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The Panhandle Presbyterian

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Presbyterian process preserves decency and order

We Presbyterians have had various reputations throughout our history. We have been called “The Frozen Chosen,” “Old-Fashioned,” “Stuffed Shirts,” “Those people that believe in predestination.” The list continues.

When it comes to exercising our decision-making process, it has been said we are slow, but thorough. Sometimes 3-4 years pass before a change is made in our Book of Order. Sometimes decisions take decades to come to fruition.

One strong attribute of our denomination is the decision-making process we follow. We adhere to Robert’s Rules of Order. To many in society this seems cumbersome. To others, it is the right thing to do. I tend to come down on the side of much preferring to follow Robert’s Rules and parliamentary procedure for one major reason: as Presbyterians, we are called to do things “decently and in order.”

I have colleagues in other denominations that are congregational in their form of government. These colleagues have related how

meetings” of those congregations can become rowdy, angry, shouting matches. Sometimes feelings get hurt, rifts develop, people leave the church, and another congregation is formed across town.

In the Presbyterian seemingly stuffy, old-fashioned way of doing things, there is much more grace involved. When a controversial matter is raised, there is equal time given for people to speak for the matter, and against the matter. It is an alternating give and take. Comments are not directed toward persons on the “other side” of the issue. Comments are directed toward the moderator of the meeting.

It is done in a decent and orderly fashion. Pros, cons, pros, cons. Positions are typically clearly stated, often free from emotional outbursts (although there are times when strenuous emphases are made). Threats are not made. Ultimatums are not proffered. And in time, a vote is taken with the majority carrying the decision.

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**From our
Stated Clerk/
Acting
Transitional
Presbyter**



*By
Rev. Mark Broadhead
(Ret.)*

**From the
Ministry of
New
Congregation
Formation
(MNCF)**



*By Rev. Dr.
Nicole Richardson,
South Walton
New Presbyterian
Worshipping
Community
Organizing Pastor*

headline

Hi, I'm Nicole Richardson! Since Covid kept us apart at the end of August, here is a little bit about me.

I've been an ordained teaching elder since July 2001, and I've had the privilege of serving four traditional churches, mostly as head of staff or solo pastor. Along the way, I earned a doctorate in leadership in global perspectives, which might sound impressive and lofty, but it's more than just seeing the big picture. It's about understanding the deeper "whys" and "hows" of systems and structures, and helping people navigate them with purpose and clarity.

When I'm not doing pastor stuff, you'll probably find me under the ocean as a master scuba diver instructor or on a yoga mat, guiding others in a deeper, more embodied connection to God. I thrive on creating spiritual experiences that engage not just the mind, but the whole body (Yes, even those downward dogs count!).

Soon, I'll also be certified as an integrative mental health coach, so you could say I'm passionate about helping people live their fullest, healthiest lives – in every possible sense. I'm also a coffee lover with some education in coffee shop ownership, so I'll happily make you a mocha while

we chat about faith, life, or whatever's on your heart!

I've been married to my husband, Tom, for 33 years, and we have two amazing grown kids – Jesse, who's married to Abby and living in Jacksonville, and Sydney, who's in New Orleans, getting ready to tackle the MCAT and head to med school. Tom and I share our home with two spirited Australian shepherds, Montana and Denali, who make sure things never get too calm.

I've had my fair share of adventures, including brain surgery to remove a benign tumor, which left me deaf in my left ear. That experience has only deepened my belief that every person deserves to be fully seen, heard, and loved. Raising two kids has also taught me a lot about forgiveness and reconciliation, and serving God in traditional churches has shown me that God is always doing something new

and unexpected.

My hope is to create spaces where people can experience faith in holistic ways – living, breathing, and embodying stewardship as a way of life. Stewardship is about how we engage with the world and with each other in meaningful, intentional ways. It goes far beyond finances; it's about offering our time, talents, and care to God, the community, and ourselves.

I'm passionate about helping people explore and honor the unique ways they're called to deepen their relationship with God while building connections with those around them. Whether through yoga, scuba diving, or simply sharing a conversation over coffee, I strive to help others discover how their individual journeys can become an active, vibrant part of a larger spiritual and communal experience.

**TRINITY'S 2025
WOMEN'S RETREAT**

Save the Date **Friday, January 31st
thru
Saturday, February 1st**

**MEET US AT PENSACOLA BEACH
Springhill Suites**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MPT celebrates pastor installations, new team member

The Ministry of Pastoral Transitions celebrates the official arrival of two new ministers and installation of one already serving this month. We are blessed to welcome each of them.

The **Rev. Stacey Kaye White** is now Pastor at Freeport Presbyterian Church. She was ordained and installed there on August 25. Welcome, Rev. White!

The **Rev. Kwon Soo Cho** is now officially installed as Pastor at the Pensacola Korean Community Presbyterian Church as of September 1. Welcome, Rev. Cho!

The **Rev. Dr. Nicole Richardson** is the organizing pastor for the South Walton Presbyterian New Worshipping Community in Santa Rosa Beach. She was admitted to membership in the Presbytery on August 24 and was installed September 22. Welcome, Dr. Richardson!

MPT is also pleased to welcome the **Rev. Dr. Blair Beaver**, of First Presbyterian of Marianna's Pastor, to our team.

MPT is putting the finishing touches on a revised Manual of Operations, which should be presented to the Presbytery at the October 29 meeting.



Shown above at left, congregants at the Pensacola Korean Community Presbyterian Church joyfully join in installing Rev. Kwon Soo Cho as their pastor. At right, Rev. Dr. Nicole Richardson is installed as South Walton New Worshipping Community's Organizing Pastor in a luau-themed service at Grayton Beach.

From the Ministry of Pastoral Transitions (MPT)



By Ed Nickinson,
MPT member and
Trinity, Pensacola
Elder

Presbyterian Process, continued from page 1

When we seek to better understand how “decently and in order” work, we come to realize we cannot have order if we are not decent to one another. And we cannot be decent to one another unless there is an orderly structure that can hold the tension we inevitably feel when we do not agree. In this way, our process makes grace and kindness possible, even in the most emotionally fraught circumstances.

As a presbytery, we are continuing to move into our new structure. We are only seven months into a 5-year process. Progress has been good. Challenging matters continue to be addressed. Decisions still need to be made – some which may be difficult.

We will make these decisions together. We will not always agree, but I hope we will trust in our process, born of the wisdom of generations who came before us. We need to bear in mind, that in all times and places, God is always present. And in honest sharing and gracious listening, we will find our way together.

**From the
Ministry of
Leadership
Development
(MLD)**



*By Rev. Cathy
Mooney,
Moderator and
1st, DeFuniak Springs
Pastor*

Worship practices and resources to be shared at meeting

What are your best practices for worship planning? How does your worship committee and/or church staff plan worship for your congregation? What resources do you use to help frame your worship planning?

These questions and more will be addressed at the October 29 meeting of the Presbytery of Florida at Christ Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee.

Think about the way your sanctuary looks to your worshippers, what music is added, liturgical components, the order of the worship service,

frequency of the Lord's Supper, greeters, ushers, children, and all the parts that make up your congregation's Worship of Almighty God. Bring copies of the resources you use, including:

- Books
- Website addresses
- Planning guides

as well as:

- Questions
- Creativity
- Pictures
- Any other resource that may be helpful to the other churches in the Presbytery.

An area will be set aside

for table displays, if you would like to set up a small table (or half of a table) so others can see what you have done in the past or what you are planning to do going forward.

Advent ideas will also be shared, so bring those along with you.

If you need a table, please contact the Presbytery office at office@presbyteryofflorida.com or 850-535-2335.

The Ministry of Leadership Development is responsible for the education portion of Presbytery Meetings.

The 2025 Faith Enrichment Committee of The Savannah Presbytery

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR

FAITH ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE

THRIVE

REVITALIZE ♦ ENERGIZE ♦ SPIRITUALIZE
FEBRUARY 21-22, 2025

Registration opens in October



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. Dr. Graham Standish
Author of

*"Becoming a Blessed Church:
Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose,
Presence, and Power"*

WORKSHOPS INCLUDED:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 7 MARKS OF A VITAL CONGREGATION | OFFICER TRAINING | CHRISTIAN EDUCATION |
| PREACHING WORKSHOP | SPIRITUALITY PRACTICES | AND MORE... |

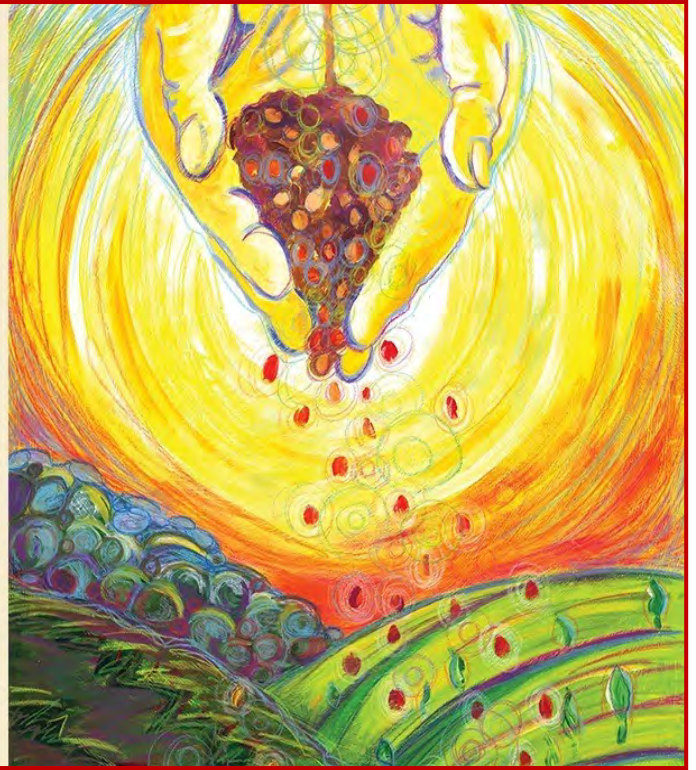
EPWORTH BY THE SEA | ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE.

ZECHARIAH 8:12



Sacred Trails ADULT ADVENTURE WEEKEND

Sacred Trails is a retreat designed for adults seeking to deepen their connection with God, others, and the natural world. Participants will have opportunities to worship, reflect, hike, kayak, pray the labyrinth, learn about our unique flora and fauna, do archery and axe throwing, enjoy fellowship, and discover the ways we each walk a sacred trail.

WHO: ADULTS OF ALL AGES

WHEN: OCTOBER 18 - 20, 2024

WHERE: DOGWOOD ACRES

COST: \$250 COVERS EVERYTHING



★ \$50 REGISTRATION DEPOSIT - REGISTER AT DOGWOODACRES.ORG ★

The final concert in the
2024 Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church
Concert Series

FREE SUNSET CONCERT ON THE LAWN

Rain or Shine!

**In the event of inclement weather, the concert will move indoors to the church sanctuary*

Featuring the Perdido Brass

Reception to follow

Sunday, October 13th, at 5:30 pm

100 Andrew Jackson Trail
Gulf Breeze, Florida



**From
Dogwood Acres**



*By Christy Williams,
Director*

Discover adventure and connection at Sacred Trails Retreat

Are you ready to break free from the daily grind and reconnect with God, nature, and some fellow adventurers? The Sacred Trails Adult Adventure Retreat is your opportunity to immerse yourself in the beauty of the great outdoors while engaging in meaningful reflection. This is a unique opportunity to grow, both personally and spiritually, all while surrounded by supportive peers.

Why attend the Sacred Trails Retreat?

1. Recharge in Nature:

In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. Surrounded by our piney forest, you'll find the perfect backdrop for reflection, relaxation, and rejuvenation. **Dawn Griffin, of the Florida Trails Association**, will help us see our hikes or any walk as a way to mediate. **Amanda Cannon, yoga instructor**, will offer morning and evening yoga practices for those of all abilities.

2. Adventure awaits:

Whether you're an experienced outdoor enthusiast or a novice, there's something for everyone. Our weekend is packed with exciting activities such as hiking, kayaking, archery and guided nature walks. **Allie and Lucas Heiker, long time Dogwood campers and Florida naturalists** will keep us looking for

the unique flora and fauna surrounding us.

3. Build lasting connections:

This retreat is about more than adventures; it's about connecting to God in new ways and building community. Through worship, stories around the campfire, and delicious meals, bond over shared experiences, and forge friendships that extend beyond the weekend. You'll leave with new connections and a sense of belonging.

Brant Copeland, retired pastor and Dogwood enthusiast, will lead us in worship and prayer throughout the weekend.

4. Enjoy delicious, healthy food:

Fuel your adventures with

tasty, wholesome meals and enticing desserts and snacks. Our new kitchen staff provide delicious, nutritious options that cater to dietary preferences, ensuring you're energized for each activity.

Register NOW for an unforgettable experience!

Don't miss out on this chance to rediscover your adventurous spirit! Secure your spot for the Sacred Trails Adult Adventure Retreat today and get ready for a weekend that will inspire you long after it ends.

Find info and register at www.dogwoodacres.org/dogwood-retreats/sacred-trails-adventure-weekend/.



Woven Together
SPIRITFEST 2025

Who:
Middle School Youth

Where:
Dogwood Acres

When:
October 11-13

Cost:
\$175 per participant



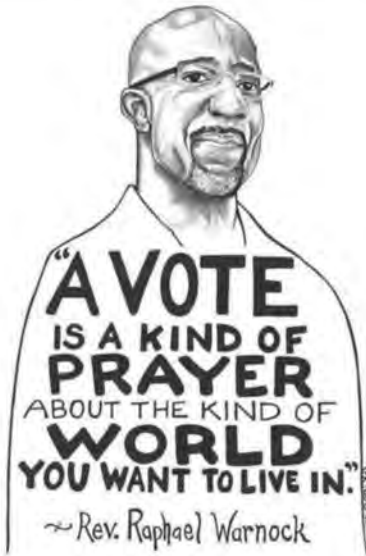
Register Now at dogwoodacres.org

Vote for creation

Reverend Raphael Warnock said, “A vote is a kind of prayer about the kind of world you want to live in”. It also is a vote for creation, if you vote for candidates who share your concerns about protecting it.

The people we elect are powerful. They write the laws and fund the programs that determine whether our water is clean, our air is safe to breathe, the temperatures of the planet are livable and creation will thrive as God intended. Way too many elected officials do the exact opposite. This can change if all of us who recognize the absolute necessity of protecting creation and vote for candidates for public office who will make protecting the environment a priority.

Unfortunately, a significant number of people don't vote, and that includes a large group of environmentalists. Politicians know this and don't make protecting the environment a campaign issue. Also, some that care about protecting the environment are afraid of losing votes if they appear too environmentally-oriented, so they don't mention it. Some candidates even believe that being anti-environmental is a



winning strategy, and it can be if people who care about the environment don't vote.

I know that we all care about the environment, about creation, and that not all of us are “tree huggers”, who will chain themselves to a tree to stop a project. But we all recognize and care about having a safe environment, with clean air and water and livable temperatures.

And there is one thing that we all do, or should do, as citizens of this great country, and that is to vote. Voting for candidates who will protect creation may be the most important and easiest thing any of us can do to advocate for its protection.

Many groups encourage us to vote, including a group called the [Environmental Voter Project](#). This group has

identified millions of non-voting environmentalists and works to turn them into regular voters. They are a nonpartisan nonprofit group focused on accurately identifying these non-voting environmentalists and converting them into a critical mass of consistent voters. It includes opportunities for us to help get our friends, family, neighbors and work associates who share our concerns about the environment, but don't vote, out to vote.

The idea is that the one thing that motivates a politician more than anything else is the prospect of winning or losing an election. If we want leaders who share our concerns about a clean and safe environment, this requires large numbers of like-minded people to vote for candidates who will make protecting the environment a priority.

Most importantly, the reality of the climate crisis and the state of our environment require us to do more. So let's pray for a safe and clean environment and help make it a reality, by voting for those who share our values, and helping our friends, family and neighbors who share our concerns to vote.

Caring for Creation Notes



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

“ Voting for candidates who will protect creation may be the most important and easiest thing any of us can do to advocate for its protection.”

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All views expressed in this publication are not necessarily endorsed by the Presbytery of Florida as a whole, as we remember "God alone is Lord of the conscience." (F-3.0101)

The Panhandle Presbyterian

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

In October	Looking ahead
Tuesday, Oct. 1, 8, 15 and 22 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET Transitional Presbyter Search Committee	Friday, November 1 All Saints' Day
Wednesday, Oct. 2 8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force	Sunday, Nov. 3 Daylight saving time ends
Wednesday, Oct. 2 11 a.m. CT/noon ET Synod of South Atlantic 1st Wednesday Sack Lunch	Tuesday, Nov. 5, 12, 19 and 26 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET Transitional Presbyter Search Committee
Thursday, Oct. 3 9:30 a.m. CT/ 10:30 a.m. ET Ministry Coordinating Council (MCC)	Wednesday, Nov. 6 8 a.m. CT/9 a.m. ET Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force
Thursday – Saturday, Oct. 3 – 5 PC(USA) Evangelism Conference , Louisville, KY	Wednesday, Nov. 6 11 a.m. CT/noon ET Synod of South Atlantic 1st Wednesday Sack Lunch via Zoom
Saturday, Oct. 5 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CT Laurel Hill Arts & Heritage Festival @ Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church	Saturday, Nov. 9 Southeast & Puerto Rico Region of Partners in Christian Education (SOAP) Regional Event
Sunday, Oct. 6 World Communion Sunday	Monday, Nov. 11 9 a.m. CT/10 a.m. ET Ministry of Leadership Development (MLD)
Thursday, Oct. 10 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET Ministry of Presbytery Operations (MPO)	Thursday, Nov. 14 2 p.m. CT/3 p.m. ET Ministry of Presbytery Operations (MPO)
Saturday, Oct. 12 6 p.m. CT 1st, Milton Love and Lights	Tuesday, Nov. 26 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET Ministry of Congregational Health (MCH)
Monday, Oct. 14 9 a.m. CT/10 a.m. ET Ministry of Leadership Development (MLD)	Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 and 29 Presbytery office closed for Thanksgiving
Monday, Oct. 14 1:30 p.m. CT/ 2:30 p.m. ET MCH/MLD/MCH Moderators and Vice Moderators	
Friday – Sunday, Oct. 18 – 20 Sacred Trails Retreat @ Dogwood Acres	
Sunday, Oct. 20 Children's Sabbath	
Sunday, Oct. 20 1st, Chipley Bell Tower Dedication	
Monday – Wednesday, Oct. 21 – 23 Wee Kirk Conference @ Montreat Conference Center	
Tuesday, Oct. 22 1 p.m. CT/2 p.m. ET Ministry of Congregational Health (MCH)	
Friday – Sunday, Oct. 23 – 25 Spiritfest Middle School Youth Retreat @ Dogwood Acres	
Tuesday, Oct. 29 9 a.m. CT/10 a.m. ET Fall Stated Presbytery Meeting @Christ, Tallahassee Registration begins an hour ahead	
Sunday, Oct. 31 Reformation Sunday	