

Tampa Bay e-News

Issue of e-News
for
October 10

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

John 8:12

Special points of interest:

- **The Presbytery office will be closed** on Monday, October 14, for Columbus Day (banking and mail holiday) and Monday, November 11, Veterans Day. Please take note.
- **Nancy Kahaian**, Transitional Presbyter, and **Charles Willard**, Stated Clerk, will be attending the PCUSA Polity Conference in Detroit from Monday, October 14, through Wednesday, October 16.
- **In five weeks**, we gather again as the Presbytery of Tampa Bay at Hope PC, Winter Haven. Papers for that meeting will be posted after 4:00PM on Thursday, November 7. Please continue to pray for our Presbytery.
- **Earle Brown, Presbytery Treasurer** is recovering from surgery. Prayers are appreciated and cards are being received in the Presbytery office.

ONE WEEK DUE DATE FOR EARLY BIRDS!

The Commission on Ministry (COM) is sponsoring three COM Officer Training Events within the bounds of Tampa Bay Presbytery.

On Friday, October 25, the COM Officer Training Event will be hosted at Trinity PC, Clearwater, from 8:30AM through 12:15PM.

A second offering will be hosted by Temple Terrace Presbyterian Church on Friday, October 25, from 11:30AM through 4:00PM.

On Saturday, October 26, the First Presbyterian Church of Bartow hosts the final event

from 8:30AM through 12:15PM.

Each COM Officer Training Event includes prayers, plenary, workshops, and lunch. Visit www.presbyteryoftampabay.com or a registration form.

The featured speaker for the COM Officer Training Events is the Reverend Dr. Steve Eason, author of *Making Disciples, Making Leaders: A Manual for Developing Church Officers*.

His book offers a model for selecting and training church officers that is grounded in spiritual discernment and de-

velopment. The training plan is designed to build up church leaders spiritually and to set their work in the context of discipleship, as well as to teach them some of the fundamentals of the rules of governance of the denomination.

Everyone is welcome to attend one or all three of the events. Costs and other details can be found on the registration form.

It is hoped that many Presbyterians will take advantage of this October opportunity to learn, to fellowship, and to be strengthened in leadership abilities in the church.

LISTEN LEARN ASK CLARIFY STRENGTHEN

Recently a group of good folks from Tampa Bay Presbytery met to evaluate and assess the current "Sales Policy of Closed Churches."

During their process, it became apparent that the group that worked on the original process was not provided with essential information regarding the financial status and obligations of the Presbytery.

Therefore, it was determined that perhaps additional information, accompanied by thorough examination of the present realities of our current context, obligated the group to

propose something different. The "something different" was presented by John Hehn, Elder from Seffner and member of the group, to evaluate the current sales policy, at the Presbytery meeting in August at Forest Hills.

Since a decision about a new sales policy will be considered at the November Stated Meeting in Winter Haven, the group hopes to receive additional feedback on its proposal from engaged, interested Presbyterians who care, at two open educational conversational forums. You are in-

vited to attend one or both of these events:

Tuesday, October 22

10AM-11AM

The Chapel at Florida Presbyterian Homes Lakeland, Florida

-or-

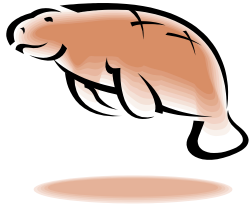
Thursday, October 31

3PM-4PM

Presbytery Office
Tampa, FL

Please bring questions and ideas and encouragement and improvements to these open educational forums. Thanks!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE PRESBYTERY?



Thank you Crystal River for your beautiful and generous hospitality in hosting the October Seventh Day for the Presbytery! God bless you!

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Please find a way to appreciate the Christian character and competencies of your pastor. Thanks to honor those who labor among us for the sake of the Gospel is a joy and a privilege. Thanks be to God for those who serve the Church!

The 13th Annual Holiday Bazaar at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, Tampa will be held on Saturday, October 19. This is an amazing event with all proceeds dedicated to missions.

The PW of Presbyterian Church of the Highlands, Lakeland, will host their 26th Annual Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale on Saturday, October 26, from 8:30AM-2:00PM at the church.

First, Dunedin invites you to come for a "Great Conversation" on Sunday, October 13, at 7:00PM. With an awareness of the Trayvon Martin/George Zimmerman matter, we will examine the use of guns in self defense and race relations led by Bill Lancaster, author of *The Beast and The Cross*, a novel that deals with these two difficult subjects.

Mission Grants for churches will be sent in the next 10 days. The need to transfer funds (without penalty) in order to cover the aggregate amount of the MOF Mission Grants in the Presbytery has caused the delay. Thanks for your patience and watch your mailbox!

The New Beginnings Event previously scheduled for November 16 will be moved to February 2014. The Evangelism and Church Development Committee will contact congregations and their leaders and additional information in advance of February 2014.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPLORATION

The new and improved Presbytery of Tampa Bay website is scheduled to have its world premiere on Friday, October 11, 2013. Log onto www.presbyteryoftampabay.com and find your church on the new map feature!

Engage Discipleship: A Presbyterian Outlook 90 minute webinar with Ray Jones

Ray Jones is the Coordinator for Evangelism for the PC (USA). For 25 years he served as pastor of three congregations, one of which was a new church development. He has a heart for helping people grow in their love of God in Jesus

Christ. To purchase the webinar go to www.bit.ly/engagediscipleship.

Theological schools reflect Pew data on changing religious landscape

ATS Executive Director Dan Aleshire talks with Luis Lugo, director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life of the Pew Research Center, about

current trends in North American religion and corresponding trends in theological schools. <http://vimeo.com/76159145>

Best practices for nurturing a healthy church

Take a moment to check out a "four free e-newsletters" offer from Tom Ehrich, church consultant and Episcopal priest based in New York.

PEOPLE POWER NOT JUST TRANSACTIONS

The primary reasons to be a Presbytery are not related to administrative detail nor political agenda pushing nor transactional business.

A primary reason in being a Presbytery is to building relationships and ministry to others. Very few folks can succeed in ministry leadership without the support and strength of the friendship of others in ministry. Relationships are one of the reason for the Presbytery inno-

vation in organizational design. We can make decisions and access reports and download reports seven days a week. So what?

This phase of "being a Presbytery" require spending energy on improving the relationships we have with other Presbyterians and Presbyterian congregations in our neighborhood. First, Bartow and McLeod, Bartow and Fort Meade came together to host a Presbytery meeting. What might a

shared ministry among the Clearwater churches look like? What might Presbyterians do together in Polk County that no other group of churches is doing in Polk County? How might each regional neighborhood start a new worshipping community do meet a need for ministry? Presbyterians and their "connectionalism" teach that we are better together. (*collaboration not competition*) How do we initiate that ministry understanding with other Presbyterians