



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.



June/July 2010

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

Luke 22:26

Summer camp season, spruce-ups underway

Shown from left, the Presbytery of Florida’s Mission for Dogwood Acres Chair, Christy Williams, and Euchee Valley Presbyterian Church volunteer Evelyn Evans paint inside the Dogwood Acres camp director’s house. The house is now home to the Presbytery’s new Associate Executive Presbyter for Outdoor Ministry and Spiritual Development, Kevin Veldhuisen, and his wife, Anne.



In Dogwood Acres’ Week 3 of summer camp, June 20 to 25, counselors began making improvements to the camp’s facilities when not otherwise occupied with campers. Work plans have included painting Laurel Oak Lodge, the chapel’s ceiling, the trading post and the RV sites’ bathhouse and erecting a baseball backstop at Kelly Field, said Kevin Veldhuisen, the camp’s director. The available counselors also are raking all the cabin areas and major walkways to remove debris that harbors fleas and chiggers, he said.

Camp improvements are an ongoing need, and volunteers and congregations who donate time, talents, resources and funding help

make many needed projects possible. With this in mind, the Presbytery thanks the following volunteers who participated in a recent Dogwood Acres clean-up day, which included painting the camp director’s house:

Bruce Neu and John Rosasco, of Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church

Christy Williams, of First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee

Terry Dye, Andy Mann and Jean Silva, of Grace Presbyterian Church, Panama City

David Green, Evelyn Evans and Faron and Kyle Doggett, of Euchee Valley Presbyterian Church, DeFuniak Springs

Gibbs becomes Presbytery’s treasurer

The Presbytery of Florida welcomes James A. “Jim” Gibbs as its treasurer, elected at the 2010 spring stated presbytery meeting in April.

Mr. Gibbs is an elder and former clerk of session at 1st Presbyterian Church of Marianna. He also is a realtor at Prudential Jim Roberts Realty, of Marianna, and serves as the Chipola Area Board of Realtors’ treasurer and Compass Lake in the Hills Property Owners’ president. He and his wife, Mary Ann, have four children and 13 grandchildren.



James Gibbs

219th GA in July

Presbytery of Florida Moderator Jeannie Dixon, of Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, and Rev. John Lown, pastor of Lafayette Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, will serve as the Presbytery’s General Assembly commissioners in Minneapolis, MN, July 3 – 10, 2010. Please remember them and their fellow commissioners in your prayers during this time.

The Association of Executive Presbyters has been engaged in a prayer project in preparation for GA. Read and join in their daily prayers at www.aeps.org/conversations/category/40_Days_of_Preparation_for_GA.



Historical Help Wanted

Do you know...

How Dogwood Acres’ site was chosen? How the camp was named? Where the bell by the dining hall originated? If you have information, photos or other memorabilia related to any aspect of Dogwood Acres’ history and are willing to share them for a camp history, please contact camp director Kevin Veldhuisen at (563)581-3231 or veldhuisen@gmail.com. *Thanks!*

Applause for recent candidate, educator achievements

Columbia awards M.Div. to three from Florida Presbytery

Three candidates from the Presbytery of Florida received Master of Divinity degrees from Columbia Theological Seminary on May 15, 2010.

Myong Sun Kim, of Northminster Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, shown at left, received the James T. and Celeste M. Boyd Book Fund Award. The award is given to a M.Div. student who, in the faculty's judgment, would be a good steward of a theological library and has demonstrated a desire, through studies, to build a personal theological library.

Kelly Megan Fitzgerald, of Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, shown at center, received the William River Waddey Award, established by Walter and Cecilia Waddey in memory of their son, William, who was an active and vital part of the youth program at Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. The award is given to a graduating basic degree student possessing extraordinary gifts for youth ministry and pursuing such a

call in the church.

Laura Ellis Palmer, of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, shown at right, graduated with honors in the Practical Theology Area and received the following awards: The Robert H. Ramey Christian Leadership Award, presented to a M.Div. graduate who shows promise of providing outstanding leadership to the church and who demonstrates unusual leadership qualities, as well as spiritual depth and integrity, and the Harold J. Riddle Memorial Book Award, given to a M.Div. student who has shown high distinction in the field of pastoral care, especially with terminally ill patients.

In addition to their awards, all distinguished themselves in other ways while at CTS. Laura served



as student body president and Kelly, as senior class president, and Myong completed her Doctorate of Education from the University of West Florida while working on her M.Div at Columbia.

The **Rev. Ruth Hempel** also received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia during the ceremony. Having served on the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry while these three outstanding candidates have been students, she was delighted to be present at their graduation, she said.

Dixon and Silva earn Christian Educator Certifications

A Presbytery of Florida officer and a staff member recently have fulfilled all requirements to become PC(USA) Certified Christian Educators. Moderator Jeannie Dixon and Associate Executive Presbyter for Church Development and Education Jean Silva have attained accreditations through an intensive process requiring completion of certain course credits, reference group participation and a certification exam.

Shown at right, the children of Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, assist Rev. Mary Vance in leading a service of recognition and commissioning for Jeannie



during the May 23rd Sunday morning worship. Jeannie serves as Fellowship's Director of Christian Education, as well as

Clerk of Session. A recognition ceremony for Jean is slated for Sunday, Aug. 8th, at Grace Presbyterian, Panama City.



Name that event! Suggest a new handle for Disciplefest

As the Presbytery of Florida's Training and Retreats Committee continues the process of planning 2011's Disciplefest, the committee is seeking a new name for the Jan. 28 and 29, 2011, event. In an effort to engage a broader group of participants – including, but beyond, those who typically attend Disciplefest – the committee is soliciting suggestions for a moniker that will reflect the following:

- That the event will be a presbytery-wide gathering of people in one place

- That the gathering place will be Edgewater Beach Resort at Panama City Beach, Florida
- That the event will take place in the middle of winter and at the beginning of a new calendar year
- That participants will enjoy a time of renewal, rest and relaxation, complete with golfing, tennis, inspiration and education, eating and fellowshiping together.

The committee asks that ideas for the new name for the January 2011 event be submitted

by July 15. Please submit your suggestions to Jean Silva at (850)638-2322, ext. 24, or jean@presbyteryofflorida.com.

Meanwhile, the committee has lined up its first speaker for the event. Rev. Eric Hoey, Director of Evangelism and Church Growth for the General Assembly Mission Council of the PC(USA), has agreed to present a track.



Rev. Eric Hoey

Youth delegates to attend Triennium

Please join in praying for the Presbytery of Florida's delegation to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, July 20-24 on the Purdue University campus in West Lafayette, Indiana. This annual gathering brings thousands of Presbyterian high school youth age 15 to 19 and their chaperones from the U. S. and Canada for Bible study, recreation and worship. PC(USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches co-sponsor the Triennium.

The theme of this year's event is "For Such a Time as This," from the book of Esther, 4:114. Each year's theme is developed throughout the week through daily presentations, worship, prayer, recreation and small groups. Additional information about the Triennium is available on the event website at www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org.

The following are the presbytery's delegates:

Youth Participants

- Ben Aliff – Faith, Tallahassee
- Walt Kelleher – 1st, Quincy
- Callie Malone – 1st, Quincy
- Darmeyon Snead – Trinity United, Tallahassee
- Ginny Telander – Lafayette, Tallahassee
- Jesse Telander – Lafayette, Tallahassee
- Ryan Wilson – Trinity United, Tallahassee

Adult Advisors

- Nathan Ballentine – Faith, Tallahassee
- Brittany Harrold – Faith, Tallahassee

Korean 1st, FWB, hosts Korean pastor

Korean First Presbyterian Church of Ft. Walton Beach recently enjoyed a visit from Rev. Peter (Hoon) Jung, pastor of Yeochun Church in Yeosu Presbytery, Korea. Rev. Jung arrived June 3, preached at Korean 1st's revival June 4 – 6, then spent a few more days in the area before returning home June 11.



Rev. Peter (Hoon) Jung



Yeochun Church

Global essay contest seeks faith-based solutions to poverty

The SEVEN (Social Equity Venture) Fund, in partnership with the Washington, D. C.-based Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty, has launched its 2010 – 2011 essay competition, open to participants worldwide.

Writers are asked to submit a first-person narrative describing enterprise solutions to poverty that faith-based, faith-inspired or interfaith efforts. Illustrations may come from any domain, including healthcare, education, consumer

products, human rights or others. Examples must represent innovative private solutions to public problems. Two prizes of \$5,000 each will be awarded. Details are available on the SEVEN Fund Website at www.sevenfund.org.





Stewardship of Creation Notes

Pam McVety, Stewardship of Creation Enabler
June/July 2010

The Northwoods and the Gulf Oil Flow

In just the few weeks of May that we have been in the northwoods of Wisconsin, we have experienced all the seasons of the year. When we arrived it looked like the fall we left last November. The trees were bare, and the ground was covered with leaves. Opening my eyes a few mornings later, it looked like a winter wonderland. It had snowed, and the woods were silver with snow. Then a couple weeks later, we were in the 90s without air conditioning and, in between, the woods came alive with greenery.

Now, as I sit on our screen porch and enjoy the cool summer breeze off the lake, I marvel at God's creation and how much we enjoy it and depend upon it for our wellbeing. When the weather was in the 90s without air conditioning and the pollen was making the inside of the house yellow, we definitely weren't comfortable or happy. Now, with the weather back to the 70s during the day and 50s at night, we are comfortable and happy.

How many of our neighbors in the Gulf region have had their wellbeing and livelihood destroyed in the last few weeks because of a massive change to their environment? We feel bad for the folks in the path of the Gulf oil flow, which includes some of you. I understand that, before you see the oil, you smell it, and it can make you feel ill. The scenes on the news of oil-covered birds and oiled marshes are hard to look at. It will be decades before the coastal areas recover, and the damage to the Gulf economy is massive.

This is an environmental disaster of unprecedented proportions and, unfortunately, it has happened in our back yard. Could it have been

avoided? When we look at our energy options is it worth it? Should we allow more offshore oil drilling?

These questions are difficult to answer, and perhaps there isn't a good answer, but this I know. We, as people of God, can do better.

You can't pick up a magazine or listen to the news without reading about our energy crisis. Congress is working on a thousand page energy bill. We have been getting signals from the business community, scientists, government and our denomination that we need to use less energy and switch to more environmentally-sustainable sources of energy.

This may be a good time to show our support to those being impacted by this, by changing our energy habits.

Climate change and, some say, the war in the Middle East is the result of our energy use. Add to this the high energy costs, which disproportionately hurt the poor, and now this seemingly unstoppable oil flow robbing Gulf residents of incomes and their wellbeing, as well as the horrific long-term environmental effects all remind us that there are severe consequences with our current energy practices. What more do we need to hear about or experience before we decide a change is necessary?

Take the first step in making a change by reading our denomination's position on energy, which can be found at: <http://www.pcusa.org/acswp/pdf/ga218/energy-resolution-012007.pdf>.

As always, I welcome your input at mcvety@nettally.com.

O God, the Great, Wide Seas are Yours

MELITA 8.8.8.8.8.8

("Eternal Father, Strong to Save")

A hymn-prayer written in response to the ongoing oil spill from the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling rig that started on April 20th

O God, the great, wide seas are yours!
You carved the oceans' rugged floors.
You set the waters in their place
And made all sea life by your grace.
You also made humanity
To care for earth and sky and sea.

Forgive us when we disobey
And fail to care for what you've made.
Consuming more than what we should,
We harm the waters you call good.
Forgive us when we fail to be
Good stewards of your wondrous sea.

We pray for those who seek to care
For troubled waters everywhere —
For those who work to stop the spill
Of all that would destroy and kill,
For those who work with loving hands
To tend your marshes, shores and
sands.

God, may we hear your call anew
To care for all these gifts from you.
May we protect the sea and shore
By using less, conserving more,
And humbly learning how to live
As stewards of this world you give.

Biblical references: Genesis 1-2:4

Tune: John B. Dykes,
in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861.

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