

Presbytery Staff
and Officers
are here for you:

Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin,
General Presbyter
Rmartin
@presbyteryofflorida.com

Jeannie Dixon,
Stated Clerk
Statedclerk
@presbyteryofflorida.com

Sharon Schuler,
Moderator
pastor@firstpresfwb.org

Denise Vandiver,
Treasurer/Bookkeeper
Dvandiver
@presbyteryofflorida.com

Ben Powell,
Dogwood Acres Director
ben@dogwoodacres.org

Melissa Willis,
Administrator
Mwillis
@presbyteryofflorida.com

Inside this issue:

- Our Connectional Churches 2
- Committee on Ministry 4
- Committee on Educational Resources 5
- Committee on Congregational Revitalization 5
- Committee on Dogwood Acres 6
- Caring for Creation Notes 7
- Save the dates 8

The Panhandle Presbyterian

A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida



Volume 2, Issue 11

November 2019

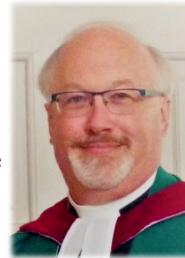
From General Presbyter Roy Martin

There are times in life when it is hard to be thankful. When suffering from debilitating illness, experiencing the loss of a loved one, when life itself becomes too hectic and burdensome are just some of the circumstances that make being thankful difficult at best.

But, in I Thessalonians 5:18, Paul calls upon us to “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” He was writing to Christians who were experiencing great persecution for their faith in Christ. But how could he expect them to give thanks in such dire conditions? Well, he answered that question earlier in the same chapter: “for you are all children of light and children of the day; . . . since we belong to the

day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.” (vss. 5 and 8)

In other words, we know that even in the darkness of life, God has given us the gifts of faith, love, and the hope (which in Greek is also translated as promise) of salvation. And those gifts have the power to see us through any and all of life’s trials and tribulations. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, Paul reminds us in his letter the Roman Christians. Nothing in this life can have any ultimate control over us. This is the faith to which we have



The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin

been called; the faith Christ himself demonstrated while hanging on a cross and praying, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do,” the faith Paul demonstrated when he declared, “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18)

Even in your darkest hour, never forget you possess these gifts of faith, love, and the sure promise of salvation from God in Christ. As we approach Thanksgiving Day, I encourage you now to start making your list of what you are thankful for. And I hope these gifts are at the top of your list.

Yours in Christ,
Roy

**Don't wait! Take the
2019 Ministers' Survey
by November 15th:**
<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4845895/Minister-Survey-2019>

**CALLING ALL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH (U.S.A.)
MINISTERS!**



**Our
connectional
churches:**
*Highlights from the
Fall Stated
Presbytery Meeting*

Worship, fellowship and education are gathering highlights

The Presbytery's Oct. 29, 2019, meeting at Fellowship Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee began with worship and communion, with Fellowship pastor Rev. A. J. Mealor presiding and First Presbyterian Church of DeFuniak Springs pastor Rev. Chuck Taber, shown below, at right, preaching a sermon titled, "Tell Your Stories".

The morning also included the reading aloud of a necrology report remembering and honoring elders who'd died since last October's presbytery meeting, Singing of "For All the Saints" followed.



The Presbytery's Committee on Congregational Revitalization and Committee on Ministry presented an educational hour with Holy Cow! Consulting President Emily Swanson, shown at left. Read more about plans for upcoming work with Holy Cow! on page 4 of this newsletter.

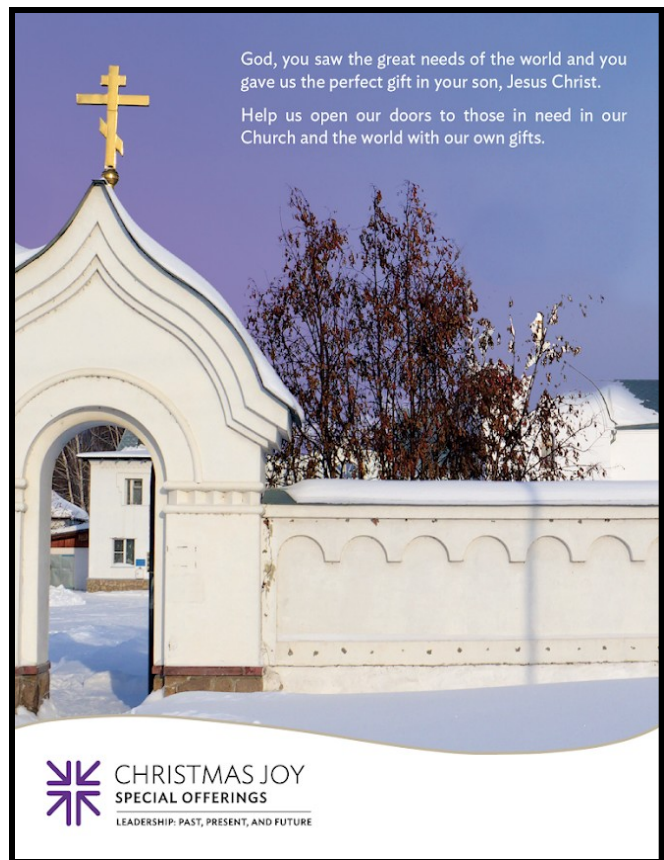
As many Sessions are in the midst of preparing their budgets for the coming year, I pray that you not forget the "labor in the vineyard" of your pastor. Unfortunately and particularly during tight budgetary years, it is not uncommon to freeze or even reduce the pastor's compensation. However, this practice is self-defeating. Such times are when you need your pastor more engaged, not less.

And when things are going well, it is your pastor who is at the helm guiding, encouraging, and engaging in the mission and ministry of your church. Let your pastor know how much she or he means to the life of your church in a variety of ways but certainly through compensation.

The Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin, Jr.
General Presbyter



Food and fellowship are elements of every presbytery meeting, and this one was no exception. Above, at right, attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Dreamland Barbeque. Above, at right, from left, First Presbyterian Church of Marianna pastor Rev. John Wamsley and First Presbyterian Church of Chipley pastor Rev. Dan Mitchell catch up. Below, at left, from right, Presbytery of Florida General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Roy Martin visits with Synod of South Atlantic Executive/Stated Clerk Joyce Lieberman (photo courtesy of Rev. Lisa Martin).



**From the
Committee on
Congregational
Revitalization**



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

Holy Cow! Consulting now in Florida Presbytery’s “toolbox”

Does your congregation need to make better decisions in less time with more lasting results? If so, the Holy Cow! process may be just the thing your congregation needs!

Beginning in 2020, the Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR) and the Committee on Ministry (COM) will be incorporating Holy Cow! into our “toolbox” of resources to help



congregations navigate through revitalization and/or transition in pastoral ministry. We are pleased that a dozen or so individuals from around the presbytery will be trained to work with congregations, using Holy Cow! to learn more about their hopes, dreams, and realistic possibilities moving forward.

Holy Cow! Consulting has a proven track record of assessing a congregation’s health and vitality. Founded by Presbyterian J. Russell Crabtree, Holy Cow! uses information gathered directly from congregation members and guests to chart and analyze the congregation’s strength.

If your congregation desires a conversation about Holy Cow! please contact Lisa Martin, CCR Chair, or Mark Broadhead, COM Chair.



Campfire **Jam**

Featuring The Fried Turkeys

**Sunday,
November 17**

3:00 pm

Live Music

Food Truck

Christ Presbyterian
Church
2317 Bannerman Road
Tallahassee, FL 32312
www.cpcusa.org

Christ Presbyterian Church
of Tallahassee
-Traditional and Modern-

Advent Resource Review: *The Incarnation in the Gospels*, Reformed Expository Commentary, Daniel M. Doriani, Philip Graham Ryken, and Richard D. Phillips

T*he Incarnation in the Gospels* is a special volume in the Reformed Expository Commentary series. The book is a collection of 12 Christmas messages that explore “the canonical teaching on the birth of Jesus Christ in the gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John” (ix). The volume is intended to provide pastors and worship leaders with resources to

help them guide their congregations into a deeper understanding and appreciation for the events surrounding the events of the birth of Christ.

In addition to the 12 Christmas messages, the volume provides an outline for a Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols. There’s an article about the best online resources for

planning Advent worship services. This volume is not only rich in its biblical teaching but is immensely practical and helpful for those planning worship during this busy and important season. Advent is a unique opportunity to reach people with the good news of our Lord and Savior, and this volume will be a great resource in that endeavor.

**From the
Committee on
Educational
Resources**



*By
Rev. Brian Yount,
Trinity, Pensacola,
Associate Pastor*

Save the Date:
Tuesday, December 3, 2019
7:00 PM

*The Tallahassee Music Guild
Presents the 31st Annual
Sing-Along Performance
of George Frideric Handel's*

“MESSIAH”

*Lisa M. Foltz
Music Director and Conductor*

**Faith Presbyterian Church
2200 North Meridian Road**

All proceeds provide music scholarships

Good News from Our Churches



*Rev. Schuler,
First Presbyterian
Church of
Fort Walton Beach
Pastor*

1st, Ft. Walton Beach, connects with community

Westminster Manor Retirement Center in Fort Walton Beach recently held a "Community Blessing" service. Residents, community leaders, vendors, and supporters enjoyed for a short program led off by songs from the Kindergarten class at 1st Methodist Church.



I was honored to lead the invocation, and the facility chaplain led the group in more song and celebration. One of the directors read the history of Westminster Manor. A reception followed, giving us a chance for fellowship together. Those attending from 1st Pres, FWB, were Witness and Outreach Committee Chair Susan Cook, W&O Secretary Fran Goodall, John Schuler, and Rev. Sharon Schuler.

Christmas with the Celts

*An uplifting and spirited
celebration guaranteed to
start your holiday season
off right*

**Sunday, December 15
7 - 8:30 p.m. CST
Gulf Beach
Presbyterian Church
271 S. Arnold Rd. (SR 79)
Panama City Beach, FL
General admission: \$10**



Meet Levi Draheim, a Climate Leader

“I think about climate change every day, basically,” he says. “I’m extremely worried. When I was younger, I used to have nightmares, that I was basically looking at my barrier island and sea level was just rising and it was really hot.”



Levi Draheim is a cute kid, but, unlike most 12-year-olds, he does more than spend his free time outside playing and enjoying his friends. He, at the young age of ten, chose to be a climate leader in the fight for justice for his future and the planet.

He lives on Satellite Beach, a barrier island off Florida, just 13 feet above sea level. His island has been impacted by red algal blooms and powerful storms, both enhanced by climate change. After Hurricane Matthew (2015), Levi volunteered to replant dunes at the beach where he does weekly litter clean-ups.

In 2015, Levi and 20 other children under age 18, sued our federal government over its failure to defend them against climate change. The children assert that they have a constitutional right to live in a world

safe from climate disasters. He also is part of a lawsuit against the state of Florida. Of course, he may not fully understand the legal fine points of these cases, but his fears and commitment are real and strong.

Stop for one moment and consider how extraordinary this is. First, most 12-year-olds don’t think much about their futures. Second, he is doing what we adults should be doing – demanding that our government protect the future of our children and the planet.

This is both praiseworthy and worrisome. One can only pray that these children succeed in changing the path we are on with our ongoing failure to comprehend and address climate change. It is worrisome, because it speaks so loudly about our failures when children are stepping up to lead because adults are not.

Faith organizations have their fingerprints all

over these lawsuits. It appears that Levi joined the lawsuit against the US government when a local minister got involved. As I mentioned in my last column, in Florida, the faith community has its own amicus brief in support of the Florida Our Children’s Trust lawsuit.

Claiming faith in Christ, if our faith is the basis of our values, should lead to certain behaviors. Throughout the Bible, from Genesis to Revelations, we are reminded that God created the world and expects us to take care of it. In 1990, almost 30 years ago, our denomination recognized and accepted that restoring creation is a central concern of the church and should be incorporated into its life and mission at every level.

God bless Levi and all the other children who are demonstrating God’s love for us through their courageous leadership.

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

Caring for Creation Notes



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

“One can only pray that these children succeed in changing the path we are on with our ongoing failure to comprehend and address climate change.”

PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA

Mailing address:
P. O. Box 7
Chipley, FL 32428

Physical address:
3320 Harmony Rd.

Phone: 850-535-2335
or 850-535-2440

E-mail:
office@presbyteryofflorida.com
Web site:
www.presbyteryofflorida.com

**Your Phone: 850-535-2335
or 850-535-2440**

**E-mail:
office@presbyteryofflorida.com
Website:
www.presbyteryofflorida.com**

**Committee on Congregational
Revitalization (CCR)**
Rev. Lisa Martin
revlwmartin@gmail.com

**Committee on Dogwood Acres
(CDWA)**
Dr. Linda T. Lovins
artsedlin@gmail.com

**Committee on Educational
Resources (CER)**
Rev. John Kupar
john@fpcpensacola.com

Committee on Ministry (COM)
Rev. Mark Broadhead
minister@fpc-crestview.org

**Committee on Mission and
Outreach (CMO)**
Rev. Dr. Hugh Hamilton
hugh@trinitypcola.org

**Committee on New
Congregational Development
(CNCD)**
Rev. A. J. Mealor
revmealor@gmail.com

Committee on Nominations (CN)
Leslie Yandle
Leslie.yandle@gmail.com

**Committee on Preparation for
Ministry (CPM)**
Rev. Sheldon Steen
sheldon@ukirkallahassee.com

**Committee on Presbytery
Administration (CPA)**
William O. Bell
wobell3@gmail.com

Committee on Representation (CR)
Rev. Michael Askew
askewmichaelsr@yahoo.com

The Panhandle Presbyterian

Save the date:

In November

Saturday, Nov. 2
7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. CST
The Great St. Andrews
Yard Sale & Bake Sale at
St. Andrews, Panama City,
front lawn

Saturday, Nov. 2
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT
1st, Chipley, Scottish
Festival & Highland Games

Sunday, Nov. 3
Daylight Saving Time ends

Sunday, Nov. 3
4 p.m. EST
“In Remembrance”
ecumenical service-concert,
at St. Johns Episcopal
Church, Tallahassee

Sunday, Nov. 3
11 a.m. EST
1st, Havana, Kirkin’ o’
the Tartan

Sunday, Nov. 3
10:30 a.m. CST
1st, Chipley, Kirkin’ o’
the Tartan

Sunday, Nov. 3
2 p.m. CST
Central District Elder/
Session/Deacon Training at
1st, Lynn Haven

Tuesday, Nov. 12
9:30 a.m. CST
Committee on Ministry
meeting at Presbytery office

Thursday, Nov. 14
9:30 a.m. CST
Coordinating & Planning
Commission meeting at
Presbytery office

Friday, Nov. 15
Deadline for Board of
Pensions annual enrollment
for 2020 benefits

Saturday, Nov. 16
1st, Crestview/Laurel Hill
Christmas Crafts Fair

Sunday, Nov. 17
3 p.m. EST
Christ, Tallahassee’s
Campfire Jam with
The Fried Turkeys

Tuesday, Nov. 19
9:30 a.m. CST
Committee on
Congregational
Revitalization meeting at
Presbytery office

Thursday, Nov. 21
7 p.m. EST
East District Stewardship
Gathering at Faith,
Tallahassee, Fellowship
Hall

*Thursday, Nov. 28 –
Friday, Nov. 29*
Presbytery office closed for
Thanksgiving

Saturday, Nov. 30
9 a.m. CST
Hanging of the Green at
Gulf Beach, Panama City
Beach

Looking ahead

Tuesday, Dec. 3
7 – 9 p.m. EST
Tallahassee Music Guild’s
2019 Sing-Along Messiah,
at Faith, Tallahassee

Tuesday, Dec. 3
Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, Dec. 10
10 a.m. CST
Committee on Educational
Resources meeting

Sunday, Dec. 15
11:30 a.m. EST
Christ, Tallahassee’s
Christmas Mission Market

Sunday, Dec. 15
7 – 8:30 p.m. CST
Christmas with the Celts, at
Gulf Beach, Panama City
Beach

*Tuesday –
Wednesday, Dec. 24
and 25*
Presbytery office closed for
Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day

Wednesday, Jan. 1
Presbytery office closed for
New Year’s Day



Small is Big

This little piggy is making a big impact. That's because even a small gift from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog is added to many others to lift up individuals and communities. For example, the gift of one piglet (just \$40) can provide vital income to a family, making a world of difference in their lives.

PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG

Small Gifts. Big Impact.

Give today at smallisbig.gives