.

God today we pray for Syria. We pray for the 9 million people who have fled the country as refugees. We pray for Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey who have had to find a way to accommodate these refugees. We pray for the hundreds of thousands of others who are still trapped there, or who have lost their lives while trying to leave. God we can’t begin to comprehend what it’s like to leave our homes, with nothing, and live in tents in a foreign land with nothing but the hope that it will soon stop. God be in that place, among a people who call you by different names and worship you in different ways. Don’t let us forget them as we move about our daily lives. May the refugee children whose pictures we see be given an extra share of resilience, and may peacemakers for the next generation come from them.

Merciful God, Grant peace.

God today we pray for Gaza. We pray for the people of Israel and Palestine that are being swept up in a conflict that is so, so old. We pray for leaders who are placing politics over the lives of their innocent. We pray for 7 year old Muhammad and his two little brothers, stuck in our Christian hospital in Gaza, healing from burn wounds, anxiously waiting to go home because they don’t know there is no home, and no family to go back to. Help us to recognize these are humans who are dying, and despite whatever we believe politically, you call us to care about the poor and the dying and the hurt and the broken. For them, we pray.

Merciful God, Grant peace.

God, we pray for Israel. We pray for our old friend whom we love, and we pray that as a friend, we are able to speak to her in truth. We pray that the lives lost begin to look more like humans, than like numbers. We pray that justice stops being equated with vengeance. We pray that countries like us, like the US and Israel, realize we have a greater obligation to peace than most. With our power and might, money and weaponry, we have the power to build up, and to tear down. God help us, and all our political friends, to use what we have for things that give life, and not take it away.

Merciful God, Grant peace.

God we pray for Ferguson Missouri and all the surrounding areas. We pray for Michael Brown’s family, the unarmed teen who was shot and killed by police one week ago. And we pray for the police officer, Darren Wilson, who shot him. We pray for the dozens of names of the black men who have died just this year, unarmed, at the hands of a bad system. We pray for the 43 people found in today’s Miami Herald who have been shot in Liberty City so far this year. God, it’s too much. Grant us reconciliation. Let cool heads and compassionate words prevail. God, our place in conflict becomes more complicated when the militarized police are on our own streets. We recognize that something we’ve done has allowed this. Forgive us for being complicit in a bad system. Help us to make it better.

Merciful God, Grant peace.

God we pray for all our journalists in these places of conflict. Despite what we might think about various news sources, without these journalists we wouldn’t know what was happening, or what to pray for. God, protect them in their unique
mission, both their bodies, and their minds. Be with the family of James Foley. We don’t know how a family would recover after witnessing something so awful, but through you all things are possible. Make your peace for his family possible. Be with those still captured, journalists and others, and we boldly pray they find a way to escape or we find a way to rescue them. And God, when no rescue is possible, may your death be swift and painless, and may their journey to you be triumphant. Merciful God, Grant peace.

God we pray for the family of Robin Williams, and all those affected by his death. The conversation that has arisen after this incident has been as tragic as the death itself. So help us, God. Help us to learn and understand, and to at least be compassionate when we don’t get it. Our system of dealing with and understanding mental health is another one that falls into the category of “bad.” Help those of us in positions who are able, desire to fix it. Be with all those who struggle right now with similar pain, and help them to find your helpers, wherever they are. Merciful God, Grant peace.

God we pray today profoundly aware that we’re all dealing with our own lack of peace in some way. If it’s the news that’s bothering us, drive us to pray. If it’s difficult family situations, help us to know the way through, or out. If it’s life changes that seem insurmountable, remind us you’ll walk with us through all things. Guide us God, through each of our own wars we fight every day. May the moments of peace outweigh the times of pain. Merciful God, Grant peace.

God, when there is something we can do other than prayer, let us know. Until then, let our hearts break with yours, at these images in our news, and make us to pray without ceasing. Humble us to remember we don’t know it all, but that you do. May we first and always turn to prayer in your name. We pray today with voices all over our broken world, begging for reconciliation as we join together in the prayer our Christ taught us to say. We pray saying... Our Father

Heart and Soul ... A Weekly Meditation
By Doug Hood

Confidence in Christ

“Why are you frightened? Don’t you have faith yet?”

Mark 4:40 (Common English Bible)

It is not comfortable to hear the voice of Jesus ask, “Why are you frightened?” Fear belongs to children and the weak. Where fear may be present in our adult lives we conceal it. We are expected to be strong and unflappable; never an easy target for the enemy, whoever or whatever the enemy may be. Yet, here Jesus tears away our pretense, looks directly into our souls and asks, “Why are you frightened?” Nothing - including our fear - is hidden from the Lord.

Is there anyone in the church today who has not known the fear that clutches when divisions arise? The Presbyterian Church USA was once a large force for God in our nation; a proud presence in the local community. By many measures that same church appears reduced to a flickering candle in the high wind of discord within and indifference without. Secretly we agree at times that the effort in which we are presently engaged is a losing battle. How strong, I want to ask in all frankness, how strong really is our faith in God, our confidence in Christ? Jesus presses us, “Don’t you have faith yet?”

The spiritual power our churches need today, the spiritual renewal so many of us are seeking is not a diversion from the present strife in the church but right in the midst of it. The faith that develops cloistered from the traffic of our present struggles is not Christian faith. Denial never has produced the strength and vitality that our church hungered for. There cannot be hung an iron curtain between the vigor of council meetings and the formation of individuals into the likeness of Christ. The living faith Jesus calls for, the faith which impels us to meet the present challenges, is shaped in the crux of the challenges, not from escaping them.

The church requires new words and new images to express what confidence in Christ can do for a troubled, conflicted church.
Where the body of the church has grown tired and vitality is remembered only in former days, the Gospel hovers around like a ghost whispering, “God still promises life and life abundant.” What is required is a crack in the prevailing despair, an opening of hope that once again believes in uncommon possibilities orchestrated by the Holy Spirit. The church needs inward eyes that catches the vision of God’s present activity and an inward spirit that responds to the tug of the unseen force of the Spirit and the readiness to let go of the tired religion that may be standing in the way of Christ making all things new.

*Father, forgive. Forgive the weariness that fails to believe in new possibilities. Forgive the doubt that hinders faithful obedience. Forgive despair that no longer anticipates Your reconciling work. Amen.*

**Presbytery Meeting 9/23**

*By Shari Lowe*

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**Board of Pension - Resources**

*By Susan Carpenter*

I have spoken to you before about the many resources available at the Board of Pensions website but here we go again.

As part of the greater Presbyterian Church (USA) you have access to a plethora of important information. One source is The Board of Pensions.

If you are a participant in one of the plans there is an amazing array of resources – medical, mental health, child and dog care,… Check it out.

If someone at your church is covered (i.e. the pastor) then the church has access to resources including human resource services. Again, check it out.

If you are the finance person at your church there are training modules and booklets - all the HOW TO for finances.

The most recent one which I was reminded about is the *Financial Reporting Requirements for Churches*. This is updated each year and is available through your Benefits Connect section of the website.

[www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org)

-or 1-800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN)

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**Webinar - FREE - Special Tax Rules for Ministers and Churches**

*By Susan Carpenter*

* SPECIAL TAX RULES FOR MINISTERS AND CHURCHES
A free webinar presented on:

Thursday, September 4, at 2 p.m. EST

Tax laws contain unique conditions for ministers and churches. Learn about these conditions to help pay taxes accurately and avoid potential back taxes and penalties.

In this FREE webinar, you will learn:

- How to determine if an employee is a minister for tax purposes
- How a minister’s dual-tax status affects payroll and tax preparation
- How to manage a minister’s housing allowance

This hour long webinar is hosted by Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company.

Click this web address and sign up for the FREE webinar.

“Audit” of the Church’s Financial Records
By Susan Carpenter

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW of THE CHURCH RECORDS


We have all heard members of our church talk about the church “audit” of the books. Members of Session annually ask for an “audit” of the financial records which is part of their fiduciary responsibilities.

However, an “audit” like a “compilation” or a “review” are all services defined by professional standards written by the governing bodies of CPAs. A CPA performing any one of the above services must do proscribed behaviors and tests demanded by the professional literature. These behaviors and tests are time consuming and expensive. Further, the reports do not answer the real question being asked by the Session.

The real question being asked by the Session is “Are the systems, records and reports OK?”

If you really want to have a CPA come in and do the work then what you should ask for is an “Agreed Upon Procedures” engagement. An Agreed Upon Procedures engagement is defined mutually by the church and the CPA. Rather than following rules made by the CPA rules makers, the CPA simply follows a work plan devised with the Church in advance.

For most of our churches, the annual financial review can be performed by a few members of the church. With a little help from the church accountant or other staff the “Audit Committee” can perform their duty in a couple of hours. The resultant report documents what was done and whether or not anything out of the ordinary was discovered.

IF any problems are uncovered they can be corrected or a professional can be hired if serious problems are discovered.

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Property Insurance
By Susan Carpenter

FYI - One of our churches was able to realize almost a $ 3,000 savings on the property insurance by having automatic sprinklers.
What was interesting about this was, in reading the communications, was that the church seemed to have always had the sprinklers but the insurance did not know about them.

The summer is the time we are most aware of insurance needs due to the possibility of hurricanes. Take this time to review your insurance.

- Make sure that you know what coverage you have and don’t have.
- Confirm your deductible for your different coverage.
- Make sure that your coverage includes all credits for steps you have taken - monitored security, smoke detectors, sprinklers, impact windows,...
- Maybe even send the insurance out for bid with other carriers.

Insurance is a difficult issue that too often we ignore, but significant savings can be lost and gaps in coverage ignored until a claim is filed.

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**YES Institute and GATE Program**

*By Presbytery Contributor*

Two of Riviera PC’s Mission Partners - YES Institute and GATE Program are presenting sessions in this program. This will be an informative event for churches who are taking the Peacemaking Commitment and following the Season of Peace material of the PCUSA. The purpose of this program is not to provide a way for punishment but to figure out the underlying problem that many of the youth of our communities are facing and how best to help them get on the right path to be productive citizens within the community. This program is also offering free 3 CE hours available for licensed mental health professionals and registered nurses as well as 4 hours of community service to high school and college students. The Event being held on a Teacher Planning Day.


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**Night of Praise and Worship**

*By Shari Lowe*

*Lakeside Presbyterian Church* will be having a Night of Praise and Worship on Friday, August 29th from 7-9 pm. Ethan Parker Band will be here in concert as we welcome our Palm Beach Atlantic students back to school. Their style is influenced by the environments in which Ethan and his four band members were raised. From folksy-Tennessee influences to jazzy beach vibes, the band creates truly unique and powerful God-inspired songs that everyone can enjoy. Light refreshments will be served following the concert. Please share this invitation with your members. It will be an amazing night of praise and worship.

[Read in browser »](#)

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**World Mission Latin American and Caribbean Coordinator from Tropical Florida**

*By Presbytery Contributor*

Valdir França has joined Presbyterian World Mission as area coordinator for Latin American and the Caribbean. He will begin his duties at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville on Sept. 15.

França succeeds Maria Arroyo, who worked with Presbyterian World Mission for
25 years. The position of area coordinator is a key role in World Mission. França will serve as the liaison with the global partner churches in Latin America and the Caribbean, providing support and serving as a bridge between global church partners and U.S. Presbyterians. In this role França will also help to supervise and support the mission co-workers serving in Latin America.

**Nominations: Presbytery Treasurer**

*By Amalie Ash*

Committee on Nominations:

The Presbytery of Tropical Florida (PTF) is seeking a Treasurer to begin January 2015. This is a unique opportunity to participate in TFP’s governance and the vision for ministry in Southeast Florida.

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For questions or to submit your name please contact Arlene Van Kirk at ASVanKirk@comcast.net or Amalie at amalie@tfpby.org.

**Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage, formerly Florida Presbyterian Cursillo**

*By Presbytery Contributor*

A lay-led, spiritual renewal weekend for all Christians will be held October 23 to Oct 26, 2014 at the Christian Church Conference Center at Silver Springs, FL. The Moderator for FLPP #9 is Dan Hallenbeck, FPC/Ocala (dawghouser7590@gmail.com). Pastors and spouses are complimentary and some scholarships are available. Further information and applications are available at www.FloridaCursillo.com. Or, questions to Rev. Dick Anderson, FPC/Ft Lauderdale or Gail Auguston-Koppen (g.auguston@att.net)

‘Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.’ Romans 2:2
In this week's 09/02/2014 edition:

- This week: 57 youth attend Night of Joy
- Presbytery Meeting 9/23
- Sister Helen Prejean 11/8 The Sanctuary Church
- Save the date: Workshop with Dr. Tom Long
- Joint ARMSS and POAMN Conference
- Nominations: Presbytery Treasurer
- Paying a Guest Preacher

This week: 57 youth attend Night of Joy

By Amalie Ash

The Youth Task Force will be leading the presbytery’s youth to Orlando this Friday. Organized by Jesse Higginbotham (1st Delray) Tropical Florida provided free bus transportation helping youth attend the celebration of music and Disney. Well known Christian bands play for youth from the southeast USA at this annual event. Watch for photos and stories next week. Keep our youth, chaperones and Youth Pastors in prayer.

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Sister Helen Prejean 11/8 The Sanctuary Church
By Presbytery Contributor

Celebrity always holds a degree of fascination and often leaves a glow peaking the imagination for a surprising amount of time. We often build more into the experience than was actually there. More beautiful, more clever, more talented, more charming than they really were, particularly as time passes. Last year I was privileged to hear a celebrity who surpasses all I have ever witnessed and after over a year I have felt overwhelmingly convinced that more of us should share this vital experience. Sister Helen Prejean whose heart has been captured in the most severe and holy way has taken on the heartwrenching task of ushering into death many convicts...some guilty and some, so painfully, not guilty. All feeling the terror of being murdered. I would assume that most of you saw her award winning movie, based on her first book, “Dead Man Walking” starring Susan Sarandon, and Sean Penn. Her heart and her quest have never waned and today she labours continuously to fulfill God’s commandment. “You shall not kill.”... Our state has murdered 88 humans since the death penalty was reinstated and shockingly holds 400 more men and women on death row today.

We have asked Sister Helen to come from New Orleans on the 8th of November to share with us her quest. We also have gathered a panel made up of vital active passionate people who labour arduously, daily, to aid those who are helplessly locked away in our prisons waiting for death at the hands of authorities who represent us, the citizens of Florida. Along with Sister Helen a panel of compassionate experts who strive daily to do away with this barbarous practice that often punishes helpless innocents... DNA
advocates, The Innocence Projects, Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, the Public defenders office and a man who spent three years on death row before he was found to be innocent.

We invite your congregation to join us for this evening of enlightenment along with Broward and Dade Counties many Catholic, Jewish and protestant groups. There will be no entry fee but a free will offering will be taken. Please come and share the insight of this deeply spiritual and effective woman. You’ll never forget it.

Pastor Dwayne Black
The Sanctuary Church
1400 N. Federal Hwy.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304

Save the date: Workshop with Dr. Tom Long
By Amalie Ash

First Delray’s Distinguished Preacher series will be hosting Dr. Tom Long in January. Dr. Long’s visit will include a workshop for the Presbytery’s pastors on January 10th. Save the date - more details will be coming.

Dr. Thomas G. Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching; Coordinator of the Initiative in Religious Practices and Practical Theology at Candler School of Theology. Distinguished author and preacher, he is a frequent contributor to The Christian Century and the Journal for Preachers, and a popular presenter at preaching conferences worldwide.

Joint ARMSS and POAMN Conference
By Shari Lowe

If you haven’t yet registered for the joint 2014 conference of the Association of Retired Ministers, Their Spouses or Survivors (ARMSS) & Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN), there is still time! But you will need to hurry to take advantage of the discounted registration fee and hotel room rates. Register by September 27 to receive discounts - after this date the hotel room block will be released.

***POAMN still has two $200 First-Time Attendee, and four $300 Small Church
Scholarships available - small church is defined as less than 500 average worship attendance.

See conference registration brochure, scholarship applications and more information at www.poamn.org.

Register now!

Nominations: Presbytery Treasurer
*By Amalie Ash*

Committee on Nominations:

The Presbytery of Tropical Florida (PTF) is seeking a Treasurer to begin January 2015. This is a unique opportunity to participate in TFP’s governance and the vision for ministry in Southeast Florida.

The position: The Treasurer is responsible for oversight of the presbytery’s budget and serves as a PTF Trustee.

This important volunteer position includes participating on the Presbytery Council (approx. 6 to 8 meetings/yr.), attend Presbytery meetings (4), and Finance Resource Committee (approx. 10 meetings/yr.). The Treasurer reviews major financial decisions such as sale of property and loans.

The Treasurer works closely with the Transitional Presbyter and the Presbytery Financial Administrator.

If you have a background in managing a budget, finance, banking, business or have served as a Treasurer this could be time to share your gifts and experience.

For questions or to submit your name please contact Arlene Van Kirk at ASVanKirk@comcast.net or Amalie at amalie@tpby.org

Paying a Guest Preacher
*By Susan Carpenter*

The honorarium/love offering paid to a guest preacher or speaker can be designated as
housing allowance.

Why should your church do this?
1. It does not cost the church any money.
2. It saves federal taxes for the preacher.

Conditions which must be met before your church can designate a housing allowance for a guest preacher:
1. The preacher must be ordained, conducting a religious service and must have a permanent residence.
2. The designation of housing allowance must be done BEFORE they preach. The designation must be done in writing by the Session. The speaker’s name, the total amount to be paid and the portion which is housing allowance must be in writing.

If the designation of housing is done properly the speaker can exclude the housing allowance amount from gross income.

When the payment is made to the preacher, attach a copy of the session minutes with the housing allowance designation to the check request.

At the end of the year, when you are preparing the 1099 MISC for every individual to whom your church has paid $ 600.00 or more, you will exclude the amount of housing allowance.

Examples
1. Your guest preacher “A” has been paid $ 1,000 during the year and $ 700 of it was designated housing allowance. You will not need to issue a 1099 MISC for the preacher. The total amount of taxable income is $ 300 ($ 1,000 minus $ 700) which is under the $ 600 threshold for issuing a 1099 MISC. The preacher is still required to report the $ 300 to the IRS on his/her tax return but the church is not required to issue the 1099 MISC.

2. Your guest preacher “B” has also been paid $ 1,000 during the year and $ 250 of it was designated housing allowance. Your will need to issue a 1099 MISC for the preacher. On the 1099 MISC form in Box 7 will go the $ 750 ($ 1,000 minus $ 250) which is not the housing allowance.

In both of these cases your church should provide a separate letter to the preachers that identifies the amount of the housing allowance not included on the 1099 MISC.

*The information in this alert is for educational purposes only and should not be taken as specific legal advice.*
In this week’s 09/08/2014 edition:

- Glades Celebrates 25 Years
- Board of Pensions - Seminary Students

Glades Celebrates 25 Years
By Presbytery Contributor

Presbyterian Church celebrated their 25th anniversary on Sunday the 7th of September 2014.

It was all started 27 years ago by five couples in a school building in Boca. Then two years later they had grown enough to start building the church with a loan of $350,000 and the belief and blessing of God to go forth.

Over the past 25 years more than 700 people have been members of the Glades Church.

Currently more than 17 members have 25 years or more actively serving and meeting the needs of the church.

It was a grand celebration with singing, praising, thanksgiving, activities for children and families and a catered sit down dinner.
It was a party time for celebrating and rejoicing in God’s love and faithfulness to their faith. Amen.

From Marianne and Randy Shine

Board of Pensions - Seminary Students
By Susan Carpenter

Medical Plan Enrollment for Seminary Students Ends September 30th

Annual Medical Plan enrollment for eligible seminary students began August 1st and will continue through September 30th.

If you have any questions about the medical coverage offered to qualified seminary students, please call the Board of Pensions at 800-773-7752 (800-PREPLAN). You can also find information on the Board’s website, pensions.org.

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Our mailing address is:
Presbytery of Tropical Florida
440 E. Sample Road
Suite 208
Pompano Beach, Florida 33064

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unsubscribe from this list  update subscription preferences
In this weeks 09/15/2014 edition:

- **Presbytery Meets on 9/23**
- “**Que la Iglesia sea la Iglesia”**
- **Freedom Sunday 9/21**
- **An Important Reminder from the Board of Pensions**
- **Night of Joy - Presbytery Youth to Disney**
- **Responses re Presbytery Backpacks**
- **Sept. is Disaster Preparedness Month**
- **Stewardship Seminar - Orlando 9/30**
- **Job Openings in Louisville**
- **Jefferson P. Rogers 1917-2014**
- **Annual PCUSA Preaching Conference**

**Presbytery Meets on 9/23**

*By Shari Lowe*

Last call for reservations! The Presbytery will meet at Ascension Peace Presbyterian Church in Lauderhill on Tuesday, September 23rd. The packets are posted on our website at www.tfpby.org. Following the meeting, the Stated Clerk will be overseeing the review of session records.

**“Que la Iglesia sea la Iglesia”**

*By Presbytery Contributor*
“Que la Iglesia sea la Iglesia” (Let the Church be the Church) was the theme of this year’s family retreat organized by the Hispanic Latino Presbyterian Caucus, Southern Chapter. Families representing the Hispanic churches of our presbytery and Tampa got together last Labor Day Weekend for fellowship, worship, Bible study and relaxation enjoying camaraderie and the balmy Floridian weather. Over 100 people participated in the annual “Campamento Familiar” (Family Camp) which took place in Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center. With activities for adults, youth and children, the program focused on themes regarding the calling of the church– its purpose, ends, and mission– through the study of Scriptural passages, sections of the Book of Order (F-1.0301) and the Book of Confessions. Activities began Saturday afternoon with several recreational activities such as swimming in the lake. The opening plenary consisted of group building activities, games and dances around the theme of ‘being church’ and what it means to be part of a community of faith.

Sunday morning was devoted to worship and study. Youth and children participated in a program designed specifically for them while the group of adults engaged in a study of the church as a community of faith and hope. Studying passages in the gospel of Matthew, 1st Corinthians, Ephesians and Philippians, as well as the foundations section of the Book of Order, the audience was encouraged to consider a change in paradigm, to think of the church as the people and to set aside the emphasis made on ‘the building’. The study concluded affirming the hope we have in God knowing that “the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ”. (Philippians 1:6b, RSV)

Sunday afternoon was dedicated to personal retreat and recreation. The participants took advantage of the weather and the wide range of opportunities available at the camp center, from swimming in the lake and playing games to moments for personal devotional time and rest. Sunday night’s plenary focused on being a community of love. The Rev. Jorge Texidor, pastor of the Iglesia Presbiteriana El Buen Vencino in Kissimmee, presented the characteristics of a community based on love, cautioning on staying away from stereotyping, judging and
hypocrisy. He urged the audience to continue its emphasis on being a welcoming, loving community. Later that night the evening turned to thanksgiving, witnessing and testimony around a bonfire at the lakeshore. Attendees, both young and old, shared stories on God’s love and grace reflected in their lives.

The next morning we gathered for worship and to celebrate the Eucharist. Worship centered on the church as a community of witness based on the passage of Romans 12: 9-21. The sermon called us to “Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good”, and to “love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.” (Romans 12:9-10, NRSV) The service ended on a high note, singing “¡Que la Iglesia sea la Iglesia!” (Let the Church be the Church), a familiar hymn tune with lyrics by American missionary in Cuba, Lois C. Kroehler.

Let the Church be the Church! Its mission: to prophesy; to shed the light of Christ to the community and the world. It’s to believe, also to serve, And the love of Christ to share.

It was a truly blessed weekend and we thank God for the joy of learning, sharing, and worshipping together. Thanks to the brothers and sisters who aided with logistics and camp accommodations, and to those who served as worship leaders and keynote speakers. We returned to our daily lives with lifted spirits and renewed faith reaffirming that the Church is the Body of Christ and that we all play an important part in being a community of faith, hope, love, and witness. SDG.

Read in browser »
Tweet Like

Freedom Sunday 9/21
By Presbytery Contributor

by Dr. Arlene Gordon, President National Black Presbyterian Caucus

Since 1971 the Congressional Black Caucus(CBC) has encouraged the participation of all eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote. The CBC relies on the faith community to be the strong foundation for our leaders to stand upon. The CBC is calling faith communities to participate in Freedom Sunday Sept 21, 2014.

Attached is the “Tool Kit” to help churches to spread the word on the importance of registering and voting.

1. Be sure that everyone is registered to vote
2. Assist those who have transportation issues or are confused about what is required
3. Form early phone trees, door knockers on voting day.
4. Preach justice from the pulpit
5. Teach justice in Bible Studies and Sunday School
An Important Reminder from the Board of Pensions
By Shari Lowe

Remember to complete all of your Call to Health required actions in order to realize a savings on your 2015 medical deductible. The information below is from the Board of Pensions website about this.

Required Health Actions

- Complete a preventive exam with your primary care physician (men and women) or with your gynecologist (women).
- Engage in telephonic health coaching (if you are contacted). If ActiveHealth Management (AHM) calls you, schedule time to talk with your nurse coach by calling AHM at 866-794-3127, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., or Saturday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. ET.

Additional Health Actions - Choose 2

- Take the ActiveHealth Health Assessment online at myactivehealth.com/pcusa or by calling AHM at 866-794-3127.
- Know - and record - your lab numbers at myactivehealth.com/pcusa. Enter them in the Health Assessment, your Personal Health Record, or the Tracker tool.
- Have a vision exam, and certify you’ve taken it in the Call to Health section of myactivehealth.com/pcusa.
- Participate in the AHM tobacco cessation program (if you are a tobacco user).
- Attend a Presbyterian CREDO conference (if you are invited).

Remember, schedule your appointment(s) now to be sure you’re able to complete Call to Health by September 30. All health actions must be completed by September 30 to receive lower deductibles for 2015. Health actions completed after September 30 will not count toward receiving lower 2015 deductibles.

Night of Joy - Presbytery Youth to Disney
By Presbytery Contributor
Our Presbytery took 60 youth and adults to Night of Joy on Saturday, September 6, 2014. We traveled by charter bus and enjoyed a night of music, rides, fellowship and faith. There was rain but it did not stop us. Each person received a turquoise t-Shirt with “Property of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida”. It was a spectacular event for all involved and we look forward to providing this service next year. Special thank you to the Presbytery of Tropical Florida for their support of this event. And many thanks to the Presbytery’s Youth Task Force that organized and provided leadership for this special event.

Responses re Presbytery Backpacks
By Shari Lowe

Lynn Anderson, Office Manager, First, Hollywood:
Yes, we received 30 backpacks from TFP. Members of the congregation took a backpack and fill it with supplies. OUR THANK YOU TO PRESBYTERY MEMBERS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.

We have a mentoring program with Hollywood Central Elementary (HCE). On “Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday,” teachers from HCE are invited to attend worship. Afterward, we have a reception for them, and give them the filled backpacks. Teachers from our Sunday school, and preschool are also honored during worship.

Rev. Jessi Higginbotham, Associate Pastor, First, Delray Beach:

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach collected back to school supplies to support a local Elementary School that is often in need. We collected these items during Vacation Bible School where are theme was “Workshop of Wonders.” At VBS we set up a table to collect “School Tools” and handed out lists including crayons, glue, backpacks, paper,
pencils and many other school supplies. It was a wonderful event and we collected more supplies than we ever anticipated.

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*Terri Thompson, Administrative Secretary, Lakeside, West Palm Beach:*

*Lakeside is thankful to receive fifty backpacks from the Presbytery again this year. Our congregation donated bags and bags of school supplies, which we gave with the backpacks to Belvedere Elementary School in West Palm Beach, Family Education Center (Lakeside’s family literacy program), and some of our own who needed a little assistance. When the items were delivered to Belvedere Elementary, the principal said “Can I give you a hug? We have received no other support.” How blessed we were to be able to give.*

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*Rev. Dr. Larry Schenk, Pastor, Peace Covenant, Key West:*

*We provided 52 backpacks and enough school supplies (from each of the school’s student supply lists) to fill them to the Gerald Adams and Horace O Bryant Elementary Schools in KW. We provided the backpacks to the school’s guidance counselors who were then going to offer them to children and families they knew were in need of such. We have large populations of Hatian and Uzbekistan families and children in KW and many of them were recipients of this help.*

*Please accept our thanks to the Presbytery for securing the backpacks (several of our members asked how the Presbytery gets these?) and for encouraging our local congregations in partnering with our schools to supply these much needed supplies.*

---

*Cindy Vason, Director of Children’s Ministry, First, Ft. Lauderdale:*

*The First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale Children’s Ministry adopted the “Back to School” backpack mission project during Vacation Bible School in 2012. We asked the children to bring in school supplies and also asked our congregation for donations. Our first year we were able to fill 45 backpacks, and we more than doubled to 107 in 2013.*

*This year with the enthusiasm and support of our pastor, Rev. Dr. Russ Ritchel, we sought the involvement of our congregation for 3 weeks leading up to Vacation Bible School. With an overwhelming response from our congregation, we were able to collect enough supplies to fill a total of 300 backpacks!! The Vacation Bible School children helped fill the backpacks which were then distributed to several public schools in Broward County as well as several other nonprofit organizations including Hope South Florida, the Pantry of Broward, Angel Tree Prison Ministry and Lauderhill Point.*
Rev. CC Armstrong and Elder Reese Leach, Grace, Lantana:

Grace had an amazing Back-to-School drive this year. We received 50 backpacks from the Presbytery. Our July and August Communion Offerings were for back to school. We received both monetary donations and actual school supplies. In addition to the supplies provided in the backpacks, Grace put crayons, pencils, paper, erasers, scissors, glue sticks and other supplies in each backpack. We included in each book bag a book as well from the Presbytery’s initiative to end literacy.

On Sunday, August 17th, Grace hosted a Back-to-School cook-out and play day. We served hot dogs and hamburgers and lots of great food. A local DJ played music and a water slide and water balloons were provided to cool everyone off. The kids also played basketball and frisbee. Thirty five backpacks were distributed that day and one at Boy Scouts a few days later. All of the youth liked the colors and great school supplies inside. The remainder of the backpacks are being made available to our guest churches as well as to a local grade school.

Thanks to Presbytery for providing the backpacks and energizing the Back-to-School Event. This outreach effort directly benefits our community in a very meaningful way.

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Rev. Jose Manuel Capella-Pratts:

La Progresiva Presbyterian School (LPS), a ministry of the First Spanish Presbyterian Church, begins this school year (2014-2015) with 530 students. LPS is celebrating its 43th Anniversary providing affordable education to kids from PK to High School in an environment of high academical standards and profound Christian education. Thanks to the generosity of The Presbytery of Tropical Florida and donations from church members, we were able to distribute 69 backpacks filled with school materials and Bibles for our most needed students. It is our intention to increase LPS capacity to 650 students for the next school year with the construction of a new building. The Presbytery Back Pack program is a blessing for the
participants, as well as their teachers and parents.

Sept. is Disaster Preparedness Month
By Amalie Ash

This is the height of hurricane season. Today, the Atlantic is clear but we know that can change quickly.

To keep you informed:

**Voicemail Broadcast** - the Presbytery now has a voicemail broadcast system for emergencies. The system will send a voicemail to each Teaching Elder and church in case of a natural or human caused disaster. The system will be tested this week. Look for a voice message Thursday Sept 18th.

**ALSO.......**

**NOVAD-National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster** is offering a free, one-hour webinar *When Disaster Strikes*: Sept. 23rd at 2-3pm EST
https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/563387946

How prepared is your congregation or organization to respond effectively and with confidence when disaster strikes, whether it’s following a devastating tornado like Joplin, Mo.; a school shooting like Newtown, Conn.; a superstorm like Katrina or Sandy, or an individual member’s house fire? This webinar will help equip you with practical ways your congregation or organization can prepare for disaster - and get ready to help your community recover, too!

Space is limited, so please register early! Don’t miss this special opportunity to learn from the coeditors of the valuable new “how-to” guide “Help and Hope: Disaster Preparedness and Response Tools for Congregations.”

For more information about the book, visit [www.cwsglobal.org/helpandhopebook](http://www.cwsglobal.org/helpandhopebook).

Amy Gopp, Director of Member Relations and Pastoral Care at Church World Service, and Brandon Gilvin, Associate Director of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)’s Week of Compassion, will share lessons from real-life experience to help congregations and other community organizations to expect the unexpected and respond in ways that help and not hinder survivors’ relief and recovery.

Topics to be covered include:
• “Systems and Supplies: Some Lists and Tasks for Preparing Your Congregation for a Disaster”
• “Knowing When to Stay and When to Go: A Guide to Volunteering”
• “The Long-Term Recovery Process and Your Faith Community”
• “The Importance of Spiritual and Emotional Care”

The webinar will include ample time for questions and answers.

Stewardship Seminar - Orlando 9/30
By Presbytery Contributor
Revive your Stewardship and Generosity Program

The Presbyterian Foundation is hosting a stewardship seminar with Dr. Clif Christopher, author of Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate. Clif’s books are an extremely insightful look at stewardship methods today. This seminar will allow you to take an honest look at what may be missing in your stewardship program and ways to improve its effectiveness.

Tuesday, September 30, 2014
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
1655 Peel Ave
Orlando, FL 32806

Schedule
8:30 AM registration
9:00 AM seminar begins (lunch will be provided)
3:30 PM seminar concludes

Cost $10 - includes lunch

Click here to register

Job Openings in Louisville
By Amalie Ash

The Office of the General Assembly is searching for a Coordinator, Immigration Advocacy and an Associate/Exec Director, Presbyterian Historical Society. If you know someone who is
qualified for either position, please encourage them to apply via Church Leadership Connection at [www.pcusa.org/clc](http://www.pcusa.org/clc), or send a resume and cover letter to my office. Also, please disseminate this information to your pastors. The position descriptions are attached.

Loyda P. Aja  
Associate Stated Clerk of the General Assembly,  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Loyda.Aja@pcusa.org  
502-569-5430 – direct line

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**Jefferson P. Rogers 1917-2014**  
*By Shari Lowe*

The Presbytery office has been notified of the death of Rev. Jefferson P. Rogers on August 1st. He had been living in Daytona Beach. Rev. Rogers was a member of this Presbytery since 1980, initially laboring within the bounds to accept an appointment to the faculty of Florida Memorial College in Miami as Professor in the Department of Humanities. He was Honorably Retired in 1987. Our records indicate that Rev. Rogers served as pulpit supply for Grace Presbyterian Church, Miami, and (during 1989-1990) for Ascension Presbyterian Church, Ft., Lauderdale. Rev. Rogers served as President of New Birth Corporation, a national education, theological and local community program, which owned and restored The Howard Thurman Home in Daytona Beach, The Howard Thurman Home was designated a National Historic Place on February 23, 1990, and placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Rev. Rogers was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Grace.

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**Annual PCUSA Preaching Conference**  
*By Shari Lowe*

Pastors are invited once again to beautiful Lake Tahoe at Zephyr Point Conference Center to attend the annual preaching conference Oct. 27-29th! Just $195pp. We have been asked by the Sacramento Presbytery Pastoral Support Committee to share the linked [brochure](#) with our ministers.
In this weeks 09/22/2014 edition:

- **This Week**
- **Church News**
- **Save The Date**

**This Week**
Presbytery Meeting – September 23rd, Ascension Peace Presbyterian Church in Lauderhill

BoP Health Actions for lower 2015 deductibles – Deadline September 30th !!!

[Full Details](#)

**Church News**
First Lake Worth
A team of volunteers gathered at First Lake Worth for a day of painting. Pastor Joan Abell is leading the congregation to refresh and rebuild the spirit of the Church in the town of Lake Worth. Stay tuned as good things are coming from this congregation.

First Pompano ‘The Pink Church”

International Day of Peace at the Pink Church. The children and youth at First Pompano gathered for this celebration. This was a day of music, singing and smiling faces. It was a gift to all who attended.

First West Palm and Palm Beach Korean Church

First West Palm and Palm Beach Korean Church hosted Mayor Jeri Muoio and faith leaders from the City of West Palm Beach on September 18th. The Mayor’s Faith Advisory Council met to plan their 2015 agenda; focusing on improving reading by the 3rd grade, affordable housing and homeless that do not meet agency requirements for assistance. Attending were seventeen faith leaders and leaders from non-profits such as C.R.O.S.S Ministries, The Lords Place and Urban Youth.

Concert & Event Season
The October 13 Weekly Bulletin will post your church concert and special event 2014-2015 schedule.
Include the event title, church name, location, date and time. You may add a brief (2-3 lines) description.
If available include a link to your events
Please email your information to Delphia at delphias@tfpby.org
Send the information no later than October 9th.

Save The Date

Presbyterian Foundation Stewardship Seminar – September 30th, Orlando
Revive your Stewardship and Generosity Program
Full Details

Wee Kirk Conference – October 20-22, Montreat
www.pfrenewal.org

Hispanic Presbyterian Men’s Conference October 24-26, Nevada
Full Details

Annual PCUSA Preaching Conference October 27-29, Lake Tahoe
Pastors are invited once again to beautiful Lake Tahoe at Zephyr Point Conference Center to attend the annual preaching conference Oct. 27-29th! Just $195pp. We have been asked by the Sacramento Presbytery Pastoral Support Committee to share the linked brochure with our ministers.

Sister Helen Prejean November 8th at Second Presbyterian
aka The Sanctuary 1400 N. Federal Hwy. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304
Full Details
Presbytery Meeting December 6th, Gardens Presbytery Church

Workshop with Dr. Tom Long – January 10th, First Delray

First Delray’s Distinguished Preacher series will be hosting Dr. Tom Long in January. Dr. Long’s visit will include a workshop for the Presbytery’s pastors on January 10th. Save the date - more details will be coming.

Dr. Thomas G. Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching; Coordinator of the Initiative in Religious Practices and Practical Theology at Candler School of Theology. Distinguished author and preacher, he is a frequent contributor to The Christian Century and the Journal for Preachers, and a popular presenter at preaching conferences worldwide.

Bill Easum’s “Only 4 Things” National Tour- January 24, Second Presbyterian

http://effectivechurc‌‌.com/four-things/
Full Details

Compassion Fatigue Prevention & Resilience Workshop – May 2nd, 2015

Workshop with Pat Ashley: Compassion fatigue can occur when caregivers and / or leaders are highly engaged over an extended period of time in work that has the intensity of a crisis. There are skills and knowledge that can help such people remain resilient as they continue their work. Burnout and exhaustion are not the inevitable outcome. That said, most people need to give their resilience some support and conscious attention.

Pat Ashley has helped lead several workshops in her work with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. It would be helpful to her to enhance her skill by offering the full workshop to anyone in our presbytery who is interested. Please save the date, May 2, if you are interested in fostering your own well-being or that of others about whom you are concerned.

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In this weeks 09/29/2014 edition:

- This Week (092914)
- Presbytery Meeting
- Clergy News - COM and CPM
- Church News (092914)
- Shari’s Shout Out
- Save The Date (092914)
- Finance
- Synod Grants Available
- News and Commentary (092914)

**This Week (092914)**

Presbyterian World Mission Encourages Congregations to Host an Event and Discussion About the Movie “The Good Lie.”

The movie, which opens in theaters October 3rd, focuses on the “Lost Boys,” who were
orphaned by the brutal civil war in Sudan, beginning in 1983. Fifteen years later, a humanitarian effort would bring 3600 lost boys, as well as girls, to America.

Philippe Falardeau has written a moving screenplay which stars Academy Award® winner Reese Witherspoon alongside Sudanese actors, and children of war, Arnold Oceng, Ger Duany, Emmanuel Jal, and newcomer Kuoth Wiel.

Mamere and Theo are sons of the chief in their village in Southern Sudan. When an attack by Northern militia destroys their home and kills their parents, eldest son Theo is forced to lead a group of young survivors, including his sister Abital, on the difficult trek to Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. Thirteen years later, the now young adults are given the opportunity to leave the camp and resettle in America. Upon arriving in Kansas, they are met by Carrie Davis (Witherspoon), an employment agency counselor who has been enlisted to help find them jobs—no easy task, when things like light switches and telephones are brand new to them.

When:

The movie opens in most theaters nationwide on October 3rd. For movie resources, click on: thegoodlieresources.com.

How:

*If you decide to host a discussion group to talk about the movie, World Mission will supply mission co-workers, who have lived in Sudan, to speak to your audience.*

Why:

This is an opportunity for your congregation to learn more about the South Sudan Education & Peacemaking Project. With its partners, Presbyterian World Mission has committed to providing quality education for children in South Sudan that instills Christian values, respect for women, loving our neighbor despite ethnic differences, and service to others. The goal is to help the country gain its educational footing while helping to foster a sustainable culture of peace. Attached is a summary of the project, along with a link for those who are interested in supporting it: Download the PDF and Donate to E052172-1.

For more information about the movie, please contact Kathy Melvin in World Mission, (502) 569-5415 or email her at Kathy.Melvin@pcusa.org.

For more information about the PCUSA South Sudan Education Project, please contact Chris Roseland at 502-439-4930 or chris.roseland@pcusa.org.
Presbytery Meeting
Message From Thornwell

Dear Tropical Florida Presbytery.

I would like to say how much I enjoyed being at the stated meeting on September 23rd. The multi-cultural worship was certainly a highlight, as well as the incredible keynote speaker and delicious food. Most of all, I am enjoying getting to know your presbytery, listening to your stories and watching as you live in to your future. On behalf of the children of Thornwell, I would like to say a huge thank you for the offering of $144 It is an amazing gift and we will use it to share the acceptance, love and hope of Jesus Christ to children whose lives have been torn apart. Amazing things are happening at Thornwell these days and I am always available to come to your church to share the news. Again, thanks so much for your generosity. I very much look forward to seeing you all again soon.

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Dennis Reid
Mission Advancement Officer/ Florida
Thornwell Home for Children
http://www.thornwellhome.org/

Clergy News - COM and CPM

At the Presbytery meeting we welcomed ministers to Tropical Florida.

Committee on Ministry approved

Rev. Young Kuen Koon who will be serving Korean Church of Miami (KPCM) as their interim pastor.
Rev. Edward Hernandez is serving as Temporary Supply at All Nations, North Miami Beach
Rev. John Stewart to Bridge Pastor at Sunset Presbyterian Church, Ft Lauderdale
Rev. Roger Verse as Interim Pastor at First Boynton Beach
Rev. Jack Noble as Interim Pastor at First Tequesta
Rev Dennis Andrews as Teaching Elder at Miami Shores Presbyterian Church

Committee on Preparation Ministry brought three seminarians forward as Inquirers

Nathan McConnell currently serving as a Student Pastor at Lakeside Presbyterian Church, West Palm
Mark George Van Dorn serving at First Ft Lauderdale
Chang Wook Kim under care with the Korean Presbyterian Church Miami

Church News (092914)
Upcoming Church Events

Advent Dinner with Tropical Flutes in Concert
Saturday, November 6th, 6pm
Lakeside Presbyterian Church, 4601 South Flagler Drive, WPB
Tickets $10, $25 max/family, payable at the door
RSVP to admin@lakesidepres.org

“Praise Noels” Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 21st, 10:30am
with Lakeside’s Sanctuary Choir and Worship Team, Kidz Praize Ring & Sing, and Chamber Orchestra
Directed by Mark and Kimberlee Aliapoulous
Lakeside Presbyterian Church, 4601 South Flagler Drive, WPB

Note: If you wish to advertise your event in this section, please submit a brief description to Delphia.
Shari’s Shout Out

Presbytery Registration

There seems to be some confusion about the process on the day of Presbytery. Although you have already registered on-line and indicated whether you would be having lunch, it is necessary that everyone attending sign in that morning (at the Registration tables) to reflect their attendance. Thank you for your cooperation.

Presbytery Packets

The office continues to send one packet to each church so that copies can be made for your Teaching and Ruling Elders. We very much appreciate this assistance in seeing that commissioners are informed. Packets are also posted on line. It is our hope to go paperless before I retire.

2014 Statistical Reports

It’s time to begin taking a good look at your rolls. Although you cannot / should not do your year-end report until it really is (year-end), you can take steps that will make the process easier. The 2014 workbooks in English, Spanish and Korean have been posted to our website. Sure, it’s early but you can begin to gather the necessary bits of information. The GA Statistical Entry System will go live on December 5, 2014. Remember Session needs to approve the church report as early as possible after December 31, 2014. I’m bringing this to your attention early in hopes that we won’t have late or (heaven forbid) a church with no entry this year! The workbook states that the Presbytery sets the deadline. I do provide churches with a date in advance of the final GA portal shutdown to allow me the opportunity to do the data entry if needed. So please believe me if I tell you time is running out since I don’t set the final deadline.

Save The Date (092914)
How to Survive a Church Building Project

A complementary 90-minute webinar
Presented by the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program
Tuesday, October 21 at 7 pm ET (4 pm PT)

Thanks to PILP, this webinar is offered free of charge to pastors, elders, trustees and committee members.
Building projects create excitement as congregations envision new ministry possibilities. Along with the excitement comes anxiety. Can we really afford a project of this size? How will we pay for the project? Will this affect our ministry budget?

Learn about best practices for successfully navigating construction projects of all sizes. Jay Hudson and Ben Blake, both with The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment & Loan Program (PILP), will share pros and pitfalls experienced by hundreds of congregations they moved from initial conception through debt retirement.

Click here to register for the webinar.

Read in browser »

Finance
Accountable Reimbursement Plan

(Accountable reimbursement plans are a valuable resource for most churches and nonprofits.

Most experts recommend that even the smallest churches set up an expense reimbursement policy for their pastor and staff to use.

An accountable reimbursement plan is an employee reimbursement arrangement or method for reimbursing employees for legitimate business expenses.

If set up correctly, reimbursed business expenses do not have to be treated as taxable income.

However, an expense reimbursement policy could turn into a nightmare for a church and their minister and/or staff if not done properly.

If a minister or church is audited and there is not proper supporting documents backing up the reimbursement claims, the reimbursement could be considered income for the minister or staff member. They would then owe penalties for not claiming the income...and it snowballs from there.

Adopting Appropriate Policies:
Before reimbursing your employees, your church should ensure all of their tax-exempt funds are being expended by adopting appropriate policies such as the following:

- Accountable Reimbursement Policy
- Credit Card Policies and Procedures
- Travel Reimbursement Policy

**Accountable Reimbursement Plan Guidelines:**

There are three requirements for an effective and “legal” accountable reimbursement plan. They are:

- They must have a legitimate business purpose for every reimbursement
- Must require employees to substantiate expenses
- Must require employees to return any excess reimbursements

The last two components must be handled within a “reasonable time”. According to IRS Pub 463, the definition of “reasonable time” “depends on the facts and circumstances of your situation. However, regardless of the facts and circumstances of your situation, actions that take place within the times specified in the following list will be treated as taking place within a reasonable period of time.”

The fixed date method:

- an advance is made within 30 days of when an expenses is incurred or paid
- proper expenses are adequately substantiated within 60 days after they were incurred or paid
- any excess reimbursement is returned to employer within 120 days after the expense was incurred or paid.

**Accountable Reimbursement Tips:**

- Get supporting documents such as receipts and mileage logs!
- Properly file them!
- Appoint someone to be in charge of administering the accountable reimbursement plan.

Make sure they know what an appropriate business expense is and what is not and the time limit for obtaining the supporting documents.

*The IRS requires the employer to keep good accounting reports. Every reimbursed expenses must include the following information (the 4w’S):*

- *Who* was reimbursed and if for a business meal…whom were they with …and where were they?
- *When* were they reimbursed?
- *What* were they reimbursed for and ... for how much did it cost?
- *Why* were they reimbursed (was it a legitimate “business” expense)?
Mileage Dos and Do Nots:

- **Do Not** reimburse your minister for travel back and forth from his home to the church (it is considered commuting miles).
- **Do** reimburse them for trips to hospitals, nursing homes, member’s homes, etc.
- **Do Not** fill up a staff’s gas tank for church business. The IRS frowns on this practice. Their view is that if you fill up their personal vehicle’s gas tank than they will have to prove that they used every drop of that gas for church business or they want the value of the personal miles on that tank of gas added to their income.
- **Do** use a mileage reimbursement form. A better way to handle reimbursing staff for using their own vehicle for church business is for them to use a mileage log and/or a mileage reimbursement form and turn in to the church for reimbursement at the mileage rate stated in your policy.

**Do Not EVER…**

...give the left over funds in your accountable reimbursement plan to any staff person including the minister at the end of the year. It would null and void your whole policy and you have to include **ALL** reimbursements for the year on a W-2 as income.

Last but still very important...include wording in your accountable reimbursement arrangement that would allow your minister/staff to claim unreimbursed expenses on their personal taxes IF the church could not afford to reimburse those expenses.

An article in StartChurch written in 2012

The article stated that in a recent court case, *Stidman, T.C. Summ. Op. 2012-61*, the court ruled that a taxpayer is not entitled to take a tax deduction for unreimbursed business expenses **if** the employer has a reimbursement policy.

This ruling may impact small churches that are not always able to afford all reimbursements. The author pointed out that churches may need to amend their accountable reimbursement policies to include wording that would require the church to send a written reply to the requesting employee recognizing their claim as legitimate but also denying it according to its reimbursement policy on the basis that it cannot afford to issue the reimbursement.

Articles to Follow:

- Examples of Proper Reimbursement Items
- How to Set Up and Administer a Proper Accountable Reimbursement Policy
- Unsubstantiated Business Expenses
- Creating an Accounting Policy Manual
- **??** Tell me what you need/want

*The information in this article is for educational purposes only and should not be taken as specific legal advice.*

**Accountable Reimbursement Items/Business Expenses**
Examples of Proper Reimbursement Items:

- Reasonable travel and related expenses for attending annual conferences, district meetings, continuing education conferences, etc.
- Trips to preach at another church
- Trips to visit members at hospitals, nursing homes, or their homes
- Lunch meetings with officers of the church to discuss church business
- Supplies for the church office (e.g. paper, pens, notebooks, etc.)
- A computer required for church work
- Church-related books and periodicals
- Robes and clothing specifically adapted for the job
- Office furnishing and equipment (e.g. desk, chair, etc.)
- Many business related (NON-PERSONAL) expenses allowable on Schedule C of the IRS tax return

Examples of Improper Reimbursement Items:

- Mileage to church from home for daily work (considered personal commuting)
- Vacations (including trips to the Holy Land)
- A computer used primarily by family or for personal use
- Everyday clothing (including business suits)
- Child care/dependent expenses
- Hosing related expenses (e.g. utilities, furniture, upkeep (these are part of the housing allowance) except to the extent they relate to an office)

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Synod Grants Available

TO THE PRESBYTERIES OF THE SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC - AVAILABLE GRANTS FOR YEAR 2014

The Synod of South Atlantic would like to support the ministry of Jesus Christ for your presbytery by providing grants from various donors’ gifts as well as from the Synod’s own funds. These funds are available in addition to the Synod mission and program funds. The fund availability will be announced at the end of March each year, and all applications will be considered until funds are depleted. Please announce these grants availability to potential beneficiaries so that they can apply for the grant. When the Synod receives their application, appropriate committee in the Synod will determine approval/disapproval of the application or modify the grant amount. If you would like to have more information, please contact synod office.
News and Commentary (092914)
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance helps our partners in Africa

Situation Overview

The deadly Ebola virus disease (EVD) has surfaced in the sub-region of West Africa, affecting Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone; this is the largest outbreak ever recorded. The aggressive virus is among those that have neither cure nor vaccine to date. The fatality rate is 90 percent, and usually kills within a week of exposure.

Since this is the first time this virus is affecting people in this part of Africa, the population is ignorant about its nature, effects, symptoms and means of prevention. People are therefore very much at risk, and more awareness needs to be raised.

Our Response

PDA is responding through our mission partner the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL) and as a member of the ACT Alliance. Response includes raising awareness on symptoms and infection prevention methods; training of trainers so that accurate information about the Ebola virus, its transmission and prevention can be shared with wider communities; and construction of an isolation center where patients can be observed and treated.

PDA is monitoring reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other sources in the United States to determine an appropriate national response should a need arise.
Presbyterians Helping In Iraq

Violence spread rapidly as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) began to take over portions of northern and western Iraq in August 2014. As many as a million people are displaced, fleeing Mosul and other cities. Iraq was already responding to the ongoing crisis where almost 220,000 Syrian refugees had sought refuge in the same region.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program is supporting our partner The National Evangelical Church of Iraq in providing food, water, clothing, fuel, hygiene items, and bedding to those most in need and in helping those who are displaced to find housing and employment. PDA will also respond in cooperation with and as a member of ACT Alliance, which has already been working in informal camps to provide hygiene and sanitation kits, food packages and emergency shelters.

Please remember the three key words about our ministry through the Church’s PDA program: Give. Act. Pray. You may find out more here.

New online resource for youth

Congregational Ministries Publishing introduces Presby Youth. Categorized by age, liturgical season, and biblical themes, the downloadable lessons are easy-to-use, scripturally based and rooted in Reformed tradition.

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