



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.



September/October 2011

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

Luke 22:26

S. Korean guests share goals, prayer concerns at September meeting

Attendees at the Presbytery of Florida’s Sept. 13 Summer Stated Meeting welcomed distinguished delegates from Yeosu Presbytery, South Korea. Rev. Tae Ho Cheong, pastor of Pensacola, Korean, introduced Yeosu Moderator Nam In Park, who described to the Florida commissioners his presbytery’s organization, origins and goals. Yeosu includes 180 churches, with 350 pastors, 460 elders and membership of 39,000, the moderator related.

The moderator outlined his presbytery’s “30-50 vision” of bringing 50 percent of a population of 30,000 to Christianity and expressed concern about churches losing young people. “We’re here to present our prayer request and to pray for you,” he said.

He compared Yeosu’s location

Visiting from Yeosu Presbytery, South Korea, are Rev. Nam In Park, Moderator, (shown left) and his wife, Sun Hwa Baek (not pictured); Rev. Phil Jae Oh, Stated Clerk, (center), and his wife, In Kyu Lee (not pictured), and Elder Sung Hwa Chung, Treasurer (at right).



and climate in the southern tip of the South Korean Peninsula to the Florida Presbytery’s in the southern tip of the U. S. “One hundred and ten years ago, your ancestors came to our presbytery and proclaimed the gospel,” he said. “I hope we can continue to share our spirituality

and fellowship together.” The four Korean churches in the Florida Presbytery hosted the group during their stay. Agape, Panama City, served a special meal for the guests the day after the meeting.



1st, Marianna, women award six PW Honorary Life memberships

First Presbyterian Church of Marianna’s women recently honored six of their members with Honorary Life Memberships in the Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) PW Honorary Life memberships is a way in which women have honored those with distinguished service in the Presbyterian Church since 1912.

Since 1952, the women of First, Marianna, have so honored many of their fellow women for their service to the congregation. The six women recently honored reflect a total of 379 years of service in the 1st Presbyterian Church. They join Louise (Ise) Daffin, who was so honored in 1971.



Women who have received Honorary Life Memberships in PW from the First Presbyterian Church of Marianna, shown from left, are Louise (Ise) Daffin, Doris Irwin, Lottie Fite, Jeanne Cowen, Ruth Sherrel. Not pictured are Jeannette Vickery and Ilene Culpepper.



Western Cape pastor visits Presbytery

By Jean Silva,
Presbytery of Florida
Associate Executive Presbyter
for Church Development
and Education

David Van Duyker, pastor of the St. Kieran's Presbyterian Church in Fish Hoek, in the Presbytery of the Western Cape, South Africa, spoke at some of our churches in late August. 1st Ft. Walton Beach and Trinity, Pensacola hosted David during his visit while David enjoyed a sabbatical that pastors in South Africa take every 6th year on average in their ministry. The sabbatical is for Sabbath rest only, not study. Having spent his previous sabbatical taking care of his terminally ill wife, David admitted that this rest was very much needed.

I was able to attend David's talk in Fort Walton Beach at a Wednesday night program. He gave a devotional from Psalm 63, sharing his personal testimony of God's love and care as he lay "in hospital" recovering from an illness. It was at this time, David shared, that he really came to experience God's personal care. He said that what the psalmist wrote, "My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me" (Psalm 63:8) became very real for him.

After his devotional, David showed a slide show of his church and the partnership it has with Masiphumelele. His colleague, elder Bongile Bokwana, with whom David has become friends, have forged a close relationship with the two communities, the white community of Fish Hoek and the black township of Masiphumelele. The preschool at Masiphumelele is supported by the Fish Hoek congregation. Not only do they support it financially, but also with clothing and food for the children and their families. The "crèche", as it is called, provides approximately



Partnering pastor

Rev. David Van Duyker shares his testimony and describes his church's relationship with the township of Masiphumelele.

60 children with the start on a life of education and possibilities not available to many in the townships.

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Walton Beach and St. Kieran's Presbyterian Church and Masiphumelele Presbyterian Church have a covenant relationship that began with David and Bongile's visit in Florida Presbytery in October 2004 and was solidified with a formal covenant in the summer of 2007. The two congregations share greetings between members, participate in joint worship and pray and care for each other. To have prayers go up from the congregations on the other side of the world when storms are headed this way is a true blessing.

As David spoke about all the dedicated volunteers and teachers involved with this ministry, everyone witnessed his love and care and gentle spirit that only come from a deep and abiding love for one's Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We could all benefit from such a relationship with people like David and Bongile and the people of South Africa. Consider joining the group traveling to South Africa in January 2012. It will transform your life.

South Africa trip slated for January

A trip to South Africa to visit Presbyterian churches in partnership with congregations in the Presbytery of Florida is planned for next January. Florida delegates to the Presbytery of the Western Cape churches will depart Florida January 19, 2012, and will return January 31. The trip, as with previous trips, will be lead by Paul and Ginger Caro.

The principal purposes of the trip will be for the visitors to get to know on a personal basis the cultural and economic challenges faced by the local churches, both black and white, in their outreach to the surrounding native African communities; to observe firsthand the work being supported in the black townships by partnering Florida congregations, and to assess the overall effectiveness and value of the pre-school, K to 12 tutorial, and residential middle and high school programs we are supporting. In addition, there will be opportunities to visit Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned, and the Cape of Good Hope, where the Atlantic and Indian oceans meet. The travelers also will attend a wine-tasting event at a winery.

The cost of these experiences for each traveler will depend upon a variety of factors, including the airline fare and the dollar-rand exchange rate at the time of the visit. It is estimated that the realized cost will be in the vicinity of \$2,000, plus or minus about 10 percent. If you are interested or would like more information about the planned visit to Cape Town, email Ginger Caro at gingercaro@bellsouth.net or call 850-932-4939 soon. The airline tickets need to be booked by early November.



New Fund provides for special needs camp events

The Presbytery of Florida's Compassion and Social Justice Committee thanks all who contributed to a special offering taken during the Sept. 13 presbytery meeting's morning worship. The offering was for the Presbytery's Fund for the Least of These, newly created at C&SJ's request, specifically for programming events, retreats, and summer camps at Dogwood Acres for children and youth with special needs.

Dogwood Acres currently devotes all of this resource to reaching out to children and youth with Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism. Only two other camps or retreat centers in our region – one in Atlanta, another in Miami Beach – offer overnight Asperger's camps or retreats, noted camp director Kevin Veldhuisen. Both facilities charge \$1,000 to 2,000 per week for children or youth to attend, and neither is religiously affiliated, so Dogwood Acres has discovered this need and is stepping forward as the only affordable and religiously-

affiliated overnight camp and retreat center in the entire region for those with Asperger's, he explained.

"The Fund for the Least of These allows Dogwood Acres to offer this important outreach and helps keep the cost below \$300 for each camper, plus it also offers scholarships for those who need further assistance," Kevin said. "No one else is reaching out to these special kids in this capacity, and every dollar from this fund will help us reach even more of these kids!"

A total of \$708.65 was given for the Fund at the presbytery meeting. The Presbytery's portion, 25 percent, of the Peacemaking Offering that churches traditionally collect on Oct. 2 also will be placed into the Fund. Additionally, churches can choose to contribute to the Fund the 25 percent of the Peacemaking Offering that they may retain to help in their own communities.



MILESTONES

- Congratulations to the congregation of **Agape, Panama City**, on the church's Oct. 2 charter.
- **Kevin Veldhuisen** will be ordained Sunday, Nov. 20, at Sioux Falls, SD. Afterward, he and Anne will visit family members and celebrate Thanksgiving there before returning to Florida.
- **Rev. Terry Dyer's** third grandchild, Elizabeth Evelyn Samford, arrived Aug. 10, weighing 5 lbs., 11 oz. Daughter Sarah and her husband, John Samford, of Tallahassee, are the proud parents.
- Ministerial candidate **Keith Leach**, of Faith, Tallahassee, has accepted a position serving a church in Cambridge, OH, in a nonordained capacity.
- **St. Andrews, Panama City**, celebrated the its 125th anniversary in its Sunday, Sept. 11, worship service, followed by a fish fry. Organized Sept. 13, 1886, with the first building completed July 22, 1888, St. Andrews is Panama City's oldest church.

APA encourages budgeting for admin staff continuing ed

*By Nancy Fine,
Membership Chair, Florida Region
of the Administrative Personnel
Association of the Presbyterian
Church (USA)*

October is generally a time when many things happen. Our snowbirds are returning to fill the pews in our churches. The Florida plants begin their subtle change from the heat of the summer to the cooler weather of winter. And, our organizations begin to plan their stewardship campaigns and next year's budget.

One important item in that budget is the continuing education line item. But make sure to not only budget for the pastoral staff's continuing education but also budget

for your administrative staff's continuing education. They are a valuable asset to your organization and need your support to learn additional skills that will benefit you, your staff and your members.

By investing a small portion of your budget on your administrative staff, you will gain a large return on your funds. Your administrative staff is eager to learn how to better serve your organization, be it a church or governing body. Your administrative staff wants to become more efficient and more professional. But, they need to learn the skills to do so. Your administrative staff wants to serve God and all His children and needs to be spiritually nurtured. Your administrative staff needs you to be

as supportive of them as they are of you.

Don't forget to show your administrative staff what they mean to your organization. Make sure to budget funds for both their membership fee (\$75) in the Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and continuing education funds (approximately \$500) for them to attend APA conferences in your upcoming budget.

To find out more about the APA, contact Barbara Prieto, Florida Region President, at 305-666-8586 or rivierachurch@bellsouth.net, or visit www.floridaapa.org.



“For the first time in my 62-year-old life, I will be intentionally violating the law and risking personal arrest”*

By Pam McVety,
Stewardship of Creation Enabler

The *Nebraska Star Journal* reported on August 22 that over a thousand Americans, including a 62-year-old housewife from Nebraska, are marching on the White House, risking arrest for trespassing. For two weeks ending Sept. 3, activists were arrested as they stood outside the White House urging the president to publicly declare that he will not sign a certificate of national interest permitting the Keystone XL pipeline to be built. The pipeline will carry tar sands oil from Canada to the U.S.

Tar sands are the dirtiest petroleum product and produce up to 20 percent more carbon dioxide than crude oil. Just when we need to dramatically cut our carbon dioxide emissions, we are increasing them.

Our planet is suffering. People are frustrated. I read about this daily. I read about the state of our oceans in a report from a workshop organized by the International Program on the State of the Ocean, in concert with



the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Chris Reid, an attendee and a professor of oceanography at the Marine Institute of Plymouth University, reports that “when we added it all up, it was clear that we are in a situation that could lead to major extinctions of organisms in the oceans.” He goes on to say that studies of the earth’s past have indicated that global warming, ocean acidification and hypoxia, or reduced oxygen content in the seas, are three symptoms of a disturbance in the carbon dioxide cycle that have been “associated with each of the previous five mass extinctions on Earth.”

The report concludes that climate change is the biggest single threat to our oceans, with rising ocean temperatures and acidification. Delegates called for urgent and unequivocal action to halt further declines in ocean health. Read more about this at www.stateoftheocean.org.

As tragic as this news is, it is worse that this warning will go

unheeded. At least, that seems to be the norm. Scientists warn there is a problem; industry launches its public relations machine and lobbyists; the press writes about it; congress debates it, (seldom resolving any life-threatening issues) and nothing happens.

For many, things have gone too far, and people are frustrated enough to get themselves arrested. I am not willing to get arrested, but my moral outrage at our collective failure to reduce the burning of fossil fuels equals theirs. You will probably never risk getting arrested, but you can make a difference.

Changing a light bulb and recycling are good first steps, but no longer enough. I can’t tell you what will be effective, but getting involved in the work of our church on caring for creation is helpful for the environment and the spirit.

Our denomination’s Environmental Ministries is offering each of you the opportunity to join the new Environmental Ministries Action network (EMAN). Participants in EMAN will work with their churches and/or Presbytery to care for God’s creation.

PC(USA) will be in regular communication with EMAN participants to provide them with tools and resources for this work. If you would like to join this group, please contact Katie Holmes in Louisville at katie.holmes@pcusa.org or call her at 888/728-7228, ext. 5624.

Please let me know if you decide to join this important mission of our church. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me at mcvety@nettally.com.

* “*Local View: I will be sitting in front of the White House,*” *Star Journal, Carol Smith, August 22, 2011*

Pace Presbyterian Church is seeking musicians and singers, especially from the Pensacola area, for a special service, followed by a covered dish luncheon, the 3rd Sunday of each month. Singers or musicians available to participate may contact Larry Plank at (850)995-4553 or butterflyncoyote@earthlink.net

Mission chair reports retreat reservations up at Dogwood Acres

At the Presbytery of Florida's Sept. 13 meeting, Mission for Dogwood Acres Chair Christy Williams reported on a successful summer season and busy retreat schedule at Dogwood Acres. Enrollment of 202 campers over the summer provided a 31 percent increase over the previous summer's, she said. On the Dogwood Acres Program Committee's behalf, she thanked Rob Bohnsack, Mary Vance, Brant Copeland and Jennifer Rollins for their service as camp chaplains and Audrey Allman and Tonya Addy for filling the need for nurses.

In addition to the traditional program offerings for school-aged campers, an introductory program familiarized younger children with the summer camp experience,

continued. Also new this summer was a camp specifically for children and youth with Asperger's Syndrome, which 12 campers attended, she said. The dogwood blossom-shaped labyrinth, designed by Dogwood Acres Operation/Development Committee member James Vance, was a welcome enhancement at the camp this summer, as well, she added.

With summer behind, the camp already is experiencing a 95 percent increase in retreat guests over last year's reservations, Williams noted. In fact, between the end of summer camp and Thanksgiving, only two weekends remained unreserved by a guest group at the time of Williams' report, and groups are already

inquiring about those weekends, she said. She encouraged congregations interested in winter or spring retreats to make their plans and reservations as soon as possible.

Recent physical improvements at the camp have included Kevin's renovation of a small cabin by the Craft Hut that can now provide an excellent meeting space for small groups, she mentioned. The Berris Building also has been repainted and had bathrooms updated and chairs and tables added to make it comfortable and attractive for meetings, she said. She invited churches and groups to participate in further improvements or service projects and to donate funds for specific projects.



1st, FWB, PW honor deserving member



Shown from left, Carol Davis is presented an Honorary Life Membership by PW Circle Coordinator Barbara Fallin.

Joy Circle at FWB for many years. Through her Joy Circle, she launched the annual SERRV Market. This year was the market's 10th anniversary, and over a decade, Joy Circle has given an \$14,700 to charities. This project provides commerce opportunities and brought hope and practical support to women and men throughout the developing world.

Davis established and leads the Alternative Gift Program at First, FWB, providing an avenue of giving to worthy causes in someone else's name as a gift to that person. She has helped with FPC's weekly Feed the Hungry program for 12 years and has monitored the Cold Night program since FPC started the program years ago. She has been deeply involved in the church's covenant partnership with congregations in Fish Hoek and Masiphumelele in South Africa.



The women of First, Ft. Walton Beach recently awarded Honorary Life Membership in the Presbyterian Women to Carol Davis. The PW of the Presbytery have given her such an award in the past, as well, for her active involvement.

A Presbyterian all her adult life, Davis has taught Sunday School class and been an officer at all levels of the Presbyterian Church, including local, Presbytery, and Synod levels. She served on the Board of Directors for the Presbyterian Retirement Homes for 20 years.

An ordained deacon and elder, she has served as the Chair for the PW

nFOG workshops offered

Sun., Oct. 16, 2:30 p.m. CDT
Navarre Presbyterian Church
Please call 850-939-3524 or email jroanne.npc@bellsouth.net for information or to confirm attendance.

Sun., Oct. 23, 3 p.m. CDT
First, DeFuniak Springs
Please call 850-892-5832 or email fpdfs@embarqmail.com for information or to confirm attendance.

Wed., Oct. 26, 6 p.m. EDT
Faith, Tallahassee
With nFOG Task Force member and Presbytery of St. Augustine EP/Stated Clerk Paul Hooker
Please call 850-385-6151 or email fpc@faithpcusa.org for information or to make reservations for the 5 p.m. dinner.

An nFOG workshop also is planned for Disciplefest 2012, to be held Jan. 27 – 28 at Edgewater Beach Resort at Panama City Beach

Disciplefest 2012 preparations continue

By Marty Henderson,
Training and Retreats
Committee Chair

The Presbytery of Florida's Training and Retreats Committee continues planning for Disciplefest 2012. The Committee has announced that Rev. Carol Howard Merritt – author, radio co-host and commentator and consultant – will be the keynote speaker for Disciplefest 2012.

Carol has written for the *Presbyterian Outlook* and is the author of the book *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation* (Alban 2007) and *Reframing Hope* (Alban, 2010). Her blog is at www.tribalchurch.org. Carol co-hosts the God Complex Radio podcast with Landon Whitsitt, the Vice-Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). She writes regularly for the *Huffington Post*, *Christian Century* blogs, *Duke's Faith and Leadership* blog, *Day1.org*, and *The*

Rev. Carol
Howard
Merritt
will be
Disciplefest
2012's
keynote
speaker



Hardest Question. She is a sought-after conference speaker, and she consults churches, denominations, and organizations on vital ministry in a new generation.

The event will again be held at Edgewater Beach Resort at Panama City Beach on Jan. 27 and 28, 2012, in conjunction with the Presbytery's Winter Stated Meeting. The focus of Disciplefest 2012 will again be on training workshops/tracks as recommended or sponsored by various Presbytery committees.



Churches acting on Acts 16:5 Initiative

As of the Sept. 13 Presbytery Meeting, 13 Presbytery of Florida churches are now enrolled in the Acts 16:5 Initiative, the Presbytery's Church Development and Evangelism Committee reported. Acts 16:5 is a three-year process for transformation and missional endeavor. The following churches are taking part:

1st, Crestview
Laurel Hill
Gulf Breeze
Parkway, Panama City
Fellowship, Tallahassee
1st, Ft. Walton Beach
1st, Havana
Trinity, Pensacola
Eucler Valley, DeFuniak Springs
1st, Milton
1st, Destin
St. Andrews, Panama City
Pace

A second Acts 16:5 gathering with Stan Ott, of Vital Churches Institute, for church vision teams will be held Friday, Oct. 14, 2011, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. CDT at Dogwood Acres. An Acts 16:5 workshop also likely will be offered at Disciplefest 2012.

Those who would like additional information about Acts 16:5 may contact Associate Executive Presbyter Jean Silva, CD&E Committee Chairman Ruth Mashewske, any CD&E Committee member or a pastor of one of the churches already taking part in the Initiative. Information also is available at www.presbyteryofflorida.com/acts16-5.html or www.vitalchurchesinsstitute.com



PW dates to remember

Presbyterian Women, mark your calendars!

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery (PWP) Florida Spring Gathering – March 17, 2012, 10 a.m. EDT, Lafayette Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee

PWP Coordinating Team (PWPCT) Meetings: November 6, 2011, and January 7, 2012, 9:30 a.m. CST at First, Chipley, and March 16, 2012, 3:30 p.m. EST at Lafayette, Tallahassee

PCUSA Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women! July 18-22, 2012, Orlando, FL.

The PWPCT asks congregations to support the women in your churches and encourage them to become involved in PW. The Coordinating Team is available to speak to individual congregations, install PW officers or help brainstorm ideas for service projects.

Do you need information or would you like an individual church presentation about the upcoming Churchwide Gathering? Contact Toya at (850) 878-5732 or toyao@earthlink.net.



Did you know? ...

Of 44 chartered Presbytery of Florida churches, 63.6 percent, or 28, have been organized 41 years or more. This number has remained constant from 2000 through 2010.

However, the number of churches organized 21 – 40 years increased from 2, or 4.5 percent, in 2000 to 10, or 22 percent, in 2010. In 2010, five churches, or 11.4 percent, had been organized 11 – 20 years; none for 6 – 10 years and only one for five or fewer years.

These numbers are from a Ten-Year Report by Research Services, based on data compiled from the Session Annual Statistical Report for each congregation.