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The Panhandle Presbyterian

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From General Presbyter Roy Martin

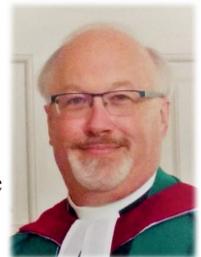
Next to Christmas, Easter probably has more customs and symbols surrounding it than any other religious holiday. Various customs, traditions, and symbols have been devised throughout the centuries to make the meaning of Easter more vivid for those who, physically, never got to the empty tomb. New clothes illustrate the new life that came to the crucified savior and, through him, to us. Eggs, dyed and ornamented or, as Faberge' made them for the Russian Czar, enameled and bejeweled,

offer the same hope-filled message of new life ready to break forth.

As cruel a symbol as is the cross, it is the one that Christians cannot do without. It stands as a vivid reminder to us of the price that was paid for our salvation. We learn from it that there is no crown without the cross. White lilies have become another symbol and tradition for us of the hope for new life in the resurrection. All of these symbols and customs can be very helpful in making real for us the true meaning of Easter, as long as we remember that it is not the symbols we

worship, but what the symbols represent. I encourage you to surround yourself with the symbols of Easter. During Holy Week, I hope that you have allowed yourself to walk the road which leads to the cross, and then experience fully the joy of new life with Christ on Easter!

Roy



The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



Save the date!
**SPRING STATED
PRESBYTERY MEETING**
Tuesday, May 18
**9 a.m. CDT/
10 a.m. EDT**

Look for meeting details,
dockets and documents
on our website at
[http://
www.presbyteryofflorida.net/
presbytery-meetings/meeting
-dockets-documents/](http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-meetings/meeting-dockets-documents/)

From our Stated Clerk



*By Jeannie Dixon,
Fellowship,
Tallahassee,
Ruling Elder*

Update on commissioners to presbytery for 2021

This information is updated from the presbytery meeting in February and the March newsletter.

Commissioners to Presbytery for 2021

Article III of the By-Laws of the Presbytery of Florida provide for one ruling elder commissioner from each congregation. Churches with membership above 500 are entitled to additional commissioners.

Our number of congregations is currently at 37. We have four congregations with membership between 501-1000 who are entitled to two ruling elder commissioners: Pensacola, First; Pensacola, Trinity; Quincy, First; Tallahassee, Faith.

This will provide for 41 ruling elder commissioners.

Article III further states: *...each ruling elder elected moderator or other officer of the presbytery, each ruling elder elected as a member of the leadership team of presbytery or as chairperson of the nominating committee, and each ruling elder elected as coordinating presbyter or associate presbyter (when applicable) and exempt staff (when applicable) shall be enrolled as a member of presbytery for*

the term of his or her office, whether or not commissioned by his or her session.

The ruling elders for 2021 service that would be included in this count are Roseanna Phillips, Leslie Yandle, Don Mowat, Denise Vandiver (treasurer), Jeannie Dixon (Stated Clerk), Ben Powell (Director Dogwood Acres). There are five Commissioned Ruling Elders serving congregations.

That gives a total of 52 ruling elders.

The following Christian Educators meet the provisions outlined in the By-Laws (Article IV, #5) to have voice and vote at Presbytery Meetings (certified Christian Educators who are also ruling elders, or Christian Educators who have five or more years paid church related Christian Education experience and also ruling elder):

Jeannie Dixon – Fellowship Presbyterian, Tallahassee (CCE and RE)

Carol Deloach – Christ Presbyterian, Tallahassee (5+ years and RE)

Shannon Guse – Faith Presbyterian, Tallahassee (5+ years and RE)

Lisa Wilder – First Presbyterian, Quincy (5+ years and RE)

That gives an additional three RE (excluding Jeannie Dixon who is also Stated Clerk) for a total of 55 ruling elders.

The number of ministers of Word and Sacrament is 28 plus eight ministers serving at -large plus one from another tradition enrolled as members.

There are 43 retired ministers of Word and Sacrament; 12 are active.

This results in 49 ministers of Word and Sacrament; there is no imbalance of ministers of Word and Sacrament to ruling elders.



Free Concert
the
reunion
band

APRIL 11
4PM

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3400 BAYOU BLVD., PENSACOLA

Covenant agreement provides for improved disaster response

In its Winter Stated Meeting held on February 23, the Presbytery of Florida, acting on a motion brought to the floor from the Committee on Mission and Outreach, approved a covenant agreement officially establishing a partnership among Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN),

and the six presbyteries in Florida. This two-year Covenant Agreement formalizes already-established relationships between the presbyteries, FLAPDAN, and PDA and is designed to create a mutually beneficial collaboration for improved emergency disaster preparation and response.

With PDA in the partnership, FLAPDAN and the presbyteries realize improved

collaboration at the national level and better access to the full resources of PDA. The covenant agreement results in its members being better prepared for and more able to react to emergencies and disasters throughout the state. You can find the agreement on the Presbytery's website at www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-committees/mission-outreach/

Each of us as members of the Presbytery of Florida have responsibilities to the covenant agreement. This includes ongoing stewardship support to FLAPDAN and PDA through our budgets and other special giving opportunities, continued promotion of disaster preparation and response throughout the presbytery, and active involvement in FLAPDAN's missions and work.

There are opportunities both large and small in disaster preparation and response for the presbytery and FLAPDAN. Should you find yourself being called to become more involved, contact me at tcrawford@cox.net or the presbytery office at office@presbyteryofflorida.com for more information.

From the Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)



By *Tim Crawford*,
CMO FLAPDAN
Liaison and
1st, Crestview Elder

SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC SAVE THE DATE



THE REVEREND TOD BOLSINGER
Pastors and church leaders of the *Synod of South Atlantic* are invited to participate in an upcoming Church Leaders' Forum:

Leading the Church into the Post-COVID World

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Eastern time 3:00 - 4:30 pm via ZOOM

Presenter: Tod Bolsinger (M.Div., PhD), Associate Professor of Leadership Formation at Fuller Theological Seminary and author of *Canoeing the Mountains* and *Tempered Resilience*.

Contact lisa@syndsa.org for information.

From the Committee on Congregational Revitalization



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

Revitalization Toolbox offers resources for congregations

The Committee on Congregational Revitalization is happy to share with the presbytery a listing of resources that congregations may find helpful as they contemplate or go through revitalization. Appropriately titled Revitalization Toolbox, this listing implies that there are tools that need to be used skillfully in order for the best result to be realized. Some of these tools are books, others are online videos, podcasts, and organizations that offer



their own consultants for congregational use. Find the Toolbox on the Presbytery's website at <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-committees/congregational-revitalization/>

The pandemic has caused many, if not all, congregations to reassess their ministry plans and ways of being the church in the

neighborhood. CCR knows this has been difficult for everyone involved. If your session or congregation desires to have conversation with a member of CCR about options for healthy revitalization moving forward, please contact me at revlwmartin@gmail.com! Revitalization is about relationships; we are in this together as the body of Christ in northwest Florida!

Happy Eastertide!



CELEBRATING LONGEVITY

• AROUND THE WORLD •

APRIL 22 | APRIL 27 | MAY 7

POAMN is offering 3 free webinars!

You will need to register for each session separately.
Connection information will be sent to you in your registration confirmation email.

Learn more & register at poamn.org

The Circle of Life

April 22 @ 7 - 8 pm EDT

In our culture we view life's journey as a circle. There are four stages in our life's journey, as there are four seasons, four directions. The circle of life is referred to as medicine wheel, in that are many teaching for a good long life.

Older Adults of Hispanic Heritage, April 27 @ 3-4 pm EDT

Rev. Rosario will share some of the challenges that older adults of Hispanic heritage and others face within the cultural realities of adapting to life in our world.

Korean Milestone Birthdays, Immigrants and Korean-American Church, May 7 @ 12-1 pm EDT

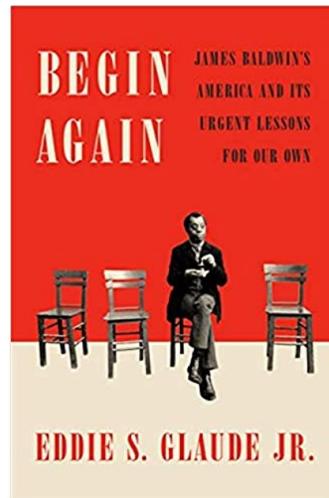
Koreans celebrate longevity with throwing big parties for older adults Session will show how Korean-Americans inherit the tradition in the context of immigrant communities and what the immigrant churches contribute to empowering older adults spiritually in their life stage.

POAMN

Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network

Book Review: *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*, by Eddie S Glaude, Jr. (Crown: New York), 2020

You have seen him respond to pundits on TV -- now read in-depth reflections of Dr. Eddie Glaude of Princeton University on our nation's racial crisis through the lens of the life and writings of James Baldwin. He notes that *Begin Again* is not a biography; it is not literary criticism; it is not straightforward history, but "some combination of all three in an effort to say something meaningful about our current times." He asks us to face honestly what is happening in our country seeing the connection between slavery, Jim Crow segregation, the violence of lynching, mass incarceration, and today's white backlash. Glaude moves from the hopeful prophetic



voice of Baldwin's early writings through his despair as the civil rights movement collapsed to his affirmation of faith in a new beginning. Finally, he asserts that the time is ripe to begin again.

The lie that black people are essentially inferior to white people is laid bare as is the contradiction between America's commitments

to freedom and democracy and her practices of slavery and white supremacy.

Stating that there can be no reconciliation without truth, Glaude calls for a mechanism through something like a truth and reconciliation commission to confront the lie and move toward equity. He concludes that our task is not to demonize anyone, but to make America new. That "involves telling ourselves the truth about what we have done, ... implementing policies that remedy generations of inequities based on the lie...., centering a set of values that holds every human being sacred." Or, as Baldwin stated, "Salvation... is accepting and reciprocating the love of God."

**From
"I Stand With
You" Racism
Task Force**



*By Rev. Harvey
Jenkins, HR*

Online this year — and FREE!

May 17 - 21, 2021

**Festival of
HOMILETICS**

**The 2021 Festival features all the learning and interaction you love — online.
Learn more and register at <https://www.festivalofhomiletics.com>**

From the Committee on Dogwood Acres



*By Ben Powell,
DWA Director
and 1st, Quincy
Ruling Elder*

“Bubble Camp” and April 18 “DWA Sunday” planned

Summer Camp registration is open and is an easy process that can be found on the Dogwood Acres website (dogwoodacres.org). We are planning on a great summer despite having to navigate through these challenging times.

The new concept is called “Bubble Camp” that allows a safer way for us to gather this summer. Cabins will be available for use by a “Bubble.” A Bubble, along with their chaperone, is a group of campers that are used to being together on a regular basis. Think, a group, or maybe several groups, from a particular church, or other groups of a close-knit kids.

A more leisurely but fun-filled summer awaits you as we help with the traditional aspects of Dogwood Summer Camp, but there will also be new programming that will be easy to oversee, such as frisbee golf, lighted night-time volleyball, tent camping, horseshoes, ukulele lessons, new games, new and varied crafts, outdoor skills, or simply extra leisure time. And we promise to make the faith-based activities, led by the chaplain, fun and encouraging. So put your Bubble together and join us this summer as we help you build

your own adventure and make memories that will last for years to come!

Our presbytery has deemed Sunday, April 18 as ***Dogwood Acres Sunday!*** Information has been sent to each church with suggestions on how to incorporate the theme into your church service, complete with a short video telling a little about Dogwood and the experiences people have had at your Retreat Center and Summer Camp. We hope what

we have provided helps, but please feel free to be innovative and describe your own experience or desires of the outdoor ministry we all call “Dogwood.”

For further information about Summer Camp or DWA Sunday, please call me at 850-528-3575 or email ben@dogwoodacres.org.

**LAUREL HILL
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Festival**

ARTS, CRAFTS, MUSIC!

SAT., APRIL 24, 11am-3pm • FREE!

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THE LAUREL HILL AND CRESTVIEW
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES AND
THE FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

*Social distancing
will be practiced*

*For info, call
850-682-2835*

Remembering a Presbyterian saint, friend and mentor

You didn't know him and probably never heard of him. His name is John Topping, Jr. and he died in March. His family called him a phenomenal father, friend and global citizen. I was honored to call him a friend and mentor. He is a Presbyterian saint.

I first met John when he was selected to be a member of the Presbyterian task force to update the denomination's energy policy that I was moderating. At the time, I had no idea what a global citizen he was and only knew that he was a former EPA attorney under the Reagan administration and was the founder of the Climate Institute in Washington, DC.

He was a Dartmouth graduate and Yale educated attorney. He served as the editor of portions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's First Assessment Report about the impacts of climate change on human settlement, industry, transport, energy, human health and air quality. He was one of the many unnamed people whose work resulted in the award of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize to the IPCC.

He also is the editor of two volumes on climate change: *Preparing for Climate Change* (1988) and *Coping with Climate Change* (1989) and co-editor of *Sudden and Disruptive Climate Change: Exploring the Real Risks and How We*



John Topping, Jr.

Can Avoid Them (2008).

His modest obituary fails to mention his pioneering work to save the ozone layer. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is a landmark international agreement that has successfully saved the ozone layer. It also doesn't say much about all the important work that the Climate Institute has done.

When the energy task force was concluding its work, I asked each member to recommend a single action that all Presbyterians could take to effectively address the climate crisis. I asked because Presbyterian committees have a history of writing long tomes with lots of recommendations that nobody ever looks at again. The task force selected John's suggestion that we all go carbon neutral. It was presented by our Presbytery's commissioner, Bob Crabtree, to the 2006 General Assembly as a Commissioner's Resolution "*Calling All Presbyterians to Take Positive and Immediate Steps to Live Carbon Neutral Lives to Alleviate The Devastating Effects of*

Climate Change on God's Creation" and passed. Presbyterians are the first major denomination in the world to ask all its members to go carbon neutral.

John received the William Gibson Award for Lifetime Commitment to Environmental Justice in 2007 in part for his work with the task force. I had the honor of presenting the award to him.

John was friends of world leaders, leading climate scientists, movers and shakers in our government and ordinary folks. He always put everybody on a pedestal and made them feel like they were making a difference in the struggle to address the climate crisis. I could reach out to him with any question or problem and he had a suggestion, which was always followed by a long explanation of the latest project that the Climate Institute was doing to address the climate crisis.

One of his friends said, that he was "self-effacing to a fault. He embodied the Christian concept of *agape* – selfless love that seeks only the betterment of others." This is the John I knew and came to love.

I miss John. You just can't replace some people in your life, and John is one of them. He by all measures is a Presbyterian Saint, who has found eternal peace.

I imagine that he is now advising God what he should be doing to address the climate crisis.

Caring for Creation Notes



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

*"You just can't
replace some people
in your life,
and John is one
of them."*

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The Panhandle Presbyterian

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

A Book Discussion OVER ZOOM @ LUNCH TIME

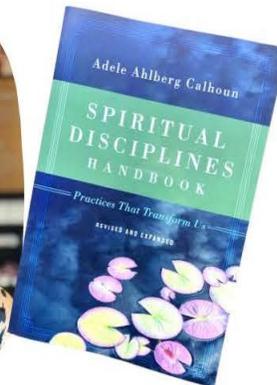
ONE HOUR NOON-1PM
ONCE A WEEK ON THURSDAYS
FOR ONE MONTH APRIL 8, 15, 22 & 29



Make time in your busy day to learn and grow!

We want to feel more fulfilled, purposeful, at peace, loved, and close to God. Spiritual practices are the way we make these a reality in our lives. They make space in our lives for God, and make space for God to work through us. For our study, we'll be going through the spiritual practices outlined in Adele Calhoun's *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*. It is highly recommended that you get a copy for yourself as you join along.

Catherine Quiring will be our facilitator. "My goal for this study is for you to become familiar with the spiritual practices, try out several of them, and decide which ones you most need in this season of your life. Let's grow together."



Pensacola native, Catherine Quiring, is a mental health counselor who loves helping people heal and grow. She is married to Rev. Robert Thomas Quiring, who started as Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Pensacola in July of 2017. Catherine loves the outdoors, yoga, and most of all, spending time with her daughter and newborn son. She always has a book going and is also always looking for new adventures.

To register and get the Zoom link, email Catherine at the address below.



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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