

Presbytery Staff  
and Officers  
are here for you:

**Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin,**  
General Presbyter  
Rmartin  
@presbyteryofflorida.com

**Jeannie Dixon,**  
Stated Clerk  
Statedclerk  
@presbyteryofflorida.com

**Roseanna Phillips**  
Moderator  
bnrphillips@gmail.com

**Denise Vandiver,**  
Treasurer/Bookkeeper  
Dvandiver  
@presbyteryofflorida.com

**Ben Powell,**  
Dogwood Acres Director  
ben@dogwoodacres.org

**Melissa Willis,**  
Administrator  
Mwillis  
@presbyteryofflorida.com

**Inside this issue:**

Committee on Ministry	2
Committee on Educational Resources	5
Committee on Congregational Revitalization	5
Our Connectional Churches	6
Caring for Creation Notes	7
Save the dates	8

# The Panhandle Presbyterian

*A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida*



Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2020

## From General Presbyter Roy Martin

In October, I will be returning to Wilmington, Delaware, where I served as pastor for 11 years of Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church. They will be celebrating their 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary! I have been invited to attend as their only former pastor still living, and I am a little depressed about that.

You see, I was 32 years old when I began my ministry there, having served previously as the associate pastor of a church in Florida. It was my first solo pastorate. My hair was brown, and there was a lot more of it on top of my head, there were no crow's feet beside my eyes, and I was thin.

We celebrated that church's 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary

while I was their pastor and, at that point, there were two living former pastors who joined with us in the celebration. I remember thinking how old they looked, and I realize now that they were both about the same age I am at this moment. Now I am really depressed!

As I think back on my time there, it is hard not to wonder whether my ministry made any difference in the lives of those wonderful people. Did we really accomplish anything that moved the needle on spiritual development and discipleship? From time to time, I wonder that about every place I served.

But I remind myself at such times of the Apostle Paul's words to the Christians in Corinth:

"For when one says, 'I belong to Paul,' and another, 'I belong to Apollos,' are you not merely human?"

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." I Corinthians 3: 4-6

That says to me each of us – clergy, elders, deacons – have a purpose in planting and watering faith wherever we are for as long as we can. But, at the end of the day, we are links in a chain of watering and planting, and it is God who gives the growth.

I am comforted by that as I think about returning to a church I last served 21 years ago. And I can't wait to see the planting and watering and growing that have taken place since then!

Yours in Christ,  
Roy



**The Rev. Dr.  
Roy Martin**

**Grace Presbyterian Church**  
1415 Airport Road, Panama City FL  
invites you to the service of installation for  
**The Rev. Eric Spoon as Pastor**  
Sunday, March 15, at 4 p.m. CDT  
*All attending clergy are invited  
to wear robes with red stoles.*

## New moderator installed, GA delegates commissioned at Jan. 25 meeting

Fellowship with friends and a meeting of hearts and minds (and moderators) highlighted the Presbytery's Winter Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Pensacola. Shown at right, from left, 2002-2003 Presbytery of Florida Moderator and FPC Pensacola Elder Ruby Rogers greets 2020-2021 incoming Moderator and FPC Pensacola Elder Roseanna Phillips. Both have been active in the Presbytery in numerous capacities.

Shown below, from left, General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Roy Martin looks on as outgoing Presbytery Moderator Rev. Sharon Schuler presents Elder Phillips with a customary silver cross pendant at the conclusion of her service of installation.

*(Installation photos by Stated Clerk Jeannie Dixon)*



Shown below, FPC Pensacola's Sanctuary Choir, featuring Diana Haley as soloist, performs "Prayer of Saint Francis," a stirring anthem composed by Organist Allen Pote.





The Presbytery commissioned delegates to the 224th General Assembly, to be held June 20 – 27, 2020, in Baltimore, MD. Shown above, from left, are First Presbyterian Church of Fort Walton Beach pastor Rev. Sharon Schuler, minister commissioner alternate; Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, Pastor Rev. Brad Clayton, minister commissioner; First Presbyterian Church of Crestview Elder Joanne Kublik, elder commissioner; Christ Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, Elder Linda Lovins, elder commissioner alternate; and Trinity Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, member Ryan Obray, Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD).

The Presbytery also heard Lauren Scott share her faith journey (shown at left) as she moves from inquirer to candidate for ministry under the Presbytery’s care.

**A GREAT CLOUD of WITNESSES**  
 PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSICIANS  
 2020 WORSHIP & MUSIC CONFERENCES AT MONTREAT  
 Week 1: June 21-26, 2020  
 Week 2: June 28-July 3, 2020

GA  
 BALTIMORE  
 224  
 GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2020) OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
*Called to a Movement Beyond Institution*  
 JUNE 20-27, 2020

## From the Committee on Congregational Revitalization



*By  
Rev. Lisa Martin,  
Chair, and  
1st, Lynn Haven  
Pastor*

## Consultants ready to help with congregational assessments

**H**oly Cow! is up and running in the Presbytery of Florida! You've heard and/or seen about this important tool that gauges the health and vitality of local congregations, and now CCR is able to offer the CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) to any congregation wishing to focus on revitalization. On January 3 and 4, 18 persons received in depth training by Senior Holy Cow! Consultant Susan Czolgosz. Our training focused on the providing



the presbytery with the best tool available. And now we're ready to offer it to you!

Working in pairs, we would love to partner with your congregation in the Holy Cow! journey, with results that will help your congregation decide on appropriate "next steps." The cost is minimal, and the rewards are great!

Why not make 2020 the year that your congregation learns more about itself and its vitality for revitalization?!? Interested? Contact Lisa Martin at [revlwmartin@gmail.com](mailto:revlwmartin@gmail.com) or 850-818-2773.



Re-energize with worship,  
relaxation, & prayer at the  
Association of Smaller  
Congregations  
33<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Conference & Retreat  
Sponsored by the  
Synod of the South Atlantic,  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**Dates: March 13-15, 2020**

Mission: Small Tents, Big Mission

Key Scripture: Matthew 16-28

**Keynote Speaker: Alonzo Johnson.**  
Presbyterian Mission Agency  
Coordinator for the Self  
Development of People

Location: Epworth-by-the-Sea,  
St. Simons Island, GA

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



## What's in your new members class?

I've always found it interesting that for youth entering into active membership of a church they are most-often asked to complete a months-long confirmation class, but when adults wish to join, comparable requirements are pushed aside. This day I challenge you to reflect on the materials that are presented to those who are interested in joining your congregation.

As you reflect upon what occurs in your new member classes, look through these topics that are addressed in a sample confirmation curriculum:

- 
- What does 'Presbyterian' mean?
  - The PC(USA) constitution
    - Book of Confessions
    - Book of Order
  - Presbyterian "Possibilities"
    - How you can serve the PC(USA)
    - How you can serve this congregation
  - The Lord's Prayer
  - An overview of a typical grouping of the Bible's books
  - The Ten Commandments
  - What is worship?
  - The Sacraments
  - The Apostle's Creed
  - The Nicene Creed
  - Overview of the narratives of the Old Testament
  - Overview of the narratives of the New Testament
  - Differences between the Gospels
  - Church History
    - From early Christianity to the many denominations we have now
  - Presbyterian History
    - Overviewing the schisms and merges from 1706-now
  - Justice
    - How does this congregation live into the community of faith?
  - How a church accepts new members
  - Why be a member?
  - How to construct a faith statement
- 

It is not feasible to think that these topics can all be addressed in a one or two-time class for adults. But it does make me wonder what should be addressed in those few times we meet with people before they join the church.

There is no right or wrong way to hold a new members class as long as joining the church follows our Book of Order guidelines (G-1.0303). The task before us is to best educate and serve prospective members.

What is addressed in your new members class?

## From the Committee on Educational Resources



*By  
Rev. John Kubar,  
Chair, and  
1st, Pensacola  
Associate Pastor*

The first Gulf Coast Presbyterian Pilgrimage will be held April 17 – 19 at Dogwood Acres

Have you been a Pilgrim in a 4<sup>th</sup> Day Movement – Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Via de Christo, Tres Dias, or the Great Banquet? If so, please prayerfully consider supporting Gulf Coast Presbyterian Pilgrimage.

Support can be offered in many ways: serving on staff, praying for our pilgrims and staff during the weekend, sponsoring a pilgrim, financial contributions, and participating.

To learn more: Contact Leslie Yandle, 850 450-1592, [leslie.yandle@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.yandle@gmail.com), or Brad Schild, 850 377-4809, [brad.schild@hancockwhitney.com](mailto:brad.schild@hancockwhitney.com).



**From the  
Committee on  
Dogwood Acres**



*By  
Emma Hodges,  
DWA  
Program Director*

**Register online now for Dogwood Acres' youth opportunities**

**A**s we look forward to what this new year has to offer, we would like to let you know of the upcoming opportunities for youth at Dogwood Acres:

- **Dogwood Youth Conference (DYC)**, our annual middle school and high school conference is going to be March 6th-8th. We are excited to partner with UKirk Tallahassee in leading this time of fellowship and recreation. Please inform your eligible

youth of this exciting opportunity.

This year, Dogwood Acres is moving to an online registration system for DYC. The registration form can be found under the DYC page on the Dogwood Acres website.

If you have any questions about the new registration or are a DYC first-timer feel free to contact me at [programdirector@dogwoodacres.org](mailto:programdirector@dogwoodacres.org) or call (850) 321-0844. Note that all youth advisors and chaperones need to register, as well.

- **Summer Camp Registration** is online and active! Registration is accessed through the Dogwood Acres website ([www.dogwoodacres.org](http://www.dogwoodacres.org)) under the Summer Camp page.

Remember, Dogwood Acres is the outdoor ministry of our presbytery, and that makes it your camp and conference center! We are always available to help you experience Dogwood in new and exciting ways.

**DOGWOOD YOUTH CONFERENCE 2020  
MARCH 6-8**



**Dogwood Youth Conference (DYC) is a weekend retreat at Dogwood Acres for middle and high school students. It is a time to relax, recharge, and reconnect. There will be keynotes, worship, small groups, recreation, and lots of fellowship all in the beauty of God's creation at Dogwood Acres! Lodging is in the Dogwood climate-controlled cabins, and meals are provided. Ukirk, the FSU College Ministry, will help lead the weekend.**

**REGISTER ONLINE AT [dogwoodacres.org](http://dogwoodacres.org)**

**COST: \$125 PER PARTICIPANT**

*(SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE)*

## Birds in our warming world need you to act

Every morning when I step outside to walk, I am greeted by our neighborhood birds – cardinals, chickadees, blue jays, warblers and an occasional barred owl. I can't imagine a morning without their cheery calls, but a recent study by the National Audubon Society, "Survival by Degrees," reports that 389 North American bird species are vulnerable to extinction due to climate change.

That is two-thirds of North American birds. Shocking!

The report provides an interactive site where you can plug in your zip code and see your local birds that are impacted by warming. Nine species in Leon County are considered highly vulnerable – the red-headed woodpecker, fish crow, brown-headed nuthatch, wood thrush, brown thrasher, eastern towhee, boat-tailed grackle, pine warbler and yellow-throated warbler.

Ask yourself: What do the birds do on those hot days when you are sitting in your air-conditioned office or home? Are you aware that the hot weather affects their ability to find food and reproduce – and that over time, this depletes local populations, and ultimately, continent-wide populations?

We all love birds and want them to be a part of our lives. We can do something to help them

and ourselves if we take action now. According to the Audubon report, by stabilizing carbon emissions and holding warming to a 1.5 Celsius increase, 76 percent of vulnerable species will be better off, and nearly 150 species will have been spared extinction from climate change.

You certainly know what needs to be done, and many of you are taking steps to reduce your energy usage and switch to renewable energy.

Everyone else must join in. The need to lower our carbon emissions is no longer a part-time activity. It is time for all-hands-on-deck. An October 2018 report indicated that we had to cut our carbon emissions by nearly 50% by 2030 to hold the temperature increase at or below 1.5 degrees Celsius. As of this month, that's only ten years from now. We have precious little time to make the massive change required to reach this target. Globally, today, carbon emissions are continuing to climb, and our summer temperatures are becoming unbearable.

We absolutely must withdraw our investments of around \$200 million from fossil fuels. This is the fourth year in which we are asking the General Assembly to approve an overture calling for categorical fossil fuel divestment. It is way past

time to do this. A host of others have already pledged to divest, to the tune of a whopping 12 trillion dollars. This effort includes 170-plus faith organizations. We Presbyterians must join them. Urge your General Assembly commissioners to support this overture.

This move will not hurt our financial status. Funds without fossil fuels have a bright future. Investors poured \$20.6 billion into sustainable funds last year, nearly quadrupling the record it had set a year earlier, according to Morningstar. BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, announced in a January 14 annual letter to that we are "on the edge of a fundamental reshaping of finance because of a warming planet."

The time has come: Our denomination's money people must join this effort. We must acknowledge that, until now, we have been contributing to the climate crisis. Now we must follow the advice and actions of the world's largest asset manager and divest our holdings of fossil fuels. We have urged this move repeatedly in past years. It is now absolutely imperative: we should not have to ask again.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please email me at [pammcvety@hotmail.com](mailto:pammcvety@hotmail.com).

## Caring for Creation Notes



By  
**Pam McVety**,  
*Presbytery  
Stewardship  
of Creation  
Enabler*  
([pammcvety  
@hotmail.com](mailto:pammcvety@hotmail.com))

*"We have  
precious little time  
to make the  
massive change  
required..."*

**PRESBYTERY  
OF FLORIDA**

Mailing address:  
P. O. Box 7  
Chipley, FL 32428

Physical address:  
3320 Harmony Rd.

Phone: 850-535-2335  
or 850-535-2440

E-mail:  
office@presbyteryofflorida.com  
Web site:  
www.presbyteryofflorida.com

**Your Phone: 850-535-2335  
or 850-535-2440**

**E-mail:  
office@presbyteryofflorida.com  
Website:  
www.presbyteryofflorida.com**

**Committee on Congregational  
Revitalization (CCR)**  
Rev. Lisa Martin  
revlwmartin@gmail.com

**Committee on Dogwood Acres  
(CDWA)**  
Ken Densmore  
kennethjohndensmore@gmail.com

**Committee on Educational  
Resources (CER)**  
Rev. John Kuper  
john@fpcpensacola.com

**Committee on Ministry (COM)**  
Rev. Mark Broadhead  
minister@fpc-crestview.org

**Committee on Mission and  
Outreach (CMO)**  
Rev. Dr. Hugh Hamilton  
hugh@trinitypcola.org

**Committee on New  
Congregational Development  
(CNCD)**  
Rev. A. J. Mealor  
revmealor@gmail.com

**Committee on Nominations (CN)**  
Leslie Yandle  
Leslie.yandle@gmail.com

**Committee on Preparation for  
Ministry (CPM)**  
Rev. Sheldon Steen  
sheldon@ukirkallahassee.com

**Committee on Presbytery  
Administration (CPA)**  
William O. Bell  
wobell3@gmail.com

**Committee on Representation (CR)**  
Rev. Michael Askew  
askewmichaelsr@yahoo.com

**The Panhandle Presbyterian**

**Save the date:**

**In February**

*Tuesday, Feb. 4  
10 a.m. CST*

Committee on Educational Resources meeting at FPC Milton

*Tuesdays,  
Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25  
6:30 – 8 p.m. CST*

Experiential seminar series with Revs. Church Taber and Mark Broadhead at FPC DeFuniak Springs

*Sunday, Feb. 9  
8:45 a.m. CST  
10 a.m. CST  
6 p.m. CST*

Harbison Lecture Series, with Rev. Dr. William “Bill” Carl, at FPC Pensacola

*Sunday, Feb. 9  
7 p.m. CST*

Canta, Violino! Brazilian music project at Gulf Beach PC, Panama City Beach

*Monday, Feb. 10  
9:30 a.m. CST*

Committee on Preparation for Ministry meeting at Presbytery office

*Tuesday, Feb. 11  
11 a.m. CST/  
Noon EST*

East District clergy/CEs’ lunch, Backwoods Crossing Restaurant, Tallahassee

*Thursday, Feb. 13  
9:30 a.m. CST*

Coordinating and Planning Commission meeting at Dogwood Acres

*Sunday, Feb. 16  
7 p.m. CST*

The Wabi Sabis Americana pop band at Gulf Beach PC, Panama City Beach

*Thursday, Feb. 20*

Statistical reporting by churches ends

*Thursday, Feb. 20*

Panhandle Presbyterian March submissions deadline

*Saturday, Feb. 22*

Committee on Dogwood Acres meeting at Dogwood Acres

*Saturday, Feb. 22 –  
Sunday, Feb. 23*

Presbyterian Women’s Retreat at Pensacola Beach, with Catherine Quiring and Katherine Kuper

*Sunday, Feb. 23  
7 p.m. CST*

Ken Sizemore folk and pop music at Gulf Beach PC, Panama City Beach

*Wednesday, Feb. 26*

Ash Wednesday

*Friday, Feb. 28 –  
Sunday, March 1*

Enrichment Weekend at FPC of Quincy, with Dr. William “Bill” Brown

**Looking ahead**

*Sunday, March 1  
7 p.m. CST*

Arnold High School Jazz Ensemble at Gulf Beach PC, Panama City Beach

*Friday, March 6 –  
Sunday, March 8*

Dogwood Youth Conference for middle and high school youth at Dogwood Acres

*Sunday, March 8*

Daylight saving time begins

*Sunday, March 8  
7 p.m. CST*

Ukelele Orchestra of St. Andrews at Gulf Beach PC, Panama City Beach

*Tuesday, March 10  
9:30 a.m. CST*

Committee on Ministry meeting at Dogwood Acres

*Friday, March 13 –  
Sunday, March 15*

Synod of South Atlantic Association of Smaller Congregations’ 33rd Annual Conference, at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA

*Sunday, March 15  
4 p.m. CST*

Service of Installation for Rev. Eric Spoon as pastor at Grace PC, Panama City

*Friday, March 20*

Panhandle Presbyterian April submissions deadline

*Saturday, March 21*

Presbytery of Florida Presbyterian Women annual gathering at FPC of Lynn Haven

*Saturday, March 28*

DiscipleFest at Dogwood Acres

*Sunday, April 5*

Palm Sunday

*Friday, April 10*

Good Friday – Presbytery office closed

*Sunday, April 12*

Easter

*Thursday, April 16 –  
Sunday, April 19*

Gulf Coast Presbyterian Pilgrimage at Dogwood Acres

*Saturday, April 25  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT*

Laurel Hill Arts & Heritage Festival at Laurel Hill PC