



# The Pelican

The Presbytery of Florida is called to serve God  
using our gifts and skills to **Excite, Encourage, Equip and Empower**  
our Congregations and Clergy in Mission and Ministry.



March/April 2011

“Let the leader be as one who serves...” (Jesus)

Luke 22:26

## Presbytery church members to join Costa Rica trip

Members of several Presbytery of Florida churches in Tallahassee and surrounding areas will take part in a mission trip to Costa Rica this summer with In the Carpenter’s Footsteps, Inc. The interdenominational Christian service organization will be returning to Costa Rica July 15 – 26 to begin construction on a new church in San Isidro, said In the Carpenter’s Footsteps Vice President Patty Searcy, a member of Christ Presbyterian Church, of Tallahassee, which supports the group.

“Each summer, a group of volunteers from different professions and cultural backgrounds give 10 days of their time and expense to travel to another country to demonstrate their worldwide vision of the unity of the church, to demonstrate their faith by their works and to enter into the joy of helping others,” Searcy explained. “They have built churches, Sunday School buildings, schools and manses in several countries in the Caribbean and Central America during the past three-plus decades.”

Among the participants from the Presbytery of Florida who will join the effort in Costa Rica this summer are NESTA Cumbie, of 1<sup>st</sup>, Havana, and Dan Hooker, of 1<sup>st</sup>, Quincy, Searcy said. Members from Quincy, Havana, Faith, Christ and Fellowship have participated in prior In the

Carpenter’s Footsteps mission trips, along with Presbyterians from other areas and Methodist, Episcopal and Baptist representatives, she added. “Anyone and everyone is welcome to join us as long as we have space available,” she said.

Volunteers on the July trip will have an opportunity to see the project proceed “from the ground up,” said Searcy. The church will take approximately four years to complete and will serve a poor area of Costa Rica, she noted.

During previous trips to Costa Rica, In the Carpenter’s Footsteps has built five churches and Sunday school buildings and repaired a hurricane-damaged church, according to the organization’s website, [www.inthecarpentersfootsteps.org](http://www.inthecarpentersfootsteps.org). The website also lists construction projects in Haiti, Jamaica, Nevis and St. Vincent, as well, that the group’s volunteers have completed, working alongside members from village churches. In the Carpenter’s Footsteps “provides services for churches and communities who need construction projects built or repaired. Opportunities are offered for people of all ages to share their faith, offer their services, perform manual labor and create friendships of many people in a global setting,” says its mission statement.



## Over 100 participate in 2011 Disciplefest

By JRoAnne Bergman,  
Presbytery of Florida Training and Retreats Committee member

Disciplefest 2011 was thoroughly enjoyed by nearly 100 adults and over 50 young people. With the weather cooperating, many made use of the beautiful beach for walking and playing. Keynote speaker Eric Hoey was well-received, and several attendees took advantage of the workshops he led. This year’s event presented more workshop choices at more times than last year due to more rooms available for use.

Twenty-two workshops were offered by 16 leaders on various topics. Everyone agreed that the food at Edgewater Beach was exceptional. Accommodations were also wonderful and reasonable for those sharing the condos. “Trams” were available for people staying on the beach who needed a ride to the convention center. For those loving exercise, walking along the beautifully-groomed paths was the choice.

Evaluation forms are being tabulated and will be headed by the Presbytery’s Training and Retreats Committee in planning for the 2012 Disciplefest. The evaluation form is available on the “Disciplefest 2011” page on the Presbytery of Florida’s website, [www.presbyteryofflorida.com](http://www.presbyteryofflorida.com).



Calling all women to the  
**105th Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women**  
Saturday, March 19  
Parkway Presbyterian Church, Panama City



**Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting**  
Tuesday, April 26  
9 a. m. CDT/10 a. m. EDT  
Sunny Hills Community Church

# Dogwood Acres celebrates 45 years of ministry

By Kevin Veldhuisen, *Presbytery of Florida Associate Executive*  
*Presbyter for Outdoor Ministry and*  
*Spiritual Development*

**O**n January 26, 1966, the Presbytery of Florida voted to purchase a 440-acre tract near Vernon, FL, to use as a future location for summer camp programming and conferencing within the presbytery. After 45 years of Christian ministry within the Presbytery of Florida, we take a brief moment to look at our past and celebrate the many lives who have walked the sacred grounds of Dogwood Acres, and we give thanks to God for the estimated 7,000 lives that have been transformed and developed through our summer camp program and the thousands more who have been enlightened through retreats and conferences held at the now 501 acres that make up Dogwood Acres today.

With fondness, we reflect on the years of hiking and exploration through the woods, the songs that have been sung, the tears shed by the closing campfire, the self-esteem witnessed as a camper stood and spoke in front of a large group for the very first time in his or her life, and the lifelong friendships that have been created. These are experiences

found only at Dogwood Acres, and for this we offer our gratitude for the care and tenderness felt by the soft and kind words of Bill Heck, the fun and excitement relished amongst the games and activities led by Doug Walters, and the transformative leadership witnessed through the visions of Frank L. Elvery, Tom Tidwell, Vernon McGehee, James Bearss, and the other passionate leaders who have made Dogwood Acres what it is today.

As a witness to Dogwood's ongoing ministry, in 2010, over 1,000 people participated in an outdoor ministry experience at Dogwood Acres. In fact, we learned that Florida Family Fellowship, a group of home churches that hosts retreats at Dogwood twice a year, have been visiting Dogwood for 18 years! Kairos Prison Ministry, who utilize the camp twice a year as a home base for their ministry within the local prisons, have also been doing so for several years, and the Geneva School near Orlando returned for their 4<sup>th</sup> year with their 7<sup>th</sup> graders for a week of outdoor exploration throughout the Panhandle. This is only a small sampling of the many non-profit

organizations that come to Dogwood Acres for an outdoor ministry experience.

We encourage your congregation to join in the fun, the fellowship, and the freedom that is felt amongst this beautiful oasis set aside by God for his ministry within the Presbytery of Florida. New lower rates have been established by the Dogwood Division, and it is now possible for churches in our presbytery to host a weekend retreat at Dogwood for only \$35 per person! This includes two nights and four meals, but Dogwood's schedule is filling up fast, so book your retreat soon while there's still space available!

This year, we joyfully celebrate Dogwood's 45 years of ministry to the Presbytery of Florida and passionately strive to make the next 45 years even better. Thanks to the generous contributions of time and money from many wonderful individuals and congregations within the presbytery, Dogwood Acres continues to be a transformative outdoor ministry experience for people throughout the state of Florida. If you would like to contribute to this important ministry, please contact me at Dogwood Acres for more information on how you can leave a lasting impact on this vital ministry within the presbytery and on the hundreds of people who walk these lands every year.



## Repeat retreaters

The Geneva School, a Christian classical educational institution in Winter Park, Florida, is among the organizations who regularly bring campers to Dogwood Acres. Shown above is a group of Geneva School campers and chaperones who recently enjoyed the camp.

## Check it out!

Dogwood Acres' newly-redesigned website, at [www.dogwoodacres.org](http://www.dogwoodacres.org), features information about summer camp and other upcoming events, summer employment and more. And ... Online camp registration is now available!

# Stewardship of Creation Notes: Tread Lightly for Lent 2011

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

*The General Assembly Missions Council Environmental Ministries Office has provided daily suggestions for reducing our impact on creation during Lent.*

Lent is a time to reflect on what it means to live based on Christ's ministry. As part of this reflection we repent, often giving up an item or two that we consider a treat. You are asked to take this spiritual discipline a step further: to refrain from some practices that damage God's earth, while learning about earth care issues and taking action that will honor Christ's teachings about caring for creation.

Throughout the season of Lent you can learn about eco-justice (assuring justice for creation and all humans that live in it) and be challenged to take action on the issues of waste, energy, water, consumption, and food. There are ideas for action by congregations, as well as individuals.

Our call to eco-justice is rooted in the human vocation of tilling and keeping the garden (Genesis 2:15) and Christ's teachings to work on behalf of the most vulnerable, for environmental impacts are felt most by those living in poverty. The more we do our part to till and keep the garden, the more we work for eco-justice.

Here are the first eight days of suggestions.

**March 9:** Prepare your heart and mind to "Tread Lightly for Lent." Share your plans for this



Lenten Season with your family and your congregation. Urge others to join you on the journey.

**March 10:** Pledge to save energy at home during Lent. Go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) to assess your home energy use and get ideas to increase energy efficiency.

**March 11:** Do a water audit of your home: check for leaky faucets and fix them, and test your toilet for leaks by putting a drop of food coloring in the tank. If the toilet bowl water changes color without flushing, there is a leak.

**March 12:** Collect your personal trash and recyclables throughout the day. At the end of the day, survey your waste and think of ways to reduce. On average, Americans create 4.6 pounds of waste a day.

**March 13:** Ask your church to order Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday. Eco-Palms are harvested in a sustainable way, and workers are paid a fair wage. Learn more and order at [www.pcusa.org/palms](http://www.pcusa.org/palms).

**March 14:** Pledge to rethink, reduce, reuse, and recycle during Lent. Adding "rethink" to the traditional 3 R's can help us avoid activities that are harmful to God's earth.

**March 15:** Pledge to stop drinking bottled water. 86 million barrels of oil were used to produce and transport plastic water bottles in 2007. Take the Bottled Water Pledge at <http://prebyearthcare.org/advocacy-h20.html>.

To see suggestions for the rest of Lent, go to <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/environment/tread-lightly-lent/>. For Further Learning and Action, sign up for the Eco-Notes e-newsletter from Environmental Ministries at [www.pcusa.org/eco-notes](http://www.pcusa.org/eco-notes). Lead a study on the biblical and theological basis for eco-justice at your church with resources from Environmental Ministries at <http://gamc.pcusa.org/browse/resources-resource/ministries/environment/>.

Look into serving fair trade coffee through the Presbyterian Coffee Project at your church. Log on to [www.pcusa.org/coffee](http://www.pcusa.org/coffee). Organize a light bulb swap to change out incandescent light bulbs with CFLs in a low income neighborhood. Find tips from the The National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program at <http://www.ncecojustice.org/carbonreduction/crcyouthgroupcfl.php>.

Find a more complete list of ideas for church earth care activities in the Earth Care Congregations guide at <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact me at [mcvety@nettally.com](mailto:mcvety@nettally.com).



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR CELEBRATION  
OF 75 YEARS OF MINISTRY AT  
**WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2011  
WORSHIP AT 11:00 A. M. EDT  
FOLLOWED BY LUNCH ON THE GROUNDS  
SAWDUST COMMUNITY, STATE ROAD # 65  
QUINCY, FLORIDA

# C & SJ Committee issues Meatless Mondays challenge

By Debbie Gibson, Presbytery of Florida Compassion and Social Justice Committee member

Some of us find ourselves wanting to live a “greener” lifestyle -- to be better stewards of the earth -- but it seems that this often requires a substantial investment to have a significant impact. Replacing your water heater with a solar-powered one, buying a hybrid car, or installing double-paned windows all require a lot of money up front, and you see the payback gradually over time in the money you save in more efficient use of resources. Wouldn't it be wonderful to find something that has a significant impact but doesn't actually cost you anything? In fact, something that saves you money, is good for your health, and is good for the earth?

This Lenten season, the PCUSA's Peace Making Program has provided congregations with a calendar resource that stresses eco-justice. There are many good ideas for “greening” your lifestyle in the **“Tread Lightly for Lent” calendar**, which encourages Presbyterians to learn about eco-justice issues and to take action on issues of waste, energy, water consumption and food. Each day in the season of Lent, there is a topic to learn about or a suggested action. This series can be downloaded from <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/environment/tread-lightly-lent/>. But I would like to focus on One, in particular. On March 21, we are asked to participate in Meatless Monday. For the three meals that day, we are asked to find alternate sources of protein for our meals. Breakfast might be whole grains, cheese toast, or a veggie omelet. For lunch, a cheese sandwich, a bean burrito, or lentil soup might hit the spot. Dinner could be black beans and rice, manicotti, or a veggie pizza.

Why meatless? The Food and Agricultural Association of the United Nations has calculated the percentage of greenhouse gases contributed to our atmosphere by meat production to be around 18 percent. This can be contrasted with the percentage of

greenhouse gases contributed by *all* forms of transportation at 12 percent. That's a 50 percent greater impact than from meat production! University of Chicago economists have calculated that going meatless one day a week has the same impact on global climate change as trading a sedan for a Prius would have! Now that's significant.

According to the Water Education Foundation, producing one pound of beef takes 2,464 gallons of water. By comparison, it only takes 23 gallons to produce one pound of lettuce. Based on these numbers, John Robbins, author of *The Food Revolution*, estimates that not eating one pound of beef can save more water than if you skipped your daily shower for six months!

Decreasing the amount of meat you consume is also good for your health. Heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer – chronic preventable conditions – kill 1.7 million Americans annually (70 percent of all deaths). Diets heavy in meat have been linked to increased cancer risk, while diets high in fruits, vegetables and whole grains may reduce cardiovascular disease and diabetes. One high-profile example is former President Clinton who, on the advice of his doctors, is seeking to *reverse* his heart disease by switching to a predominantly plant-based diet (and he's lost over 30 pounds!).

So meatless makes sense, but why Monday? For most Americans the week begins on Monday. On Monday, we move from the freedom of the weekend back to the structure of work or school. We set our intentions for the next six days. We plan ahead and evaluate progress. From an early age, we internalize this rhythm. And studies suggest we are more likely to maintain behaviors begun on Monday throughout the week. That makes Monday the perfect day to make a change for your health and our planet's health.

**So, this Lenten season, your Compassion and Social Justice Committee challenges you to make a small lifestyle change that will have a positive impact on your health, your wallet, and God's creation. Instead of just going meatless on March 21, consider going meatless every Monday! Each week, begin your week focusing on your stewardship of the earth by eating of its bounty.**

Find recipe ideas and information at [www.meatlessmondays.com](http://www.meatlessmondays.com). Here's a recipe to get you started. Enjoy!

## Linguine with artichokes and caramelized onions (Serves 4 to 6)

### Ingredients:

12 oz. whole wheat linguine (3/4 box)  
1/2 cup olive oil, divided  
1 onion, julienned 1/4 inch thick  
1/4 cup walnuts, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, peeled and minced  
1/2 lb. asparagus, trimmed and cut into small spears  
1/4 cup sun-dried tomatoes in oil, drained and diced  
1 - 6.5 ounce jar of marinated artichoke hearts, drained and quartered  
2 Tbsps. fresh oregano, chopped  
2 Tbsps. pitted Kalamata olives, chopped  
Kosher salt and black pepper  
1 cup shaved Parmesan (about 3 oz.)

**Directions:** Cook the pasta according to the package directions; drain the pasta and return it to the pot. Meanwhile, heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a medium skillet over low to medium heat. Add the onions and cook, stirring frequently, until they are soft and caramelized, about 15 to 20 minutes. Add the rest of the olive oil to the pan, along with the garlic, asparagus, sun-dried tomatoes, and walnuts and cook for 5 more minutes until asparagus becomes tender. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the artichokes, oregano, and olives. Toss the veggies with the pasta, add salt and pepper to taste, and top with Parmesan cheese.



## Presbytery-sponsored S. African student earns award

A South African student the Presbytery of Florida sponsors recently has been honored for his high academic achievement and school involvement. Siyabulela Boto, a ninth-grader who is orphaned, earned the Sea Point High School All-Rounder Award, given to “a junior learner who has shown all-round dedication, commitment and involvement in school life,” according to the award document.

Siyabulela is a top-performing student in his grade, with a “sound academic work ethic” that has allowed him to represent his school in mathematics competitions this year, the document explains. “His involvement on the Representative Council of Learners has been thorough, and his work meticulous. His contribution to the Debating Club has seen him represent the school at the Archbishop Tutu Peace Summit,” it continues. “He is a well-balanced individual whose

exemplary behavior, neat appearance and congenial demeanor make him the epitome of an ideal Sea Pointer,” states the award. “He is a learner who displays total commitment to everything he does.”

The Presbytery’s financial support helps to provide Siyabulela’s tuition, school uniforms and books and supplies, while his family supplies his fees for transportation to attend school, noted Ginger Caro, a Trinity Presbyterian Church, of Pensacola, member who sponsors one of Siyabulela’s orphaned “siblings” who is now in his first year of college. Siyabulela “is a fine young man who has gotten very good marks in school. He gets up very early and walks to public transportation, where he rides about 50 minutes or more into Capetown,” she said.



## MILESTONES

### Stork sighting:

Covenant Presbyterian, of Tallahassee’s pastor, **Rev. Rick Gernhardt** and wife, Melinda, welcomed their first child, a son, March 5. Brayden Daniel Gernhardt weighed 9.1 lbs. and was 20 inches long. He’s a keeper!

### Ordination:

Congratulations to **Laura Palmer** upon her ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament March 6 at Trinity Presbyterian Church, of Pensacola

### Welcome:

**Rev. Richard Horst** began serving as temporary supply at Shalimar Presbyterian Church in November.

**Rev. John Erthein** began serving as installed pastor at Euchee Valley Presbyterian Church, DeFuniak Springs, March 1.

## March 26 workshop to introduce Creation Stewards to new ministry

By *Presbytery of Florida Associate Executive Presbyter/Hunger Action Enabler Jean Silva and Stewardship of Creation Enabler Pam McVety*

We are excited to announce the opportunity for two individuals, an adult and youth, from each church in our Presbytery to serve as Creation Stewards. For 10 years, our Presbytery has had an environmental ministry led by Pam McVety, Stewardship of Creation Enabler. She has led and continues to lead and motivate us on caring for creation.

PC(USA)’s Louisville office has an Environmental Ministries Office with a relatively new staffer named Katie Holmes, who is young, bright and inspiring. This office provides guidance and resources for this ministry. The Presbytery’s Compassion and Social Justice Committee believe that it is time to expand this vital ministry by identifying an adult and a youth in

each church who are interested in assisting their congregation in this mission. If your is a small church, we encourage you to team up with your neighboring church to participate. These volunteers will be called *Creation Stewards* and will have three primary functions:

1. Assist the congregation in interpreting environmental issues from a faith-based perspective;
2. Help the congregation to care for God’s earth as part of the church’s ministry; and
3. Connect the congregation with General Assembly Mission Council programs and other Presbyterian and ecumenical networks that can provide support.

With the leadership of bright motivated individuals from each

church we can do so much more to care for God’s creation. No prior experience is necessary. We want people who are excited to be part of this ministry. The time commitment is completely up to the volunteers.

We will introduce the volunteers to this ministry at a workshop for creation stewards and 2 cents-a-meal contacts on Saturday, March 26, from 10 a. m.-1 p.m. CDT at our presbytery office in Chipley. We hope you will assist us by encouraging individuals to be part of this important mission of our denomination. With God’s help, we can make a difference.



## Solar power installation training offered for “greening” churches

**W**ant to be trained to install solar power to “green” your church and home or start a “green” career? Tallahassee Community College, through its Florida Green Academy, is offering courses on solar water heating and photovoltaic installation. These are technical, but may be of interest to church members who are interested in solar water heating or photovoltaics for church or home. Contact information is available at [http://workforce.tcc.fl.edu/florida\\_green\\_academy](http://workforce.tcc.fl.edu/florida_green_academy).

### **Introduction to Solar Water Heating (with laboratory) -**

(FGA0811) (March. 14 - March. 31, Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 6-10pm, Saturday, April 2nd, 8am-12pm. \$329.00, Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, 3958 W. Pensacola St.).

The intent of this 36-hour Florida Energy Center course is to provide trainees with the knowledge and skills needed to design, install, operate and maintain the most common types of solar water heater systems. This course is a classroom and laboratory section which enables the student to gain technical knowledge and hands-on experience and familiarity with solar hot water collection systems design and construction, from the use and operation of various site assessment tools through the design and construction of different solar hot water collection systems and components, including collectors (flat plate and integrated storage/collection components); roof mounting systems; piping, fittings and insulation; roof penetration

materials and methods; circulation system pumps (DC and AC); digital and analog controllers and associated sensors and wiring; gauges; manual and electric valves; gauges; pressure, temperature and freeze protection valves; testing and measuring equipment; power and hand tools; and safety equipment.

**Introduction to Solar Water Heating Laboratory -** (FGA0812) (March 28 - March 31st, Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 6-10pm, Saturday, April 2nd, 8am-12pm, \$169.00, Richardson Building, 3938 W. Pensacola St.).

This course is a laboratory section ONLY. Students must have taken the introduction to Solar Water Heating class (FGA0801 or CON0801) prior to registering for this section. The class content will enable the student to gain technical knowledge and hands-on experience and familiarity with solar hot water collection system design and construction from the use and operation of various site assessment tools through the design and construction of different solar hot water collection systems and components, including collectors (flat plate and integrated storage/collection components); roof mounting systems; piping, fittings and insulation; roof penetration materials and methods; circulation system pumps (DC and AC); digital and analog controllers and associated sensors and wiring; gauges; manual and electric valves; gauges; pressure, temperature and freeze protection valves; testing and measuring equipment; power



and hand tools; and safety equipment.

**Introduction to Solar Photovoltaics (without laboratory) -** (FGA0802) (Feb. 14 - March 3, Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 6-10pm, \$289.00, Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, 3958 W. Pensacola St.). This 48-hour Florida Solar Energy Center course covers the design and installation of photovoltaic (PV) systems. This program primarily targets contractors, electricians, utilities, engineers and other practitioners, with an overall goal of developing “system-knowledgeable” professionals to help ensure the safety and quality of PV system installations. An emphasis is placed on code compliance and accepted state-of-the-art industry design and installation.

*This information has been copied for you by Pam McVety, Presbytery of Florida Stewardship of Creation Enabler.*



## **Children’s Day at Dogwood Acres**

**Sat., March 26, 2011 • 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

(Registration beginning at 10:00)

Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

Cost: \$5

For additional information, email [rachelc25w@embarqmail.com](mailto:rachelc25w@embarqmail.com)

### **Featuring:**

Crafts

Worship

Games

Hiking

Critter Time

Parents’ Q & A with Kevin

Lunch in the Dining Hall