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Inside this issue:

Committee on Ministry	2
Committee on Educational Resources	5
Committee on Congregational Revitalization	5
Our Connectional Churches	6
Caring for Creation Notes	7
Save the dates	8

The Panhandle Presbyterian

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From General Presbyter Roy Martin

I am really dreading going to the gym this month. You have to park a mile away. There are no lockers available. You have to wait your turn for every piece of equipment, even though there are a number of each type of machine. And, worst of all, the aqua massage bed is booked up for days! And why, you might ask? NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS!!!!

Of course, by February, things will be back to normal, and I can have my choice of treadmills. And why, you might ask? BECAUSE NOBODY KEEPS THEIR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS!!!!

Can you tell I am not a fan of New Year's resolutions? They just remind us of the Apostle Paul's lament, "For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." (Romans 7:15b)

We are just not very good at sticking to something long-term. We are commitment-phobic. Commitment-phobia has become a real issue in the

Church. Just ask any church nominating committee what they hear often when they approach someone to make a three-year commitment to serving as an elder on Session!

There are lots of reasons given for this unwillingness to make commitments: people are just too busy, life itself is too uncertain, fear of failure, to name a few.

But, when it comes to our relationship to Jesus Christ, I think a better word to remember is "disciple". Jesus calls us to be his disciples. In other words, we are to follow him, strive to be like him, walk in his footsteps. That is not a New Year's

resolution; that is a way of life. We are called by Christ to re-orient our life towards holiness, to live for and in Christ.

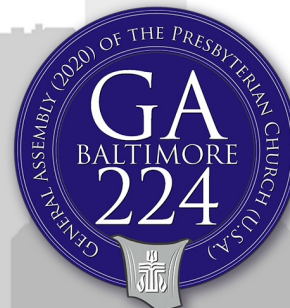
So, here's my prayer for you: no New Year's resolutions; just continue what began in you at baptism and grow in discipleship.

Yours in Christ,
Roy



**The Rev. Dr.
Roy Martin**

**Winter Stated
Presbytery Meeting
Saturday, Jan. 25
FPC of Pensacola**



Called to a Movement Beyond Institution
JUNE 20-27, 2020

From the Committee on Ministry



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

COM welcomes pastors to Grace Presbyterian and Pulpit Supply

In their November 2019 meeting, the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry examined and approved Rev. Eric Spoon, a candidate for Grace, Panama City, pastor, and Revs. John and Tai Cole and Kerry Westerwick for Presbytery membership and pulpit supply service.



Rev. Eric Spoon

Rev. William Eric Spoon has been called to be the pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Panama City and is scheduled to conduct his first worship service there on January 12. A graduate of Montreat College and Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, he holds membership in the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators. He has also served on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Churches he served have been in

Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. He has a great love for studying the Hebrew Scriptures. He and his wife, Melanie, have two children.



Rev. John Cole

Rev. John Cole grew up in a Presbyterian household in Daytona Beach, FL. He earned his J.D. from Florida State in 1993, and began a career as an attorney, practicing Environmental and Probate litigation. Sensing God's call, he eventually enrolled at Columbia Theological Seminary, where he graduated with his M.Div. in 1998.

He was ordained in Charlotte Presbytery in March 1998 and has served congregations in North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Florida, Iowa, and Illinois. He is currently completing his Ph.D. in Religion at Florida State University. John is married to Rev. Tai Cole and lives in Tallahassee.



Rev. Tai Cole

Rev. Tai Cole graduated from North Carolina State University, attained a Master of Divinity from Union PSCE and a Master of Christian Education from Union PSCE, and is currently working toward a Master of Social Work at Florida State University.

Tai is a member of the national Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators. She has served congregations in North Carolina, South Carolina, Illinois, and Florida. Tai currently teaches English as a Second Language to children in China via an online platform. She and her husband, John, have three sons and one daughter.

Rev. Kerry Knox Westerwick was honorably retired in the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia in 2017. During her active ministry career, she served several churches in Texas, Kansas, Virginia and North Carolina as an



Rev. Kerry Westerwick

intern, solo pastor and interim pastor in mostly small -to medium-sized urban churches.

Kerry has a D. Min. in Reformed Christian Spirituality from Pittsburg Theological Seminary. She currently serves as an Adjunct Professor in Biblical and Theological

Studies at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia's Distance Learning Program.

Kerry and her husband, Barry, live in Wewahitchka, where they are building a home. They have two sons and one grandson.

2020 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

*Finding Balance within a Complex World:
The Story of Mary, Martha, and Christ*



WHAT:
Presbyterian Women's Retreat

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS:
Catherine Quiring & Katherine Kupar

WHERE:
Hilton on Pensacola Beach, Florida

WHEN:
Saturday FEB 22 & Sunday FEB 23, 2020

CO-HOSTED BY:
Trinity Presbyterian & First Presbyterian

COST:
\$75.00 (Now-until DEC 31) then \$90.00

HOW TO REGISTER:
See information on reverse of this flyer.

Saturday & Sunday - February 22 & 23, 2020 @ Hilton Pensacola Beach



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



2019-2020

THE CHURCH & THE ARTS CONCERT SERIES

ALL PERFORMANCES START AT 7:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
CHRISTMAS WITH THE CELTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH
WORLDS OF MUSIC, A PIANO RECITAL

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH
THE SMITH FAMILY SINGERS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH
THE GODBY CHOIR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH
DAVID SEERING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
ANDREW FINN MAGILL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH
THE WABI SABI'S

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD
KEN SIZEMORE

SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST
ARNOLD JAZZ ENSEMBLE

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH
THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF ST. ANDREWS



**GULF BEACH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**



**GENERAL
ADMISSION:
\$10.00**

www.pinkchurch.org

271 South Arnold (Hwy 79)
Panama City Beach, FL 32413

**Ticket Information:
(850) 867-3770**

CER shares previews of case studies for Jan. 25 educational hour

During the educational hour of the upcoming Presbytery meeting (January 25), the Committee on Educational Resources (CER) will present several case studies for discussion. We will divide into smaller groups to reflect upon and discuss the case study. It is our hope that we'll learn from one another and better prepare ourselves to answer the challenges we face in ministry.

We want to make the most of our time, so please read the short descriptions of the case studies. We are not giving you them in their entirety, because we want your discussion to be organic as you think through these things together:

Case Study 1 will focus on transitions and changing a culture. Churches face a difficult task when a new pastor arrives. Everyone exclaims they want change and new ways of doing things but when that reality comes it can be hard on everyone. So, given this reality, how do we make ourselves ready for change?

Case Study 2 will deal with the proper handling of gifts to the church. It is not uncommon that individuals give to the



church with unstated expectations, and down the road, this can create conflict, confusion, and hurt feelings. In order to avoid these situations, what do churches need to have in place when receiving gifts?

Case Study 3 will focus on issues regarding church leadership. It is an unfortunate reality that elders do not always understand their duties and responsibilities, so they disengage and are not fully active as an elder. Knowing that a church's health is often determined by the health of its leadership, how can pastors and the session make sure leaders are equipped and encouraged for their work?

From the Committee on Educational Resources



By
*Rev. Brian Yount,
Vice Chair, and
Trinity, Pensacola
Associate Pastor*

Consultants training to help with congregational assessments

The Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR) is thrilled to co-sponsor (with Committee on Ministry) a training event with Holy Cow! Consultants the first weekend of the new year! Our trainer will guide 18 of us through the process of congregational assessment so that we may assist the presbytery's congregations in



determining their health and vitality.

Already we have had a number of congregations ask for a consultant to guide them through the CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) process. CCR is eager to begin this work, as our committee's

primary goal is to partner with congregations in revitalization. If your congregation would benefit from a conversation about how to implement Holy Cow's CAT study, please contact me at revlwmartin@gmail.com.



From the Committee on Congregational Revitalization



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

Our connectional churches



By
*Shannon Guse,
Faith, Tallahassee
Director of Christian
Education for Youth
and Young Adults*

Tallahassee-area youth participate in 850 Tally Ho Night of Service

During an 850 Tally Ho Night of Service Nov. 24, 2019, 50 students in 6th through 12th grades from First, Faith, Christ, and Fellowship Presbyterian Churches of Tallahassee and First Presbyterian Church of Quincy completed several service projects. Shown at top right, participants sorted food, decorated boxes, and created centerpieces for 50 families who received turkey boxes from Faith Presbyterian.

Pictured at center right, the group prepared for Mann on Meridian's food distribution by double-bagging paper bags and creating reusable bags from T-shirts to be used for produce distribution.

Shown below, the students also made snack bags for the children at Grace Mission's after-care; baked two dozen muffins for UKirk Tallahassee collegiate ministry's Calvin's Coffeeshop and made s'more snack bags to be distributed to students during exam week; and assembled toiletry bags, including socks and travel size personal care items, for distribution to Kearney Center shelter residents.

The next 850 Tally Ho event will be Capture the Flag Saturday, Jan. 11.



Overtures addressing climate change to be presented

Happy New Year! Another year and another opportunity to reflect and act to protect God's creation. Among all the problems we have to deal with on a daily basis, climate change and what it is doing to God's creation is probably near the bottom of most people's to-do lists. This is understandable in our busy world, but 70 percent of us now acknowledge that it is happening and millions of us have experienced climate change impacts and are worried about them.

Here are some facts: A recent bombshell report showed that world is way off track in reducing emissions at anything like the pace necessary to meet the Paris Climate Agreement goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Climate change impacts are intensifying and alarming. They are costing all of us, and the costs are rising. The Oxford University Press just declared "climate emergency" its word of the year.

Our federal government has abandoned its effort to halt, or even slow, our contributions to global warming. It is reversing the moves made by previous administrations to cut carbon emissions. And even our state,

Florida, which is especially vulnerable to the triple threat of the climate crisis – monster hurricanes, heat waves and accelerating sea level rise – is making decisions that prolong our use of fossil fuels including fossil fuel exploration. It is working to adapt us to sea-level rise and is not adopting measures to cut our carbon emissions.

Ask yourself, is your community prepared for another huge hurricane? Does it have procedures in place to deal with heat waves that are becoming longer and more severe than any in the past? Most do not. In Southeast Florida, local governments now face a higher and faster sea level rise than predicted earlier: up to 31 inches by 2060. They are having to face really difficult decisions about who is to be protected, for how long and at what cost. Who will be abandoned? Who will pay?

Where is the church in all of this? For decades, we have met with the fossil fuel companies and asked them to cut their emissions. They have continued to smile and ignore us. For the past three General Assembly meetings, commissioners, after hearing a really positive spin on the effectiveness of talking to the fossil fuel industry,

have failed to vote for divestment. Not one fossil fuel company has stopped producing fossil fuels. Not one!

It is now undeniably time for the church to step in more forcefully. The way we spend our money directly reflects our beliefs. If we continue investing in the fossil fuel industry, we are paying to accelerate the destruction of the Earth's living systems, including our own civilization. I believe that if Jesus were to walk on the floor of the General Assembly today, he would overturn the podium and exclaim that it is past time to divest our fossil fuel holdings.

At the January Florida presbytery meeting, two overtures will be presented for concurrence. The first is a fossil fuel divestment overture, and the second is an overture asking our denomination to support the "We are Still In" declaration, the creation of local and state leaders, corporations, universities and other institutions. They want the world to know that Americans are cutting their carbon emissions to meet the goal of the Paris Climate Agreement.

We once again have an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Jesus to care for God's creation. It is time.

Caring for Creation Notes



By
Pam McVety,
*Presbytery
Stewardship
of Creation
Enabler*
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"If we continue investing in the fossil fuel industry, we are paying to accelerate the destruction of the Earth's living systems ..."

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The Panhandle Presbyterian

Save the date:

In January

- Friday, Jan. 3 –* CCR/COM Holy Cow!
Saturday, Jan. 4 Consultants' Training at
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CST Dogwood Acres
- Sunday, Jan. 5* Worlds of Music, a piano
7 – 8:30 p.m. CST recital, at Gulf Beach PC,
Panama City Beach
- Thursday, Jan. 9* Coordinating and Planning
9:30 a.m. CST Commission meeting at
Dogwood Acres
- Friday, Jan. 10* Tallahassee Ecumenical
6 p.m. EST Taize Prayer Service at
Faith PC, Tallahassee
- Saturday, Jan. 11* 850 Tally Ho Capture the
Flag, or 6th thru 12th
graders, at the May Farm,
Quincy
- Sunday, Jan. 12* The Smith Family Southern
7 – 9 p.m. CST Gospel concert at Gulf
Beach PC, Panama City
Beach
- Tuesday, Jan. 14* Committee on Ministry
9:30 a.m. CST meeting at Dogwood Acres
- Tuesday, Jan. 14* Committee on Educational
10 a.m. CST Resources meeting at FPC
of Crestview
- Sunday, Jan. 19* Gulf Beach PC, Panama
7 p.m. CST City Beach, presents the
Godby High School Choir
- Monday, Jan. 20* Presbytery office closed for
Birthday of Rev. Martin
Luther King, Jr.
- Tuesday, Jan. 21* Committee on
9:30 a.m. CST Congregational
Revitalization meeting at
Presbytery office
- Saturday, Jan. 25* Winter Stated Presbytery
9 a.m. CST Meeting at FPC of
(Registration at Pensacola
8 a.m. CST)
- Sunday, Jan. 26* David Seering concert at
7 – 9 p.m. CST Gulf Beach PC, Panama
City Beach

Looking ahead

- Sunday, Feb. 9* Canta, Violino! Brazillian
7 p.m. CST music project at Gulf Beach
PC, Panama City Beach
- Sunday, Feb. 16* The Wabi Sabis all-female
7 p.m. CST Americana pop band at Gulf
Beach PC, Panama City
Beach
- Thursday, Feb. 20* Statistical reporting by
churches ends
- Thursday, Feb. 22 –* Presbyterian Women's
Sunday, Feb. 23 Retreat at Pensacola Beach,
with Catherine Quiring and
Katherine Kuper
- Sunday, Feb. 23* Ken Sizemore classic folk
7 p.m. CST and pop music at Gulf
Beach PC, Panama City
Beach
- Wednesday, Feb. 26* Ash Wednesday
- Friday, Feb. 28 –* Enrichment Weekend at
Sunday, March 1 FPC of Quincy, with Dr.
William "Bill" Brown
- Sunday, March 1* Arnold High School Jazz
7 p.m. CST Ensemble at Gulf Beach PC,
Panama City Beach
- Sunday, March 8* Daylight saving time begins
- Sunday, March 8* Ukelele Orchestra of St.
7 p.m. CST Andrews at Gulf Beach PC,
Panama City Beach
- Tuesday, March 10* Committee on Ministry
9:30 a.m. CST meeting at Dogwood Acres
- Friday, March 13 –* Synod of South Atlantic
Sunday, March 15 Association of Smaller
Congregations' 33rd Annual
Conference, at Epworth by
the Sea, St. Simons Island,
GA
- Saturday, March 21* Presbytery of Florida
Presbyterian Women annual
gathering at FPC
of Lynn Haven
- Saturday, March 28* DiscipleFest at
Dogwood Acres