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# The Panhandle Presbyterian

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## From General Presbyter Roy Martin

I have more than a few books. Okay, I have a lot of books. My wife says I have way too many books. She is right about that, but I just can't bring myself to dispose of any of them. Some are classic theological works like Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, and some are classical biblical commentaries like George Adam Smith's *The Book of the Twelve Prophets*. I am not getting rid of those; somebody will get them in my will.

Then there are multi-volume Bible dictionaries and commentaries. You never know when they might come in handy, so they're not going anywhere. I have several books given to me over the years, too. I can't get rid of those; suppose the person who gave me one of them stops by for a visit and asks if I still have it?

I have books from my days as a camp director and books from my work toward certification in church business administration. I have books from my college days; they bring back fond memories. I have history books, sociology books, psychology books, and books of fiction. I even have a book with the entire script of Abbott and Costello's "Who's On First" sketch. Abbott is my middle name, so I can't get rid of that one, either!

I have boxed and moved all of these books every time I've received a new call. Many of them have travelled to and from Florida several times! I never let the movers take them; no telling what might happen to them. No, I've loaded them in the car or rented a U-Haul and transported them myself, for 38 years.

I've sold some of my

furniture (even antique furniture), and given clothes, electronics, and other items too numerous to mention to

Goodwill. But my books stay. Why? Well, because there is something honorable about a book. Someone spent hours, months, even years in study and research and thought, and finally, putting pen to paper in the hope that others might find information they did not possess, joy they may be lacking, or insight that challenged conventional thinking. And the books I have purchased over the years reflect my interests and have enlightened my path.

Get rid of them? No, I don't think so. Well, maybe Janson's *History of Art*. I never liked that college course.

Happy summer reading everyone!

Roy



**The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin**

*Save the date!*  
**Summer Stated  
Presbytery Meeting  
Tuesday, August 3**  
1st Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven  
Meeting at 9 a.m. CDT/10 a.m. EDT  
Registration at 8 a.m. CDT/9 a.m. EDT  
<http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-meetings/>

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WEEK 2: JULY 18TH - JULY 22ND  
WEEK 3: JULY 25TH - JULY 29TH



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Ben Powell (850) 528-3575



## From the Committee on Congregational Revitalization



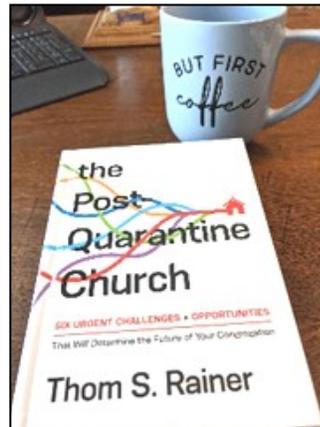
*By Rev. Lisa Martin,  
Chair, and  
1st, Lynn Haven Pastor*

## CCR recommends *The Post Quarantine Church*

The Committee on Congregational Revitalization enters the summer months with enthusiasm for our partnership with several congregations that are engaging in CCR's revitalization process! Our trained consultants are at work helping congregations grow in understanding of their place in community and their health as a community of faith.

We all know the pandemic turned life inside-out and upside-down for our congregations. To say it has been a challenging experience is perhaps the understatement of a lifetime. We did our best, which was good for most people but not enough for others.

Congregations have



lost members because of mask requirements and other hotly-politicized aspects of Covid-19. Add to the mix racial trauma and inequalities, and systemic financial difficulties, and, well, we're all exhausted.

To help us help others, CCR is studying Thom Rainer's new book: *The Post Quarantine Church: Six Urgent Challenges +*

*Opportunities*. This is a short book that packs a powerful punch! It is being hailed nationwide as a valuable resource for congregations coming out of the pandemic. Congregations like yours, perhaps.

Your session might want to check this book out! You can find it on Amazon or ask your local bookseller to order it for you!

Using the tools of MissionInsite and Holy Cow! Consulting, we who serve on CCR are confident that our revitalization process can bless congregations who want to dig a little deeper into the well of knowledge about themselves and who their neighbors are. Contact me (revlwmartin@gmail.com) if you'd like to learn more!



Stewardship  
**Kaleidoscope**  
Real Tools for Real Ministry

[StewardshipKaleidoscope.org](http://StewardshipKaleidoscope.org)

September

13-15

2021

This annual conference offers education, worship, and amazing opportunities for growth in stewardship and generosity. Over two dozen workshops available to in-person attendees.

We will be in person in Cincinnati, OH, and online for a virtual experience.

## Meet Environmental Justice Hero Sharon Lavigne

**M**y childhood hero was Superman. He could bend steel and jump over buildings and fought for truth, justice and the American way. It was him against the bad guys, and he always won. He was easily recognizable with his blue and red skin-tight body suit with the large “S” over his chest.

Meet a hero who doesn’t wear a colorful suit and can’t bend steel with her bare hands, but is mighty. She is a grandmother and a schoolteacher from Louisiana – Sharon Lavigne. She is fighting to stop petrochemical plants from building in her community, St. James Parish, where there are already 32 plants.

You have heard this story before. It is the story of David and Goliath. David did the seemingly impossible by taking down a giant with a single well aimed stone. Sharon’s fight is a whole lot harder and longer, because there is more than one Goliath in her world.

Her world is the same one I wrote about in Latricia’s story – Cancer Alley, the infamous 85-mile corridor along the Mississippi River that is home to some 150 petrochemical plants and oil refineries. Residents living in this area are largely black and have a higher cancer risk than

most Americans. As in Latricia’s story, the “hard to prove” effects of chemical releases from these plants are personal.

Sharon has autoimmune hepatitis and knows at least 30 people who have died from cancer in the last five years.

A Chinese company announced plans in 2018 to build a 250-acre chemical complex in her parish. It was reported that the plant would generate as much as one million pounds of liquid hazardous waste annually and, as we all know, those chemicals, in spite of government regulations and the company’s best intentions, find their way out of the plant, into the surrounding environment and into the residents’ bodies.

This plant has abandoned its plans to build in her community because of the opposition, but her work is not over. In 2019, she organized the community against a new plastics factory. One of the conditions of the local approval was that the company provide free cancer screenings.

If the plant is so safe, why do you need free cancer screenings?



## Caring for Creation Notes



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

In June, she was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize, dubbed the “Green Nobel”, for her work as a grassroots environmentalist. She is the founder of the faith-based group “RISE St. James”, which advocates for racial and environmental justice. She is standing up to powerful industries that are backed by her own local government. They wanted one company so badly that they offered it a 10-year exemption from property taxes and expedited their permit.

I don’t know Sharon, but she is a hero who has done the seemingly impossible. She is standing up to some of the most powerful industries in the world that are supported by her own local government. Bravo, Sharon!

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

*“... Sharon ...has done the seemingly impossible. She is standing up to some of the most powerful industries in the world that are supported by her own local government.”*

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The Panhandle Presbyterian

Save the date (or visit <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/events-calendars/>)

<b>In July</b>		<b>Looking ahead</b>	
Sunday, July 4	Independence Day	Tuesday, August 3 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT	Summer Stated Presbytery Meeting, 1st, Lynn Haven
Monday, July 5	Presbytery office closed for Independence Day	Registration at 8 a.m. CDT/ 9 a.m. EDT	
Tuesday, July 6 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)	Sunday, August 8	College and Young Adult Sunday
Thursday, July 8 1:30 p.m. CDT/ 2:30 p.m. EDT	Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)	Tuesday, August 10 2 p.m. CDT/ 3 p.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Thursday, July 8 4 p.m. CDT/ 5 p.m. EDT	Committee on Nominations (CN)	Wednesday, August 11 12 p.m. CDT/ 1 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Sunday, July 11– Thursday, July 15	Dogwood Acres "Bubble Camp" Week 1	Tuesday, August 17 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)
Monday, July 12 12 p.m. CDT/ 1 p.m. EDT	Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA)	Wednesday, August 21	Presbyterian Giving Catalog Summer Concert with the Mission Musicians, via YouTube
Tuesday, July 13 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Ministry (COM)	Wednesday, August 25 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	"I Stand with You" Task Force
Wednesday, July 14 12 p.m. CDT/ 1 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)	Monday, September 6	Labor Day -- Presbytery office closed
Wednesday, July 14 6 p.m. CDT/ 7 p.m. EDT	OGA "Parliamentary Procedure for Leaders" webinar for ruling elders and deacons	Tuesday, September 7 2 p.m. CDT/ 3 p.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Thursday, July 15 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC)	Wednesday, September 8 12 p.m. CDT/ 1 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Sunday, July 18 – Thursday, July 22	Dogwood Acres "Bubble Camp" Week 2	Thursday, September 9 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC)
Tuesday, July 20 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)	Monday, September 13 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA)
Wednesday, July 21	Presbyterian Giving Catalog Summer Concert with the Stillman College Choir, via YouTube	Monday, September 13 -- Wednesday, September 15	Stewardship Kaleidoscope, Cincinnati, OH/online
Thursday, July 22 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)		
Sunday, July 25 – Thursday, July 29	Dogwood Acres "Bubble Camp" Week 3		