

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

Don Mowat
Moderator
dmowat@bellsouth.net

Rev. Mark Broadhead
Vice Moderator
minister@fpc-crestview.org

Denise Vandiver
Treasurer/Bookkeeper
Dvandiver
@presbyteryofflorida.com

Christy Williams
Dogwood Acres Director
christy@dogwoodacres.org

Melissa Willis
Administrator
Mwillis
@presbyteryofflorida.com

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From General Presbyter Roy Martin

Annie Johnson Flint was a poet who felt called to write poems about Christian faith. She was born in New Jersey in 1866 and lost both of her parents in early childhood.

After high school, she attended a training school for teachers and then started teaching a primary class. During her second year of teaching, she began experiencing symptoms of arthritis which developed into a chronic condition from which she never recovered.

Her most popular poems included, "He Giveth More Grace" and "Christmas Carols", which were published in *Christian Endeavor* and *Sunday School Times*.

But the poem of hers I wish to share here is called "The Way of the Cross":



The Rev. Dr. Roy Martin

*Some of us stay at the Cross,
Some of us stay at the tomb,
Quickened and raised with Christ
Yet lingering still in the gloom.*

*Some of us bide at the Passover Feast
With Pentecost all unknown:*

*The triumphs of grace in the heavenly place
That our Lord has made our own.*

*If Christ who had died had stopped at the Cross,
His work had been incomplete.*

*If Christ who was buried had stayed in the tomb,
He had only known defeat.*

*But the Way of the Cross never stops at the Cross,
And the way of the tomb leads on
To victorious Grace in the heavenly place,
Where the Risen Lord has gone.*

Annie Johnson Flint died in 1932 at the age of 65. She now experiences fully where the risen Lord has gone. This Easter, may you begin to experience the risen Lord even here and now in our worship and in our daily living.

Roy



*You shall be called
Repairers
of the breach*

— ISAIAH 58



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

02.22.23 - 04.9.23

From our Stated Clerk



*By Jeannie Dixon,
Fellowship,
Tallahassee elder*

Churches wrap up statistics; reviews of records continue

A big “thank you” to every congregation in the presbytery. We completed the statistics “season” with all 37 congregations submitting at least membership numbers; some also included other statistics (financial, congregational life, etc.). The good news is that there is not a General Assembly this year, so the statistics questions will not change for the 2023 gathering. Now is the time to be sure you have things set up to allow you to easily gather the information.

While working toward completing the statistics, we also worked on catching up with the session records review. Due to Covid, we had to read 2019, 2020, 2021. Thanks for all who worked hard to accomplish this. Six of the congregations have not provided their records for review. Work will continue to complete those six reviews (or 18, since it is three years for each). I am working with members of Committee on Ministry to schedule the review for the 2022 minutes. I hope we can get this completed before

the end of May.

To expedite this review, I would encourage the clerks to prepare the records and complete the review form. The form is on the presbytery website, under the “Other Resources” tab, “Clerk of Session”: <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/other-resources/for-clerks-of-session/> Here is the link to the form: <http://www.presbyteryofflorida.net/app/download/7126502598/Session+minutes+review+checklist+2021-04.pdf>

From the Committee on Mission and Outreach (CM)



*By Tim Crawford,
CMO member,
FLAPDAN Liaison
and 1st, Crestview
Elder*

Early disaster preparedness is key; resources can help

Spring has sprung! Isn't it beautiful outside? The birds are singing, flowers blooming, everything is turning green, and in about 60 days hurricane season begins.

While the annual predictions for the number and intensity of 2023 season storms have been made, we all know that should a storm come our way, those predictions are forgotten. It only takes one storm to make a mess of our lives, and there is little we can do when a storm is bearing down. Or is there?

Absolutely there is! We can, and must, plan and prepare, and the sooner we get started, the better! Certainly, if we wait until



a storm impact is imminent, our options are limited; store shelves will be empty, fuel for your car or generator hard to find, the list of issues goes on.

To minimize the challenges, early preparation is the key, and using a well-documented disaster plan will make your preparations successful. If you already have a personal disaster plan, great! Review and update

it as necessary now. Additionally, check to make sure your church's disaster plan is up-to-date and complete.

If you or your congregation do not have a disaster plan, not to worry. Now is the time to get started. “How?” you may ask. The Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, or FLAPDAN, is ready to help. Go to this link

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<https://www.flapdan.org/sample-disaster-plans> and download the template to quickly build a detailed plan for your church.

If you need help with a home disaster plan or preparedness kit, there are several resources with sample templates, as well. Go to the [American Red Cross](#) or to FEMA's <https://www.ready.gov/plan> to get information for disaster plans and putting together preparedness kits. Once your plan is finished, it is a good idea to practice the plan, especially at church where multiple

people working together are needed to successfully implement the process.

With your plan finished, and dry run complete, what is next? Help others in your congregation prepare their home plan. Assemble response teams to help with cleanup should you be impacted by a storm. There is always a need for volunteer mission teams. Assemble groups to travel to affected areas to help our neighbors with cleanup and restoration. Groups not able to travel to a storm site can help to by assembling "[Gift of the Heart Kits](#)". These kits include cleanup buckets, Hygiene kits and other kits to help in recovery efforts. We can also support those

in need by donating to [FLAPDAN](#) and to [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) (PDA) where you can designate gifts to a specific event. In a few weeks the [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) offering will be received. This PCUSA special offering is divided three ways with PDA receiving 32% of the offering, enabling them to respond to disasters worldwide, anywhere help is needed.

Another way to help is to pray for each other, for those in need, and for those who offer help in times of disaster. Pray, also, for a quiet hurricane season; but be prepared.

Presbytery discernment process needs your assistance

Easter is just down the road – about a week away. The joyful celebration of that day is the guaranteed new life given to us in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Through his life, death, and ultimate resurrection, he called his church into being. Over the centuries his church has shifted and changed in its format depending on cultural, societal, and theological changes. Thus, we within the Reformed Tradition have that delightful saying: "Ecclesia Reformata, Semper Reformanda" (The Church Reformed, Always Being Reformed). This statement of

reformation is also true for Presbyteries. It is true for the Presbytery of Florida. Our Presbytery is entering into a period of discernment to determine what God is calling us to become in our ministries together. Your assistance is needed in at least two ways.

First – pray. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to speak clearly about the direction we are to take. Pray that we, as an entire Presbytery will receive the courage, wisdom, and insight to move into the future that God is unfolding.

Second – participate in the Landscape Assessment Tool that will be sent out by the Strategic Planning Taskforce. This

assessment will be emailed out to participants on April 10 – the day after Easter. The window for completing the online assessment will be open for approximately 3 weeks. The more that are familiar with the workings of the Presbytery and complete the assessment, the better the results will be.

If you have not already received an introductory email about the survey, please let me know. My email address is minister@fpc-crestview.org. I'd be happy to get you on the list.

In the meantime, may your Holy Week and Easter celebrations be of deep spiritual meaning.

From the Strategic Planning Taskforce



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

From the Committee on Nominations (CN)



*By Ruth Bedell,
CN member and
Faith, Tallahassee,
elder*

Presbytery Committee Corner: Why volunteer to serve?

This month, we begin a new series of interviews with committee members about their decisions to volunteer on presbytery committees. We interviewed the chairpersons of the Committee on Nominations (CN) and Committee on Representation (CR). These two committees are involved in recruiting qualified candidates to committees and ensuring fair representation of committee membership, respectively.



*Rich Kangas,
Chair,
Committee on
Nominations
and Elder, 1st
Presbyterian
of Lynn Haven*

When did you start volunteering on presbytery committees and why?

I just started my 3rd year on the CN, which happens to be my first presbytery committee assignment. Prior to 2021, I served as an elder of my home church on and off for 30 years and many times as a church commissioner to the presbytery meetings. It was only after I retired that I began serving for the presbytery. I was asked to serve on the CN and eventually became the committee chair. I volunteer because I consider it an honor to serve the Lord in any capacity.

Why should church members volunteer on

presbytery committees?

Without volunteers and the CN getting them, the presbytery would have no committees to conduct its work and ministry. That's the way the Presbyterian Church works. PC(USA) structure consists of the local congregation, presbytery, synod, and General Assembly. The local congregation recruits its members to volunteer at the local level, whereas, the synod (which covers multiple presbyteries) and the General Assembly (national) have more paid staff and more churches from which to recruit volunteers than a single presbytery.

The Presbytery of Florida has some paid staff and relies on the volunteers from 37 local congregations to serve on its committees. So, the more the local congregations are involved in the presbytery (by providing financial resources and volunteers), the more the presbytery can help the local congregations. It is a good return on investment for the local congregations.



*Glenn Hodges,
Chair,
Committee on
Representation
and Elder, 1st
Presbyterian
of Tallahassee*

When did you start volunteering for the presbytery and on which committees have you served?

I started volunteering for

the presbytery in the year 2015. What made me decide to volunteer was the desire to serve and help others. The committee I served on before my current position was an ad hoc search committee for the next Presbytery executive.

As deacons and elders, we are called not to be served, but to serve. (Matthew 20:28). My decision to become chair of the CR was prompted by my desire to learn and to help make the presbytery a more vital organization. Jesus Christ summons us as followers to go to church and be the church at all levels of the Presbyterian Church.

Why should presbytery members volunteer on a committee? Why is it important to the presbytery?

Volunteering on a presbytery committee is a great way to serve the Lord, meet new people, and learn about yourself and others. Volunteering is vital to the presbytery because it strengthens the presbytery and our ties to each other and the Lord. Jesus is the tie that binds.

We are a community of the faithful and are relational. Serving the presbytery strengthens our connections to the community and broadens our support network, exposing us to people with common interests, neighborhood resources, and fun and fulfilling activities.

Three categories of grant funding available for revitalization

The Committee on Congregational Discernment, or CCD, (formerly the Committee on Congregational Revitalization, or 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 fewer regularly attending worship) in their attempt to revitalize and refocus their ministry, grant funding through CCD 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 Discernment, 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), 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 me (minister@fpc-crestview.org) if you would like more information.

From the Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD)



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

LAUREL HILL ARTS & HERITAGE Festival

ARTS • CRAFTS • MUSIC • FOOD

SAT., JUNE 3, 10am-3pm • FREE!

LAUREL HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH YARD • 8115 FOURTH STREET

LIVE LOCAL MUSIC • COTTAGE FOODS • CRAFTS ARTISTS • HISTORIC AND CULTURAL DISPLAYS

PRESENTED BY THE LAUREL HILL AND CRESTVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES AND THE FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

GET REGISTERED!

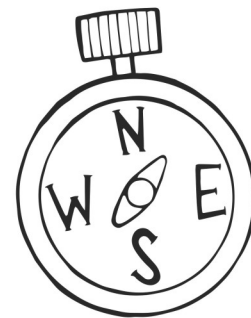
VISIT—DOGWOODACRE.ORG/SUMMER
OR SCAN BELOW



HIGH SCHOOL WEEK SUMMER 2023

A WEEK OF CAMP SPECIFICALLY
DESIGNED FOR HIGH SCHOOL CAMPERS.
JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF NEW
ADVENTURES BOTH ON AND OFF SITE.

- LATE NIGHT ACTIVITIES
- OFFSITE EXCURSIONS
- ONLY HIGH SCHOOLERS
- MODIFIED SCHEDULE



DOGWOOD ACRES

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

Manatees are starving in the Indian River Lagoon

We all love manatees, and any man, woman or child who is lucky enough to encounter one in the wild falls in love with them. They are one of God's most beloved animals, but it probably is not because of their looks. They resemble a gray torpedo.

It's more likely because they are gentle giants that like being around people. They are important because they are a keystone species, and, when they suffer, other species suffer. Manatees are starving to death in Indian River Lagoon because the food they eat, seagrasses, have died off in parts of the lagoon.

A very long time ago, when I was charged with saving manatees, they were primarily killed by boat strikes. The idea that they might run out of food was not much of an issue. Today, they are starving to death, and it has gotten so bad, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission has been feeding them lettuce. ([A word of caution: You should not feed them.](#))

Feeding them is unthinkable, because once you feed a wild animal, it can become dependent on your largesse. But, if there is no food, you have no choice. This tells you that their habitat is in bad shape, if the food they have been dependent on

for thousands of years is no longer available.

Our pollution has killed off seagrasses. Discharges from septic tanks and agriculture have increased nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen. This extra fertilizer drives algal blooms, which block sunlight from reaching the seagrass, and it dies. About 95% of the seagrasses have died off in parts of the Indian River Lagoon. All this is aided by the warmer waters.

Florida's uncontrolled growth and reliance on septic tanks, which don't remove nutrients, are a major factor. The other is that, in controlling the water levels in Lake Okeechobee, which agriculture discharges into, polluted water is flushed to the Indian River Lagoon. The decades-long Everglades restoration project was supposed to have solved this and may yet someday. Historically, water flowed out of Lake Okeechobee south to the Everglades.

There are solutions. Septic tanks could be replaced with advanced waste treatment plants, and agriculture could be required to treat their



Caring for Creation Notes



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

*"Florida's
uncontrolled growth
and reliance
on septic tanks ...
are a major factor."*

polluted water on "their" property as opposed to public property.

However, I won't hold my breath waiting for this to happen, because there is no political will to make it happen. But one thing I know, is that God wants us to take care of all of his creation, and that includes manatees, so don't give up on them. Keep informed on their status and advocate for their protection. Join the [Save the Manatee Club](#). Their sole purpose is to save this animal, and you can help.

If you want to see manatees, you are guaranteed to see one at Homosassa Springs State Park. Nearer home, you likely can see one at Wakulla Springs State Park during the winter, especially when it is cold, as the animals seek the shelter of the warm spring waters.

**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
Discernment (CCD)**
Rev. Mark Broadhead
minister@fpc-crestview.org

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

**Committee on Educational Resources
(CER)**
Rev. Dr. John Stringer
junctarheel@msn.com

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

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

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

Committee on Nominations (CN)
Elder Rich Kangas
kangas265@gmail.com

**Committee on
Preparation for Ministry (CPM)**
Rev. Sheldon Steen
Sheldon@cpcusa.org

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

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

**Coordinating and Planning
Commission (CPC)**
Rev. Trinity Whitley
trinity@faithpcusa.org

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

In April		Looking ahead	
Thursday, April 6 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)	Thursday, May 4 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT	Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)
Thursday, April 6	Maundy Thursday	Tuesday, May 9 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Committee on Ministry (COM)
Friday, April 7	Good Friday – Presbytery office closed	Wednesday, May 10 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)
Saturday, April 8 9 – 11 a.m. CDT	Jelly Bean 5K , Trinity, Pensacola	Wednesday, May 10 3:30 p.m. CDT/ 4:30 p.m. EDT	Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA)
Sunday, April 9	Easter Sunday	Sunday, May 14	Mothers Day
Wednesday, April 12 1 p.m. CDT/ 2 p.m. EDT	Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)	Tuesday, May 16 10 a.m. CDT/ 11 a.m. EDT	Committee on Congregational Discernment (CCD)
Wednesday, April 12 3:30 p.m. CDT/ 4:30 p.m. EDT	Committee on Dogwood Acres (CDWA)	Saturday, May 20 9 a.m. CDT/ 10 a.m. EDT	Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting, Dogwood Acres Registration begins an hour ahead
Friday and Saturday, April 14 and 15	Dogwood Acres Open House	Tuesday, May 23 6 – 7:30 p.m. EDT	UKirk Tallahassee Annual Meeting/ Open House
Saturday, April 15	Dogwood Acres Summer Camp Registration Early Bird Discount Deadline	Monday, May 29	Presbytery office closed
Thursday, April 20 9:30 a.m. CDT/ 10:30 a.m. EDT	Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC)		

COME JOIN US FOR
OPEN HOUSE

APRIL 14TH-15TH



DOGWOOD ACRES
CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER



JOIN US FOR A DAY IN THE LIFE
OF A CAMPER.
THE FIRST 10 INTERESTED FAMILIES
ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR AN
OVERNIGHT EXPERIENCE ON
FRIDAY!

DETAILS

WHO: ANY FAMILY INTERESTED IN
SUMMER CAMP
WHEN: 10 FAMILIES CAN STAY FRIDAY
NIGHT. EVERYONE ELSE CAN JOIN
SATURDAY MORNING AT 9:30 CT

COST: FREE
ACTIVITIES: WE WILL HAVE A SELECTION
OF CAMP ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE
INCLUDING ARCHERY, CRAFTS, FIELD
GAMES, AND WORSHIP

Register at dogwoodacres.org



DOGWOOD ACRES
CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

COME CAMP WITH US
SUMMER 2023 DATES

HIGH SCHOOL WEEK – JUNE 25TH – 30TH
BUDDY CAMP – JULY 5TH – 8TH
INTRO CAMP – JULY 9TH – 12TH
DISCOVERY CAMP (3RD – 5TH)
ADVENTURE CAMP (6TH – 8TH)
JULY 9TH – 14TH, JULY 16TH – 21ST,
JULY 23RD – 28TH



GET REGISTERED!

VISIT—DOGWOODACRES.ORG/SUMMER
OR SCAN BELOW



Scholarships Available!