In this week's 01/18/2016 edition:

- **New Race and Reconciliation Study Explores Reconciliation, Unity, and Justice**
- **Historic Church’s Debt Cancelled as an Act of Racial Reconciliation**
- **This Week in Tropical Florida – J Rhoades Service at Riviera**
- **Training in 2016 – Save the Date**

**New Race and Reconciliation Study Explores Reconciliation, Unity, and Justice**

*(Presbytery of Tropical Florida will provide the study materials for this program. If you are interested please contact the office)*

A new *Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding* study honors the 50th anniversary of the Confession of 1967 and the anticipated adoption of the Confession of Belhar as a confessional standard of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

*Race and Reconciliation: Confessions of 1967 and Belhar* by Cliff Kirkpatrick, former stated clerk of the PC(USA), explores the themes of reconciliation, unity, and justice. Readers will claim the ministry of reconciliation in a world and a church deeply divided by race, nation,
gender, economic status, and religion.

“With pastoral sensitivity and intellectual astuteness, Kirkpatrick guides readers through a process of contemplation that can re-form our minds on the issues of race, poverty, justice, and the practical use of our confessions,” said Mark Lomax, founding pastor of the First African Presbyterian Church of Lithonia, Ga., and assistant professor of Homiletics at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC).

_Race and Reconciliation_, an ideal study leading up to the 222nd General Assembly (2016), may be used as a self-guided study, as a group study, and a ready reference for personal reflection. Suggested lesson plans are offered for group study.

_Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding_ is a series of bibliically based studies that provide adults with a foundational understanding of the Reformed faith. Each six-session study—written by well-known and respected scholars—features Scripture, in-depth commentary, and questions for reflection. Learn more about the studies at [pcusa.org/being-reformed](http://pcusa.org/being-reformed).

_Being Reformed_ is published by Congregational Ministries Publishing, the denominational curriculum publisher of the PC(USA). Its mission is to bring glory to God by inspiring, equipping, and connecting Presbyterians of all ages with faithful, affordable, educational resources that further commitments to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

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**Historic Church’s Debt Cancelled as an Act of Racial Reconciliation**

Princeton’s Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church free from mortgage

On Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015, during the 175th anniversary event for the Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Synod of the Northeast cleared the church’s debt of approximately $175,000 as an act of racial reconciliation.
The loan forgiveness is in response to the “ecclesiastical lynching” of the Rev. William Robeson in late 1900. William Robeson is the father of noted singer, actor and civil rights leader Paul Robeson.

The Rev. Dr. Harold Delhagen, Synod of the Northeast Leader, says, “As a regional community of over 1,100 Presbyterian churches committed to racial justice, this story has compelled us to do justice and not simply talk about it.”

Robeson, an African-American and former slave himself, became pastor of Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church in 1879. The church was established after a fire destroyed the balcony of First Presbyterian Church (now named Nassau Presbyterian Church) where slaves sat during worship.

Outspoken in his efforts to end racism and Jim Crow laws in Princeton and beyond, he was deeply beloved by his congregation.

But as a result of his advocacy, white members of the presbytery forced Robeson out of his position at Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church after 21 years of service. The church experienced a significant loss in funding and the ousting took a toll on Robeson’s career. The church’s manse, which had been purchased for $1,000, had to be sold due to the loss of finances.

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church repurchased the manse in 2005 for $435,000. A balance of approximately $175,000 remains on the property’s two mortgages. Now called the Paul Robeson House, the space is a meeting place for people to study and advance human rights.

The Synod recently investigated the history surrounding this event and produced a report in September recommending the Presbytery of New Brunswick issue a formal apology. A letter of affirmation was sent to the Presbytery of New Brunswick for making amends for the injustice committed by the presbytery, and a resolution was drafted for issuing the apology. The Presbytery of New Brunswick is contributing $2,500 towards the restitution effort and is encouraging member churches to assist.

November 13, 2015 Presbyterian News Service Gregg Brekke
This Week in Tropical Florida – J Rhoades Service at Riviera

Rev. Dr. Y. Jacqueline Rhoades

Mission Worker,
Theologian and Ethicist,
Minister of the Word and Sacrament,
Christian Educator,
Professor and Academic Dean,
Honorably Retired Member of Tropical Florida Presbytery

Concert & Reception

January 23, 2016
4:00 p.m.

Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143

featuring Requiem in D minor, Op. 48,

Gabriel Fauré, composer

in memory of
Jacqueline Rhoades
January 22, 1926 – July 12, 2015

for further information, please contact Rev. Diane Shoaf, shoaf456@bellsouth.net

Training in 2016 – Save the Date

Your Presbytery Staff will be holding three Resource Saturdays before June. Resource Saturdays are for Pastors and Elders in the morning; afternoon breakouts for Clerks, Treasurers, Committees overseeing property and church marketing; and those interested in participating on a disaster response team.

Stated Clerk, Dick McFail will be giving Elder training in the morning and meeting
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- **Earth Care Congregations – apply before Feb 15th**
- **Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage April 21-24**
- **Clergy News**
- **Church News**
- **Shari’s Shout Out**
- **Church Items – In Need or to Give Away**
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Youth will have fireside nights, great meals, lake filled with inflatables, and many other activities while sharing their faith stories and learning about mission.

The cost is $100/person. However the Presbytery will be paying half so the cost to congregations will be **$50/person**. A few need base scholarships are available. Churches will need to transport their youth and provide a chaperone.

The retreat starts at 7 p.m., Friday April 1 and closing is after Camp Worship at Noon on April 3rd.
More details will be provided when you register.

Contact Rev, Jesse Higginbotham at jessihigginbotham@firstdelray.com

Earth Care Congregations – apply before Feb 15th

For this year’s April 22nd Earth Day – Become an Earth Care Congregation!

To become certified as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation in the first year, a church fills out the Earth Care Pledge and tracks its commitments to earth care in the areas of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Click here to download the Earth Care Congregation First Year Application (excel form), to be submitted between January 1-February 15, 2016, by email to rebecca.barnes@pcusa.org and environment@pcusa.org.

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The annual enrollment/recertification period for 2016 is Jan 1-Feb 15.

Going interfaith

As an option for churches that would like to take advantage of additional resources, coaching, and interfaith connections, Environmental Ministries has partnered with GreenFaith to invite Presbyterian congregations to consider this interfaith certification program. Going through GreenFaith’s two year intensive will count for PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation certification and will enable participating
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Download a pdf version of a PowerPoint presentation about Earth Care Congregations.

See a list of churches that are certified as Earth Care Congregations.

Read about churches doing earth care ministry on our blog.

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**Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage April 21-24**

Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage is a spiritual oasis where one can experience the joy of one’s salvation. It consists of three days of singing, worship, laughter, prayer, fellowship and basking in the warmth and joy of God’s presence.

**When:** April 21 – 24, 2015

**Where:** The Retreat at Silver Springs, (formerly the Christian Church Conference Center) in Silver Springs, FL. For an application, contact Richard Anderson at (954) 598-9330/ RichardA@firstpres.cc
Clergy News

Saturday Jan. 23rd, Rev. Dr. Y. Jacqueline Rhodes’ life was memorialized as she lived. A service of Thanksgiving was held at Riviera Presbyterian Church with a flavor of the French woman’s love of classical music, friends, faith and fine champagne. Members of the Riviera Choir and students from the University of Miami performed Gabriel Faure’s Requiem. The somber beautiful words floated throughout the sanctuary that Jackie loved and last worshiped. Those attending then gathered around with sparkling flutes of French Champagne to toast her life and her new journey in glory. The Presbytery is grateful to Jackie’s contributions; for her resolve and tenacity to create a big tent for all and bringing the opportunity for seminary education to South Florida.

Church News

Positions Available

Glades Presbyterian Church has an opening for an Administrative Assistant (Monday – Thursday 10-1 times are flexible but need to be consistent). Send your resume and cover letter to Rev. Carter Robinson at pastorcarterrob@gmail.com

Youth Leaders – We have several congregations seeking youth leaders – if you know an experienced youth leader in Broward and Palm Beach County please have them email Amalie Ash at amalie@tfpby.org

Riviera’s Health and Fitness Ministry

One of the ways God is calling us to be the Lord’s light is for us to become better stewards of our body, mind and soul. N-R-G (pronounced ‘energy’) stands for Nourished & Reinvigorated by God, has kicked off in 2016 as Riviera’s health and fitness ministry. This ministry caters
to its members, their friends, families and communities. N-R-G will be hosting fun-filled activities that will keep us physically, emotionally, and spiritually active. Some of the planned events include monthly exercise classes such as Zumba, yoga, MMA, dance and tai chi. There will also be running/walking races workshops, community outreach, outdoor activities, as well as fundraising opportunities to help sustain this brand new ministry. For more information and to view all N-R-G events, visit our website at www.rivierachurch.org. We are definitely igniting the possibilities this year at Riviera!

Shari’s Shout Out

Friendly Reminders!

Necrology Reports are due on Wednesday the 27th. Please, if your church has not submitted this report (even just an email saying “none” with the name of church) do so now.

Churches are encouraged to complete your Statistical Reports and Clerks’ Annual Questionnaires to the General Assembly as soon as possible. The Questionnaires were to be submitted in November. While that deadline has passed, the information is still being received. The General Assembly portal to submit Statistical Reporting is available until February 23rd.

Pastor Compensation Reports and Annual Reports from Ministers in Other Service and At-Large Members of Presbytery were to be submitted by the end of January. May we please have these as soon as possible?

If you have any questions, have misplaced your forms, don’t know your log in or password—anything—please give me a call!

Remember to smile, this comes only once a year.

Different subject — it’s not too soon to register for the February 27th Presbytery Meeting which will be hosted by First Port St. Lucie.
Church Items – In Need or to Give Away

Extra Communion Table?

All Nations Presbyterian Church is looking for a gently used Communion Table to replace their folding table.

Please contact Rev Ed Hernandez at pastoredccc@hotmail.com or 954-816-0002

Communion Cup Trays, Pew Registers Available

First Presbyterian – Tequesta has for the taking twelve communion (gold colored aluminum) cup trays and holders, in good condition with three latch lids. Also 50 pew registers with pads. As well as sixty matching cups and saucers. Contact the Church Office: 561.746.5151 ext. 10.

Training in 2016 – Save the Date

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(Thank you! Dennis Andrews and Russ Ritchel for offering the use of Miami Shores and First Ft Lauderdale)
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- The Cost of Complaining
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- Stated Clerk’s Corner : Presbytery Meeting Feb 27
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- 2016 IRS Mileage Rates

The Cost of Complaining

“The whole Israelite community complained against Moses and Aaron in the desert. ‘Who are we? Your complaints aren’t against us but against the Lord.’”

Exodus 16:2,8 (Common English Bible)

Frederick Douglas wrote, “Man’s greatness consists in his ability to do and the proper application of his powers to things needful to be done.” What Douglas speaks of may be called the claim of positive action – the decision to meet all circumstances not with a negative spirit, but with a positive mind and a useful response. When we meet disruptions in life, little inconveniences and seeming disorder of daily rhythms, it is good to remind ourselves that complaining doesn’t improve the situation. What complaining does accomplish is damage – damage to us and to those who must hear our complaints.
This damage is seen in the people of Israel. After leaving their captivity in Egypt, life along their journey through the wilderness becomes difficult. Food is scarce, as is water, and the people complained about the hot days and the cold nights. Their whimpering and complaining eventually became directed against their magnificent leader, Moses, who had faced Pharaoh squarely on their behalf, and secured their release from slavery. Memory of a difficult, even cruel, life in Egypt as slaves faded as they exaggerated the comforts they once enjoyed under Pharaoh. Under the cloud of complaining, their future as a free people grew dim. The great vision of liberty was surrendered to a past not rightly seen.

To this miserable and confused state Moses said, “Your complaints aren’t against us but against the Lord.” Now that is insight worthy of our best reflection! Often complaints arise from a sense that we have been treated unfairly or a belief that life has been unreasonably difficult. Someone or some circumstance is the blame for a life that is less than what we might have. But tell us that our complaint is against God and we may be forced to consider that God never really promised the ease we feel entitled to. Perhaps, God has placed each of us into a world where there are heavy loads to bear and difficulties that demand our best energies, both mind and body. Some reading this may remember the song lyric of decades ago, “I never promised you a rose garden.” God didn’t.

Complaining doesn’t solve anything. And most agree that complaining is a sign of mental and moral immaturity. Complaining brings nothing of value to the table of life. But complaining does exact a heavy cost. It diminishes a clear view of the presence and activity of God in our lives and it sends friends and acquaintances running – in the opposite direction. What remains is to develop a mental attitude that says, “This is the way things are right now. Where can I see God in this? And what positive response can I make?” It is this new mindset that finally moved Israel out of the desert and into God’s promised land.

Joy,

Pastor Doug Hood,
First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach
Shari’s Shout Out; Reporting Deadlines!!!

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(Thank you! Dennis Andrews, Russ Ritchel, Kyle Erickson and the Elders at Miami Shores, Ft Lauderdale and Gardens for providing the space for these trainings.)

2016 IRS Mileage Rates

The IRS has set the following mileage rate for 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>54 cents per mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>19 cents per mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable</td>
<td>14 cents per mile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our volunteers will continue to be reimbursed at 25 cents per mile for volunteer miles.

This means that our volunteers MUST report 11 cents per mile reimbursed as INCOME on their personal tax returns.

Volunteers can also report the mileage as charitable donations on their personal tax returns.

Read in browser »
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- **Shari’s Shout Out – Important News!**
- **Black History Month – Speakers at New Covenant**
- **Presbytery Meeting – Volunteers Needed**
- **Presbyterian Women – Gathering in Key West**
- **Mission and Future Planning AC – Mission Statement**
- **Youth Leaders – Youth Retreat**
- **Church News and Events**
- **Disaster Preparedness – Looking ahead**
- **2016 Reimbursement Rates and Policy**

**Shari’s Shout Out – Important News!**

Your Annual Reporting

At this moment in time 17 of our churches have completed their Annual Statistical Reports. It’s a start; but I admit to feeling envious when the manager in Louisville sent an email at the end of January with the Presbyteries being at **50% or better** (at that time we had 3)!. Remember I begged for 100% this year as a farewell gift. If you get stuck, please let me know. The deadline for completion is the 23rd of February. Don’t wait until the last moment, please do it now.

Necrology Reports were due before the end of January. Many churches have not responded. Just an email with “none” and the church name would ease the worry that we are missing information. If you do have a report, please submit the elder’s name, date of death and the church name. Thank you.
Churches are reminded that Pastors’ Compensation Reports are due. Ministers at Large or in Other Service are reminded that their annual reports are due as well. We have these forms on our website under Resources.

**Presbytery Meeting**

The Coordinating Council is making a change in what we refer to as our [Supplemental Packet](#). Recently, it seems that the supplemental material that you receive the morning of the Presbytery meeting is as extensive (if not more so) than what was mailed directly to the church or posted on our website as the original packet. Therefore, in order that everyone can be familiar with the matters which will be taken into consideration at Presbytery, it is essential that we get the information to you earlier. If a committee needs to submit a late report, it must be received no later than Tuesday (assuming a Saturday meeting). Reports received will then be distributed to Council for review and approval. An email will be sent to all churches with the supplemental attached on the Thursday prior to Presbytery to copy for the Teaching and Ruling Elders. The supplemental will also be posted to the website. We really hope this helps and rely on your cooperation.

**Packets** will be sent to churches on the 16th and posted to the website. Why wait? Go ahead and register now! Lunch reservations will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on the 24th. Our hosts will receive the listing before I leave that day. Therefore, anything coming in after that time is late and will necessitate the $12.00 charge.

**Missing Minister Badges**

Has it been a while since you’ve seen yours? If any Teaching Elder did not find his/her name badge at the last meeting, please let me know so that a new one can be made.

**Black History Month – Speakers at New Covenant**

New Covenant Presbyterian Church will be hosting three speakers for Black History Month.
Feb. 7  **Rev. Vicky Powell-Williams**, a daughter of the church, a graduate of Louisville Seminary, currently teaching at Georgia Ayres Middle School and pastoring a congregation in Hialeah, Walking by Faith.

Feb 14  **Rev. Ernestine Blackmon Cole**, a former member of the congregation, recently retired as Associate Dean of Students at Columbia Theological Seminary. She is flying in from Atlanta for the occasion. A catered lunch follows.

Feb. 21  **Rev. Alonzo Thomas Johnson**, a former member of Rev. Vaughn’s youth group, graduate of Louisville Seminary, having served for 12 years at a Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. He is currently on the General Assembly staff for Peacemaking, and is flying in from Louisville. A luncheon follows.

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**Presbytery Meeting – Volunteers Needed**

First PC, Port St. Lucie needs your help for the upcoming Presbytery meeting. If you can’t volunteer your time, please consider bringing a dish.

Contact the church office to sign up 772-335-8900

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**Presbyterian Women – Gathering in Key West**

*Annual Gathering Presbyterian Women*  
*Presbytery of Tropical Florida*

When:  Saturday, March 12, 2016  
Where: Trinity Presbyterian Church
Enjoy a day of hope and spiritual renewal in beautiful Key West!

“Theme: “Deepening our Spiritual Insight”

Participants will be introduced to Spirituality Practices that will nourish the Spirit of God within us. The morning will culminate in communion administered by Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Magby, followed by our Annual Gathering Meeting in the afternoon.

Lunch 12:00

Please reserve space by calling in number of reservation for yourself or group: Tedra Poitier 407-748-0248. The cost of lunch will be collected by host church on the day of Gathering.

Tedra Poitier, PWP Moderator-Elect Tropical FL
PWC Moderator, Trinity, Key West, FL
ptedra@aol.com 407-748-0248

Leave the driving to Ace Tour bus – $38.00 round trip

Departures:
4:00 am Tequesta – Kenly Drummond – kad4paws@att.net
482 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta, FL 405-361-2502
Travel: 60.2 miles 1 hour, 4 minutes -> 5:04 am

5:15 am Ascension Peace Presbyterian
Delores Baker 954-731-4415 littleridb@aol.com
Marva Jenkins 954-224-7895 nuddie8@bellsouth.net
Travel: 19.1 miles 26 minutes -> 5:41 am

6:00 am Myrtle Grove – Ramona Exum exum612@aol.com
2961 N.W, 175th St., Miami Gardens, FL 305-625-2961
Travel: 170.3 miles 3 hours, 29 minutes -> 9:29 am

9:30 am Trinity Presbyterian Church (305) 296-3318
707 Simonton Street, Key West, FL 33041-6471
One-Way Bus Travel: 249.6 miles  4 hr 52 min.

Breakfast at 10:00 am
Gathering/Sacrament of the Lords Super

Program

Lunch $10.00 per person, paid at Trinity
catered by the men of Trinity Presbyterian

Business Meeting

Ace Tour bus
Make $38.00 check payable to *Presbyterian Women*
Mail to: Kenly Drummond, PWP Treasurer
706 North Hepburn Ave., Jupiter, FL 33458

Mail Before  February 15, 2016

**Mission and Future Planning AC – Mission Statement**

Following the loss of 9 churches at the 2012 May Presbytery meeting, and the subsequent 3 more that followed in 2013 and 2015; we knew that the future Tropical Florida would be different. For it was no longer the 2009 Presbytery of 60 churches with 15,000 plus members and it no longer had the depth of volunteers and financial resources. Yet, Tropical Florida was still strong with 44 churches, 8,600 members and well funded with endowments that could build ministry. The Presbytery leadership knew it was time to rebuild a new leaner more relevant Presbytery for the future.

The special Administrative Commission for the Presbytery's Mission and Future Planning was created to consider the mission and vision statements, the staffing model, funding and mission of this “new” Presbytery. Before the AC was created, we had several Presbytery meetings where we engaged in round table discussions and questionnaires asking, what is hoped for in a Presbytery. After many meetings, the AC is beginning to zero-in on a meaningful relevant future presbytery.
They are beginning to introduce their suggestions for our future vote, beginning with their first charge: A Mission Statement.

**Suggested statement:** *Our Mission is to empower congregations to be vibrant Christ-centered communities.*

Over the next few months you will read about their findings and how they arrived at their selection. This month watch for more background on the new mission statement.

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**Youth Leaders – Youth Retreat**

Hello Youth Leaders and Churches,

Thank you for all your hard work. It is that time of year again! We are planning our Presbytery Wide Youth Spring Retreat for you grades 7-12! This year our retreat will be hosted at Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center, April 1-3. The cost of this trip is $50 per youth and participant and we do have scholarships available. We are going to have a wonderful weekend and we really look forward to seeing you all there! Even if you bring 1 youth we would still love to have you.

Please remember you must provide chaperones for this entire weekend, both male and female if you bring both male and female youth.

**Attached is the flyer** for this event in both English and Spanish so please begin promoting and circulating the information!

We are thrilled to welcome Danny Morales as our guest speaker/preacher for the weekend as well as offer some wonderfully fun workshops for our youth. We hope you will check out the Lake Placid website to see some fun pictures of the site where we will be staying. [http://www.lpccc.net/](http://www.lpccc.net/)

Please let me know if there are any questions I can answer for you about this wonderful weekend opportunity! Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there!

*Rev. Jessi Higginbotham*
“First Spanish Presbyterian Church volunteers organize food donations to be distributed to needy individuals and families. This is a project that takes place several times a year, with the contribution of Goya Foods Miami, and the enthusiastic work of our church members. Last December we supplemented the project with a generous Mission Grant from the Presbytery.”

José Manuel

**Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group Meetings**

**Riviera Presbyterian Church**, 5275 Sunset Dr, is providing monthly meetings the 3rd Thursday of the month from 1 – 2:30 p.m. These meetings are open to the community.

Please contact facilitator Rosanna M. Masi if you have any questions at rmmasi@bellsouth.net.
Disaster Preparedness – Looking ahead

The news shows that we are in an El Nino year and that storms will be stronger and frequent. This could be a concern for the 2016 Hurricane Season. Elder Barbara Hassall, has taken the PDA training for disaster and will be helping Tropical Florida be prepared this year. She will be providing monthly updates for your church Property Committees and Sessions.

Attached is a check list that we ask your Property Committee and Session review. If you divide the list among the elders, and start working on it today you will be better prepared in June.

Also, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) reminds us that disasters come in many forms – wind, water, and sadly human-caused violence. PDA is the one that is first on the scene for church and mass shootings. If your church has such a disaster event – please let the Presbytery know or call PDA in Louisville – there is support for your congregation.

2016 Reimbursement Rates and Policy

On the Presbytery Website are the following forms and information for
Reimbursement.

- 2016 Reimbursement Rates.
- Reimbursement Policy as approved by the Presbytery 12/5/2015.
- Volunteer Mileage Form
- Expense Form
- Check Request Form
In this weeks 02/16/2016 edition:

- Preparing for the Presbytery Meeting
- Florida Presbyteries gather in Cuba
- Food Distribution – Volunteers needed
- The Church Stewardship Prime Directive: Don’t Spend More Than You Bring In
- Clergy News
- Rev. Alonzo T. Johnson at New Covenant
- Attend The Belhar Confession Webinar

**Preparing for the Presbytery Meeting**

The Packets go out today. Each Church will receive an email to make copies for all commissioners and pastors attending February 27.

The packet will be posted on the Presbytery website – note: it is under construction and there are some areas that are not activated.

Next week, a few days before the Presbytery meeting you will receive a message that the supplemental packet will be ready. This will give you time to review all the materials before you arrive and to download on your smart phones or tablets. We hope this will help you be better prepared for the meeting and to be informed about the issues and concerns before the body.

**Florida Presbyteries gather in Cuba**
Last week, the Presbyteries of Tropical Florida, Tampa Bay and Peace River traveled to Cuba for a meeting with the leadership of the Presbyterian Reform Church of Cuba Synod and the three Presbyteries (El Centro, Havana and Matanzas). This was the first meeting of these presbyteries since the 1960 US embargo on Cuba. The two day meeting was held at the Matanzas Seminario Evangélico de Teología and was organized by the GA World Mission Latin America and Caribbean Area Coordinator, Rev. Dr. Valdir Franca and Mission Co-Worker Rev. Jo Ella Holman. The meeting was to begin new relationships and to learn about each other’s churches, struggles and ministry. The Synod Executive, Rev. Daniel Izquierdo, and the Seminary President, Rev. Dr. Carlos Emilio Ham, spoke about this being a historic event; that it has been a deeply held desire to reconnect to South Florida’s presbyteries. Adding to the significance of the meeting, we were visited by Rev. Dr. Ofelia Miriam Ortega Suarez, a longtime missionary and elected member of the Cuban Parliament.

The three Florida Presbyteries returned with plans to prayerfully discern our next steps. We will be joining the Cuba Partner’s Network who is currently supported by the Presbyteries of Long Island, Central Florida, Baltimore, Chicago and others. We learned that is very important that we work through this organization and World Missions. Currently, Americans cannot travel directly there unless on a specific visa, we were on a religious visa that
For now, keep our brothers and sisters in prayer. They have vibrant ministries with active churches and have created new worshiping communities. They are a witness to the call to serve, a witness of courage, faithfulness and hope. Also, pray for the recently arrived PCUSA missionaries, Rev. Dr. David Cortes-Fuentes and Elder Josey Saez Acevedo; they are the first missionaries since the late 1950's, they will be serving at the Seminary.

Other Meeting Attendees include: Synod: Francisco Marrero, Moderator and Dean of Seminary; Rev. Dr. Ary Fernandez, President of Council. Presb. Havana: Rev. Abel Mirabal, Executive Secretary; Rev. Izett Sama, Moderator; Elder Ana Regina Garcia, Vice-Moderator. Presb. Matanzas: Rev. Leticia Ramos, Executive Secretary; Rev. Reina Villalonga, Moderator. Presb. El Centro: Rev Edelberto Valdes, Executive Secretary; Elder Norma Correa, International Relations. Tropical Florida: Rev. Amalie Ash, Transitional Presbyter; Rev. Dr. Doug Hood, Moderator; Rev. Dr. Dennis Andrews, Chair of Council, Rev. Dr. Eve Tolly, Chair of COM, Rev. Jose Manual Capella-Pratts, Moderator Hispanic Caucus. Tampa Bay: Elder Patrice Hatley, Executive Head of Staff; Elder Marsha Ryberg, Moderator. Peace River: Rev. Graham Hart, General Presbyter; Rev. Winston Lawson, Pastor, First Pres. Lehigh Acres; Rev. Clinton Cottrell, previous stated Clerk/Pastor Cypress Lake PC, Ft Myers.

In the coming weeks the Weekly Bulletin will post stories about this special meeting.

**Food Distribution – Volunteers needed**

Volunteers are needed at New Covenant Presbyterian Church to help unpack organize distribution of can goods and foods from Farm Share.
The Church Stewardship Prime Directive: Don’t Spend More Than You Bring In

Today’s post isn’t long, because today’s point is very simple. When it comes to the issue of Money & the Small Church, (or money & big churches, money & family finances, money & business, etc) there is one principle that stands high above all the others.

It’s so basic, I almost feel silly having to write it.

I call it the Church Stewardship Prime Directive, because I believe there is no financial principle more important for a church to observe than this.

Don’t spend more money than you bring in.
That’s it.

Maybe it’s because this principle is so basic and commonsense, that it’s often taken for granted, and therefore ignored. And it’s always a problem when we do.

Clergy News

Rev. Jin S. Kim to visit South Florida

The Rev. Jin S. Kim, pastor of Church of All Nations (Columbia Heights, Minnesota) will visit South Florida from February 26-29. He will be the guest preacher and an afternoon speaker at the presbytery meeting on February 27. He will be the guest preacher at The Sanctuary (Second Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale) on Sunday, February 28 at 10:30 a.m.
The Administrative Commission for Presbyterian Missions and Future Planning has scheduled two sessions with Rev. Kim on Friday, February 26, late afternoon/early evening and Sunday, February 28, mid-afternoon, both in the Ft Lauderdale area and including a meal. We are writing today to invite you to join us at one or both of these sessions. Rev. Kim joins several other national PCUSA leaders in resourcing the AC. You too are an important resource for the AC’s work. We are now at a stage in our work where including present and potential future leaders in the presbytery in our discussions is a vital opportunity to widen and enrich the conversation.

Please reserve these times on your calendar and send a reply to Rev Diane Shoaf, (shoaf456@bellsouth.net or 786-877-8319-text) indicating your plans for participating in the Friday, Feb 26 and/or Sunday Feb 28 AC conversations. We’ll send details a few days before Rev. Kim’s weekend visit. In the meantime, you may want to ‘google’ Jin S. Kim and/or Church of All Nations, MN to learn more about this remarkable leader and the ministry of the congregation where he currently serves.

Rev. Alonzo T. Johnson at New Covenant

New Covenant Presbyterian Church will be hosting three speakers for Black History Month. The last speaker is on Sunday Feb 21st.

Rev. Alonzo Thomas Johnson, a former member of Rev. Vaughn’s youth group, graduate of Louisville Seminary, having served for 12 years at a Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. He is currently on the General Assembly staff for Peacemaking, and is flying in from Louisville. A luncheon follows.

Attend The Belhar Confession Webinar

A webinar on the application of the Belhar Confession for a diverse worshiping community has been designed for you!

When
8:00 p.m., Monday, February 29th, 2016
8:00 p.m., Monday, March 7th, 2016
8:00 p.m., Monday, March 14th, 2016
8:00 p.m., Monday, March 21st, 2016

Where
Screening Room of the Martin L. King Center
You Should Register!

- If you are concerned about our faith response to injustice…
- If you desire more interactive ways to talk about just living…
- If you need a refueling in your justice work…

Read in browser »

Facebook  Website

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News and Events from around the Presbytery

In this weeks 02/29/2016 edition:

- Youth Leaders – Youth Retreat April 1-3
- Part II – Journal by Dennis Andrews, Council Chair
- Training: 1st Resource Saturday – Mar 12th – RSVP
- Presbyterian Women – Gathering in Key West March 12
- Shari's Shout Out
- Office Coordinator Position
- Insurance Board Webinars
- John Englander speaks on Rising Seas – March 3 – Deerfield
- Scottish Festival March 5th

**Youth Leaders – Youth Retreat April 1-3**

Hello Youth Leaders and Churches,

Thank you for all your hard work. It is that time of year again! We are planning our Presbytery Wide Youth Spring Retreat for you grades 7-12! This year our retreat will be hosted at Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center, April 1-3. The cost of this trip is $50 per youth and participant and we do have scholarships available. We are going to have a wonderful weekend and we really look forward to seeing you all there! Even if you bring 1 youth we would still love to have you.

Please remember you must provide chaperones for this entire weekend, both male and female if you bring both male and female youth.

Attached is the flyer for this event in both English and Spanish so please begin promoting and circulating the information!
We are thrilled to welcome Danny Morales as our guest speaker/preacher for the weekend as well as offer some wonderfully fun workshops for our youth. We hope you will check out the Lake Placid website to see some fun pictures of the site where we will be staying. http://www.lpccc.net/

Please let me know if there are any questions I can answer for you about this wonderful weekend opportunity!

Continue reading

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Tweet Like

Part II – Journal by Dennis Andrews, Council Chair

(Journal reflections re Cuba meeting continued from Feb 22 Weekly Bulletin)

Saturday 2-13

So long Matanzas. We said goodbye to our mission co-workers with a new appreciation for their work in Cuba. What a tremendous ministry they will have. Our return to Havana had us arrive before noon at LaFernanda Presbyterian Church. This church began as a Presbyterian Mission Center at its current location more than 60 years ago, in part, from the vision and work of María Josefa Nuñez.

María Josefa Nuñez, later nicknamed “Fefita” had been a poor 5 year old Cuban girl when she met a Christian missionary that dramatically impacted her life by convincing her that God had special plans for her. This was the thought that became the vision that became the dream that became the reality. Three years later Fefita, age 9, was embraced and mentored through adolescence by a group of Presbyterian women. María’s connections to the Presbyterian Church would never end. Fefita worked to
Training: 1st Resource Saturday – Mar 12th – RSVP

Your Presbytery Staff will be holding three Resource Saturdays before June. Resource Saturdays are for Pastors and Elders in the morning; afternoon breakouts for Clerks, Treasurers, Committees overseeing property and church marketing; and those interested in participating on a disaster response team.

Stated Clerk, Dick McFail will be giving Elder training in the morning and meeting with Clerks of Session in the afternoon; Financial Administrator, Susan Carpenter will be meeting with Treasurers; Pastor to Pastor Kernie Kostrub will lead a pastor roundtable conversation; Transitional Presbyter, Amalie Ash will provide updates on demographic software MissionInsite, websites and marketing your church.

Each Resource Saturday will be from 10:15 to 2:30 – Lunch and materials will be provided by your Presbytery.

March 12 – West Palm Beach – Gardens Presbyterian

RSVP to Shari Lowe at Shari@tfpby.org

Presbyterian Women – Gathering in Key West March 12

Annual Gathering Presbyterian Women
Presbytery of Tropical Florida

When: Saturday, March 12, 2016
Where: Trinity Presbyterian Church
707 Simonton Street
Key West, Florida 33041
Enjoy a day of hope and spiritual renewal in beautiful Key West!

"Theme: "Deepening our Spiritual Insight"

Participants will be introduced to Spirituality Practices that will nourish the Spirit of God within us. The morning will culminate in communion administered by Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Magby, followed by our Annual Gathering Meeting in the afternoon.

Lunch 12:00

Please reserve space by calling in number of reservation for yourself or group: Tedra Poitier 407-748-0248. The cost of lunch will be collected by host church on the day of Gathering.

Tedra Poitier, PWP Moderator-Elect Tropical FL
PWC Moderator, Trinity, Key West, FL
ptedra@aol.com 407-748-0248

Leave the driving to Ace Tour bus – $38.00 round trip

Departures:
4:00 am Tequesta – Kenly Drummond – kad4paws@att.net
482 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta, FL 405-361-2502
Travel: 60.2 miles 1 hour, 4 minutes -> 5:04 am

5:15 am Ascension Peace Presbyterian
Delores Baker 954-731-4415 littleroothing@aol.com
Marva Jenkins 954-224-7895 nuddie8@bellsouth.net
Travel: 19.1 miles 26 minutes -> 5:41 am

6:00 am Myrtle Grove – Ramona Exum exum612@aol.com
2961 N.W, 175th St., Miami Gardens, FL 305-625-2961
Travel: 170.3 miles 3 hours, 29 minutes -> 9:29 am

9:30 am Trinity Presbyterian Church (305) 296-3318
707 Simonton Street, Key West, FL 33041-6471

One-Way Bus Travel: 249.6 miles 4 hr 52 min.

Continue reading
I F any church who has not submitted its 2015 Statistical Report to GA faxes (954-785-1983) or emails handwritten worksheets to me by noon Thursday, I will enter the information for you. My opportunity to help will then end and you hear no more about it—other than having your church listed in the Report of the Stated Clerk at the June 4, 2016 meeting and, therefore, the Presbytery Minutes as failing to comply.

Presbytery Reports

Sometimes things become so routine that we forget to notice that each and every report that goes to Presbytery has a phone number or email to contact the appropriate chair with any comments, questions or concerns. This has been our procedure since the September 2000 Presbytery Meeting.

The Council has taken steps to prevent any surprises at the meeting by having the supplemental reports emailed and posted no less than two days prior to the meeting. It is our goal to have all commissioners fully informed.

Reverend Jennifer Young-Thompson has chosen Kindness as the theme for her term as Moderator. Let us follow her lead. We are all human. If you have concerns, please let us know.

Continue reading

Office Coordinator Position

The Presbytery office is currently seeking an Office Coordinator (see attached job description). The position would be for one year and renewed as needed. If qualified and interested, please send your resume to Lauraine Hoensheid lauraine@comcast.net, Human Resources Committee Chair.

Interviews will be conducted at their March 17th meeting. The successful candidate will begin employment in April.

Description

Continue reading

Insurance Board Webinars
Presbyterian Church (USA) churches. You can register here for all Insurance Board webinars.

The Five Things A Church Can Do To Prevent Abuse
Wed. March 9th
2PM Eastern
Our experts at Praesidium will address the five things a church can do to protect against abuse, which can be devastating to individuals, families, and churches.

Employment Law
Wed April 20th
2PM Eastern
A panel of attorneys from ROETZEL law firm will address common exposures in employment law for churches, such as termination, discrimination, defamation, etc… They will also give some lessons learned and advice on how churches can reduce the risk of such exposures.

Preventing Slips, Trips And Falls
Wed May 11th
2 PM Eastern
Mary Lammermeier (IB) will address common exposures for churches and provide some real case scenarios which have cost large dollar losses. Suggestions of ways to identify these exposures, reduce the risk of loss, and mitigate losses will be discussed.

Security And Your Church
Wed June 8th
2 PM Eastern
Mary Lammermeier (IB) will discuss violence in churches, guns, and recommendations for reducing risk and making your church safer and more secure.

Continue reading

John Englander speaks on Rising Seas – March 3 – Deerfield

Community Deerfield is hosting Oceanographer and consultant John Englander who is a leading expert on sea level rise and its societal and financial impacts. He assists
businesses and communities in understanding the risks as rising seas challenge us to adapt to a changing shoreline. His book, *High Tide on Main Street* (link is external), clearly explains what this coming coastal crisis means to you. – flyer…..

Continue reading

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**Scottish Festival March 5th**

Presbyterians – The 2016 Scottish Games will be held at Plantation Heritage Park at 1100 S. Fig Tree Lane (W. 63 Ave) in Plantation. Clan Parade and Pipe Bands kick off the event at noon. Highland Dancing, Sheep dog demonstrations, fiddling, Scottish heavy athletics are just a few of the many events. Our own Rev. David Massey is the chaplain of the event. For more information and tickets www.sassf.org or call 954-460-5000

Continue reading

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In this weeks 03/09/2016 edition:

- This Week – Events around the Presbytery
- 70,000 meals – Great Job!!
- Church News – Deerfield is 70!
- Office Coordinator Position – Applications due by 3/15
- Insurance Board Webinars
- Pastor’s Discretionary Funds
- Health Fair

This Week – Events around the Presbytery

**PW Gathering – Key West** – Saturday Mar 12 – Please reserve space by calling in number of reservation for yourself or group: Tedra Poitier 407-748-0248. The cost of lunch will be collected by host church.

**Presbytery Resource Saturday** – Mar 12 10AM- Gardens Presbyterian – RSVP Email Shari by Wed at 5:00 – Materials and lunch provided by the Presbytery of Tropical Florida

**Boynton Beach Health Fair** – Mar 12 – Boynton Beach Presbyterian

*Church address and directions can be found at tfpby.org – click on churches.*
The Food Bank had 70,000 meals that had been mis-packed weighing too much to ship overseas. With a donation of $800, the Presbytery’s Financial Administrator, Susan Carpenter and the folks at Community-by-the-Sea got to work. You may have received a phone call from Susan; she called each church. The Presbytery office was filled with boxes ready for ministers and congregations to help deliver food to the many food pantries, food outreach centers, homeless centers and other outreach centers. The Pink Church, Goodwill, The Sanctuary, Key West’s Trinity, Riviera, Port St Lucie, Peace Stuart, Tequesta, Gardens, First Spanish, First Lake Worth are just some of those that helped distribute the boxes of tortillas and ready-to-cook meals. This was a rewarding experience bringing so many together for one purpose. Thank you all, for helping make a difference in south Florida.

Elder Maria Sit – 1st Spanish outreach

Jack Noble taking meals to Tequesta

First, Lake Worth prepares for families

Continue reading
Community of Deerfield Beach celebrated their 70th Anniversary in February. The day was a celebration that brought old and new members, previous members and community leaders. The service included honoring Mrs. Briggs, the wife of the founding pastor, Rev. Arland V. Briggs, and for whom the fellowship hall is named. Deerfield Beach Mayor, the Honorable Jean Robb, presented Rev. Dr. Randy Gill a proclamation from the City. The congregation hosted a celebratory luncheon for their guests. It was a joyous occasion for the congregation and the community. Congratulations Community Deerfield Beach.

Continue reading

Office Coordinator Position – Applications due by 3/15

The Presbytery office is currently seeking an Office Coordinator (see attached job description). The position would be for one year and renewed as needed. If qualified and interested, please send your resume to Lauraine Hoensheid lauraine@comcast.net, Human Resources Committee Chair.

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Description

Continue reading
The Insurance Board is pleased to announce the webinar schedule for the first half of 2016. These are FREE to all United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian Church (USA) churches. You can register here for all Insurance Board webinars.

The Five Things A Church Can Do To Prevent Abuse  
Wed. March 9th  
2PM Eastern  
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Security And Your Church  
Wed June 8th  
2 PM Eastern  
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Continue reading
Many churches have a Pastor’s Discretionary Fund which the pastor of the church uses to help people in need.

To protect the church and pastor please read the attached from Frank Sommerville (Attorney at Law and Non Profit Tax Specialist)

Continue reading

Health Fair

Saturday, March 12, 2016

First Presbyterian Church of Boynton Beach
235 SW 6th Avenue
Boynton Beach, FL 33435

9:00am – 1:00pm

For further information, phone: 561-732-3774
See flyer for details

Continue reading

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Elder Training

The first Resource Saturday was held March 12th at Gardens PC. 34 Elders representing 7 congregations participated. The Stated Clerk, Dick McFail led an enjoyable session in the morning that helped those attending better understand their positions on the Session, while pastors had a discussion with Kernie Kostrub. For Fellowship Hour -The Gardens PC Deacons surprised everyone with a hot pulled pork
Conversation with Dick McFail and those interested in discussing Social Media and the Mission Insight data base with Amalie and Katie Carpenter. Elder Barbara Hassall met with each group to raise awareness of storm and event preparedness and enrolled volunteers for Tropical Florida’s Blue Crew response team. Those that attended remarked that we need to do this again and were thankful for all that they learned.

Thank you to Gardens’ pastor, Kyle Erickson and everyone at Gardens for providing a place and hospitality.

The next Resource Saturday is April 16th at Miami Shores PC and then May 14th at First Ft Lauderdale.

Shari’s Shout Out

Curious?

Sometimes I’ll read something in the newspaper and wonder how it turned out. In the event you wondered how we did with the GA Annual Statistical Reports — 77% of our 44 churches reported. Many thanks to the 34 Tropical Florida churches who participated in this nation-wide effort!

Spring Break

Beginning this Thursday, the 17th, I’ll be away from the office and will return Easter Monday. I wish everyone a blessed Holy Week and joyful Easter as we journey through this Paschal Season.

70,000 meals (continued)
Volunteers and Bill Crawford, Peace Stuart loading food boxes for his church

Some of the volunteers at Community Church who helped move boxes from the delivery truck to cars for churches picking up the food. They then placed the remainder in our offices.

Continue reading
In this week's 03/22/2016 edition:

- **Easter Blessings**
- **Reimbursement of Expenses**

**Easter Blessings**

The staff of the Presbytery Center would to extend our wishes for a very Blessed Easter

**A Prayer for Holy Week**

Lord Jesus Christ,
in this sacred and solemn week
when we see again
the depth and mystery of your redeeming love,
help us to follow where you go,
to stop where you stumble,
to listen when you cry,
to hurt as you suffer,
to bow our heads in sorrow as you die,
so that, when you are raised to life again,
we may share in your endless joy. Amen.

**Continue reading**

**Reimbursement of Expenses**
The policy is on the Presbytery website at:
Pages 49 – 51

Summary

1. Volunteers can choose to forgo reimbursement and receive a charitable receipt for the amount of the expenses.
2. Requests for reimbursement must be submitted with 30-60 days of the expense occurrence, or there will be no reimbursement.
3. Requests for reimbursement must include all appropriate documentation and approval.
4. Many expenses must be pre-approved.
5. Reimbursement Rates are available from the Financial Administrator.

Susan Carpenter
Financial Administrator

Continue reading
In this weeks 04/05/2016 edition:

- Training: 2nd Resource Saturday – Apr 16th - RSVP
- Preparing for Hurricane Season
- Shari’s Shout Out

**Training: 2nd Resource Saturday – Apr 16th - RSVP**

Your Presbytery Staff will be holding three Resource Saturdays before June. Resource Saturdays are for Pastors and Elders in the morning; afternoon breakouts for Clerks, Treasurers, Committees overseeing property and church marketing; and those interested in participating on a disaster response team.

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Each Resource Saturday will be from 10:15 to 2:30 – Lunch and materials will be provided by your Presbytery.

**April 16th – Miami Shores PC**

Times
9:30 registration and coffee
9:50 – to noon – Elder Training with Stated Clerk, Rev. Dick McFail
12-1 Lunch (compliments of your Presbytery)
1:00 -2:30 Breakouts for Clerks, with Dick McFail. Treasurers/Finance with Financial Administrator Susan Carpenter, Social Media and demographic software Mission Insight with Transitional Presbyter Amalie Ash and Mission Insight trainer Katie Carpenter.
Preparing for Hurricane Season

HS minus 2

That’s Hurricane Season minus 2 months. Although that’s just a finite designation on the calendar and we know God’s time is not always our time, again BE PREPARED.

Your church and your congregation shouldn’t be an island unto itself in case of a disaster. We are called to be disciples and care for our neighbors, so keep that in mind as you prepare.

1. Be part of a bigger community. Learn who your local government officials are and what plans are in place for assistance. Spiritual support will be needed as much as repairs and clean up. Can you offer your site to help others?
2. Walk your neighborhood and get to know the residents. Do they have needs that you can assist with in case of a disaster? Are there elderly or handicapped neighbors who should be on your list to assist?
3. Set up trainings for your congregation and community to help individuals prepare for not just a hurricane, but other natural and human induced disasters and emergencies. Contact the Presbytery Office for more information.
4. Begin to stock emergency supplies for yourself. Don’t wait until the warning flags go up.

Shari’s Shout Out

2016 – 2017 Presbyterian Planning Calendars

If anyone or any church wishes to be included in the Presbytery’s standing calendar order, please let me know prior to April 14th. Because of our bulk order, the Presbytery can offer these to you for $9.00 each. As you know, once they are gone . . . we do not reorder.
FYI: I'll be out of the office the week of April 4th but feel free to email your calendar request to shari@tfpby.org or leave me a voice message.

Thank you.

Continue reading
In the 04/19/2016 edition:

- Seeking servants for the Presbytery
- Compassion, Peace & Justice Florida Symposium 2016
- Resource Saturdays are making a difference
- Centennial Celebration
- Church Women United – May 5th
- Save Nov 4th – Day trip to Immokalee
- Free Insurance Board Webinars Employment Law

Seeking servants for the Presbytery

Have you considered serving on a committee in the Presbytery of Tropical Florida? Have you wondered about working to support all the PCUSA churches in Southeast Florida? Serving on a committee, using your special gifts, can be a rewarding experience in leadership and personal outreach. At this time we are looking for Teaching Elders and Elders who have the time and talent to work on the Committee on Ministry, the Finance Management Committee or Finance Review Team.

Committee on Ministry requires the most time as Elders and Teaching Elders are assigned to congregations and pastors in a nearby area, where you will be asked to visit Sessions, congregations and pastors during your tenure. You will work confidentially with others to help congregations untangle difficult situations; to support Pastor Nominating Committees find a new pastor; and support Teaching Elders in their call to serve in Tropical Florida Presbytery. Committee on Ministry meets monthly in Ft Lauderdale.
like to Skype into meetings. This team is charged to review financial concerns in congregations, the annual Coral Gables Grant, property issues and anything to do with money in the Presbytery. If you have a background in banking, real estate, building, grant writing, city building departments or just like working with numbers this might be for you.

**Finance Review** is a once a year project team that reviews the Presbytery’s books and accounting. Snowbird Presbyterians are welcome!

If you are a Teaching Elder serving a church or in other service, or an Elder that is looking to share your gifts in the Presbytery contact Ben Sorenson, Chair of the Nominations Committee. ben@optimumassociate

Thank you for considering working for a wonderful Presbytery,

Amalie

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**Compassion, Peace & Justice Florida Symposium 2016**

May 20 and 21, 2016 at Maitland Presbyterian Church, 341 N. Orlando Ave. , Maitland FL 32751

Workshops on Human Trafficking, Gun Violence: What Can We Do?, Families Held Captive, LGBTQ Community and the Church, Ending Hunger, Today’s Racism, Overture Overview: A Quick Look at the Issues before the 222nd General Assembly, Mass Incarceration. The program has a rich roster of Keynote Speakers and Workshop Leaders. Click for links to the flyer and registration packet.

For [additional information](#) and/or to register 386-589-9327 or cpjflorida@gmail.com

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**Resource Saturdays are making a difference**

The second Resource Saturday was held at Miami Shores. Five congregations were represented by 35 Elders and Teaching Elders. They came to learn about their call to serve on Session and lead their congregations. The breakouts for Treasurers, Social
spoke with each group raising awareness of the need for advanced preparation for storms and the unexpected floods and tornadoes.

Thank you Miami Shores for Hosting this event and to the Elders from Miami Shores, New Life, New Covenant, Riviera and Second Presbyterian.

The next Resource Saturday is May 16th at First Ft Lauderdale. RSVP to Shari at shari@tfpby.org

Centennial Celebration

Please join First Presbyterian Church of Lake Worth (231 North Federal Highway) on Saturday, April 30th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for old-fashioned fun at their party on the patio including games, music, food and face-painting. You are also invited to Sunday worship on May 1st, at 11:00 a.m. There will be an Open House with fellowship, refreshments and special music following the service until 4:00 p.m. in Trafford Hall.

Church Women United – May 5th

May 5th Church Women United will gather at New Covenant Presbyterian Church. This ecumenical gathering of women in Miami will be a Western Theme so everyone is encouraged to dust off their boots, western hats and anything western. Church Women United gathers each month from September to May with 9 different host churches. Each year they begin at Ebenezer Baptist Church and ends at New Covenant Presbyterian. The Program begins at 10:30 am at 4300 NW 12th Avenue in Miami. Lunch is $8.00.

Save Nov 4th – Day trip to Immokalee

SAVE THE DATE: On Fri., Nov. 4th, you are invited to join others from the Presbytery of Tropical Florida on a day trip to Immokalee, FL.
We will hear from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), get a tour of Immokalee, eat delicious and authentic Mexican food, and serve at the soup kitchen of Mission Peniel (a PCUSA mission/church). Contact Rev. Kim Robles for more information about the trip. kim@mspc.net

Rev. Kim Robles
Associate Pastor
Miami Shores Presbyterian Church

Free Insurance Board Webinars Employment Law

The Insurance Board is pleased to announce the webinar schedule for the first half of 2016. These are FREE to all United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian Church (USA) churches. You can register here for all Insurance Board webinars.

**Employment Law**

Wed April 20th
2PM Eastern
A panel of attorneys from ROETZEL law firm will address common exposures in employment law for churches, such as termination, discrimination, defamation, etc… They will also give some lessons learned and advice on how churches can reduce the risk of such exposures. Click here for registration information.

**Preventing Slips, Trips And Falls**

Wed May 11th
2 PM Eastern
Mary Lammermeier (IB) will address common exposures for churches and provide some real case scenarios which have cost large dollar losses. Suggestions of ways to identify these exposures, reduce the risk of loss, and mitigate losses will be discussed.

**Security And Your Church**

Wed June 8th
2 PM Eastern

Mary Lammermeier (IB) will discuss violence in churches, guns, and recommendations for reducing risk and making your church safer and more secure.
In the 04/25/2016 edition:

- This Week: Invitation to Lake Worth’s 100th
- Changes in the Presbytery office
- Session Records Review
- Church News
- Administrative Professionals Day — April 27th
- Training: 3rd Resource Saturday – May 14th RSVP

This Week: Invitation to Lake Worth’s 100th

First Lake Worth and Rev. Joan Abel invite the Presbytery to join them in their 100th anniversary celebration. This Saturday April 30th from 10-4pm there will be a Party on the Patio with food, games, face painting and music. Sunday May 1st – the worship service is at 11 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. there will be an Open House with food and music.

For the last two years, Joan Abel and the small congregation, have been revitalizing the church and building a new a new relationship with the community. Working only a few hours a week, Joan and a handful of volunteers have painted, repaired and cleaned the chapel, fellowship hall and education building. They have remodeled the kitchen and created a space for Cross Ministries and their own food ministry to the community. Currently, they are providing support for 10 families in Lake Worth, providing piano and art classes to the neighborhood children, started a Thrift Shop and supporting the local elementary with school supplies.
If you are in a small church and would like to see what a handful of passionate congregants can do with a little money come to the Lake Worth 100th Anniversary this weekend.

First Lake Worth is located at 231 North Federal Highway, Lake Worth

Changes in the Presbytery office

At the upcoming June Presbytery meeting we will be saying “Happy Retirement” to Presbytery Executive Assistant, Shari Lowe. After 64 Presbytery meetings, preparing 116 Committee on Ministry meetings, 16 years of nagging churches for their GA statistical reports – Shari is closing her computer and taking her plants home. As you can imagine, this is a big change for the staff and the Presbytery. Shari has kept us all together: keeping the minutes, reminding us of meetings, organizing Council and Committee meetings and supporting the Stated Clerk with all those GA details. The legacy she is leaving is her Card Ministry – Shari remembered every pastor’s ordination date and birthday with a card to celebrate the day. We often received notes and calls from retired and ministers in other service who appreciated being remembered. Shari is excited about the next chapter which will include time with her beloved five grandchildren.

To help with this major transition the Human Resources Committee interviewed several qualified candidates to fill Shari’s position. They prayerfully selected Sandra Figueredo from Boca Raton.
Sandra has been working in the Presbytery Center office for the last 10 days. She has been working alongside Shari to hopefully create a seamless transfer of duties.

Sandra comes to the position with a background in mission, ministry and business. She has strong skills in graphics and social media, is knowledgeable in PC and MAC platforms and various software programs. Sandra, born in California, is Mexican-Chinese and is fluent in Spanish and conversational in Cantonese/Mandarin. Currently, she is serving as a youth leader in a community church.

If you are in the Deerfield neighborhood stop by and meet Sandra.

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Session Records Review

Stated Clerk Dick McFail has just announced the dates and locations for review of your church records. Many thanks to the churches who have agreed to host this endeavor! All three of these opportunities will be held on a Saturday, between the hours of 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. You may come to one that is convenient regardless of region. Please keep in mind that someone other than the Clerk of Session may bring the books. Also, if you have records PRIOR to 2015 needing to be reviewed, please contact Rev. McFail to make arrangements dickm@tfpby.org, rather than bringing your material to these meetings.

May 21    Gardens, Palm Beach Gardens
June 18    First, Pompano Beach
October 15 Sunrise, Hialeah

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It is with great sadness that the Presbytery announces the passing of Rev. Pierre DuBose, Honorabley Retired Member of Presbytery and part of the First Miami church family. Rev. Pierre passed away on Tuesday, April 19 of heart failure. He was 87 years old. He is survived by his wife Roselis and his three children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Rev. Pierre worked as a missionary in Brazil then served at Westminster Presbyterian Church as a pastor for 25 years. **A memorial service will be held at First Miami on Saturday, April 23rd at 10:00am.** Memorial donations can be made to the [Hampden DuBose Academy](#) (founded by Rev. DuBose’s parents).

Read More

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### Church News

Happy Anniversary **Nueva Vida (New Life) Iglesia Presbiteriana**! Sunday they celebrated 35 years together. The pastor Heidi Arencibia and the congregation gathered for lunch to celebrate and talk about the years they have served the Miami area. Congratulations New Life PC!

**First Ft. Lauderdale** was recently awarded the Broward County ’16 Nature Scape Emerald Award. The Award highlights Florida friendly landscapes that conserve water, attract wildlife and reduce storm water contamination. Cadence Landscape Architects, based in Ft Lauderdale, created a multi-use area that created outdoor rooms that act like interior rooms with a focus on the outside for fresh air functions.

Congratulations to First Ft Lauderdale….and if you are visiting the church ask to see this new area …. it is a creative idea for a church campus.

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**Administrative Professionals Day — April 27th**

(The following material comes courtesy of Presbyterian Outlook)

Administrative professionals rule the world?
Maybe not – but they may rule the world of your Presbyterian office!

- Do you value your Administrative Professional?
- Do the words above describe your Administrative Professional?
- Do you provide your Administrative Professional with opportunities for continuing education?
- Did you know a good, well-trained Administrative Professional can be one of your organization’s greatest assets?

Whether your Administrative Professional is employed in a church, presbytery, synod, in Louisville or at the Board of Pensions, equip him or her to be of more value to your organization with membership in the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Administrative Personnel Association (APA), established in 1976, is a professional organization created for the purpose of providing a supportive association that promotes continuing education, individual growth, communication and fellowship for its members. It is a group that strengthens both spiritually and professionally.

The core of APA is the Certification Program. It allows members to gain expertise in all fields associated with their position with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Course offerings cover a wide range of topics including: Administrative Skills, Leadership Development, Technology, Financial Management, Church History, Theology and Polity.

Support your Administrative Professional by providing them with a membership in APA. To join go to http://pcusa-apa.org/ or contact Annette Houtz, National Membership Chair; Nancy Fine, President of the Florida Region; or Shari Lowe at the Presbytery office for more information.

Celebrating 40 Years (1976 – 2016)

Read in browser »

Trainings: 3rd Resource Saturday – May 14th RSVP

Your Presbytery Staff will be holding the last of three Resource Saturdays on May 14th. Resource Saturdays are for Pastors and Elders in the morning; afternoon
breakouts for Clerks, Treasurers, Committees overseeing property and church marketing; and those interested in participating on a disaster response team.

Stated Clerk, Dick McFail will be giving Elder training in the morning and meeting with Clerks of Session in the afternoon; Financial Administrator, Susan Carpenter will be meeting with Treasurers; Pastor to Pastor Kernie Kostrub will lead a pastor roundtable conversation; Transitional Presbyter, Amalie Ash will provide updates on demographic software MissionInsite, websites and marketing your church.

The Resource Saturday will be from 10:00 to 2:30 – Lunch and materials will be provided by your Presbytery.

May 14th – First Ft Lauderdale

Times:

9:30 registration and coffee  9:50 Welcome and Prayer  
10:00 – to noon –  Elder Training with Stated Clerk, Rev. Dick McFail
12-1:00  – Lunch (compliments of your Presbytery)

Disaster Response signup will be provided by Barbara Hassall, PDA/PW Disaster Trainer.

**RSVP to Shari Lowe at Shari@tfpby.org**
In the 05/02/2016 edition:

- National Day of Prayer
- Stated Clerk’s Notes
- 1st Lake Worth – Looking To The Future
- Burglaries At Two Churches
- Church Women United – May 5th
- 2016 Stewardship Kaleidoscope
- 2017 Board of Pension Benefit Plan
- Part-time Bookkeeper Position
- Events and Opportunities for Region 1 Nurses in May
- Seeking servants for the Presbytery

National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. The NDP Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, to create appropriate materials, and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America’s leaders and its families.

Every year, tens of thousands of events are held nationwide. Local volunteers hold a variety of activities ranging from prayer breakfasts, Bible reading marathons, concerts of prayer, rallies, church prayer vigils, student flagpole gatherings and observances held in sports stadiums. Materials and events are also available in Spanish.
Or watch the national observance LIVE FROM WASHINGTON DC, this Thursday from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ET, using this link:

Let us know how you or your church experienced the NDP this year!

Stated Clerk’s Notes

Based on what I’ve heard at the two Resource Saturdays:

- almost none of our Sessions have a Manual of Administrative Operations (MAO)
- maybe two-thirds have a Sexual Misconduct Policy
- less than half have a Child Protection Policy

What do the MAO and these policies have in common? They are MANDATORY according to the Form of Government. So your Session’s work-plan for the rest of this year needs tweaking, so that this required work gets done. If you need samples we have them or could get them for you.

The attendance figures for this brand new venture within our presbytery have been very encouraging.
The final event in the current schedule is:

Saturday May 14
First Presbyterian Church Ft. Lauderdale

I do a presentation for Session elders in the morning; after lunch Susan Carpenter does a workshop for church treasurers. Come and hear about a two-hour Session meeting, and how your Treasurer and finance people can stay out of trouble!!

Dick McFail, Stated Clerk

1st Lake Worth – Looking To The Future
This weekend, First Lake Worth celebrated their 100th anniversary. Seventy-five came together, some from nearby PCUSA congregations, to worship or enjoy fellowship with the little church filled with hope. Four students from Bak Middle School of the Arts played piano as the fellowship hall filled for a meal from the new kitchen.

On Saturday, Rev. Joan Abell received a proclamation from Lake Worth Mayor, Pam Triolo, who declared April 30th the church’s day. Hot dogs and games; music from steel drums and bagpipe played; children lined up for face painting, as the community came out to support the church.

First Lake Worth is one of four congregations to celebrate their centennial: Key West’s Trinity is 124, First Miami is 117 and First Ft Lauderdale is 103. The Lake Worth church was completely destroyed in the 1926 Hurricane and was rebuilt on the same site in one year with the help of Presbyterians in the north and in the Mission Society. In 2013, several denominations closed their Lake Worth churches and developers began circling the church, offering cash to take over the property. However, the little PCUSA congregation voted to stay open and remain a presence in the town. Led by Joan Abell, they began to find new life. They are making a difference in the community with a food program supported by Jim Goldsmith’s Community by the Sea and Cross Ministry, and a Young Artists program that teaches piano and painting to community children. They have hired a part time program director to expand their support of children and the arts in Lake Work.

Burglaries At Two Churches
reported that they only thing left at Myrtle Grove was the microphone on the pulpit. Leon recommended that the churches in Miami be warned; that this may be happening at neighboring denominations in Miami. There is not a lot one can do to prevent someone breaking in to your church, but you do not want to be a crime of convenience. So, check your security, your insurance, make sure security lights are working. Speak to the police in the neighborhood and ask them to drive through or check on the property at night. Make sure your buildings are well secured. And keep us informed if you have had someone break in.

**Church Women United – May 5th**

May 5th Church Women United will gather at New Covenant Presbyterian Church. This ecumenical gathering of women in Miami will be a Western Theme so everyone is encouraged to dust off their boots, western hats and anything western. Church Women United gathers each month from September to May with 9 different host churches. Each year they begin at Ebenezer Baptist Church and ends at New Covenant Presbyterian. The Program begins at 10:30 am at 4300 NW 12th Avenue in Miami. Lunch is $8.00.

**2016 Stewardship Kaleidoscope**

Jesus taught us GIVING NOT GETTING IS THE WAY. At the annual Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference, attendees learned valuable concepts and real tools for real ministry.

With four plenary sessions for everybody and 32 workshops to choose from, a wealth of practical information was available.

Many attendees had been before, but 60% of the Teaching and Ruling Elders were first timers, and many were in their twenties and thirties, a good sign for our denomination.

Presbytery of Tropical Florida sent two Ruling Elders, each choosing a different workshop to maximize the benefit of their attendance on such topics as “Money, Ministry and Mistakes,” “Fostering Generosity as a Spiritual Discipline,” “The Story of Giving,” “Transformation of Congregational Stewardship: A Real Life Example,”
Truth: How and Why to Implement a Financial Literacy Program in Your Church.”

Remember Rev. Ryan Baer, former pastor of Lakeside Presbyterian? Currently pastor at Ridglea Presbyterian Church in Ft. Worth, TX, he taught two outstanding workshops.

“Have we been doing the wrong thing really well?” Plenary speaker Rev. Karl Travis, a fourth generation Presbyterian minister, encouraged us to talk about God as the first order of business. God’s nature is generous. The Bible is the epic story of God’s generosity. Forgetting God’s generosity is what led to idolatry and exile. What if we begin with the generosity of God in our own lives? Follow the generosity OF God, with generosity FOR God and generosity WITH God. Talk about God – then do the budget!

At workshops we heard about moving from scarcity to generosity and fear to faith. From an inward focus to outward mission. Moving forward in discipleship as followers of Christ, when we are generous, we reflect God and we do generosity WITH God. Isn’t that what it’s all about?

Good news! Kaleidoscope 2017 will be right in our backyard, in Tampa-St. Pete, September 25-27, so mark your calendars now.

Meanwhile, right here in our Presbytery of Tropical Florida this fall, we will have a Saturday morning workshop full of practical ideas for creating a year round Culture of Generosity in your own church. Stay tuned for date and location!

Read in browser »

2017 Board of Pension Benefit Plan

Big Changes are Happening at the Board of Pensions

Please read the attached information about the new plans offered in 2017 through our Board of Pensions.

April 13th and 14th was spent in Philadelphia at the Board of Pensions Regional Consultations. Presbyterian from all across the eastern United States listened to the changes taking place in the programs offered through the Board of Pensions and the Board of Pensions listened to us.

- The Medical coverage offered under the Board of Pensions is, in terms of the Affordable Care Act, a Gold moving into Platinum plan.
- All churches need to start thinking about the Human Resources Best Practices you will use with the changing programs.
There are a lot of changes but the Board of Pensions will have extra people available to answer all your questions and I also will be available to help through this process.

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

Susan Carpenter
Financial Administrator

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**Part-time Bookkeeper Position**

First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is looking for a part-time bookkeeper.

(8 – 10 hours per week); days & hours flexible; $19 per hour. Must be familiar with the ACS financial program. Please send resumé to landerson@fpcoh.org.

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**Events and Opportunities for Region 1 Nurses in May**

**Nurses Night Out** – FREE – Fri. May 6, 2016 – 5 pm-8 pm
Sponsored by Palm Healthcare Foundation, Downtown at the Gardens Plaza, Palm Beach Gardens
Entertainment, food, prizes and more.

**Heart of Gold Reception** – Thurs., May 12, 2016 – 6 pm-8 pm
A special reception honoring all nurses at The Kravis Center, Cohen Pavilion, West Palm Beach
Register at Palmhealthcare.org by May 9th, $50 per person
Faith Community Nurse Networking Lunch – Fri., May 20, 2016 – 12 noon
Open to all interested in health ministry. Lunch is provided.
Holy Name of Jesus Church, 345 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach
Please RSVP to Interfaith Health & Wellness, email: wellness@ccdpb.org, phone 561-345-2016

The newly created Volunteer Nurse Corp is seeking nurses with a heart for serving the community.
Connect with free clinics, churches, local health care providers and other nurses who serve the uninsured and underserved.
Contact Fontaine Timmer, Dir., PBAU School of Nursing, at 561-803-2341 or Fontaine.Timmer@pba.edu

Seeking servants for the Presbytery

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Serving on a committee, using your special gifts, can be a rewarding experience in leadership and personal outreach. At this time we are looking for Teaching Elders and Elders who have the time and talent to work on the Committee on Ministry, the Finance Management Committee or Finance Review Team.

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Finance Management meets monthly for 2 hours at the Presbytery Center in Deerfield Beach. Snowbirds and people living far from the Presbytery Center are welcome if you
like to Skype in to meetings. This team is charged to review financial concerns in congregations, the annual Coral Gables Grant, property issues and anything to do with money in the Presbytery. If you have a background in banking, real estate, building, grant writing, city building departments or just like working with numbers this might be for you.

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Thank you for considering working for a wonderful Presbytery,

Amalie

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Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list
In the 05/09/2016 edition:

- Training: 3rd Resource Saturday – May 14th RSVP
- Presbytery Gathers on June 4th
- May 18th #WeChooseWelcome
- Death Penalty
- Abuse Prevention Training
- Pastors’ Compensation Reports

Training: 3rd Resource Saturday – May 14th RSVP

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12-1:00 – Lunch (compliments of your Presbytery)  
1:00 -2:30 Breakouts for Clerks, with Dick McFail – Treasurers/Finance with Financial
Disaster Response signup will be provided by Barbara Hassall, PDA/PW Disaster Trainer.

**RSVP to Shari Lowe at Shari@tfpby.org**

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**Presbytery Gathers on June 4th**

The Presbytery Packet will be sent to each church and also be posted to the website on May 24th. Please review the included material prior to the Presbytery meeting. Should there be any question, feel free to contact the chair who submitted the report.

Friendly reminder, a hard copy of the packet is sent to each church so that the office administrator can make copies for its elder commissioners (both teaching and ruling). The number of ruling elders eligible from each church will be noted on the packet envelope label. You may also call the Presbytery office for your eligible number (which was reported to Presbytery in the Stated Clerk’s Report in February and can be found in the minutes).

Last, why wait for the packet? If you plan to attend the June 4th meeting, please register through the Presbytery website now! On the morning of the meeting, it is still necessary to record your attendance at the sign-in tables. Thank you.

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**May 18th #WeChooseWelcome**

**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) #WeChooseWelcome**

Please register for The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) #WeChooseWelcome for Refugees of All Faiths and Nations Strategy Call Wednesday, May 18, 2016 4:00 PM EDT.

In the midst of a refugee crisis and with World Refugee Day approaching on June 20th, Presbyterians across the U.S. are working to provide a vibrant welcome to refugees, and to encourage our national and local leaders to honor this nation’s robust refugee resettlement history.
As a faith community, we must show the U.S. government and local leaders that we are ready to welcome refugees as our neighbors across the country. We also want to make it loud and clear to refugees who are already here that they are, indeed, welcome!

Please join this call as we launch the #WeChooseWelcome Initiative and provide resources and tools for your community to join the initiative.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

AN ADDITIONAL WEBINAR OPPORTUNITY:

Please register for the national Refugees Welcome campaign launch call May 12 at 4 p.m. EDT.

With over 60 million people displaced worldwide and nearly 20 million refugees, we invite you to join the launch call for a national Refugees Welcome campaign that seeks to provide hope in the midst of the largest refugee crisis the world has faced since WWII.

On the launch call, you'll hear interfaith, community and refugee leaders share their perspectives on the importance of welcoming refugees across the country. You'll be introduced to a host of resources for your faith and community groups to use in developing your own Refugees Welcome events in your community during the months leading up to World Refugee Day (June 20th) and beyond.

Refugees Welcome is a coalition of humanitarian, religious, and non-profit organizations working together to create welcoming communities for refugees. Supporters of Refugees Welcome include not only PDA, but also PC(USA), Church World Service, Oxfam America and many others.

More information about this webinar
Refugees Welcome website

Death Penalty

The most current topic discussed and contemplated today in Florida is our embarrassing existence of our huge population on Death Row of 389 men and women along with the horror of having executed those who were innocent.
As Christians we should be at the forefront of the battle to do away with Capitol Punishment not only because it is humane but because it is blankly against the command of God. “Thou shalt not murder.”

We who choose to call ourselves Christians are not permitted to ignore the issue at hand.
A courageous group of people who have battled tirelessly to do away with the barbaric practice of killing… Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty will be holding an event to discuss the issues and inform us regarding it.

**Where:** The Sanctuary Church  
1400 N. Federal Hwy. Ft. Lauderdale, 33306

**When:** May 18, 6 p.m.

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**Abuse Prevention Training**

Are you overdue with your Abuse Prevention Training, formally known as Boundaries or Sexual Misconduct Training? We are joining forces with SafeGatherings to get your information up-to-date. It will consist of online training that you can do at your convenience and pace. So, if you have not had this done since 2011, please expect us to contact you with the specific how-to information this week.

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**Pastors’ Compensation Reports**

You might recall that these were requested in January. Thank you to those who complied. My hope is to leave Sandra with no incomplete projects begun by me. So-o, PLEASE if any pastor or church receives a compensation form via email this week, take the time to fill it out and return it to the Presbytery office. We’d like to have all of them returned and added to the overall report for COM review before the end of May.

[Link to Pastor's Compensation Report]
In the 05/16/2016 edition:

- Prayers Requested
- Session Records Review
- Abuse Prevention Training with Safe Gatherings
- June 4th Presbytery Meeting – Plan to attend this one!
- Resource Saturdays a success
- Summer Preaching – call a local seminarian
- Youth Ministry – supporting sites and materials
- Free Minute Book pages
- Volunteers are needed in Presbytery of Tampa Bay!
- Governor’s Hurricane Conference news
- 31 FREE Articles to Help YOUR Church
- Board of Pensions – BoardLink

**Prayers Requested**

Rev. Aida Melendez Diego’s husband, Tomas, passed away on May 12th. Please keep Aida and her family in your prayers. Should you wish to send a note of condolence, please contact the Presbytery office for the address or refer to the on-line directory.

**Session Records Review**

The Stated Clerk is conducting the first of three planned records reviews this Saturday, May 21st, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at Gardens PC in Palm Beach Gardens. Since this is the most convenient location for the churches in the northern region of the Presbytery, Clerks (or their designee) are encouraged to attend.
June 18th at First Pompano Beach (The Pink Church)

October 15th at Sunrise PC In Hialeah

Please call the Presbytery office with any questions.

Session Minute Review Form

Abuse Prevention Training with Safe Gatherings
Did we get you thinking about the NEW Abuse Prevention Training, formally known as Boundaries or Sexual Misconduct Training? We are joining forces with Safe Gatherings to get your information up-to-date. Safe Gatherings is a comprehensive system that incorporates an online application, online abuse prevention training, several levels of background checks, and paperless reference checks for people who volunteer or are employed with churches, schools, and organizations that serve or work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults. As a Presbytery we want to responsibly hold our ministers to a high standard, and provide the means to do just that. Which means that once you receive your Safe Gatherings Approval, just send us a copy of your certificate and the Presbytery office will reimburse your $35 registration fee. If you are interested in providing this service for your church, we can give you the Safe Gatherings representative contact information.

If you have not had this training done since 2011, we will be contacting you with the specific how-to information soon via email. Call Sandra at the Presbytery Center 954-785-2220 with any questions or concerns.

June 4th Presbytery Meeting – Plan to attend this one!

Next week’s Weekly Bulletin will have news about the upcoming Presbytery Meeting to be held at The Sanctuary (Second Presbyterian in Ft Lauderdale) on June 4th.

Make plans to attend this gathering of Elders, Teaching Elders and guests. The last Presbytery gathering was
Check this site next week for more information.

Resource Saturdays a success

Our first three Resource Saturdays were a success for a first time program. Each training had an average of thirty attendees. Fifteen congregations participated and after each training the elders asked for more events like the Resource Saturday. We were pleased that the Elders found value in the program and were willing to give up a Saturday for their congregations. Everyone enjoyed Stated Clerk, Dick McFail’s style of training; ask Elders how they did on Dick’s True/False test. If you missed this Spring series – we will hold a presbytery wide training in the late summer or early fall for elders who missed the regional trainings. We want to thank Kyle Erickson and the Deacons at Gardens, the Dennis Andrews and the volunteers at Miami Shores and Chef Kevin, Barbara Yatrousis and Dave Sestrich at 1st Ft Lauderdale for their wonderful lunches and assistance to make these events a success. In the next few weeks we will send information on our fall event.

Summer Preaching – call a local seminarian

If you are taking a Sunday off or if you would like to support the Presbytery’s future ministers consider asking a seminarian to preach. We have several talented inquirers and candidates that would appreciate the opportunity to hone their preaching skills and be exposed to other congregations in the area. If you are interested please contact Shirley Saunders or the Presbytery office and we will put you in contact with one of our candidates.

This Memorial Day weekend, Community by the Sea, will have Miami Shores inquirer, Lisa Sullivan, preaching for Jim Goldsmith.

You can reach CPM Chair, Shirley Saunders at shirleyssaunders@gmail.com
If you have a small youth group or hope to build a new youth group this summer check out the PCUSA website for youth ministry.

They have a series called Quicksheets that offer many ideas for both small and large church youth ministry. Here is one example of a Quicksheet.

Also, Princeton Seminary has an excellent FB page for Youth ideas and supporting information for youth leaders.

Free Minute Book pages

Package of 100 unnumbered blank Session Minutes books pages (8-1/2 X 11) available for the asking. Contact barbaray@firstpres.cc if interested.

Volunteers are needed in Presbytery of Tampa Bay!

Volunteers are needed in Presbytery of Tampa Bay! Can you spare a day?

Individuals and teams are needed to help repair homes in Pasco County that were flooded by intense rains and river rise last summer. Twenty homes have been completed to date, but 28 homes are still awaiting repair. Please consider helping these families with their recovery.

For more information, please call Kathy Broyard, FLAPDAN Director at 941-483-0675.

Governor’s Hurricane Conference news

If there is one thing that I don’t like (other than spiders and snakes) it’s the thought of severe weather and hurricane season. But I also know that the best way to deal with that anxiety is to pray and be prepared with knowledge.
With that in mind I was pleased to be able to attend the 30th Governor’s Hurricane Conference in Orlando the week of May 9th. With a full schedule of workshops and speakers I came away with some new terms to use at parties, like thermo-haline circulation and derecho, strategies to provide spiritual care and an understanding of the infrastructure that is in place statewide to protect from and mitigate the damages of any storms that might hit.

Weather prediction is an inexact science but getting more precise each day. The science of emergency management is being treated with respect by our top universities. But most of all, interagency communications are taking a high priority.

Within our Presbytery, we are trying to make the necessary connections to be part of these communication networks. We are called to be beacons within our communities, but we don’t want to reinvent the wheel or trip over other groups to do the same service. Many of you may already serve in a volunteer capacity with the Red Cross or other groups and we would like to know about that service.

We are starting the Presbytery “Blue Crew”, complete with caps and ID badges. You don’t need to be out clearing away debris in a hard hat to belong. You can be part of our communication network, food distribution, prayer partners or spiritual care. Training will be provided, but it is our hope that we never have to activate the Crew. God calls us to be prepared for whatever may come our way. Sign up today with the Presbytery office. Congregational/community disaster preparedness training is also available which goes beyond just hurricanes.

Elder Barbara Hassall

31 FREE Articles to Help YOUR Church

Click to access 31 important articles regarding many different aspects of church life.

Church Law & Tax will be opening one new article per day for the 31 days in May, 2016.

Keep going back to this link to view a new article each day.

Susan Carpenter
Financial Administrator
Dear Church Treasurers and Administrators:

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recognizes and appreciates the important responsibilities shouldered by those serving the Church as treasurers, church administrators, and business managers. To help you fulfill these responsibilities, we invite you to enroll in BoardLink, our no-fee payment system that allows you to pay Board invoices securely online.

**Enroll in BoardLink** and you’ll be able to:

- make a payment or set up recurring payments through our secure server;
- receive a monthly email reminding you to go online and view your invoice;
- review your invoices at any time;
- view the status and history of electronic payments; and
- eliminate paper invoices and checks.

You can find more information about BoardLink on pensions.org.

If you have questions concerning BoardLink or need further assistance with the enrollment process, please contact Employer Services at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN), select option #2, and speak with an Employer Services representative or email us at memberservices@pensions.org.

Sincerely,
Employer Services
In the 05/30/2016 edition:

- Presbytery Meets on Saturday, June 4th!
- A New Way of Being Tropical Florida Presbytery (summary)
- Presbytery Planning Calendars
- The Art of Transitional Ministry
- Director of Children and Family Ministries

Presbytery Meets on Saturday, June 4th!

Packets have been mailed to all churches and posted to the website. Church offices are reminded (please!) to copy these for your Ruling Elders as the one you were sent is not exclusively for the pastor.

Has everyone attending made lunch reservations? We need to have your reservations no later than 5:00 p.m. June 1st. Hearing from you serves two-fold: the host church can plan appropriately for us and the Presbytery office can ascertain that we have sufficient supplemental material. Please know that the supplemental information will also be available on the website by June 2nd to provide time to read prior to the meeting.

If any pastors noticed that their badge was missing at the last meeting, please take a moment now to let the office know. We’d like to prepare a new one for you.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank each of you for your friendship, many courtesies, kindness, and prayers over the past 16 years. It has been my true honor and pleasure to finish my professional career serving with you in the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. I have been richly blessed!
A New Way of Being Tropical Florida Presbytery (summary)

A New Way of Being Presbytery

by MaryAnn McKibben Dana

About a year ago, I had to miss a presbytery meeting because of a family conflict. That night and the next morning, my Facebook page lit up with clergy friends offering praise and gratitude for the meeting. It was edifying! Uplifting! Inspirational! they gushed… and I felt a pang of sadness. Clearly I had missed something special.

It has not always been this way. Indeed, grousing about presbytery meetings seems to be one of those tried and true Presbyterian clergy icebreakers. The negative stereotypes abound: The endless business. The uninspiring worship. The whirlpools of Robert’s Rules. The cranky people who simply must ask that point of order.

For the past couple of years, National Capital Presbytery has been in an experiment we’ve been calling our “new way of being presbytery.” At some point this new way will no longer be new. And in fact, other judicatories may see it as old news. But it’s new for us, and as a presbyter, I have found it to be a worthwhile experiment and a breath of fresh air.

Read Full Article

Presbytery Planning Calendars

The Presbytery office has received its standing order for the 2016 – 2017 Presbytery Planning Calendars. These begin with June 2016 and go through December 2017. Those who pre-ordered have been contacted and many will be receiving them at the Presbytery meeting, per their request. If your church has not ordered but would like to do so and have
The Art of Transitional Ministry

July 17-22, 2016

Leading a congregation and faith community through transition is challenging and rewarding and it is recognized both in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as well as other denominations as a specialized ministry. Whether it is a change in leadership or a changing neighborhood, it takes knowledge, skill, resilience and spiritual strength to navigate the waters of transition in a way that allows a congregation and its leaders to be open to possibilities, go deeper and thrive. The Art of Transitional Ministry offers training in the skills and understanding necessary for leading a congregation and faith community in transition. In particular, presentations will be on the five Focus Points of a church in transition, systems theory, conflict management and change theory, among others, as well as the Process Tasks of an interim leader. Participants come from a variety of mainline traditions, which creates rich opportunities for additional learning.

There are two week long courses of study offered concurrently along with Spouse Track

Information and registration is available on their website.

Director of Children and Family Ministries

Moorings Presbyterian Church in Naples seeks an individual to serve as a Director of Children and Family Ministries (30 hrs/week, salaried & benefititted). Interested applicants should send a resume and cover letter to Jaci Smith Patman, Associate Pastor, at jpatman@mooringschurch.org at their earliest opportunity. A copy of the full position description can be found here and can also be found at http://mooringschurch.org/assets/director-of-children-and-family-ministries.pdf Questions? email or call Rev. Smith Patman at 239-213-5240
In the 06/06/2016 edition:

- A Vision For Tropical Florida
- Tropical Storm Colin
- Board of Pensions – Newsletter
- The Board of Pensions
- Reimbursement

**A Vision For Tropical Florida**

The Administrative Commission for Presbytery Mission and Future Planning thanks everyone who planned and/or attended Saturday’s presbytery meeting for their enthusiastic participation and support. To keep that spirit of cooperation and confidence going throughout the summer, please take a moment to view again a video produced by Los Ranchos Presbytery that well expresses the AC’s vision for what is possible here in Tropical Florida Presbytery.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IewiBMzpN8E

**Tropical Storm Colin**

Here’s the latest update on Tropical Storm Colin (see below). This will be a huge rain event impacting much of Florida with potential flooding. Damaging winds are possible
Monitor this storm at

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/

**Churches in the affected areas should begin to activate appropriate protocols.** I will not continue to send weather updates as you can get the latest information via the link above and other reliable sources. It is always best to watch/listen to local news reports as they are the most accurate for your specific area.

Watch your email for information on FLAPDAN related activities, such as scheduling conferences calls, response, etc. I am in communication with state and local emergency management and our VOAD partners and will relay information to you as appropriate.

Once the storm passes, please check with your churches and report any damage or unmet needs to me.

Be safe!
Kathy Broyard
Executive Director / Emergency Management Specialist
Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN)

Phone: 941-483-0675
Email: fla.pdan@pcusa.org

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**Board of Pensions – Newsletter**

Click [HERE](#) to read the Board of Pensions June newsletter.

If you are not receiving this newsletter, contact the Board and get on their mailing list.

In this newsletter there is an invitation to all active plan members to be part of Well-Being Retreat from August 15-17, 2016 at Montreat. I have spoken to a number of people who participated in the retreat last year and all said that it was excellent! Find out more about it.

**PLEASE TELL OTHERS ABOUT THE PRESBYTERY’S NEWSLETTER.**

Have them call the office, 954-785-2220 or email delphias@tfpby.org and get added to the distribution list. We want everyone in our Presbytery to know about what we are doing and what is available to all.
The Board of Pensions
The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 2017 Benefits Plan

Starting in the fall of 2014 the Board engaged thousands of Presbyterians to help redesign the benefits plan reflecting the values of the Church.

What emerged were near-consensus concepts. First, caring for our church workers is indeed holy work. How we use our money is as much about theology as it is about economics. Second, the commitment to provide comprehensive benefits to pastors remains strong throughout the Church. And third, there is a need for flexibility and, with it affordability so that congregations and Presbyterian-affiliated employers can care for their employees based on their resources.


Called and Installed Teaching Elders

The commitment to installed pastors is virtually unaffected, as the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) prescribes participation in pension and medical benefits.

Remaining the Same –

- The benefits remain the same, on a non-contributory basis, with preferred provider organization (PPO) medical benefits, death & disability benefits and defined pension benefits.
- Other benefits remaining the same including the defined contribution Retirement Savings Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (RSP), the dental plan, the supplemental death benefits and the supplemental disability benefits.
- All installed teaching elders without regard to the number of hours worked shall be covered under the Pastor’s Participation plan.

Changes –

- A return to call neutrality – all pastors will pay 24.5 % of effective salary for Medical Coverage rather than the different rates currently paid for member or member + family coverage.
- The plan for installed teaching elders will be called Pastor’s Participation to align the language with the Book of Order. This has been called the Traditional Program.
benefits from a menu of options.

Other Teaching Elders and employees of our congregations and Presbyterian-affiliated employers

For all other employees, the choices are expanded. Based on the decisions of their employers, teaching elders may take part in Pastor’s Participation or they may select benefits from a menu of options. Based on the decisions of their employers, other employees may select benefits from a menu of options.

Changes –

- Teaching Elders not in a called position in a church may now elect the menu based plan.
- Non-Teaching Elders may only enroll under the menu based plan. They may no longer enroll under the Pastor Participation.
- Other employees may now participate in all the benefits offered by The Board of Pensions.

The greater flexibility provided by the redesigned plan acknowledges the real cost of benefits and how the needs of congregations, affiliated employers, and their employees can vary widely.

2017 Benefits Plan Structure

The plan design include provisions that will enable employers to make decision about what benefits will be offered; who, in addition to installed pastors, will be eligible for benefits; and how much employees will contribute toward the cost of coverage.

- **What** may be offered? Employers may select benefits from menu options, including the following, on a stand-alone basis:
  1. retirement benefits (Pension Plan, RSP)
  2. death and disability benefits
  3. medical benefits via the current preferred provider organization (PPO) or an exclusive provider organization (EPO). An employer may elect to offer eligible employees either coverage option or both.
  4. optional dental, supplemental death, and supplemental disability benefits

- **Who** may be covered? Employers may construct eligibility provisions best suited to their local needs using the following broad parameters:
  1. Other teaching elders may be enrolled in either Pastor’s Participation or in menu options. (The Board encourages non-contributory enrollment of these church servants in Pastor’s Participation.)
For purposes of medical coverage eligibility and RSP participation, there will be no minimum working-hour requirement.

For all other benefits, the plan will require a working-hour minimum of 20 hours per week.

2. Other employees will be eligible to be enrolled only in menu options.

- The plan will require a working-hour minimum of 20 hours per week for all benefits except the RSP.

- **How much** will the benefits cost, and how much of the cost may an employer share with employees?

**Pastor’s Participation**

- While preserving the current, non-contributory dues structure for Pastor’s Participation, the design includes the following changes to calculating Medical Plan dues:

1. Minimum and maximum dues will be expressed as fixed-dollar amounts, eliminating the need for pro-rating part-time salaries and allowing for periodic adjustments that reflect medical cost trends.

2. The dues percentage rate will reflect a call neutral amount, applied uniformity, regardless of the pastor’s family status.

**Menu options**

- Pension Benefits – there will be no change to the current 11 percent of the pension participation basis (the greater of effective salary or 25 percent of installed pastors median); it must be fully paid by the employer.

- Death and disability – there will be no change to the current 1 percent of the pension participation basis if offered with pension benefits, or to the 3.5 percent of pension participation basis if selected on a stand-alone basis; it must be fully paid by the employer.

- Medical coverage – the cost will reflect actual (unsubsidized) claims and administrative expenses, and will be expressed in dollar denominated coverage-level rate (member-only; member + child(ren); member + spouse; member + family). The employer-specific rates will be adjusted by regional and/or demographic factors. **Employers will be required to pay at least 50 percent of the cost of member-only coverage**; employees may be asked to pay for up to 50 percent of member-only coverage and up to 100 percent of the incremental cost of coverage for their eligible family members. (**The Board encourages employers to pay 100 percent of the member-only cost, particularly for those employees who are transitioning from today’s Traditional Program to menu options.**)

**Employer Responsibility and Employee Choice**
Once these terms are elected and documented, eligible employees will be given the choice to enroll (or not) in contributory programs and to select the medical coverage option and level that best meets their needs.

**Transitional Consideration**

Recognizing that change, no matter how modest, may challenge churches and other employers as they reconsider eligibility and cost-sharing policies for their employees (other than installed pastors), the Board’s design includes some unique grandfathering provisions as well as transitional Medical Plan costs

- Coverage may be offered based on eligibility criteria unique to each employer
  1. Continue eligibility and participation in accordance with what was provided before January 1st, 2017.
  2. Allow all current plan members to participate while excluding all new members
  3. Grandfather participation based on a predetermined number of years and service or based upon employee classification.
  4. MANY MANY CHOICES
  5. Terminate participation for all

- Employers can choose separate eligibility criteria for each benefit
- Medical Plan – To help employers and current members meet the potential challenge of higher medical plan costs, the Board is providing a glide path for Traditional Program employers and members transitioning from the current (subsidized) Medical Plan funding formula (percent of effective salary) to the new (actual cost) coverage-level cost structure. The transitional support will apply to two coverage levels (member + spouse and member + family) and will gradually decline over a three-year period and sunset in 2020.

**Roll Out**

- April 2016 the 2017 Benefits Plan of The Board of Pension of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was introduced at the Regional Benefits Consultations.
- 11th of July, 2016 the portal for employers will be opened on The Board’s website, pensions.org, for employers to report decisions on coverage etc. The medical costs specific to each employer will be provided at this time.
- October 2016 the employee portal will be opened for employees to select and enroll for coverage. The enrollment will close 11/13/2016.
- 1st of January, 2017 is the roll out date of the new plan.

In recognition of variations in choices, and to better serve the Church, the Board will provide significant support to employers through revised processes, online capabilities,
Online – 7/11/2016 through 9/30/2016, through Benefits Connect, there will be decision support tools which will allow employers to calculate the cost of various decisions. Multiple decision choices can be saved at any one time allowing employers to compare costs and benefits for each decision.

Telephone – The group formerly known as “Member Services” has been reorganized and renamed “Plan Operations”. They are very easy to access at the 800 number – 1-800-PRES PLAN (1-800-7737-7526). The employees are there armed with all your answers regarding the changes in the Board plans.

Susan Carpenter – As the Board liaison I am available to help our churches work through the decisions necessary to implement this 2017 Benefits Plan. 954-785-2220 susanc@tfpby.org.

The 2017 Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will serve us well as we prepare to celebrate our roots, 300 years deep, in 2017 and enter the next 300 years.

The information provided above comes from the “Overview of the 2017 Benefits Plan March 2016”. Some of it is taken verbatim from the Overview.

Reimbursement

At this past Presbytery Meeting at Second Church we approved some revisions to the Financial Management Manual. This made me think about those areas of the manual which are really important to our volunteers. Below are some of the reimbursement rates.

Please remember that as a volunteer you can choose to not receive reimbursement and make a donation to the Presbytery of your mileage and other expenses. I would be very happy to provide a donation receipt for use in filing your taxes.

MILEAGE RATE

The Presbytery reimburses mileage at a higher rate than that allowed by the IRS/Congress. The IRS rate is $ 0.14 and the Presbytery rate is $ 0.25. The difference between the two rates is $ 0.11 and is income and must be reported on the individuals federal income tax return.

MEALS REIMBURSEMENT

The meal reimbursement rates below are a significant increase from previous periods. These rates are specific to where the meals are eaten and are set by the USA
The Presbytery approved these rates at the December 2015 Presbytery meeting. There will be no reimbursement of expenses over the amount allowed.

The rules regarding reimbursement are on the Presbytery website in the Finance section of resources under the Financial Management Manual pages 50-52. www.tfpby.org

Susan Carpenter, Financial Administrator
Praying for Orlando, FL

Dear Family of Faith,

Orlando will no longer be thought of as just a place of amusement rides and smiling children. There is little to smile at now. The largest shooting in American history has brought sadness and pain to the families of the wounded and the fallen.

And this senseless act of hatred has brought fear and angst to our nation.

We, the believers of Tropical Florida Presbytery, along with our Orlando brothers and sisters join with the Hispanic, the LGBT community and the peaceful Muslim community – in praying for those whose hearts are hurting and afraid.

We stand, together, with all who thirst for justice and fairness. We will lift the weapon of our Lord’s love to combat those who would take our God given freedom from us by the use of fear and intimidation. We will apply the salve of prayer to the wounds of those
With the light of Christ we will find our way out of the darkness and into the new day where God’s children are all valued and all people are God’s children!

In HIS Love,

Jen 😊
Moderator of Tropical Florida Presbytery

Clerks – Session Review this Saturday!

Just a reminder, Session Clerks! Come spend time with Rev. Dick McFail to make sure your records are in order. This meeting will be held at FPC Pompano Beach (Pink Church). If you have any questions, email dickm@tpoby.org.

Address: 2331 NE 26th Avenue | Pompano Beach, FL 33062

Time: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Kindness is the word at the June Presbytery

Saturday June 3, the Presbytery gathered at The Sanctuary (Second Presbyterian) in Ft Lauderdale. The Moderator, Jennifer Young-Thompson, opened worship with the meaning of Kindness in four languages. Kindness set the tone for this gathering of the Presbytery.

Over a hundred Teaching and Ruling elders heard a message from Leon Lovell-Martin, and music by The Sanctuary’s praise band led by Worship Leader Elder Kristin Rozier. The Worship Committee, led by Jack Krch, organized a blessing ceremony and meditative prayer to lift up those attending. After worship, the Administrative Commission for Presbytery Mission and Future Planning Chair, Diane Shoaf, introduced a video from Los Ranchos Presbytery called “Flipping the Presbytery”. The video showed the idea of changing the presbytery meeting to be more interesting and informative. You can follow the ACs’ work as they report their next steps in your Weekly Bulletin.
Afte a great lunch, served by The Sanctuary, we returned for the busines meeting.

During the meeting we learned that our Treasurer, Maggie Michael, will be leaving us and moving to Atlanta the end of June. COM Chair, Eve Tolley introduced two new ministers (see Clergy News) and honorably retired, JoAnn Germershausen, who has been serving at First Stuart as their Interim.

Human Resources (HRC) introduced the new Office Coordinator, Sandra Figueredo. In addition, HRC reported that Stated Clerk, Dick McFail, will be serving the Presbytery until March 31, 2017. At that time, he and his wife, Nancy, will be moving to Texas to be with family.

Committee on Preparation introduced new Inquirer, Eric Nielson (pictured left), from Faith Presbyterian Church, Palm Springs. Special guests, Kathy Broyard, from the Florida PDA group (FlapDan) and Presbyterian Disaster Coordinator, Laurie Kraus, gave a brief overview of their work in disaster and international refugee support. The day closed with the Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) from the Miami Door program talking about their work during their volunteer year; everyone agreed that they made a difference in Miami. And finally, we said goodbye to Executive Assistant, Shari Lowe. After 16 years, Shari retired from her position to be with her family and enjoy some time off. To honor her retirement, Association of Professional Assistants (APA) awarded Shari a lifetime membership to the organization. Nancy Fine and Barbie Prieto, members of the APA, presented the award. The Presbytery and congregations gave Shari retirement gifts and wished her well.

Mark your calendars – the next Presbytery meeting is Sept 24; you do not want to miss this gathering, as we begin to experience the “new presbytery”.

If you are interested in the business meeting and items that were discussed you can find the docket and the supplement reports on the Presbytery website. The minutes will be posted on the website by mid-summer.

Seeking a Treasurer

Treasurer Position Open

The Presbytery is looking for someone with gifts in overseeing funds, finance, banking, real estate, or money related experience. The Treasurer’s position comes with an
Treasurer and Finance Conference if they are interested, this is not required. Applications will be accepted over the summer until September 1, 2016. If you are interested or know someone that might enjoy serving as the Treasurer, please contact Amalie Ash, Transitional Presbyter, at amalietffpby@gmail.com.

Click here if interested: Treasurer’s Job Description

Clergy News – Presbytery Welcomes New Ministers

Rev. David Grachek (pictured left) was approved by the Presbytery to serve at First Presbyterian Stuart. David begins July 1st. David is transferring here from Presbytery of Twin Cities. and will be moving from Minneapolis, MN with his wife, Stacey and their two sons, Ian and Nicholas. David was an investment banker for 18 years before accepting a call to ministry. He is a graduate of University of Nebraska with a BS Finance and received his MDiv from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, FL.

Rev. Daniel Commerford (pictured right) was approved by the Presbytery to serve at First Presbyterian Tequesta. Dan begins July 1st. Dan is transferring here from Greater Atlanta Presbytery where he served at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Covington, GA. Dan and Rachel will be moving to Tequesta with their 8 month old
Backpacks Are Available For Pick Up!

Come and get 'em! We have them ready to go at the Presbytery Center:

1919 SE 5th Street | Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Hours: M-F, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

See our EMAIL BLAST to see what other churches in your area are picking up!

Thought you were too late? We have plenty. Just call contact Sandra to reserve them!

Phone: 954-785-2220
Email: sandra@tfpby.org

GA222 is Coming Up Soon!

Don’t forget to pray for all the commissioners, delegates, staff, and guests who will be in Portland, Oregon from June 18-25 for the 222nd meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Remember especially, if you would, our commissioners: Rev. Doug Hood, Elder Kimberly Chun, Rev. Pedro Rivera, Elder
Tropical Florida Presbytery members that are serving the PCUSA: **Valdir Franca**, World Missions and **Laurie Kraus**, Presbyterian Disaster Coordinator.

Follow along the conference happenings during the week, with Amalie’s Facebook posts.

Like our [PTF Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/PTF) page.

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**PCUSA Planners Available!**

The Presbytery Center has one case of calendar planners left. Do you need one or two, contact Sandra | 954-785-2220 or sandra@tfpby.com. They are $9.00 a piece if picked up at the PC or $11.00 a piece if you want it shipped to your door.

Come on OCD people we are half way done with June!

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**Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty | Meeting this Saturday**

The most current topic discussed and contemplated today in Florida is our embarrassing existence of our huge population on Death Row of 389 men and women along with the horror of having executed those who were innocent. As Christians we should be at the forefront of the battle to do away with Capitol Punishment not only because it is inhumane but because it is blankly against the command of God. “Thou shalt not murder.”

We who choose to call ourselves Christians are not permitted to ignore the issue at hand.
an event to discuss the issues and inform us regarding it.

Event Details:
**When:** May 18, 6:00 p.m.

**Where:** The Sanctuary Church
1400 N. Federal Hwy. Ft. Lauderdale, 33306

Please share this with your congregation. Use this FLYER to spread the event!
In the 06/20/2016 edition:

- Facebook: To Like Or Not To Like
- Going Green at General Assembly
- Update on Orlando Mass Shooting
- NEW Overtime Rules
- US Department of Labor Posters
- FL State and Local Communications Service Tax (CST) exemption – Sales Tax Exemption on Telephone Service
- Thanks You for Donation of Goods
- Worship and Justice Are Connected!

Facebook: To Like Or Not To Like

So…there’s a Facebook Page that sounds interesting to you, but every time you are tempted to hit the “Page Like” button, a streak of fear slithers up your neck. And you say: “Uh, better not.” We understand, it happens to all of us. It’s normal to be overly cautious in maintaining that your privacy is secure. That being said, we want to assure you that liking our Facebook Page is completely safe. Here are some things you can expect:

1. Your timeline/photos/friends will not be shown on our page. There’s no way to actually do this even if we wanted to.
2. The People List for our page is not accessible for viewing. The only way you would know who has “Liked” our page is if they commented on or liked a post, as it would be if you commented on or liked a post.
3. Should you comment or like a post, someone can access your profile by clicking on your name. Depending on the privacy settings that you have set up, your timeline/photos/friends may or may not be accessible for viewing. We highly recommend you tend to this if privacy is important to you.
4. You can share a post, but it will be reviewed by our staff for approval. If we like it, we will show it.

5. We reserve the right to delete comments on our page that are not deemed appropriate for the edification of the body.

Feel any better? We sure would love to have you LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

By the way, we just started on INSTAGRAM too! Help us build both platforms by sharing us with your peeps

Going Green at General Assembly

This week, the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will gather in Portland, Oregon. Commissioners will debate our denomination’s investment in fossil fuels and commitment to creation care, among many other issues. But the theme of environmental justice will hover over the entire assembly, going far beyond the overtures to be addressed in committees.

Read More

Update on Orlando Mass Shooting

At the request of Central Florida Presbytery, PDA has deployed National Response Team Members Bruce Wismer, Greg Smith, Pat Ashley and me (Kathy Broyard) to Orlando. We are there to support the presbytery, meet with clergy and worship with local congregations. I will be meeting with Catholic Charities to see how PDA can be involved with providing Emotional Spiritual Care over the next several weeks.

FLAPDAN is working closely with our Florida VOAD partners and PDA. We appreciate your prayers for the survivors, families, responders and all who have been touched by this terrible act of violence.

Click here for the Voluntary Agency Activities in Response to the Pulse Shooting

KathyBroyard

Executive Director / Emergency Management Specialist
NEW Overtime Rules

For the first time since 2004 the Department of Labor has revised the overtime rules, the only other time they have been officially changed since the FLSA was enacted in 1938.

These NEW rules become effective December 1, 2016 and THEY EFFECT OUR CHURCHES.

There are two websites you can go to learn more about the new rules.

The first site is the Department of Labor, click HERE. Half way down the first page is the register here for the webinars. Click on that register here will access another page with the recorded versions of the webinars,

The second site is the Independent Sector, click HERE. You can watch the webinar or just look at the presentation. You can send questions to livestream@independentsector.org for the next few weeks.

There will be more about this in the newsletter as I assimilate the information.

Susan Carpenter, Financial Administrator

US Department of Labor Posters

To all of you who receive notices advising them that they MUST purchase posters for minimum wage etc.

HERE is a website from which you can order or print for FREE.

The posters are available in many different languages.

Susan Carpenter, Financial Administrator
FL State and Local Communications Service Tax (CST) exemption – Sales Tax Exemption on Telephone Service

Religious organization are exempt from sales tax on your telephone services.

The form only requires the church name, address and telephone numbers and must be sent with your Sales Tax Certificate of Exemption – 5 minutes of work ONCE.

Click here for the FL CST Form – Religious Certificate

Susan Carpenter, Financial Administrator
susanc@tfpby.org
954-785-2220

Thanks You for Donation of Goods

One of the many benefits our churches have as part of a 501(c)(3) / Non-Profit organization is the receipt of cash and goods. The donor receives a tax benefit of a charitable contribution ONLY IF you, the church, provides a CORRECT donation receipt.

All receipts have to include the following words (or the same sentiment in your own words).

A. If the donor receives nothing in exchange:
No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution.”
“You did not receive any goods or services in connection with this contribution other than intangible religious benefits.”

B. If the donor receives something in exchange:
“In exchange for your contribution, we gave you a ________ with an estimated fair market value of $____.”
The receipt must also acknowledge receipt of the goods or services which should include a description of the donation BUT NO VALUE.

The donor MUST have the statement by the time the donor files his or her tax return.

Statements received AFTER the tax return is filed are worthless for tax purposes.

Click HERE to access the IRS Publication 1771 – IRS Exempt Organizations – Charitable Contributions.

Please call with any questions – Susan Carpenter, Financial Administrator
954-785-2220 susanc@tfpby.org

Not accounting advice. Just accounting information unless you paid for it.

Read in browser »

Worship and Justice Are Connected!

Beginning in August 2016, Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (JCSTS) will unveil a new program leading to a certificate in Church Music Leadership. And guess who can enroll?

Thanks to you, JCSTS will attract church leaders, clergy, musicians, and laypersons to learn how to think critically about intersecting worship and justice in their churches and faith communities. And how it is crucially needed in our world today! Justice minded worship intertwines spirit and truth to maintain worship integrity. It is having our lives and lips match what we know to be true about a just God. It is understanding the role that congregations play in worship and using singing as a vehicle of spiritual formation that is long lasting and applicable.

Because of you, JCSTS will train leaders who are equipped to respond to the needs of the new church – with communities that are diverse, tech-savvy, young, and thriving in world that is complex and in need of God’s word!

Your support enables us to offer a hybrid of online and mobile technologies in tech savvy classrooms that can deliver theological education and training almost anywhere and we couldn’t be more excited!

Blessed by you, our ministry and mission will shape just communities of faith. Will you stand with us in this new and important work? Just visit our website at
In the 06/27/2016 edition:

- PDA is Responding in West Virginia
- Board of Pensions Offices Closed But Services Continue!
- The Newly Adopted Confession of Belhar
- Local Mission Giving in PC(USA) Churches Increases in 2015
- PCUSA Planners & Backpacks
- PTF Can Help Promote Your Church Events

**PDA is Responding in West Virginia**

Our hearts, prayers and thoughts go out to the people of West Virginia in the wake of catastrophic flooding. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has deployed the National Response Team to support the Presbytery of West Virginia and Synod of the Trinity as they begin outreach to those affected.

Click here to find out how to help: Presbytery Disaster Assistance

**Board of Pensions Offices Closed But Services Continue!**

During the early morning hours of Tuesday, June 21, a fire incident occurred on one of the high floors in the building at 2000 Market Street, Philadelphia. The Board of Pensions offices are located on three lower floors in the building. Sprinklers activated by the incident resulted in electrical damage throughout the building, restricting all
Call the Board at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN) and leave a message.
Send an email to memberservices@pensions.org.

We will respond to messages received during business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.) within two hours.

As always, you can contact our Benefits Plan partners directly for specific information and with benefits and claims questions:

- For **medical and behavioral health** questions, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield (Blue Card PPO) at 888-835-2959.
- For **dental** questions, Aetna at 877-238-6200.
- For **prescription drug** claims, OptumRx at 855-207-5868 (active and disabled members), or 855-234-3908 (Medicare Supplement Plan members).
- For **disabled members**, Liberty Mutual at 800-210-0268.

The Board’s website pensions.org is available for general information and to obtain materials and forms. However, Benefits Connect, the Board’s secure benefits website, is currently unavailable. We thank you for your patience and understanding. We were well positioned to put in place our business recovery plan so that we could continue to meet the needs of our members and employers. We will keep you updated as the status of our situation changes. Also, stay tuned for information on whether this occurrence will have an impact on the July 11 launch date of the new Benefits Connect, including employer decision support for the 2017 Benefits Plan.

We at the Board of Pensions are thankful the fire in the building was contained quickly and no one was harmed.

[Original email date: Friday, 6/24/16, 11:14 an EST]

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The Newly Adopted Confession of Belhar

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is again facing a critical time in its history. We are rent apart by division and schism, we have yet to confront directly and confess the racism that has been a significant force in our own history, and we have shown a failure of resolve to make courageous stands for justice. We believe that the Confession of Belhar, a profound statement on unity, reconciliation, and justice in the church, comes to us as a word from God for this particular time and place for the PC (USA).

–Quinn Fox, Presbytery of National Capital
Local Mission Giving in PC(USA) Churches Increases in 2015

LOUISVILLE (OGA) Local mission giving in Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations went up by almost $7.7 million in 2015, according to annual statistics of the denomination released today.

And that increase in giving was despite the fact that the number of congregations decreased by 187 between 2014 and 2015 and the number of active members went down by 95,107. The denomination has 9,642 churches, compared to 9,829 in 2014. It also has 1,572,660 members, compared to 1,667,767 in 2014.

Read More

PCUSA Planners & Backpacks

We still have some PCUSA PLANNERS available – $9.00 each or $11.00 each with shipping.

We also have BACKPACKS available for pick up only – 50 for free or $3.00 each after the first 50. As a friendly reminder, those still needing to pick up are:
Pick up is available during PTF hours: M-F 9:30 am – 5:00 pm | Except for this Friday & Monday, this office will be closed due to the holiday weekend.

Email sandra@tfpby.org or call 954-785-2220 to place an order or to arrange pick up.

PTF Can Help Promote Your Church Events

If you have a church event that you want to promote, we would happy to post it on our PTF Facebook Page. Just send us your flyer electronically and we’ll make a good looking post out of it. It just may be an extra push you’ll need to draw traffic to your church – every little bit helps. It works both ways too. By liking our page, you’ll have access to what’s going on with other PTF churches too.

Send your info to sandra@tfpby.org, and let’s get some momentum going!