

Tampa Bay e-News

Issue of e-News
for
October 17

I beg you to lead a
life worthy of the
calling to which you
have been called....

*Paul in Ephesians 4:1
writing to Christians*

*Special points of inter-
est:*

- **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.
- **The Presbytery office will be closed** on Monday, November 11, Veterans Day. Please take note.
- **Welcome to the Reverend Lauren Evans**, recently arrived from the west coast and serving Lakeview PC, St Pete, as a "For Such A Time As This" resident.

POSTMARK IT TODAY! DON'T BE THE LAST PRESBYTERIAN IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO REGISTER FOR NEXT WEEK!

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 development. 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.

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

It's time to order your *Presbyterians Today* 2013 Advent Calendar!

Advent has never just been about anticipating where we're going. It's always been about remembering where we've been.

As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, these Advent devotions invite us to journey back and meet Jesus' family. Using Jesus' genealogy in the Gospel of Matthew, these short reflections reveal how the people and events in our life's history are the poem of bless-

ing God has been singing into us for generations before we were born. Not simply a list of names, Jesus' genealogy is a compact theology telling us that whatever life's ups and downs, God has a plan for us.

This popular devotional resource, produced by *Presbyterians Today* magazine, contains illustrated Scripture readings, prayers, and anecdotes and meditations for each day of the Advent season. The booklet makes it easy to grab a moment for prayerful reflection sometime during

your day.

Please visit <http://store.pcusa.org/1711613012> to order copies for your congregation now while supplies last and to ensure delivery before Advent.

2013 Advent Calendar Discount Pricing:

1 copy, \$4.00

2-9 copies, \$3.00 each

10-99 copies, \$2.00 each

100-249 copies, \$1.65 each

250+ copies, \$1.25 each

Shipping: 10% of order, \$5.25 minimum

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE PRESBYTERY?



On The Seventh Day will be hosted by Cedarkirk on Thursday, November 7, and led by the Reverend Bill Cooley, on "spiritual deepening."

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.

Pastor Appreciation Month. Please find a way to appreciate the Christian character and competencies of your pastor.

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.

Mission Grants for churches will be sent in the next 3 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!

Bayshore Presbyterian Church has been challenged to fill TWO barrels of food each month during November and December because of their incredible past generous response!

The Reverend Dr. John "Mike" Loudon is scheduled to appear on C-Span next Thursday, October 24 at 9 AM, offering the opening prayer at the United States House of Representatives at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

F.R.E.S.H. Youth Group meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7PM at First PC, Zephyrhills. Check out this amazing ministry!

EXPLORATION OF EDUCATIONAL ITEMS

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>

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. 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.

Smart Phones, Worship, and Young Adults

One of our theological neighbors in the Reformed tradition, the Reverend Craig Mueller of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, offers food for theological thought for us too. <http://www.lstc.edu/media/pdf/lifelong-learning/Craig-Mueller-Congregations-Project-talk.pdf>

The new and improved Presbytery of Tampa Bay website is up and running. Log onto www.presbyteryoftampabay.com and find your church on the new map feature! Watch for additional pieces to be posted in the coming weeks!

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO BE HELPFUL

Recently a group of 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 and insight could guide the group to propose some-

thing 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. Since a decision about a new sales policy will be considered at the November Stated Meeting in Winter Haven, it is hoped that Presbyterians will be helpful and provide feedback at two open educational conversational forums. You are invited

to attend:

Tuesday, October 22

10AM-11AM

The Chapel at

Florida Presbyterian Homes
Lakeland, Florida

-or-

Thursday, October 31

3PM-4PM

Presbytery Office

Tampa, FL

No RSVP necessary. We look forward to greeting you!