

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
Dvandiver
@presbyteryofflorida.com

Ben Powell,
Dogwood Acres Director
ben@dogwoodacres.org

Melissa Willis,
Administrator
Mwillis
@presbyteryofflorida.com

Inside this issue:

Presbytery	2
Narrative Budget	
Tour of	3
Alpine Europe	
Committee on	4
Nominations	
Committee on	5
Educational	
Resources	
Committee on	6
Dogwood Acres	
Caring for	7
Creation Notes	
Save the dates	8

The Panhandle Presbyterian

A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida



Volume 2, Issue 6

June 2019

From General Presbyter Roy Martin

The first book on my summer reading list is entitled *1619: Jamestown and the Forging of American Democracy*, by James Horn. My interest in this work largely stems from my involvement with and membership in the Jamestown Society (yes, in the title of the society, “Jamestown” ends with an “e”).

Later this summer, the 400th anniversary of representative government in what would eventually become the United States will be celebrated on Jamestown Island. So, in preparation for attendance at that event, I am reading Horn’s book.

It is an interesting read, as it lays out the turn of events which led to the king granting the right of organizing the first General Assembly to the Virginia Company colonists. Initially, just a few were elected to the Assembly and worked alongside the royal governor. But, over time, the Assembly grew, became known as the

House of Burgesses, and worked as a counter balance to the governor.

I have always had a deep interest in organizational structures: what precipitates their creation, how it is decided what kind of structure is needed, and how that structure is managed and developed. It seems to me that, in many instances, the thing that precipitates the need is work beyond what a few can manage. The thing that determines what kind of structure is needed is clarity around roles and responsibilities.



**The Rev. Dr.
Roy Martin**

And the thing that gives rise to management and development of that structure is a deep and abiding interest in making things work well.

A fair reading of the New Testament and a study of the early Church beyond New Testament times would suggest a similar process. As we move forward in building up the Body of Christ in our time, I hope we will never stop assessing the work to be done, who needs to do what, and how it will move forward in a way that gives glory to God through Jesus Christ.

What are you reading this summer?

Roy



**From
Florida
Presbyterian
Disaster
Assistance
Network**



FLAPDAN reminds congregations to be prepared

The past three years have been a grim reminder of the power of hurricanes... it's not just the wind, but storm surge and inland flooding, as well.

Here are a few reminders for congregations as we enter Hurricane Season:

- Know your flood zones and evacuation routes www.floridadisaster.org/knowyourzone/
- Review your insurance plan.
- Update your church's disaster plan, including current contact names and numbers. If you don't have a church disaster plan, start here: www.flapdan.org/sample-disaster-plans
- Plan to assist those in your congregation and

neighborhood that may need some extra help with their preparations... gathering supplies, putting up storm shutters, county special needs registry, evacuation, etc.

www.ready.gov/make-a-plan

- Heed local weather advisories and evacuation orders.
- Contact your local emergency management office if there is something your church can offer your community post-disaster... distribution or staging area in your parking lot, commercial kitchen, temporary housing for responders or volunteers.
- Contact FLAPDAN if you can temporarily host

out-of-town volunteers, have a team that can travel within Florida to assist with tarping, muck and gut, trained chainsaw operators, etc.

Email:

fla.pdan@pcusa.org

No matter what this season's predictions are, *it only takes one* storm to devastate a community. Last year, we witnessed what began as a tropical depression and, within approximately 72 hours, watched Category 5 Hurricane Michael destroy Mexico Beach, Port St. Joe, Panama City and several inland communities.

Let's be ready!

2019 Well-Being Retreat

Life Is More

Aug. 19 – 21 Registration opens June 12 at 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.

Smiling faces and open hearts brighten May 21 presbytery meeting

Attendees at the Presbytery of Florida's Spring Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven were warmly greeted and offered "Presbytery Meeting Survival Kits" by Janet Cooley and Ann Frederick, shown at right, from left. Scottish sounds filled the courtyard as church member Kathy McCurdy, at far right, played bagpipes.



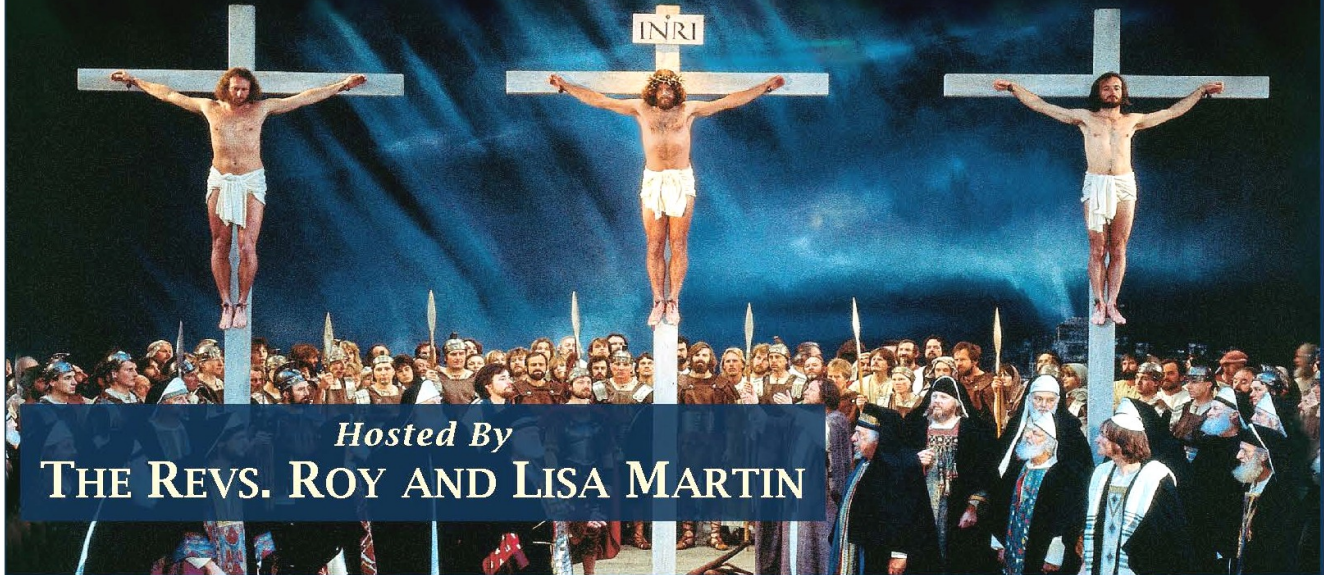
Shown below, from left, host pastor Rev. Lisa Martin welcomed guests and led Celebration of Eastertide Worship with Fellowship, Tallahassee, pastor Rev. A. J. Mealor preaching and church Music Director Bradley Thoreson providing accompaniment (*Worship photos courtesy of Jeannie Dixon*). At bottom, group discussions of churches' best practices, along with fellowship and delicious food, completed the gathering.



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:

Rev. Dr. Roy Martin
 Presbytery of Florida
 P.O. Box 7
 Chipley, FL 32428
 Tel: (850) 535-2335
 Email: rmartin@presbyteryofflorida.com

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____
 Tel: _____
 Email: _____

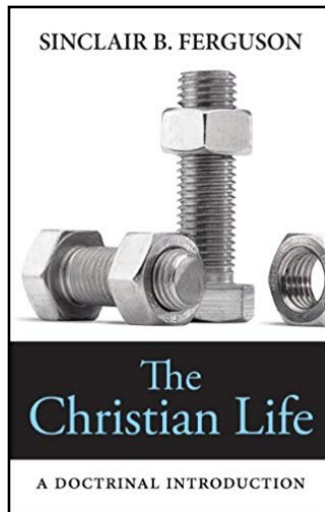
NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.

The Committee on Educational Resources recommends ...

The Christian Life: A Doctrinal Introduction – by Sinclair B. Ferguson

The study of Christian doctrine may seem sterile and unapproachable to many within the church. Folks may view doctrine as something totally remote from the daily exercise of following Jesus and seeking to grow in his likeness. The word “doctrine” probably conjures up thoughts of large dusty books full of words no one can pronounce. Thankfully, Sinclair Ferguson is a masterful teacher who understands that Christian doctrine is essential for our growing up into our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ferguson’s *The Christian Life* is written to clarify the teachings of Scripture and reveal how these teachings affect the practicalities of the



Christian life. Each chapter is laid out in an easily discernable outline. Ferguson’s points are clear without being simplistic or shallow. His work is full of Scripture, so bring your Bible along for the reading journey. Readers will quickly realize Ferguson isn’t merely expounding

arcane teachings of the church. His task is to bring comfort, encouragement, and guidance. Ferguson is truly a scholar who writes with a pastor’s heart, seeking to feed his sheep the nourishment they need in this world waiting its redemption.

I recommend this book to the new and experienced Christian. Ferguson is one the most accessible scholars I’ve encountered, and you won’t find any pretensions or baggage in his work. And when you come to the final page, I believe your heart will adore our God with more intensity and zeal. The book leads to worship, and isn’t that the point of any work in theology?

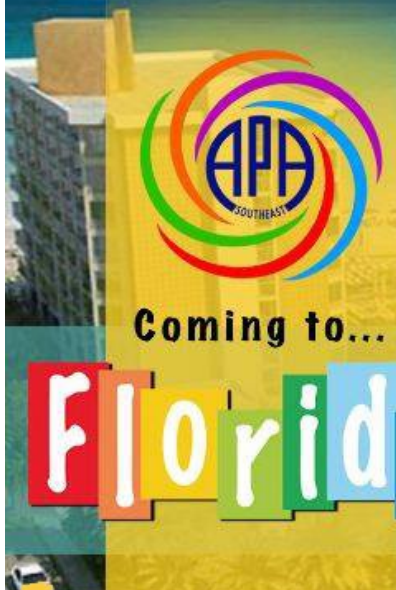
From the Committee on Educational Resources



By *Rev. Brian Yount*

Learn more at pcusa-apa.org

Register by July 3



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



From the Committee on Dogwood Acres



By
Dr. Linda Lovins,
Chair

Dogwood Acres shares three current needs for help

Dogwood Acres has three significant needs at the moment. Do you know someone who can help?

Summer Camp Counselors:

- 1 or 2 female counselors
- 3 male counselors

We're seeking young adults or high school graduates who would like to work with the fabulous children and youth from across our Presbytery. If you tell us they're extraordinary, we'll also consider hiring rising seniors in high school. This is a pressing need! *Please direct interested persons and all questions to Director Ben Powell at 850-528-3575.*

Water Line Replacement:

Before we can repair road surfaces damaged during post-hurricane tree removal by heavy equipment, we need to replace the water line from the Presbytery/Dogwood Acres office building to the pool and Elvery House. Three individuals who can do manual labor are needed for what Ben describes as a one-day job for volunteers. If it's too hot, the work may be divided over two days to keep volunteers safe. *Please direct interested persons and all questions to*

Director Ben Powell at 850-528-3575.

CDWA Members:

The Committee on Dogwood Acres is pleased to announce the recent addition of Mary Steen (Faith, Tallahassee) to the CDWA. With CDWA member Ken Densmore (First, Pensacola), Mary will focus on the work of the Retreat and Conference Team. We still need:

- 3 additional members from across the Presbytery, including:
 - 1 pastor member; 1 member from the western region; 1 member from the central region
- Please direct interested persons and all questions to Chair Linda Lovins at 850-294-0981.*

Additional Notes:

Dogwood Acres reopened for business in late February. Ben Powell and James Vance worked long hours and, with maintenance staff Robert Commerford, completed herculean amounts of work. PDA, FLAPDAN, and volunteer groups continue to use DWA as a home base until Summer Camp begins. 362 volunteers from our Presbytery and as far away as Oklahoma and Illinois (and from a

variety of denominations) clocked 2,018 hours to help DWA reopen. Thank you, volunteers!!

CDWA Teamwork:

Administration Team – just completed Director's annual evaluation; considering staffing configurations; new Cook has joined the staff
Property and Volunteers Team – have completed all building repairs in main camp, DEBRIS IS GONE (!) from all roadsides
Retreat and Conference Team – looking into supporting Presbytery's interest in various retreats; preparing to work with Committee on Educational Resources (CER) events at DWA

Youth Team – **Calling all campers!** Registration is OPEN! We've added an exciting new program: Mission Week (go to: www.dogwoodacres.org/summer-camp/).

Do you know of a young person who would benefit from attending camp? Are there unchurched children and youth in your neighborhood? Encourage them to register and/or sponsor them for an unparalleled experience in this special place. Scholarships are available – no child will be denied access to DWA on the basis of finances.

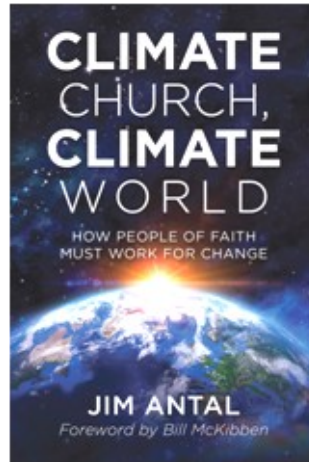
Climate Church, Climate World: Why this book is needed (Part 2)

This is a two-part article. Part 1 appeared in the May issue.

Reverend Antal's words are what I need because, after 20 years of working on climate change issues in the church and community, I am disheartened. It stems from our denomination's refusal to stop funding the climate crisis; watching my friends and neighbors still suffering months after climate-fueled Hurricane Michael; stressing as extreme weather brought tornadoes on the ground in our community in February; understanding how desperate our situation is; and observing the seemingly never-ending cutting of programs, funding, research and regulations that address climate change.

It is difficult to talk about what I am experiencing emotionally, but using Antal's words, I feel dread about what lies ahead, outrage at our failure to respond, and a deep sadness about what has already been lost.

Our church spent five weeks this spring, studying *Climate Church, Climate World*



and our minister, Brant Copeland, preached a sermon on the role of the church in addressing climate change that was both bold and comforting.

He said, in part, "If the church of Jesus Christ does not stand up and bear witness to the truth, how will the truth be known? How will the truth which sets us free be itself unbound in this age of greed, fake news and overt denial of reality?"

Climate change is a moral issue, no less than slavery was a moral issue for the folks whose slaves helped to build this sanctuary. No less than civil rights was a moral issue for some of you sitting here this morning, who risked jobs and friendships to stand for racial justice.

We must be the church of Jesus Christ.

We must live up to the example of the saints who have gone before us – saints who faced other moral crises. We must all do more and most important of all, we must not give up hope. The God who calls us to work for climate justice is the same God revealed in Jesus Christ, whose grace sustains us in all endeavors to do God's will, and whose steadfast love endures from generation to generation."

I am grateful to Reverends Antal and Copeland, as well as to the tens of thousands of other people around the world for their committed and steadfast leadership in addressing the injustices of climate change. They give me hope when the reality of our situation denies it.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, if you are looking for hope in the midst of this crisis or if you don't understand why the church needs to act boldly to address the climate crisis, this book is for you. As always, I welcome your comments. Please contact me at pammcvely@hotmail.com.

Caring for Creation Notes



By
Pam McVety,
Presbytery
Stewardship
of Creation
Enabler

"If the church of Jesus Christ does not stand up and bear witness to the truth, how will the truth be known? How will the truth which sets us free be itself unbound in this age of greed, fake news and overt denial of reality?"

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
Website:
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. Dr. James Huffaker
jhuffaker35@gmail.com

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

**Committee on Educational
Resources (CER)**
Rev. John Kuper
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 June

- Saturday, June 1* Open Hearts '50s - '60s
6 – 9 p.m. CDT Dance Party, at 1st, Milton,
Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, June 1* Final day to apply for the
2019-20 Young Adult
Volunteer year
- Saturday, June 1* Committee on
9:30 a.m. CDT Congregational
Revitalization meeting
at Presbytery office
- Saturday, June 8* Reading of session minutes
at Presbytery office
- Sunday, June 9* Day of Pentecost
- Sunday, June 9* Dogwood Acres
Summer Camp begins
- Wednesday, June 12* Jazz for the Soul,
6:45 p.m. CDT at Gulf Beach,
Panama City Beach
- Sunday, June 16* Fathers' Day
- Monday, June 17* Committee on Preparation
9:30 a.m. CDT for Ministry meeting
at Presbytery office
- Monday, June 17 –
Friday, June 21* Confirmation Camp
at 1st, Tallahassee
- Tuesday, June 18* Presbyterian Foundation
Noon – 2 p.m. CDT Forum at Grace,
Panama City
- Thursday, June 20* Submissions deadline for the
July *Panhandle Presbyterian*
- Saturday, June 22 –
Saturday, June 29* Faith, Tallahassee,
Mission Trip to Panajachel,
Guatemala
- Friday, June 28* Deadline for ordering
2019-20 Presbyterian
Planning Calendars through
the Presbytery office

Looking ahead

- Thursday, July 4* Independence Day –
Presbytery office closed
- Wednesday, July 10* Jazz for the Soul, at Gulf
6:45 p.m. CDT Beach, Panama City Beach
- Friday, July 19* Submissions deadline for
the August *Panhandle
Presbyterian*
- Sunday, July 21* Acoustic Worship at Christ,
10:30 a.m. EDT Tallahassee
- Friday, July 26 –
Sunday, July 28* Discipleship 101
at Christ, Tallahassee
- Thursday, Aug. 1 –
Saturday, Aug. 3* Big Tent 2019,
Baltimore, MD

DOGWOOD ACRES SUMMER CAMP

*A safe, beautiful, faith-filled setting in
which campers can swim, fish, laugh,
worship, sing, learn archery and crafts,
help each other on the Challenge Course,
and create lifelong memories.*

Learn more and register at
www.dogwoodacres.org;
call (850)528-3575

or email dogwoodacresfl@gmail.com.

All children entering grades 2-12 are
welcome. Scholarships are available.



2019-2020 Presbyterian Planning Calendars will be available in August

To order yours through the Presbytery office for \$10 each
(plus any shipping costs from the Presbytery to your address),
please email office@presbyteryofflorida.com
or call 850-535-2335 no later than Friday, June 28