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The Panhandle Presbyterian

A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida



Volume 6, Issue 5

May 2023

From General Presbyter Roy Martin

On May 24th, Lisa and I will be taking an extended vacation to Great Britain. This is a trip we have been looking forward to for some time, as we both have family ancestry there and because we want to experience worship with our reformed sisters and brothers in the Church of Scotland and The United Reformed Church.

But, mostly, we are just looking forward to a bit of rest. Ordinarily, we would spread out our

vacation time and study leave time over the course of the year, but we felt this lengthier immersion into a different location would be more restorative.



The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin

We will be spending two and a half weeks in the Yorkshire area of north England and two and a half weeks near Stirling, Scotland. From those points, we look forward to

visiting villages, do a little antiquing and sightseeing, and as I said, rest. We will be back home July 3rd.

I am a big believer in clergy taking time away to breathe, renew, and recharge. We simply cannot “be there” for others if are not “there” for ourselves. Dr. Elizabeth Scott, in an article entitled, “How to Take a Break from Work (and Why You Need To),” writes, “Whether you plan a vacation, a staycation, or a playcation, it’s important to take a break from your job, your routine, and the demands of life in order to keep stress levels in check.”

To our clergy members, I encourage you take time for yourself. To our congregations and sessions, I hope you are encouraging your pastor, educator, and other staff to take some time away. I am grateful to the presbytery for allowing me to do so.

Roy



We are there

The Pentecost Offering helps our youth build a solid foundation of faith to last a lifetime.

PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

MATTHEW 25
April 10–May 28, 2023

Gulf Breeze
Presbyterian's

SHOWIN' UP FOR THE YOUTH



SHININ' FOR THE LORD

Join us for a Car & Motorcycle Show

May 6th , 9am - 2pm

TICKETS
PRE REGISTRATION
BEFORE MAY 1ST: \$15
DAY OF: \$20

GIFT BAG
FOR FIRST
20 ENTRIES

- Classes:
- Best of Show
 - Top Motorcycle
 - Youth Choice
 - Top 1979 & Older
 - Top 1980 & Newer

Family Friendly, Food, Games,
Drawings & Great Cars!

*all proceeds to benefit youth ministry of G.B.P.C

100 Andrew Jackson Trail
Sign up @ GBPRESBYTERIAN.ORG

Dogwood Acres



A week full of games, going off-site to canoe, finding new paths to hike, and talking about how our faith informs our life.

But doing it all on OUR OWN schedule!

High School Week

June 25th-30th
9th-12th grade
Scholarships available



Register today at dogwoodacres.org/summer

Committee renamed to more closely match mission

At the February meeting of the Presbytery, the Committee on Congregational Revitalization recommended that the name of this committee be changed from Committee on Congregational Revitalization to Committee on Congregational Discernment. The reason for this was to provide a more descriptive name for what the committee actually does and provides.

Under the previous structure of the Presbytery, this committee was tasked to promote congregational renewal by providing helpful programmatic and ministry ideas. The assigned function since restructuring has taken a different focus. Rather than being prescriptive in its assistance, the focus has become descriptive; that is, the committee now engages congregations first in a discernment process that helps congregations discover who they are, their strengths and challenges.

This is the foundational work of this committee. The discernment process reveals the degree of health and vitality of the congregation, addressing if the congregation is able to truly gain from the revitalization process or if the congregation needs to face a different reality – like its dwindling ability to sustain itself and its ministries.

The concern with using “revitalization” as part of the committee’s name is because it may promote a false sense of hope in congregations where revitalization may not be feasible.

By naming this committee the Committee on Congregational Discernment, it better describes what the committee offers – insights to the congregation’s viability, its strengths and weaknesses, and then explores next steps to move toward what was discerned – revitalization, or the eventual ending of the congregation’s ministry.

And this is work is not only for congregations that are facing difficult challenges. It is also available to those congregations that are moving forward in healthy ways and simply need a bit of assistance in discerning which steps to take next.

Feel free to contact me at minister@fpc-crestview.org to begin the discernment process.

From the Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD)



By Rev. Mark Broadhead, Chair, and 1st, Crestview/Laurel Hill Pastor

SAVE THE DATE

UKIRK
TALLAHASSEE

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND UKIRK'S
ANNUAL MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE

23 | May | 2023

6:00 - 7:30 pm

548 W. Park Ave. Tallahassee, FL 32301

From the Committee on Educational Resources (CER)



PRESBYTERIANS ORGANIZED IN
Nurture & Teaching

*By Rev. Erin Rosica,
CER member and
minister member
at large*

CER shares curriculum resources for all ages

Have you ever wondered where to find the latest curriculum and Bible study resources? Whether you need VBS curricula, sermon ideas, Bible studies, or resources for Advent and Lent, PC (USA) offers a ton of resources. The key is knowing where to look, or at least where to start. This article hopes to point you to a few of those useful sources.

► Presbyterians Organized in Nurture & Teaching, aka POINT, aims to provide information on a broad range of children, youth, adult and intergenerational ministry resources.

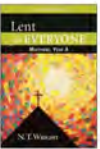
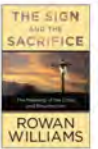




► POINT offers a resource library and a monthly newsletter. To stay in the loop for seasonal programming, [sign up for the POINT monthly newsletter here.](#)

► For quick access to the [POINT Resource Library](#), bookmark this webpage to review the latest devotional, educational and preaching guides.

► Click here to find the [2023 Lent Resource Guide](#) for preaching, devotion and education.

► The Office of Christian Formation offers several [Quicksheets and Resources for Theology, Formation & Evangelism](#). These are 2-3 page PDFs full of ministry ideas and

BOOKS FOR STUDY & DEVOTION

					
Lent for Everyone: Matthew, Year A, A Daily Devotional N. T. Wright	The Sign and the Sacrifice: The Meaning of the Cross and Resurrection Rowan Williams	The Journey to Jerusalem: A Story of Jesus' Last Days John Prechard	40 Days, 40 Prayers, 40 Words: Lenten Reflections for Everyday Life Bruce Reyes-Chow	Interrupting Silence: God's Call to Speak Out Walter Brueggemann	A Way Other Than Our Own Decisions for Lent Walter Brueggemann
IDEAL FOR: • Adult Lenten study • Personal devotion • Preaching Material • Meetings & Other Settings	IDEAL FOR: • Adult Group Study • Devotional, Personal Devotion • Preaching	IDEAL FOR: • Adult Lenten Study • Personal Devotion • Preaching • Creating Sermon Series	IDEAL FOR: • Personal Devotion • Preaching • Meetings & Other Settings	IDEAL FOR: • Adult Lenten Study • Personal Devotion • Preaching • Meetings & Other Settings	IDEAL FOR: • Personal Devotion • Preaching • Meetings & Other Settings
\$20.00 \$13.00	\$18.00 \$11.70	\$18.00 \$11.70	\$17.00 \$11.05	\$17.00 \$11.05	\$16.00 \$10.40
Lent for Everyone: Matthew: Year A provides readers with an inspirational guide through the Lenten season, from Ash Wednesday through the week after Easter. Wright provides his own vibrant translation, a brief reflection, and a prayer for each day of the season. Suitable for both adult school and group study and reflection.	Rowan Williams presents the Gospel accounts of Jesus' passion and resurrection as viewed through the eyes of those who witnessed them. The sign and the sacrifice requires the significance of Christ's resurrection, discussing what these events meant to those followers in the early years and what they mean to us today. Questions for discussion included.	In this imaginative retelling, John Prechard explores the Gospel of Luke by looking through the eyes of the disciples. Perfect for individual or group study, The Journey to Jerusalem provides wonderful readings for Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, along with a poem for each Saturday. Questions for reflection and discussion are also included.	In 40 Days, 40 Prayers, 40 Words, Bruce Chow's message resides in quiet in the battle of their daily lives. Forty devotions are each featured around a word inspired by the daily lectionary readings and include a short scriptural passage, prayer, and reflection.	Interrupting Silence: Brueggemann reminds that the Bible is filled with stories of marginalized people break oppressive silence and speak out. Brueggemann reminds us that in those times when they need to interrupt silence to act for justice. The Women explored through eight chapters are a unique Lenten study experience. Questions for discussion included for each chapter.	Lent recalls Jesus' act of self-sacrifice and suffering. Despite our culture of self-indulgence, we too are called to walk an alternative path—one of humility, service, and peace. Brueggemann's thought-provoking reflections for the season of Lent invite us to consider the challenging, beautiful life that comes with walking the way of grace.
ISBN: 9780664238953	ISBN: 9780664262648	ISBN: 9780664262653	ISBN: 9780664261894	ISBN: 9780664261551	ISBN: 9780664261696
DOWNLOAD AN EXCERPT	DOWNLOAD AN EXCERPT	DOWNLOAD AN EXCERPT	DOWNLOAD AN EXCERPT	DOWNLOAD AN EXCERPT	DOWNLOAD AN EXCERPT

Downloadable Lenten Studies FOR ADULT & YOUTH GROUPS

These downloadable, six-session study packs provide adult and youth groups with the opportunity to engage in a community experience of Lent. Each study pack includes a leader's guide and participant's handout for each of the six sessions, and is \$20.00 for unlimited church use. Click each title to learn more:

- Seeking the Intercultural Church: An Adult Lenten Study, by Samuel Son - NEW FOR 2021!
- Holy Living: A Youth Lenten Study, by Brian Coulter - NEW FOR 2021!
- An Acceptable Fast: An Adult Lenten Study, by Patricia K. Tull
- Reflections on the Lord's Prayer: An Adult Lenten Study Pack for Lent, by Carol A. Wehrheim & J. Ellsworth Kalas
- Seven Deadly Sins and Holy Virtues: A Youth Study Pack for Lent, by David Maxwell
- Preparing for the Wilderness: A Youth Lenten Study, by Kathy Wolf Reed




Image: March 2023 POINT newsletter

links to other resources on a variety of topics in the area of Christian Formation.

► In addition to the online resources, the presbytery has our very own POINT person, Lisa Wilder, First Presbyterian Church of Quincy's Director of Christian Education. Lisa has assisted with curriculum development and implementation for over 35 years. Reach out to Lisa (WildeDCE@aol.com) for guidance on finding the resources best suited for your congregation.

Related News:

In January, Christian educators gathered online to discuss curricula in presbyteries, churches and homes. Presbyterian Publishing Corporation introduced new resources for 2023, [outlined in an article](#) by Beth Waltemath, of the Presbyterian News Service.

Racial justice vs. toxic religion

Recently, I attended an online seminar sponsored by Candler School of Theology, entitled “Toxic Religion in Ethnic Nationalistic Identities.” Because of his firsthand experience in the Irish peace process, our presenter, Gary Mason, drew on lessons from the Irish troubles.

He began by stating that three factors led to that Protestant-Catholic conflict: Land, identity, and religion – in other words, our space vs. your space, Christian

Nationalism, and our church is the only church. He reminded us of Adolph Hitler’s defense of Providence to support his rise to power, which led to his seduction and recruitment of the German Church to serve his ends. Additionally, he referred to the elaborate religious system of apartheid in South Africa that was theologically and socially undergirded by Reformed churches. All three examples of toxic religion supported violence and social systems.

In Dr. Mason’s view,

toxic religion and social injustice are becoming more and more prevalent in the United States today as religion is being weaponized and is being used to support violence and racial injustice. He recalled that although Jesus was born into a violent world, he taught that the kingdom of God will come but not by the violence upon which toxic religion is predicated. As Scripture testifies, God’s kingdom is defined by love -- mercy, justice and humility -- not by the politics of anger or fear. The biblical understanding of the kingdom, found in Hosea and Micah, as well as in the Gospels, is that values of principle rather than power define its reality.

Today, great emphasis is being placed on White America as divinely favored [chosen people]. Every false gospel of Ethnic Nationalism is predicated on folk religion and upon its notion that one ethnic identity will make a nation great. The church’s job is to call out this false gospel. As Dr. Mason said, “While politics has a strong grip on our hearts, the Gospel’s grip should be stronger. Whatever our politics, we must sort out gospel truth, for politics are temporal but the Gospel is eternal.”

From the Racial Justice Subcommittee



*By Rev. Harvey Jenkins,
Subcommittee member, HR*

**LAUREL HILL
ARTS & HERITAGE
Festival**

ARTS • CRAFTS • MUSIC • FOOD

SAT., JUNE 3, 10am-3pm • FREE!

LAUREL HILL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH YARD • 8115 FOURTH STREET
LIVE LOCAL MUSIC • COTTAGE FOODS • CRAFTS
ARTISTS • HISTORIC AND CULTURAL DISPLAYS

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

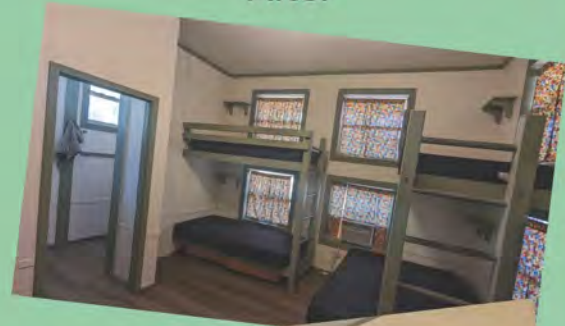
Look what's new at Dogwood Acres

Brand New Cabin Renovations

Before



After



New Storage Building Complete



This winter, we have been hard at work here at Dogwood making improvements to our facilities just in time for you to come and visit. Currently, we have completed 7 out of 10 of our cabins, updating them with new floors, paint, and a new bathroom layout. Additionally, each cabin is adding outlets and shelves to each bed along with some other small improvements.

Then to add to our cabins, we have completed our brand new storage building. This new facility has added a much-needed storage space close to our cabins and dining hall to keep our program supplies accessible for our retreat guests and staff.

**Want to help our continued improvements?
Find out how at dogwoodacres.org/serve**

Pink snow: A fascinating climate change effect?

Imagine the world's largest watermelon snowcone. Who doesn't love snowcones? No one I know, and now nature is offering them for free. The problem is that they don't taste good, and their location on the tops of mountains and in the polar regions makes it difficult to sample them, but they are free and they look attractive.

Unfortunately, they are not a good thing. They are one more sign of a warming world.

A [January 13, podcast from *Living on Earth*](#) explains the phenomena. The snow is pink because of a summer bloom of a red colored algae that flourishes in melting snow. They are found worldwide and can be seen in patches the size of a small rug or can be as big as an entire snow field. They have been studied in Greenland and elsewhere, but are not well-understood.

They are caused by a green algae that has carotenoid pigments like are found in carrots. Scientists ominously also call it "glacier blood".



Source: Clean Future

For you science nerds, how they make a living is fascinating. They live off photosynthesis. They need the cryosphere, the cold, and they use the sunlight to make sugar. They also need the nutrients, like phosphorus and nitrogen that are readily available in the melting snow.

Under the warmer conditions with climate change, the snow starts to melt. The longer the summers in our warming world, the more free water that is available, and this allows the algae to take up nutrients and proliferate.

One more science lesson: The albedo effect. Lighter surfaces reflect more sunlight (heat) back to the atmosphere. Darker

surfaces absorb the sun's heat. The polar regions reflect heat back to the atmosphere, but as they darken with the growth of algae, the heat is absorbed, leading to more melting. It's a negative feedback loop that scientists have warned us about, so as it continues the algae will flourish in the melting snow, causing it to melt more quickly leading to more sea level rise and other problems.

Pink snow is not an insignificant effect of our warming world, and it is not a snowcone. It is one more warning that all is not right with God's creation. We have been given a privilege and a responsibility to care for God's creation. I pray that we all begin to understand that we need to take this responsibility seriously, because not only do you not want to eat the yellow snow, you really don't want to even see pink snow.

To learn more, check out [the story on *Wired*](#) by Kylie Mohr.

Caring for Creation Notes



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

"Pink snow is not an insignificant effect of our warming world..."

This cohort group will utilize the 8 Habits of Evangelism resources to explore habits of loving God, neighbor, and earth; the wholeness of God: cultivating encounter, healing, and well-being through relationships with God, one another, and community. Sign up now at [pcusa.org/leadercohorts!](https://pcusa.org/leadercohorts/)

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

In May	Looking ahead
Tuesday, May 2 12 p.m. CDT/ 1 p.m. EDT	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)
Saturday, May 6 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT	Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Car & Motorcycle Show
Sunday, May 7 3:30 p.m. CDT	Bay Wind Community Band Concert @ Grace Presbyterian, Panama City
Tuesday, May 9 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Ministry (COM)
Wednesday, May 10 3:30 p.m.. CDT/ 4:30 p.m. EDT	Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA)
Thursday, May 11 2 p.m.. CDT/ 3 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Sunday, May 14	Mothers Day
Tuesday, May 16 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD)
Saturday, May 20 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT	Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting, Dogwood Acres Registration begins an hour ahead
Tuesday, May 23 6 – 7:30 p.m. EDT	UKirk Tallahassee Annual Meeting/ Open House
Sunday, May 28	Pentecost
Monday, May 29	Presbytery office closed
Thursday, June 1 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Saturday, June 3 10 a.m. . – 3 p.m.	Laurel Hill Arts & Heritage Festival @ Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, June 6 12 p.m. CDT/ 1 p.m. EDT	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)
Thursday, June 8 2 p.m.. CDT/ 3 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Sunday, June 18	Fathers Day
Monday, June 19	Juneteenth
Sunday, June 25 – Friday, June 30	Dogwood Acres Summer Camp – High School Week



Bay Wind
Community Band

**SPRING
CONCERT**

SUNDAY MAY 7TH
3:30 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church
1415 Airport Rd, Panama City, FL 32405

Suggested Donations: \$10 Adult, \$7 Seniors/Children

Save the date!

Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting
Saturday, May 20 • 9 a.m. CDT/10 a.m. EDT
Registration begins an hour ahead

Dogwood Acres Retreat Center & Summer Camp
3320 Harmony Road, Chipley, FL

www.presbyteryofflorida.net/presbytery-meetings/