

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

Sharon Schuler,
Moderator
pastor@firstpresfwb.org

Denise Vandiver,
Treasurer/Bookkeeper
Dvandiver
@presbyteryofflorida.com

Ben Powell,
Dogwood Acres Director
ben@dogwoodacres.org

Melissa Willis,
Administrator
Mwillis
@presbyteryofflorida.com

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Our Connectional Churches | 2 |
| Committee on Ministry | 4 |
| Committee on Educational Resources | 5 |
| Committee on Congregational Revitalization | 5 |
| Committee on Dogwood Acres | 6 |
| Caring for Creation Notes | 7 |
| Save the dates | 8 |

The Panhandle Presbyterian

A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida



Volume 2, Issue 10

October 2019

From General Presbyter Roy Martin

As promised, I have scheduled a workshop in each of our three regions to provide training for elders, deacons, and other congregational leaders in the ministry to which they have been called. The Western District workshop will be held on Sunday, October 13, at 2 p.m. CDT at First Presbyterian Church of Pensacola; the Eastern District workshop will be held on Saturday, October 26, at 10 a.m. EDT at Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee; and the Central District workshop will be held on

Sunday, November 3, at 2 p.m. CST at First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven.

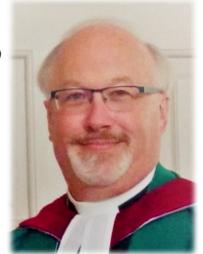
The focus will be on the responsibilities of officers within the local congregation, and the training is expected to last about two hours. There is no charge for this workshop. Officers-elect and continuing officers are encouraged to attend. Pastors are also welcome so that they might see how to dovetail this workshop with their own in-house training.

I always begin by asking what specific questions there might be

from within the group so that I can make sure we cover those topics. If you have a Book of Order, please bring it with you along with something with which to take notes. You will receive additional handouts during the workshop.

I look forward to seeing you there!!

Yours in Christ,
Roy



**The Rev. Dr.
Roy Martin**

Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 29

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

3158 Shamrock St. S., Tallahassee

Registration at 8 a.m. EDT/Meeting at 9 a.m.

Featuring special educational hour with
Holy Cow! Consulting President Emily Swanson

Presented by

*the Committee on Congregational Revitalization
and the Committee on Ministry*

**Our
connectional
churches:**
*Highlights from the
Spring Stated
Presbytery Meeting*

Presbytery's larger churches share best, worst practices

The Presbytery's Spring Stated Meeting in May included group discussion of congregations' best (and worst) practices. Commissioners and guests were assigned to three discussion groups based on their congregations' size.

Last month's *Panhandle Presbyterian* highlighted ideas shared by Group 1 (representing churches having up to 51 members) and Group 2 (having 70 to 168 members). This month, learn what Group 3 (Having 240 to 822 members) shared:

- First, Quincy: Small Group ministry – based on shared interests:

cooking, gardening, movies, music: they gather for social events and fellowship, but each group is asked to accomplish a mission/service project together to build rapport and to give back to the community.

- First, Tallahassee: A new Columbarium at the church; in developing interment services, they have discovered the nice new committal service in the new PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*.

- First, Tallahassee: New Confirmation Camp – one week-long, all-day venture, rather than a semester of short classes – a full immersion camp during which grades 8-11:

visit Westminster Oaks retirement community to hear life stories of residents who share their faith journeys with the confirmands; take a day trip to the beach, at which participants talk about water and Jesus the Living Water, discuss theology, and a real time Walk Through the Bible; visit Dogwood Acres and the Presbytery Office and discuss what it means to be a connectional church with shared ministries, the need for spiritual retreats.

- Gulf Breeze – “Dress a Girl” programs in which women of the church made 150+ dresses for girls in Guatemala, using simple dress patterns supplied. Mission connection made with families in Guatemala; exchange of photos and life stories.

- First, Pensacola: Working collaboratively with other downtown churches to address needs of homeless population: “DART” (similar to “TEAM” in Tallahassee) is a three-year program, highly organized.

- First, Pensacola: Engaged with church consultant program, Holy Cow!, which took them through a churchwide self-diagnostic, self-evaluation, analysis. Once scores and

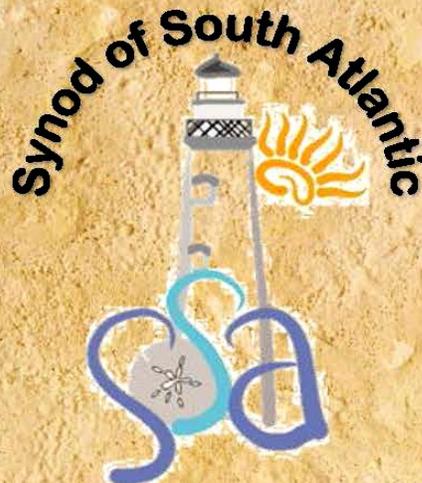
The **Celebration** Continues ...

Join us **October 25-27, 2019**

at our

11th PW Synod Gathering

at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia



interpretation returned to the church, they engaged in a strategic planning process to address needs and build on successes. Presbytery is investigating the Holy Cow! program as a possible resource presbytery-wide.

Trinity, Pensacola: “We had become an inch deep and mile wide in ministry focus, losing momentum.” Contracted with Ministry Architects church consulting firm for analysis and restructure, retooling, to prepare themselves for the next decade. They have reduced the size of their Session and restructured their teams/sub-teams, aiming toward making it easier for folks to get involved and for the church to be more permission-giving, less cumbersome; they developed a strategic plan with four major goals to accomplish in three years, with built in accountability and annual benchmarks.

They have implemented a new church-wide communications structure, a new website, and new membership database/ reporting/ communicating system. For the first time ever, they created a list of every volunteer position needed to conduct all their programs and operations and created a one-page job description for every volunteer position. This enhanced their new volunteer recruitment system that is to be conducted/renewed every year so that by Rally Day/ Fall of the following year, they are fully staffed for the new year of church activities.

- Christ, Tallahassee: During the interim pastor era people feared starting anything new, but they united their people by starting a new Worship Arts Program that brought people together interacting as they created simple visual arts displays in the sanctuary, and added music and drama.

As the Lenten Season progressed, the artwork display grew and people did not want to feel left out, so they joined the collaborative art project.

- Another church enhanced their summer VBS by adding an afternoon “Mission Madness” camp for high school students who worked as staff at morning VBS. The afternoon session engaged them in service projects all over town, with an added fellowship and Bible study/reflection component. High School students and volunteer adult staff have found this much more engaging and rewarding than just a repetitious morning VBS for children.

What we tried to do that didn't work, and what we learned:

- First, Tallahassee One year, and one year only, they moved from a fiscal year Jan. 1-Dec. 31 to an academic year. Did not work, immediately changed back.

- First, Tallahassee also tried an evening, all-ages, Vacation Bible School. Did not work as well. They've now replaced this with a month-long summer camp with hired staff, and the results have been astounding – more involvement, more impact.

“In Remembrance”

An uplifting ecumenical service-concert

Sunday, Nov. 3 • 4 p.m. EST

St. Johns Episcopal Church

211 N Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL

Organized by Music With a Mission



Love offerings will be accepted for Big Bend Hospice bereavement programs or children & youth

From the Committee on Ministry



By
**Rev. Mark
Broadhead,
Chair**

Presbytery's largest committee comprises three teams

The Committee on Ministry (COM) is the largest of the committees in the Presbytery of Florida. This is because of the scope of the ministry that is provided to our congregations, pastors, and educators. By *Book of Order* mandate, the committee membership is divided as evenly as possible between pastors and ruling elders.

With the recent restructuring of the Presbytery, so has been the COM. There are now three teams designed to carry out the work. Those teams are: Relational Ministry, Pastor Transition, and Temporary Pastor Leadership. Here is a synopsis of what those teams do.

Relational Ministry Team – Ruling Elder Don Mowat, Chair:
To fulfill all *Book of Order* and Presbytery Manual responsibilities related to oversight of and assistance to congregations, Ministers

of Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Lay Pastors, and certified Christian Educators in their ministry. These responsibilities include all matters related to the orientation of new pastors, assigning of colleagues in ministry, periodic visits with sessions and pastors, support for clergy wellness and continuing education, and the empowerment of congregations to be centers of mission.

Pastor Transition Team – Rev. Dr. Joan Wooten, Chair:
To fulfill all *Book of Order* and Presbytery Manual responsibilities related to oversight of and guidance to churches and pastors in the process of moving from one pastor/ congregation relationship to another. These responsibilities include work related to dissolving pastoral relationships, working with churches in all processes leading to the next pastor call, and examining Ministers of

Word and Sacrament for readiness and suitability to receive calls.

Temporary Leadership Team – Ruling Elder John Schuler, Chair:
To fulfill all *Book of Order* and Presbytery Manual responsibilities related to oversight of and assistance to Commissioned Lay Pastors (CLPs) and Authorized Ruling Elders (AREs). These responsibilities include working in conjunction with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry ensuring proper educational preparation of CLPs and AREs is attained, and providing ongoing education and training opportunities. This team also has oversight of those in Temporary Pastoral Leadership positions (e.g. Interims and Stated Supplies), and receives semiannual and annual reports from them, to provide adequate supervision for those serving congregations.

First Presbyterian Church of Chipley, 658 5th St., Chipley, FL

Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Saturday, Nov. 2 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT

Admission: \$5 per person / Afternoon Tea: \$5 per person

Athletes • Pipes & Drums • Irish Step & Highland Dancers • Entertainment

For information: 850-726-7521

www.chipleypresbyterianchurch.org



PCUSA Store offers array of resources in one place

There are so many resources out there that are more than helpful in boosting your congregation's educational opportunities. The most immediate PC (USA) source for buying books, curriculum, and program resources is the PC(USA) Store, found at PCUSAstore.com.



Presbyterianism, spirituality, and leadership are all available too. If you're looking for something new, this is the place for you.

Curriculum

There is a curriculum for a wide variety of ages including early childhood, children, youth & young adult, and adult. But age is not the only factor when it comes to the curriculum offered in the PC(USA) store. There are Spanish and Korean curricula as well as

resources for GenOn Ministries resources, which are aimed at intergenerational experiences.

This website is far from limited to just books and curricula. Magazines, journals, PC(USA) resources such as certificates and brochures, Presbyterian Women resources, and more are all located conveniently in one place. If you're looking for something in particular, I would recommend using the search feature to see what all this store has to offer. It is regularly updated and offers more than any one congregation could feasibly use.

From the Committee on Educational Resources



By
Rev. John Kupar,
Chair

Books

Within the PC(USA) store, they have a wide variety of categories for books. Looking for a new book on the Christian life? There's a whole section for you! Looking for shorter Bible studies? They've got that too! Children's books,

Holy Cow! Consulting to demonstrate assessment tools

The Committee on Congregational Revitalization is excited to partner with the Committee on Ministry to host the educational hour for our October 29 presbytery meeting. At that time, we'll introduce Holy Cow! Consulting to the body and, in particular, we'll welcome Holy Cow!'s president, Emily Swanson, who will guide the presbytery through an engaging, inspiring process of discerning a congregation's health and vitality.

Holy Cow! Consulting has been



used with great effectiveness in presbyteries and congregations throughout the United States as a tool that helps identify the present health of the organization. Using a CAT assessment (think, medical CAT scan, and you've got it!),



Holy Cow! can determine how

much energy, resources, commitment, and prospects an organization has for its future ministry.

This relatively short and inexpensive process has helped congregations and presbyteries focus on where growth is needed, and how realistic a body is to address that needed growth. It's a fascinating process to be a part of, and CCR's hope is that many of our Florida Presbytery congregations will avail themselves of this opportunity so that we become stronger and healthier for the kingdom of God.

From the Committee on Congregational Revitalization



By
Rev. Lisa Martin,
Vice Chair

**From the
Committee on
Dogwood Acres**



*By
Dr. Linda Lovins,
Chair*

Dogwood Acres ... where “retreat” is a forward-thinking word

Summer Camp season has ended, and retreat season is opening with *Spiritfest*, a Presbytery-wide weekend for middle-school students on **Oct. 4-6**. Large- and small-group sessions and games are led by high-school role models, and the weekend is a GREAT time for middlers to make friends and explore their faith. This year’s theme is **“Lost and Found.”** Haven’t registered your middlers yet? Here’s the link to the Spiritfest page on the Dogwood Acres website: <http://www.dogwoodacres.org/spiritfest-dyc/spiritfest/>.

There are still a few weekends open for family

and adult *retreats or family reunions* in October and November, when the nights are perfect for bonfires and fellowship and the days are just right for exploring Dogwood Acres and our relationship with God. During the week, DWA is available to churches, businesses, and organizations for *meetings, workshops, training, team-building, and more*. Talk with Director Ben Powell (ben@dogwoodacres.org) about available dates this fall (or in spring 2020) and what our Presbytery’s retreat center has to offer as part of its outdoor ministry.

Heads up, Busy Women! The Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA) is planning an adults-only, Presbytery-wide **Busy Woman’s Retreat** this coming spring. Pack light and head to DWA for a weekend in which the biggest scheduled events are meals that you won’t have to shop for or cook. Plan on a weekend of relaxation, mealtime devotionals, faith, fellowship, fireside chats, laughter, and a culminating worship service at Dogwood Acres that celebrates our lives as sisters-in-Christ. Details coming soon!

Lest We Forget

***A benefit concert for ongoing recovery efforts
one year after Hurricane Michael***

Thursday, Oct. 10 – 7 p.m. EDT

Organized by Music With a Mission

Hosted by Faith Presbyterian Church, 2200 N. Meridian Rd., Tallahassee
100% of proceeds to benefit Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network

*Featuring a variety of vocal and instrumental performances, ending with a
“mass sing” of two choral pieces by a community-wide group*

Register to sing or learn more about the event at www.musicwamission.org

Or email Artistic Director Linda Lovins at ArtsEdLin@gmail.com

It's our children's future

I have written column after column about the climate change crisis. I have shared the real science and predictions of professionals. I have written about its ongoing impacts on the least of these and shared solutions and policy guidance provided by our General Assembly.

I have not, however, focused on the effects of climate change on our children. In this, I have been remiss, and I apologize, because nothing is more important than our children and grandchildren. And nothing, not a single thing, endangers their collective future more than the ever-expanding and escalating effects of climate change.

The exciting news is that children have taken the climate issue into their own hands. One of the most inspiring actions is the worldwide student school strike movement. Students everywhere are rallying in their communities, asking us adults to address climate change and protect their future.

That movement was started by a young Swedish girl, Greta

Thunberg, who, at age 15, decided that if she did not have a future, she did not need an education.

Further, if adults ignored facts, then she had no reason to learn them. Instead of attending school, she sat outside the Swedish Parliament and called for stronger action to address climate change.

Soon other students joined her and organized the school climate strike movement, which they named "Fridays for Future". Millions of students around the world now strike from their schools in protest of our failure to address the climate crisis.

In 2015, 21 children under age 18, as part of Our Children's Trust, sued our federal government and state governments over their failure to protect their future from climate change. They believe that they have a constitutional right to live in a world safe from climate change.

On April 16, 2018,

eight Florida youths filed a climate change lawsuit against the State of Florida. (It is titled

"Delaney Reynolds et al v. State of Florida et al, Case No: 18-CA-000819.")

Faith organizations in Florida, including four Presbyterian faith leaders, filed an amicus brief in April in support of the Florida Our Children's Trust lawsuit. The Amici Curiae maintain that the Earth and its natural resources are a gift from God, and that we are called as people of faith to protect them for our children.

See the young man with the bright turquoise jacket in the photo? His name is Levi Draheim. He is from Satellite Beach, Florida, and is a plaintiff in both the federal and Florida lawsuits. Over the coming months, I will cover the actions of these children, but in the interim, hug your children and pray for their future on our overheating planet.

Caring for Creation Notes



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

*Millions of students
around the world
now strike from
their schools in
protest of our
failure to address
the climate crisis.*



Shown at left,
Our Children's
Trust plaintiffs

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. Dr. James Huffaker
jhuffaker35@gmail.com

Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA)

Dr. Linda T. Lovins
artsedlin@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 October

Tuesday, Oct. 1 10 a.m. CDT Committee on Educational Resources meeting at 1st, Crestview

Friday, Oct. 4 – Sunday, Oct. 6 Spiritfest Retreat for grades 6 – 8, Dogwood Acres

Saturday, Oct. 5 10 a.m. CDT Committee on Congregational Revitalization meeting at Presbytery office

Saturday, Oct. 5 1 p.m. CDT “Human Trafficking ... Solutions from a Survivor” at 1st, Pensacola’s Jane C. Noonan Center

Sunday, Oct. 6 World Communion Sunday

Sunday, Oct. 6 Acoustic Campfire Jam at Christ, Tallahassee

Tuesday, Oct. 8 Noon EDT East District Clergy/DCEs’ lunch at Faith, Tallahassee

Thursday, Oct. 10 7 p.m. EDT “Lest We Forget” benefit concert for FL Panhandle Hurricane Michael recovery, at Faith, Tallahassee

Sunday, Oct. 13 1 p.m. EDT 1st, Tallahassee’s Fall Festival, at Westminster Oaks, Tallahassee, Pool House

Saturday, Oct. 19 11 a.m. EDT Christ, Tallahassee’s Fall Festival in the Pumpkin Patch

Sunday, Oct. 20 Children’s Sabbath

Thursday, Oct. 24 Noon CDT West District Clergy/DCEs’ lunch at 1st, Pensacola

Friday, Oct. 25 – Sunday, Oct. 27 11th Presbyterian Women of Synod of South Atlantic Gathering at Epworth By the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA

Saturday, Oct. 26 2 p.m. EDT East District Elder/Session/Deacon Training at Faith, Tallahassee

Sunday, Oct. 27 Fellowship, Tallahassee, 40th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, Oct. 29 Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting at Fellowship, Tallahassee

Looking ahead

Saturday, Nov. 2 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT 1st, Chipley, Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Sunday, Nov. 3 Daylight Saving Time ends

Sunday, Nov. 3 4 p.m. EST “In Remembrance” ecumenical service-concert, at St. Johns Episcopal Church, Tallahassee

Sunday, Nov. 3 10:30 a.m. CST 1st, Chipley, Kirkin’ o’ the Tartan

Sunday, Nov. 3 2 p.m. CST Central District Elder/Session/Deacon Training at 1st, Lynn Haven

Tuesday, Nov. 12 9:30 a.m. CST Committee on Ministry meeting at Presbytery office

Thursday, Nov. 14 9:30 a.m. CST Coordinating & Planning Commission meeting at Presbytery office

Sunday, Nov. 17 Christ, Tallahassee’s Campfire Jam with The Fried Turkeys

Thursday, Nov. 28 – Friday, Nov. 29 Presbytery office closed for Thanksgiving

Saturday, Nov. 30 9 a.m. CST Hanging of the Green at Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach



**40th Anniversary Celebration
Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Sunday, Oct. 27**

*Worship at 10:30 a.m. EDT
Catered Lunch Following*

3158 Shamrock St. S., Tallahassee