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The Panhandle Presbyterian

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From General Presbyter Roy Martin

After experiencing a delightful old fashion hymn sing at First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven this past Sunday, I am inspired to offer one of my favorite hymns for your consideration. "Be Still, My Soul" was a product of the German Lutheran Pietistic movement in the early 18th Century.

Katharine von Schlegel authored the words. Unfortunately, not a lot is known about her, but it is believed she may have been the canoness of an evangelical women's seminary in Germany. The hymn was translated into English about 100 years later by Jane Borthwick of Edinburgh, Scotland.

The tune is an arrangement of one movement of Jean Sibelius' "Finlandia."

I find great peace in singing this old hymn as it invites us to trust in God in all of life's circumstances. Sometimes in singing a hymn, we get so lost in the tune we lose sight of

the words. Read them below as if for the first time:

Be still my soul – the Lord is on thy side!

Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; Leave to thy God to order and provide –

In every change He faithful will remain.

Be still my soul – thy best, thy heavenly Friend Thru thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still my soul – thy God doth undertake

To guide the future as He has the past;

Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake –

All now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still my soul – the waves and winds still know

His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still my soul – the hour is hast'ning on



The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin

*When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, fear and grief are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still my soul – when change and tears are past,
All safe and blest we shall meet at last.*

May your soul be still until then.

Roy

Need copies of the 2019-2021 Book of Order?

The Presbytery office will place a bulk order for printed copies of the **2019-21 Book of Order**, Part II of the Constitution of the PC(USA).

To place an order through the Presbytery office, please email office@presbyteryofflorida.com **no later than Aug. 20.**

An invoice for the cost will be included with your order when it arrives.

Recent group activities demonstrate our church connectionalism



← 1st, Pensacola, and Gulf Breeze youth take “Urban Plunge”

During the week of June 24 through 28, 30 adults and youth attended a joint trip with First Presbyterian Church of Pensacola and Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church to take the “Urban Plunge”. The trip focused on service projects in the community, including a Pensacola Beach cleanup, visiting senior assisted living centers in Gulf Breeze and Pensacola, ministry to the homeless at Loaves and Fishes shelter, and hurricane relief work at Dogwood Acres.

Students learned about loving God and others with all of their senses. Games, service projects, worship, small group and lessons were incorporated and applied as students crashed overnight at church for the week. All in all, it was an amazing trip. Many thanks to [First, Pensacola, Associate Pastor] John Kubar and the crew at First Presbyterian Church of Pensacola for making it happen.

– Lauren Christian,
Director of Youth Ministry,
Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church

1st, Lynn Haven, partners in hosting Great Giveaway ↓

On July 13, First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven opened its doors to residents of Bay County still recovering from Hurricane Michael in an event called The Great Giveaway. Partnering with members of Hope Presbyterian Church in Winter Haven, FL, along with representatives of Charlotte, NC, Presbyterian Disaster Relief, First Presbyterian was gifted with a 53-foot tractor trailer full of new and like-new household items that were donated by a large national chain store. It was a wonderful event that celebrated our Presbyterian kinship!

With brothers and sisters from Winter Haven and Charlotte, we were blessed to be a visible expression of God's love and care for those around us. Another Great Giveaway is scheduled for early fall when school is back in session.

– Rev. Lisa Martin, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven



Mission team brings love and joy to Grace Presbyterian →

The fruits of the Spirit were in abundance at Grace Presbyterian Church [of Panama City] with the arrival of the mission team from St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in Titusville, FL.

During the week of June 23, 12 young people and seven adult advisors joined forces to do general cleanup and repair for Grace members, as well as the church building. The enthusiasm, love and joy of the Lord was evident in these young people, led by Pastor Jody Noble. A blessing without bounds for Grace !

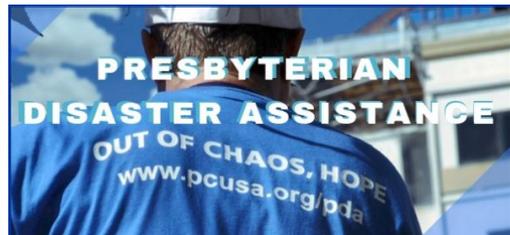
*– Joyce Bright, Ruling Elder,
Grace Presbyterian Church*



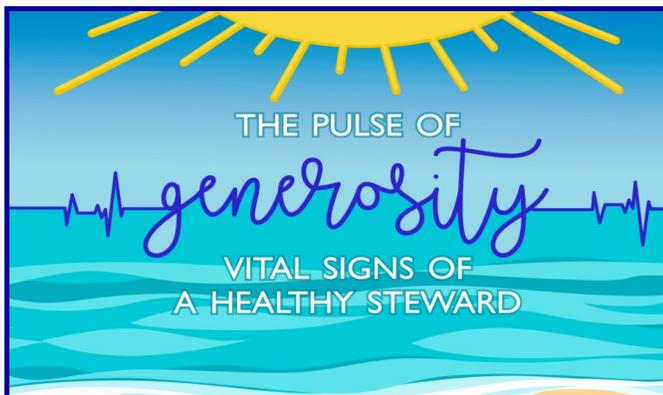
Oklahoma group assists 1st, Chipley, during Florida trip

↓ Students and leaders from Westminster Presbyterian Church, of Oklahoma City, OK, along with Youth Director Jay Seymour, distributed groceries to over 200 families and clothes to over 70 families in the Florida Panhandle during a July mission trip. While in the area, several young ladies in the group spent the day assisting at First Presbyterian of Chipley's Pennies from Heaven thrift shop,

while the young men helped with painting at The Armstrong House, a temporary emergency shelter in Chipley for those in need.



**Learn more and give at
<https://pda.pcusa.org/>**



September 30 – October 2, 2019
San Diego, California
Catamaran Resort

To register and for more information visit:
www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org

From the Committee on Nominations



By
Leslie Yandle,
CN Chair

Applications for delegates to 224th GA still being accepted

The following opportunities to serve as a Presbytery of Florida delegate at the 224th General Assembly, to be held in Baltimore, MD, June 20 – 27, 2020 – less than a year away – are still available:

- Minister of Word and Sacrament
- Ruling Elder
- Young Adult Advisory Delegate
- Alternates for the above positions



The application form is available at www.presbyteryofflorida.com.

Completed applications should be emailed to office@presbyteryofflorida.com no later than Sept. 9, 2019.

Nominees will be presented at the Oct. 29, 2019, presbytery meeting. Delegates' names must be submitted to GA in December 2019.

From the Committee on Ministry

1st Presbyterian of DeFuniak Springs, installs new pastor



A service of installation for Rev. Charles "Chuck" Taber was held at First Presbyterian Church of DeFuniak Springs Sunday, July 14. Shown above, from left, are Rev. Mark Broadhead, Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) Chair and 1st, Crestview, and Laurel Hill Presbyterian Pastor; Rev. Sharon Schuler, Presbytery Moderator and 1st Presbyterian, Fort Walton Beach, Pastor; Rev. Taber; Bill Green, Euchee Valley Presbyterian, DeFuniak Springs, Clerk of Session; Rev. Joan Wooten, COM member and 1st Presbyterian, Pensacola, Parish Associate; Pam Dillon, 1st Presbyterian, DeFuniak Springs Clerk of Session; Becky Rose, Freeport Ruling Elder; and Rev. Dr. Roy Martin, Presbytery of Florida General Presbyter. *(Photo courtesy of Roy Martin)*

The Bible Project: Biblical Learning for the Digital Age

Have you ever been met by a room of blank stares when you make a reference to a Bible character at a youth meeting? Or opened an adult study with a poem and folks not realize it was a Psalm?

The reality for those of us in ministry in the PCUSA is that we work with people who love God, love the church and love their neighbor but don't spend too much time reading or studying the Bible.

We could bemoan the lack of Christian education that happens in homes and the inconsistent attendance of many children, youth and adults to church school or worship that adds to this Biblical illiteracy. Or we can search for resources that ignite an interest in Bible study to multiple generations.

This summer, as we were planning for our church's first ever Confirmation Camp, we knew we had to do some Biblical "catching up" for the youth involved, and we only had a week! We had youth who were basically un-churched. We had youth who were consistently in worship but never in church school, and we had those who came to everything but seemed to primarily

stare at the phone in their lap. What could we use that was biblically based, theologically solid and also attention-grabbing? That's when we found The Bible Project!

The Bible Project is a crowd-funded, non-profit animation studio that produces videos, posters, podcasts and books to make the story of the Bible accessible. The Bible Project helps people understand the epic narrative of the biblical story, the many plots, literary genres, themes and how they are part of a unified story that culminates in the person of Jesus.

The creators of The Bible Project realize that the Bible is a complex book to read and it takes work to understand it. But, once you learn how to read it, the Bible is transformative.

Not only is God's word transformative, but The Bible Project transformed our approach to Confirmation Camp! We were able to watch the overview of the Old Testament (15 minutes) and then have youth begin to recall the stories of Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Joseph and David from their church school classes. (Yes, information was in those



bright minds, we just had to nudge it to the forefront!) We were able to dive deeper into understanding because the videos were informative and engaging. The same was true for the New Testament overview.

The Bible Project has over 130 videos on books of the Bible, themes within the Bible, word studies and seasonal reflections. It also has over 200 podcasts for personal or group study. These are great videos for youth or adults and could be used at church to start a class discussion or at home for individual study. You might also consider using these in an intergenerational forum during the season of Advent or Lent. There are so many possibilities.

In a time when people in our congregations are more on-the-go than ever, offering a podcast that will enrich their understanding of scripture, or a video that might spark a young person to pull out their Bible and read it, is a true treasure.

From the Committee on Educational Resources



By
Christy Williams,
First Presbyterian
Church of
Tallahassee
Director of
Christian Education

From the Committee on Dogwood Acres



*By
Dr. Linda Lovins,
CDWA Chair*

As summer camp wraps up, retreat season begins

Summer camp season at Dogwood Acres is drawing to a close as you read this article, and we thank you for your prayers. After many months of exhausting hurricane recovery work, Director Ben Powell is to be congratulated for pulling the staff and camp programs together under the theme of "Renew." After Hurricane Michael's recent destruction in much of the region, the curriculum offered a helpful, healing opportunity.

Many thanks to Program Director Jason Williams, Administrative Assistant Kathy Powell, Cook Tracy Knee, Assistant Director Hannah Shaffett, and all of the counselors – You've put a good deal of energy into making it possible for our campers to have a great time as



Shown above, Einstein Campers have a great time during a very special week at Dogwood Acres. Grace everywhere! (Photo courtesy of Ben Powell)

they explore their faith in the midst of God's creation. Thank you to all our volunteer chaplains and camp nurses from across the Presbytery – You've been magnificent, and we appreciate your

gracious gifts of time and service!

With summer camp closing, the retreat season begins. If your congregation, family, business, or community organization would like to hold a weekend, weekday, or week-long retreat, please contact Director Ben Powell at 850-528-3575 or bpwoodlands@comcast.net. The calendar will fill fast, so get in touch with him as quickly as possible. In the meantime, watch the Presbytery newsletters and *eUpdates* for information about other gatherings and opportunities at Dogwood Acres.

**Spiritfest 2019
Weekend Retreat
for Grades 6 – 8
is happening at Dogwood Acres
Friday, Oct. 4 – Sunday, Oct. 6**

Featuring keynotes, worship, small groups, recreation, fellowship and fun

www.dogwoodacres.org

The Green New Deal

What climate policy would Jesus choose? Certainly, one that protects his creation and helps the “least of these.” Two major Christian denominations have spoken out in support of the Green New Deal (GND), and Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, a youth organization, has praised what it called the Green New Deal’s “biblical principles.” So, what is this new deal?

The original New Deal was, of course, the set of social and economic reforms and public works projects that President Franklin D. Roosevelt crafted in response to the Great Depression. This New Deal is called “green” to reflect its dual goals of addressing both climate change and economic inequality by the same means.

Currently, the GND is represented by a pair of pending resolutions in Congress – a big, bold transformation of the economy to tackle today’s twin crises of economic inequality and imminent climate change. It would mobilize public resources to help us transition from an economy built on exploitation of fossil fuels to one driven by



dignified work and clean energy. It proposes to:

- transition the country to 100 percent clean energy by 2030;
- foster massive growth in jobs in clean manufacturing;
- work with farmers and ranchers to improve agricultural sustainability;
- invest in infrastructure that supports zero-emission vehicles, public transit systems and high-speed rail;
- eliminate the long-term adverse health and economic effects of pollution from fossil fuel use;
- preserve land and plant trees;
- clean up hazardous waste; and
- promote the sharing of ideas and innovations with other countries.

At this point, the Green New Deal is a set of nonbinding Congressional resolutions – more a compilation of ideas than even a proposal. It must

be implemented by legislation that is not yet crafted. It is, however, realistically designed.

Its goal of transitioning the country to 100 percent clean energy by 2030 is entirely realistic. It is supported by sound science, and is the kind of ambitious goal that the climate crisis demands. Moreover, its goal of helping “the least of these” through the tough and costly transition to clean energy is a feature that Jesus would most definitely like. If you are thinking that it will be expensive, you are right – but the monstrous costs of ignoring climate change are unimaginably more disastrous and would cripple our economy.

So far, the Green New Deal is one of two major proposed national solutions that address the climate crisis. The other is the proposed Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation, which I will explain in the next column. Given how life-threatening and irreversible our situation is, I am grateful for the leadership that recognizes the crisis we are in and offers a way forward.

Caring for Creation Notes



By
Pam McVety,
*Presbytery
Stewardship
of Creation
Enabler*

“...helping ‘the least of these’ through the tough and costly transition to clean energy is a feature that Jesus would most definitely like.”

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The Panhandle Presbyterian

Save the date:

In August

- Thursday, Aug. 1* Early Bird Registration Discount Deadlines for Stewardship Kaleidoscope (Sept. 29 – Oct. 2) and Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network National Conference (Oct. 15 – 18)
- Thursday, Aug. 1–
Saturday, Aug. 3* Big Tent 2019, Baltimore, MD
- Saturday, Aug. 3* Dogwood Acres Summer Camp season ends
- Wednesday, Aug. 7
10 a.m. CDT* Committee on Mission and Outreach meeting at Presbytery office
- Wednesday, Aug. 7–
Saturday, Aug. 10* Administrative Personnel Association Southeast Region Conference, Marriott Pompano Beach Resort & Spa
- Saturday, Aug. 10
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. CDT* 1st Presbyterian Church of Fort Walton Beach Rummage Sale
- Wednesday, Aug. 14
6:45 p.m. CDT* Jazz for the Soul, at Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach
- Saturday, Aug. 17
9:30 a.m. CDT* Committee on Preparation for Ministry meeting at Presbytery office
- Monday, Aug. 19
11 a.m. CDT* Committee on Presbytery Administration meeting at Presbytery Office
- Monday, Aug. 19 –
Wednesday, Aug. 21* “Life is More” Board of Pensions/ Presbyterian Foundation-sponsored well-being retreat, Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, NC
- Tuesday, Aug. 20* Submissions deadline for the September *Panhandle Presbyterian*
- Tuesday, Aug. 20* Deadline for ordering 2019-2021 Book of Order through the Presbytery office
- Thursday, Aug. 22
8 – 11 p.m. EDT* Welcome Week Open Mic at Calvin’s Coffee House, Tallahassee
- Saturday, Aug. 24* Committee on Dogwood Acres meeting

Looking ahead

- Monday, Sept. 2* Labor Day – Presbytery office closed
- Thursday, Sept. 5
9 a.m. CDT* Personnel Team/Committee on Dogwood Acres meeting
- Sunday, Sept. 8 –
Saturday, Sept. 14* Christian Education Week
- Wednesday, Sept. 11
6:45 p.m. CDT* Jazz for the Soul, at Gulf Beach, Panama City Beach
- Thursday, Sept. 19
9 a.m. CDT* Coordinating and Planning Commission meeting at Presbytery office
- Sunday, Sept. 29
7 – 9 p.m. CDT* 1st, Chipley, hosting Southern Gospel singer Ivan Parker
- Sunday, Sept. 29 –
Wednesday, Oct. 2* Stewardship Kaleidoscope, Catamaran Resort, San Diego, CA
- Friday, Sept. 20* Submissions deadline for the October *Panhandle Presbyterian*
- Sunday, Oct. 6* *World Communion Sunday*
- Friday, Oct. 4 –
Sunday, Oct. 6* Spiritfest Retreat for grades 6 – 8, Dogwood Acres
- Tuesday, Oct. 15 –
Wednesday, Oct. 16* Board of Pensions’ *Growing Into Tomorrow ... Today* pre-retirement planning seminar, Columbia Seminary, Decatur, GA
- Tuesday, Oct. 15 –
Friday, Oct. 18* Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network National Conference, Laws Lodge, Louisville Seminary, Louisville, KY
- Sunday, Oct. 20* Children’s Sabbath
- Wednesday, Oct. 22
– Friday, Oct. 25* Administrative Personnel Association of the PC(USA) National Conference, Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC
- Sunday, Oct. 27* Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, 40th Anniversary Celebration
- Tuesday, Oct. 29* Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting, Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee