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The Panhandle Presbyterian

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From General Presbyter Roy Martin

This month, the season of Lent begins. I believe participation in this season is absolutely essential in living out the Christian faith. For all Christians, Lent is a time for serious and disciplined self-examination. Questions are explored, such as:

Am I sharing gladly what I have with others, especially the stranger and the poor?

Do I have a gracious and patient attitude with others, especially those who irritate me?

Is it time to change or grow in my study of the Bible and the way I view my faith?



The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin

What are the lurking problems which still overwhelm me?

Am I as thoughtful and forgiving of family and others, or do I take out my frustrations on them?

Do I trust in God's providential care for me even when the going gets rough?

I am sure you can come up with many other questions appropriate for this season of reflection and recommitment to the faith.

The period of Lent is traditionally understood as 40 days in length leading up to Easter and refers to the 40 days Jesus fasted and was tempted in the wilderness. It is actually 46 days but Sundays are not counted as they are still days of celebration and thanksgiving.

I do pray that this will be a faith-developing time for each of you and that, as one result, you are well-prepared to welcome our risen Lord on Easter morn.

Roy

**Flowers fade,
give a gift
that lasts.**

**PRESBYTERIAN
GIVING CATALOG**

Small Gifts. Big Impact.

Give today at
presbyteriangifts.org

From the Committee on Ministry

Presbytery welcomes newly-installed pastors

On Sunday, January 17, First Korean Presbyterian Church of Fort Walton Beach installed Rev. Sun Ick Kim as their pastor. Rev. Kim was examined and approved in October 2020 by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry and began serving the church after his transfer from the Pacific Presbytery.

Rev. Kim had served since 2018 as Lead Pastor at Joyous Community Church in Seoul, Korea. Previously, he was Head of Staff, Associate Pastor and English Ministry Pastor at West Presbyterian Church of America, of Torrance, CA; Associate Pastor at Zion Presbyterian Church, of Fullerton, CA; and

Youth Pastor at Eternal Love Church, of Ontario, Canada, and at New Spirit Presbyterian Church, of Edison, NJ.

He also has been an Old Testament Department Adjunct Professor at World Mission University and an interpreter for California's Roland Heights School District. He has served the denomination as a member of several Presbytery committees and as a synod moderator and synod commissioner, as well.

Rev. Kim's education includes Ph.D. study in the Old Testament at Claremont (CA) Graduate University; MAT in the Old Testament from New Brunswick (NJ) Theological Seminary; a



Rev. Sun Ick Kim

M. Div. from Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Korea); and a B. S. in Biology from Yonsei University (Korea).

Also recently installed in the Presbytery, on January 24, was First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee's new pastor, Rev. Margaret Fox (featured in the November 2020 *Panhandle Presbyterian*). Welcome, Rev. Kim and Rev. Fox!

Registration required for February 23 Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting

Participate in commissioner training:

*Tuesday,
Feb. 16
10 a.m. CST/
11 a.m. EST*

*Thursday,
Feb. 18
2 p.m. CST/
3 p.m. EST*

The presbytery will meet via Zoom videoconferencing Tuesday, February 23, beginning at 9 a.m. CST/10 a.m. EST. Participants **MUST REGISTER** to receive the Zoom link for joining the meeting. Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8122222222>

All participants are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to join either or both very brief commissioner training

sessions, scheduled Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 10 a.m. CST/11 a.m. EST and Thursday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. CST/3 p.m. EST – even if you regularly participate in online events via Zoom. The sessions will provide information of specific use for the Presbytery meeting. The link for the training will be included in your presbytery meeting registration confirmation email and also will be published in the Presbytery's *eUpdate* weekly email newsletter.

Meeting highlights will include worship with a sermon by Erin Rosica, candidate for ministry who will be examined for ordination, and Presbytery Vice Moderator Rev. Michael Askew's installation as moderator. Special guests will be Synod of South Atlantic Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk Rev. Joyce Lieberman and Board of Pensions Senior Consultant for the Southeastern U. S. Clark Simmons.

An alternative Ash Wednesday service

“If we have an Ash Wednesday service, I am my family will not be there!” I thought my elder’s objection was based upon supposedly being a Roman Catholic rite, but wasn’t sure. So I asked, “Why not?”

He replied, “It’s ostentatious! You go in, get ash smudged on your forehead, and then go to work or school to show off how religious you are! We are supposed to be humble; not proud religious show-offs. We are supposed to point people to Jesus, not draw attention to ourselves. It is completely against our Scottish Presbyterian heritage!”

“So you’re not objecting to having a worship service on Ash Wednesday, just leaving with a religious mark that everybody can see?”

“Exactly!”

To please both that elder and the Worship Committee, I developed an alternative way to do the imposition of the ash. It begins with congregants going to a back corner of the sanctuary to pick up an old, rusty, bent nail, symbolizing our sins. They then slowly walk to an elder at the other back corner, who places ash upon their forehead or hand saying “From dust you came, and from dust you will return.”

After placing the ash, the elder will say, “Because of sin, you are under the judgment of death.”

Then they slow move to a front corner, where another elder washes off the ash saying, “By faith in the Lamb of God, your sins are washed away.” They then partake of communion at the Table, and also drop their nails in a basket there. Christ forgives and accepts us, and takes away the burden of our sins. Finally, people return to their seats. After everyone has gone through the station, the two elders and minister go through the stations together.

Given the restrictions of COVID-19, I’ve come up with another alternative: imagine signing the cross together. The liturgist could say:

We are sinners, and because we are born into sin, live in the midst of other sinners, and love to sin, we are destined to die and return to the dust of the earth. Remember we are dust, and to dust we will return. To impress that fact into our minds, pretend you hold a pile of ashes in one hand, and dip a finger into it with your other hand, and mark a cross upon your forehead. Let us do so now together.

We remember we are dust and to dust our bodies will return; but we are much more than dust. We are believers in Christ; we have been redeemed and claimed by God; our sins are forgiven and our bodies will be resurrected with an imperishable body. In recognition of God’s claim upon us, and our union with and commitment to Jesus, pretend now to dip your finger into your baptismal water, and mark your forehead with the sign of the cross. Let us do so now together.

There is no lasting mark that is visible for everybody to see, and that reminds us that the marks of being the redeemed children of God are our good deeds and our joyful life of praise and gratitude to God. People will know we are Christians by our love for God and one another.

From the Committee on Educational Resources



*By Rev.
Charles Taber,
1st, DeFuniak Springs
Pastor*

**From the
Committee on
Congregational
Revitalization**



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

CCR recommends two upcoming virtual conferences

The Committee on Congregational Revitalization has concluded its reading of *Everywhere You Look: Discovering the Church Right Where You Are*. In this excellent book, Tim Soerens skillfully articulates the need of churches today to recognize, celebrate, and reach out to those in the “neighborhood” – people all around us and our church buildings who may or may not consider themselves Christian, who may or may not be of like mind in all things political, theological, or sociological.

This is what CCR strives to accomplish through our partnership with congregations in Florida Presbytery. Our goal is to get to know and partnership with congregations that answer the call to spiritual and programmatic growth by offering revitalization resources that challenge and encourage.

To that end, we recommend to the presbytery two upcoming virtual conferences:

Synod of South Atlantic Association of Smaller

Congregations: <https://www.presbyasc.org/>

NEXTChurch: <https://nextchurch.net/gathering/2021-national-gathering/>

These online conferences may be excellent ways for your congregation to begin exploring the ways it can grow in mission and ministry, yes – even during this pandemic. Check them out!

CCR is here to serve the congregations of Florida Presbytery. Please reach out if you’d like to talk about revitalization in your congregation!

Breaking, Blessing, Building
A Call For The Common Good
A FREE Live-Streamed Gathering for ALL Church Leaders
March 5-7, 2021
<https://nextchurch.net/gathering/2021-national-gathering/>

SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC SAVE THE DATE



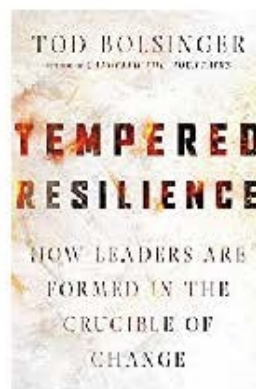
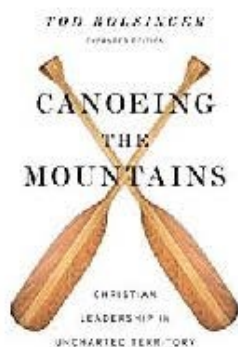
THE REVEREND TOD BOLSINGER

Pastors and church leaders of the *Synod of South Atlantic*, save the date for 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., Ph.D.), Associate Professor of Leadership Formation at Fuller Theological Seminary, author of *Canoeing the Mountains* and *Tempered Resilience*.



From the Committee on Dogwood Acres



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

DWA plans “Bubble”-based Summer Camp 2021

Good news from Dogwood Acres! Our committee is committed to having Summer Camp 2021! It will be a new model that allows for a safer way for us to gather this summer in what we hope will be during the waning stages of the worst of the COVID pandemic. We call it the “Bubble” model.

Each cabin will be available, either has a whole (2 bedrooms) or as a half cabin (one bedroom) for use by a “Bubble.” A Bubble is a group of people that are used to being together on a regular basis. Think, a group, or several groups maybe, from a particular

church; or a group from a particular school or close-knit neighborhood, etc

Each Bubble will be responsible for having a chaperone(s) for their group. A chaperone will be responsible for their Bubble, including sleeping with the group in the cabin and leading simple programming with the help of the DWA Summer Camp Staff.

A more leisurely but fun-filled Summer Camp will start on Sunday, June 27 and end the last week of July. A camp week will be from Sunday afternoon to Thursday afternoon, allowing Friday for cleaning and

sanitizing. There will be no camp the week of Independence Day.

Even more good news! Lucas Heiker and his fiancée, Allie Snyder, will share the Summer Camp Program Director duties. Allie is a past DWA camper. She is full of energy and personality with great organizational skills. Lucas is sort of a legend at DWA, as he has been at summer camp most summers since he was in the second grade. They don’t come more fun than Lucas!

Expect more details in the next week on the DWA website, dogwoodacres.org.



PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSICIANS
2021 WORSHIP & MUSIC CONFERENCES AT MONTREAT
JUNE 20-25 & JUNE 27-JULY 2

This intergenerational conference is for children, youth, adults, pastors, directors, organists, pianists, guitarists, percussionists, ringers, worship leaders, choir members, and anyone who loves and takes part in the worship and music of the church.

<https://www.presbysmusic.org/2021conference>

CONFERENCE DATES:

In-person:

Week 1:

June 20 - 25, 2021

Week 2:

June 27 - July 2, 2021

Online:

June 27 -
July 2, 2021

Sacred people, sacred earth: Sounding the alarm

Next month, on March 11, people of faith in 14 countries will participate in a call for global action on the climate crisis. Bells will ring. People will pray, and signs will be held high.

Do you remember reading about this in last month's newsletter? Greenfaith, a U.S. interfaith organization, is coordinating this day of interfaith action to call attention to the climate crisis. It is called "Sacred People, Sacred Earth: Sounding the Alarm".

A video introducing the "Sacred People, Sacred Earth" campaign can be viewed at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AwQx8-Y7VUzi5XWh8UpFeJ6FM_V1aWB7/view.

These are alarming times. Cruel injustices abound. People are suffering and dying from

a virus run amok. Systemic racism abounds. But the cruelest, most widespread and dangerous crisis is climate change. It makes all our problems worse. It magnifies injustices. It hurts "the least of these" first and worst. We have all felt it.

The 7th lesson of the Presbyterian's Women's Bible Study is entitled "Creation Laments," and indeed it does. Creation is moaning and, if you look, you will see that our Earth is broken.

January 10, the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee took a step in response to the creation's lament. It affirmed its support for Greenfaith's "Sacred People, Sacred Earth" Position Statement and Ten Demands. These two documents ask people of faith, financial institutions and governments around

the world to unite to address the grave threats of climate change and its injustices.

They can be read at https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sacred-people-sacred-earth?source=direct_link&. You are encouraged to share the statement and demands with your session and members.

Also, if you are interested in organizing an event at your church for March 11, please contact me. I am working with the Tallahassee Green Faith Alliance to organize events in Tallahassee churches and should have some suggestions for action by the time you read this.

As always if you have any questions, please contact me: pammcvety@hotmail.com.

Caring for Creation Notes



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

"... the cruelest, most widespread and dangerous crisis is climate change. It makes all our problems worse."

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

YOU SHALL BE CALLED REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH
— ISAIAH 58

join us!

Providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

MATTHEW 25

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***2 Great Conferences for congregations, recommended by the
Presbytery's Committee on Congregational Revitalization!***



***Association of Smaller Congregations
Upcoming Conference ~
March 19–20, 2021***

The *Association of Smaller Congregations (ASC)* of the Synod of South Atlantic, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was organized in April 1987 by a group of visionaries led by the late Rev. Foster Edwards, a PC(USA) minister in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

The ASC sought to create an organization which would:

- Encourage and support smaller congregations,
- Promote awareness of the unique strengths and needs of smaller congregations,
- Provide opportunities for fellowship, education, and creative thinking and sharing between smaller congregations, and facilitate communication between churches, presbyteries, and higher governing bodies.

All churches and their members within the ecclesiastical bounds of the Synod of South Atlantic, having 100 or fewer members are considered members of the ASC.

[The Presbytery of Florida's Committee on Congregational Revitalization encourages smaller congregations to participate! Check out the conference and registration information at \[www.presbyasc.org\]\(http://www.presbyasc.org\)](http://www.presbyasc.org)

BREAKING, BLESSING, BUILDING
A Call For The Common Good
A FREE Live-Streamed Gathering
for ALL Church Leaders
March 5-7, 2021

What if people like you and me could gather together from all over the world, from all kinds of different churches and denominations, from all different walks of life?

What if church leaders (YOU, not just your pastor) could connect with other church leaders to learn together, be inspired by one another, and be challenged to grow?

What if we gathered together in such a way that inspired us to act so the Church and the world were never the same again?

Despite the physical space that separates us these days, we believe our virtual togetherness can make all the difference!

Check out this great opportunity at
nextchurch.net/gathering/2021-national-gathering!