



Pelican POUCH

A communication of
the Presbytery of Florida

Please copy, post and/or distribute the enclosed items as appropriate. The *Pouch* is mailed bi-monthly and contains important information to be duplicated and distributed within the church.



April 2010

Note – The Pelican Pouch and newsletter will be issued bi-monthly in the “even-numbered” months. Please submit any materials for inclusion by the end of the preceding “odd-numbered” month.

Contents:

Excite

- Presbytery Youth Council flier and application

Encourage

- Stewardship of Creation Notes – “The Story of First Presbyterian Church’s Carbon Neutral Journey in Tallahassee, FL”
- The *Pelican* newsletter

Equip

- 2011 Mission Yearbook flier and order form
- May and June 2010 Presbytery calendars

Empower

- Hunger Action Enabler letter and Hunger Action survey



P Y C

Presbytery Youth Council Applications

are due... **August 10, 2010!**

Applications are available online at www.presbyteryofflorida.com/youth.

All applicants must:

- ***be an active member of their church***
- ***nominated by their church's Session (limit 2/church)***
- ***attend the Annual Training Retreat at Dogwood Acres (August 20-22 OR August 27-29 – TBA in May)***
- ***And attend least 2 of the following events:***

Fall Spiritfest @Dogwood Acres - September 24-26, 2010

Disciplefest 2011@TBD - January 28-29, 2011

Winter Sonshine @Dogwood Acres - February 25-27, 2011

For more information, contact Anghaarad Teague-Dees at anghaaradteague@trinitypcola.org or **Jean Silva @ 850.638.2322 X24.**



Stewardship of Creation Notes

*By Pam McVety, Stewardship of Creation Enabler
April 2010*

The Story of First Presbyterian Church's Carbon Neutral Journey in Tallahassee, FL

We live in a time of rising awareness of the importance of good stewardship of the planet God created for us. The members of First Presbyterian Church are committed to doing their part to reduce the church's impact on the environment and have decreased the church building's reliance on fossil fuels and made the church carbon neutral.

The church installed compact fluorescent light bulbs in all light fixtures and 25.5 kW solar panels on its education building. It replaced old metal windows with more energy efficient ones and installed a new more energy efficient HVAC system. The church offset its carbon emissions by retrofitting low-income homes to make them more energy efficient. All these steps combined reduce the church and community's reliance on fossil fuels and lower carbon emissions.

What does all this mean?

Nationally, in 2006, the Presbyterian denomination adopted a resolution calling on all Presbyterians to go carbon neutral by lowering their carbon emissions and offsetting any remaining carbon emissions because of the harm they are having on the environment and on neighbors far and wide. The combined steps of reducing energy usage from fossil fuels and offsetting remaining carbon emissions make the church carbon neutral.

How did First Presbyterian do all of this?

To reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, First Presbyterian, in its most recent capital fund raising campaign, agreed to fund the solar panels and to upgrade the church's windows and heating and cooling system. The solar system cost around \$100,000 after a state rebate of \$100,000.

Although the system has met about 25 percent of the church's energy needs in its first year of operation, payback was NOT an issue for church members. The members consider this a part of their stewardship mission to care for creation. To read more about this, go to www.oldfirstchurch.org and click on *Real Time Data* in the upper right hand corner on the home page. .

First Presbyterian calculated that it generated 84 tons of carbon in the year prior to the solar panels and the other energy efficiency improvements. As part of its witness to making amends, the church decided to offset those past carbon emissions. In the future, the tons of carbon to be offset each year will be much lower. To offset those past carbon emissions, the church choose to spend its money and volunteer time reducing reliance on fossil fuels in its own community. The session members learned that simply changing a light bulb from incandescent to CFLs offsets about .4 tons of carbon per year in our community and that, in order to offset 84 tons of carbon, it needed to replace 210 light bulbs. A member donation paid for the compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). It was decided that we were also capable of installing weather stripping, insulating

behind electric fixtures, installing lower-flow shower and kitchen sink heads, and taking other simple steps to lower energy usage.

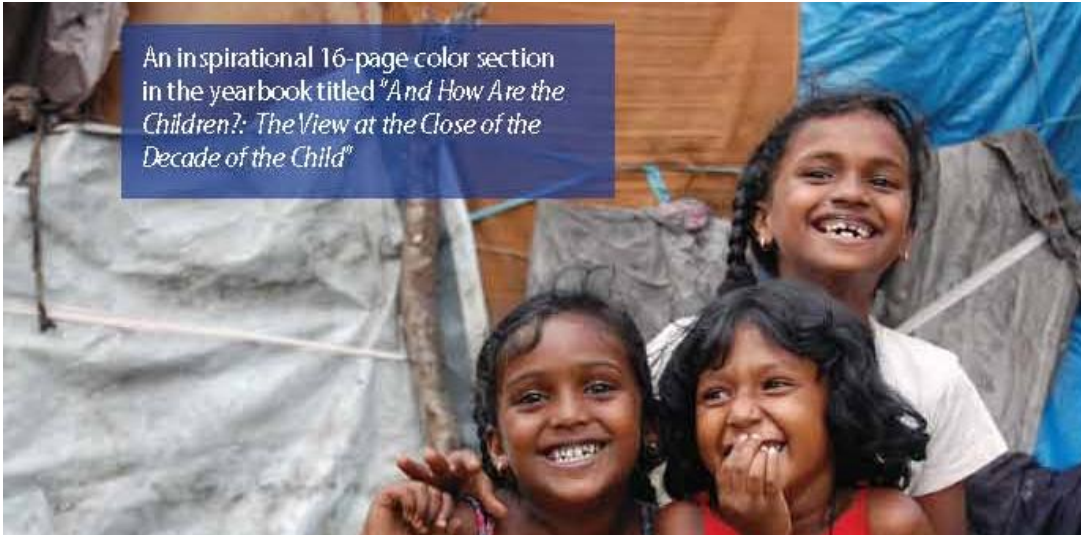
Anderson Chapel, a non denominational church in downtown Tallahassee, agreed to sign up its members to have their homes made more energy efficient. On two Saturdays, teams went into 11 homes and made the energy modifications and have offset at least 80 tons of carbon. This is 80 tons of carbon that would continue to go into the atmosphere if they hadn't made these changes. They have also given them information on the City's energy programs, which will provide them with a free energy audit and grants up to \$10,000 for home improvements to reduce their energy usage.

First Presbyterian Church families are encouraged to calculate their personal carbon emissions and offset them by donating to a church fund so that this work can continue with our neighbors to make their homes more energy efficient. Of course, they are not just making their neighbors' homes more energy efficient; they are saving them money, making them more comfortable, and making new friends.

To read in more detail how to go carbon neutral, go to www.oldfirstchurch.org and click on "Carbon Guide" in the blue column on the left side of the page.

And here is more good news, Faith Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee has also installed 25 KWs of solar panels and taken other steps to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. You can read more of their story at <http://www.faithpcusa.org/index.php?nid=108691&s=gl> .

If you have any questions, please contact Pam McVety, Stewardship of Creation Enabler, at mcvety@nettally.com.



An inspirational 16-page color section in the yearbook titled "And How Are the Children?: The View at the Close of the Decade of the Child"

2011 Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study

Now in its 119th year of publication!

WHAT is the *Mission Yearbook*?

The *Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* is a daily devotional resource with 365 inspiring mission stories that come from next door and around the globe. It inspires thousands of Presbyterians daily as they uphold the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in prayer.

The stories in the *2011 Mission Yearbook* were gathered around the theme *Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide* (Matthew 18:18-20 and Mark 9:35).

WHICH resources are in the *Mission Yearbook*?

In addition to the stories from presbyteries, synods, and Presbyterian partnerships throughout the world, the 2011 edition of the *Mission Yearbook* includes:

- ◆ Daily lectionary and Sunday lectionary with suggested hymns
- ◆ Prayer lists that include synod and presbytery staff, General Assembly staff, staff of Presbyterian partner churches and organizations, and PC(USA) mission personnel
- ◆ Minutes for mission on Lord's Day pages focusing on the liturgical theme for that Sunday and incorporating programmatic emphases
- ◆ An Outline for Daily Prayer for use with the yearbook
- ◆ Demographic profiles to help readers learn about particular countries where the PC(USA) has mission partnerships
- ◆ Active and retired mission personnel listings
- ◆ Maps and images from around the church to help set the context for the stories that are told

WHO should buy the *Mission Yearbook* and WHY?

All Presbyterians

1. Use the *Mission Yearbook* daily for your personal devotions.
2. Find spiritual guidance through daily Bible readings and inspirational stories.
3. Support the mission of the church with daily prayer.
4. Make the yearbook a prayer diary by keeping track of your personal requests in the white space.

Pastors and All Church Leaders

1. Begin each meeting with a reading and a group reflection on the day's entry in the *Mission Yearbook*.
2. In the Sunday bulletin, list the names of people and overseas partners in mission for whom the church is praying that week.
3. Purchase a yearbook for each family in the church to help them understand how mission dollars are used.



Start 2011 off right and order your copy today.

Become a partner in mission and celebrate what God is doing!

Ordering Information

2011 Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study

ISBN 978-1-57153-092-9

Three ways to order:

1. For the greatest savings, combine your order with others in your presbytery or congregation.
2. Place an order using a credit card or PIN by calling PDS at (800) 524-2612, or order online through www.pcusa.org/marketplace.
3. Fill out this order form, enclose a check made payable to PC(USA), and mail it to:
PDS Prepaid Sales
P.O. Box 643674
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3674

Price list:

- 1 to 9 copies at \$10.50 each
- 10 to 96 copies at \$9.50 each
- 97 or more copies at \$8.00 each

Please send _____ copies of the *2011 Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* at \$_____ per copy for a total of \$_____

Shipping and handling + \$_____
(10% of order total, with a minimum charge of \$5.25)

California residents only: add 8.25% tax + \$_____

Total \$_____

Name: _____

Church name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



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April 22, 2010

Dear 2-cents-a-meal Contacts & Hunger Action Folks,

I am writing to you as the Hunger Action Enabler for the presbytery to ask you to do me a favor. I am sending you a survey and asking you to fill it out by Wednesday, May 5th, "Cinco de Mayo". I figure you might remember it better that way. OR you are welcome to bring it in person to the presbytery office Thursday, May 20 at noon CDT and have lunch with our Compassion & Social Justice Committee. It will be a time of sharing what we do in our respective churches & communities in the area of hunger initiatives and compassion ministries in general (mission work).

Also, I will have some information for you about the various things that the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) are working on to alleviate hunger. We will address various ways under each of the 5 areas of the PHP the 5 ways we can fight hunger as well as other resources that may be of benefit to your work in your church and community.

Thank you in advance for taking the time and effort to complete our survey and I hope to hear from each of you via the survey or at lunch may 10th! Please RSVP by emailing or calling me.

Grace and peace,

Jean Silva, HAE

Presbytery of Florida

Hunger Action Survey



1. Church Name & address (include mailing address, phone, email & fax) of:

Church:

Person's Name & Title submitting survey:

Date: _____ Check if: Pastor Elder Church Staff Layperson

The Presbytery's hunger initiative is the "2-Cents-A-Meal Program". Congregations take up a 2-cents-a-meal offering, retain a portion to fight hunger in the community and send the remainder of the offering to the presbytery office where it is used for "2-Cents-A-Meal Grants". Grants are awarded based on the 5 areas of the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), which fights hunger in 5 ways listed below. Under each area below, please list/describe the ways your congregation (not individuals) participates in hunger action in that particular area.

5 PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM AREAS

1. EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION:

- The program educates the church and the public at large about the root causes of hunger and prepares and motivates people to act and to educate others
- The program provides opportunities for learning among and with communities of need.

Examples: Invite presbytery's HAE to speak at a church supper on the PHP program & how churches can fight hunger in new ways, Church World Service resources on global hunger and development issues, conduct Bible studies like "Hunger Has A Cure and We're Part of It" (PHP multimedia CD-ROM resource for youth).

Your Congregation's efforts:

2. DIRECT FOOD RELIEF:

- The program provides food relief to poor people in either acute or chronic condition of hunger.
- The program is looking for long-range solutions.

Examples: food pantries and soup kitchens, communal feeding programs and homeless feeding programs, church vegetable gardens to feed the hungry.

Your Congregation's efforts:

3. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE:

- The program provides for a multi-faceted approach to development and the empowerment of poor people in such areas as agricultural development, nutrition education, public health and/or family planning.
- The program increases employment opportunities or provides assistance to unemployed or underemployed persons.

Examples: Pensacola-CompuCare, Inc.- computer training for women living at or below poverty line, receive computer upon completion; Alabama -First Light: Mission Center of First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Job training project in a center providing shelter, food, hospitality, and nurture for homeless women and children, sponsor Presbytery SDOP grants.

Your Congregation's efforts:

4. PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY:

- The program advocates, through just and peaceful means, policy changes in political and economic systems which provide food for poor and hungry people at home and abroad.
- The program empowers the self-development of poor and hungry people at home and abroad.

Examples: Bread for the World Offering of Letters, write letters to congress re: fair wages, etc., campaign for Fair Food, PHP, postcards to Publix asking to 1 penny more per lb. for tomatoes.

Your Congregation's efforts:

5. LIFESTYLE INTEGRITY

- The program works to assist the Church to move toward responsible personal and corporate lifestyles.
- The program encourages communities of sharing and cooperation sensitive

Examples: Presbytery's lifestyle integrity challenge, eat/buy locally, recycle, conserve water.

Your Congregation's efforts:

Approximately how many church members total have been involved in hunger action in your church this past year?

Which area of the 5 PHP's is the one your congregation is most effective at addressing (include name of project/activity & # of volunteers)?

Which area of the 5 PHP's is the one your congregation is least effective at addressing (include name of project/activity & # of volunteers)?

Which area of the PHP would you like your congregation to emphasize this next year?

Has your church ever applied for a 2-cents-a-meal grant? If so, when (give year(s))?

What help do you need from the presbytery's HAE or Compassion & Social Justice Committee?

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

Please return completed survey by May 5 (Cinco de Mayo!) to:

Jean Silva, Hunger Action Enabler
Presbytery of Florida
PO Box 7
Chipley, FL 32428