

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

Rev. Trinity Whitley
Moderator
trinity@faithpcusa.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:

- Committee on Nominations (CN) 2
- Committee on Ministry (COM) 2
- Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR) 3
- Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA) 4
- Caring for Creation 5
- Save the Dates 6

The Panhandle Presbyterian

A monthly publication of the Presbytery of Florida



Volume 5, Issue 4

April 2022

From General Presbyter Roy Martin

In C.S. Lewis' famous "children's story," *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, Susan and Lucy mourn the death of the great lion king, Aslan, who sacrificed his life for the kingdom of Narnia. The narrator describes the somber tone as the two weep over their lost leader:

"I hope no one who reads this book has been quite as miserable as Susan and Lucy were that night; but if you have been—if you've been up all night and cried till you have no more tears left in you—you will know that there comes in the end a

sort of quietness. . . . But at last Lucy noticed two other things.

One was that the sky on the East side of the hill was a little less dark than it had been an hour ago. The other was some movement going on in the grass at her feet."

As we conclude our walk through Lent and its call to introspection and the growing awareness that passage can bring concerning our need for



The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin

the saving presence of Jesus Christ, and as we journey through Holy Week with its focus on Christ's path toward and death upon the cross, I pray that, as we approach Easter, you will notice that, for all of the pain and suffering and worry and fear and, yes, even death we might experience in this life, "the East side of the hill is a little less dark," and that there is, "some movement going on in the grass" at your feet.

Christ is coming!
Hallelujah! Amen!

Roy



2022 WORSHIP & MUSIC CONFERENCE

JUNE 19 - 24
JUNE 26 - JULY 1

In-Person & Online

MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER
MONTREAT, NC

WWW.PRESBYMUSIC.ORG/

2022CONFERENCE

From the Committee on Nominations (CN)



*By Ruth Bedell,
CN member and
Faith, Tallahassee,
elder, and
Rich Kangas,
CN vice chair and
1st, Lynn Haven elder*

Presbytery Committee Corner: Committee on Nominations (CN)

This corner will highlight a different Presbytery committee each month. We will look at its makeup, purpose, responsibilities, and include a quote from the committee chair. Our goal with these articles is to educate church membership on some of the inner workings of the Presbytery.

This month's feature is the Committee on Nominations (CN). Leslie Yandle, the chairperson, is assisted by a vice chair and four members from all geographic areas of the Presbytery, plus a liaison from the Committee on Representation.

Nominations Chair Leslie Yandle says, "When people use their gifts and talents on the right committee at

Presbytery, there's an energy that grows from church level to Presbytery, and from Presbytery back to the church. With committee meetings being held on Zoom, in-person, or a combination of both, it's easier than ever to attend meetings and contribute with your skills and passions."

CN's purpose is to nominate individuals to the Presbytery to serve on Presbytery committees. The committee adheres to established norms of committee membership and representation. They also fill vacancies for chairpersons, vice chairs, the Permanent Judicial Commission, and commissioners to Synod and General Assembly meetings.

CN tries to maintain a balanced representation from the east, central and

west districts of our Presbytery. Consideration is given to nominating equal numbers of ministers and laity, male and female whenever possible, as well as meeting the requirements as stated in the Book of Order for committee nominations.

CN develops and maintains lists of possible candidates for committee membership and other related leadership positions. Once the process of identifying potential candidates is completed, the committee has to contact each person for consent prior to nomination. Vacancies are filled as they occur during the year.

This gives you a quick peek at the role of the CN. Next month's issue will highlight another committee. See you at the corner!

From the Committee on Ministry (COM)

Presbytery welcomes new minister member

Rev. Dr. John Stringer and wife, Mary Nell, retired in October 2020 – she as Principal/Head of School at Eagle Ridge Academy in Denver, Colorado, and he, from his State Farm Financial Services and Insurance agency, also in Denver. While in Colorado, because of the flexibility of owning his own business, he was able to serve as Transitional Pastor for churches in Denver Presbytery.

The couple have relocated to Shalimar, FL, along with their 14-year-old wonder-pup, Edward G., recently settling into their newly-renovated retirement home. They are enthusiastic resale shoppers/searchers who love looking through other people's discarded items and finding lost, underappreciated vintage treasures.

"The fun is in the hunt!" says Rev. Dr. Stringer. He also



The Rev. Dr. John Stringer

searches for, buys, collects, and listens to vinyl records, old, used, and new.

Continues on page 3

Three categories of revitalization assistance now available

The Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR) has been blessed with funding to help revitalize congregations in their service to the Lord and the community in which they are situated. To aid smaller congregations (50 or less regularly attending worship) in their attempt to revitalize and refocus their ministry, grant funding through CCR may be available.

There are three categories for which revitalization assistance may apply. Please keep in mind that all grants, if approved by the Committee on Congregational Revitalization, are considered to be matching grants up to the amount specified in its policy.

- **Updating Equipment** (up to \$1,000)

In a day and age of electronic communication and learning opportunities, “old fashioned” learning tools do not have much appeal to younger generations. If just cause can be presented demonstrating how updating equipment will play a key role in revitalizing and refocusing a congregation’s ministry, a request for equipment will be considered.

- **Emergency Repairs** (up to \$5,000)

There may be occasions when repairs to church facilities are needed in an attempt to be more visually appealing to potential newcomers as well as for the safety of all. A leaky roof leaving water stains, rotting wood that needs to be replaced, and painting are just a few examples.

- **Calling a Pastor**

(up to ½ the Presbytery minimum compensation requirements) Congregations that have completed the Holy Cow! Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) and the MissionInsite demographic study and devised strategic plans showing viability for future ministry may apply for a Pastoral Leadership Grant. This would be to help call a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) pastor to serve the congregation for a minimum of three years. There will be a stringent review process prior to awarding this grant.

Please contact Mark Broadhead (minister@fpc-crestview.org) if you would like more information.

From the Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)



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

Continued from page 2

Included in the Stringer family are Jordan Stringer and Kosha Tucker, of Nashville, Tennessee, as well as Seth Stringer and Kristie Holley, of Ft. Walton Beach. The Stringers also have four wonderful grand-dogs: Gino, Linus, Chloe and Molly.



**REGISTER TODAY FOR THE JELLY BEAN 5K
RUN/WALK AND CHILDREN'S FUN RUN!**

EASTER SATURDAY - APRIL 16, 2022
8am @ Trinity Presbyterian Church
3400 Bayou Blvd. Pensacola, FL 32503

Register at getmeregistered.com/jellybeanrun

Hosted by:



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
info@trinitypcola.org

Sponsored by:



Run and Walk Timed by:



Proceeds Benefit:



**From the
Committee on
Dogwood Acres
(CDWA)**



*By Ben Powell,
DWA Director*

Dogwood Acres gears up for Summer Camp 2022

From late-June through the end of July, camps at Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Summer Camp are available for all ages, from High School Hangout to a four-day, three-night Intro Camp for first and second graders.

Dogwood's summer camps are designed around small-group experiences. We encourage future generations by guiding our youth toward a greater awareness of their relationship with God, instilling a sense of accomplishment, an appreciation for their own and others' abilities, and presenting a new outlook on what they are capable of achieving.



It's our goal to provide an outdoor ministry where individual kids and groups can grow in Christian faith, fellowship, and fun, as we marvel in God's miracle of creation.

Registration is open, and scholarships are

available. Take advantage of the early registration and sibling discounts.

To learn more, visit www.dogwoodacres.org. Register soon – spaces fill fast!



**Summer Registration
is Open!**

www.dogwoodacres.org/summer-camp/



Trees, glorious trees

Trees are mentioned in the Bible more than any other living thing except for people. There's a tree on the first page of Genesis, the first Psalm, the first page of the New Testament, and the last page of Revelation. Whether it is the fall, the flood, or the overthrow of the Pharaoh, every major event in the Bible has a tree in it. Trees are mentioned in 56 different verses in the Bible.

Wooden boats saved Noah and his family from the flood, and an olive branch told him that the flood was over. The olive tree may be mentioned the most in the Bible and is one of the most highly-valued and useful trees known to ancient Jews.

There are even 12 verses that mention palm trees. The most famous in John 12:13, "...took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and began to shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel."

Trees are also an important part of Florida's history. Wooden ships carried Ponce de Leon to our shores, and cabbage palm branches have thatched the chickee huts of Seminoles for 300 years. Live oak trees from Tallahassee were given to the Navy for repairs to the USS Constitution (Old



Ironsides). Turpentine production from pine gum resin was an important industry for Florida from 1909 into the 1950s.

Every state has a state tree, and some proudly display it on their state seals. Ours is the cabbage palm or palmetto tree. Poets have written about trees for centuries. Joyce Kilmer's poem is perhaps the most famous with the line, "I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree." Trees feed us, from the maple syrup we pour on our pancakes to the 7,500 varieties of apples that "keep the doctor away."

Our success as humans on planet Earth is intimately tied to trees. They provide shade on hot days and can cool our cities by up to 10 degrees F. Shade from trees slows water evaporation from thirsty lawns and increases atmospheric moisture. Trees strategically planted around a home can cut summer air conditioning needs by up to 50 percent.

Most importantly, trees help us breathe. They are called the lungs

of the earth. Trees take up carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the air and release oxygen (O₂) into the air we breathe.

As the world overheats because of our burning of fossil fuels, trees' ability to take up the greenhouse gas CO₂ makes every tree in our yards, fields and communities enormously valuable. Many communities are planting trees to help their reduce their carbon footprint.

If your church is looking for a project to address the climate crisis, consider planting native trees around your church, homes or in public spaces. A number of Internet sites recommend trees that absorb the most CO₂. One is "[Best Carbon Dioxide Storing Trees and Plants and How to Plant Them](#)". Or consult a local nursery.

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

Caring for Creation Notes



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

*Our success
as humans
on planet Earth
is intimately tied
to trees.*

**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.net

**Committee on Congregational
Revitalization (CCR)**
Rev. Mark Broadhead
minister@fpc-crestview.org

**Committee on Dogwood Acres
(CDWA)**
Rev. William "Bill" Lamont
gbpcpastorbill@gmail.com

**Committee on Educational Resources
(CER)**
Elder Esther Moring
esthermoring@gmail.com

Committee on Ministry (COM)
Rev. Dr. Joan Wooten
joanwooten@fpcpensacola.com

**Committee on Mission and Outreach
(CMO)**
Rev. Luis Ocasio-Torres
luisjocasio@gmail.com

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

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

**Committee on
Preparation for Ministry (CPM)**
Rev. Dr. Raymond Guterman
dwguterma@gmail.com

**Committee on Presbytery
Administration (CPA)**
Rev. Brad Clayton
brad@faithpcusa.org

Committee on Representation (CR)
Elder Glenn Hodges
ghodges37@comcast.net

**Coordinating and Planning
Commission (CPC)**
Rev. Dr. Michael Askew
askew.michaelsr@yahoo.com

Save the date (or visit <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/events-calendars/>)

<u>In April</u>		<u>Looking ahead</u>	
Tuesday, April 5 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)	Tuesday, May 3 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Saturday, April 9 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Representation (CR)	Thursday, May 5	National Day of Prayer
Sunday, April 10	Palm Sunday	Sunday, May 8	Mothers Day
Wednesday, April 11 11 a.m. CDT/ 12 p.m. EDT	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)	Tuesday, May 10 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Ministry (COM)
Wednesday, April 11 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)	Wednesday, May 11 11 a.m. CDT/ 12 p.m. EDT	Committee on Educational Resources (CER)
Friday, April 15	Good Friday – Presbytery office closed	Wednesday, May 11 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Saturday, April 16	Trinity, Pensacola, Jelly Bean 5K	Saturday, May 14 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Representation (CR)
Sunday, April 19 9 a.m. CDT	Easter Sunday	Tuesday, May 17 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)
Tuesday, April 19 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Revitalization (CCR)	Saturday, May 21 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT Registration starts one hour before	Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting, Dogwood Acres (tentative)
Thursday, April 21 9:30 a.m. CDDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC)	Wednesday, May 25 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	"I Stand with You" Task Force
Friday, April 22	Earth Day	Monday, May 31	Memorial Day – Presbytery office closed
Tuesday, April 26 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)	Tuesday, May 31 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)
Wednesday, April 27 10 a.m. CST/ 11 a.m. EST	"I Stand with You" Task Force		

**YOU SHALL BE CALLED
REPAIRERS
of the BREACH**

— ISAIAH 58

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

03.02.22-
04.17.22