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# The Panhandle Presbyterian

*A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida*



Volume 2, Issue 7

July 2019

## From General Presbyter Roy Martin

At the end of July, Lisa and I will be headed to Big Tent. No, we are not going camping. Big Tent is an event put on by our denomination every other year. This year, the event will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, where our General Assembly will meet next summer.

I think the best way to describe Big Tent is as a collection of workshops on a variety of subjects, Bible study, worship, and

opportunities to experience mission work. Presbyterian clergy, elders, deacons, and church members from all over the country come together to learn and explore how to engage their faith in real ways.

If you would like to see the itinerary for Big Tent, you can find it at:

<https://www.pcusa.org/events/47295/big-tent-2019/>

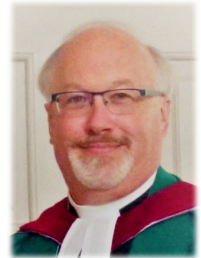
Registration is only \$95.00, and you can get

hotel info on the PCUSA website.

I am a big believer in continuing education, and Big

Tent always provides ways to stretch your mind and perspective on faith. I hope to see you there!

Roy



**The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin**



## From Our Stated Clerk



By  
Jeannie Dixon

## Presbytery By-Laws, Manual of Operations updated

At the Presbytery's stated meeting in May, the presbytery approved changes to both our By-Laws and our Manual of Operations. Copies of both were made available before the meeting; one version showed all the changes, and the other version was a "clean" version with the changes in place.

The Manual did not require a second reading, meaning it could be changed at the same meeting at which changes are proposed. The By-Laws, however, required a second reading, meaning that it would be October (the next stated meeting) before proposed changes could be given final approval. In order to avoid the situation with the Manual and By-Laws being "out of sync" the rules were suspended for

the By-Laws so they could be approved at the meeting.

The changes to both documents were to align with the new structure presbytery approved last October. The By-Laws had a couple of additional changes.

- To align with changes in *The Book of Order*, terms such as "teaching elder" were changed to "Minister of Word and Sacrament".

- A new method of including resident honorably retired ministers was added in Article III: Membership. HR who wish to be inactive in terms of determining the balance of ministers to elders may now register as an "inactive participant" for the year. Information on how to do so will be issued later this year.

- The moderator-in-nomination for the presbytery was changed to vice-moderator, a more commonly used term.

- Specific job responsibilities are moved to an appendix, rather than being part of the By-Laws document

- The quorum for the presbytery was changed from six ministers and six elders from 3 member congregations to 10 ministers, 10 elders from 10 member congregations.

- The process to change the By-Laws was modified to allow changes at a regular stated or special meeting, as long as the changes are distributed in writing ten days prior to the meeting. Approval of the changes will require a two-thirds vote.

Learn more at [pcusa-apa.org](http://pcusa-apa.org)

Register by July 3

Coming to...

**Florida**

Administrative Personnel Association  
**SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE**  
August 7-10, 2019  
Marriott Pompano Beach Resort & Spa

## Trinity, Pensacola, Legacy Grant supports shared witness

**T**rinity Presbyterian Church of Pensacola's Legacy Committee, for a second time, has given a very-generous and much-appreciated \$50,000 grant to the Presbytery of Florida' Building Our Presbytery Fund. As in the previous year, the funds will be used to develop and implement leadership, educational, stewardship, and programmatic efforts to revitalize the connectionalism between congregations, leaders, elders, ministers, and presbytery staff and committees.

In evaluating funding requests, the Legacy Committee considers how an award will aid Trinity and its sister congregations in fulfilling the six Great Ends of the Presbyterian Church: worship, ministry, evangelism, fellowship and discipleship. The presbytery requires adequate financial support to help congregations pursue the six Great Ends. This gift will substantially bolster the presbytery's efforts to fulfill its constitutional duties and our shared ministries.

Specifically, this support enables the presbytery to provide full-time leadership and communication to help guide and assist Trinity's and Trinity's sister congregations' shared witness.

It is my sincere opinion that without Trinity's generosity, as well as the generosity of so many other congregations in Florida Presbytery, we would not be operating as we are today. I thank each of you for your continued diligence in working to rebuild and re-nourish Florida Presbytery.

### From the Committee on Presbytery Administration



*By W. O. Bell,  
Chair*

## 1st, DeFuniak Springs, and Presbytery welcome pastor

**F**irst Presbyterian Church of DeFuniak Springs plans a Service of Installation for Rev. Charles "Chuck" Taber Sunday, July 14, at 3:30 p.m. CDT. He preached his first sermon there Sunday, June 9.

Rev. Taber most recently served as installed pastor of Beaver Dam and Pitts Creek Presbyterian Churches, Pocomoke City, MD. He also has served congregations, either as a pastor or pulpit supply, in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana and Florida since his ordination in 1995. His formal education includes

a M. Div., Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS; M. A., Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA; B. A., Bible, Belhaven College, Jackson, MS; and A. A., Marketing, Midlands Technical College, Columbia, SC. He also has training in interim ministry and grief recovery.

Additionally, he has served on various Presbytery committees, served on the board of an ecumenical college student outreach and worship center, developed resources for and assisted in teaching



*Rev. Charles Taber*

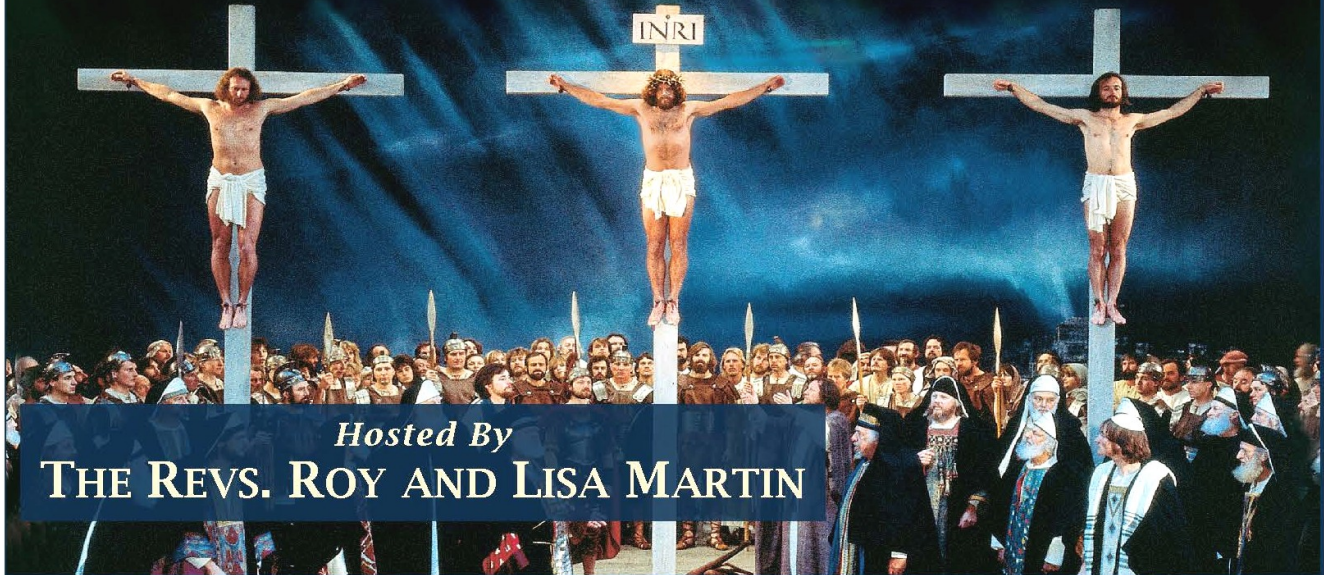
Natural Church Development principles; built unique, literature-inspired Advent experiences, and created materials for and taught Reformed Theology for commissioned ruling elders.

### From the Committee on Ministry

# TOUR OF ALPINE EUROPE

*INCLUDING THE PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU*

11 Days: September 19 - 29, 2020



Hosted By  
**THE REVS. ROY AND LISA MARTIN**

**VISITING: HEIDELBERG, RHINE VALLEY, LUCERNE, INNSBRUCK,  
 SALZBURG, MUNICH, AND ROTHENBURG**



**\$4499 FROM  
 ATLANTA**  
 (Air/land tour price is \$4029  
 plus \$470 government  
 taxes/airline surcharges)



*Featuring: Roundtrip airfare from Atlanta, accommodations at first class/select hotels (hotels & guesthouses in Oberammergau), first class (Category 1) admission tickets to the Passion Play, most meals, comprehensive services of a professional English-speaking tour director, all hotel service charges, value added taxes, portorage where available & entrance fees per the itinerary.*

**FOR A BROCHURE WITH FULL DETAILS, CONTACT OR DETACH & MAIL TO:**

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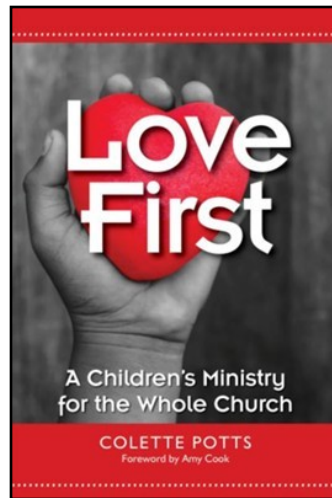
**NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.**

## The Committee on Educational Resources recommends ... *Love First* – by Colette Potts

The idea of love has seemed to be a strong virtue in fantastic people. One of my current favorite books is *Love Does* by Bob Goff, so I searched for a way to incorporate this love with children while teaching Sunday school and mid week programming. I found a book called *Love First*, by Collette Potts.

She is the wife of an Episcopal Minister and a family therapist, who was asked to take over and develop a relevant children's program. And while she could have taken over and followed the status quo, she chose to try something different.

This isn't your average curriculum: Potts sets the



model to be Love of God, Yourself and Neighbors, based on Matthew 22:36-40. With a small team, she was able to develop a program that pulled in the congregations' strengths, as well as ways to help children have a meaningful worship

experience and connection with an older community within the church walls.

Potts also addresses hurdles of outdated spaces, curriculum choices, busyness and lack of parental resources, by this simple and minimalist presentation; she even leaves time for Liturgical calendar events. If you have been in ministry for awhile and are looking for some fresh air, or if you are new to ministry looking for a foothold, this book can be a great resource for you:

[www.christianbook.com/love-first-childrens-ministry-whole-church/colette-potts/9781640650640/pd/650646](http://www.christianbook.com/love-first-childrens-ministry-whole-church/colette-potts/9781640650640/pd/650646)

## From the Committee on Educational Resources



By  
**Kim Carruth,**  
**Gulf Breeze**  
**Presbyterian Church**  
**Director of**  
**Children's Ministries**

## 2019 Well-Being Retreat

# *Life Is More*

Aug. 19 – 21 Register now at [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org)  
Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, NC

Sponsored by the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Foundation  
For active and retired members of the Benefits Plan  
There is no conference fee.

## From the Committee on Congregational Revitalization



*By The Rev.  
Lisa Martin,  
Vice Chair*

## CCR awards grant to help fight food insecurity

The Committee on Congregational Revitalization is honored to partner with congregations that want to enhance food sustainability ministries. At our last meeting, we awarded \$3,500 to Care and Share Community Food Pantry, endorsed by First Presbyterian Church of Chipley.

According to the application that was submitted, Care and Share Community Food Pantry assists any resident of Washington County that suffers from food insecurity, either chronically or acutely. Our grant will bless that ministry as they feed more than 3,000 residents each year.

This grant is made possible through Florida Presbytery's 2 Cents a Meal grant. Applicants may download the grant application on the presbytery's web site and submit to CCR by postal mail or scan/email at least one week prior to our scheduled meetings. We have a limited amount of funds to share, so we request that each congregation endorses a maximum of one request per calendar year.

CCR is blessed to help congregations through the 2 Cents a Meal grant,



because food insecurity is a serious matter. If your congregation is engaged in a creative food insecurity ministry, we'd love to hear from you! Let's share ideas and be a blessing to each other as we minister together in this part of God's kingdom!

CCR's primary focus is....revitalization of congregations (hence the committee name!). Our committee is continuing to grow in understanding and education of our ministry since the presbytery's committee structure was revamped and approved by the



presbytery in January. So that we may better serve, soon we will be training volunteers to work directly with particular congregations through Holy Cow, a Presbyterian-founded organization that utilizes helpful tools to help identify the health and vitality of congregations. Our goal is to begin training Holy Cow volunteers this fall so that they will be ready to assist particular congregations before Advent and Christmas.

We are also planning to utilize MissionInsite, the demographic analysis organization, with whom the presbytery has partnered for many years. To date, it has been used very little. That will soon change!

Using MissionInsite, which looks at the external community surrounding a church, and Holy Cow, which looks at the internal health of the congregation, we will be able to live into the calling of helping congregations become revitalized. You may learn more about MissionInsite at <https://missioninsite.com/> and Holy Cow at <https://holycowconsulting.com/>.

## Climate Change – The Moral Issue

By the time you read this, I will have preached a sermon on “Climate Change – The Moral Issue” at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. My message was simple. We know that we are harming God’s creation by continuing to burn fossil fuels.

We have the knowledge and power to stop it, yet we don’t. This failure to act along with the harm climate change is causing to “the least of these” makes responding to climate change a moral issue.

The UCC has an almost 50-year history of issuing policy statements on the environment and climate change. In fact, they passed the first denomination-wide resolution on divesting from fossil fuels in 2013, while we Presbyterians have failed to pass such a resolution three times.

The UCC also addressed renewable energy in the mid-1970s and passed its first of many resolutions on climate change in 1999. It appears to be easier for members of the United Church of Christ than for Presbyterians to speak out on the immorality of profiting from fossil fuels. The UCC is also the denomination that has brought us Reverend Jim Antal, whose book, *Climate Church, Climate Change* I wrote about in my last two columns.

We all need to hear that climate change is a moral issue and that the time to act is incredibly short. What happens in the next few years will profoundly affect the next thousand years and beyond. Are we going to let the future slip away from us, or as people of faith, are we going to demand the one action that can really make a difference, cutting our

carbon emissions in half by 2030?

Unfortunately, with the current leadership, we are actually increasing our carbon emissions to record levels, by opening up public conservation lands and offshore waters for more drilling and mining, by eliminating existing federal carbon cutting programs and by continuing federal fossil fuel subsidies which are ten times the amount we spend on education. For now, at least, we cannot count on national leadership on climate change, but that shouldn’t keep us from continuing to press for powerful action.

I end my sermon by saying that the Church of Jesus Christ has a challenge unlike any that it has ever faced. As people of faith, advocates for justice and people of strong moral character, we must stand up and bear witness to the reality of climate change and the harm it is causing to all of God’s creation. We must demand action that counts.

In my upcoming columns, I will write about actions that can save us. As always, I welcome your feedback. Please contact me at [pammcvey@hotmail.com](mailto:pammcvey@hotmail.com).

## Caring for Creation Notes



By  
**Pam McVety,**  
*Presbytery  
Stewardship  
of Creation  
Enabler*

*“As people of faith, advocates for justice and people of strong moral character, we must stand up and bear witness to the reality of climate change and the harm it is causing to all of God’s creation.”*

**First Presbyterian Church  
of DeFuniak Springs  
invites you to  
a Service of Installation for  
Rev. Charles R. Taber  
Sunday, July 14 • 3:30 p.m. CDT  
Clergy are asked to wear red stoles**

## PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA

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## The Panhandle Presbyterian

### Save the date:

#### In July

*Monday, July 1  
10 a.m. CDT*

Committee on Mission and  
Outreach meeting at  
Presbytery office

*Monday, July 1  
6:15 p.m. EDT*

“Theology on Tap: Cracking  
the Code: Unveiling the  
Apocalypse,” at  
McGowan’s Hops &  
Grapes, Tallahassee

*Wednesday, July 3*

Deadline to register for  
Administrative Personnel  
Association Southeast  
Region Conference,  
Aug. 7 – 10, Marriott  
Pompano Beach Resort  
& Spa

*Thursday, July 4*

Independence Day –  
Presbytery office closed

*Monday, July 8  
6:15 p.m. EDT*

“Theology on Tap: Cracking  
the Code: Unveiling the  
Apocalypse,” at  
McGowan’s Hops &  
Grapes, Tallahassee

*Tuesday, July 9  
9:30 a.m. CDT*

Committee on Ministry  
meeting at Presbytery office

*Wednesday, July 10  
6:45 p.m. CDT*

Jazz for the Soul, at Gulf  
Beach, Panama City Beach

*Sunday, July 14  
3:30 p.m. CDT*

Service of installation for  
Rev. Charles “Chuck”  
Taber, 1st, DeFuniak  
Springs

*Monday, July 15  
6:15 p.m. EDT*

“Theology on Tap: Cracking  
the Code: Unveiling the  
Apocalypse,” at  
McGowan’s Hops &  
Grapes, Tallahassee

*Tuesday, July 16 –  
Saturday, July 20*

Presbyterian Youth  
Triennium, at Purdue  
University, West Lafayette,  
Indiana

*Friday, July 19*

Submissions deadline for  
the August *Panhandle  
Presbyterian*

*Sunday, July 21  
10:30 a.m. EDT*

Acoustic Worship at Christ,  
Tallahassee

*Friday, July 26 –  
Sunday, July 28*

Discipleship 101  
at Christ, Tallahassee

#### Looking ahead

*Thursday, Aug. 1 –  
Saturday, Aug. 3*

Big Tent 2019,  
Baltimore, MD

*Saturday, Aug. 3*

Dogwood Acres Summer  
Camp season ends

*Wednesday, Aug. 7 –  
Saturday, Aug. 10*

Administrative Personnel  
Association Southeast  
Region Conference,  
Marriott Pompano Beach  
Resort & Spa

*Saturday, Aug. 17  
9:30 a.m. CDT*

Committee on Preparation  
for Ministry meeting at  
Presbytery office

*Monday, Aug. 19 –  
Wednesday, Aug. 21*

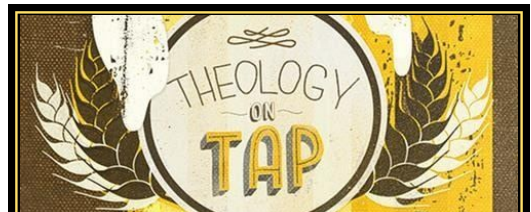
“Life is More”  
Board of Pensions/  
Presbyterian Foundation-  
sponsored well-being  
retreat, Montreat  
Conference Center,  
Montreat, NC

*Tuesday, Aug. 20*

Submissions deadline for  
the September *Panhandle  
Presbyterian*

*Saturday, Aug. 24*

Committee on Dogwood  
Acres meeting



### **Theology on Tap: Cracking the Code: Unveiling the Apocalypse**

**Exploration and study of  
the book of Revelations,  
led by Rev. Sheldon Steen,  
Campus Minister, UKirk Tallahassee**

**Mondays in July • 6:15 p.m. EDT  
First meeting will be at  
McGowan's in Bannerman Crossing,  
3431 Bannerman Rd., Tallahassee**

**Everyone is welcome!**